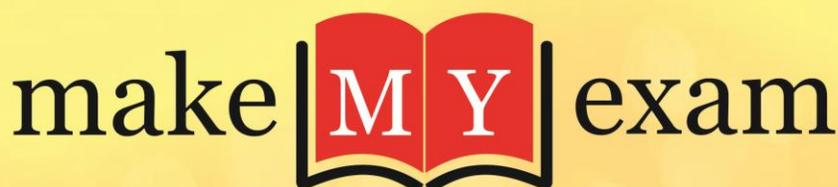


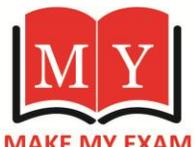
Monthly Current Affairs

01 January – 31 January, 2018



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National News

1. Uttarakhand madrasas to teach Sanskrit:

- ✦ With an aim to acquire skills related to Ayurveda and Yoga, the Madrasas in Uttarakhand are planning to teach Sanskrit to the students.
- ✦ Sanskrit is the second official language in Uttarakhand.

2. Government inaugurates online portal NARI:

- ✦ An online portal NARI has been inaugurated by the Women and Child Development Ministry to promote women empowerment.
- ✦ The portal, apart from providing easy access to online applications and grievance redressal will also emphasize upon nutritional tips, health check-up suggestions, tips for job search and information on crime against women.

3. India's second largest rooftop solar plant in UP:

- ✦ GAIL India Ltd has commissioned India's second largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ The 5.76 MW solar plant has been installed at GAIL's petrochemical complex at Pata in UP.
- ✦ India's largest rooftop solar plant was commissioned at Amritsar in 2015.

4. Arunachal Pradesh declared open defecation free state:

- ✦ Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, Arunachal Pradesh has been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) state.
- ✦ With this, it has become the second north-eastern after Sikkim and overall 5th state after Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Sikkim and Haryana to be declared an ODF state.

5. Government unveils Electoral Bonds Scheme:

- ✦ With an aim to bring transparency in the election funding, the Government has unveiled the new electoral bonds that the donors can buy from SBI and the concerned political party can receive money through a designated bank account.
- ✦ These bonds will be available at the specified branches of SBI for 10 days each in the months of January, April, July and October.
- ✦ It has made India the first country in the world to bring such unique bonds for the electoral funding.

6. CCEA approves JalMargVikas Project:

- ✦ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given approval to implement JalMargVikas Project which aims to enhance the navigational capacity on 1380 km Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 on Ganga River.

- ✦ The project, supported by the World Bank is expected to be completed by March, 2023.

7. New AIIMS in Himachal Pradesh:

- ✦ Under the PradhanMantriSwasthyaSurakshaYojna (PMSSY), The Union Cabinet has given approval to establish a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✦ PMSSY was launched in 2003 with an aim to correct regional imbalances in the availability of affordable and reliable tertiary healthcare services apart from providing quality medical education in the country.

8. Government approves the construction of bi-directional Zojila Tunnel in J&K:

- ✦ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given approval for the construction and maintenance of 2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel on Srinagar-Leh stretch.
- ✦ The strategically important tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity to important Leh region.
- ✦ On completion, it will be Asia's largest 2-lane bi-directional tunnel.

9. Government announces Hyderabad as open defecation free:

- ✦ The Union Government has granted the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status to Hyderabad under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ✦ Hyderabad has achieved this status after its Municipal Corporation has constructed 98 public toilets, including 24 toilets for women.

10. WHO approves Indian Typhoid vaccine for global use:

- ✦ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given its pre-qualification to Typhoid Vaccine developed by Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech for global use.
- ✦ Typbar Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TVC) is the world's first typhoid vaccine clinically proven to be administered to children belonging to the age group of 6 months.

11. Government launches SwachhSurvekshan 2018:

- ✦ As a part of Swachh Bharat Mission, the Government has launched the cleanliness survey 2018.
- ✦ The survey will rank 500 cities on national level having more than 1 lac population.

12. 18th All India Whips Conference:

- ✦ Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar will inaugurate the 18th edition of the All India Whips Conference in Udaipur on 8th January.
- ✦ The Conference will be attended by the whips of the various political parties.

13. Maharashtra to form its own International School Board:

- ✦ The Maharashtra Government is going to form its own international school board in the state.
- ✦ The Maharashtra International Education Board will be an autonomous body which will design curriculum for schools and conduct exams.

14. Official Emblem of West Bengal unveiled:

- ✦ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has unveiled the official emblem of the state government.
- ✦ The emblem, which was recently approved by the Centre highlights the Ashoka emblem at the top with the theme-“Biswa Bangla” at the centre.

15. India's 1st park for differentially abled inaugurated in Hyderabad:

- ✦ Telangana Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao has inaugurated India's first park for differently abled people in Hyderabad.
- ✦ The park will have a speech therapist, a physiotherapist and a vocational training instructor for differently abled children.

