

**IMPORTANT**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE**

**NOVEMBER 2018**

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## Table of Contents

Awards & Honours .....	3
Days & Events .....	6
International Affairs .....	10
National Affairs .....	13
India & World .....	17
Personalities in News .....	21
Government Policies & Schemes .....	23
Science & Technology .....	28
Books & Author .....	31
Environment .....	31
Committees & Recommendations .....	32
Business & Economy .....	32
Sports .....	36
Defence .....	39
Polity .....	40

## Awards & Honours

### Keshav Ginde to get Pt. Bhimsen Joshi award

- Renowned flautist Pandit Keshav Ginde will be conferred with the prestigious 'Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award 2018' for classical music.
- The award has been instituted by Maharashtra Government.
- The award honours maestros in classical music and singing, and carries a cash award of Rs 500,000, a memento and a citation.

### 'Asian of The Year' award 2018 announced

- Indian Navy Commander Vijay Varma and Captain P Rajkumar won the 'Asian of The Year' Award on 28 November 2018.
- They were awarded for their selfless service and bravery in rescue operations during the devastating floods in Kerala.
- The awards have been constituted by the English language newspaper 'The Straits Times' and it is based in Singapore.

### Donbass won the 'Golden Peacock' at IFFI 2018

- 'Donbass' has won the coveted 'Golden Peacock Award' at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) on 28 November 2018.
- The Award carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakhs to be shared equally between the Producer and the Director, Trophy, and the citation.
- 'Donbass' is the official submission of Ukraine for the 'Best Foreign Language Film' category at the 91st Academy Awards in 2019.

### Premji to be conferred French civilian award

- Azim Premji will be conferred with the 'Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur' (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- Alexandre, Ambassador of France to India will confer the award to Premji.
- The award comes in recognition of his outstanding contribution in developing the information technology industry in India, his economic outreach in France, and his contribution to society as a philanthropist.

### Salim Khan to receive Special Award at IFFI

- Screenwriter Salim Khan will be honoured with 'International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Special Award' for his lifetime contribution to cinema.
- He will receive the honour at the closing ceremony of the 49th edition of the IFFI on November 28.
- He will be presented with a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a certificate and a shawl.

### Sanjay Kumar won the First UN-GGIM award

- Sanjay Kumar was conferred the 'Global Geospatial Industry Ambassador' Award by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) on 19 November 2018.
- He was awarded at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress held in China.

- He is the Founder and CEO of Geospatial Media & Communications.

### 12 movies nominated for UNESCO Gandhi Medal

- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has nominated 12 movies for 2018 International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication (ICFT) UNESCO Gandhi Medal.
- Of these 12 films, two are from India and the rest are foreign movies.
- The two Indian movies competing for the honour are Tamil film 'Baaram' and Ladakhi movie 'Walking with the Wind'.

### Filmmaker Nandita Das to receive FIAPF Award

- Filmmaker Nandita Das will be honoured with the 'International Federation of Film Producers Associations' (FIAPF) Award 2018.
- The award will be given at the '12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards' on 29 November 2018.
- She will be presented the award in recognition of her achievement in film in the Asia Pacific region.
- She started her career as an actor in films like '1947 Earth', 'Fire' etc.

### Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018 announced

- The 'Forbes India Leadership Awards' was held on November 22 in Mumbai.
- The award honours the top executives of companies in India.
- Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro Limited, got the 'Lifetime Achievement Award 2018'.
- Vivek Chaand Sehgal, Chairman of Mother's Sumi Systems, got the 'Entrepreneur for the Year 2018 award'.

### Vimal Chandra won the Young Scientist award

- IIT Roorkee Professor Vimal Chandra Srivastava has won the 'NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Award 2018' in 'Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development' category.
- He has been given the award for his work on Industrial Wastewater Treatment, Clean Liquid Fuels, and Multi-component Adsorption.
- The Award was instituted by Elsevier in the year 2006.

### WCCB got Asia Environment Enforcement Award

- On 21 November 2018, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has got the 'Asia Environment Enforcement Award 2018'.
- It was awarded for its work in combating trans-boundary environmental crimes.
- This is the 2nd time in a row that the awards are being given by UN Environment to India.
- WCCB is a statutory body under the Environment Ministry to combat organised wildlife crime in the country.

### Mexico's highest honour given to Prof. Ganguly

- Professor S.P. Ganguly has been awarded the 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle' on 20 November 2018.

- The award is the highest civilian honour given to a foreigner by Mexico.
- The award was in recognition of his outstanding work in the study of the Spanish language and Mexican culture.
- He headed the Centre for Spanish and Latin American Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

#### 'Tata Literature Awards 2018' announced

- Anuradha Roy and James Crabtree are among the winners of the 'Tata Literature Live Awards 2018'.
- Harper Collins India was named publisher of the year 2018.
- Veteran journalist and writer Mark Tully won the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Renowned poet Jayanta Mahapatra was named the poet laureate for 2018.

#### Amitabh Bachchan received Sayaji Ratna Award

- Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award on 20 November 2018.
- The award was established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.
- The Baroda Management Association had instituted the award to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the ruler in 2013.
- Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and noted industrialist Ratan Tata have been given the award earlier.

#### Ustad Amjad Ali Khan given a lifetime award

- Sarod master, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was presented the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' on 17 November 2018.
- He was awarded for his immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music.
- The award was presented to him by former diplomat Lalit Mansingh.
- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

#### CSE won Indira Gandhi peace prize

- 'Centre for Science and Environment' (CSE) has won Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2018.
- The award is conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust every year on the late Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- The international jury for the awards was headed by former President Pranab Mukherjee.

#### FSSAI sets up 'Eat Right' awards

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has instituted the 'Eat Right Awards'.
- The award has been instituted for food related start-ups to reward innovation and promote entrepreneurship in the area of food safety and applied nutrition.
- A jury of eminent professionals and experts in the food sector will select the winners.

#### AIM & UNICEF announced Young Champions Awards

- The NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and UNICEF have announced 'UNICEF – Atal Tinkering Labs Young Champions Awards' on 14 November 2018.

- The awards were presented to the top six most innovative solutions from across the country, which was shortlisted through the Atal Tinkering Marathon.
- AIM and UNICEF have also launched a 72-hour 'Tinkering Hackathon' from 14 to 17 November 2018.

#### Dr. Martha received lifetime achievement award

- Late Dr Martha Farrell has been honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi on 13 November 2018.
- Dr Martha is being recognised for her lifelong work towards gender equality, women's empowerment and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.
- In 1991, she co-founded the NGO named Creative Learning for Change.

#### UASG conferred award to Rajasthan CM

- Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) conferred 'Universal Acceptance Thought Leader Award' to Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on 13 November 2018.
- She was awarded for 'Rajmail project' that enables access to the email address to people in the state in local script.
- The technology for the project was developed by Rajasthan based firm 'Data XGen Technologies'.

#### Six professors won Infosys Prize 2018 - II

- Kavita Singh was awarded in the field of Humanities.
- Roop Mallik was awarded in the field of Life Sciences.
- Nalini Anantharaman was awarded in the field of Mathematical Sciences.
- SK Satheesh was awarded in the field of Physical Sciences.
- Sendhil Mullainathan was awarded in the field of Social Sciences

#### Six professors won Infosys Prize 2018 - I

- Six eminent professors have been awarded the 'Infosys Prize 2018' across different categories of science and research.
- The prize has been constituted by the 'Infosys Science Foundation' (ISF).
- The annual award includes a pure gold medal, a citation and a prize purse worth US\$ 100,000.
- Navakanta Bhat was awarded in the field of Engineering and Computer Science.

#### Dr Debabhuson won the 'Munin Barkotoki Award'

- Dr Debabhuson Borah won the prestigious 'Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018' on 12 November 2018.
- He won the award for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with a citation and a plaque.
- The award was named after the renowned writer, critic, and journalist Munin Barkotoki.

#### Swati won 'Press Freedom Award for Courage'

- Journalist Swati Chaturvedi has won the 2018 Press Freedom Award for Courage on 8 November 2018.

- She won the award for her book, 'I am a Troll: Inside The Secret World of The BJP's Digital Army'.
- The award ceremony was organised by the UK chapter of Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders in London.

#### Ladakh restoration project wins UNESCO award

- 'The LAMO Center' in Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region has won an UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation on 9 November 2018.
- It was chosen for its systematic restoration of an aristocratic house in Ladakh.
- It won in the category of 'Award of Distinction' under UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

#### Anand conferred with 'Global Education Award'

- Mathematician and Super 30 founder Anand Kumar was conferred with 'Global Education Award' in Dubai on 8 November 2018.
- He was awarded for his 'pioneering' contributions to the field of education and illuminating the lives of many talented students.
- The award was presented by 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds', a flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading Indian business conglomerate.

#### France's highest civilian honour conferred

- Jawahar Lal Sarin was conferred with France's highest civilian honour by French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler on 9 November 2018.
- He was given France's highest civilian honour 'Knight of the Legion of Honour'.
- He was awarded for his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.

#### Namrata Ahuja bagged IPI-India Award

- The prestigious 2018 IPI India Award for excellence in journalism has been given to Namrata Ahuja of 'The Week' magazine.
- She received the award for her exclusive story on Naga underground camps.
- The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, a trophy and a citation.
- The International Press Institute (IPI) is a forum of editors, publishers and senior executives of newspapers and magazines.

#### Jayant Sawarkar to get Maha lifetime award

- Noted Marathi actor Jayant Sawarkar will be honoured with the Maharashtra government's 'Natvarya Prabhakar Panshikar Lifetime Achievement' award in the field of theatre.
- The 'Sangeetacharya Annasaheb Kirloskar Lifetime Achievement' award will be given to tabla artist Vinayak Thorat.
- Both awards comprise cash prizes of Rs 5 lakh, citation and memento each.

#### Anupam Kher got 'Distinguished Fellow' award

- Anupam Kher was honoured as a 'Distinguished Fellow' by IndiaGlobal - a leading think-tank that works on issues concerning non-resident Indians.
- The actor was given a fellowship on November 3, 2018 at the 3rd IndiaGlobal Summit.
- The event was held at the prestigious MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston, and was facilitated by MIT Sloan India Business Club.

#### Ram Mohan Roy award for N. Ram

- Veteran journalist and The Hindu Publishing Group Chairman N. Ram has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award 2018.
- The award is presented by the Press Council of India (PCI) for his outstanding contribution to journalism.
- Ruby Sarkar, the chief correspondent of Deshbandhu, and Rajesh Parshuram Joshte of Daily Pudhari, have been named joint winners for 'Rural Journalism'.

#### Lilima Minz received 'Ekalabya Puraskar'

- Woman Hockey player Lilima Minz was honoured with the prestigious 'Ekalabya Puraskar' on 4 November 2018.
- She was part of the squad that represented the country in the 2016 summer Olympics.
- The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation.
- The Ekalabya Puraskar has been instituted by 'IMPACT', the social wing of the Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys.

#### Mukundan selected for 'Ezhuthachan award'

- Noted Malayalam novelist and short story writer M Mukundan has been selected for the Kerala government's highest literary award 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram' for 2018.
- The award, named after Ezhuthachan, the father of Malayalam literature, carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh and a citation.
- 'Kesavante Vilapangal' and "Delhi Gadhakal" are among his popular works.

#### Couple honoured with 'Roy M Huffington Award'

- Marie and Vijay Goradia received the 'Roy M Huffington Award' for 2018 in the US.
- They were awarded for making significant contributions to the areas of literacy, education and healthcare in India.
- The Huffington Award is the highest honour granted by the Asia Society Texas Centre (ASTC).
- Vijay Goradia is the founder and Chairman of Vinmar International.

#### Punjab Police bagged CCTNS award

- The Punjab Police bagged the Union Home Ministry's 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems' (CCTNS) award on 31 October 2018.
- They were awarded for the development of the Digital Criminal Intelligence Gazette and the generation of the State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB) reports.
- CCTNS was launched in 2018 to keep digitised records of FIRs and information on crimes and criminals.





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## Days & Events

2nd International Ambedkar Conclave inaugurated

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 2nd 'International Ambedkar Conclave' on 30 November 2018 in New Delhi.
- The conclave is the part of the commemoration of Constitution Day.
- The Conclave is being organised by the Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians and the Dr Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce.

### Dialogue on health system organised

- NITI Aayog began a series of 'Development Dialogues' from 30 November 2018.
- It will engage experts, thought leaders and government stakeholders across key avenues of long-term social and economic development.
- The first event was a conference on 'Health Systems for A New India: Building Blocks'.
- The conference will feature senior government functionaries and experts in the healthcare space.

### Conference of Heads of Investigating Agencies

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) organised the '2nd National Conference of Heads of Investigating Agencies' in New Delhi on 29 November 2018.
- The theme of the conference is 'Capacity Building of Police Investigators in the Era of New Age Crimes'.
- The conference will deliberate on various legal aspects, procedures, and use of technology in investigation.

### Mumbai to host 'Global Aviation Summit'

- The two-day 'Global Aviation Summit' will be held in Mumbai in January 2019.
- The summit will be organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- The theme of the summit is 'Flying for all - especially for the next 6 billion'.

### International Day for Palestinian People

- The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed by the United Nations on 29 November every year.
- On 29 November 1947, the UN Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.
- The resolution provided for the establishment in Palestine of a 'Jewish State' and an 'Arab State'.

### Conference on child health to be held in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate two-day international 'Conference on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health' in New Delhi on 12 December 2018.
- The objective of the conference is to improve knowledge and accountability to accelerate action on women's and children's health.
- The programme has been framed around the objectives of the global strategy of 'Survive, Thrive and Transform'.

### Regional 'Youth Peace Conference' began

- A 3 day 'South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference' is being held from 28 November to 30 November 2018 in New Delhi.
- The conference is being organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in partnership with UNESCO- MGIEP and Standing Together To Enable Peace Trust.
- The conference is being organised to mark the beginning of the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

#### 'Logix India 2019' will be held in New Delhi

- Logistic meet 'Logix India 2019' will be held from 31 January to 2 February 2019 in New Delhi.
- The event is aimed at improving logistics cost effectiveness and operational efficiencies for India's Global Trade.
- The event is organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

#### National Milk Day observed on 26 November

- National Milk Day is observed on 26 November every year.
- The day commemorates the contribution of Dr Verghese Kurien towards Milk Revolution in India.
- Dr Verghese Kurien played a key role in the formation of milk co-operative 'Amul'.
- He is also known as 'Father of the White Revolution' in India.

#### Constitution day observed on 26 November

- Constitution day which is also known as the 'Samvidhan Divas' is celebrated every year on 26 November.
- The adoption of the Constitution took place on 26 November 1949 but it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- On 19 November 2015, the government of India with the help of a gazette notification declared 26 November as the Constitution Day.

#### Elimination of Violence against Women: 25 Nov

- The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is observed on 25 November 2018.
- The aim of the day is to raise public awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Orange the World: #HearMeToo'.

#### Conference on tuberculosis in India in 2019

- The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad in 2019.
- The conference 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action' will be held from 30 October 2019 to 2 November 2019.
- The conference will be organised by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

#### World Fisheries Day: 21 November

- World Fisheries day is celebrated every year on November 21 throughout the world.

- The day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water.
- Fishing communities worldwide celebrate this day through rallies, workshops, public meetings, and cultural programs.

#### World Television Day: 21 November

- The United Nations' (UN) World Television Day is annually observed around the world on November 21.
- The day recognises that television plays a major role in presenting different issue that affect people.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day through a resolution on 17 December 1996.

#### Africa Industrialisation Day: 20 November

- 'Africa Industrialisation Day' is observed on 20 November every year.
- It's a day dedicated to raising necessary awareness about Industrialisation in Africa.
- 2018 Theme: 'Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A pathway for accelerating Africa's structural transformation, industrialization and pharmaceutical production'

#### Universal Children's Day: 20 November

- Universal Children's Day is observed on 20 November every year.
- The aim of the day is to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- United Nations Universal Children's Day was established in 1954.
- On 20 November 1989, the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### 8th NCWP began in Ranchi

- The 8th National Conference of Women in Police (NCWP) began in Ranchi, Jharkhand on 19 November 2018.
- The two-day conference which is being organised by Bureau of Police Research & Development in collaboration with Jharkhand Police.
- It is the only national-level platform to address the various issues of Women in Police.

#### Conference on 'Police Communication' began

- A 2 day Conference, 'Modernisation of Police Communication and Challenges thereof', began in New Delhi on 19 November 2018.
- Directorate of Coordination Police Wireless (DCPW), a nodal advisory body to the Home ministry for the Police Telecommunication in the country is organising the conference.
- The conference will provide a forum for discussing various issues of communication.

#### 'Qaumi Ekta Week' begins from 19 November

- 'Qaumi Ekta Week' (National Integration Week) will be observed all over the country, from 19th to 25th November, 2018.
- The aim of the week is to foster and reinforce the spirit of Communal Harmony, National Integration and pride in vibrant, composite culture and nationhood.
- A week long programmes will be observed during 'Qaumi Ekta Week'

#### Tripura to host 7th International Tourism Mart

- Tripura will be hosting 'International Tourism Mart' from 22 November 2018.
- The aim is to promote the tourism industry in the Northeastern states of the country.
- Tripura is hosting the 'International Tourism Mart' for the first time.
- The event is funded by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

#### Naturopathy Day observed on 18 November

- The AYUSH Ministry celebrated its first 'Naturopathy Day' across the country on 18 November 2018.
- The aim of the day is to promote the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.
- Naturopathic medicine is a system that uses natural remedies to help the body heal itself.

