

**IMPORTANT**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE**

**AUGUST 2018**

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## Awards & Honours

### David Beckham will receive UEFA Prez's award

- Former England captain David Beckham will receive the UEFA President's Award for his contribution to football and for promoting the sport around the world.
- Beckham played for Manchester United, La Galaxy, Real Madrid, AC Milan and Paris St-Germain.
- Beckham made 115 appearances for England and won 19 club trophies, including 10 league titles.
- He will receive the award in Monaco.

### Gopal Gandhi conferred with Sadbhavna Award

- **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** was honoured with **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavna Award** for promoting communal harmony and peace.
- The award was presented on the birth anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Gopalkrishna Gandhi was the former Governor of West Bengal.

### Gen Dalbir Singh awarded 'Legion of Merit'

- Former Army Chief General **Dalbir Singh Suhag** has been awarded United States (US) 'Legion of Merit' (LOM).
- The award was given to Singh for exceptionally meritorious service as Chief of Army Staff from August 2014 to December 2016.
- The LOM is issued to members of the seven uniformed services of the United States as well as to military and political figures of foreign governments.

### Delhi official wins WHO award

- Delhi government's additional director of health S K Arora has been awarded the prestigious WHO World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
- Tobacco prevalence in Delhi has come down by 6.5% in the past six years.
- The National Health Policy 2017 has set targets of relative reduction in tobacco prevalence by 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2025.

### McQueen to receive BAFTA's Britannia Award

- British director Steve McQueen will receive BAFTA's John Schlesinger Britannia Award.
- McQueen, who won an Oscar for 12 Years a Slave, would be this year's recipient of the John Schlesinger Britannia Award for excellence in directing.
- The award's previous recipients include Danny Boyle, Christopher Nolan, and Quentin Tarantino.

### 3 scientist awarded by Albany Medical Center

- The recipients of the annual Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research were announced on 15th August 2018.

- The recipients are James Allison, Dr Carl June and Dr Steven Rosenberg.
- Three scientists will share a \$500,000 medical prize for their studies of the immune system that have led to innovative treatments for cancer, HIV and other diseases.

### Shaurya Chakra for Major Aditya, Aurangzeb

- Rifleman Aurangzeb and Major Aditya Kumar of Indian Army will be conferred the Shaurya Chakra along with 18 others Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces.
- Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh was selected for Kirti Chakra posthumously.
- The President has approved 131 Gallantry Awards to armed forces personnel and members of paramilitary forces.

### Prez awards medals to Indian Coast Guard

- President of India has awarded one President's Tatrakshak Medal for Distinguished Service, five Tatrakshak Medal for Gallantry and two Tatrakshak Medal for Meritorious Service on the to Indian Coast Guard personnel.
- The President's Tatrakshak Medal for Distinguished Service has been awarded to IG Rakesh Pal.
- These awards are being given to the personnel of Indian Coast Guard since 1990.

### Gallantry award for members of INSV Tarini

- President Ram Nath Kovind approved 'Nao Sena' medal for the six women crew members of Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini.
- Lt. Commander Vartika Joshi, who led the expedition, Lt. Commander Prathibha, and Swathi, Aishwarya, Vijaya and Payal have been awarded the Nao Sena Medal.
- Nao Sena Medal is a gallantry award that recognises individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage.

### Oscars introduces new 'popular film' category

- The Academy which runs the Oscars ceremony has added a new category to honour popular films.
- The Academy also plans to set an earlier air date for the Oscars in 2020 — February 9 — and will be **making that broadcast more "globally accessible."**
- The award show will also be capped at three hours long.

### Javed Akhtar awarded Hindi Sahitya Samman

- Eminent personalities from different fields, including Bollywood song writer Javed Akhtar, were presented the Delhi government's "Hindi Sahitya Academy Samman".
- Akhtar was awarded the 'Shalaka Samman' for his contribution to the world of films and poetry.

- Veteran theatre director M K Raina received the 'Shikar Samman'.

### Akshay Venkatesh gets Fields Medal

- Akshay Venkatesh, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of **mathematics' prestigious** Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math.
- The Fields medals are awarded every four years to the most promising mathematicians under the age of 40.
- The prize was inaugurated in 1932 at the request of Canadian mathematician John Charles Fields.

### ONGC won top honours at Swachhta Pakwada

- Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) bagged top honours at the Swachhta Pakwada Awards.
- Swachhta Pakwada Awards is an oil ministry initiative to honour companies and individuals doing exemplary work in cleanliness.
- Indian Oil Corp (IOC) bagged the runner-up's award.
- The Ministry celebrated Swachhta Pakwada from July 1, 2018, to July 15, 2018, with the theme 'Innovation and Sustainability'.

### Azad, Najma to be given Parliamentarian award

- The leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla and BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab will be conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian award by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Najma Heptulla will get the award for 2013, Lok Sabha member Hukumdev Yadav for 2014.
- The award will be given to Azad for 2015, TMC MP Dinesh Trivedi for 2016 and Mahtab for 2017.

### Rajiv Sadbhavana Award for Gopal Gandhi

- Former West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi has been chosen for Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2018 for promoting communal harmony and peace.
- The award carries a citation and a cash award of Rs. 10 lakh.
- Former recipients of the award include Mother Teresa, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Mohammed Yunus, Lata Mangeshkar, Sunil Dutt, Dilip Kumar, Kapila Vatsyayan, Teesta Setalvad.

## Days & Events

### India celebrates its National Sports Day

- The National Sports Day is celebrated every year on August 29 on the birth anniversary of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
- This year, though, the date has been postponed to September 25 so the Indian athletes could return from Asian Games 2018.

- On this day, Arjuna and Khel Ratna awards are conferred by the President of India to celebrate the achievements of athletes in the country.

### 'Make in Odisha Conclave' in Bhubaneswar

- The Government of Odisha will organise '**Make in Odisha Conclave**' in Bhubaneswar from November 11, 2018, to 15, 2018.
- **Japan** will be the '**country partner**' for the 'Make in Odisha Conclave'.
- The '**Make In Odisha Conclave 2018**' is the flagship biennial business event of the Government of Odisha.

### Prez to inaugurate "Int Buddhist Conclave"

- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind will **inaugurate the "International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018" in New Delhi on 23rd August, 2018.**
- The Conclave is being organized by the **Ministry of Tourism** in collaboration with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- The theme of the International Buddhist Conclave 2018 is "**Buddha Path – The Living Heritage**".

### September to be observed as Nutrition Month

- September will be observed as Nutrition Month with the aim of reaching every household with the message of nutrition — '**har ghar poshan tyohar**'.

- The month-long intensive campaign will promote antenatal care, breastfeeding, fight anemia, convey messages about the importance of nutrition for girls and the right age of marriage and also promote hygiene and sanitation.

### World Mosquito Day observed on 20th August

- World Mosquito Day is observed every year on August 20.
- World Mosquito Day is a commemoration of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
- The day intends to raise awareness regarding what all causes malaria and ways to prevent it.
- The day is celebrated by The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

### Raj to observe Sept as 'month of nutrition'

- Rajasthan will observe September as the "month of nutrition" to create awareness among people living in the state.
- In the month of nutrition awareness in rural as well as urban areas will be created for nutrition.
- From September, students of Class 1 to 8 of government schools will be given milk daily instead of thrice a week.

### Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 begins

- Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 has begun in Birgunj, Nepal on August 12, 2018.
- On this occasion eminent writers from both the countries were also felicitated.
- Around 250 participants from India and Nepal are attending the two day festival.
- The event has been organised by Nepal India Co-operation Forum.

### World Biofuel day observed on August 10

- World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August.
- The aim is to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector.
- The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.

### NITI Aayog launches Move Hack

- NITI Aayog has launched Move Hack, a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.
- Move Hack aims to bring about innovative, dynamic and scalable solutions to problems pertaining to mobility.

- The hackathon is organized in partnership with Government of Singapore and is powered by Hacker Earth.

## International Affairs

### G20 Digital Economy meeting in Argentina

- The G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting was held in Salta, Argentina.
- The theme of the meeting was 'Building consensus for fair and sustainable development'.
- The meeting took place as part of Sherpa Track for **2018 G20 Leaders' Summit**, which is to be hosted by Argentina by end of 2018.

### Vietnam to host Indian Ocean conference

- The third edition of **Indian Ocean Conference** is set to begin on August 27 at **Hanoi**, the capital of Vietnam.
- The theme of the two-day conference will focus on **'Building Regional Architectures', particularly with regards to trade and commerce, security and governance.**
- Earlier, the conference was held in Singapore and Sri Lanka in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

### WB launches world's first blockchain bond

- The World Bank (WB) has launched a blockchain-only bond.
- Named **bond-i**, or **Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument**, the bond will be created and managed with distributed ledger technology.
- The World Bank mandated **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** to arrange the world's first blockchain bond.
- The World Bank bonds carry an AAA rating.

### Scott Morrison is Australia's new PM

- **Scott Morrison** will be Australia's new Prime Minister.
- Scott Morrison has served as treasurer since 2015.
- Scott Morrison will be the sixth politician to serve as the country's Prime Minister since 2007 after ousting incumbent Malcolm Turnbull.
- Scott Morrison entered parliament in 2007 and has since held three key ministerial portfolios.

### Nepal signed agreement with UNDP and UK

- Nepal has signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the United Kingdom (UK) to implement climate-resilient development projects.
- As part of the agreement, the UK will support the UNDP to implement the Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP).

- NCCSP is the joint project between UNDP and Nepal Government.

#### Fourth BIMSTEC summit to be held Kathmandu

- The fourth Summit of Heads of State/Government of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will be held at Kathmandu in Nepal on August 30 and 31, 2018.
- BIMSTEC is a regional economic bloc comprising seven member states lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.
- Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.

#### Iran unveils first domestic fighter jet

- Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet at a defence show in Tehran.
- The fighter jet called **Kowsar** is capable of carrying various weapons and will be used for short aerial support missions.
- It is a fourth-generation fighter, with "advanced avionics" and multi-purpose radar.
- The new fighter jet has passed all tests.

#### Greece exits final bailout successfully

- According to **European Stability Mechanism (ESM)**, Greece has successfully exited its final, 3-year bailout programme, agreed in August 2015 to help it cope with the continued fallout from a debt crisis.
- The ESM has disbursed 61.9 billion euros over 3 years in support of macroeconomic adjustment and bank recapitalisation.
- The **ESM** is a **European Union** agency that provides financial assistance.

#### United States forms Iran Action Group

- Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, has announced the creation of the Iran Action Group (IAG).
- IAG is a dedicated group to coordinate and run the US's policy towards Iran following President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from a multinational nuclear deal with Tehran.
- Brian Hook, the Department of State's director of policy planning, has been appointed as its head.

#### Ibrahim re-elected as president of Mali

- President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been re-elected as President of Mali after beating opposition candidate.
- Keita will serve his second five-year term as Malian leader.
- Keita will take office on September 4, 2018.
- Mali is a landlocked nation home to at least 20 ethnic groups where the majority of people live on less than \$2 a day.

#### U.S. imposes sanctions on Myanmar military

- The United States imposed sanctions on four Myanmar military and police commanders and two army units.
- The sanctions were imposed for their involvement in **human rights abuses against the country's Rohingya Muslims**.
- The sanctions marked the toughest US action so far **in response to Myanmar's crackdown on the Rohingya minority** which started in 2017.

#### Imran Khan takes oath as Pakistan PM

- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on 18th August, 2018 took oath as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- The oath-taking ceremony was administered by Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain.
- In the July 25, 2018 general elections, the PTI had emerged as the single largest party with 116 seats.

#### Paraguayan President Abdo Benítez sworn in

- Right-wing former Senator Mario Abdo Benítez has been sworn in as the new president of Paraguay after defeating his liberal rival in April elections.
- Mr Abdo Benítez is the son of a close aide to ex-military dictator Alfredo Stroessner.
- He replaces Horacio Cartes.
- Mario Abdo Benítez got involved in politics in 2004.

#### Qatar to invest \$15 billion in Turkey

- Qatar has promised to make a USD 15 billion direct investment in Turkey.
- The announcement came after Qatar's emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani held talks with Turkish President Erdogan.
- Turkey has been badly hit by a currency crisis amid a widening diplomatic standoff with the United States.

#### 5 Caspian Sea states sign landmark convention

- The leaders of the five countries bordering the Caspian Sea signed a landmark deal on the legal status of the sea.
- The leaders of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan signed the agreement on the status of the inland sea.
- The agreement was made to settle a long-lasting dispute on whether the Caspian is a sea or a lake.

#### RCEP trade ministers to meet in Singapore

- Trade ministers of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member countries, including India and China, will hold a crucial meeting in Singapore on August 30-31, 2018.
- RCEP mega trade pact aims to cover goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights.
- RCEP bloc comprises 10 Asean members and their six FTA partners.

### Meeting of Senior Officials of BIMSTEC held

- A special meeting of Senior Officials of the Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held in Kathmandu on 11th Aug.
- Senior officers from all member states and Secretary General of BIMSTEC attended the meeting.
- The group was formed in 1997.

### Ivan Duque sworn in as new Colombian prez

- Colombia's conservative Ivan Duque Marquez took oath as the country's 60th president, succeeding Juan Manuel Santos, who had been in power since 2010.
- Duque defeated Petro, in a presidential run-off in June with 54% votes.
- Duque who formerly served as a senator was the presidential candidate for the Democratic Centre Party for the election in 2018.

### U.S. sanctions against Iran back in effect

- The first set of U.S. sanctions against Iran that had been eased under the landmark nuclear accord have gone back into effect.
- An executive order by President Donald Trump reimposed the sanctions on financial transactions that involve U.S. dollars.
- **U.S sanctions targeting Iran's oil sector and central bank** are to be reimposed in early November 2018.

### China successfully tests hypersonic aircraft

- China has successfully tested its first cutting-edge hypersonic aircraft, 'Xingkong-2' or Starry Sky-2.
- The aircraft could carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence systems.
- The hypersonic aircraft was designed by the China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics in collaboration with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

### Russia appoints Steven Seagal as US envoy

- Russia has appointed martial artist and action film star Steven Seagal as a special envoy to improve ties with the United States.
- **His responsibility will be to "facilitate relations between Russia and the United States in the humanitarian field, including cooperation in culture, arts, public and youth exchanges."**
- Seagal was also granted Serbian citizenship in 2016.

### U.K. to have new organ donation law

- The U.K. government announced new plans to change the law for organ and tissue donation to address the urgent need for organs within the Indian-origin community in the country.

- The proposed new system of consent for organ and tissue donation is expected to come into effect in England in 2020 as part of a drive to help Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people.

### US cuts off security aid to Pakistan

- The United States Congress has slashed the security-oriented financial aid to Pakistan by approving a \$716.3 billion defence authorisation bill.
- The security aid was earlier around \$1 billion to \$750 million per year.
- The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2019, the security aid to Pakistan has been cut down to \$150 million.

### Sushma Swaraj meets Kazakhstan counterpart

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held a comprehensive discussion with her Kazakhstan counterpart Kairat Abdrakhmanov.
- The discussion was on deepening cooperation in areas like trade, energy and defence and security.
- Ms. Swaraj is on a three-nation tour to Kazakhstan, **Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan as part of India's efforts** to boost strategic partnership with the resource-rich nations.

### Iran officially joins ASEAN treaty

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ratified Iran's membership in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC).
- There was a consensus among southeast Asian countries to accept Iran as a party to the treaty.
- This indicated the significance of interaction with Iran as an important and influential country in regional and international equations.

### Google to launch censored search engine

- Google is developing a new search engine for China that will be in line with the country's stringent censorship rules.
- The "revised" search engine, which has been codenamed "Dragonfly" will block western services that are already outlawed in China.
- Google withdrew its search engine from China eight years ago due to censorship.

### Mnangagwa won Zimbabwe Presidential Elections

- Emmerson Mnangagwa won the presidential election of Zimbabwe.
- Mnangagwa won by the smallest of margins, after needing more than 50% of the vote to secure the victory.
- Elections in Zimbabwe were conducted after 37 years of President Robert Mugabe's rule.

### UAE launches amnesty scheme for over stayers

- The UAE launched a landmark three-month visa amnesty programme that will benefit hundreds of illegal foreign workers, including Indians, who are overstaying their permits.
- The programme allows the workers to leave the country without paying penalty and also gives them six months to find a job.
- Also, residents can also rectify their status by getting a new sponsored, valid visa.

## National Affairs

### Mumbai Airport has been renamed

- The Mumbai Airport will be known as the **Chhatrapati Shivaji 'Maharaj' International Airport**.
- This move comes almost two years after Maharashtra Assembly passed a resolution regarding the addition of the word **'Maharaj' in the name**.
- The Mumbai Airport was first known as the Sahar International Airport.
- However, the name was changed in 1999 to Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.

### GoAir to start international operations

- Budget airline GoAir will start international operations from October 11, 2018.
- The inaugural flights will operate to Phuket from New Delhi and Mumbai.
- The airline will also launch flights to Male in Maldives from Mumbai and Delhi on October 14.
- GoAir will be the sixth domestic carrier to have international operations.

### Law Commission endorses simultaneous polls

- The Law Commission of India recommended holding of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies to save public money.
- The Commission said simultaneous polls would help **the government of the day focus on "developmental activities rather than in electioneering."**
- The exercise would also stop the drain on the administrative set-up and security forces.

### SC/ST cannot claim quota in another state

- The Supreme Court held that a member of a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community cannot claim the benefit of reservation in government employment in other states if his or her caste is not notified there.
- SC held that the central reservation policy regarding SC/ST would be applicable in Delhi.
- The verdict came on a batch of petitions that had raised the issue SC/ST reservation.

### WB approved loan for HP's water supply project

- The World Bank has approved in principle a financial assistance of Rs. 929.89 crore for a water supply and sewerage project in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- The final negotiation meeting for loan sanction will be held on October 24, 2018.
- The assistance will be made as a development policy loan.
- There are six sources of drinking water supply to Shimla town including Gumma and Giri.

### Ladakh commissions Tesla-made pump

- **Ladakh has commissioned a 'BlackHOLE' pump** designed by Tesla to tackle its waste problem.
- The plant converts all the waste collected, except glass, to ash.
- It also does not use any fuel or electricity to carry out its task.
- The garbage that accumulates in pockets of Ladakh comes close to 15 to 16 tonnes a day during the peak tourist seasons from June to August.

### Supreme Court Notice To Centre, WhatsApp

- Responding to a plea, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the government and messaging service provider WhatsApp.
- The plea sought direction to restrain Whatsapp from proceeding with its payments systems unless it fully complies with RBI's provisions.
- Whatsapp does not comply with the provision of mandating a Grievance Officer and KYC norms laid down by the Reserve Bank of India.

### MoU signed for development of Arogyamitras

- A MoU was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Health Agency, to provide capacity building for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- As per the MoU, NSDC will ensure quality training of Arogyamitra through its network of Skill Development Centres.
- All the currently Pradhan Arogyamitras will be certified by health care sector skill council.

### 2nd marriage won't be void during divorce pet

- The Supreme Court has clarified that a second marriage is valid even if divorce proceedings of the first marriage are pending in court.
- Section 5(1) of the Hindu Marriage Act places a bar on marriage by a person who has a spouse living at the time of the marriage.
- Section 11 makes such a marriage null and void.

#### BNHS to open its regional centre

- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) will start operating its regional centre on the campus of Wetland Research and Training Centre near Chilika Lake in Odisha.
- **BNHS is India's premier avian research institutes.**
- The centre will carry out research on the avian disease by collecting samples and monitor the Nalabana Bird Sanctuary.

#### India's first biofuel-powered flight tested

- India's first biofuel-powered flight that aims to reduce costs of air travel by replacing the costly aviation turbine fuel was successfully tested by SpiceJet on 27th August 2018.
- The biofuel is made partially from resources such as agricultural residues, non-edible oils and bio-degradable fractions of industrial and municipal wastes.
- The flight will travel from Dehradun to Delhi.

#### 1st cruise line service to begin on 1st Oct

- **The maiden sail of the country's first luxury cruise** line service between Mumbai and Goa will begin on October 1 2018.
- The Ministry of Shipping is investing Rs 1,000 crore to build a cruise terminal in the Mumbai port area on the east coastline.
- The name of the cruise liner is '**Angriya**' and was built in 1997.

#### ISRO telemedicine nodes for soldiers

- The Integrated Defence Staff of the Defence Ministry and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a MoU to set up telemedicine nodes in critical places across the country.
- This will improve emergency medical support to soldiers posted in high-altitude areas, especially Siachen.
- ISRO will establish 53 more nodes in the first phase over and above the existing 20.

#### App launched to rate & review MLA/MP

- Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched '**Neta App**' that allows voters to rate and review their political representatives.
- It aims to foster political accountability and transparency among leaders.

- The App uses a combination of Artificial Intelligence, one-time password and Aadhaar numbers to ensure that the voters who rate leaders are genuine.

#### Odisha Cabinet gives approval for LC

- The Odisha government approved a proposal for setting up a Legislative Council (LC) in the state.
- The proposed Legislative Council will have 49 members.
- As per article 171 clause (1) of the Indian Constitution, the total number of members in the Legislative Council of a state shall not exceed one-third of the total number of the members in the Legislative Assembly of that state.

#### Train 18 goes for testing from September

- The Indian Railways will start the testing of the indigenously built semi-high speed "**Train 18**" from September 2018.
- **Train 18** will be the first engine-less train of Indian Railways meant for inter-city travel.
- It is being manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.
- **Train 18** series will replace existing fleet of the Shatabdi Express trains.

#### ICOMOS launches an initiative in Kerala

- The ICOMOS, a global monument conservation body, has launched an initiative to assess the damage to the rich cultural and built heritage in flood-devastated Kerala.
- The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a non-government organisation (NGO).
- ICOMOS is dedicated for conservation of architectural and archaeological heritage across the world.

#### NGT asks for action plan on e-waste

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests to submit an action plan on e-waste management within three months.
- The direction came as the NGT was disposing of a **plea against unauthorised "recycling, collection, dismantling, burning, selling" of e-waste and other solid waste.**
- The plea had stated that electronic waste accounted for 40% of lead.

#### Centre rules out total ban on firecrackers

- The Government of India opposed the plea for a complete ban on the sale of crackers during Diwali across the country.
- It suggested the Supreme Court that the production of **"green crackers" and a ban on the production of series crackers** as alternative measures to curb pollution during Diwali.

- The SC was hearing a petition seeking a complete nationwide ban on the use of firecrackers.

### Sports should be made a Fundamental Right

- The Supreme Court issued a notice to Centre, state governments and Union Territories on a PIL seeking directions to make sports a part of the Fundamental Rights.
- The PIL said that sports should be included among academics.
- There should be a compulsory provision for sports in the school budget which should be utilised for sports activity only.

### NGT constitutes 'independent body'

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) constituted an **"independent body" to decide Vedanta Limited's plea challenging the Tamil Nadu government's order to close the Sterlite copper plant at Thoothukudi.**
- NGT Chairperson directed the committee to assume charge in two weeks and submit a report within six weeks.
- The committee will be headed by a retired judge.

### India petitions FAO for a 'Year for Millets'

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare has requested the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to **declare an "upcoming" year as International Year of Millets.**
- This would help garner wider global attention to millets which are not only nutritious but also resilient to climate change.
- India is celebrating 2018 as the national year of millets.

### NPPA fixes ceiling price of 92 drugs

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the ceiling price for 92 drug formulations, including those used for the treatment of cancer, hepatitis C, migraine and diabetes among others.
- NPPA fixes the ceiling price of essential medicines of Schedule I under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) 2013.
- NPPA monitors the prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs.

### BSNL launches VOIP based WINGS service

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has launched BSNL WINGS a VOIP based service.
- In WINGS, there is no SIM or cable wiring as is a VOIP service through an app.
- The WINGS service offers unlimited free audio/video calling for one year.
- The facility can be used anywhere within the country and the app automatically uses the existing address book in the phone.

### UK returns stolen 12th century Buddha statue

- A 12th Century statue of Lord Buddha which was stolen from India some 57 years ago was returned by the United Kingdom on 15th August 2018.
- The gold idol with silver inlay was one of the 14 images stole in 1961 from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) site museum in Nalanda, Bihar.
- The image was discovered by Vijay Kumar, who is associated with India Pride Project.

### Akshay Kumar is Road Safety Brand Ambassador

- Akshay Kumar was appointed as brand ambassador for road safety by Union ministry of Road, Transport and Highways to promote road safety through its new campaign.
- As a part of the campaign, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launched three short videos, featuring Akshay Kumar to create road safety awareness.

### Uttarakhand HC appoints itself as guardian

- The Uttarakhand high court said it would act as the legal guardian of cows in the state.
- **The court did this by invoking the 'parens patriae' doctrine and is a doctrine that grants the court inherent power and authority to act as guardian for those who are unable to take care for themselves.**
- The court banned slaughter of cows, bulls, bullocks, heifers or calves in the state.

### JCOs are gazetted officers, says Defence Min

- Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) in the Indian military are gazetted officers, the Defence Ministry has clarified in an order issued on August 1, 2018.
- The Ministry has instructed the three services to issue suitable identity cards to the JCOs immediately in the order.
- JCOs and equivalent officer having been accorded gazetted officer status by an Act of Parliament.

### SC approves colour coding of vehicles

- The Supreme Court approved a proposal submitted by the Union of India (UOI) to colour-code vehicles according to the fuel they run on, in an effort to help counter air pollution.
- The apex court ruling allows for blue stickers to be used for vehicles running on petrol and CNG, and orange stickers for diesel vehicles.
- However, it clarified that this would only be applicable in Delhi and NCR.

### Egon to help BBB in PSB leadership programmes

- **The Indian Banks' Association has appointed Egon Zehnder International as a 'Knowledge Partner' to the Banks Board Bureau.**
- It will design, implement and institutionalise a flagship leadership development strategy for public sector banks in India.

- In addition, Hay Consultants Private Limited will assist the bureau in assessing leadership competencies of candidates.

### Nat Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank Inaugurated

- The 'National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank' was inaugurated by Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in Hyderabad
- This facility would facilitate the exchange of genetic material between Indian zoos for maintaining genetic diversity.
- Wildlife Genetic Resource Banking is the systematic collection and preservation of tissues, sperm, eggs and embryos, genetic material.

### CJI changes subject-wise roster in SC

- The Chief Justice of India has changed the subject-wise roster for judges in the Supreme Court to categorise cases for Justice R. Banumathi, who now heads a Bench.
- The Bench headed by Justice Banumathi would hear cases on family law issues, labour, civil cases, public premises eviction, land law, etc.
- The subject-wise roster was first implemented from February 5, 2018.

### Rajnath Sing to visit flood affected area

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to visit flood affected area in Kerala today.
- 14 teams of NDRF consisting of 404 rescuers and 31 boats are already deployed in various parts of flood hit districts
- Besides the NDRF, adequate columns of Army, Navy and Coast Guard, Helicopters of Indian Air Force, Navy & Coast Guard are also deployed

### Carrying hard copy of DL not compulsory now

- Carrying a physical copy of the driving licence and the vehicle's Registration Certificate (RC) is not compulsory now as the government has validated digital copies.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said that states have been issued an advisory to accept the documents in digital format.
- Documents are present on the government's DigiLocker or mParivahan platform.

### Santali to get own Wiki edition

- Santali has become the first Indian tribal language to get a Wikipedia edition in its own script after the Santali Wikipedia went live earlier this month.
- Wikipedia contributors from India, Bangladesh and Nepal generated the content for the page, officials said.
- Santali is written in Ol Chiki script and spoken by 6.4 million people, according to the 2001 census.

### HP Gov shed British-era 'His Excellency' tag

- In a departure from the British-era practice, Himachal Governor Acharya Devvrat has directed the state government to discontinue prefixing the words "His Excellency" or "Mahamhim" as a greeting while addressing him.
- Further, Devvrat said "honourable" should be prefixed to his name.
- In 2012, then President Pranab Mukherjee had introduced a new protocol for greeting the constitutional head.

### NGT denies Sterlite to operate

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) once again denied permission to the Sterlite Industries' Thootukudi plant to operate or carry out maintenance independently..
- The Thootukudi plant had been operational since the last 22 years, having a capacity of producing four lakh tonne copper per annum.
- Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) issued closure orders on May 23, 2018.

### NITI Aayog to host Investor Conference

- NITI Aayog hosted an investors' conference to attract investments for the development of eco-tourism on public private partnership basis in Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands.
- The conference was inaugurated by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
- NITI Aayog has been mandated to steer the Holistic Development of Islands program, along with the respective UT administration/ State Governments.

### Supreme Court finalises new BCCI Constitution

- The Supreme Court relaxed some of the key recommendations made by Justice Lodha panel relating to reform cricket administration in the country.
- Crucial modifications have been brought about in the 'One State-One Vote' policy and interpretation of the cooling-off period for BCCI office bearers.
- The Court also accorded full membership to Railways, Services and Association of Universities.

### MoU signed between Tribal Affairs & AYUSH

- Ministries of AYUSH and Tribal Affairs inked a MoU to promote Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and forest produce for livelihood development of tribal people.
- National Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Board will identify potential medicinal plant species of the tribal areas.
- The MoU will support training and awareness program on Good Agricultural Practices & Good Field Collection Practices.

### AIIA signs MoU with IIT

- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology to boost research in traditional medicine and streamline hospital care facilities in the country.
- The MoU is aimed at upgrading the national institutes of traditional medicine at par with the IITs and IIMs.
- AIIA is a public Ayurveda medicine & research institution located in New Delhi.

### Delhi HC decriminalises begging

- The Delhi High Court decriminalised begging in Delhi, saying provisions penalising the act were unconstitutional and deserved to be struck down.
- The consequence of this decision would be that prosecution under the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, against persons alleged to have committed the offence of begging, would be liable to be struck down.

### Goa gets its own app-based taxi service

- Goa got its first and exclusive app-based taxi service called 'Goamiles'.
- The app was launched by the Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar.
- Goamiles is said to be managed by a local Goan company called Frotamiles which is a subsidiary of the parent company Pitasys Software.
- The app can be downloaded from Google Play Store and Apple Store.

### Niti Aayog to organise Partnership Conclave

- NITI Aayog, United Nations in India and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) are jointly organizing a Government and Business Partnership Conclave on 8th August 2018.
- The conclave will focus on the interrelated sectors of water, energy and green industry.
- The main purpose is to explore the roles and contributions of the business sector in the implementation of SDGs in India.

### India's summer crop sowing down

- According to the government data, Indian farmers have planted Kharif crops or summer-sown crops on 85.456 million hectares as of August 3 2018.
- Monsoon rainfall was 10% lower than normal as of August 5, 2018.
- India's monsoon rains are likely to be below average in 2018 after the country experienced tepid rainfall during the first half of the season.

### Thermal battery plant unveiled in Andhra

- India became home to the world's first-ever thermal battery plant, that was inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh on 6 August 2018.

- The thermal battery facility is owned by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited.
- Thermal batteries use thermal energy to operate, i.e., the energy created by temperature differences.

### 3-judge SC Bench to hear Article 35A issue

- Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra orally observed that the Supreme Court will consider whether Article 35A is violative of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Article 35A gives special status to the State and people of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The basic structure is a collective term coined by a 13-judge Bench in the historic Keshavananda Bharati case.

### SC notifies norms for senior advocate status

- The Supreme Court has notified guidelines for **accordng 'senior advocate' designation to lawyers.**
- The SC constituted a 5-member permanent committee headed by the Chief Justice of India to shortlist candidates.
- **The finalised guidelines are titled "Supreme Court Guidelines to regulate Conferment of Designation of Senior Advocates, 2018."**

### Minjar fair ends in Himachal's Chamba town

- The eight-day-long Minjar fair concluded in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba town on the banks of the Ravi river with the immersion of 'minjars', which symbolises the blossoming of maize.
- During the fair, people put 'minjars' on their colourful costumes and pray for timely rain and bumper crop.
- HP CM Jai Ram Thakur led the 'shobha yatra' of Lord Raghuvir, the principal deity of Chamba.

#### Anurag Sachan appointed as MD of DFCCIL

- Anurag Sachan appointed as Managing Director of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL).
- Sachan, a 1981-batch officer of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), is at present Chief Administrative Officer of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project.
- DFCCIL is a special purpose vehicle set up under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways.

#### Tech Mahindra inks pact with Telangana govt

- The Telangana State Information Technology, Electronics and Communication department (ITE&C) signed an MoU with Tech Mahindra to launch India's first Blockchain district.
- Tech Mahindra will provide the platform and technology assistance to all the incubators in blockchain district.
- The Telangana ITE&C will provide regulatory and policy support to enable and promote Blockchain growth.

#### India to impose delayed tariffs

- Government of India said that delayed higher tariffs against some goods imported from the United States will go into force on September 18.
- The government had decided in June 2018 to raise the import tax from August 4 2018 on some US products, including almonds, walnuts and apples.
- India has proposed to buy petroleum products from the US to help narrow the trade deficit.

#### Environment, skill ministries ink pact

- The ministries of skill development and environment signed a pact for up-skilling of refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians for the better employment opportunities.
- The courses to provide skill development to scientists and technicians have also been drawn up in the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Through this MoU 1 lakh AC technicians will be trained & certified.

#### First-ever dragonfly festival in Delhi

- The dragonfly festival is being organised from Aug 3 to Sept 1 at World Wide Fund (WWF) auditorium, New Delhi.

- The aim is to spread awareness about the role of Dragonflies in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.
- Festival includes special events like Be a scientist for a day, Date Date with a dragonfly etc. by WWF India and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

#### Logo, tagline launched for GI

- Suresh Prabhu launched a logo and tagline- "Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India"- for Geographical Indications (GI).
- This will increase awareness about intellectual property rights in the country.
- A GI product is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

#### Startup India Yatra begins in Chhattisgarh

- The Startup India Yatra was launched on July 30 2018 in Raipur.
- To promote job creation in tier 2 and tier 3 towns and cities, Startup India organizes the Startup India Yatra in one state every month.
- The Startup India initiative envisages to build a robust startup ecosystem in the country for nurturing innovation and providing opportunities to budding entrepreneurs.

### India & World

#### \$346mn loan to improve state highways

- India and Asian Development Bank have signed \$346 Million dollar loan agreement to improve over 400 km of State highways in Karnataka.
- It will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.
- ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, sustainable growth, and regional integration.

#### MoU between India and Bulgaria

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bulgaria for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.
- The main objectives of the MoU are to expand cooperation in the tourism, exchange information and data related to tourism etc.
- Bulgaria is a potential tourism market for India that received approx 5288 tourists from Bulgaria in 2017.

#### Sushma inaugurated 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Hanoi

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated a **'Jaipur Foot' camp in Hanoi, Vietnam on 27th** August, 2018.
- Ms. Swaraj is in Vietnam on the first leg of a four-day two-nation tour, which aims at deepening India's strategic cooperation with Vietnam and Cambodia.
- The Jaipur-based Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti has started an artificial limb fitment camp.

### Indus Waters Treaty talks resume In Lahore

- India and Pakistan will resume their talks on various aspects of the Indus Waters Treaty in Lahore.
- The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty was brokered by the World Bank and signed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan.
- The agreement administers how the water of the Indus river and its tributaries that flow in both the countries will be utilised.

### India - Kenya JTC meeting held in Nairobi

- The 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22nd – 25th August 2018.
- At present, India is one of Kenya's largest trade partners and the second largest foreign investor in Kenya.
- The last meeting of Joint Trade Committee was held in New Delhi in February 2015.

### Prasar Bharati & Mizzima Media signed MoU

- **Prasar Bharati** and **Mizzima Media** of Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 24th August 2018.
- The Agreement will realize cooperation and collaboration in various fields of broadcasting.
- It also envisions sharing covering a wide range of genres, including culture, entertainment, education, science, news and sports.

### Sushma Swaraj to visit Vietnam and Cambodia

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will leave for a four-day visit to Vietnam and Cambodia on 27th August 2018.
- In Vietnam, the Minister will co-chair the 16th meeting of the Joint Commission along with her Vietnamese counterpart.
- She will also inaugurate the 3rd edition of the **Indian Ocean Conference**.
- It will be the Minister's first official visit to Cambodia.

### 2nd Protocol Amending CECA Signed

- India and Singapore signed the Second Protocol amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

- The signing of the Second Protocol, amending CECA, will boost bilateral trade between India and Singapore.
- CECA was the first comprehensive agreement covering trade in goods, services and investments, which India had signed.
- The CECA was signed on 29th June, 2005.

### 35% of cyber-attacks on Indian sites

- According to a report, the maximum number of cyber-attacks on official Indian websites are from China, US and Russia.
- The report was prepared by the **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**, which comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- CERT-In is the nodal agency which deals with cybersecurity threats like hacking and phishing.

### India seeks revision in price of gas via TAPI

- India has sought renegotiation of the natural gas price it is to source through a proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline due to slump in global energy markets.
- The 4 nations to the pipeline projects had in 2013 signed a gas sale purchase agreement.
- The gas will be sourced from the Yoloten Usman field, which ranks amongst the five biggest fields in the world.

### Panini Language lab inaugurated in Mauritius

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj inaugurated **'Panini Language Laboratory'** at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in **Mauritius**.
- The lab, gifted by the Indian government, will help MGI in teaching Indian languages in Mauritius.
- The lab would serve as medium to generate more interest in learning Hindi amongst the youngsters thereby strengthening the language.

### 11th World Hindi Conference begins

- The 11th World Hindi Conference, an event aimed at expanding the reach of the Hindi language at a global level, was inaugurated in Mauritius on 18th August, 2018.
- The theme of the conference for the year 2018 is **"Hindi World and Indian Culture"**.
- World Hindi Conference was started in 1975 to make the Hindi language a medium of service and knowledge.

### UK returns stolen 12th century Buddha statue

- A 12th Century statue of Lord Buddha which was stolen from India some 57 years ago was returned by the United Kingdom on 15th August 2018.

- The gold idol with silver inlay was one of the 14 images stole in 1961 from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) site museum in Nalanda, Bihar.
- The image was discovered by Vijay Kumar, who is associated with India Pride Project.

#### India grants Rs 470m for Postal Highway

- The Government of India has released 470 million Nepali rupees grant for Postal Highway that runs across Terai region in Nepal.
- The amount has been released to maintain fund liquidity for the ongoing construction of 14 road packages under Postal Highway Project.
- Postal Highway also called 'Hulaki Rajmarg' runs across the Terai region of Nepal, from Bhadrapur to Dodhara.

#### Australia lifts ban on adoptions from India

- Australia has lifted a ban on the adoption of children from India.
- The ban was imposed eight years ago after a major trafficking scandal was exposed.
- The easing of restrictions follows protracted talks between the governments of India and Australia for the past two years.

#### India rejects U.K. proposal on DNA tests

- India rejected a proposal by the U.K. to use DNA sampling to establish the nationality of illegal migrants living there citing "privacy issues".
- As per the proposal, security agencies in India were to verify the antecedents of illegal migrants without documents in the U.K. within 72 days and those with documents within 15 days.
- India refused to sign the final pact in April 2018.

#### India hands 1st lot of houses in Sri Lanka

- India handed over the first lot of houses built for Indian-origin people in Sri Lanka's tea plantation areas on 12th August, 2018.
- India had committed 60,000 houses under the 'innovative Indian housing project'.
- It is the largest Indian assistance project in any country with a grant of over USD 350 million.

#### Army Commander heads for China to visit Delhi

- India and China will be engaged in a series of military related confidence building measures over the next 2 weeks.
- It includes visit by Chinese Defence Minister to Delhi in the backdrop of the Wuhan Summit.
- A four-member Indian Army delegation headed by Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Abhay Krishna will be going on a "goodwill visit" to China from August 13 to 19.

#### Cabinet approves pact between ICAI and CPA

- The government approved a pact between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Chartered Professional Accountants, Canada.
- The MoU includes collaboration on the definition, learning, and evaluation of the professional qualities and skills and competencies of Chartered Accountants.
- It will provide an opportunity for the ICAI members to expand their professional horizon

#### Cabinet approves MoU between India and Korea

- The Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Korea on Trade Remedy Cooperation.
- The MoU was signed in July 2018 during the State visit of President of South Korea to India.
- The MoU will promote cooperation between the two countries in the area of trade remedies viz. anti-dumping, subsidy and countervailing and safeguard measures.

#### Cabinet approves MoU b/w India and Indonesia

- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Indonesia on health cooperation.
- The MoU paves way for cooperation in the areas of research and development; active pharmaceutical ingredients and IT-based medical equipment.
- It also covers human resource development; health services; and any other area as may be mutually agreed upon.