#### World Toilet Day: 19 November

- World Toilet Day is observed on 19 November every year.
- The day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.
- The 2018 campaign is based on the following narrative: 'When nature calls, we need a toilet'.
- World Toilet Day was established by the World Toilet Organisation in 2001.

#### Prez Kovind to inaugurate 'CII Agro Tech' fair

- President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the 'CII Agro Tech 2018' in Chandigarh on 1 December 2018.
- CII Agro Tech 2018 is a biennial four-day agro technology and business fair.
- It is organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The theme for the 2018 is 'Technology in Agriculture: Increasing Farmer's Income'.

#### WDoR is observed on 18 November

- The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDoR) is observed on the third Sunday of November each year.
- The slogan for 2018 is 'Roads have Stories'.
- The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was started by RoadPeace in 1993.
- On 26 October 2005, the United Nations endorsed it as a global day to be observed every third Sunday in November each year.

#### National Press Day observed on 16 November

- National Press Day is observed on 16 November every year.

- On this day, Press Council of India (PCI) started functioning as a moral watchdog.
- The PCI was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the 'First Press Commission'.
- The PCI has been mandated by Parliament to improve the standards of journalism and maintain its freedom.

#### South Asian Regional Conference inaugurated

- The conference on 'Urban Infrastructure: New Approaches to Public & Private Partnerships and Municipal Finance Innovations' was inaugurated in New Delhi on 15 November 2018.
- The conference was organised by NITI Aayog, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Asian Development Bank.
- Key issues of the Urban Infrastructure were discussed at the conference.

#### International Day for Tolerance: 16 November

- The 'International Day for Tolerance' is annually observed on 16 November.
- The aim of the day is to educate people about the need for tolerance in the society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance.
- The United Nations has launched a new global campaign named 'TOGETHER' to promote tolerance, respect and dignity across the world.

#### 26th COCSSO began in Himachal Pradesh

- 26th 'Conference of Central and States Statistical Organisations' (COCSSO) began from 15 November 2018 at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.
- The conference is organised by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The theme of the conference is 'Quality Assurance in Official Statistics'.

#### 'World Philosophy Day' observed on 15 November

- 'World Philosophy Day' is annually observed on the third Thursday of November to honour the philosophical reflections around the world.
- The aim of the day is to raise public awareness of the importance of philosophy.
- It also aims to underline the importance of the universalisation of philosophy-teaching for future generations.
- 'World Philosophy Day' was introduced in 2002 by UNESCO.

#### India International Trade Fair inaugurated

- Culture Minister Dr Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on 14 November 2018.
- The theme of the fair for 2018 is 'Rural Enterprises in India'.
- For the year 2018, Afghanistan is the Partner Country, while Nepal is the Focus Country.
- Jharkhand is participating as a Partner State in the event.

#### WCO's regional meet began in Jaipur



- A four-day regional meeting of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) began in Jaipur on 14 November 2018.
- Representatives of 33 member countries of Asia are attending the meeting.
- The participants will discuss and deliberate upon the amended Kyoto protocol, digital customs, e-commerce among other issues.
- WCO is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

#### Children's Day celebrated on 14 November

- Children's Day is celebrated on 14 November every year.
- It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The day is celebrated across the country to increase awareness of the rights, care and education of children.

#### 'Global Digital Content Market' hosted by DIPP

- A conference on 'Global Digital Content Market' (GDCM) 2018 is being hosted by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on 14 and 15 November 2018 in New Delhi.
- The focus of GDCM 2018 is on the Asia Pacific region.
- The aim of GDCM 2018 is to give industry stakeholders a platform to come together and discuss new avenues in the films, music, gaming and creative industry.

#### World Diabetes Day observed on 14 November

- World Diabetes Day is observed on 14 November every year.
- The theme of World Diabetes Day 2018 is 'The Family and Diabetes'.
- The aim of World Diabetes Day theme is to raise awareness about the impact of diabetes on the family.
- Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke, and lower limb amputation.

#### National Education Day observed on November 11

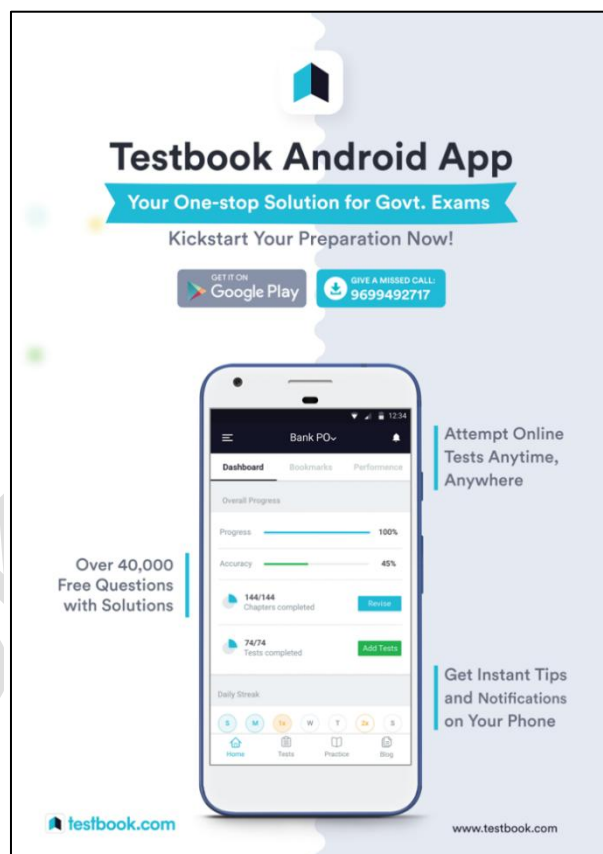
- National Education Day is celebrated in India on November 11.
- The day is celebrated as a mark of respect to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- He was a freedom fighter and independent India's first Education Minister (served from 1947 to 1958).
- He was an eminent scholar of Urdu, Persian and Arabic.
- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992.

#### World Science Day for Peace and Development

- World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed on 10 November every year.
- The day highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.
- The day aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Science, a Human Right'.

#### West Bengal to observe 'Rosogolla Day'

- The West Bengal government will observe 'Rosogolla Day' on November 14.
- The day will be observed to commemorate the first anniversary of the State's famous sweet getting Geographical Indication (GI) tag as 'Bengal's Rosogolla'.
- On 14 November 2017, West Bengal got the GI tag for 'Bengal's Rosogolla'.
- The GI tag is a sign that identifies a product as originating from a particular place.



#### 'Preventing the environment from War' observed

- The 'International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict' is observed every year on 6 November.
- The aim is to educate people about the damaging effects of war and armed conflict on the environment.
- The day was declared by the United Nations on 5 November 2001.

#### World Tsunami Awareness Day observed on 5 Nov

- The 'World Tsunami Awareness Day' is observed on 5 November.
- The day is observed in order to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.
- In 2018, World Tsunami Awareness Day will align with the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the 'Sendai Seven Campaign'.

#### Ayurveda Day celebrated on 5th November

- Ayurveda Day was observed on 5th November 2018.
- Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on 'Dhanawantari Jayanti' (Dhanteras).

- On this occasion, Ministry is organising a 'National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda' in association with NITI Aayog on 4th & 5th November 2018.

#### Int day to end Impunity for Crimes observed

- The 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' is observed on 2 November every year.
- The day draws attention to the low global conviction rate for violent crimes against journalists and media workers.
- It is observed in commemoration of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November 2013.

### International Affairs

#### Congo's Ebola outbreak is the second deadliest

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the current Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo is now the second largest and second deadliest in history.
- The latest outbreak in Congo, which began in August 2018, has a case fatality rate of 57%.
- The deadliest outbreak occurred in West Africa in 2014, where more than 11,000 people were killed due to Ebola.

#### 'Chidaoba' wrestling got UNESCO heritage tag

- Georgian traditional wrestling called 'chidaoba' won recognition from UNESCO as a global cultural asset on 29 November 2018.
- The UNESCO had added it to its list of 'intangible cultural heritage'.
- A match 'chidaoba' lasts for five minutes, during which wrestlers wearing traditional high-necked woollen coats try to defeat their opponent using various holds.

#### Irish sport of hurling won heritage status

- The Irish sport of 'hurling' was granted UNESCO's special status of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' on 29 November 2018.
- The game is played by teams of 15 on a pitch with 'H' shaped goals at either end.
- According to UNESCO, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is made up of oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events.

#### Georgia elects its first woman President

- Salome Zurbishvili has won Georgia's presidential election on 29 November 2018.
- She became the first woman President of Georgia.
- She was the former French Diplomat.
- She was the former Foreign Minister of Georgia.
- The capital of Georgia is Tbilisi and its currency is Georgian Lari.

#### Blue Economy Conference held in Kenya

- The first Global Conference on the 'Sustainable Blue Economy' was held on 28 November 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.

- The conference was organised by Kenya.
- Canada and Japan were co-hosts of the conference.
- The conference committed to protect ocean and coastal resources, help them regenerate, and to ensure they remain viable for the present and future generations.

#### Social security scheme launched in Nepal

- Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli unveiled a contribution-based social security scheme' on 27 November 2018.
- It will cover health and medical facilities, safe motherhood, and provide security to dependent family members.
- The scheme will compulsorily be applied for formal sector workers.
- It will come into effect from 22 May 2019.

#### World Congress on Mountain Medicine begins

- The '12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine' began in Kathmandu on 21 November 2018.
- The theme of the 4-day congress is 'Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas'.
- The event mainly focused on science and research aspects of high altitude medicine.
- The event was held for the first time in Nepal and hosted by Mountain Medicine Society of Nepal (MMSN).

#### Mohammed VI- B Satellite successfully launched

- Morocco's 'Mohammed VI – B' satellite was successfully launched on 21 November 2018 by ArianeSpace from the Guiana Space Center, in French Guiana.
- 'Mohammed VI – B' satellite is a high-resolution Earth-observation satellite.
- It will be used for mapping and land surveying, regional development, agricultural monitoring, prevention and management of natural disasters, and mine exploration.

#### APEC summit held in Papua New Guinea

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held on 17 and 18 November 2018 in Papua New Guinea.
- This is the first time Papua New Guinea, the poorest of the 21 countries in APEC, has hosted the summit.
- The capital of Papua New Guinea is Port Moresby and its currency is 'Papua New Guinean kina'.

#### Russia, Iran, & Turkey to hold Syria talks

- Russia, Iran and Turkey will hold the next round of talks on Syria's conflict on November 28-29 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The meeting will be the 11th in the Astana peace process, which was set up in early 2017 by Russia and Iran.
- The Astana process was launched after Russia's military intervention in Syria.

#### Maldives to rejoin Commonwealth countries

- The Maldives cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping.
- The country left the Commonwealth during former President Abdulla Yameen's administration in October 2016.

- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih sworn in as President of Maldives on 17 November 2018.

#### Two new satellites to BeiDou Navigation System

- China has added two more satellites to its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).
- The satellites were launched into space on a 'Long March-3B' rocket carrier.
- With the successful launch, the basic BDS constellation deployment is complete.
- It will be the fourth global satellite navigation system after the US GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.

#### Tajikistan launched a hydro-electric project

- Tajikistan inaugurated a US\$ 3.9 billion 'Rogun hydro-electric project' on 16 November 2018.
- It has been built on the Vakhsh River in southern Tajikistan.
- The project will enable Tajikistan to eliminate domestic energy shortages and export electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- The first of six turbines in the Rogun hydroelectric dam went online on 16 November 2018.

#### World Bank provides US\$155.7 million to Nepal

- The World Bank provided over US\$ 155 million in financial assistance to Nepal on 14 November 2018.
- The first project comprising a credit of US\$ 133 million will finance the improvement & maintenance programme targeting around 477 bridges along Nepal's strategic roads network.
- The second project in the form of a grant of US\$ 22.7 million to support the Food & Nutrition Enhancement Project.

#### Africa's first ever high speed train unveiled

- French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa.
- The king Mohammed VI named the first line as 'Al Boraq'.
- It will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca.
- The \$2 billion project was launched in September 2011.

#### 'Toxic' declared Oxford Word of the Year

- Oxford Dictionary has declared the adjective 'toxic' as the Word of the Year 2018.
- The adjective toxic is defined as 'poisonous' and first appeared in English in the mid-seventeenth century from the medieval Latin 'toxicus'.
- The Oxford Word of the Year is a word or expression that is judged to have lasting potential as a term of cultural significance.

#### UNSC agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years.

- An arms embargo, asset freeze, and travel ban were imposed in 2009 amid claims that Eritrea supported militancy in Somalia.
- The resolution was drafted by the United Kingdom and backed by the United States and its allies.

#### India voted against UNGA draft resolution

- India has voted against a United Nations General Assembly draft resolution on the use of death penalty.
- India said that it goes against the statutory law of the country where an execution is carried out in the 'rarest of rare' cases.
- The draft resolution, taken up in the 3rd Committee (Social, Humanitarian, Cultural) of the General Assembly, was approved on 13 November 2018.

#### Sunscreens banned in Palau

- Palau is set to become the first country to impose a widespread ban on sunscreen in an effort to protect its vulnerable coral reefs.
- The government has signed a law that restricts the sale and use of sunscreen and skincare products that contain a list of ten different chemicals.
- The ban comes into force in 2020.

#### 'Quad' to meet in Singapore on 14 November

- Officials from Australia, India, Japan and the United States will hold the third 'Quadrilateral' or Quad meeting in Singapore on 14 November 2018.
- The meeting will be held on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.
- The meeting will focus on infrastructure projects, maritime security cooperation and discuss regional challenges including development.

#### NASA spotted new iceberg in Antarctica

- NASA has spotted an enormous new Antarctic iceberg while on a mission to survey the region's shifting sea ice and glaciers.
- NASA's Operation IceBridge flight spotted the giant berg which broke off from Pine Island Glacier in October 2018.
- The US National Ice Centre estimates the iceberg named B-46, is 66 square nautical miles (87 square miles) in size.

#### ASEAN countries inked 1st e-commerce agreement

- Economic ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 12 November 2018 signed an agreement to facilitate cross-border e-commerce transactions within the region.
- The agreement is the grouping's first agreement on e-commerce.
- It also aims to deepen cooperation among ASEAN member states so as to spur the use of e-commerce as a way of driving regional economic growth.

#### WEF Global Future Councils began in Dubai

- The two-day annual meeting of World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Future Councils began in Dubai on 11 November 2018.

- The objective of the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils is to convene the world's best network of experts to identify new ideas and models that can be applied to critical global challenges.
- The theme of the meeting is 'Globalisation 4.0'.

#### 33rd ASEAN summit began in Singapore

- The 33rd edition of the ASEAN Summit began in Singapore on 11 November 2018.
- Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong is the Chairman of the Summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the East Asia Summit and Associated meetings of ASEAN on 14th and 15th November 2018 in Singapore.

#### FinTech festival kicks off in Singapore

- The 3rd edition of the FinTech Conference was inaugurated in Singapore alongside the ASEAN summit on 12 November 2018.
- The Conference will focus on themes including Artificial Intelligence, AI in Finance, ASEAN FinTech Opportunities; Cyber-Security, Financial Inclusion; Future of Banking; Future of Money.
- Singapore FinTech Festival 2018 is organised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

#### Miscellaneous News (5 Nov - 10 Nov 2018)

- The Central and Andhra Pradesh governments and the World Bank have signed the \$172.20 million loan agreement for an agriculture project.
- US researchers have successfully produced electricity from a mushroom covered in bacteria.
- NASA's Ralph and Lucy are all set to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.
- Tesla has appointed Robyn Denholm as the Chairman of the company's board of directors.

#### UNWFP & Alibaba entered into a partnership

- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Alibaba Group have entered into a strategic partnership to support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
- Alibaba will provide its technology and resources to support the digital transformation of WFP's operations.
- Under the partnership, a digital World Hunger Map to monitor the status of global hunger will be developed.