#### 3rd India-Nepal Coordination meeting in Delhi

- The 3rd India-Nepal Coordination meeting was held in New Delhi on August 8, 2018.
- A seven-member delegation from Nepal, headed by Inspector General of Nepal Armed Police Force Shailendra Khanal will take part in the three-day meeting.
- Several important matters like security scenario along the border, coordination meetings at field level and training of police personnel will be discussed.

#### India, Sri Lanka to hold talks

- India, Sri Lanka to hold the 10th round of talks to widen the scope for free trade agreement; negotiations likely to conclude by December.
- The pact is aimed at further boosting the economic ties between the two countries by liberalizing trade norms.
- India and Sri Lanka have a free trade agreement in goods and was implemented in March 2000.

#### Sushma Swaraj meets Kyrgyzstan counterpart

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held talks with her Kyrgyzstan counterpart, Erlan Abdyldaev.

- The discussion was on deepening cooperation in trade, energy, defense, security and other areas.
- Swaraj is on a three-nation tour to Kazakhstan, **Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan as part of India's efforts** to boost strategic partnership with the resource-rich nations.

### 2 day Indo-US Military Cooperation

- A 2-day Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting began in New Delhi as a prelude to 2 plus 2 Dialogue between the 2 countries.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Lt Gen Satish Dua, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the chairman and Lt Gen Bryan Fenton, Deputy Commander, Indo-Pacific Command.
- India and the US were also working to have a joint drill of all the three armed forces.

### India and Germany signed agreement

- India and Germany signed agreements on financial and technical cooperation worth Rs 5,250 crore within the framework of the Indo-German development cooperation.
- As part of the cooperation, areas such as infrastructure development, urban mobility and climate resilience are being promoted.
- Environmental and resource protection is also one of the funded areas of the cooperation.

## Personalities in News

### India's next High Commissioner to UK

- Senior diplomat Ruchi Ghanashyam has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.
- Ghanashyam is a 1982 batch Indian Foreign Service officer and is currently Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- She succeeds Y K Sinha who had assumed the charge in December 2016.

### Anil Ambani resigns as Director of RINA

- Anil D Ambani has resigned as the Director of Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RINA).
- Ambani resigned in compliance with provisions of Section 165 of the Companies Act, 2013, prescribing the limit on directorships to only 10 public companies.
- Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited operates the country's largest integrated shipbuilding facility.

### Google honours Ismat Chughtai with doodle

- Google on 21st August celebrated the 107th birth anniversary of Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai with a Doodle.

- Ismat Khanum Chughtai is considered one of the pioneers of Urdu literature.
- Ismat Chughtai or Ismat Apa as she was known, was considered by some as a crusader for the rights of oppressed women.
- She was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1976.

### Infosys CFO MD Ranganath resigns

- IT major Infosys said its Chief Financial Officer M D Ranganath has resigned from the company.
- Ranganath will continue in his current position till November 16, 2018.
- Ranganath had taken over the said role after the then CFO Rajiv Bansal had quit in 2015.
- Ranganath has worked at Infosys for 18 years.

### Google honours Ebenezer Cobb Morley

- Google celebrated the birth anniversary of Ebenezer Cobb Morley, referred to as the father of modern football, with a doodle on 16th August 2018.
- Ebenezer Cobb Morley was a founding member and the first secretary of the Football Association or FA in 1863.
- FA is the oldest football body of the world and is credited with creating the rules and shaping modern football.

### Ang Lee to be honoured by DGA

- Oscar-winning director Ang Lee will be one of the recipients of the annual Directors Guild of America (DGA) honours at its ceremony.
- The DGA Honours recognises individuals and institutions that have made distinguished contributions to American culture through the world of film and television.
- Ang Lee received the Oscar award for 'Life of Pi' in 2013.

### N Raghuram elected Chair of INI

- Indian scientist-academician, N Raghuram, has been elected Chair of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), a global policy making initiative.
- Raghuram is the first Indian and Asian to be elected to the Chair.
- Raghuram specialises in the biological determinants of nitrogen use efficiency in crops.
- He has been the President of the Indian Nitrogen Group.

### Govt dismisses Usha Ananthasubramanian

- The government has dismissed Usha Ananthasubramanian, former managing director of scam-hit Punjab National Bank and Allahabad Bank, from service.
- Usha, who completed her one year as the CEO & MD of Allahabad Bank on May 6 2018.

- She also served as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Punjab National Bank from August 2015 to May 2017.

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### Tahilramani sworn-in CJ of Madras HC

- Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani was sworn-in as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan in Chennai on Sunday.
- The new Chief Justice, along with Justice M. Duraiswamy would hear from August 13.
- She was born in 1958 and started practice in the Bombay High Court as well as City Civil and Sessions courts in Mumbai in 1982.

### Lionel Messi named Barcelona's captain

- Lionel Messi will replace Andrés Iniesta as Barcelona's captain for the new season, after the latter ended his 22-year stint at the Spanish club.
- Messi, who already wears the armband for Argentina, has previously led Barça in Iniesta's absence.
- Lionel Messi is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a forward for Spanish club Barcelona and the Argentine national team.

### Environment

#### Dr Harsh Vardhan released REDD+ strategy

- Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan released National Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).
- REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivising forest conservation.
- India's National REDD+ strategy is one of the tools to further supplement India's commitment to Paris Agreement.

#### Scientists discover deep-sea coral reef in US

- Scientists have discovered a giant deep-sea coral reef system off the coast of the US state of South Carolina.
- A pair of dives in a submersible called **Alvin** confirmed the existence of the coral reef and based on observations, researchers estimate the reef is at least 85 miles long.
- Coral reefs form more easily near the surface of the water, where the sun can feed the algae.

#### M.P. seeks revival of cheetah project

- The Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the Nauradehi sanctuary.
- The cheetah — which is the fastest land animal — was declared extinct in India in 1952.
- The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947.

#### Arctic's strongest sea ice breaks up

- The oldest and thickest sea ice in the Arctic has started to break up, opening waters north of Greenland that is normally frozen, even in summer.
- This phenomenon has occurred twice in 2018 due to warm winds and a climate-change-driven heatwave in the northern hemisphere.
- The sea ice off the north coast of Greenland has been impacted by abnormal temperature spikes in February 2018.

### Cyclone Warning Centre to be set up in Kerala

- The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has announced it will set up a cyclone warning centre in Kerala and boost weather forecasting in the state with another Doppler radar.
- The new centre will be set up in Thiruvananthapuram.
- At present, India Meteorological Centre (IMD) has cyclone warning centres only at **Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.**

### Kerala received more rains in August

- Kerala has received over two and a half times more rainfall over average for August so far, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- The highest rainfall was recorded in Idukki district, which received 92% more rains. This was followed by Palakkad, with 72% more rains.
- Kerala has received 42% more rainfall than usual since the beginning of the monsoon season in June 2018.

### Armyworm spotted in Telangana

- The **Fall Armyworm**, an agricultural pest, has now been reported in the state of Telangana.
- The **Fall Armyworm** (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is considered deadly as it has caused massive agricultural losses in several countries in Africa.
- The worm was first found in **Karnataka** in the country and later spread to **Tamil Nadu.**

### Ganga stretches in Bengal unfit for bathing

- A map published by the **Central Pollution Control Board** has revealed that water in major stretches of the Ganga in West Bengal is not fit for bathing.
- The affected stretches of the Ganga are located in the districts of **Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Paraganas, Nadia and Murshidabad.**
- Apart from West Bengal, the water of the Ganga is also unfit for bathing in States such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

### Tigress released into Satkosia Tiger Reserve

- A female tiger, brought from Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve was released in Satkosia Tiger Reserve.

- The name of the tigress is 'Sundari'.
- A male tiger was also brought from Madhya Pradesh's Kanha National Park to Satkosia Tiger Reserve.
- Satkosia Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve located in the Angul district of Odisha.

### Khangchendzonga in list of Biosphere Reserves

- The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve has become the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in Sikkim is one of the highest ecosystems in the world.
- The core zone – Khangchendzonga National Park was designated a World Heritage Site in 2016 under the 'mixed' category.

## Government Policies & Schemes

### Trade Cooperation Framework approved

- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the trade cooperation framework between **India and Rwanda.**
- The trade cooperation framework was signed on 23rd July, 2018.
- The trade cooperation framework will facilitate better trade and economic relations between the two countries.

### Cabinet approved MoU between India and USA

- The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Federal Insurance Office, USA.
- The MoU includes an exchange of information and **research assistance with respect to each Authority's** overview and other lawful responsibilities.
- IRDAI is a body set up under the IRDA Act, 1999.

### Right to offend is protected under free speech

- The Law Commission emphasised that the expression of a thought that is not in agreement with the the country or the policy of the ruling government doesn't come under the umbrella of sedition.
- The commission is headed by Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan, a former judge of the Supreme Court.
- He was appointed Chairman of the 21st Law Commission on 10 March, 2018.

### Launch of National Mission on GeM

- National Mission on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) will be launched on 5th September 2018.
- The aim of the National Mission is to promote inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency in public

procurement and achieve cashless, contact less and paperless transaction.

- This will increase overall efficiency and lead to cost saving on government expenditure in procurement.

### HRD ministry brings Atal rankings

- The Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry on August 30, 2018 launched the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARRIA) and the Innovation Cell.
- The rankings will promote a culture of innovation and research in higher education.
- The primary mandate of Innovation Cell is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas.

### NMCG Approves 150 Cr projects

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved projects worth nearly Rs 150 crores in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal under the Namami Gange programme.
- These projects include interception and diversion works where small rivers, rivulets, and drains empty into the main river.
- These projects also include Sewage Treatment Plant and development of Ghats.

### Cabinet approves O-SMART scheme

- Cabinet approved implementation of an umbrella scheme-Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART).
- The scheme covers a total of 16 sub-projects, which address ocean development activities such as services, technology, resources, and science.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the scheme implementation at an overall cost of Rs 1623 Cr.

### Cabinet approves additional 2% DA

- The Union Cabinet approved the additional Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners.
- The DA and DR will increase by 2% over the existing rate of 7% of the Basic Pay/Pension w.e.f 01.07.2018
- This will benefit about 48.41 lakh Central Government employees and 62.03 lakh pensioners.

### ADB sign \$375mn loan for Irrigation

- The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$375 million loan agreement to expand irrigation networks and system efficiency of Madhya Pradesh.
- The project will develop 125,000 hectares of new, highly efficient and climate resilient irrigation networks.

- The project aims to double farming incomes by benefiting over 800,000 people in Madhya Pradesh.

### 'Smart India Hackathon 2019' launched

- Union HRD Minister launched the third edition of **World's Biggest Open Innovation Model 'Smart India Hackathon' 2019** in New Delhi.
- SIH-2019 is an initiative that provides students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives.
- For the 1st time, private industry/organisations and NGOs can also send their problem statements to students.

### Odisha inks MoU for malaria-free state

- Odisha government signed a MoU with an America-based agency '**Malaria No More**' and Indian agency '**Malaria Elimination Trust**' to make the state malaria-free.
- The two agencies will prepare the roadmap for public awareness and will work with the various organization in the state.
- Earlier this year 1.13 crore mosquito nets medicated with larvicides were distributed in the state.

### \$250 mn to support electricity distribution

- The Government of India, Government of Rajasthan and World Bank signed a \$250 Million agreement to support electricity distribution sector reforms in Rajasthan.
- It is the second electricity distribution reform policy for Rajasthan. The first closed in March 2017.
- The program will support the distribution sector, provide incentives to employees, reducing the costs of energy procurement etc.

### World Bank signed \$300mn agreement with India

- The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$220 million Loan Agreement and \$80 million Guarantee Agreement for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program.
- The program will be implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- It will help to avoid lifetime emissions of 170 million tons of CO2 by replacing traditional machinery with energy efficient equipment.

### ₹9000 cr for Indore-Manmad rail project

- The Shipping and Railway ministries along with M.P and Maharashtra government signed a pact to implement around ₹ 9,000 crores in Indore-Manmad rail project.
- The project is estimated to result in cumulative net economic benefits of Rs 15,000 crore in the first 10 years of operations.

- The project will reduce the distance from Mumbai/Pune to key Central India locations by 171 km.

### 2 new projects for Punjab, Tripura under SDS

- The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned two new projects under Heritage and North East Circuits of **Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS)** in **Punjab** and **Tripura**.
- '**Swadesh Darshan**' is the scheme of the Ministry of Tourism for the development of thematic circuits in the country.
- The first project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 'North East Circuit: Imphal and Khongjom' was inaugurated in Manipur.

### Odisha launches "Mu Hero, Mu Odisha" programme

- Odisha government launched a programme aimed at identifying and giving recognition to the young achievers of the state.
- The name of the programme is "**Mu Hero, Mu Odisha**" (I am Hero-I am Odisha) programme.
- The programme will be conducted by the Biju Yuva Vahini (BYV) members.
- The BYV members are volunteers of the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs of the state government.

### PM Jan Arogya Yojana logo unveiled

- Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched the logo for flagship health insurance scheme, 'Ayushman Bharat' in New Delhi.
- Under 'Ayushman Bharat' more than 10 crore poor & vulnerable families will get the benefit with an insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.
- The health insurance scheme will be launched on September 25.

### Govt announces regulations for drones

- The government has announced regulations for safe usage of drones.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalised a national drone policy
- The regulations will be effective from 1st of December 2018.
- During daytime flights, drones can be flown to a height of up to 400 ft.
- The use of drones by civilians is currently restricted by the Directorate General of Civilian Aviation.

### Government unveils sports policy for CPSEs

- The Government of India launched a policy framework for the promotion of sports in CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises).
- The policy will support CPSEs for recreation, positive health, competitive excellence and social harmony.

- CPSEs will allocate a specific budget for sports activities as per their capability and financial strength.

### 'FAME India II' will be launched on Sept 7

- The 2nd phase of the '**FAME India**' scheme will be launched on September 7, 2018.
- The scheme for **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FAME)** India was introduced in a bid to incentivise sales and manufacturing of electric vehicles in the country.
- **FAME II** will offer subsidies to all categories of electric vehicles including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, four-wheelers.

### Govt approves 1.12 lakh more houses

- The Government of India has approved construction of nearly 1.12 lakh more affordable houses for urban poor in eight states under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY).
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is mandated to implement the PMAY scheme.
- PMAY is an initiative by Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor by 31 March 2022.

### UIDAI makes facial recognition mandatory

- UIDAI has made **facial recognition** mandatory for every authentication that requires Aadhaar.
- This will come along with the process that identifies an individual based on fingerprints or iris scans.
- Services like purchasing a new mobile SIM, bank account opening, the public distribution system, which commonly uses Aadhaar authentication will now have to implement this added security feature.

### Government to develop Logistics Portal

- A National Logistics Portal (NLP) is being developed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ensure ease of trading in the international and domestic markets.
- The portal will link all the stakeholders of EXIM, domestic trade and movement and all trade activities on a single platform.
- The NLP will be implemented in phases.

### Bhamashah Techno Hub to be inaugurated in Raj

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the **Bhamashah Techno Hub** on 23rd August 2018.
- The hub will provide free space, easier funding avenues and mentorship to startups.
- The Rajasthan government has already announced setting up of a Rs 500-crore startup fund -- Bhamashah Techno Fund.
- The hub would be able to accommodate over 700 startup ventures.



- The NCRB would coordinate with service providers such as Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp ask them to block malicious videos and contents.
- NCRB is a crime record agency of Government of India.

#### Govt unveils draft UDAN scheme for int routes

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has prepared a draft **scheme document for “UDAN International”**.
- The scheme is designed for State governments that are keen to promote air connectivity on international routes identified by them and for which they are willing to provide subsidy to airlines.
- Airports Authority of India will determine a subsidy amount per seat and invite bids from domestic carrier.

#### Naya Raipur to be named Atal Nagar

- The Government of Chhattisgarh decided to name **Naya Raipur**, the upcoming capital city of the Chhattisgarh, as '**Atal Nagar**' in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Besides the capital, several other government institutions and projects will be named after Vajpayee.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee served three terms as the Prime Minister of India.

#### NOTA option cannot be permitted in RS polls

- The Supreme Court scrapped the use of '**None Of The Above**' (NOTA) option in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.
- SC held that the NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.

#### Kerala floods a 'calamity of severe nature'

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has declared the **Kerala floods a “calamity of severe nature”**.
- When a calamity is declared to be of 'rare severity/severe nature,' support to the government of the affected state is provided at the national level.
- The Centre also considers additional assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

#### New pictorial warning for tobacco products

- The Union Health Ministry issued enhanced pictorial warnings to be printed on packets of cigarette and other tobacco products, highlighting the ill-effects of tobacco consumption.
- These new pictorial warnings will be used from September 1, 2018.
- The government released two separate set of images. The first set will be used on tobacco

#### FSSAI notifies standards for Honey

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has come out with food safety standards for honey and its products, in a bid to curb adulteration.
- As per the FSSAI notification, honey should comply with 18 parameters like that of sucrose content, glucose ratio, pollen count, foreign oligosaccharides among others.
- The FSSAI has fixed maximum 5% limit for sucrose content in the honey.

#### Swachh to target open urination too

- Under new norms, cities and towns wanting to be declared ODF+ (Open Defecation Free Plus) must also be free of public urination and not just open defecation.
- This is the first time that the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) is officially including the elimination of public urination in its agenda.
- The ODF+ and ODF++ protocols were released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

#### NCRB to track complaints on sexual violence

- The Government of India has designated National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as nodal agency for monitoring the complaints received on a government portal that records child sexual violence videos.

products from September 1, 2018 for a period of 12 months.

### States come together to fight drug menace

- Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Chandigarh will set up a centralised secretariat at **Panchkula** to tackle the **drug menace in the country's northern region**.
- The decision was taken at the regional conference of the Chief Ministers organised by Haryana government.
- Nodal officers from each State will be deputed for sharing intelligence and information.

### East-Coast freight corridor to come in 2019

- India's third freight corridor is likely to come up between Kharagpur and Vijaywada sections.
- The project, which is also called the East Coast Corridor, will be 1,114 km in length and is part of the Golden Quadrilateral project of Indian Railways.
- The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd has sent a proposal to Indian Railways to undertake the 3rd freight corridor project.

### India bans pet coke import for use as fuel

- The Government of India banned the import of petcoke for use as fuel but allowed import of the product by some industries, which will use it as feedstock.
- It is allowed only for cement, lime kiln, calcium carbide and gasification industries which uses pet coke as feedstock.
- India imports about half of its annual petcoke consumption mainly from the United States.

### Govt launches 'Digital northeast vision'

- The Central Government launched the 'Digital Northeast Vision Document 2022' in Guwahati.
- North East Indian region has become the newest member of the Centre's flagship programme 'Digital India' initiative.
- 'Digital Northeast India Vision 2022' envisages in implementing the initiative throughout the North East through optimum utilization of information, communication, and technology.

### Railways launches "Digital Screens"

- The Ministry of Railway has launched digital screens to spread awareness among public about the heritage of Indian Railways.
- The project aims at showcasing the legacy of Indian Railways through one to two minute-long movie clips on digital LED screens.
- In addition, QR code based posters on Railway Heritage are also being displayed at these stations.

### Madhya Pradesh Launches "Dial 100" Police App

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 15th August launched Dial 100 Mobile app.
- The App will help the needy at the time of emergency.
- As soon as police receive a call through Dial 100 application, Madhya Pradesh Police will reach the location as soon as possible.

### Government portal starts advocacy drive

- The government has started an advocacy drive based on **'learning material' offered by WhatsApp to create awareness among students, government officials and others around the issue of fake news**.
- The campaign, being run by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing on a portal — 'infosecawareness.in'.
- It is targeted at school children and youth as well as government officials.

### Telangana launches two Human Welfare Schemes

- Telangana government launched two major schemes - free eye screening for all citizens and life insurance for farmers on 15th August, 2018.
- Under "Kanti Velugu" (Eye Sight), the entire population of 3.7 crore will be provided free eye care.
- "Rytu Bima" (Farmer insurance) is aimed at providing life insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh to every farmer.

### Permanent commission for women in armed force

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that women officers in India's armed forces would now have the option to take up permanent commission through the Short Service Commission.
- As per the Short Service Commission, a woman officer can serve for 10-14 years.
- The Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy also grant permanent commission to women officers.

### Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan unveiled

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of world's largest government-funded programme - the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan.
- It will be launched on the birth anniversary of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay on 25th September.
- The government has decided to provide 5 lakh rupees health care insurance coverage for the poor and vulnerable.

### Odisha CM launches health scheme

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced the start of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), an universal health coverage scheme in the state on 15th August 2018.
- The scheme would benefit 70 lakh families.