#### European defence coalition launched in Paris

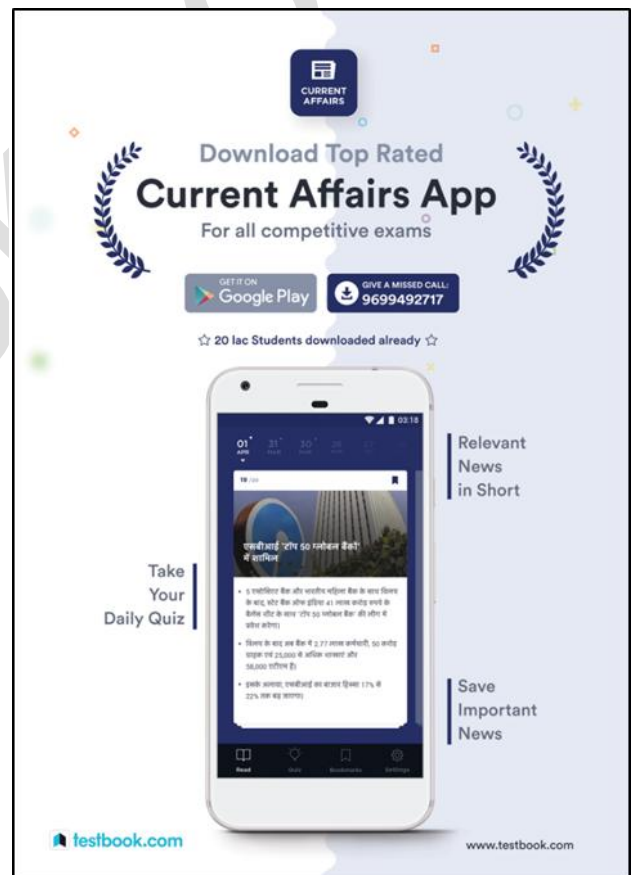
- Defence ministers from European countries met in Paris on 7 November 2018 and launched a joint military force known as the 'European Intervention Initiative' or EI2.
- The military force could rapidly be deployed in response to a conflict or natural disaster.
- Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Portugal, Britain and Finland are part of this initiative.

#### Pakistan-China luxury bus service launched

- Pakistan and China have launched a luxury bus service passing from Lahore to Kashgar city in China on 5 November 2018.
- It is part of an initiative to connect the two countries via road under the US\$ 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- The bus will take 36 hours from Lahore to reach the Xinjiang province in China's far west.

#### China unveils replica of its space station

- China has unveiled a replica of its first permanently crewed space station.
- The Chinese space station would replace the international community's orbiting laboratory, International Space Station (ISS).
- The station assembly is expected to be completed around 2022 and would have a lifespan of around 10 years.
- The ISS has been in operation since 1998 but is due to be retired in 2024.



#### China unveiled 'most advanced' stealth drone

- China has unveiled its new-generation stealth combat unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), UAV - CH7, on 5 November 2018.
- The CH7 makes China the second country, following the US, to produce high-altitude long-endurance combat UAVs with advanced penetration capabilities.
- The CH7 can intercept radar electronic signals, and simultaneously detect, verify and monitor high-value targets.

#### S. Korea, U.S. resumed marine drills



- South Korea and the United States resumed their combined marine drills on 5 November 2018.
- The Korea Marine Exercise Program (KMEP) exercise has been suspended for six months since May 2018 as the two countries engaged in diplomacy with North Korea.
- The two-week KMEP involves some 500 troops, including U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan, and military equipment.

#### UN Pledging Conference held

- The 2018 'United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities' was held on 5 November 2018.
- About 19 countries pledged a total of USD 425.69 million at the Pledging Conference.
- India pledged contributions of USD 13.36 million for the various UN agencies
- India's pledged contributions include \$4.5 million to the UN Development Programme.

#### Gafur Rakhimov elected president of AIBA

- Uzbek businessman Gafur Rakhimov was elected president of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) on 3 November 2018.
- Rakhimov beat his only opponent, former boxer Serik Konakbayev of Kazakhstan.
- The International Boxing Association (AIBA) is a sports organisation that sanctions amateur (Olympic-style) boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.

#### India allowed to buy Iranian oil: US

- India is one of the eight countries to receive temporary exemptions from U.S. sanctions on Iran that came into effect on 5 November 2018.
- The other countries that have been exempted are China, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.
- U.S. said that each country on the list had demonstrated 'significant reductions' of the purchase of Iranian crude over the past six months.

#### 'Changsha declaration' signed in China

- More than 20 countries have committed to 'Changsha declaration' on agricultural and rural development in Changsha, China on 2 November 2018.
- The 'Changsha Declaration' aims to ramp up the efforts towards South-South Cooperation, an initiative working to eliminate hunger and malnutrition through the mutual sharing and exchange of good practices, resources.

#### India and World-1 (29 Oct - 3 Nov 2018)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the '13th India-Japan Bilateral Summit' in Tokyo.
- India and Japan signed a currency swap agreement worth \$75 billion on 29th October 2018.
- India and Japan signed a loan agreement for the construction of the Turga Pumped Storage in West Bengal.
- The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country for the 25th DST – CII Technology Summit.
- 'Little India Gate' was inaugurated in northern Indonesia.

- The Republic of Seychelles has launched the world's first sovereign blue bond.

#### Mandela internship programme established

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) has established the Nelson Mandela 'Be the Legacy' internship programme on 3 November 2018.
- The programme is aimed at empowering young people under the age of 30 years from IORA member states with work experience in their chosen fields of study.
- The programme will be launched on 18 July 2019.

#### Paleontologists discover new Sauropod species

- Paleontologists have discovered the remains of a dinosaur that lived 110 million years ago in Argentina.
- The remains came from three separate dinosaurs from the herbivorous group of sauropods, the best known of which are the Diplodocus and Brontosaurus.
- This new species has been named Lavocatisaurus agrioensis.

### National Affairs

#### 8 States achieve 100% electrification

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and Renewable Energy, RK Singh said that 8 States have achieved 100% saturation in household electrification under the Saubhagya scheme.
- The 8 states are Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, J&K, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal.
- Saubhagya scheme's objective is to provide access to electricity to all the remaining households in the country.

#### UGC to set up a consortium for journals

- University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to set up a 'Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics' (CARE).
- CARE will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines.
- CARE's focus will be on journals in disciplines such as social sciences, humanities, languages, arts, culture and the Indian knowledge system.

#### GSI is the custodian of all meteorites

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been made the sole custodian and curator of all meteorites within the Indian boundary.
- It has been declared as the nodal agency for collection, preservation, registration, and dissemination of all meteorite falls/finds within the country.
- The declaration was made by the Ministry of Mines.
- The GSI is headquartered in Kolkata.

#### RIMES terms Titli cyclone 'rarest of rare'

- The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Africa and Asia has termed cyclone 'Titli' as 'rarest of rare cyclone'.
- Cyclone 'Titli' struck Odisha in October 2018.



- It is the rarest of rare in terms of its characteristics such as recurvature after landfall and retaining its destructive potential.
- RIMES is a 45-nation international organisation on disaster warning.

#### Jharkhand Day being celebrated at IFFI in Goa

- Jharkhand Day is being celebrated at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on 24 November 2018.
- For 2018, Jharkhand is the focus state at the International Film Festival of India.
- This is for the first time that any state has been made focus state at the film festival.
- The movies which have been shot in Jharkhand, are being screened at the film festival.

#### 44 new coal blocks found in 4 Eastern states

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has found 44 new coal blocks in four states of Eastern India.
- The location of these coal blocks are spread across West Bengal's Purulia and Birbhum districts, coal city of Talcher in Odisha, Bihar's Bhagalpur and Jharkhand's East Bokaro and south Karanpura.
- The estimated coal resource of these 44 new blocks is close to 25,000 million tonnes.

#### Indian Railways introduces e-toilets

- As a special initiative to mark World Toilet Day, Central Railway (CR) department has announced to introduce e-toilets in the railway coaches for the first time.
- The e-toilets electronically integrate all the toilet functions.
- These toilets are fully unmanned and perform automated operations.
- Pressure nozzles have also been attached to these toilets to make flushing easier.

#### Foundation Stones of CGD Project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects across 129 districts on 22 November 2018.
- This will boost the availability of gas supply for half of the country's population in 26 states and Union Territories.
- The projects have been awarded by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

#### 'Women Empowerment campaign' launched

- 'Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan' or Women Empowerment campaign was launched in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 20 November 2018.
- The month-long campaign is aimed to empower women in the state through various programmes.
- The campaign will educate women about the schemes being run by central and state governments for their welfare and security.

#### Kundli-Manesar section inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kundli-Manesar section of the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) western peripheral expressway on 19 November 2018.
- The expressway will decongest the road traffic from Delhi, especially reducing the number of trucks entering Delhi.
- Besides, the project will also provide high-speed link between northern Haryana and southern districts.

#### Hookah bars permanently banned in Punjab

- Hookah bars have been permanently banned in Punjab as President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Bill, 2018 to check use of tobacco.
- Punjab is the third state in the country after Gujarat and Maharashtra where hookah bars or lounges were banned through law.
- The Punjab assembly had passed the Bill in March 2018.

#### Tribunal to decide on ban on 2 militant groups

- The Government of India has set up a tribunal for adjudicating whether or not two Tripura-based militant outfits should be declared banned organisations under the law.
- The two militant outfits are National Liberation Front of Tripura and All Tripura Tiger Force.
- The tribunal will be headed by Delhi High Court Judge Justice Suresh Kait.

#### 'Himalayan State Regional Council' constituted

- NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region.
- The 'Himalayan State Regional Council' will be chaired by the NITI Aayog member Dr VK Saraswat.
- The council will also consist of the Chief Secretaries of the Himalayan States as well as the Secretaries of key Central Ministries, and senior officers of NITI Aayog.

#### First Ramayana Express flagged off

- First 'Ramayana Express' was flagged off from Delhi on 14 November 2018.
- The Ramayana Express will make its first stop in Ayodhya followed by Hanuman Garhi Ramkot and Kanak Bhawan temple.
- The trains will make stops at Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Janakpur, Varanasi, Prayag, Shringaverpur, Chitrakoot, Nasik, Hampi and Rameshwaram.

#### Rs 75 commemorative coin to be released

- The government of India will release a Rs 75 commemorative coin on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the hoisting of Tricolour for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair.
- The coin will bear the portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose saluting the flag on the background of cellular jail.
- The coin will be composed of 50% silver, 40% copper, and 5% each of nickel & zinc.

#### Renaming of two divisions in UP approved

- The Uttar Pradesh government approved the renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively on 13 November 2018.
- Prayagraj division will comprise Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Fatehpur and Pratapgarh districts.
- Ayodhya division will include Ayodhya, Ambedkarnagar, Sultanpur, Amethi and Barabanki districts.

#### Cyclone Gaja to cross Tamil Nadu & Andhra

- A deep depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a cyclonic storm named Cyclone Gaja.
- It is likely to cross the north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh coast on 15 November 2018.
- It is moving at a speed of 12 kmph is likely to intensify into a 'severe cyclonic storm'.
- The coastal areas of north Tamil Nadu would experience moderate rainfall and heavy rainfall.

#### Voting began in Chhattisgarh

- The voting for the first phase of the assembly election in Chhattisgarh began on 12 November 2018.
- The Election Commission has set up five all-women polling booths called 'Sangwari' booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh.
- This will encourage women voters to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections.
- These women friendly booths are being manned by all-female staff.

#### Power Minister inaugurated INSPIRE 2018

- R K Singh, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy inaugurated the 'International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency' (INSPIRE 2018) on 11 November 2018.
- It is being organised by Energy Efficiency Services Limited and World Bank.
- It will focus on enhancing grid management, e-Mobility, and technologies for energy efficiency in India.

#### Global IT Challenge for Youth concluded

- The three-day event of Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities- 2018 concluded in New Delhi on 11 November 2018.
- This year 96 youth with disabilities from 18 countries including India, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, UK and UAE participated in it.
- On occasion, 55 awards were presented to youth with disabilities.

#### PM to inaugurate first multi-modal terminal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first multi-modal terminal on the Ganga river in Varanasi on 12 November 2018.
- The aim is to promote inland waterways as a cheaper and more environment-friendly means of transport.
- The multi-modal terminals are being built under the Jal Marg Vikas Project.

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is the project implementing agency.

#### Exit polls banned by Election Commission

- The Election Commission imposed ban on holding exit polls from 12 November in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana, and Rajasthan.
- Under the Representation of People Act, 1951, Election Commission bans exit polls from the time the poll begins till half-an-hour after the polling ends.
- An exit poll is a poll of voters taken immediately after they have exited the polling stations.

#### Global Cooling Innovation Summit

- Two-day Global Cooling Innovation Summit will be inaugurated by Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi on 12th November 2018.
- The summit will also see the launching of 'Global Cooling Prize' competition.
- The aim of the competition is to spur the development of a residential cooling solution that has at least five times (5x) less climate impact.

#### New record created in Ayodhya

- A new world record was set in Ayodhya on 7 November 2018 with over three lakh 'diya' lit up simultaneously.
- A total of 3,01,152 diyas were lit up simultaneously for five minutes.
- The record was created at the Deepotsav event on the banks of the Sarayu river.
- The target was to illuminate a total of 3.35 lakh diya on both sides of the ghats at Ram Ki Paidi.

#### DEPwD to organise Global IT Challenge

- 'Global IT Challenge (GITC) for Youth with Disabilities 2018' will be organised by the from 9 November 2018.
- It is organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- India is hosting the event in collaboration with the Government of Korea and Rehabilitation International.

#### 'Bhubaneswar Me Wi-Fi' launched

- Odisha Government launched the 'Bhubaneswar Me Wi-Fi' project in Bhubaneswar on 5 November 2018.
- The project is implemented by Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL).
- It will initially have 100 hotspots enabled locations with 275 access points.
- One wi-fi hotspot would be able to handle 150 users at a given point of time
- BSCL is a Special Purpose Vehicle incorporated by Odisha Government.

#### 'Mo bus' service launched in Odisha

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Mo bus' service in Bhubaneswar on 6 November 2018.

- The newly-launched buses feature free Wi-Fi, CCTV surveillance, public information display system and on board announcements.
- The bus service will come up with 'Mo Bus' mobile app through which citizens can book their tickets and also get to know the locations of the vehicle.

#### EC issues order on poll expenses

- According to the Election Commission, the costs incurred on publicising information about the criminal cases against a candidate will be counted as part of poll expenditure.
- The expenses will be borne by the candidate and the political parties.
- The Election Commission said that the FIR cases against a candidate have to be given publicity.

#### PM to inaugurate various projects in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Ring Road Phase-I and Babatpur-Varanasi road in Varanasi on 12 November 2018.
- The Prime Minister will also launch inland waterways terminal on river Ganga.
- It is the first of the four multi-modal terminals being constructed on NW-I (River Ganga) as part of the World Bank-aided Jal Marg Vikas project.

#### Separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh

- The Supreme Court has given nod for a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh.
- It will start functioning from 1 January 2019 in Amravati.
- The new court will be the 25th High Court in the country.
- Presently, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have a common High Court situated at Hyderabad.
- The existing court will from 2019 be known as the Telangana High Court.

#### Tourist Facilitation Counter inaugurated

- K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism inaugurated the Tourist Facilitation and Information Counter at Indira Gandhi International Airport New Delhi on 5 November 2018.
- The counter will be connected to the 24x7 Helpline '1363' of the Tourism Ministry.
- It shall also cater to non-English speaking tourists.
- It is located at the T3 terminal arrival gates of the IGI Airport.

#### Seminar on Ayurveda inaugurated

- 'National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda' was inaugurated on 4 November 2018.
- This seminar is being organised by the Ministry of AYUSH in association with NITI Aayog in New Delhi.
- The seminar is expected to develop awareness among stakeholders about the business opportunities in the Ayurveda sector.



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#### 1st Annual Senior Care Conclave organised

- 1st 'Annual Senior Care Conclave - Igniting Industry for India's Ageing Sector' was held in New Delhi on 1 November 2018.

- It was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- A report titled, 'Igniting Potential in Senior Care Services' was released at the event.
- Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare delivered the keynote address at the event.

#### Indian Railways eliminated UMLCs

- Twelve Zonal Railways on Broad Gauge route have now become free from Unmanned Level Crossings.
- As on 1 April 2018, there were 3479 Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge routes and total 3402 UMLCs have been eliminated.
- All Unmanned level crossings on routes having speed more than 130KMPH and on Sub-urban routes have been eliminated.

#### Tourist Police & Suraksha App launched

- The Arunachal Pradesh Police launched the 'Arunachal Pradesh Tourist Police' and the 'Arunachal Suraksha App' to help the citizens during emergencies.
- The mobile app, first of its kind for the state police, would help users to find the nearest police stations and the contact details.
- It has also the capacity to send SOS message to emergency contacts.

#### INS Viraat to become a floating museum

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the conversion of decommissioned carrier INS Viraat into a floating museum on 2 November 2018.
- The carrier will be housed on a concrete foundation near Nivati Rocks in Sindhudurg in Konkan region of Maharashtra.
- The project will be implemented through public-private-partnership (PPP).
- INS Viraat was decommissioned in March 2017.

#### NMCG & UN-Habitat organise a policy dialogue

- A policy dialogue - 'Urban Cafe: River for Habitat' was organised in New Delhi on 31 October 2018.
- It was organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) along with UN-Habitat.
- It was organised on the occasion of World Cities Day 2018 which is observed on 31 October every year.
- Rajiv Ranjan Mishra is the Director General of NMCG.

#### Renaming of Jharsuguda Airport approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved renaming of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha as 'Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda' on 1 November 2018.
- Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.
- Jharsuguda airport was formally dedicated to the nation and UDAN flight operated by Air Odisha was flagged off by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 September 2018.

#### 4th NITI Aayog- DRC Dialogue held in Mumbai

- The 4th Dialogue of the NITI Aayog - Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, Peoples' Republic of China was held in Mumbai on 1 November 2018.
- The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Li Wei, President of DRC and the Indian delegation was led by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- The 5th edition of the NITI - DRC Dialogue will be held in Wuhan, China in November 2019.