- Under the scheme, secondary and tertiary chashless health care assistance will be provided up to Rs 5 lakh per family per annum.

#### New concession model for greenfield airports

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has proposed a new financial model for building greenfield airports.
- Under new model, the concession fee given by the airport operator to the concessioning authority will **be based on a 'per passenger aeronautical model'**.
- The new model will be followed for building the Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh.
- The new model will encourage increased private investment.

#### Scheme for monitoring drugs safety aspects

- The AYUSH Ministry introduced a new central sector scheme for monitoring of the safety aspects of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and documenting their adverse effects.
- The ministry introduced the scheme for promoting pharmacovigilance of these drugs.
- All India Institute of Ayurveda was designated as the National Pharmacovigilance Centre.

#### WB govt lifts income ceiling for 'Kanyashree'

- The West Bengal government has widened the reach of its **flagship women welfare scheme 'Kanyashree'** by lifting the ceiling on annual family income.
- As per the scheme, unmarried girls above 13 years are offered cash incentive for remaining unmarried till 18.
- Kanyashree was launched in 2013 to prevent child marriage in economically weaker sections with an annual household income of ₹1.2 lakh.

#### NITI Aayog launches "Pitch to MOVE"

- **NITI Aayog has launched "Pitch to MOVE"** - a mobility pitch competition.
- The aim is to provide budding entrepreneurs of India a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury.
- **"Pitch to MOVE"** is organised by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Invest India and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

#### SC launches 3 application for litigants

- The Supreme Court launched three applications to facilitate e-filing of cases, making digital payments and service of judicial notices through smartphones.
- SC launched E-courts services, E-pay and NSTEP (National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes) applications.
- The Chief Justice of India said that these applications would help the litigants.

#### Rajnath inaugurates NDMC Smart City projects

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated various initiatives as part of smart city project of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on 13th August, 2018.
- The facilities inaugurated includes smart poles with free wi-fi, 360 degree cameras and environmental sensors, solar tree with the LED lights, mobile charging points, ideation centre for promoting smart city entrepreneurs.

#### Hry to launch Ayushman Bharat in 22 districts

- Haryana will launch its pilot health project Ayushman Bharat Haryana from August 15, 2018 in 22 district hospitals, one ESI and one medical college.
- Under this scheme medical facility upto Rs 5 lakh will be provided for free to 15.50 lakh families.
- Initially this facility will be provided in government hospitals, which would later be started in empanelled private hospitals.

#### First project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- The first project under the central government's Swadesh Darshan Scheme, 'North East Circuit: Imphal and Khongjom', will be inaugurated by Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla on 14th August, 2018.
- The project covers 2 sites - Kangla Fort and Khongjom.
- 'Swadesh Darshan' is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tourism for the development of thematic circuits in the country.

#### Centre unlocks 66000 crore green fund

- The Centre has unlocked more than 66,000 crore **rupees to increase the country's forest cover.**
- The fund is an accumulated amount of money which user agencies have been depositing as compensation for diverting forest land for non-forest purposes.
- As per the rules about 80% of the total money will be used by the states for plantation and other green projects.

#### Farmer can avail Rs 1.50 lakh loan waiver

- The Maharashtra government has expanded the scope of the loan waiver scheme.
- The government has now extended the benefits to every member of the farmer's family in case of a separate loan account.
- Earlier, the state government had considered the farmer's family as one unit and considered it eligible to claim waiver of Rs 1.50 lakh agricultural debt.

#### Proposal for setting up of water aerodrome

- Civil Aviation Ministry has approved a proposal for setting up of water aerodromes in the country.
- In the first phase, Chilika Lake in Odisha, Sardar Sarovar Dam and Sabarmati river front Ahmedabad

in Gujarat have been identified for construction of water aerodromes.

- Under the proposal, water aerodrome will be set up near locations of tourist and religious importance.

### Modi launched the digital platform Parivesh

- **Modi launched the digital platform the “Pro Active and Responsive facilitation by interactive and Virtuous Environment Single window Hub” (Parivesh).**
- It is an initiative of the Environment Ministry.
- Through this portal, environmental clearances for forest and climate-related issues will be done easily. He also gave clearance to the first project which is being built in Odisha via Parivesh.

### Exhibition inaugurated by Ministry of Culture

- **An exhibition entitled ‘Prathibandhit Sahitya mein Swatantrata Sangram’ (Freedom Movement through Proscribed Literature)** was inaugurated on 10th August in the premises of National Archives of India, in New Delhi.
- The Exhibition was based on the unique collection of proscribed literature.
- It is being organised by Ministry of Culture.

### 12 modern biofuel refineries to come up

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that 12 modern biofuel refineries worth ten thousand crore rupees will be established across the country.
- This will provide employment to 1.5 lakh youth.
- He was addressing an event on the occasion of World Biofuel Day 2018 in New Delhi.
- The Prime Minister said the government is targeting ten percent ethanol blending in petrol by 2022 and 20 percent by 2030.

### Lok Sabha passes bills to amend GST laws

- The Lok Sabha passed four bills amending laws relating to the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The Central GST (Amendment) Bill, 2018, Integrated GST (Amendment) Bill, 2018, The Union Territory GST (Amendment) Bill, 2018 and the GST (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2018 got **the Lok Sabha’s nod.**
- The provisions will allow taxpayers to amend their tax returns in order to rectify errors.

### Scheme to provide pulses to states for PDS

- The Government decided to sell nearly 3.5 million tonnes of pulses to states at Rs 15 per kg lower price than the wholesale rate for distribution under public distribution system (PDS) and other welfare schemes.
- The decision in this regard was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

- The Centre will provide 3.48 million tonnes of pulses to state governments from its stock.

### ‘One District one Product’ Summit inaugurated

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, **inaugurated the ‘One District One Product’ (ODOP) Summit** on August 10, 2018 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The scheme aims at promoting one traditional industry in every district such as lock industry in Aligarh, silk-weaving in Varanasi and biscuit-making in Amethi.
- Under ODOP, Rs 250 crore loans will be disbursed to start-ups.

### Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao Contest

- The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation announced the winners for the first fortnight of the ‘Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao’ contest that was launched on 10th July 2018.
- The winners will be given prize amount of Rs 25,000/-, Rs 15,000/- and Rs 10,000/- respectively.
- The objective of the contest is to spread awareness about water conservation.

### Nod for three changes to triple talaq Bill

- The Cabinet approved three crucial amendments to the triple talaq Bill.
- The cabinet has approved amendments which mandate that the FIR be either filed by the victim of triple talaq or immediate blood relations.
- Giving instant triple talaq will continue to be illegal and void and will attract a jail term of three years for the husband.

### Cabinet extends PMGSY

- The government approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) beyond the 12th five year plan period.
- The decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs would help in connecting 38,412 habitations.
- PMGSY was launched on December 25, 2000, with the objective to provide All-Weather road connectivity to the rural areas.

### Nod for four more NDRF battalions

- The government approved a proposal of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to raise four more battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- Two of the four battalions will initially be raised in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and one each in the Border Security Force and Assam Rifles.
- The NDRF was created in 2006 and has currently 12 battalions stationed across the country.

### DNA Technology Regulation Bill introduced

- The government introduced DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2018 in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill seeks to provide regulation for the use and application of DNA Technology for establishing the identity of certain categories of persons including the victims, offenders, suspects, under trials, missing persons and others.

#### Govt will launch SBM ODF+ and ODF++ Protocol

- The Government will launch ODF+ and ODF++ Protocol on August 10, 2018.
- SBM (Swachh Bharat Mission) ODF+ protocol focuses on sustaining community public toilet usage by ensuring their functionality, cleanliness, and maintenance.
- SBM ODF++ will focus on achieving sanitation sustainability by addressing complete sanitation value chain and disposal of faecal sludge and septage.

#### Suresh launches Mobile App Niryat Mitra

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched 'Niryat Mitra – mobile App' in New Delhi.
- The app developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations is available both on Android and on IOS platforms.
- It provides the wide range of information required to undertake international trade right from the policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate.

#### NRIs cannot file RTI applications: Government

- Non-Resident Indians cannot file Right to Information (RTI) applications to seek governance-related information from the Central government departments.
- Only citizens of India have the right to seek information under the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005.
- Subject to the provisions of the Act, the citizens of India could file the online application under the RTI Act, 2005.

#### Govt. asks citizens not to use plastic flags

- The Centre has urged all citizens not to use national flag made up of plastic.
- The States were told to ensure strict compliance of the provisions contained in the 'Flag Code of India, 2002' and 'The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
- The advisory said on important national, cultural and sports events, flags made of paper only are to be used by the public.

#### Government raises duty on textile products

- India doubled import duties on 328 textile products to 20%, as the world's largest cotton producer sought to curb soaring imports from China.
- The government in July had doubled import duty on over 50 textile products — including jackets, suits and carpets — to 20%.
- Import duty is a tax collected on imports and some exports by a country's customs authorities.

#### MHADA to rope private landowners for PMAY

- The Maharashtra government to rope in private landowners to collaborate with Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) to implement the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in urban areas.
- Private landowners having more than 10 acres of land are eligible to participate in the scheme.
- The MHADA will construct houses for economically weaker sections and lower income groups.

#### Lok Sabha approves additional expenditure

- The Lok Sabha approved the first batch of supplementary demands for grants envisaging a gross additional outgo of Rs 11,697.92 crore for the current fiscal.
- The additional grant required to meet the required expenditure of the government is called Supplementary Grants.
- These grants are presented and passed by the Parliament before the end of the financial year.

#### Parliament passes Immovable Property Bill

- Parliament passed a bill to amend the regulations governing the compensation payable for acquisition of immovable property by the Centre for defence and security purposes.
- The bill seeks to amend a provision to allow the Centre to re-issue the notice of acquisition to ensure that the property owner gets an opportunity to be heard.
- The amendments included changing the year of the Bill.

#### TRAI launches DND, MyCall on UMANG platform

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched the Do not Call (DND) 2.0 and MyCall apps with the Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) platform.
- UMANG provides a single platform for all Indian citizens to access, pan-India, e-Gov services.
- MyCall is an intuitive and user-friendly application for crowd-sourced voice call quality monitoring.

#### Access to Andamans eased

- Foreigners no longer need a Restricted Areas Permit to visit 29 inhabited islands in the Andaman and Nicobar chain.
- The Union Home Ministry decided to lift restrictions as the government intends to boost tourism.
- The 29 inhabited islands have been excluded from the restricted area permit notified under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, till December 31, 2022.

#### MoA signed for funding Irrigation Projects

- A revised Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed amongst Government of India, NABARD and National Water Development Agency.
- The MoA was signed to fund the central share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- Under PMKSY, 99 ongoing irrigation projects were identified for completion in mission mode by December 2019.

#### Govt extends e-visa facility to 165 countries

- Seeking to promote tourism, the government has extended e-visa facility for citizens of 165 countries at 25 airports and five seaports.
- The government has launched the 'Incredible India 2.0' campaign, marking a shift from generic promotions to market-specific promotional plans.
- A 24X7 toll free multi-lingual tourist helpline has also been put in place as part of the efforts.

#### Scope of HEFA expanded with capital expansion

- The Government has approved the authorised equity capital expansion of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to Rs.10,000 crore.
- The Union Cabinet had approved HEFA in September 2016 as a Special Purpose Vehicle with a Canara Bank.
- All Centrally Funded Educational Institutions in Higher Education, School Education and Medical Education sectors are eligible to avail of loans through HEFA.

#### Rajya Sabha gives nod for NCBC Bill

- The Bill extending constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was cleared by the Rajya Sabha on 6th August 2018.

- The Lok Sabha had passed the proposed law on August 2, 2018 with more than a two-thirds majority.
- The Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha on April 5, 2017.

#### Amendment in LS to make adoption easier

- The government introduced an amendment to the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015, in the Lok Sabha on 6th August 2018.
- The amendment will empower District Magistrates with the authority to grant adoption orders.
- The Union Cabinet had approved amendments proposed by the Women and Child Development Ministry in July 2018.
- The amendment states the objective is to avoid the pendency of cases.

#### BIMS & Bhoomi Rashi-PFMS linkage launched

- The Government of India launched the Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) and Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage.
- BIMS is aimed at streamlining the process of pre-qualification of bidders for EPC Mode of contracts for National Highway works.
- Bhoomi Rashi, the portal developed by MoRTH and NIC, comprises the entire revenue data of the country, right down to 6.4 lakh villages.

#### Startup India's Academia Alliance Programme

- To fulfil the Government of India's mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country, Startup India launched the "Startup Academia Alliance programme".
- The programme is a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.
- The programme aims to reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications.

#### Defence India Startup Challenge launched

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched defence India startup challenge in Bengaluru.
- The highlight of the event was the launch of 11 challenges by MoD now thrown open to provide solutions in the startup ecosystem.
- The launch of challenges will provide the fillip to the innovation potential in the country, partnering with the best minds nationally and internationally.

#### Fugitive Offenders Bill gets president's nod

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018, that will deter offenders to evade legal process in India and flee the country.
- The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 25 July 2018 and by the Lok Sabha on 19 July 2018.

- The Bill allows designated special court to declare a person as fugitive economic offender and to confiscate his property.

### Guj to implement Ayushman Bharat programme

- Gujarat government will implement the Centre's Bharat Ayushman programme which is expected to roll out across the country this August 2018.
- The Ayushman Bharat- National Health Protection Scheme aims to provide medical coverage to over 10 crore poor families.
- The medical coverage is up to 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

### Govt approves projects under 'IMPRINT-2'

- Government has approved 122 new research projects of 112 crore rupees under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology 'IMPRINT-2' scheme.
- The initiative aims to advance research in energy, security, and healthcare domains in the higher education institutions.
- IMPRINT is MHRD supported Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to address the major science and engineering challenges.

### Scheme for girl child launched

- Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launched the 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana'.
- The ambitious scheme will provide Rs. 54,100 from the birth of a girl child till she graduates.
- The 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana' will be run by three departments — education, health and social welfare.
- Over 3.12 lakh girls will be covered under the scheme in the current financial year.

### 10,000 jobs to be created under NHPS

- 10,000 new jobs will be created with the implementation of the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPS), provides a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family annually to 10 crore poor families.
- Health Ministry has signed a pact with the Skill Development Ministry for the recruitment of 1 lakh 'Ayushman Mitras' and will be deployed at Govt & Private hospital.

### Ministers' panel approves GST discounts

- A Group of State Finance Ministers on GST discount gave its nod for incentivising digital payments through a cash back mechanism.
- As much as 20% of total GST paid up to ₹100 per transaction would be provided as cash back on payments made through RuPay cards, BHIM App and UPI.

- This move will benefit RuPay card holders as well as BHIM App users.

### 'Shor nahin' mobile app launched in HP

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched 'horn not ok' awareness campaign and 'shor nahin' (no noise) mobile application.
- The 'shor nahin' mobile application can be used by the general public to report cases of noise pollution.
- As part of the first phase, the campaign has been launched in Shimla and Manali.

### 5 crore gas connections under Ujjwala Yojana

- Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan handed over 5 crore LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) achieving the target in 28 months.
- PMUY was launched on 1st May 2016 and it is implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Through PMUY, initially, 5 crore BPL households were targeted for providing deposit free LPG connections to BPL households by 31st March 2019.

### Paryatan Parv to be organized by tourism min

- The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders is organizing a "Paryatan Parv" across the country from the 16th to 27th September 2018.
- It is being organized with the objective of drawing focus on the benefits of tourism.
- The Paryatan Parv shall conclude with the World Tourism Day celebrations on 27th September 2018.

### LS passes National Sports University Bill

- The Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 2018 passed a Bill establishing a National Sports University in Manipur as part of a vision to enhance country's standing in sports.
- The National Sports University Bill, 2018, which sought to replace an Ordinance promulgated on May 31, was passed by a voice vote.
- The legislation was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 2017.

### Karnataka launched "Swachhameva Jayate"

- Karnataka government launched "Swachhameva Jayate", a campaign in rural areas to take a pledge on cleanliness.
- Logo of the campaign released by Department of Rural Development includes a boy and a girl standing in front of the map of Karnataka.
- The campaign coincides with the "Swachh Survekshan Grameen" survey by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

### AP launches 'Mukhya Mantri-Yuva Nestham'

- The Andhra Pradesh government has launched 'Mukhya Mantri-Yuva Nestham', a scheme through which an allowance of Rs 1000 per month will be provided to unemployed youth in the state.
- About 12 lakh youths in the age group of 22-35 years will get the benefit of the scheme.
- The scheme will be extended to all those eligible even if there are more than one beneficiary in a family.

#### Statutory status for BCs panel

- The Lok Sabha passed the 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill providing for a National Commission for Backward Classes as a constitutional body.
- A constitutional amendment under Article 368 needs to be passed by both Houses separately with a special majority.
- The Bill as passed by the Lower House inserts Article 338 B in the Constitution.

#### SAATHI Initiative Launched

- Ministry of textiles and Ministry of Power launched SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help Small Industries) initiative in the power loom sector.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) will replace old electric motors with new IE3 motors.
- The use of these efficient equipments will result in energy savings and cost savings to the unit owners.

#### New policy for unconventional hydrocarbons

- The Cabinet approved a policy framework for hydrocarbons' exploration, permitting private companies to exploit unconventional hydrocarbons, including shale gas and coal bed methane (CBM), from their existing acreages.
- Prior to this, field operators were not allowed to explore unconventional hydrocarbons.
- An additional 10% profit petroleum will be levied for new CBM discoveries.

#### Government extended the CFS

- The government extended the Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) till 2023 to support Indian entities bidding for important infrastructure projects abroad.
- Under the scheme, the government provides the counter-guarantee and interest equalisation to EXIM bank.
- Also, the scheme will now cover all Indian entities, compared to the earlier stipulation of minimum 75% Indian shareholding.

#### Cabinet clears changes to GST laws

- The Cabinet approved amendments to the GST laws, including the hike in turnover threshold for

businesses to avail the composition scheme to Rs 1.5 crore.

- The amendments will allow employers to claim input tax credit on facilities like food, transport and insurance provided to employees.
- Besides, businesses with turnover of up to Rs 1.5 crore would be eligible for availing composition scheme.

#### Cabinet approves stringent anti-piracy law

- The Union Cabinet approved a bill providing for death penalty or life imprisonment to those involved in piracy at sea.
- The proposed anti-maritime piracy law is aimed at promoting the safety and security of India's maritime trade.
- The government is bringing the law as part of commitment made by India while signing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982.

#### Scheme to reimburse taxes on food

- The Ministry of Culture launched a scheme to reimburse central share of CGST and IGST on food, prasada, langar or bhandara offered by religious and charitable institutions.
- The Ministry of Culture came out with the scheme, Seva Bhoj Yojana.
- Such institutions shall have to first register with Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog and get Unique ID generated by it.

#### Cabinet okays 51% stake for LIC in IDBI

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the **government's decision to reduce its stake in IDBI Bank below 50%**, with Life Insurance Corporation raising stake in the bank to 51%.
- The boards of IDBI Bank and LIC have both given their approval for the deal.
- Currently, LIC holds 7.98% stake in the debt-ridden public sector bank.
- Post the transaction, IDBI Bank would become a subsidiary of LIC.

#### LS passes commercial courts Bill

- The Lok Sabha passed the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- It will designate some courts as commercial courts for speedy disposal of commercial disputes.
- It will reduce the pecuniary jurisdiction of these courts from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 lakh.
- The bill is aimed at improving the ease of doing business in India.

#### Bill cleared to restore SC/ST Act provisions

- The Centre has decided to introduce a Bill to restore the original provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- The Cabinet had given its nod to the Amendment Bill and the government would try to introduce it in Parliament during the ongoing session.
- The Amendment Bill seeks to insert 3 new clauses after Section 18 of the original Act.

### IWAI launches Dedicated Portal for cargo

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a dedicated portal to connect cargo owners and shippers with real time data on availability of vessels.
- Named as the 'Forum of Cargo-Owners and Logistics-Operators', the link of the portal is available on the homepage of IWAI.
- It has been designed and developed by the in-house IT Department and the Traffic Wing of IWAI

### Largest pan-India rural sanitation survey

- The largest pan-India rural sanitation survey will commenced on 1st August 2018 under the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- It will also rank districts based on their sanitation level.
- The criteria set for ranking includes construction and use of toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin, direct observation of sanitation at public places and feedback from citizens.

### CSCs to implement Ayushman Bharat

- Common Service Center (CSC) and National Health Accounts (NHA) signed a memorandum of understanding to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme through three-lakh CSCs across the country.
- Ayushman Bharat is the National Health Protection Scheme, which will provide coverage of up to ₹5 lakh.
- According to the MoU, a beneficiary can now visit the nearby CSC to get the benefit of this scheme.

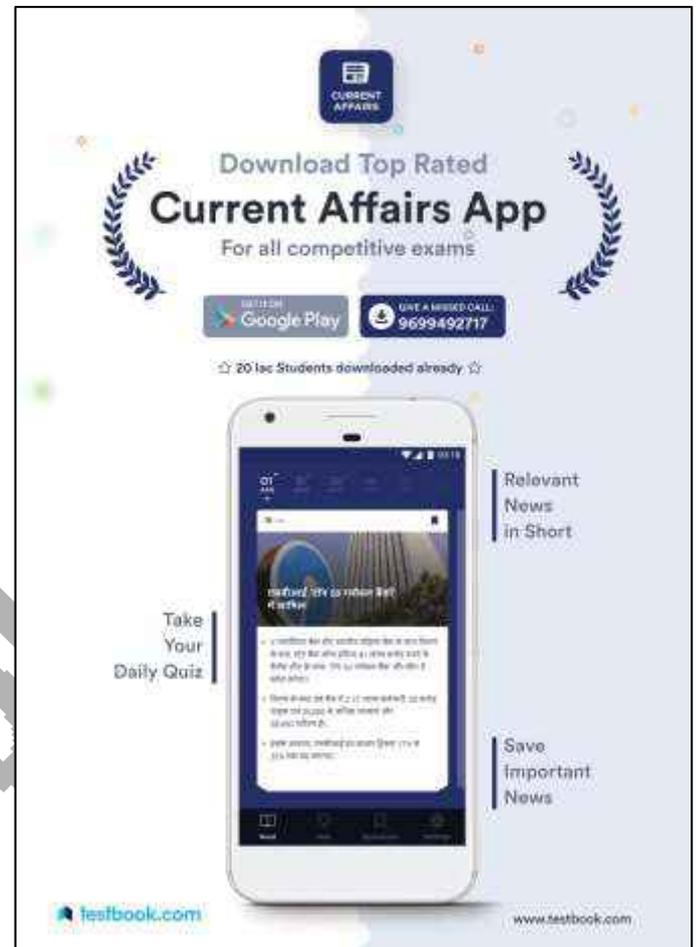
### Rajasthan first to implement biofuel policy

- Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels unveiled by the Centre in May 2018.
- The state will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds.
- It will establish a Centre for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in the fields of alternative fuels and energy resources.

### Lok Sabha passes IBC amendment bill

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill 2018.

- The Bill amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 to clarify that allottees under a real estate project should be treated as financial creditors.
- Financial creditors will be able to decide the future of defaulting builders alongside their lenders.



### Art and Culture

#### 'Mountain Echoes Literature Festival' began

- In Bhutan, the ninth edition of Mountain Echoes Literature Festival began in Thimphu.
- The festival is an initiative of the India-Bhutan Foundation and India's leading literary agency, Siyahi.
- The 2018 edition of the Festival will celebrate 50 years of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.

#### International water colour festival in Ranchi

- The international watercolour festival will be organised in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- It is organised by the Department of Tourism, Art-Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs.
- The international watercolour festival aims to bring local artists in touch with the international art and promote the rich art and culture of Jharkhand.

- The watercolour festival will come to a close on August 27, 2018.

## Science & Technology

### ISRO plans manned space flight before 2022

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) unveiled India's Gaganyaan programme for manned space flight before 2022.
- ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said the manned mission to space having 3 crew members will be in space for 5-7 days.
- Mr. Sivan said the spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit of 300-400 km and the total programme cost is expected to be less than Rs 10,000 crores.

### Google launched Project Navlekha

- Google has launched the Project Navlekha, which in Sanskrit means "a new way to write".
- Project Navlekha will empower offline newspapers and magazines in India to bring their content online.
- Google is using its expertise in artificial intelligence for Project Navlekha, which will quickly render any PDF with Indian language content into editable text.

### NASA spacecraft approaches asteroid Benu

- NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft has captured the first glimpse of its distant target -- asteroid Benu .
- The OSIRIS-REx is a NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid-Benu.
- OSIRIS-REx was launched on September 8, 2016.
- It will help unveil the mysteries of our solar system's formation.

### Spitzer telescope completes 15 years in space

- NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope, the youngest member of the "Great Observatory" programme, has completed 15 years in space.
- The Great Observatories are four space telescopes - Spitzer, Hubble Space Telescope, the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory (CGRO), and the Chandra X-ray Observatory.
- Spitzer is designed to view the universe in different and complementary wavelengths of light.

### New Li-ion batteries developed

- Scientists have developed lithium-ion batteries with components that harden on impact, preventing them from catching fire and causing injuries to users.
- Lithium-ion batteries commonly used in consumer electronics.
- They burst into flame when damaged or improperly packaged.

- To make these batteries safer, some researchers used a non-flammable, solid electrolyte.

### NASA will launch laser satellite

- NASA will be launching a **laser satellite** that will measure changes in the heights of Earth's polar ice to understand what is causing ice sheets to melt fast.
- The name of the satellite is '**Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2)**'.
- **ICESat-2** will measure the average annual elevation change of land ice covering Greenland and Antarctica.

### European wind survey satellite launched

- A new satellite that will use advanced laser technology to track global winds and improve weather forecasts has been successfully put into orbit.
- The name of the satellite is "**Aeolus**" -- named after the guardian of wind in Greek mythology.
- The satellite "will probe the lowermost 30 kilometres of the atmosphere in measuring winds around the Earth.

### Chandrayaan-1 data confirms presence of ice

- Scientists have found frozen water deposits in the **darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions** using data from the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft.
- **Scientists used data from NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) instrument** to identify three specific signatures that definitively prove there is water ice at the surface of the Moon.
- Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft was launched in 2008 by ISRO.

### First 4D printing for ceramics developed

- Scientists have successfully developed the world's first 4D printing for ceramics, that can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.
- 4D printing is conventional 3D printing combined with the additional element of time as the fourth dimension.
- The printed objects can re-shape or self-assemble themselves over time with external stimuli, such as mechanical force, temperature.

### Microsoft, Apollo Hospitals unveil AI

- Microsoft India and Apollo Hospitals unveiled the '**first-ever**' **artificial intelligence**-powered cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk score API (application program interface).
- It is designed to predict the risk of CVD in the Indian population.
- This would also enable doctors across the Apollo network of hospitals to drive preventive cardiac care across the country.

### Iron and Titanium found on 'Ultrahot Jupiter'

- The astronomers carried out new observations of exoplanet Kelt-9b.
- Kelt-9b is the hottest exoplanet discovered and was discovered in 2017.
- Astronomers discovered that the atmosphere is made up of vaporized iron and titanium.
- The team used the Galileo National Telescope in La Palma, Canary Islands, to observe the planet.

#### China's rover to explore dark side of moon

- China has unveiled a new lunar rover as it prepares to become the first nation in the world to explore the dark side of the moon.
- China's last lunar rover -- named Yutu, or Jade Rabbit -- ceased operation in August 2016 on the surface of the moon as part of the Chang'e 3 mission.
- China announced its intentions in 2015 to send a rover to the dark side of the moon.

#### ISRO's first mission to study the Sun

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to study the Sun through its Aditya-L1 satellite which will be inserted in a halo orbit, which is 1.5 million km from the Earth during 2019-2020.
- Aditya-L1 will be launched by PSLV-XL from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- ISRO had planned to use Aditya-1 to observe only the solar corona, which is the outer layer of the Sun.

#### NASA's Opportunity Rover remains unreachable

- NASA has reportedly not been able to establish contact with the Opportunity Rover for over two months.
- Opportunity Rover has been exploring Mars for 14 years.
- The last time NASA heard from Opportunity was June 10, 2018.
- The rover had to undergo an emergency shutdown in June, after the Martian dust storm prevented it from powering itself through its solar panels.

#### CSIR develops new Clot buster

- A new Clot buster, 'PEGylated Streptokinase' has been developed at CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh and is all set to revolutionize the treatment of ischemic strokes.
- Ischemic stroke is a condition caused by a dysfunction in the supply of blood to the brain.
- CSIR and Epygen Biotech Pvt. Ltd. have entered into an agreement to develop the PEGylated Streptokinase.

#### Chandrayaan-2 to be launched in January-March

- India's second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 will now be launched in the January-March window in 2019.

- Chandrayaan-2, which will be launched onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk-3.
- **The lander has been named "Vikram" as a tribute to the pioneer of India's space programme and former ISRO chairman (1963-71), Vikram Sarabhai, Sivan said.**

#### ISRO plans to launch TV channel

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch a TV channel to promote scientific temper among people and conduct training camps for school students.
- ISRO will select students and organise training camps for 25 to 30 days and the students will be allowed to visit laboratory and make their small satellite.
- ISRO was planning to set up an incubation centre for startups

#### World's first mission to touch the Sun starts

- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe, mankind's first mission to 'touch' the Sun, has been launched today on a seven-year long journey.**
- Liftoff took place from Space Launch Complex 37 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in the US early today.
- The Parker Solar Probe will perform the closest-ever **observations of the Sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona.**

#### World's 1st Hindi-Speaking Robot 'Rashmi'

- Ranchi-based software developer Ranjit Srivastava is developing the world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot, claimed to cost just Rs 50,000 so far.
- Named Rashmi, the AI-powered robot can also speak Bhojpuri, Marathi, and English, and is equipped with facial expressions and recognition systems.
- He was inspired to create Rashmi after seeing Hong Kong-made humanoid 'Sophia' in 2016.

#### US to create Space Force by 2020

- The US Defence Department will create a Space Force as the sixth branch of the military by 2020, Vice President Mike Pence announced.
- Advancements in space technology made it clear that space is the new battlefield for the 21st Century, Pence said.
- Pence also announced plans to establish the US Space Command and the Space Development Agency.

#### Most distant radio galaxy discovered

- An international team of astronomers has detected the most distant radio galaxy ever observed.
- The researchers determined that the galaxy is about 12 billion light-years away.

- This radio galaxy has been named 'TGSS J1530+1049', and it was initially discovered using the Giant Meter-wave Radio Telescope (GMRT) in India.

#### Forty-four new exoplanets discovered

- Scientists have found 44 planets beyond our solar system in one go.
- **Astronomers pooled data from NASA's Kepler and the ESA's Gaia space telescopes.**
- The findings will improve existing models of solar systems, and may help researchers investigate exoplanet atmospheres.
- Four of the planets orbit their host stars in less than 24 hours.

#### SpaceX launches reusable rocket

- SpaceX relaunched its newest version of its Falcon 9 rocket booster to send a communication satellite for Indonesia into the orbit.
- The so-called Block 5 booster, which SpaceX says will be able to fly as many as 10 times with routine maintenance.
- The booster first flew on May 11 2018, when it delivered the first Bangladeshi satellite into space.

#### New compound may reverse human cell ageing

- Scientists have developed a novel compound which can reverse ageing in human cells, and may lead to "anti-degenerative" drugs.
- Researchers tested compounds designed to target mitochondria, the "power stations" of cells.
- The compounds - AP39, AP123 and RT01 - help the old or damaged cells to generate the 'energy' needed for survival and to reduce senescence.

#### Lithium-rich giant star discovered

- Chinese scientists have discovered the most lithium-rich giant star ever known.
- The star has a mass almost 1.5 times our sun.
- The star is in the direction of Ophiuchus, north side of the Galactic disk, with a distance of 4,500 light years to Earth.
- The findings were realised with the help of The Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) located in northern China.

#### P is for Pie: Android's latest version

- **Google launched the latest version of its Android operating system — Android Pie.**
- Android Pie mostly focuses on behind-the-scenes improvements designed to make Android phones work faster while saving precious battery life.
- An over-the-air update to Android 9 will begin rolling out to Google's Pixel phones.

#### China launches exascale supercomputer

- China has operationalised a prototype exascale computing machine, the next-generation supercomputer.
- The Sunway exascale computer prototype was put in operation on 5th August 2018 and helps to execute a quintillion calculation per second.
- The exascale computer is expected to be built in the second half of 2020 or the first half of 2021.

#### GSAT-11 set to be launched on November 30

- Indian Space Research Organisation's heaviest satellite so far — the GSAT-11 — will take off a spaceport in French Guiana on 30 November 2018.
- The communication satellite will help in increasing the internet speed in the country.
- The GSAT-11 carries 40 transponders and is capable of providing high bandwidth connectivity with up to 14 GB per second data transfer speed.

#### Launch of India's 2nd moon mission postponed

- **The launch of India's second mission to the moon, Chandrayaan-2, may be delayed till January 2019.**
- The postponement comes in the wake of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) facing quick setbacks.
- **Chandrayaan-2 will be ISRO's first time attempt to land a rover, on the Moon.**

#### IDEMIA gets NPCI stamp for RuPay cards

- French company IDEMIA has become the first company to be given the certification to manufacture and personalise RuPay chip contact and contactless cards on the qSPARC v2 platform.
- The qSPARC is a dual interface open loop payment specification, with the option of loading multiple payment applications on a single card.
- The certification is issued by the National Payments Corporation of India.

#### First single-chromosome yeast created

- Chinese scientists claimed to have created the first single-chromosome yeast while not affecting the majority of its functions.
- Brewer's yeast, one-third of whose genome is said to share ancestry with humans, has 16 chromosomes.
- However, Chinese scientists have managed to fit nearly all its genetic material into just one chromosome.

#### Sunita to fly on US' First Private Spaceships

- Sunita Williams is among the 9 astronauts named by NASA for its first human spaceflight programme.
- The 8 active NASA astronauts and one former astronaut will launch on Boeing CST-100. Starliner and SpaceX Dragon capsules to the International Space Station beginning in 2019.

- The missions will mark the first crewed launches from the US since the end of the space shuttle programme in 2011.

#### New material will remove dyes from water

- Scientists have created a sponge-like material using wood pulp and small bits of metal that can remove harmful dyes in water in a matter of seconds.
- Cellulose, the main structure in plant cell walls and the most abundant natural material on Earth, provides the backbone of the material and has tiny pieces of palladium.
- Palladium serves as a catalyst to help remove colour quickly.

#### LHC accelerates atoms for the 1st time

- For the very first time, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN has injected and accelerated lead 'atoms'.
- Previously, the LHC had accelerated only protons and the nuclei of atoms.
- The process was done to test out a new CERN concept called the Gamma Factory.
- With this new advancement, scientists could be able to make 'exotic' particles like dark matter or a muon (heavy electron) beam.

#### Radioactive molecule detected in space

- In a first, astronomers have detected a radioactive molecule in space, believed to be from a stellar explosion that took place in the 17th century.
- The radioactive molecule was spotted with the Northern Extended Millimetre Array and the Atacama Large Millimetre/ submillimetre Array radio telescopes.
- The radioactive molecule is an isotope of aluminium monofluoride.

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### Places in News

#### First penguin to be born in India

- India's first Humboldt penguin was born on 15th August at Mumbai's Veer Jijamata Udyan.
- It is the first penguin to be born in the country.
- Eight Humboldt penguins were brought to Mumbai from South Korea in July 2016.

- The zoo authorities will later conduct a DNA test to find out its gender and will then name it.

#### Haryana's first civil airport in Hisar

- Haryana's first civil airport was inaugurated at Hisar.
- A MoU was also signed between the state government and SpiceJet Limited for assistance in development of Phase-II and III of the integrated aviation hub.
- With the inauguration of the first phase of the project today, all facilities required for flying an aircraft have been made available at the airport.

#### Jodhpur, Marwar cleanliest railway stations

- Rajasthan's Jodhpur and Marwar railway stations have emerged the cleanliest among the major stations in the country.
- While Jodhpur secured the first position in A1 category stations for 2018, Marwar took the pole position in A category, according to the study report released by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.
- the North Western Railway (NWR) topped the list as the cleanest zone.

#### Over 12,800 trees cut in Delhi in 3 years

- Over 12,800 trees have been cut in Delhi in the last three years for various government projects.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh informed the Rajya Sabha.
- However, he added, "It has been decided to plant more than 10 lakh trees in different parts of Delhi."

#### Free sex change operations: Kerala

- The Kerala government will foot the bill for transgenders willing to undergo sex change operations, CM Pinarayi Vijayan has announced.
- An amount of ₹2 lakh will be reimbursed as hospital expenses, while those who have already undergone such surgeries can also apply for reimbursement.
- Earlier, Tamil Nadu had announced free sex change surgeries in government hospitals for transgenders.

#### Mughalsarai Junction renamed

- The iconic Mughalsarai Railway Junction in Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station.
- A passenger train with an all-women crew and a goods train was also flagged off.
- Railway officials said it will be the first time in the country that an all-woman crew will run a train.

#### First intertidal art gallery in Maldives

- World's first intertidal art gallery called Coralarium is located at the Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi resort
- It filled with around 30 sculptures acting as a habitat for coral and other marine species

- The frame of the gallery is made of pH-neutral marine steel and designed to reflect the blue hues surrounding it.
- Designed by British sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor.

### Kadakhnath chicken from Jhabua GI tag

- The famous Kadakhnath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The tag denotes that the product comes from a particular geographical area, and often enhances its commercial value.
- The Gramin Vikas Trust of Krishak Bharati Cooperative had sought GI tag for the protein-rich and black coloured meat of Kadakhnath variety of chicken.

## Books & Authors

### Book on Weather Information Portal released

- Shri R K Singh released a book on "Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System".
- This reference document has been developed by Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) in collaboration with IMD to facilitate enhanced utilization of Weather Portal in all spheres of Power Sector.
- Shri R K Singh is the Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy.

### A book on Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched

- A book on the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been launched.
- The title of the book is "Atal Ji Ne Kaha".
- The book has been authored and compiled by Brijendra Rehi.
- The book is a rich repository of the former Prime Minister's select speeches and photographs besides having three interviews by the author.

### V.V.S. Laxman's autobiography to be out soon

- A book titled '281 and Beyond', which has been written by VVS Laxman, will be published on 20 November 2018.
- The title has been borrowed from the match in which he made 281 runs against Australia at the Eden Gardens in 2001.
- Laxman made his debut for India in 1996 in a Test match.
- Laxman announced his retirement from international cricket in 2012.

### Shane Warne to come out with autobiography

- Shane Warne will come out with his autobiography "No Spin" in October 2018.

- The autobiography is written with cricketer and TV presenter Mark Nicholas.
- Shane Warne is widely regarded as one of the finest bowlers in the history of the game.
- He played his first Test match in 1992 and took over 1,000 international wickets.

### The Unending Game by Vikram Sood

- "The Unending Game: A Former R&AW Chief's Insights into Espionage" has been written by Vikram Sood.
- Vikram Sood is the former head of India's foreign intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing from 2000 to 2003.
- The book covers some of the most exciting aspects of intelligence failures and successes.
- Currently, Sood acts as Advisor to Observer Research Foundation.

## Committees & Recommendations

### New science & tech council to advise PM

- A 21-member committee has been set up to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on science, technology, and innovations.
- Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific adviser to the Government of India will head the committee.
- Secretaries of at least 10 central ministries, related to science, technology, energy, and education, are special invitees to the panel.

### New RBI unit to track blockchain and AI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a new unit to track emerging technologies like cryptocurrency, blockchain and artificial intelligence.
- The committee will research, draft rules and will supervise the development of these digital assets.
- The news about the forming of the research unit came after multiple warnings issued by RBI against crypto transactions.

### Committee on review of Company Act 2013

- The committee on review of penal provisions of Company Act 2013 submitted its final report to Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.'
- The committee is headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.
- The Committee was constituted by the government in July 2018 to review the existing framework dealing with offences under the Companies Act, 2013.

### Vazifdar to head Sterlite plant committee

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a three-member committee to decide Vedanta's plea

challenging closure of its Sterlite copper plant at Tuticorin.

- The committee will be headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice S J Vazifdar.
- The committee will also include representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

### PFRDA sets up panel on cyber safety

- **Pension Fund and Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA)** has set up a standing committee to suggest steps to deal with cybersecurity challenges.
- **The committee on 'Information Systems and Technology and Cyber Security'** will suggest steps to align PFRDA's technology with best industry practices.
- PFRDA is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament to promote old age income security.

### New panel formed on mullaperiyar dam

- A special committee headed by National Water Commission was formed to monitor situation in Mullaperiyar dam.
- The Cabinet Secretary constituted a committee chaired by chairman, Central Water Commission and Engineers-in-Chief of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- **The decision comes in the wake of Kerala's request** to Tamil Nadu not to allow the water to reach beyond 142 ft.