#### 'SMiLE Virtual Tour Guide' launched in Kerala

- The Kerala Tourism Department has launched 'SMiLE Virtual Tour Guide'.
- A 'SMiLE Virtual Tour Guide' links tourists with their places of attraction and providers of experiential services.
- The 'SMiLE' guide renders information on 40 Malabar attractions.
- It has been conceived and executed by Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC).

### India & World

#### India to chair Kimberley Process from Jan 2019

- India will chair the Kimberley Process (KP) from January 2019.
- KP is a global initiative to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain.
- The conflict diamonds are used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments in the world.
- India is the founding member of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).

#### Saudi-India Business Meeting Held in Riyadh

- Saudi-India Business meeting was held with the Council of Saudi Chambers in Riyadh on 28 November 2018.
- The meeting was attended by top the officials and CEOs of the companies of Saudi Arabia.
- The Indian delegation was represented by several leading infra and housing companies.
- The Indian delegation was led by Manoj K Bharti, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

#### Port Blair to host IIBF

- The first ever India-Indonesia Business Forum (IIBF) will be held on 29 November 2018 at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The forum aims to facilitate the commercial and people-to-people linkages between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces of Indonesia.
- The 1st Business Forum was held in Indonesia in July 2018.

#### PM Modi will take part in 13th G-20 summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Argentina on 28 November 2018.
- He will be taking part in the 13th G-20 summit.
- The theme of the summit is 'Building Consensus for a Fair and Sustainable Development'.



- The capital of Argentina is Buenos Aires and its currency is Argentine peso.

#### India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue held

- The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held at St. Petersburg in Russia on 25 November 2018.
- The Indian side was led by NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar with the Russian delegation headed by Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin.
- The participants will discuss the development of bilateral ties in trade, investment, technology, and industry.

#### Doval, Wang held India-China border talks

- India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the '21st round of border talks' in China on 24 November 2018.
- Ajit Doval and Wang Yi are the designated Special Representatives (SRs) for border talks between India and China.
- The India-China border dispute covers 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

#### Nepal's largest exhibition ConMac 2018 begins

- Nepal's largest exhibition on construction equipment and technology 'ConMac 2018' began on 22 November 2018 in Kathmandu.
- The 3 day mega event is organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with Embassy of India in Nepal.
- The exhibition is showcasing, mainly heavy equipment such as dozer, crusher and concrete mixer.

#### India & Australia signed five agreements

- On 22 November 2018, India and Australia signed five agreements to boost investments and enhance cooperation in key sectors like disability, agricultural research and education.
- The agreements were signed after President Ram Nath Kovind met Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Sydney.
- President Kovind is the first-ever Indian President to visit Australia.

#### Sushma Swaraj began her Laos visit on Nov 22

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj began her two-day visit to Laos from 22 November 2018.
- She will co-chair the 9th Meeting of 'India-Laos Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation'.
- The joint commission meeting will further enhance the cooperation between the two countries in various areas.
- The capital of Laos is Vientiane and its currency is Lao Kip.

#### Abu Dhabi to host India-UAE Strategic Conclave

- The UAE will host the second edition of 'India-UAE Strategic Conclave' on 27 November 2018.
- The day-long conference will be held in Abu Dhabi.
- It will initiate dialogues to widen the scope of bilateral investments between the two countries.

- The conclave aims to improve the connection between the business communities of the two countries.

#### BASIC Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi

- The 27th BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi on 19-20 November 2018.
- The meeting was chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The BASIC group was formed by an agreement on 28 November 2009.

#### 9th Annual Defence & Security Dialogue held

- India and China held the '9th Annual Defence and Security Dialogue' in Beijing on 13 November 2018.
- The Indian delegation was headed by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and Chinese delegation was headed by Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission.
- Both sides agreed on enhancing defence exchanges and interactions at different levels between the two militaries.

#### 9th Session of the India - Kyrgyz IGC held

- The 9th Session of the India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) was held on 15 and 16 November 2018 in New Delhi.
- Both sides agreed to hold business to business forums between Kyrgyz and Indian companies.
- The parties agreed to hold the tenth meeting of IK-IGC in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic in 2019.

#### 'ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit' held

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 'ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit' in Singapore on 15 November 2018.
- He reaffirmed cooperation in maritime domain and centrality of trade and investment towards prosperity of Indo-Pacific
- He also held separate bilateral meetings with the premiers of Singapore, Australia and Thailand.

#### 'India-Singapore Hackathon' winners awarded

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitated the six winning teams of the first 'India-Singapore Hackathon' on 15 November 2018.
- 'India-Singapore Hackathon' is a platform for the youth of the two countries to harness and showcase their innovations.
- The winning teams from India were IIT Kharagpur, NIT Trichy, and MIT College of Engineering, Pune.

#### PM Modi attended 13th East Asia Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Singapore on 15 November 2018.
- It was Prime Minister Modi's 5th East Asia Summit.
- The members of EAS consists of 10 ASEAN nations (Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei and Laos), Australia,



China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the US.

#### Prime Minister Modi launched APIX technology

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the APIX (Application Programming Interface Exchange) in Singapore on 14 November 2018.
- APIX is a banking technology platform designed to reach nearly two billion people worldwide who are still without bank accounts.
- APIX will support banks to reach out to those without bank accounts in 23 countries including the 10 ASEAN members countries.

#### 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting concluded

- The two-day 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting concluded in Singapore on 13 November 2018.
- Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu led the Indian delegation to the meeting.
- The Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore Mr Chan Chun Sing was the Chair of the meeting.

#### 2nd Startup India Investment Seminar organised

- '2nd Startup India Investment Seminar' was organised in Beijing on 12 November 2018.
- It was organised by the Embassy of India in China in partnership with Startup India Association (SIA) and Venture Gurukool.
- The event was planned to expose Chinese investors to the promising Indian startups.
- The 1st Startup Indian Investment event was organised in November 2017.

#### Statue commemorating Indian soldiers unveiled

- A new statue commemorating the role of Indian soldiers in World War I was unveiled in France on 11 November 2018.
- The seven-foot bronze statue commemorates over 4,700 soldiers and labourers from British India who lost their lives on the Western Front during World War I.
- Another memorial was inaugurated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu at Villers Guislain in France on 10 November 2018.

#### VP inaugurated war memorial in France

- On 10 November 2018, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a war memorial in France to pay tribute to thousands of Indian soldiers who died in the World War I.
- The memorial is the first-of-its-kind built by India in France.
- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu is in Paris to represent India at the Armistice of World War I centenary commemoration.

#### PM to visit Singapore on Nov 14-15

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Singapore on 14 November 2018 to attend the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS).
- The EAS is a premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region.

- EAS includes India, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United States, Russia and 10 ASEAN member-states.
- It was established in 2005.

#### India participated in Afghan peace talks

- Russia hosted a conference on Afghanistan bringing together representatives of the Afghan authorities and the Taliban on 9 November 2018.
- India participated in the conference at a 'non-official' level.
- India's non-official delegation will comprise two retired diplomats – TCA Raghavan, a former envoy to Pakistan, and Amar Sinha, a former ambassador to Afghanistan.

#### India loses row over safeguard duty at WTO

- India lost a major trade dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 6 November 2018.
- A dispute settlement panel upheld Japan's complaint that India's imposition of safeguard duty on imports of hot-rolled steel flat products during September 2015 and March 2018 violated core global trade rules.
- Japan launched the dispute settlement proceedings against India in 2017.

#### ASEAN member countries offer concession

- Several Asian member countries of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have offered India a concession on the extent to which it needs to open up its markets.
- India can now open up 83% of its market against the earlier 92%.
- The RCEP is a proposed trade agreement between the ASEAN countries and the six free trade agreement partners.

#### Chabahar port work exempted from sanctions

- The United States has exempted India from the imposition of certain sanctions for the development of Chabahar port project in Iran.
- India has committed \$500 million to the project and \$2 billion to build a railway line from Chabahar to Hajigaj in Afghanistan.
- India signed an agreement with Iran and Afghanistan in May 2016 for the port's development.

#### India elected as a Member of the ITU Council

- India has been elected as a Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another 4-year term (2019-2022).
- The elections to the council were held during the ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai, UAE.
- The ITU is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies.

#### Naidu launched 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Malawi

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Malawi on 5 November 2018.

- The camp was launched under the 'India for Humanity' programme, which honours Mahatma Gandhi's service to humanity.
- The Indian government partnered with Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayta Samiti for 'India for Humanity initiative'.
- The 'India for Humanity' was launched on 2 October 2018.

#### India to extend USD 310 m loan for Zimbabwe

- India would extend a US\$ 310 million loan to Zimbabwe to finance a rehabilitation project for a thermal power plant that would entail upgrading the station and extending its lifespan.
- Hwange is Zimbabwe's second biggest power plant with an installed capacity of 920 MW.
- The decision was taken during a meeting between Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

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#### China's international import expo inaugurated

- India participated in China's first international import expo in Shanghai.
- The six-day China International Import Expo (CIIE) was inaugurated on 5 November 2018 by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- The Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan.
- The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) along with relevant government agencies has built India pavilion at the expo.

#### 1st India-Nepal passenger train

- The first passenger train to run on 'broad gauge' between India and Nepal is likely to run from December 2018.
- The train will run from Jayanagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Dhanusa district in south-eastern Nepal.
- An immigration check-post is likely to be established at Jayanagar station.
- No visa will be required for Indian and Nepalese nationals crossing the border through this stretch.

#### India Pavilion Inaugurated at Videocittà 2018

- India Pavilion was inaugurated at Videocittà 2018 in Rome on 2 November 2018.
- India was partner country at Videocittà 2018.
- Videocittà 2018 is an event focussing on Virtual Reality, Video gaming, Animation, Film Making, etc.
- India's participation at Videocittà 2018, Rome was organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

#### India and Japan signed a Loan Agreement

- India and Japan signed a loan agreement for the construction of the Turga Pumped Storage in West Bengal on 2 November 2018.
- The Project will strengthen the capability to respond to the fluctuation in supply and demand of power.
- It will also improve the stability of the power supply.
- This will contribute to the Industrial Development and Living Standard Improvement in West Bengal.

#### BRICS nations signed a declaration

- The BRICS nations have signed a declaration to accelerate creative and sustainable cultural cooperation on 31 October 2018.
- The declaration will see Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) cooperating in fashion, culture and animation.
- South Africa hosted an inaugural BRICS Fashion Show and Fashion Business Forum on 24 October 2018.

#### UN tourism organisation meet in Bahrain

- The 109th session of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Executive Council was held in Manama, Bahrain.
- The UNWTO Executive Council began on 30 October 2018.
- Union Tourism Minister K J Alphons is leading the Indian delegation at the UNWTO Executive Council.
- India will be the chair of the 'programme and budget committee' of UNWTO Executive Council till 2021.

#### India-US Dialogue on IP began

- The first ever India-US Dialogue on Intellectual Property (IP) was launched on 31 October 2018 to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation on IP policy in New Delhi.
- The dialogue was launched by US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) and FICCI in partnership with the US-India Business Council.
- The US-India Business Council is a business advocacy organisation.

## Personalities in News

### Georgia elects its first woman President

- Salome Zurbishvili has won Georgia's presidential election on 29 November 2018.
- She became the first woman President of Georgia.
- She was the former French Diplomat.
- She was the former Foreign Minister of Georgia.
- The capital of Georgia is Tbilisi and its currency is Georgian Lari.

### Slovenia appoints first female army chief

- Slovenia has become the only NATO country to appoint a woman as head of its army.
- Maj Gen Alenka Ermenc took up the post of Chief of Staff of the Slovenian army on 28 November 2018.
- Maj Gen Ermenc is currently serving as the army's Deputy-Chief of Staff.
- She began her military career in 1991 when the country won its independence from the former Yugoslavia.

### 'Asian of The Year' award 2018 announced

- Indian Navy Commander Vijay Varma and Captain P Rajkumar won the 'Asian of The Year' Award on 28 November 2018.
- They were awarded for their selfless service and bravery in rescue operations during the devastating floods in Kerala.
- The awards have been constituted by the English language newspaper 'The Straits Times' and it is based in Singapore.

### Prof Punyasloke got Swarnajayanti Fellowship

- Prof Punyasloke Bhaduri of the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research Kolkata was awarded the prestigious 'Swarnajayanti Fellowship' by the government of India for 2017-18.
- Under this fellowship, scientists are provided with generous support to pursue research in the frontier areas of science and technology.
- It is awarded for a period of 5 years.

### Premji to be conferred French civilian award

- Azim Premji will be conferred with the 'Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur' (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- Alexandre, Ambassador of France to India will confer the award to Premji.
- The award comes in recognition of his outstanding contribution in developing the information technology industry in India, his economic outreach in France, and his contribution to society as a philanthropist.

### Sachin is the brand ambassador of Apollo Tyres

- Tyre maker, Apollo Tyres has appointed cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as its new brand ambassador on 22 November 2018.
- He will be the ambassador of Apollo Tyres for a period of five years.
- Apart from Apollo Tyres, he is also the brand Ambassador for BMW in India.

- Sachin Tendulkar was the former brand ambassador of MRF Tyres.

### Joyce to head the UN Environment Programme

- On 22 November 2018, Tanzanian microbiologist Joyce Msuya has been appointed as acting head of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) following the resignation of Erik Solheim.
- Erik Solheim was the Executive Director of UNEP.
- Prior to joining UN, served as Adviser to the World Bank Vice President.
- She also served in the Republic of Korea, as the inaugural World Bank Special Representative.

### UNICEF appoints 'Youth Advocate' for Northeast

- On 23 November 2018, singer Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first 'Youth Advocate' of the Northeastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights.
- The UNICEF engages 'Youth Advocates' to act as agents of change in society.
- She made her playback debut in the 2016 Bollywood film 'Akira'.
- She received the best female playback singer award at the Assam state Film Award 2018.

### Alia Bhatt appointed as brand ambassador

- Uber Eats has appointed actor Alia Bhatt as its brand ambassador in India on 22 November 2018.
- India is the first country for Uber Eats globally where the company has appointed a brand ambassador.
- Uber Eats is the food delivery arm of Uber and was launched in India in May 2017.
- The food delivery service is available across 37 cities in India.

### Vimal Chandra won the Young Scientist award

- IIT Roorkee Professor Vimal Chandra Srivastava has won the 'NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Award 2018' in 'Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development' category.
- He has been given the award for his work on Industrial Wastewater Treatment, Clean Liquid Fuels, and Multi-component Adsorption.
- The Award was instituted by Elsevier in the year 2006.

### Youngest-ever goodwill ambassador appointed

- British actress Millie Bobby Brown was named the newest United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador on 21 November 2018.
- She is the youngest person ever to be appointed as the UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador.
- As a Goodwill Ambassador, she will use her global platform to raise awareness of children's rights and issues affecting young people.

### Renault keeps Carlos Ghosn as CEO

- Renault has appointed its Chief Operating Officer (COO) Thierry Bollore as deputy CEO to ensure day-to-day management of the company.

- His appointment was made after the arrest of its CEO Carlos Ghosn but he will remain as its CEO.
- Renault's move to appoint a temporary leader was in line with a demand by the French government, which owns a 15% stake in the automaker.

#### Kim Jong Yang elected as Interpol President

- Kim Jong Yang of South Korea has been elected Interpol President.
- Kim will serve as president for the remainder of the current mandate, until 2020.
- The decision was taken at the 87th General Assembly of the Agency in Dubai.
- He was previously the Chief of police in South Korea's most populous province.

#### Dr Dixit appointed as Brand Ambassador

- The Maharashtra government has appointed Dr Jagannath Dixit as the Brand Ambassador of its anti-obesity campaign.
- Dr Dixit has been appointed due to his experience and knowledge in the field.
- Dr Dixit is attached to the Government Medical College, Latur as a Professor.

#### Ustad Amjad Ali Khan given a lifetime award

- Sarod master, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan was presented the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' on 17 November 2018.
- He was awarded for his immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music.
- The award was presented to him by former diplomat Lalit Mansingh.
- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.

#### Brigadier Kuldip Singh passed away

- Kuldip Singh Chandpuri, known as the hero of the Battle of Longewala during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, died on 17 November 2018.
- Brig Chandpuri was a recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra, the country's second-highest gallantry award, for his role at Longewala, an outpost in the Thar desert of Rajasthan.
- Brig Chandpuri was commissioned into the 23rd Battalion of the Punjab Regiment in 1963.

#### Ad-filmmaker Alyque Padamsee passed away

- Prominent ad filmmaker and actor Alyque Padamsee passed away on 17 November 2018 in Mumbai.
- As a film actor, he was known for his role in Richard Attenborough's film Gandhi where he played Muhammad Ali Jinnah.
- He was known as the Father of modern Indian advertising.
- He was conferred with Padmashri Award in 2000 and he also received Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna in 2012.

#### President Kovind to visit Vietnam & Australia

- President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Vietnam and Australia from 18 to 24 November 2018 with an aim to strengthen ties with the Indo-Pacific nations.
- He will be in Vietnam in the first leg of his trip.
- The President's second leg of the visit will be in Australia from 21 to 24 November 2018.
- This is the first visit by an Indian President to Australia.