### IRDA constitutes working group

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) constituted a working group to the norms for insurance surveyors.
- The 7-member working group has been formed to address areas pertaining to licensing, renewal and others in the context of the existing regulatory framework for Surveyors and Loss Assessors.
- The working group will submit its report within 2 months.

### NGT forms panel to monitor Ganga cleaning

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) constituted a committee for monitoring the rejuvenation project of Ganga from Haridwar to Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.
- The committee will be headed by a former Allahabad High Court judge.
- NGT has asked Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court to nominate a former judge who will head the committee.

### 2 task force for making aircraft, UAVs formed

- The Government of India has set up two task force to prepare the roadmap for manufacturing aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles in India.

- One committee will explore the possibility of manufacturing aircraft in India.
- The other committee will explore the possibility of manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (Drones) in India.

### Committee to review security of VIPs

- The Jammu and Kashmir Government ordered the formation of a three-member committee to review the security of protected persons in the state.
- The committee will be headed by Additional Director General of Police (ADG) Security.
- The decision has been taken days after a man forcibly entered into the residence of the former chief minister and Member of Parliament (MP) Farooq Abdullah.

## Business & Economy

### Vodafone, Idea set to be Vodafone Idea

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave its approval to the merger of Vodafone and Idea Cellular.
- **The merged entity would be the country's largest** telecom operator with total revenues of over Rs 80,000 crore.
- Balesh Sharma, the erstwhile chief operating officer of Vodafone India, will be the new CEO of the new combined entity.

### India Post Payments Bank to launch on Sept 1

- The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is getting launched on September 1, 2018.
- **The post office's IPPB will provide customers savings** and current accounts, along with services including bills and utility payments, remittance and money transfer, direct benefit transfers and enterprise and merchant payments.
- IPPB has tied up with Bajaj Alliance and PNB Met Life to offer insurance policies.

### Revised cost estimate for IPPB

- The Union Cabinet approved the revision of project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) from Rs. 800 crore to Rs. 1,435 crore.
- The additional sum of Rs. 635 crore accounts of Rs 400 crore for Technology Costs and Rs 235 crore for Human Resource Costs.
- IPPB services shall be available at 650 IPPB branches and 3250 Access Points from 1st September 2018.

### First Toll-Operate-Transfer Project

- Macquarie group bags first project under toll-operate-transfer with Rs 9681.5 crore bid.
- India chief of Macquarie group handed over a cheque to Shri Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.

- In 2016 government of India had authorized NHAI to monetize operational national highway projects using the toll-operate-transfer (TOT) model.

#### 99.3% of demonetised notes returned

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its annual report said that 99.3% of the ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 that were withdrawn from circulation in November 2016 were returned.
- RBI also said that it spent ₹7,965 crore in 2016-17 on printing new ₹500 and ₹2,000 and other denomination notes.
- Also, the share of newly introduced ₹200 banknotes in the total value of banknotes was 2.1% as at end-March 2018.

#### RBI expects economic growth rate at 7.4%

- RBI on the release of its annual report said that real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase at 7.4% against 6.7% in the previous year.
- RBI also said that its monetary policy will work to achieve the medium-term target for retail inflation of 4%.
- According to RBI the rise in growth rate is due to pick up in industrial activity and the good monsoon.

#### DBS Named Best Bank for digital innovation

- DBS Bank has been named the world's best bank by Global Finance magazine.
- It shows a reflection of its ability to invest in digital innovation while still maintaining stable operations for its customers.
- DBS is the first Asian bank to receive the accolade from the New York-based publication, which last year gave the title to ING Bank.

#### PNB Gets Top Rank In Digital Transaction

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced that the Department of Financial Services report has rated it as number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions.
- The bank is also rated as the sixth overall amongst all banks in India for digital performance.
- **The bank is rated as 'Good' by the government with a score of 71 which is the highest category of performance.**

#### SBI change branch names and IFSC codes

- The State Bank of India (SBI), has changed the names and IFSC codes of 1,300 of its branches.
- **The idea behind the move is to rationalize SBI's merger with six associate banks and the Bhartiya Mahila Bank (BMB) which came into effect from April 1, 2017.**
- SBI has updated the list of branches with old and new names and IFSC codes on its website.

#### Google Tez renamed as Google Pay

- **Google's UPI payments platform 'Tez' has been renamed as 'Google Pay'. It was announced at 'Google for India 2018' event in New Delhi.**
- Google Pay users will also be able to get pre-approved instant loans through the service.
- Even after the change of name Tez users will be able to see the same home screen, bill payment links, contacts etc.

#### FDI growth up 23% in April-June 2018

- According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion data, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India grew by 23% to USD 12.75 billion during the April-June quarter of 2018-19.
- Key sectors that received maximum foreign investment include services, trading, telecommunications, computer software and hardware, and power.
- **Singapore was the largest source of FDI during April-June 2018-19.**

#### 'Amaravati Bonds' gets BSE listing

- **The bonds titled 'Amaravati Bond 2018' have been listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange.**
- Through bonds, funds will be raised to build Andhra Pradesh's capital Amaravati.
- The bonds has been issued by A.P. Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA).
- A bond is a fixed income investment where an entity borrows funds from investors for a fixed period of time at an interest rate.

#### PNB ranked best bank for digital transactions

- Based on the report of Department of Financial Services, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has been ranked as the best Public Sector bank in the overall digital transactions category in India.
- It has been rated as the sixth-best in the overall category amongst all banks in India for digital performance.
- The bank is rated as 'Good' by the government with a score of 71.

#### WB launches world's first blockchain bond

- The World Bank (WB) has launched a blockchain-only bond.
- Named **bond-i**, or **Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument**, the bond will be created and managed with distributed ledger technology.
- The World Bank mandated **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** to arrange the world's first blockchain bond.
- The World Bank bonds carry an AAA rating.

#### India to grow at 7.5% in 2018, 2019

- According to the Moody's Investors Service's report, the Indian economy is expected to grow by about 7.5% in 2018 and 2019.
- The title of the report is 'Global Macro Outlook' for 2018-19.
- The economy is expected to be largely resilient to external pressures like those from higher oil prices.
- India's GDP grew by 7.7% in the first quarter of 2018-19 financial year.

#### RIL crossed ₹ 8 trillion market cap

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross ₹ 8 lakh crore market capitalization on 23 August, 2018.
- The market valuation of Reliance Industries crossed the \$100-billion mark in July 2018.
- The Market capitalization figure of companies changes daily with stock price movement.

#### Flipkart launches independent '2GUD' platform

- India's largest e-commerce marketplace Flipkart launched '2GUD', its first-ever independent platform for refurbished goods.
- The product portfolio of 2GUD would initially include smartphones, laptops, tablets and electronic accessories.
- The rollout of the platform is via mobile web initially.
- 2GUD will remain a distinct and separate platform aimed at value buyers.

#### Ujjivan SFB launches overdraft facility

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank announced the launch of its overdraft facility for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE).
- The facility is an add-on product to the existing MSE term loans offered by the bank.
- The bank will offer this facility to all MSEs with a turnover of Rs 50 lakh or more.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) started its banking operations in February 2017.

#### SBI expects Q1 GDP growth at 7.7%

- According to the SBI's report, India's GDP is expected to grow by 7.7% in the April-June quarter due to pick up in leading indicators like cement production, the sale of vehicles and bank credit.
- SBI has based its assessment on its Composite Leading Indicator, which takes into account 18 major macro-economic indicators.
- The report also said that GVA (Gross Value Added) growth would be 7.6%.

#### Restrictions imposed on import of bio-fuels

- The government has imposed the restriction on import of bio-fuels including ethyl alcohol and other denatured spirits, bio-diesel, petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals other than crude.

- The import of these items, which was free earlier, will now only be allowed for non-fuel purpose on actual user basis.
- The restrictions were imposed through an amendment in import policy.

#### CONCOR inks pact with Kandla Terminal

- Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) has inked a pact with Kandla International Container Terminal (KICTPL) for providing rail access to container services.
- The Mou with KICTPL aims to promote seamless connectivity and faster clearance of EXIM containers from Kandla Port.
- CONCOR was incorporated in March 1988 under the Companies Act and is under the Ministry of Railways.

#### Paytm launches AI Cloud for India

- One97 Communications Limited has partnered Alibaba to launch artificial intelligence-based cloud computing platform 'Paytm AI Cloud for India' for developers, startups and enterprises.
- The company said Paytm AI Cloud processes and stores all their consumer data locally in servers located only in India.
- The platform offers business-centric apps for organisations.

#### IRCTC partners with PhonePe

- Mobile payment platform PhonePe has partnered with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to facilitate digital payment on the IRCTC Rail Connect Android app.
- The partnership will enable over 100 million PhonePe users to use their bank accounts to pay for their travel booking directly via UPI, credit and debit cards, and PhonePe digital wallets.
- PhonePe is owned by Flipkart.

#### MSME credit growth slowed during note ban

- According to Reserve Bank of India's report, credit growth in the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector declined during the demonetisation phase.
- Bank credit to MSMEs increased on average by 8.5% year on year during the June quarter of fiscal year 2018-19.
- MSMEs face constraints in accessing credit through formal channels because about 97% of them operate in the informal sector.

#### HAL becomes first PSU to transact on TReDS

- Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has become the first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the "TReDS platform".
- TReDS is an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade

receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) through multiple financiers.

- In 2017, the government mandated all major PSUs to join TReDS platform.

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### India clocked over 10% GDP growth

- Indian economy clocked 10.23% and 10.78% growth in 2007-08 and 2010-11 respectively.
- This is according to the GDP data released by the Ministry of Statistics based on new base series of 2011-12 as the base year.
- **As per new calculation, India's GDP growth was consistently over 8%, which slowed down during the financial crisis in 2008-09.**
- The economic growth fell drastically after 2010-11.

### SEBI eases process of issuance of securities

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed investors to place multiple bids in a private placement issue on debt basis and permitted depositories to act as facilitators.
- This will ease the process of issuance of securities on electronic book platform.
- SEBI has also allowed closed bidding on electronic book platform (EBP) along with open bidding.

### SEBI cuts listing time for public issue

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) drastically cut the timeline for listing of debt securities to 6 days from 12 days at present.
- This will make the existing process of issuance of such securities simpler and cost-effective.
- The new rule would be applicable for all public issues of debt securities from October 1, 2018.

### TCS becomes most valued company

- Tata Consultancy Services on 16th August 2018 pipped Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to regain the crown of India's most valued company in terms of market capitalisation.
- RIL had on 14th August 2018 dethroned TCS to clinch the title of the most valued Indian company by market valuation.
- The m-cap figure of companies changes daily with stock price movement.

### NPCI unveils 'more secure' UPI

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the updated unified payments interface (UPI) 2.0 on August 16, 2018.
- The new version of UPI, in addition to current and savings accounts, will let customers link overdraft accounts to UPI.
- Another feature would allow customers to check their invoice sent by merchants prior to making payments.

### India's oil import bill to jump by \$26 bn

- India's crude oil import bill is likely to jump by about \$26 billion in 2018-19 as rupee dropping to a record low has made buying of oil from overseas costlier.

- India imports more than 80% of its oil needs, spent \$87.7 billion on importing 220.43 million tonnes (MT) of crude oil in 2017-18.
- For 2018-19, the imports are pegged at almost 227 MT.

### India Ratings cuts growth forecast to 7.2%

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised its FY19 economic growth forecast down to 7.2% from 7.4% earlier.
- It cited the headwinds emanating from elevated **global crude oil prices and the government's decision** to fix the minimum support prices of all kharif crops at 1.5 times the production cost.
- Ind-Ra provides ratings, research and rigorous analytics of market in India.

### Bharti Axa ties up with Airtel Payments Bank

- Bharti Axa Life Insurance and Airtel Payments Bank **entered into an alliance to offer the 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' (PMJJBY)**.
- Airtel Payments Bank also becomes the first payments bank in India to offer the PMJJBY.
- Under the tie-up, PMJJBY will be initially available at one lakh Airtel Payments Bank banking points across the country.

### BSE to launch liquidity enhancement plan

- BSE will launch a liquidity enhancement scheme on monthly single stock options and index options.
- Under the liquidity enhancement scheme (LES), brokers and other market intermediaries are given incentives for a specified period of time to bring in liquidity.
- LES will generate investor interest in securities which have limited trading activity.

### NTPC to set up unit for coal mining

- NTPC will soon set up a subsidiary to handle its coal mining operations.
- NTPC also has a plan to list the coal subsidiary subsequently on stock exchanges.
- It would cover operations of its all coal mines and will be run like a coal company.
- The company has already started extracting coal from the Pakri Barwadih mine.

### Trade deficit hits 62-month high in July 2018

- **A sharp rise in the crude oil bill led to India's trade deficit** widening to a 62-month high in July 2018, despite exports growing by 14.32%.
- The trade deficit increased to \$18.02 billion in July 2018, up from \$16.61 billion in June 2018.
- A broad-based hardening of the international crude price has led to the trade deficit rising every month in 2018-19.

### REC inks pact with German bank

- Rural Electrification Corporation has inked a loan agreement with German bank KfW for EUR 200 million.
- The fund will be used to finance clean energy projects in India.
- This is REC's fourth line of credit under Indo-German development cooperation which REC will utilise to finance renewable energy projects in India.

### WPI inflation slows to 5.09% in July 2018

- Inflation at the wholesale level slowed to 5.09% in July 2018 largely due to a cooling down of food price inflation.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was **lower than June's 5.77%**.
- The WPI is published by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The new series of WPI with base 2011-12 is effective from April 2017.

### Mazgon Dock Shipbuilders gets SEBI's nod

- Mazgon Dock Shipbuilders has received markets regulator SEBI's go ahead to float an initial public offering.
- The company had filed draft papers with the SEBI in April, 2018 and obtained its "observations" on August 10, 2018.
- SEBI's "observations" are necessary for any company to launch public issues like initial public offer (IPO) and follow-on public offer (FPO) and rights issue.

### Inflation slows to 9-month low at 4.17%

- Retail inflation eased to a nine-month low of 4.17% in July 2018 as food inflation cooled to its lowest level since July 2017.
- Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) slowed from the 4.92% pace set in June 2018.
- Among all the Indian states and Union Territories, West Bengal recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 7.37%.

### RBI net sells USD 6.184 bn of US currency

- RBI continued to remain a net seller of the U.S. dollar in June 2018, after it sold \$6.184 billion of the U.S. dollar in the spot market, RBI data showed.
- In June 2018, the RBI bought \$4.020 billion of U.S. dollar, while it sold \$10.204 billion in the spot market.
- In May 2018 and April 2018, RBI had net sold Rs. 5.767 billion and \$2.483 billion of the U.S. currency, respectively.

### Axis Bank introduces iris authentication

- Axis Bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.
- This service will boost the bank's financial inclusion.

- Micro ATMs completely eliminate the requirement of debit cards, passwords, PINs, and user IDs, and empower consumers to avail banking services using only their Aadhaar numbers.

#### NPAs in education sector on the rise

- As per the IBA data, the percentage of NPA on outstanding education loan rose from 7.3 percent in March 2016 to 7.67 percent in the following year and then jumped to 8.97 percent in March 2018.
- The outstanding education loan amount at the end of 2017-18 was Rs 71,724.65 crore of which Rs 6,434.62 crore was NPA.
- PSBs' share in total lending by banks to education sector is about 91.5 percent.

#### Industrial output hits 4-month high of 7%

- Industrial output recorded a four-month high growth rate of 7% in June on account of higher output in mining, manufacturing and power generation segments.
- The cumulative growth for the period April-June 2018 stands at 5.2% over the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63% of the index, grew by 6.9 per cent in June.

#### Ikea Opened its 1st India Store in Hyderabad

- Ikea, the Swedish retail giant opened its first Indian store in Hyderabad on 9th August 2018.
- Ikea's next store is planned to open in Mumbai in the summer of 2019, followed by another in Bangalore in 2020.
- The Swedish furniture retailer has already invested 4.5 billion euros (\$5.2 billion) into India.

#### PayPal enters into pact with HDFC Bank

- PayPal, and HDFC Bank have entered into a partnership.
- The partnership will result in a safer, faster and more convenient payment experience for HDFC Bank cardholders and help drive incremental digital spend.
- HDFC cards will be presented as a payment option during enrollment and subsequent payments, with the ability for consumers to easily open PayPal accounts.

#### HSBC launches online platform 'MyDeal'

- HSBC has launched a new digital platform-MyDeal.
- MyDeal will simplify capital raising process through capital markets by providing real-time access to **information such as investors' feedback, profiles, client orders and deal pricing.**
- The platform contains all the information relating to a **client's capital markets transaction and is updated on the real-time basis**

#### CCI approves Walmart, Flipkart deal

- The Competition Commission (CCI) had approved **U.S. retail giant Walmart's proposed acquisition of Flipkart.**
- In May 2018, Walmart announced the acquisition of 77% stake in Flipkart, the biggest takeover by the U.S. company till date.
- The transaction values the 11-year-old Indian e-commerce company at \$20.8 billion.
- Deals beyond a certain threshold are required to get clearance from the CCI.

#### 650 branches of IPPB to be launched on Aug 21

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 650 branches of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) on the 21st August, 2018.
- The IPPB has been setup under the Department of Post, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by the Indian government.
- The IPPB will leverage the vast network of the Department of Posts with 1.55 lakh access points, three lakh postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks.

#### Mobile transactions hit ₹14,632 crore in June

- The value of transactions made through mobile wallets touched a record ₹14,632 crore in June 2018 as per the data released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Debit and credit card transactions too hit a new record of ₹3.62 trillion in June 2018.
- The volume of transactions through mobile banking yet again reached a peak in June 2018, crossing the 300 million mark for the first time.

#### RBI to pay ₹ 50,000 crore dividend to govt

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transfer ₹50,000 crore of its surplus money to the government, the highest since 2015-16.
- The Reserve Bank, which follows July-June financial year, has paid about 63% higher dividend than the previous year (2016-17).
- Under the RBI Act, 1934, the Reserve Bank of India is required to pay the government its surplus fund.

#### SBI launches digital transaction MOPAD

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched one more digital initiative called MOPAD (Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device) on 8th August, 2018.
- It will enable customers to make payments through cards, Bharat QR, UPI and SBI Buddy (e-wallet) on a point of sale (PoS) terminal.
- It will also provide digital convenience to customers and ease of doing business for merchants at the same time.

#### JP Morgan to set up finclusion lab

- JP Morgan will set up a financial inclusion lab to support fintech startups in association with IIM-Ahmedabad and the Dell and Bill Gates foundations.
- JP Morgan will provide up to \$7 million over the next four years towards this initiative.
- The lab will host accelerator programmes to identify solutions for specific financial challenges.

#### Nikhil Nanda appointed as chairman and MD

- Farm and construction equipment maker Escorts appointed Nikhil Nanda as the chairman and managing director (MD) of the company.
- **The company's board unanimously appointed Nikhil** as the chairman and MD to succeed his late father, Rajan Nanda.
- Nikhil **has been a key member of the company's** board since 1997.

#### National Stock Exchange unveils new logo

- To mark 25 years of its existence, the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) unveiled a new logo symbolizing integrity, excellence, trust and commitment.
- The National Stock Exchange of India Limited is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai.
- The NSE was established in 1992 as the first demutualized electronic exchange in the country.

#### Anti-dumping duty on 'methylene chloride'

- The Finance Ministry has extended by one year the validity of existing anti-dumping duty on 'methylene chloride' imports from the US and the European Union.
- Methylene Chloride is used in the manufacture of polycarbonate and phenolic resins, rayon yarn, pharmaceuticals, agro and fragrance chemicals.
- It is also used as an extractant for edible fats, cocoa butter and essences.

#### Bank collected 5000 Crores from Customer

- 21 public sector banks and three major private sector lenders collected Rs 5,000 crore from customers for non-maintenance of minimum balance in their accounts in 2017-18.
- SBI was charging the penalty till 2012, reintroduced it from April 1, 2017. SBI reduced charges from October 1, 2017
- Accounts under BSBD scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna are not required to maintain any minimum balance.

#### PM Modi to launch IPPB on Aug 21

- PM Modi on August 21 will launch India Post Payments Bank that will have at least one branch in every district and focus on financial services in rural areas.

- Two branches of the bank are already operational in Ranchi and Raipur.
- IPPB will go live with 650 branches, 3,250 access points co-located at post offices and 11,000 postmen both in rural and urban area for doorstep banking services.