#### Yes Bank chairman Ashok Chawla resigned

- Ashok Chawla has resigned as the Non-Executive (Independent) Chairman of Yes Bank on 14 November 2018.
- He has also been serving as the Chairman of National Stock Exchange, a quasi-regulator under the SEBI Act, since 2016.
- Former finance secretary Ashok Chawla had also worked as the Chairman of CCI or Competition Commission of India.

#### Hima Das appointed as Youth Ambassador

- Hima Das has been appointed as UNICEF India's Youth Ambassador.
- She will work towards supporting various initiatives by UNICEF.
- She will also work towards raising awareness about the rights and needs of the children.
- She won the gold medal in Women's 4 x 400 m Relay event at the 2018 Asian Games.

#### Neomi Rao to replace Kavanaugh on DC Circuit

- U.S. President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Neomi Rao to replace Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.
- The powerful U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit is considered next to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Ms. Rao is currently the administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA).

#### Flipkart CEO Binny Bansal quits

- Flipkart co-founder, Binny Bansal resigned as the company's Group CEO on 13 November 2018 following an independent investigation into allegations of serious personal misconduct.
- Kalyan Krishnamurthy will continue to be the CEO of Flipkart.
- Ananth Narayanan will continue as CEO of Flipkart's fashion arms Myntra and Jabong. He will report to Kalyan Krishnamurthy.

#### Award given to Aung San Suu Kyi revoked

- Amnesty International revoked the 'Ambassador of Conscience Award' given to Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi on 13 November 2018.
- She received the award in 2009 when she was living under house arrest.
- The award was revoked because of her failure to speak out for the Rohingya minority.
- She was also stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship in October 2018.



### Mountaineer Satyarup climbed Mt Giluwe

- Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe on 11 November 2018.
- The summit of the mountain is at an elevation of 4,367 metres.
- He had successfully climbed the Mt Everest in June 2016.
- Mt Giluwe is the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea.
- Mt Wilhelm is the highest mountain of Papua New Guinea.

### Peter inducted into Agricultural Hall of Fame

- Peter Dhillon, a Canadian Sikh farmer, has been inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.
- He has joined the company of great Canadians who have made their mark in agriculture and agro-food business.
- He is also the current Chairman of Ocean Spray, a marketing cooperative of cranberry farmers in the U.S. and Canada.

### Bajrang becomes number one in world

- On 10 November 2018, Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia achieved the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category.
- He was placed atop the ranking table with 96 points in the United World Wrestling (UWW) list.
- Alejandro Enrique from Cuba is at number two with 66 points.
- Russia's Akhmed Chakaev is at number three and Takuto Otoguro from Japan is at number four.

### Arunima got Honorary Doctorate in UK

- On 6 November 2018, Arunima Sinha has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Strathclyde in the United Kingdom for her inspirational achievements.
- On 21 May 2013, Arunima Sinha became the world's first female amputee to climb the Mount Everest.
- In 2015, she was presented with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award.

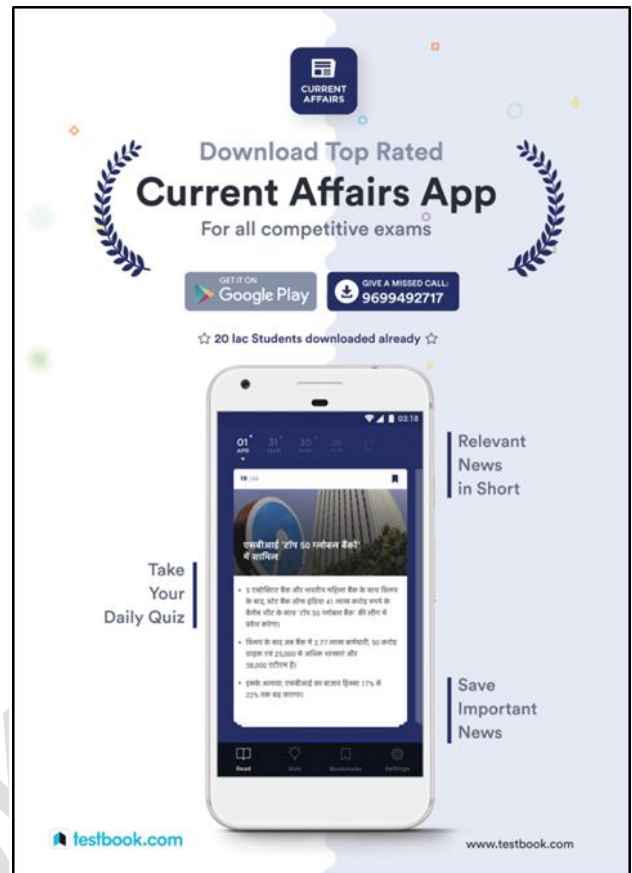
### VP embarked on three-day visit to France

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has embarked on a three-day visit to France on 9 November 2018.
- He will attend the Paris Peace Forum being held to commemorate the centenary of the end to the First World War.
- The aim of the Paris Peace Forum is to establish a global platform to reaffirm the importance of multilateralism, international cooperation and reform of global governance institutions.

### Tesla names new chair to replace Elon Musk

- Electric carmaker Tesla has appointed Robyn Denholm as the Chairman of the company's board of directors, replacing Elon Musk.
- She will also be leaving her role as CFO and Head of Strategy at Telstra, Australia's largest telecommunications company.
- She has been on the Tesla board as an independent director since 2014.

- Elon Musk will remain the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tesla.



### Samay won the 'Breakthrough Junior Challenge'

- Samay Godika won the 2018 'Breakthrough Junior Challenge' for his video submitted in the life sciences category on circadian rhythms.
- He will receive a \$250,000 college scholarship.
- 'Breakthrough Junior Challenge' is a global science video competition designed to inspire creative thinking about fundamental concepts in the life sciences, physics, and mathematics.

### Rahul Dravid inducted in ICC Hall of Fame

- Rahul Dravid became the fifth Indian to be inducted in the 'ICC Hall of Fame' on 1 November 2018.
- Rahul Dravid, along with Ricky Ponting and England women wicketkeeper Claire Taylor, were announced as the new inductees in the Hall of Fame.
- Dravid has scored 23, 208 international runs for India across formats.
- He has scored the runs at an average of 45.41.

### Mary Kom is the brand ambassador

- Boxer Mary Kom was named as the brand ambassador of the 10th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship on 31 October 2018.
- India is hosting the 10th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship from 15 November 2018.
- Since the inception of the Women's World Championship in 2001, India had hosted the tournament once in 2006.



## Government Policies & Schemes

### Passport Seva Project launched

- The government of India launched 'Passport Seva Project' (PSP) in major consulates in the United States.
- The aim is to simplify the overall passport applications procedure and reduce the turnaround time for applicants from 10 days to 48 hours or less.
- PSP prints Indian passports in the US and reduces turnaround for applicants.

### Bhasha Sangam launched by HRD ministry

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has launched an initiative called 'Bhasha Sangam'.
- 'Bhasha Sangam' is a programme for schools and educational institutions to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian languages.
- The initiative was launched under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' on 22 November 2018 and will continue till the 21 December 2018.

### Single emergency number '112' launched in HP

- On 28 November 2018, Himachal Pradesh became the first state to launch a pan-India single emergency number '112'.
- Under this project, an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) has been established in Shimla along with 12 district command centres (DCCs).
- The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108), and women (1090) helpline numbers to provide emergency services.

### Government of India launched 'IDSP' initiative

- On 26 November 2018, the government of India has launched the initiative called 'Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme' (IDSP) of 'Integrated Health Information Platform'.
- The initiative has been launched in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, & Uttar Pradesh.
- The initiative will provide near-real-time data to policymakers for monitoring public health.

### 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' launched

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' on 27 November 2018.
- The aim of the mission is to promote self-reliance in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in defence.
- Under the mission, 10,000 personnel of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) will be trained on IPR.

### No homework for students of classes I & II

- According to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) order, there will be no homework for students of classes I and II.
- The order also said that there will be prescribed weight limit of school bags for each class.

- The weight of school bags for students of classes I and II should not exceed 1.5 kg, while the school bag of students of class III to V should weigh between 2 kg to 3 kg.

### 'Tourist Police' launched in Nagaland

- Nagaland's Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio launched 'Nagaland Tourist Police' on 26 November 2018.
- It will work for the safety and security of the tourists and report any crime against them to the nearest police station.
- Nagaland is the second state in the North East to introduce tourist police.
- Arunachal Pradesh is the first state in the North East to introduce tourist police.

### Public bicycle sharing project & app launched

- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a public bicycle sharing project and a mobile app on 26 November 2018.
- The bicycle sharing project and the mobile app is named 'Mo Cycle'.
- The project will provide mobile app-based services to users to locate and use a bicycle.
- The 'Mo Cycle' system will help in reducing traffic congestion, enhance space efficiency, and improve air quality.

### 'PAISA' launched by government of India

- The government of India launched 'PAISA - Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access' on 26 November 2018.
- The portal is a centralised electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana'.
- The web platform has been designed and developed by 'Allahabad Bank' which is the Nodal bank.

### Govt hikes outlay for FAME India scheme

- The Ministry of Finance has enhanced the total outlay on the first phase of the 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles' (FAME India) scheme from Rs 795 crore to Rs 895 crore.
- The aim of the scheme is to incentivise the production and promotion of eco-friendly vehicles.
- The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.

### Non-transport usage of quadricycles allowed

- The government of India has declared quadricycle as a 'non-transport vehicle' under the Motor Vehicles Act 1988.
- This will provide a safe and cheap mode of transport for the last mile connectivity.
- A non-transport vehicle is a vehicle whose usage is allowed under personal capacity only.
- A quadricycle is a vehicle with the size of a three-wheeler but has four tyres and is fully covered.

### Cabinet approved 'ACROSS' scheme

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of 'Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services' (ACROSS) during 2017-2020.
- ACROSS scheme consists of 9 sub-programmes
- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The objective of the ACROSS scheme is to provide a reliable weather and climate forecast for the betterment of society.

#### OBC sub-quota panel's term extended

- The term of the commission examining the issue of sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the central list has been extended till May 31, 2019.
- The decision was approved by the Union Cabinet on 22 November 2018
- The commission was formed in October 2017.
- The five-member panel is headed by Justice (retd.) G Rohini.

#### Kartarpur corridor project approved

- Union Cabinet has approved building and development of the Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district to International Border.
- It will provide a smooth and easy passage to pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur throughout the year.
- Kartarpur corridor project will be funded by the Central Government.

#### Government makes jute packaging mandatory

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval to expand the scope of mandatory packaging norms under the Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987.
- The CCEA approved that 100% food grains and 20% sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.
- The decision will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry.

#### Himachal govt approved Sashakt Mahila Yojna

- The Himachal Pradesh government has approved to implement 'Sashakt Mahila Yojna' in the state.
- The scheme will empower rural women by providing them with an interface for socio-economic development.
- The scheme will link rural women with sustainable livelihood opportunities and also improve their skill by imparting training.

#### Bhadohi got 'export excellence' tag

- Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh has got the 'export excellence' tag from the Government of India.
- It is known for its hand-woven carpets around the world.
- Under the tag, carpet makers will get financial assistance from the central government to procure modern machines and improve export infrastructure.
- The status was granted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, under the Commerce Ministry.

#### 'Bhudaar' portal launched in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh launched 'Bhudaar' portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers.
- The 'Bhudaar' is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state.
- Two types of Bhudaar cards are available including e-Bhudaar and M-Bhudaar.

#### IIC Program launched by HRD ministry

- The 'Institution's Innovation Council' (IIC) program under 'Innovation cell' of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) was launched in New Delhi on 21 November 2018.
- The purpose of formation of network of IICs is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas.
- MHRD has established the 'Innovation cell' at AICTE.

#### Himachal to set up 'Gau Sewa Aayog'

- The Himachal Pradesh government decided to set up a 'Gau Sewa Aayog' for preservation, protection and welfare of cows in the state.
- The Aayog will regulate institutions like cow sheds and shelters, besides the 'gau vigyan kendras' and the community animal-rearing centres.
- The Aayog would also cater to the problem of abandoned cows.

#### Report on IPRS released by Commerce Ministry

- The report on 'Industrial Park Rating System' (IPRS) was released on 19 November 2018.
- The report was prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The IPRS is being developed to assess industrial parks in the country.
- Development of IPRS would help increase the competitiveness of industries and promotion of the manufacturing sector.

#### AirSewa 2.0 portal and app unveiled

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app for air travellers.
- Major improvements include features such as secure sign-up and log-in with social media, chatbot for travellers support, and improved grievance management.
- The web portal and application will help to capture air travellers' feedback for policy interventions.

#### 'Ease of Doing Business Challenge' launched

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched the 'Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge' on 19 November 2018.
- The objective of this challenge is to invite innovative ideas based on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Blockchain and other cutting-edge technology to reform Government processes.

- The platform for the Grand Challenge is the Startup India Portal.

#### New open online learning programme launched

- The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has rolled out its Online Open Learning training platform named 'KOOL'.
- The platform can be used to train teachers, students and the general public.
- KOOL has been designed in a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) model.
- KOOL has an array of features for learners in the form of animated learning assistants and video tutorials.

#### Odisha govt announced new Biotechnology Policy

- Odisha government announced a new 'Biotechnology Policy 2018' to attract investments in the sector at the Make in Odisha Conclave on 15 November 2018.
- As per the policy, all biotechnology units shall be allotted land at a concessional rate as per the Industrial Policy Resolution of the state government.
- An additional subsidy of 25% shall be available to reputed anchor tenants.

#### 'Gau Samridhi scheme' launched in Kerala

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'Gau Samridhi Plus Scheme' on 16 November 2018.
- The government subsidised scheme will give insurance coverage to dairy farmers at low premium rates.
- The farmers belonging to the general category will be getting 50% subsidy on premiums while those belonging to scheduled caste & scheduled tribe category would get a 70% subsidy on the premium.

#### 1,023 fast track courts to be set up

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has decided to use 'Nirbhaya Fund' to set up 1,023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) to dispose of pending cases of rape of children and women.
- In the first phase, 777 FTSCs may be set up in nine states, and in the second phase, 246 FTSCs will be set up.
- The 'Nirbhaya Fund' was announced by the Government of India in 2013.

#### 2 North East Circuits inaugurated in Arunachal

- Two projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme were inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh on 15 November 2018.
- These projects are 'Bhalukpong- Bomdila - Tawang Project' & 'Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha Project'.
- Swadesh Darshan scheme is the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Tourism for the development of thematic circuits in the country

#### Delhi Police launched e-learning site 'NIPUN'

- Delhi Police commissioner Amulya Patnaik has launched the e-Learning portal of Delhi Police called 'NIPUN' on 14 November 2018.

- The e-learning portal aims to give online training and information through specialised courses designed by experts in the field.
- The website will also act as a tool for feedback mechanism and bridge communication gap.

#### Scheme for cooperative startups launched

- Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' on 14 November 2018.
- The aim is to provide cheaper loans to startups in the cooperative sector and those having innovative projects costing up to Rs 3 crore.
- The scheme will be implemented by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

#### LEAP & ARPIT initiative launched by MHRD

- On 13 November 2018, Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched two new initiatives: Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT).
- ARPIT is an initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty.
- LEAP is a 3 weeks flagship leadership development training programme for 2nd level academic functionaries.

#### Cabinet approves a Central Tribal University

- On 8 November 2018, the Union Cabinet approved setting up of a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.
- The 'Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh' will be set up in Vizianagaram District as provided under the Thirteenth Schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- It also approved the funds of Rs. 420 crore for the establishment of the Central Tribal University.

#### Mechanism for sale of enemy shares approved

- On 8 November 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the mechanism and procedure for sale of the enemy shares.
- The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management has been authorised to sell the shares.
- According to Enemy Property Act, 1968, 'Enemy property' refers to any property belonging to, held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy firm.

#### Filling of Padur strategic reserve approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved the filling of Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at Padur, Karnataka by overseas National Oil Companies (NOCs).
- The SPR facility at Padur is an underground rock cavern with a total capacity of 2.5 million metric tonnes.
- The filling of the SPR is being undertaken to reduce budgetary support of Government of India.

#### Six airports set to be privatised

- The Union Cabinet gave an 'in principle' approval for operating, managing and developing six non-metro airports under Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

- The airports which will be privatised are Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru.
- At present, airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin are managed under the PPP model.

#### Defence ministry enhanced financial power

- The Defence Ministry has enhanced financial powers to Vice Chiefs of the armed forces.
- The Vice Chiefs will be able to exercise financial powers up to five times more than the existing powers with an enhanced ceiling of 500 crore rupees.
- The move is aimed at expediting the decision-making process involved in the procurements for the Armed Forces.

#### Meghalaya announces Aqua Mission 2.0

- The Meghalaya Government announced `378 crore investment in the State's flagship aquaculture mission named 'Meghalaya State Aqua Mission 2.0'.
- The aim of the mission is to cut down fish imports into the State.
- Under the mission, willing partners will need to contribute only 15% while another 25% will be credit linkages and the rest 60% Government assistance.

#### Online portal to promote women farmer launched

- The Women and Child Development Ministry have set up an online marketing portal.
- Named 'Mahila-E-Haat', the portal was launched ahead of the 'Women of India National Organic Festival, 2018'.
- The portal is a unique online platform where the women organic farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country can display their products.

#### Government released funds to six border states

- The government of India has released over 113 crore rupees to six border states to meet special development needs of people living in isolated locations.
- The amount was released to Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).
- BADP schemes include construction of primary health centres, schools, community centres etc.

#### Guidelines for 'Operation Greens' issued

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has approved the operationalisation strategy for Operation Greens.
- Operation Greens was announced in the Budget speech of 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs 500 crores.
- It was launched to stabilise the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops and to ensure availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.

#### World Toilet Day Contest announced

- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has announced Swachh Bharat World Toilet Day Contest for districts and States.
- The purpose of the Contest is to encourage all districts in India to re-intensify the sanitation movement with a special focus on Open Defecation Free-ODF Sustainability.
- The Contest does not apply to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram.

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#### Cabinet approved to open ISA membership

- The Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for opening up the International Solar Alliance (ISA) membership to all countries that are members of the United Nations on 1 November 2018.
- It will move a resolution in the first assembly for amending the framework agreement of the ISA.
- The ISA is an alliance of more than 121 countries initiated by India.

#### Over 1.2 cr subscribers join APY

- More than one crore twenty lakh subscribers have joined Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- More than 27 lakh new subscribers have joined the scheme during the current financial year.
- States, such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka are the top contributors in the Atal Pension Yojana enrollment.

#### Ordinance to amend Companies Act approved

- The government of India has promulgated the Companies Amendment Ordinance, 2018 to promote Ease of Doing Business with better corporate compliance.
- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the promulgation of the Ordinance.
- The main amendments in the Act include shifting of the jurisdiction of 16 types of corporate offences from the Special Courts to in-house adjudication.

#### 'Soura Jalandhi' scheme launched in Odisha

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Soura Jalandhi' scheme on 30 October 2018.
- Its aims is to increase the use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.
- 'Soura Jalandhi', is a dug well based solar pump irrigation system in convergence mode.
- 5000 solar pumps will be given to Odisha farmers at a subsidy of 90% to irrigate 2,500 acres of land.



### PM launched 'Support and Outreach' initiative

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Central governments 'Support and Outreach' initiative for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on 2 November 2018.
- The 'Support and Outreach' programme will run for the next 100 days, covering the entire country.
- It is expected to provide greater synergy to the efforts being made for MSME sector.

### MHA approves 'Safe City Project' for Lucknow

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved a 'Safe City project' for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs.194.44 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.
- The Safe city proposal for Lucknow will be implemented by Uttar Pradesh Police, assisted by the Municipal bodies and city transport authorities.
- The Safe City project for Lucknow also envisages gender sensitization awareness campaigns.

### FP-LMIS inaugurated in Haryana

- The Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS) has been inaugurated in Haryana on 31 October 2018.
- It will ensure availability, supply and monitoring of family planning services from the state level to the Accredited Social Health Activists' (ASHA) level.
- It would provide online information about medicines and family planning commodities.

### 'Saubhagya Rath' inaugurated in J&K

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik flagged off 'Saubhagya Rath' for 20 districts to identify households without electricity on 31 October 2018.
- Officials onboard these 'Saubhagya Rath' will survey areas in their respective jurisdiction with an aim to achieve 100% electrification of households.
- 'Saubhagya Rath' will traverse each district for one month till November 30, 2018.

## Science & Technology

### 1st advanced personal robot for kids launched

- India's first advanced personal robot for children called 'Miko 2' was launched on 27 November 2018.
- It was developed by the Mumbai-based start-up named 'Emotix'.
- The robot will help parents in early education and development of children.
- The robot comes with preloaded games, riddles, fun facts, rhymes, music, dance etc and can be loaded with new content.

### CSIR to establish a Skill Development Centre

- CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) will establish a 'High End Skill Development Centre' in Chandigarh.

- It will establish the centre in partnership with Merck, a leading German Science and Technology company.
- The centre will help accelerate healthcare research and train Indian students and researchers in latest life science technologies and make them industry ready.

### ISRO to launch India's 'HysIS' satellite

- ISRO will launch 'PSLV-C43' mission on 29 November 2018.
- The 'PSLV-C43' rocket will carry India's 'HysIS' satellite and 30 other satellites.
- 'HysIS' is an earth observation satellite developed by ISRO.
- The primary goal of the satellite is to study the Earth's surface in visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

### Chatbot 'ANYA' launched by Lupin

- Lupin, India's third-largest drugmaker on 23 November 2018 has launched a chatbot named 'ANYA' for disease awareness.
- It is specially designed to provide medically verified information aimed at answering patient queries related to ailments.
- ANYA will initially address queries related to diabetes.

### First ever plane with no moving parts launched

- Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have built and flown the first-ever silent aeroplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines.
- The aeroplane is powered by an ionic wind technology.
- Ionic wind technology uses a powerful electric field to generate charged ions, which are then expelled from the back of the aircraft for generating thrust.



### New technology developed by IMD

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed a new technology called 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach'.
- It will be used to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain.
- It can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rain and take real-time decisions.

### Google launched 'Neighbourly' app

- Google has announced the national roll-out of a new app from its 'Next Billion Users' team called 'Neighbourly'.
- The app helps people source local information from their neighbours.
- Google is rolling out 'Neighbourly' starting with Bengaluru and Delhi, which topped the waitlist.
- More cities will be added every day, including Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune.

### New 'pinwheel' star system discovered

- Scientists have discovered a new, massive star system in the Milky Way galaxy.
- The scientists detected a gamma-ray burst progenitor system.
- It is a type of supernova that blasts out an extremely powerful and narrow jet of plasma.
- The system is estimated to be 8,000 light years away from Earth.

### GROWTH-India telescope's first observation

- The 'GROWTH-India telescope' at the Indian Astronomical Observatory located in Hanle, Ladakh has made its first science observation which is a follow-up study of a nova explosion.
- Novae are explosive events involving violent eruptions on the surface of white dwarf stars, leading to temporary increase in brightness of the star.
- This recurrent nova has been named 'M31N-2008'.

### Two new satellites to BeiDou Navigation System

- China has added two more satellites to its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).
- The satellites were launched into space on a 'Long March-3B' rocket carrier.
- With the successful launch, the basic BDS constellation deployment is complete.
- It will be the fourth global satellite navigation system after the US GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.

### Definition of kilogram changed

- The world's standard definition of the kilogram, the ampere, the kelvin and the mole has been changed.
- The definition of the kilogram is based on the International Prototype of the Kilogram (IPK), a cylinder of a platinum alloy stored at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in France.
- The new definition of Kilogram will be replaced by the Planck constant.

### Human ancestor fossil discovered in Kutch

- Scientists have discovered a fossilised upper jaw of an eleven million-year-old human ancestor in Kutch, Gujarat.
- The find significantly extends the southern range of ancient apes in the Indian Peninsula.
- Apes, or hominoids, are a group of primates from Africa and Southeast Asia that includes the gibbons and the great apes: chimps, orangutans, gorillas, and humans.

### China builds an 'artificial sun'

- China has built an 'artificial sun' that reaches temperature six times that of the core of the sun.
- The reactor named 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak' (EAST) is designed to replicate the processes of the sun as part of a project to turn hydrogen into cost-effective green energy.
- It involves fusion of hydrogen atoms together to form heavier elements, such as helium.

### Massive meteorite impact crater discovered

- Scientists have discovered a 31-kilometre wide meteorite impact crater buried beneath the ice-sheet in the northern Greenland.
- The crater was formed when a kilometre-wide iron meteorite smashed into northern Greenland.
- The crater was first discovered in July 2015.

### 'Super-Earth' discovered by scientists

- An international team of scientists has discovered a cold 'super-Earth' exoplanet orbiting around the red dwarf Barnard, the second closest star system to Earth.
- The new planet has been named 'Barnard's star b' (or GJ 699 b).
- It orbits its red star every 233 days near the snow-line, a distance where water freezes.
- Barnard's star is six light-years away from earth.

### Ghost galaxy spotted next to Milky Way

- Scientists of the European Space Agency (ESA) has discovered a massive and very faint galaxy near the Milky Way.
- The name of the galaxy is Antlia 2 or Ant 2 and is known as a dwarf galaxy.
- The Galaxy was discovered with the help of Gaia satellite.
- Despite its size, the galaxy has very few stars.
- Ant 2 is 10,000 times fainter, meaning that it has about one 10,000th the number of stars.

### Largest brain-like supercomputer switched on

- The world's largest supercomputer designed to work in the same way as the human brain has been switched on for the first time.
- The 'Spiking Neural Network Architecture' (SpiNNaker) machine is capable of completing more than 200 million actions per second.
- The SpiNNaker machine has been designed and built in the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.

### ISRO to launch communication satellite GSAT-29

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch 'GSLV MkIII-D2' mission on 14 November 2018.
- The mission will carry India's high throughput communication satellite 'GSAT-29'.
- 'GSAT-29' is a multibeam, multi-band communication satellite weighing 3,423 kgs.
- The satellite will be carried by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III.

#### Scientists discovered two planets

- Astronomers have discovered two new rogue planets that do not have stars to orbit.
- Researchers found the planets in the regions called the Galactic bulge and disk.
- As planets don't orbit stars and are 'free-floating,' it's difficult to determine the size.
- One planet could be similar in size to Earth, while another one may be similar to Jupiter.

#### ISRO invites foreign experiments

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has taken its first step towards its mid-2023-planned mission to Venus.
- It issued an announcement of opportunity (AO) to the international space community to propose their scientific payloads to be carried on the mission.
- This AO for space-based experiments to study Venus is open to international scientists from various space agencies.

#### ISRO looking at pool of 10 experiments

- After the announcement of Gaganyaan mission, ISRO has now drawn up a list of experiments to be conducted ahead of the mission.
- ISRO is looking at a pool of 10 experiments to be conducted in low earth orbit, where it plans to send astronauts.
- The experiments could include testing of medical equipment to micro-biological experiments such as biological air filters and biosensors.

#### NASA to send organs on chips to space

- NASA is planning to send small devices containing human cells in a 3D matrix — known as tissue chips or organs-on-chips — to the International Space Station (ISS).
- This will help in knowing how the cells respond to stress, drugs and genetic changes.
- Tissue chips are made of flexible plastic.
- They have ports and channels to provide nutrients and oxygen to the cells inside them.

#### NASA's Ralph to explore 'Trojan Asteroids'

- NASA's Ralph and Lucy are all set to explore Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.
- Ralph is a space instrument that has travelled as far as Pluto, while Lucy is a mission payload.
- The Lucy spacecraft will carry a near-twin of Ralph, called L'Ralph, which will investigate Jupiter's Trojan asteroids.

- The mission will be launched in 2021 and would be the very first space mission to study the Trojans.

#### Study finds that 3 moons orbit the Earth

- A team of astronomers and physicists has confirmed that the dust clouds orbit the Earth.
- These dust clouds move with the Earth and Moon at a stable 4,00,000 kilometres from the Earth.
- The dust clouds is also known as 'Kordylewski' clouds.
- The first glimpse of the clouds was seen only in 1961 by Polish astronomer Kazimierz Kordylewski.

#### Novel bionic mushrooms can produce electricity

- US researchers have successfully produced electricity from a mushroom covered in bacteria.
- The scientists used 3D printing to attach clusters of energy-producing bugs to the cap of a button mushroom.
- The fungus provided the ideal environment to allow the cyanobacteria to generate a small amount of power.

#### NASA grants \$7 Million For new life detection

- NASA has awarded nearly \$7 million for a fresh interdisciplinary project to detect new, non-Earth-like life on Mars, Jupiter and Saturn's icy moons.
- The Laboratory for Agnostic Biosignatures (LAB) will lay the groundwork for characterising potential biosignatures, or signs of life.
- The LAB is a consortium of 15 team members from universities and institutions around the world.

#### China launched new high-orbit satellite

- China successfully launched a high orbit satellite to boost its home-grown 'BeiDou' global satellite navigation system on 2 November 2018.
- It is the first BeiDou-3 satellite in high orbit, about 36,000 km above the Earth.
- The satellite is meant to serve countries in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

#### India's first microprocessor developed

- Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IITM) have designed and booted up India's first microprocessor, 'Shakti'.
- The Shakti microprocessor can be used in low-power wireless systems and networking systems.
- The Shakti family of processors was fabricated at Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Indian Space Research Organizations (ISRO) in Chandigarh.

#### New AI bot can recognise galaxies

- An Artificial Intelligence (AI) programme used to recognise faces on Facebook can also identify galaxies in deep space.
- The AI bot named 'ClARAN' scans images taken by radio telescopes.
- It can spot radio galaxies that emit powerful radio jets from supermassive black holes.
- ClARAN grew out of an open source version of Microsoft and Facebook's object detection software.

### Indian, US satellites found black hole

- A black hole in the binary star system '4U 1630-47' has been found that spins close to the maximum possible rate.
- Scientists used data from India's first dedicated astronomy satellite, AstroSat, and NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory for finding out the black hole.
- Astronomical black holes are characterised by only two properties, mass and spin rate.

### Books & Authors

#### President received the first copy of the book

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind received the first copy of the book 'Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government' from the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on 27 November 2018.
- The book has been edited by Dr Bibek Debroy, Dr Anirban Ganguly, and Kishore Desai.
- It contains 51 essays on themes ranging from economy to diplomacy, education to public health.

#### Book titled 'Radio Kashmir' released

- A book titled 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War' was released by the Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on 20 November 2018.
- The book has been written by Dr Rajesh Bhat.
- The book depicts unique distinction earned by 'Radio Kashmir' by serving people and the nation.
- The author Dr Rajesh Bhat is currently posted in the Policy Division of Directorate General, All India Radio, New Delhi.

#### Novel penned by former IB official launched

- Maharashtra Director General of Police Datta Padsalgikar launched the novel 'The Velvet Gloves' on 17 November 2018.
- The novel has been written by former Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Balakrishna Kamath.
- The plot of 'The Velvet Gloves' is about the tussle between Indian intelligence agencies and the US law enforcement agency FBI.

#### Book on history of women's cricket to be out

- A book on history of women's cricket in India will be released on 30 November 2018.
- The book, titled 'The Fire Burns Blue: A History of Women's Cricket in India', is co-authored by sports journalists Karunya Keshav and Sidhanta Pathak.
- The book explores the biggest moments for the game in the country.

#### AR Rahman launched his biography

- AR Rahman released his biography, 'Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman', in Mumbai on 3 November 2018.
- The book has been written by author Krishna Trilok.
- AR Rahman has won six National Film Awards, two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award, and fifteen Filmfare Awards.

### Environment

#### New deep sea shark species found

- New deep-sea shark species named 'Pygmy false catshark' has been found in the northern Indian Ocean.
- It was found off the southwestern coast of India and north of Sri Lanka.
- It is about 65cm long and dark brown in colour without any prominent pattern.
- Its scientific name is 'Planonassus indicus'.
- It is the first such discovery in India since the 'Mangalore houndshark' in 2011.

#### Four new horned frogs discovered

- Four new species of horned frogs have been discovered in Himalayan regions of Northeast India.
- They were discovered by a team of biologists from Delhi University, University College Dublin and the National Museum (UK).
- The four new Indian species are Himalayan horned frog; the Garo white-lipped horned frog; the Yellow spotted white-lipped horned frog; and the Giant Himalayan horned frog.

#### Delhi's air quality in severe category

- Delhi's air quality continues to be in a severe category.
- An Air Quality Index between 401 and 500 is considered as severe.
- There are 6 AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe.
- The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality.

- AQI focuses on particulate matter, ground-level ozone, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide.

#### Earth's ozone layer is finally healing

- According to a new United Nations report, earth's protective ozone layer is finally healing from the damage caused by aerosol sprays and coolants.
- The upper ozone layer above the northern hemisphere should be completely repaired in the 2030s and the gaping Antarctic ozone hole should disappear in the 2060s.
- The ozone layer had been thinning since the late 1970s.

### Committees & Recommendations

#### National Implementation Committee constituted

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted a 'National Implementation Committee' (NIC) to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak in India and abroad.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh is the Chairman of National Implementation Committee.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Minister of State for Culture are the Members of NIC.

### Business & Economy

#### LEI mandatory for market participants

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code mandatory for all participants undertaking transactions in the markets regulated by the RBI.
- The LEI is a 20-character unique identity code assigned to entities who are parties to a financial transaction.
- The LEI code is a measure to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems.

#### Interest subsidy for exporters increased to 5%

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the interest subsidy on the post and pre-shipment export credit from 3% to 5%.
- This move will boost the exports of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector manufacturers.
- The increased subsidy is applicable from 2 November 2018.
- Exporters get the subsidy under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre & Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit'.

#### Norms eased for NBFCs to securitise loan books

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed norms for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to securitise their loan books.
- They have been permitted to securitise loans of over five-year maturity after holding them for six months on their books.
- The RBI has also prescribed certain 'Minimum Retention Requirement' (MRR) for NBFCs for availing the relaxed norms.