#### India's forex reserves dip by \$951 mn

- Foreign exchange reserves declined by \$951 million to \$404.2 billion in the week to July 27, on account of a fall in the foreign currency assets.
- Reserves rose by a marginal \$67.7 million to \$405.1 billion in the previous week.
- It has crossed the \$400-billion mark for the first time in the week to September 8, 2017.
- The forex kitty is an indicator of the health of the economy.

#### NABARD Sanctions Rs 772 crore in Haryana

- NABARD has sanctioned Rs 772 crore for eight water projects in the rural areas of Haryana, state Minister for Public Health Engineering Banwari Lal.
- Works on these projects will supply water to 256 villages and 72 hamlets, are in progress
- The state government was getting financial assistance from the National Capital Region Planning Board to modernize the sewerage system in urban areas.

#### 'Umbrella Organisation' to revive Co-op Bank

- **India's co-operative banking sector** is set to undergo a transformation with the concept of Umbrella Organisation (UO) of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to look into the issues plaguing the sector.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed non-fund-based umbrella organisations at State levels.
- Gujarat is the first State in the country to have an UO for the UCB sector.

#### Services sector grows fastest since Oct. 2016

- **India's services sector activity remained in the** growth territory in July 2018, as business activity witnessed the strongest growth since October 2016.
- The seasonally adjusted Nikkei India Services Business Activity Index rose from 52.6 in June 2018 to 54.2 in July 2018.
- The Nikkei India Composite PMI Output Index maps both the manufacturing and services sectors.

#### Japan become world's 2nd largest stock market

- Japan has pipped China as the world's second-largest stock market.
- The Chinese market was worth \$6.09 trillion next to Japan's \$6.17 trillion.
- Both markets are ranked after the US which is the world's largest at just over \$31 trillion.

- China lost to Japan after Chinese stocks and currency fell this year amid a trade spat with the US.

### RBI bars Fino Payments Bank

- Fino Payments Bank has been barred by the Reserve Bank of India from adding new customers since the end of May 2018.
- The central bank in its auditing of payments banks in May found Fino Payments non-compliant with the operational guidelines laid down by it.
- **According to RBI's operating guidelines for payments banks, a customer can make deposits of up to ₹1 lakh per account in a year.**

### Facebook announces \$4.5 mn investment

- Facebook will invest an additional \$4.5 million towards helping the news industry globally.
- Earlier, Facebook gave \$3.5 million towards **'Facebook Membership Accelerator', a three-month pilot programme designed to help news organisations with membership models.**
- **The 'Facebook Membership Accelerator' will help non-profit news organisations and local, independent publishers.**

### NHAI to ink MoU with SBI for Rs 25k cr loan

- NHAI will ink a pact with State Bank of India (SBI) for a long-term unsecured loan to the tune of Rs 25,000 crore.
- This is SBI's highest long-term unsecured loan to any entity and also the largest ever loan sanctioned to NHAI.
- NHAI is getting an unsecured loan from SBI for 10 years with 3 years of moratorium on repayments.

### Apple: World's first trillion dollar company

- **Apple became the world's first trillion-dollar public company, as a rise in its share price pushed it past the landmark valuation.**
- The company hit a \$1trillion market capitalisation 42 years after Apple was founded and 117 years after US Steel became the first company to be valued at \$1bn in 1901.
- Apple was co-founded in 1976 by Steve Jobs, Ronald Wayne and Steve Wozniak.

### RBI raises rates again by 25 bps

- The RBI on 1st August 2018 raised interest rates by 25 basis points, setting its benchmark repo rate at 6.5%.
- The increase will push up the cost of loans for all borrowers, from consumers looking to finance their purchases of homes and cars to businesses looking to meet their capital needs.
- The RBI retained its forecast for economic growth in the current fiscal year at 7.4%.

### India's Q1 fiscal deficit at 68.7%

- The government of India reported a fiscal deficit of ₹ 4.29 trillion (\$62.57 billion) for April-June, or 68.7% of the budgeted target for the current fiscal year 2018-19 compared with 80.8% a year ago.
- The fiscal deficit target for the current financial year is Rs 6.24 lakh crore.
- Rs 2.37 lakh crore was the net tax revenue during the April-June quarter.

### IOC tops 7 Indian firms on Fortune 500 list

- Seven Indian companies have made it to the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations in terms of revenue.
- Indian Oil Corporation continued to be the highest ranked Indian firm and Reliance Industries (RIL) jumping 53 places.
- Indian Oil Corp (IOC) with 23% rise in revenues at USD 65.9 billion was ranked 137th, up from the 168th position in 2017.

### India imposes safeguard duty on solar cells

- India imposed safeguard duty on solar cells imports from China and Malaysia for two years to protect domestic players from steep rise in the inbound shipments of the product.
- This comes following recommendations by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under the commerce ministry.

- As per the notification of the finance ministry, 25% safeguard duty has been imposed.

### Mauritius's SBM gets RBI approval

- Mauritius-based SBM Group has received Reserve Bank of India's approval to operate in the country through a wholly-owned subsidiary route.
- It is the first foreign lender to receive such a licence after local incorporation was introduced in 2013.
- SBM, which has been in India since 1994, currently operates through four branches, in Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ramachandrapuram.

### Core industries grows to 6.7% in June

- Eight core sector industries registered high growth of 6.7% in June 2018.
- According to the data released by the commerce and industry ministry, eight sectors including coal, refinery products, fertilisers, steel and cement showed better performance due to better outcome by cement, refinery and coal segments.
- Fertilisers saw growth slowing sharply in June to 0.93% from 8.44% in May 2018.

## Sports

### Vikas Krishan settles for bronze

- Vikas Krishan (75kg) settled for a bronze medal in boxing at the Asian Games after he was declared medically unfit to fight his semifinal.
- He won a lightweight 60kg category gold in Guangzhou 2010 and a middle-weight bronze in the 2014 edition in Incheon.
- He was declared medically unfit to compete in the **semifinal match against Kazakhstan's Amankul Abilkhan** due to a cut on his left eyelid.

### Seema Punia wins bronze in Discus Throw

- **Seema Punia wins bronze in women's discus throw** at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia.
- The 35-year-old Seema cleared a best distance of 62.26m which is her best in six years.
- **China's Yang Chen (65.12m) won the gold and Bin Feng (64.25m) from China bagged the silver.**

### India won 4x400m women's relay team gold

- The Indian women's relay quartet of Hima Das, M. Poovamma, Saritaben Gayakwad and V. Vismaya won a gold medal in the women's 4x400 relay at the Asian Games 2018.
- Bahrain won the silver medal while Vietnam won the bronze medal.
- This was India's fifth gold medal in a row in the women's 4x400m relay.

### Jinson Johnson won gold in men's 1500m event

- **India's Jinson Johnson won gold medal in the men's 1500m event** in the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta on 30th August, 2018.
- Jinson Johnson earlier won a silver medal in the 800m event.
- Johnson became the first Indian in 56 years to win this event at the Asian Games, following Mohinder Singh's gold at the 1962 Games.

### Swapna won first Asiad gold in Heptathlon

- Swapna Barman created history by becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold medal.
- The 21-year-old Barman logged 6026 points from the seven events competed for two days in women's heptathlon.
- **China's Qingling Wang (5954) won the silver and Japan's Yuki Yamasaki won the bronze medal** with 5873 points.

### Dutee Chand won silver in women's 200m

- India's Dutee Chand won the Silver medal in the women's 200m event at the 18th Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta.
- She crossed the finishing line in 23.20s behind **Bahrain's Edidiong Odiong who clinched the gold in 22.96s** and the **bronze went to China's Wei Yongli (23.27s).**
- She won two medals at the Asian Games as she won **silver earlier in the women's 100m.**

### Arpinder Singh clinches gold

- **Arpinder Singh clinched India's first men's triple jump gold** in 48 years, with a jump of 16.77m in the Asian Games.
- **India's last Asian Games gold medal in men's triple jump** had come in 1970 from Mohinder Singh Gill.
- Ruslan Kurbanov of Uzbekistan took the silver with a best jump of 16.62m, while Shuo Cao of China was third with an effort of 16.56m.

### N Korea to host Asian Youth Championships

- The 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships will be held in the North Korean capital Pyongyang.
- At the Asian Games weightlifting in Jakarta, which North Korea has dominated winning seven golds.
- The Asian Weightlifting Federation and North Korea's Sports Minister Kim Il Guk signed an agreement for North Korea to hold the championships from October 27, 2019.

### Historic bronze in men's TT at Asiad

- The Indian table tennis men's team won a historic bronze medal after losing against South Korea in Asian Games 2018.

- This is the first first-ever bronze medal in Table Tennis at Asian Games.
- The team comprising G Sathiyam, Achanta Sharath Kamal and A Amalraj fight against the lopsided Koreans and lose the game by 0-3.

#### India won silver and bronze in Kurash

- India bagged two medals at Asian games 2018 in Kurash, a form of wrestling indigenous to Central Asia.
- Pincky Balhara and Malaprabha Yallappa Jadhav won silver and bronze respectively in debut of Kurash at Asian Games 2018.
- The 19 year old Pincky lost 0-10 to favourite Gulnor Sulaymova of Uzbekistan in the gold medal clash.

#### Manjit Singh won gold in men's 800 m

- Manjit Singh clinched gold in men's 800 m track and field event at Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta.
- This is **Manjit's first major international medal**, he completed the 800 m race in 1 min and 46.15 seconds.
- In the event Jinson Johnson of India and Abubaker Abdalla of Qatar won Silver and Bronze respectively.

#### Sindhu won silver in badminton at Asian Games

- PV Sindhu won silver medal in badminton at the Asian Games 2018.
- PV Sindhu was defeated by Taiwan's Tai Tzu Ying.
- It was for the first time that an Indian had ever reached the finals of a badminton singles event at the Asian Games.
- It is the first time that India has won two individual medals at the Asian Games with Saina Nehwal clinching a bronze earlier.

#### Women's compound archery team won silver medal

- Indian women's team won silver medal in the compound archery team event at the 2018 Asian Games.
- The Indian team comprised Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari and Jyothi Surekha Vennam.
- The Indian team was defeated by South Korea in the finals at the 18th Asian Games.

#### Dharun won silver medal in 400m hurdles

- Dharun Ayyasamy broke the national record in the men's 400 metres hurdles to claim the silver medal at the Asian Games in Jakarta.
- It is **India's first medal in the hurdles event since** Joseph Abraham won a gold in Asian Games 2010.
- **Qatar's Abderrahman Samba won the gold medal** at the Asian Games 2018.

#### Sudha Singh won silver in women's steeplechase

- Sudha Singh clinched the **silver in women's 3000m** steeplechase event in the Asian Games in Jakarta.

- Bahrain won the gold medal, while Vietnam won the bronze medal.
- **Sudha won a gold medal when women's 3000m** steeplechase was introduced in the Asian Games in 2010.

#### Neena Varakil wins silver in women's long jump

- Neena Varakil won a silver medal in the women's long jump event at the ongoing Asian Games in Indonesia.
- Vietnam won the gold medal and the bronze medal was won by China.
- **Varakil's best jump of 6.51m came in the fourth** attempt, which was enough to fetch her the silver.

#### Neeraj won gold medal in javelin throw

- Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin thrower to win an Asian Games gold medal.
- Neeraj Chopra's gold is India's only second medal in javelin throw in Asian Games history after Gurtej Singh won a bronze in 1982 in New Delhi.
- He won a gold in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018.

#### Saina Nehwal won bronze in Badminton

- **Saina Nehwal won a bronze medal in the women's** singles semifinals of the 18th Asian Games in Jakarta on 27th August 2018.
- She was defeated by Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei.
- Last time an Indian, who won a singles medal in **men's singles** was Syed Modi in the 1982 Asian Games.

#### Tajinder Pal Singh won gold in shotput

- Tajinderpal Singh Toor won the men's shot put gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.
- He threw the iron ball to 20.75m to win the gold and set a national record as well.
- China's Liu Yang won the silver medal while Ivan Ivanov of Kazakhstan won the bronze medal.

#### Muhammad Anas won silver medal

- Muhammad Anas **won a silver medal in the men's** 400m race in Asian Games 2018.
- The gold medal was won by Qatar.
- **India's Arokia Rajiv who was also in the final finished** fourth.
- It was also the first time since 1982 that India won a **medal in the men's and women's 400 metres** since 1982.

#### Fouaad won equestrian silver at Asian Games

- **Fouaad Mirza** became the first Indian to win an individual medal in the equestrian event at the Asian Games in Jakarta on 26th August 2018.
- He won the silver medal in the Eventing competition, while Japan won the gold medal.

- The last individual medal in Eventing competition, however, came in 1982.

#### Dutee Chand won Silver medal in 100m race

- Dutee Chand won silver medal in women's 100m on 26th August, 2018 at the Asian Games in Indonesia.
- It was India's first medal in 20 years in this event.
- India's last medal in this event was the bronze won by Rachita Mistry in 1998 Asian Games.
- Bahrain won the gold medal while China took the bronze medal.

#### Joshna won bronze medal in squash

- Joshna Chinappa bagged bronze medal in squash women's singles at the Asian Games 2018 after losing her semi-final tie.
- She was defeated by Malaysia's Sivasangari Subramaniam.
- It is the first individual medal for Joshna at the Asian Games.
- Joshna secured a medal despite losing her match as both the losing semi-finalists in squash get the bronze medal without any bronze medal play-off.

#### Dipika won bronze in women's squash

- India's squash player Dipika Pallikal won a bronze medal at the Asian Games on August 25, 2018.
- She was defeated by Malaysia's Nicole David.
- Dipika had won a bronze at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon.
- This was her second medal at the Asian Games.

#### Heena Sidhu won bronze medal

- Heena Sidhu won a bronze medal in women's 10m Air Pistol final of the Asian Games 2018 on 24th August 2018.
- Wang Qian of China won the gold medal while South Korea's Kim Minjung got the silver medal.
- Heena had won the gold medal in shooting at Commonwealth Games 2018 in Australia.

#### Prajnesh won bronze medal in tennis

- Prajnesh Gunneswaran won a bronze medal in men's singles tennis event at Asian Games 2018.
- Prajnesh Gunneswaran was defeated by Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin.
- Prajnesh became sixth Indian to win a men's singles medal at the Asian Games.

#### Indian women's kabaddi team won silver medal

- Indian women's kabaddi team won a silver medal at the Asian Games 2018.
- Indian team was defeated by Iran in the final match.
- Thailand and Chinese Taipei bagged a bronze medal each in the kabaddi women's team event.
- Indian women's kabaddi team won the gold medal at the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games each.

#### Jhulan Goswami retires from Twenty20 Int

- Jhulan Goswami has announced her retirement from Twenty20 Internationals (T20I).
- In her T20I career she took 56 wickets from 68 matches at an average of 21.94.
- She made her T20I debut in August 2006 against England.
- She is the first woman to take 200 wickets in the 50-over format.

#### Rohan, Divij won gold in men's doubles tennis

- India's Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won the gold medal in the men's doubles tennis event at the ongoing 18th Asian Games 2018.
- India's Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan defeated Kazakhstan's Aleksandr and Denis to win the gold medal.
- This is India's second tennis medal at the Asian Games in Indonesia after Ankita Raina won bronze medal.

#### Indian rowing team won gold medal

- The Indian rowing team won the gold medal in the Men's Quadruple Sculls at the ongoing Asian Games in Indonesia.
- The Indian rowing team comprised of **Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh**.
- This was India's first gold medal in rowing.
- Indonesia bagged the silver medal while Thailand won the bronze medal.

#### Rohit and Bhagwan won bronze in rowing

- India bagged two bronze medals in rowing through **Rohit Kumar** and **Bhagwan Singh** in lightweight double sculls at the Asian Games 2018.
- Japan won the gold medal while Korea bagged the silver medal.
- This was India's 20th medal at the ongoing Games and 12th bronze.

#### Dushyant won bronze medal in rowing

- Dushyant Chauhan won the bronze medal in the Men's Lightweight Single Sculls at the Asian Games in Jakarta.
- Korea and Hong Kong won the gold and silver medals respectively.
- Dushyant's previous international medals for India were silver and a bronze in Italian Regatta Championships in 2014.

#### Indian men's kabaddi team got bronze

- The Indian men's kabaddi team got the bronze medal in the 2018 Asian Games.
- India was defeated by Iran.
- India had won the men's kabaddi gold in all the earlier seven Asiad games since the sport was introduced in 1990.

### Shardul wins silver in men's double trap

- Shardul Vihan clinched the silver medal in the men's double trap shooting event at the 18th Asian Games on 23rd August, 2018.
- Korea's Shin Hyunwoo clinched the gold medal while Qatar's Al Marri Hamad Ali bagged the bronze medal.
- Vihan had grabbed four gold medals at Shotgun Nationals Championship in 2017.

### India clinches 4 medals in wushu

- All four Indian wushu players won bronze medals at the Asian Games on 22 August 2018.
- Naorem Roshibini Devi, Santosh Kumar, Surya Bhanu Partap Singh and Narender Grewal won the bronze medal in Wushu.
- Before this edition, India had taken part in the 2006, 2010 and 2014 Asian Games.
- In 2014 Incheon Asian Games, India had won two bronze medals.

### Ankita Raina won bronze at Asian Games

- Indian tennis player Ankita Raina won the bronze medal at the Asian Games after losing to China's Zhang Shuai in the women's singles semifinal.
- With this bronze medal, Ankita became second Indian woman to have her name in the Asian Games' singles medallist list.
- This is India's first tennis medal in this edition and 16th overall - 4 gold, 3 silver, 9 bronze.

### Rahi Sarnobat won gold in shooting

- Rahi Sarnobat won the gold medal in Women's 25m Pistol shooting at the Asian Games 2018.
- She also became the first Indian woman shooter to win an Asian Games gold medal.
- Sarnobat won bronze in the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon.
- In the Commonwealth Games, she has won three medals till date – gold (2010, 2014) and silver (2010).

### FIFA takes charge of Uruguay FA

- Football's world governing body FIFA has taken control of the Uruguayan Football Association (UFA)

- The FIFA committee would be responsible for managing the affairs of the UFA through to February 28, 2019 and would revise the organisation's statutes and arrange new elections.
- Uruguayan football has been in crisis since July 30, after the sudden resignation of its chief.

### India clinch bronze in sepak takraw

- The Indian men's Sepak takraw team secured their maiden bronze medal after losing to Thailand at the ongoing 18th edition of Asian Games in Indonesia.
- Sepak takraw is a traditional sport of the nations in Southeast Asia.
- Sepak takraw has been part of the Asian Games since the 11th edition in Beijing 1990.
- A match is played by two Regus (teams) each made up of three players.

### Wrestler Divya Kakran bags bronze

- Indian wrestler Divya Kakran won the bronze medal in women's 68 kg freestyle wrestling category at the 18th edition of the Asian games.
- This is India's third medal in wrestling after Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat claimed gold in their respective categories.
- India's total medal tally at the Asian Games now stands at ten with three gold, three silver and four bronze.

### Odisha to launch Hockey World Cup campaign

- Ahead of the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup Tournament in the state, Odisha government has decided to launch a build-up campaign in 17 cities from August 29, 2018.
- Odisha is organising the Men's Hockey World Cup tournament for the first time.
- The tournament will begin on November 28, 2018, and will continue till December 16, 2018, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

### Sanjeev Rajput wins silver in Rifle shooting

- Indian shooter Sanjeev Rajput clinched a silver medal in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the 18th Asian Games on 21st August, 2018.
- China won the gold medal with a score of 453.3 while Japan bagged the bronze medal with 441.4.
- Rajput had won the gold medal at the 50m rifle 3 positions in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018.

### Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m air pistol gold

- Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in pistol shooting at the Asian Games 2018 on 21st August 2018.
- Saurabh Chaudhary became only the fifth Indian shooter to claim a gold in the Asian Games history.

- Shooters have won 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze of the 7 medals India has won so far.

### Vinesh Phogat wins India's second gold

- **Vinesh Phogat** won a gold medal in wrestling at the Asian Games 2018.
- This is Vinesh's second medal at the Asian Games, having picked up the bronze medal at Incheon in 2014.
- She also became the fifth Indian woman to win an Asian Games medal in wrestling, and the first among those to clinch gold.

### Rishabh Pant creates history on debut

- **Rishabh Pant** became the **fourth** Indian wicket-keeper to take five catches on debut.
- He achieved this feat on Day 2 of the third Test against England at Trent Bridge.
- He also became the **third** in the **world** to take five catches in an innings on Test debut.
- Besides Rishabh, the two other cricketers to achieve this feat are – **Australia's** Brian Taber and his compatriot John Maclean.