#### 100% stake sale in AIATSL approved by Govt

- The government of India approved 100% stake sale in state-owned airline Air India's ground-handling company 'Air India Air Transport Services Limited' (AIATSL).
- Proceeds from the sale of AIATSL would be used to pay off Air India's debt.
- AIATSL is the largest ground handling company in India and is present in almost all airports across the country.

#### Non-food bank credit grows at fastest pace

- According to the RBI data, the total credit flow from banks to the commercial sector grew at 15.6% year-on-year to Rs. 97.32 lakh crore in the fortnight ended 9 November 2018.
- The non-food credit grew by 15.12% to Rs 90.51 lakh crores, while the total non-statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) investments rose 22.26%.
- Bank credit was lowest during the November 2016 to March 2017 period.

#### RBI launches survey on Indian startup sector

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a survey on India's startup sector (SISS).
- The survey will create a profile of the startups and provide dimensions pertaining to their profitability and workforce.
- The survey would also aim at talking about the problems being faced by the sector in the country.

#### RBI to inject Rs. 40,000 crore in Dec 2018

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will infuse Rs. 40,000 crores into the system through Open Market Operations (OMOs) in December 2018.
- The RBI had announced to inject Rs 40,000 crore into the system in November 2018.
- OMO refer to the buying and selling of government securities in the open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in the banking system.

#### Norms for interoperability of CCPs issued

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced the guidelines for interoperability of Clearing Corporations (CCPs).
- The interoperability would permit trading members to clear trades through a firm of their choice instead of going through the CCPs owned by the stock exchanges.
- The new norms will help in reducing the trading costs.
- It will be effective from 1 June 2019.

#### NPCC has got the status of 'Miniratna'

- National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) has been conferred with the status of 'Miniratna' by the Government of India.
- The empowerment of 'Miniratna' status to NPCC will help the company in taking speedy decisions by enhancing the delegation of powers to the Board.
- NPCC comes under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

#### Government to infuse ₹42,000 cr in PSBs



- To improve the financial condition of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the government of India will infuse ₹42,000 crore by March 2019.
- The government in early 2018 infused ₹11,336 crore in 5 PSBs: Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Andhra Bank, and Corporation Bank.
- The government had announced the Rs 2.11 lakh crore capital infusion programme in October 2017.

#### SEBI issues norms for raising debt finance

- On 26 November 2018, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came out with a framework to identify listed companies that need to meet 25% of their financing needs through debt securities.
- It would be applicable to all entities that have an outstanding long-term borrowing of Rs.100 crore or more and a credit rating of AA and above.
- The framework will come into effect from 1 April 2019.

#### Hedging provision for ECBs reduced by RBI

- On 26 November 2018, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed norms for External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).
- It reduced the mandatory hedge coverage from 100% to 70% under 'Track I' of the ECB framework.
- 'Track I' refers to medium-term foreign currency-denominated ECBs with a minimum average maturity of 3-5 years.
- This move will help reduce costs for companies that raise foreign funds.

#### 5% subsidy for non-basmati rice exports

- The government of India will give a subsidy of 5% for non-basmati rice exports from 26 November 2018 to 25 March 2019.
- The move is expected to boost the exports of non-basmati rice.
- The subsidy will be given under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS).
- The products include husked (brown) rice, parboiled and broken rice.

#### J&K Bank made a public sector unit

- The proposal for treating J&K Bank Limited as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) was approved by the State Administrative Council (SAC).
- The bank has been brought under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) act, the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) guidelines, and the State Legislature.
- The J&K Bank Ltd is the only state government-promoted bank in the country.

#### HDFC ERGO sets up remote sensing lab

- General insurance company 'HDFC ERGO General Insurance' has set up a remote sensing lab for crop insurance.
- The lab will work on accurately assessing the risks of the insurers and will also be able to give early warnings about the losses.

- Remote sensing involves setting up scanning an area through the use of satellite to get deeper information about that region.

#### SEBI new rules for reclassifying a promoter

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has come out with new rules for re-classification of a promoter as a public investor.
- An outgoing promoter will have to relinquish special rights as well as control over the affairs of the listed firm.
- The promoter will not be allowed to have any representation on the board of directors.
- They will not be allowed to hold over 10% stake.

#### Bank credit grew by 14.88% & deposits by 9.13%

- According to the RBI data, bank credit rose by 14.88% to Rs 91.11 lakh crore in the fortnight ended 9 November 2018.
- The deposits grew by 9.13% to Rs 118.25 lakh crore.
- In the previous fortnight ended October 26, 2018, credit had grown by 14.57% to Rs 90.37 lakh crore, while deposits rose by 9.01% to Rs 117.71 lakh crore.
- In September 2018, the non-food credit rose by 11.3%.

#### Credit guarantee process norms changed

- The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has changed norms to improve credit guarantee process for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE).
- It will now capture key information on the financial status of the borrowers.
- The modification will be applicable from 1 December 2018.
- CGTMSE has been jointly set up by the government of India and SIDBI.

#### HDFC disburses Rs 1,100 crore subsidy

- HDFC bank has disbursed over Rs 1,100 crore subsidy to over 51,000 customers under the government's flagship scheme PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana).
- It has provided loans of over Rs 9,800 crore under PMAY-Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).'
- The loans were provided to customers belonging to EWS (Economically Weaker Section), LIG (Low Income Group) and MIG (Middle Income Group) category.

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#### SBI CAP Ventures launches SME & Housing Fund

- SBI CAP Ventures Ltd. has launched Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Affordable Housing Funds.
- SBI CAP Ventures Ltd is an alternative asset manager and subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets.
- SBI CAP SME Fund aims to raise Rs 400 crore and the Affordable Housing Fund Rs 350 crore.

#### RBI's new body to look into PCA issues

- On 19 November 2018, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Board decided to constitute a 'Board for Financial Supervision' (BFS).
- BFS will examine the framework for banks under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA).
- The Central Board also decided to constitute an expert committee to examine the Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

#### New online platform launched by NSE

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched a mobile application and web-based platform named 'NSE goBID' on 19 November 2018.
- The platform will allow retail investors to invest in treasury bills (T-Bills) of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days and various government bonds from one year to almost 40 years.
- It will also allow investors to make payments directly from their bank accounts.

#### India's first interactive credit card launched

- IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of 'IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card'.
- The card empowers customers with a choice of payment options such as EMI, Reward Points or Credit at the push of a button, on the card, at the point of sale (POS).
- The bank claims it to be the nation's first interactive credit card with buttons.

#### Mobile banking transactions tripled in Sept

- According to the monthly data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of transactions on mobile banking apps grew almost 3.5 times at 447 million in September 2018.
- The value of such transactions also grew more than 2.4 times at ₹2.07 lakh crore.
- Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) also grew moderately in both volume and value terms at 357 million and ₹17,700 crore.

#### Exports grew by 17.86% in October 2018

- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's exports grew by 17.86% to 26.98 billion dollars in October 2018.
- India's exports stood at 22.89 billion dollars in October 2017.
- The sectors which recorded healthy growth includes petroleum, engineering, chemicals, pharma and gems and jewellery sector.

#### Fitch retains rating for India at 'BBB-minus'

- Fitch Ratings retained India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-minus'.
- 'BBB-minus' is the lowest investment grade rating.
- Fitch forecasts India's growth to rebound to 7.3% in FY19 and 7.5% in FY20.
- The Fitch Ratings added that a recent analysis conducted by it found that India had the highest medium-term growth potential among the largest emerging markets.

#### Sunil Mehta panel formed 'Sashakt India AMC'

- Sunil Mehta panel has formed an Asset Management Company (AMC) for resolving large bad loans.
- The AMC will be called as 'Sashakt India Asset Management'.
- The panel is now working towards identifying potential investors for an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) which will fund the AMC.
- Sunil Mehta panel is working for the faster resolution of stressed assets in public sector banks.

#### WPI inflation in October jumps to 5.28%

- Wholesale inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) stood at 5.28% in October 2018.
- Wholesale inflation in primary articles, which include food articles, cereals, paddy, onions, food, and milk, among others, rose by 1.79% in October 2018.
- WPI is computed by the Office of the Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, and Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

#### Retail inflation softens to 3.31% in October

- According to the Central Statistics Office data, India's retail inflation eased to 3.31% in October 2018 driven by cheaper food items.
- The retail inflation number is the lowest since September 2017
- Vegetable prices declined by 8.06% in October 2018.
- Retail inflation, measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood at 3.7% in September 2018 and 3.58% in October 2017.

#### NTPC, 3 other PSUs included in CPSE ETF

- The Finance Ministry has rearranged the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).
- It has included in the basket the scrips of four State-owned companies NTPC, SJVN, NLC and NBCC.
- The Ministry has removed GAIL, Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) and Container Corporation of India in the ETF basket.

#### Sale of government stake in DCIL approved

- On 8 November 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the strategic sale of government stake in Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCIL) to a consortium of four ports.
- The four ports are Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, Paradip Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust and Kandla Port Trust.
- The government of India currently holds 73.44% in DCIL.

#### RBI may set-up a digital payments ombudsman

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may set-up an ombudsman for digital payments by March 2019 to reduce the burden on banking ombudsman.
- The number of complaints related to digital transactions has increased.
- These complaints are being handled by banking ombudsman.
- At present, RBI is in the process of creating a scheme for establishing offices for the digital payments ombudsman.

#### China to import raw sugar from India

- India will export raw sugar to China from early 2019.
- Indian Sugar Mills Association and COFCO, a public sector company of China have entered into a contract for exporting 15000 tonnes of raw sugar.
- Raw sugar is the second product after non-basmati rice that China will import from India.
- India is the largest producer of sugar in the world with 32 million tonnes of production in 2018.

#### JNPT planning to host edible oil refinery

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) is planning to host an edible oil refinery to maximise revenue and ensure captive cargo.
- The raw material for the refinery will be imported from abroad and a considerable part of the finished products will be sent out through the sea.
- The port already has a liquid cargo terminal in addition to the 4 container terminals.
- The port is situated in Maharashtra

#### ECB norms for infra firms eased

- The Reserve Bank of India has liberalised the norms governing external commercial borrowings (ECBs) for infrastructure creation.
- The minimum average maturity requirement for ECB in the infrastructure sector has been reduced to three years from earlier five years.
- Additionally, the average maturity requirement for mandatory hedging has been reduced to five years from earlier ten years.

#### RBI imposed Rs 1 cr fine on Fino Payments Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on Fino Payments Bank for opening new accounts despite directions not to do so until further order on 5 November 2018.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Fino Payments Bank started its operations in June 2017.

#### No anti-dumping duty on PTFE resin

- The US International Trade Commission (USITC) has ruled against putting an anti-dumping duty on the imports of a synthetic fluoropolymer from India and China.
- The fluoropolymer is a key ingredient in the non-stick coating for pans and other cookware.

- A polymer of tetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) is used because of its chemical inertness, heat resistance and electrical insulation properties.

#### First overseas blockchain payment executed

- HSBC has executed India's first financial transaction using blockchain for a deal involving an export by Reliance Industries to Tricon Energy.
- The blockchain platform integrated with Bolero's electronic Bill of Lading (eBL) platform to issue and manage an eBL.
- This allowed a digital transfer of the title of goods from the seller to the buyer.

#### RBI starts process to set up PCR

- The Reserve Bank has initiated steps to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR).
- PCR will capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.
- PCR will also include data from entities like market regulator SEBI, the Corporate Affairs Ministry and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

#### Kirloskar group got RBI's nod for NBFC biz

- Kirloskar Capital has received a licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- Kirloskar Capital is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines (KOEL).
- It will be headed by Vimal Bhandari.
- Prior to joining Kirloskar Capital, Vimal Bhandari was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indostar Capital.

#### RBI allowed banks to provide PCE to NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to NBFCs and HFCs on 2 November 2018.
- PCE will be provided to bonds issued by systematically important Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).
- The proceeds from the bonds backed by PCE from banks will be utilised for refinancing the existing debt of the NBFC/HFCs.

#### IPO timeline to be cut to 3 days

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has initiated the process to reduce the timeline for public issues from the current 6 days to 3 days.
- It made mandatory for intermediaries to provide retail investors the option of bidding through the Unified Payments Interface.
- The new guidelines would be applicable for all companies that file their documents on or after 1 January 2019.

#### GST revenue crosses Rs. 1 lakh crore

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections crossed the barrier of Rs.1 lakh crore in October 2018, coming in at Rs. 1,00,710 crore.

- The collections in October 2018 were 20.8% higher than the Rs. 83,346 crore seen in October 2017.
- States which achieved strong growth in total taxes collected from State assesseees include Kerala (44%), Jharkhand (20%), Rajasthan (14%) and Uttarakhand (13%).

#### Axis Sec launched commodity derivatives

- Axis Securities has launched trading in commodity derivatives with the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) on 31 October 2018.
- In August 2018, it had launched trading in commodity derivatives with the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).
- Arun Thukral is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities.

#### Core sector growth slows down 4.3%

- Growth of eight core infrastructure sectors slowed down to 4.3% in September 2018 as production of crude oil and natural gas declined.
- Previously, the lowest growth rate was in May 2018, when the core sectors expanded at 4.1%.
- Infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity grew by 4.7% in September 2017.

## Sports

#### Manav Thakkar won Portugal Open TT

- Table tennis player Manav Thakkar won the singles and doubles titles at the Portugal Junior and Cadet Open on 29 November 2018.
- Manav defeated Jeet Chandra in the singles final match.
- Manav partnered with Manush Shah to win the doubles title.
- Previously, he won the bronze medal in the U-21 singles category in the ITTF Challenge Belarus Open on 16 November 2018.

#### Magnus won the 'World Chess Championship 2018'

- World number one Norwegian Magnus Carlsen has won the 'World Chess Championship' title on 28 November 2018.
- He defeated Fabiano Caruana from the United States in a tie-breaker event.
- He won the 'World Chess Championship' title for the fourth time.
- He won his first 'World Chess Championship' title in 2013 by beating Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand.

#### Varsha Varman won women's trap gold

- Varsha Varman won the women's trap gold medal at the '62nd National Championship for Shotgun' on 26 November 2018.
- She represented Madhya Pradesh at the event.
- She won the bronze medal at the 2014 Asian Games at Incheon in the women's double trap team event.

#### Manu won double gold in shooting

- Manu Bhaker of Haryana won a double gold in junior sports pistol at the National Shooting Championship on 25 November 2018.
- Ravi and Rahi Sarnobat were crowned national champions in the men's 10m air rifle and women's 25m pistol events respectively at National Shooting Championship on 25 November 2018.
- In the 25m junior girl's pistol event, Bhaker, Tanu Rawal and Tejaswani won a gold medal.

#### Harmanpreet is the captain of Twenty20 XI

- Indian cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur was named the captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty20 XI.
- A selection panel of International Cricket Council (ICC) picked up the team on the basis of the players' performances in the Women's World T20 tournament.
- 3 players from England, 2 from Australia and one each from Pakistan, New Zealand, and the West Indies are also part of the team.

#### Australia won 'Women's World Twenty-20' title

- Australia cricket team has won the 'Women's World Twenty-20' title.
- It was their fourth World Twenty-20 title.
- They defeated England in the final match.
- Australia's Ashleigh Gardner was named 'Player of the Match'.
- Australia's Alyssa Healy was named 'Player of the tournament'.

#### Sameer Verma won the Badminton Championship

- Badminton player Sameer Verma won the 'Syed Modi International Badminton Championship' on 25 November 2018.
- He defeated China's Guangzu Lu in the men's singles final.
- Men's doubles pair of Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty and women's doubles players Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy also won silver in their respective finals.

#### Bhavani Devi won gold in Fencing Championship

- India's Bhavani Devi won the gold medal in the Sabre event in the 'Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship' held in Australia on 25 November 2018.
- She defeated England's Emily Ruaux in the final.
- Bhavani Devi is the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Commonwealth Fencing Championship.
- Earlier, Bhavani Devi won a silver medal in the Tournai Satellite Fencing Championship in Iceland.

#### Mary Kom won gold in boxing championship

- MC Mary Kom won the gold medal in Women's World Boxing Championship in New Delhi on 24 November 2018.
- She defeated Ukraine's Hanna Okhota in the final match.
- She became the first female boxer to win six gold medals at World Boxing Championships.
- She previously won the gold medal in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 editions of the World Boxing Championships.

#### Monaco to host 2019 'Laureus Awards'



- The 19th edition of the prestigious 'Laureus World Sports Awards' will be held in Monaco on 18 February 2019.
- 'Laureus World Sports Awards' are considered as the 'Oscars of sports'.
- Tennis player Roger Federer won the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award for 2017.
- Former India cricket captains Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar are members of the Laureus Academy.

#### First batsman to score 11,000 runs in Ranji

- On 21 November 2018, Veteran cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first batsman to score 11,000 runs in Ranji Trophy.
- Jaffer, who plays for Vidarbha, achieved the feat on day two of the Ranji Trophy match against Baroda.
- He has played 31 Tests and two One-Day Internationals for India.
- He last played for India in April 2008.

#### Mary Kom made history at Boxing Championships

- On 20 November 2018, India's Mary Kom defeated China's Wu Yu 5-0 in the 48kg quarterfinals of the women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi.
- She is assured of a medal.
- Mary has become the most successful medal winner in the Championship's history with seven medals across different weight categories.

#### Indian gymnasts won two bronze medals

- Indian gymnasts won two bronze medals in the men's and women's group events of the FIG Acrobatic World Cup in Baku.
- Prins Aris and Rejilesh Suribabu won bronze medals in the men's and women's group events on 20 November 2018.
- Russian gymnasts won both the gold and silver.

#### Bangladesh team won Subroto Cup

- Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) won the 59th edition of the junior boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament on 20 November 2018.
- The team defeated Amini School, Afghanistan in the final match.
- The final match was held at New Delhi.
- A total of 95 teams and 1500 players participated in the tournament.

#### Alexander Zverev won ATP Finals in London

- Tennis player Alexander Zverev won the ATP Finals in London on 19 November 2018.
- He defeated Novak Djokovic in the finals
- Alexander Zverev became only the fourth player to beat Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic back-to-back in the semi-final and final of the same tournament.
- He also became the youngest winner of the ATP title.

#### Shubhankar won 'Rookie of the year' honours

- Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma became the first Indian to emerge as the 'Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year 2018' on the European Tour.

- He follows Jon Rahm (2017), Wang Jeunghun (2016), Byeong Hun An (2015) and Brooks Koepka (2014) who have been the four Rookies before him.
- He is the third Asian in last four years to get this honour, after Byeong Hun An (2015) and Wang Jeunghun (2016).

#### Lakshya won bronze medal in badminton

- India's Lakshya Sen settled for a bronze medal in the World Junior Badminton Championship on 17 November 2018.
- He was defeated by Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the men's singles semifinals.
- Saina Nehwal is the only Indian to have won a gold in the 'World Junior Badminton Championship' during the 2008 Pune edition.

#### Gukesh, Savitha won gold medals in Chess

- Gukesh D and Savitha Shri B won gold medals in U-12 Open and girls category respectively at the World Cadets Chess Championship in Spain on 16 November 2018.
- The Championship was held for the age groups U-8, U-10 and U-12, girls and Open.
- The 2nd and 3rd places were won by Murzin Volodor of Russia and Chasin Nico of the USA in the open category.

#### Lewis Hamilton won Brazil Grand Prix

- Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton won the Brazilian Grand Prix on 11 November 2018.
- The win was Hamilton's 10th of the season and 72nd of his career.
- Hamilton's win helped Mercedes secure the constructors' championship.

- Verstappen finished second while Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen took third.

#### 11th Asian Shooting Championship 2018 winners

- Divyansh Singh won the silver medal in 10m Air Rifle Junior Men's event.
- Elavenil Valarivan won the bronze medal in 10m Air Rifle Junior Women's event.
- Elavenil & Hriday won the gold medal in 10m Air Rifle Junior mixed event.
- Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in the 10m Air pistol junior men's event.
- Manu Bhaker & Saurabh won the gold medal in the 10m Air pistol mixed team event

#### ATP World Tour Awards 2018 announced

- The 2018 ATP World Tour Awards were announced on 9 November 2018.
- Novak Djokovic won the 'Comeback Player of the Year Award'.
- Djokovic's coach Marian Vajda was also named ATP Coach of the Year.
- Rafael Nadal won the 'Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award' for his fair play, professionalism and integrity on and off the tennis court.
- Roger Federer won the Fans' Favourite player Award.

#### Manu-Saurabh won gold in shooting

- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event at the 11th Asian Airgun Championships on 9 November 2018.
- This was also Saurabh's third gold medal in two days, having won the team and individual 10m Air Pistol events on 8 November 2018
- India's junior shooting squad thus ended the championship with a tally of 11 medals, including four gold.

#### Saurabh won gold at Asian Airgun Championships

- Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in the 10m air pistol junior men's event of the Asian Airgun Championship held in Kuwait city, Kuwait on 8 November 2018.
- He won the gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games in August 2018.
- He also won gold medal at the World Shooting Championships in September 2018 and the Youth Olympic Games in Argentina in October 2018.

#### Elavenil-Hriday won gold in shooting

- India's Air Rifle mixed team junior pairing of Elavenil Valarivan and Hriday Hazarika won the gold medal at the 11th Asian Championship in Kuwait City on 6 November 2018.
- A second Indian pair of Mehuli Ghosh and Arjun Babuta also won bronze in the same event.
- The silver medal was won Chinese pair of Shi Mengyao and Wang Yuefeng.

#### Angad Vir Singh won gold medal in shooting

- Angad Vir Singh Bajwa won the gold medal in the men's skeet final of the 8th Asian Shotgun Championship on 6 November 2018.
- He became the first Indian skeet shooter to win a gold medal at any continental or world level event.
- Di Jin of China won the silver medal while Saeed Al Maktoum of UAE won the bronze medal.

#### Rohit is India's highest run-scorer in T20Is

- Rohit Sharma has become India's highest run-scorer in T20 international cricket.
- He has scored 2203 runs in 86 T20 matches.
- Virat Kohli, who has scored 2102 runs in 62 T20 matches, held the record previously.
- Rohit Sharma has also scored 4 centuries in T20I format.
- He also scored three double hundreds in one-day internationals.

#### Elavenil Valarivan won bronze medal

- Elavenil Valarivan won the bronze medal at the 11th Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait on 6 November 2018.
- Elavenil shot 227.9 in the corresponding Women's event to claim the bronze medal.
- Shi Mengyao of China won the gold medal while Xu Hong won the silver medal at the event.

#### Divyansh won silver medal in men's shooting

- India's junior shooter Divyansh Singh Panwar won a silver medal in the 11th Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait city on 6 November 2018.
- Divyansh shot 251.4 in the final of 10m Air Rifle Junior Men's event.
- Wang Yuefeng from China won the gold medal, who shot a Junior World and Asian record score of 252.3.

#### Subhankar Dey won SaarLorLux Open

- In Badminton, Subhankar Dey has won the SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany on 5 November 2018.
- He defeated Rajiv Ouseph of Britain in finals.
- This is Subhankar's first title of 2018.
- In March 2018, he had finished runner-up in the Kabal International tournament at the Czech Republic.

#### Karen Khachanov won Paris Masters title

- Russia's tennis player Karen Khachanov won the Paris Masters title on 4 November 2018.
- He defeated Novak Djokovic in the finals.
- He also won the Kremlin Cup in Moscow in October 2018.
- He is currently ranked at 18.

#### Luksika Kumkhum won first WTA title

- Tennis player Luksika Kumkhum from Thailand won the L&T Mumbai Open on 4 November 2018.
- She defeated Irina Khromacheva from Russia in the finals.
- It was her maiden Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title.
- She received a cash prize of US\$ 20000.

#### Mary Kom is the brand ambassador

- Boxer Mary Kom was named as the brand ambassador of the 10th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship on 31 October 2018.
- India is hosting the 10th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship from 15 November 2018.
- Since the inception of the Women's World Championship in 2001, India had hosted the tournament once in 2006.

#### Vietnam will host the F1 race in 2020

- Vietnam will host a Formula One race in April 2020.
- The race will be hosted in the capital Hanoi.
- Vietnam will be the third Southeast Asian country to host a Formula One race in history after Malaysia and Singapore.
- Hanoi will be the second Southeast Asian city to host a race in 2020 along with Singapore.

#### 2019 World Corporate Games in Qatar

- Qatar will host the 23rd edition of the World Corporate Games in 2019.
- The games will provide an opportunity for corporations around the world to showcase their competitive prowess through sports.
- The World Corporate Games aims to bring together, the local, regional and international business sporting community.
- The last edition was held in Houston in the US in 2017.

#### TATA steel is the partner for hockey world cup

- Steel manufacturing giant Tata Steel was named as an official partner for the 2018 Men's hockey World Cup on 29 October 2018.
- The hockey world cup will be held here from 28 November 2018 to 16 December 2018 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Tata Steel is the 10th-largest steel producer in the world.

#### Arunachal to host 'Rally Championships'

- The third round of the Indian National Rally Championships, the country's premier motorsports event, will be held in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The event will be organised from 2 November 2018 to 4 November 2018.
- The rally that is being hosted by the Motorsports Club of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The rally teams from major automotive companies will be participating in the race.

#### Pankaj Advani won Asian Snooker Tour title

- Pankaj Advani won the Asian Snooker Tour on 31 October 2018 in Jinan, China.
- He defeated China's Ju Reti 6-1 in the final.
- He became the first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event.
- The Government of India has awarded him Padma Bhushan in 2018.

## Defence

#### India & China to hold joint military exercise

- China and India will hold a joint 14-day military exercise 'Hand in Hand' in China's Chengdu city from 10 December 2018.
- It will promote understanding between the two militaries and improve their capabilities in fighting terrorism.
- The exercise is being held after a gap of one year as both the sides were locked in a standoff in Doklam in the Sikkim sector of the border in 2017.

#### 'Cope India 2019' will be held in West Bengal

- Air forces of the United States and India are scheduled to participate in a 12-day joint exercise 'Cope India 2018' in West Bengal.
- The exercise will be held from 3-14 December 2018.
- The 'Cope India' exercise is being held after a gap of eight years, with the last one having taken place in 2010.
- 'Cope India' was first held in 2004 as a fighter training exercise at Air Station Gwalior.

#### India & UK began exercise 'Konkan'

- The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of United Kingdom began the exercise 'Konkan-2018' at Goa on 28 November 2018.
- The bilateral exercise provides a platform for the two Navies to periodically exercise at sea and in harbour, so as to build interoperability and share best practices.
- The Royal Navy was represented by HMS Dragon and the Indian Navy was represented by INS Kolkata.

#### 2 fast patrol vessels for CG launched

- Two fast patrol vessels manufactured by 'Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers' (GRSE) for Indian Coast Guard were launched on 22 November 2018.
- The vessels have been named ICGS Amrit Kaur and ICGS Kamla Devi.
- The vessels are fitted with state-of-the-art main engines with advanced control systems with modular accommodation for 35 personnel.

#### India and Russia signed \$500 million deal

- On 20 November 2018, India and Russia signed a USD 500 million deal for construction of two missile frigates in Goa for the Indian Navy.
- The agreement for manufacturing of the two Talvar-class warships was signed between Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Russia's state-run defence major Rosoboronexport.
- Russia will provide design, technology and key materials to GSL for construction of the ships.

#### Military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' commenced

- The joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' between India and the United States commenced in Jaipur on 19 November 2018.
- The aim is to enhance the interoperability of the two armed forces.
- The armies will train on different aspects including hostage rescue, building intervention, desert survival, medical aid and combat firing.

#### Indian Navy completes refit of Maldivian ship

- Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Huravee successfully completed refit at the naval dockyard Visakhapatnam.
- The MCGS Huravee was originally commissioned as INS Tillanchang, a Trinkat-class patrol vessel built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata in March 2001.
- It was gifted to the Maldives by the Government of India in April 2006.

#### 'Tall ships sail together' expedition began

- Chief of Indian Navy, Admiral Sunil Lanba flagged off a 'tall ships sail together' expedition on 14 November 2018.
- The expedition will cover a distance of 1,200 nautical miles from Kochi to Muscat to retrace the trade links that existed between the erstwhile Malabar coast and the Persian Gulf.
- The event is held as part of the 10th-anniversary celebrations of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.

#### 'EXERCISE INDRA' to be conducted from 18 Nov

- The joint military exercise between India and Russia named 'EXERCISE INDRA 2018' on combating insurgency will be conducted from 18 November 2018.
- The exercise is being held under the aegis of United Nations (UN) at Babina Field Firing Ranges in Madhya Pradesh.
- The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct to enhance the interoperability of the two Armies.

#### 'Samudra Shakti' exercise inaugurated

- Indian and Indonesian Navy's Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' is being held from 12 to 18 November 2018.
- The aim of the exercise is to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.
- INS Rana of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command is participating in the exercise.

#### HAL trainer 'HTT-40' clears spin test

- HTT-40, the indigenously-built basic trainer aircraft built by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), cleared its first spin test on 9 November 2018.
- A spin test is the most crucial phase in developing a safe and airworthy aircraft.
- The Defence Acquisition Council has approved buying of 70 HAL-built basic trainers for the Indian Air Force.
- R. Madhavan is the Chief Managing Director (CMD) of HAL.

#### SIMBEX will begin from 10 November

- The 'Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise' (SIMBEX) is scheduled from 10th to 21st November 2018.
- The 2018 edition marks the Silver Jubilee of SIMBEX.
- The exercise will have two phases: Sea phase and Harbour phase.
- The initial harbour phase will be held at Port Blair from 10 to 12 November 2018 and followed by Sea Phase from 12 to 16 November 2018 in the Andaman Sea.

#### New artillery guns inducted in Army

- The Indian Army inducted its first new pieces of artillery on 9 November 2018.
- The 'M777 howitzer' and 'K9 Vajra-T' were formally inducted into service at the Deolali field firing ranges in Maharashtra.
- M777 howitzers are US-made lightweight guns, the K9 Vajras are South Korea-made self-propelled artillery guns.
- This is the first major induction since the Bofors were inducted in the 1980s.

#### INS Arihant completes Nuclear Triad

- INS Arihant, India's first nuclear-powered submarine, successfully completed its first deterrence patrol.
- This means that INS Arihant is now prowling the deep seas carrying ballistic missiles.
- Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) submarine is part of Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command.
- The vessel has been designed by the Indian Navy's Submarine Design Bureau.

#### Patrol vessel 'ICGS Varaha' launched

- A new offshore patrol vessel called ICGS Varaha was launched by Indian Coast Guard in Chennai on 3 November 2018.
- The vessel has been designed and built indigenously.
- ICGS Varaha will soon be fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries.
- It also carries pollution response equipment to contain the oil spill at sea.

#### India-Japan military exercise begins



- Armies of India and Japan began their first-ever joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian-2018' at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram on 1 November 2018.
- The focus of the two-week-long exercise will be to enhance tactical skills against global terrorism and increase inter-operability between the two forces.
- The Indian contingent is represented by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles.

## Polity

### 16% reservation for Marathas approved

- On 29 November 2018, the Maharashtra assembly has passed the 'Maratha Reservation Bill' 2018.
- According to the bill, 16% reservation for Marathas will be given under the socially and educationally backward category.
- The Bill has now been sent to the state Legislative Council.
- However, there will be no reservation for Marathas in local body elections.

### To resign is a right of the employee: SC

- According to a Supreme Court order, an employee has the right to resign from a job.
- An employee cannot be compelled to serve in case he is not willing until and unless there is some stipulation in the rules.
- The Supreme Court made the observations while allowing the appeal of a former Air India engineer, who was refused his dues by the Central government carrier.

### Allied & healthcare professions Bill approved

- On 22 November 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill 2018.
- The aim of the bill is to regulate and standardise the education and services provided by allied and healthcare professionals.
- The Bill provides for setting up of an Allied and Healthcare Council of India.
- The allied and healthcare professionals include physiotherapists, nutritionists etc.

### J&K Assembly dissolved by Governor

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik dissolved the State Assembly on 21 November 2018.
- The Governor cited four main reasons for dissolving the Assembly with immediate effect.
- These include extensive horse-trading and possible exchange of money and the impossibility of forming a stable government by parties with opposing political ideologies.

### 'Land Reforms Bill' passed in West Bengal

- On 19 November 2018, the West Bengal Assembly passed the 'West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill', 2018 to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal.
- The Bill will help in the distribution of land-right documents to the people of the enclaves in the border district of Cooch Behar.

- Bangladesh and India had exchanged a total of 162 enclaves on Aug 1, 2015.

### Reservation for women in legislative assembly

- The Odisha Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution seeking 33% reservation for women in legislative assemblies and Parliament.
- The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, was passed by a voice vote.
- Currently, the 147-member state assembly has 12 women MLAs.
- The Women's Reservation Bill is pending in the parliament.

### Government delegated powers to local bodies

- The Government of India has delegated powers to local bodies to ensure compliance of environmental conditions for buildings, construction and area development projects
- Local bodies such as Municipalities, Development Authorities and District Panchayats shall stipulate environmental conditions.
- The conditions include natural drainage, water conservation and among others.

### No double jeopardy bar if there was no trial

- The Supreme Court has held that the bar of double jeopardy does not arise if an accused was discharged of a criminal offence on the basis of an invalid sanction for prosecution.
- Article 20 of the Constitution mandates that a person cannot be prosecuted or punished twice for the same offence.
- The judgment is based on an appeal filed by the State of Mizoram.

### Proposed Ganga bill bans ports, jetties

- According to a proposed 'Ganga Act', the government has banned the construction of jetties, ports or 'permanent hydraulic structures' in the Ganga river.
- The Bill lays down a host of restrictions to ensure the 'uninterrupted, ecological flow' of the river.
- The proposed act is formally called the National River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Conservation and Management) Bill, 2018.

### Section 7 of RBI Act: Explained

- Under Section 7 of the RBI Act of 1934, the government of India can give directions to the RBI to take certain actions 'in the public interest'.
- Till now, the government has never invoked section 7 of RBI Act.
- The issue of invoking Section 7 (1) of the RBI Act came up during the hearing of Allahabad high court in a case filed by the Independent Power Producers Association of India.