### Djokovic beats Federer in Cincinnati final

- Novak Djokovic defeated Roger Federer in the finals to win his first title of Cincinnati Masters.
- Novak Djokovic won the Wimbledon Championships in July 2018, was the runner-up of the Cincinnati Masters on five occasions.
- Novak Djokovic became the first player to win all nine ATP Masters 1000 tournaments.

### India opens medal count with bronze in Rifle

- **Apurvi Chandela** and **Ravi Kumar** won the bronze medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta on 19th August 2018.
- Chinese Taipei won the gold medal while China won the silver medal.
- Kumar had earlier won team gold at the 2014 Asian Games and individual bronze at the 2018 Commonwealth Games while Chandela won gold in the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

### Bajrang Punia won gold in wrestling

- **Bajrang Punia** won the gold medal in the 65 kg freestyle wrestling event at Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta on 19th August 2018.
- Bajrang Punia beat **Japan's Daichi Takatani**.
- **This is India's first gold medal of the 2018 Asian Games.**
- He had won a silver medal in the 61 kg category in the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon.

### Deepak Kumar wins silver medal

- **Deepak Kumar clinched India's third medal at the Asian Games 2018** by winning the silver medal in the

### Men's 10m Air Rifle category in Jakarta on 20th August 2018.

- Deepak Kumar had earlier won the bronze medal at the 2018 ISSF World Cup in Mexico in the 10-metre air rifle mixed team event.
- **China's Haoran Yang won the gold with an Asian Games.**

### UAE all set to host Asia Cup 2018

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) signed an agreement for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to host the prestigious Asia Cup.
- The Asia Cup 2018 will have cricket teams from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.
- The tournament will be held from September 15 to September 28 in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

### India won silver medal at cycling C'ship

- Teen cyclist Esow Alben won the silver medal at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Switzerland.
- **This is India's first**-ever medal at any cycling World Championships.
- Alben became the Junior World No. 1 this July 2018 after becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Asian Junior Track Cycling Championships.

### Asian Games begin in Jakarta

- The 18th edition of the Asian Games officially kicked off in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on 18th August 2018.
- Asian Games 2018, also known as Jakarta Palembang 2018, starting from August 18 will end on September 2, 2018, in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.
- It is the second time for Jakarta to host the sports games after 1962.

### India rise to 96th spot in FIFA Ranking

- India's football team have jumped one spot higher to take the 96th spot in the latest FIFA World Rankings.
- The improvement came in the ranking after FIFA implemented a new ranking system called 'Elo' where points are added and subtracted to the team's existing tally before every match.
- France clinched the number one FIFA ranking followed by Belgium, Brazil, Croatia and Uruguay.

### Nihal Sarin becomes India's 53rd Grandmaster

- **Nihal Sarin became India's 53rd Grandmaster** after attaining his third and final Grand Master-norm in the Abu Dhabi Masters.
- He is only the third grandmaster from Kerala after GN Gopal and SL Narayanan.
- He is the twelfth youngest grandmaster in chess history.

- Earlier in June 2018, Chennai-born R Praggnanandhaa secured the title of the grandmaster and became India's 52nd grandmaster.

#### Ramesh appointed women's team head coach

- The Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed Ramesh Powar as the Head Coach of Indian Women's Cricket Team.
- Powar's term will include a tour to Sri Lanka, a bilateral series in the West Indies in October 2018 followed by the ICC Women's World T20 in West Indies in November 2018.
- Powar has played 31 ODIs and two Tests from 2004 to 2007 for India.

#### Anderson 1st to took 100 wickets at Lord's

- England fast bowler James Anderson became the first bowler to take 100 Test wickets at the Lord's Cricket Ground.
- Anderson achieved the feat on day four of the second Test in the ongoing five-match Test series against India.
- It was India's opening batsman Murali Vijay who became his 100th Test wicket.

#### Rafael Nadal wins fourth Rogers Cup

- Rafael Nadal won his 80th Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) World Tour title on August 12, 2018.
- Nadal beat Stefanos Tsitsipas for his fourth Rogers Cup crown and fifth victory of the year.
- Nadal also won the Rogers Cup in Toronto in 2008 and in Montreal in 2005 and 2013.

#### Messi is Barcelona's most decorated player

- Lionel Messi won his 33rd title to become the most successful player of Barcelona on August 12, 2018.
- Messi is the Barcelona's new captain.
- Barcelona beat Sevilla in the Spanish Super Cup as Messi overtook Andrés Iniesta, who had 32 titles when he left for the Japanese league.

#### Gerard Pique confirms retirement from team

- Barcelona defender Gerard Pique confirmed on Saturday that he has retired from Spain's national team.
- Pique had announced before the World Cup that he did not plan on returning to the national team after the tournament in Russia.
- Pique was an indisputable starter when Spain won the 2010 World Cup and the 2012 European Championship.

#### Lionel Messi named Barcelona's captain

- Lionel Messi will replace Andrés Iniesta as Barcelona's captain for the new season, after the latter ended his 22-year stint at the Spanish club.

- Messi, who already wears the armband for Argentina, has previously led Barça in Iniesta's absence.
- Lionel Messi is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a forward for Spanish club Barcelona and the Argentine national team.

#### Kohli became 2018's highest int run-scorer

- During his 23-run knock against England at Lord's, Team India captain Virat Kohli overtook England's Jonny Bairstow to become this year's highest run-scorer in international cricket.
- Kohli has scored 1,404 runs in 25 innings this year, 15 more than the English wicketkeeper-batsman.
- Shikhar Dhawan, who has scored 1,055 runs, is the second highest run-scorer among Indians in 2018.

#### Neeraj Chopra to be India's flag-bearer

- Javelin thrower star Neeraj Chopra will be India's flag bearer in the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2018.
- Chopra, who won the gold medal in Commonwealth Games 2018 event in Gold Coast, will lead India's contingent in the multi-sport event.
- The 2018 Asian Games will take place from August 18 to September 2 and will be held in Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.

#### Tokyo 2020 to use facial recognition

- A facial recognition system using artificial intelligence will be used at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- The Tokyo Olympics will be the first games to have this kind of security system using facial recognition technology.
- It is aimed at strengthening security and preventing terrorism, as well as shortening waiting times to lower athlete stress.

#### Indian Men's hockey team rises to 5th rank

- Indian men's hockey team jump one spot to fifth in the latest FIH rankings chart.
- India is the only team which registered an upward movement among the top 10 teams.
- The Indian team, which now has 1484 points in its kitty, is above the likes of 2012 Olympic champions Germany, England and Spain.
- World champion Australia maintained its top spot with 1906 points.

#### Momota 1st Japanese man to win Gold at BWF

- Kento Momota became the first Japanese man to win the Badminton World Championships.
- Kento Momota of Japan defeated Shi Yuqi of China in the men's final at the Badminton World Championships.

- Momota has won nine of 13 tournaments he has entered since returning from a 15-month gambling-related suspension.

#### Kuznetsova wins Washington WTA title

- Svetlana Kuznetsova defeated Croatia's Donna Vekic and won her 18th career Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title at the Washington Open.
- Svetlana Kuznetsova is ranked 128th in the world.
- Kuznetsova, the winner of the 2004 US Open and 2009 French Open, claimed a second Washington title to go with the one she won in 2014.

#### Netherlands won women's hockey world cup

- In Women's hockey world cup, the Netherlands have been crowned the world champions for a record eighth time.
- Spain won the third-place match by beating Australia to claim their first ever World Cup medal.
- India finished the tournament at the 8th spot.

#### Fabio Fognini topples Juan Martin

- Fabio Fognini defeated Juan Martin Del Potro in final of Los Cabos Open.
- Fabio Fognini captured his first career hardcourt title on Saturday, surprising Juan Martin del Potro 6-4, 6-2, in the final of the ATP Los Cabos Open.
- It is the 31-year-old Fognini's eighth ATP Tour victory.
- This is his third title of 2018 to go with wins in Sao Paulo and Bastad.

#### Kolesnikov win European Title at Glasgow.

- Kliment Kolesnikov of Russia set a world record for the 50 metres backstroke while winning the European Championship title in Glasgow on Saturday.
- The teenager clocked 24.00 seconds to take 0.04 seconds off the record set by Britain's Liam Tancock at the world championships in Rome in 2009.
- He defeated Silver medallist Robert-Andrei Grinta, a former world junior champion, by 0.55 seconds.

#### Sindhu takes silver in Badminton Champ

- Carolina Marin became the first woman shuttler to win the world championships thrice. She had won the title in 2014 and the 2015 Jakarta edition.
- Sindhu settled for another white metal following a 19-21, 10-21 loss to Marin of Spain in World Badminton Championship.
- Sindhu's second successive silver at the World Championships and had won a silver medal in 2017 and bronze medals in 2013, 2014.

#### Virat Kohli is the No.1 Test batsman

- India captain Virat Kohli topped the ICC Player Rankings for Test batsmen.

- Kohli thus became the seventh India batsman, and first since Sachin Tendulkar (in June 2011) to be ranked the number one Test batsman in the latest ICC rankings.
- **At 934 points, Kohli has become India's highest-ranked batsman, 14th overall, on the all-time tally of points.**

#### Rohit Kumar Becomes Fourth Youngest Player

- Nepal's Rohit Kumar Paudel, at 15 years and 335 days, became the fourth youngest One-day International (ODI) cricket debutant.
- Pakistan's Hasan Raza remains the youngest to play an ODI. Raza made his debut against Zimbabwe in 1996 aged just 14 years and 233 days.
- Canada's Nitish Kumar is third on the list – he was 15 years and 273 days when he played Afghanistan in Sharjah in 2010.

#### Virat Kohli completes 7000 runs as captain

- Virat Kohli became the fastest captain to reach 7000 international runs.
- Brian Lara was the fastest among the previous 14 players who scored 7000 International runs as captain.
- Kohli is the 4th Indian after Mohammad Azharuddin, Sourav Ganguly and MS Dhoni to complete 7000 runs as captain in International cricket.

## Defence

#### Assam govt extends AFSPA

- Assam government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, AFSPA for another six months in the entire state.
- The official notification said that the state governor has declared the entire State of Assam as the 'disturbed area' up to six months.
- The Act gives special rights and immunity to security forces in carrying out various operations in disturbed areas.

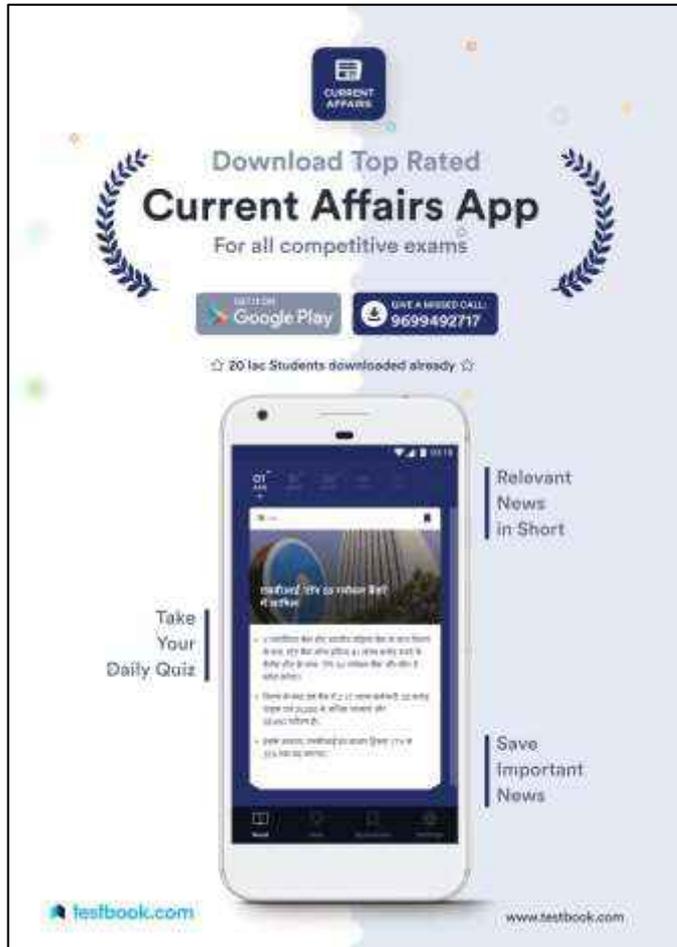
#### INS Teg lends assistance to MV Vela

- INS Teg, a warship of the Western Naval Command, provided assistance to MV Vela, a Norwegian owned ship in Gulf of Aden.
- INS Teg dispatched a specialist team for recovery damaged anchor and cable and assisted the crew of MV Vela.
- MV Vela and the Combined Task Force expressed their gratitude to the ship and the Indian Navy.

#### Joint military exercise ends in Russia

- The fifth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Peace Mission Exercise 2018, ended in Chebarkul, Russia.

- The Indian delegation led by Lt. Gen Satish Dua, participated for the first time in the exercise.
- In this exercise, Pakistan and Indian participated for the first time.



### INS Vikramaditya will be upgraded

- INS Vikramaditya is going to be fitted with marine hydraulic system for the first time as part of its upgrade that will give an edge to the air-capable wing of the ship.
- It is India's only aircraft carrier.
- The marine hydraulic systems are used for refuelling, cleaning and pressurization of hydraulic systems of aircraft and helicopters.

### DAC approves procurement for services

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister, gave approval for procurement for the Services amounting to approximately Rs. 46,000 crores.
- DAC approved procurement of 111 Utility Helicopters for the Indian Navy.
- This is the first project under the Ministry of Defence's prestigious Strategic Partnership (SP).

### Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018 begins

- Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, formally started on 24 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Russia.
- India is participating in the drill for the first time since becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017.
- The SCO was established in Shanghai in 2001, with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as founding members.

### INS Khanjar visits Yangon, Myanmar

- INS Khanjar a Missile Corvette of Indian Navy was on a three-day visit to Yangon, Myanmar from August 18-20.
- INS Khanjar (P-47) is a Khukri-class Missile Corvette and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 22 October, 1991.
- INS Khanjar is part of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam.

### First-ever IAF-RMAF joint air exercise

- The first-ever joint air exercise involving the Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force commenced on 20th August 2018 at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.
- The exercise in Malaysia will be called Exercise **Elang Shakti**.
- The IAF contingent landed at the Subang Air Base in Malaysia comprises of **C-17, C-130 and Su-30** aircraft.

### Exercise Pitch Black 2018 concludes

- **Exercise Pitch Black** a biennial multi-national warfare exercise was hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) from 24 Jul 18 to 18 Aug 18 in Darwin, Australia.
- **Indian Air Force** had earlier participated in the exercise as **observers**.
- With participation of 16 nations and more than 140 aircraft, the 2018 edition was the **largest Pitch Black** ever conducted by Australia.

### India, Thailand military drill concludes

- The armies of India and Thailand have concluded their two-week joint exercise '**Maitree 2018**' in Thailand on 19th August 2018.
- Exercise Maitree is an annual event designed to strengthen the partnership between Royal Thai Army and Indian Army.
- The exercise commenced on August 6, 2018 in Thailand.

### India building new fighter jet

- The **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, India's next indigenous fighter, is expected to make its first flight by 2032.
- The aircraft will have a low radar cross-section, making it difficult for the enemy to spot it.

- This is India's only fifth generation aircraft programme.
- The AMCA will feature geometric stealth and will initially fly with two GE-414 engines.

#### Successful test of Smart Anti Airfield Weapon

- Indigenously designed and developed guided bombs **Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** were successfully flight tested at Chandan range in Rajasthan.
- The weapon is capable of destroying a variety of ground targets using precision navigation.
- The SAAW is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and will be used by the Indian Air Force.

#### Successful flight test of ATGM 'HELINA'

- Indigenously developed anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) **HELINA** has been successfully tested in the ranges of Pokhran.
- The missile is guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (IIR) operating in the Lock on Before Launch mode.
- It is one of the most advanced Anti-Tank Weapons in the world.
- The **HELINA missile will be a part of the Army's** weaponry.

#### Israeli Navy to procure Barak 8 missile

- The multipurpose Barak 8 missile defence system will be procured by the Israeli Navy to protect its economic zones and strategic facilities from diversified threats.
- The Barak 8 missile defence system is jointly developed by India and Israel.
- Barak-8 is an operational air and missile defense system used by the Israeli Navy as well as by the Indian Navy and air forces.

#### DAC approves procurement of 6 patrol vessels

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of six indigenously designed and manufactured Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for the Indian Navy.
- The DAC is headed by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The vessels will be built in indigenous shipyards and will be fitted with state-of-the-art sensor suite with increased endurance.

#### Pak Navy's maritime ship to visit Colombo

- Pakistan Navy's maritime security ship 'Kashmir' to visit Sri Lanka's Colombo port on Monday for a four days visit.
- During the stay the officers and men of the ship will take part in various professional activities with Sri Lankan Navy.

#### US suspends military training with Pakistan

- The Trump administration has suspended more than a decade-long military training programme of Pakistani personnel at the US institutions.
- This come days after Islamabad and Moscow signed an agreement to allow Pakistani troops to receive training at the Russian defence centres.
- Pakistani officers have been receiving military training and education in the US since early 1960.

#### SCO Peace Mission 2018: Russia

- As part of Shanghai Cooperation Organization initiatives, SCO Peace Mission Exercise is conducted biennially for SCO member states.
- The joint exercise for the year 2018 will be conducted from 22 August to 29 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia.
- This will be a historic occasion due to the maiden participation of India post becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017.

#### Indo - Thailand Joint Exercise Maitree 2018

- Exercise Maitree is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army which started on 6 August and will end on 19 August 2018 in Thailand.
- It is a platoon level exercise which comprises of infantry component.
- The exercise will emphasize to hone the tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario.

#### Army on track for BIMSTEC exercise in Sept

- The Indian army conducted the final co-ordinating conference for the Joint Military Exercise (MILEX-18) in Pune.
- MILEX-18 will be held at the Foreign Training Node at Aundh Military Station in Pune in September 2018.
- The armies of all seven BIMSTEC countries — India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Thailand and Myanmar — will be participating in the exercise.

#### HAL's Light Combat Aircraft under IAF

- The government is poised to hand over control of the Bengaluru division of State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- This comes as the next phase of the LCA project, development of the MK2 variant, as well as the **country's next fighter aircraft programme, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, begin to take shape.

#### DRDO develops indigenous landing gear for UAV

- An indigenously designed and developed landing gear for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)-Rustom II has been successfully tested.

- The landing gear developed by a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratory has undergone low-speed and high-speed taxi trial in Karnataka.
- Rustom II is a medium-altitude long-endurance UAV designed for carrying out surveillance.

### Another success for naval LCA

- The naval version of the indigenously built Tejas Light Combat Aircraft underwent a series of successful tests to check its capability to land on an aircraft carrier.
- The Naval LCA is expected to begin touch and go landings on the INS Vikramaditya.
- Tejas is a four-and-half generation light combat aircraft developed by state-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

### Advanced Air defence interceptor test fired

- The advanced Air defence interceptor missile has been successfully test fired from Abdul Kalam Island on 2nd August 2018.
- The missile has been built with indigenous technology.
- The missile is being developed as part the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system, which can intercept medium-range ballistic missiles travelling at speeds of Mach 3 to 8.

## Polity

### Activists under house arrest till Sept 6

- The Supreme Court ordered that the five human rights activists will be under house arrest till 6 Sept.
- **They were arrested for 'Elgaar Parishad' event held** on 31 December 2017 that had triggered violence at Koregaon-Bhima village.
- The five activists are Varavara Rao, Vernon Gonzalves, Arun Ferreira, Sudha Bhardwaj and Gautam Navalakha.

### Monsoon session in LS most productive in 18yrs

- The recently concluded monsoon session in Lok Sabha saw 110% productivity, the highest in 18 years, according to think tank PRS Legislative Research.
- The Lok Sabha spent 50% of its time on legislative business and had the highest number of private members' bill introduced since 2000, at 999 bills.
- Meanwhile, the Rajya Sabha saw 68% productivity this monsoon session.

### Triple Talaq bill deferred to next session

- The government has decided not to table the Triple Talaq bill in the Rajya Sabha, deferring it to the next Parliament session.

- The Lok Sabha cleared the bill last year but needs to pass it again due to amendments made by the Cabinet.
- The Cabinet approved a provision to grant bail to those found guilty of giving instant Triple Talaq.