16. 'Gudiya' helpline in Himachal Pradesh:

- ✦ Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has announced to set up a 24*7 'Gudia' helpline for the safety of Women.
- ✦ The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) will directly supervise the helpline service and action will be taken mandatorily within 48 hours.

17. J&K to launch 'Muhafiz' scheme:

- ✦ With an aim to provide socio-economic security to the workers of unorganized sectors, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided to launch 'Muhafiz' (Guardian) scheme.
- ✦ Around 3 lakh workers will be provided accidental, life and disability insurance apart from educational scholarships to their children under the scheme.

18. Haryana to give power subsidy to micro and small industries:

- ✦ Haryana Government has announced to provide power subsidy at Rs 2 per unit to the micro and small industries.
- ✦ The facility will be given to the industries situated in C and D category blocks in terms of industrialization for 3 years from the date of release of power connection.

19. Delhi Common Mobility Card launched:

- ✦ Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has launched the Delhi Common Mobility Card to promote cash-less and convenient commuting for the daily commuters in Delhi.
- ✦ With this, Delhi has become the first metro city in the country to launch such facility which can be used by the commuters in Delhi Metro and DTC buses.

20. Flamingo festival in Andhra Pradesh:

- ✦ With an aim to promote tourism, Flamingo festival was recently organized at Pulicat lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ The 3 day annual festival attracts tourism as around 9,000 to 12,000 migratory birds from Siberia visit Pulicat and Nelapattu for breeding.

21. 1st PIO Parliamentary Conference held in New Delhi:

- ✦ The first ever Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference was recently held in the PravasiBhartiya Kendra in New Delhi on the occasion of PravasiBhartiya Divas.
- ✦ Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the conference aims to provide a platform to reach out to Indian community overseas by Central Government.

22. “Rajyapal- VikasKeRajdoot”:

- ✦ The Committee of Governors has recently submitted its report- ‘Rajyapal-VikasKeRajdoot: Catalytic Role of Governors as Agents for Change in Society’ to President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✦ The committee was constituted by the President during the 48th Conference of Governors in October 2017 to examine the role of Governors in taking forward the developmental process.

23. 3rd Meeting of Council of Trade Development and Promotion in New Delhi:

- ✦ The 3rd Meeting of Council of Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP) was recently held in New Delhi.
- ✦ It was chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu.
- ✦ The meeting aims to enhance the centre’s cooperation with the states and union territories for boosting India’s exports.

24. ICG commissions new patrol vessel Charlie-435:

- ✦ Indian Coast Guard has commissioned Charlie-435, a state-of-the-art patrol vessel at Karaikal in Puducherry.
- ✦ The patrol vessel is equipped with modern navigation and communication system and will enhance the coastal security between Chennai and Kanyakumari in the Eastern Coastal region.

25. Matunga Railway Station in Mumbai enters Limca Records for All Women Staff:

- ✦ Matunga Railway Station in Mumbai has entered the LimcaBook of World Records as first all women station in India.
- ✦ With a total staff of 41 women, the railway station aims to create an environment for women empowerment.

26. International Kite festival in Gujarat:

- ✦ A week long International Kite festival has been launched at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- ✦ 149 kite fliers from 44 countries will participate this year.
- ✦ More than 96 kite fliers from 18 states and 290 from Gujarat will also participate in the mega event.

27. President inaugurates Economic Democracy Conclave:

- ✦ President Ram NathKovind has inaugurated the Economic Democracy Conclave in Maharashtra.
- ✦ The conference was organized with an aim to create a platform for the young entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals.

28. National Youth Festival held in New Delhi:

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs with Uttar Pradesh Government has organized the 22nd edition of the National Youth Festival in Greater Noida on the occasion of birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ✦ The festival that aims to provide platform to the youth of the country to showcase their talents, is the biggest youth festival of its kind.

29. Railways launches SFOORTI application:

- ✦ With an aim to optimize freight operations and plan traffic flow, the Union Ministry of Railways has launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation&Real Time Information (SFOORTI) application.
- ✦ The app will help the freight managers to monitor and manage freight business using Geographical Information System (GIS) views and dashboard.

30. 4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference in Nalanda:

- ✦ President Ram NathKovind has inaugurated the 4thInternational Dharma-Dhamma Conference on 'State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Traditions' in Nalanda district, Bihar.
- ✦ The conference was organized as a part of commemorative events to celebrate the silver jubilee year of ASEAN-India Partnership Dialogue.

31. MoU on North Koel Reservoir Project:

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bihar

and Jharkhand for completing the balance works of North Koel Reservoir Project.

- ✦ The project that aims to irrigate 111,521 hectares of land annually in the most backward and drought prone areas in Bihar and Jharkhand is situated on North Koel river, a tributary of Son River.

32. Haryana to make all buses visually impaired-friendly:

- ✦ The Government of Haryana has announced that all the future private and public buses in the state will be prepared to make them easily accessible to the visually impaired people.
- ✦ These buses would be equipped with wheelchairs and ramps would also be mounted.

33. Nirbhik, Nirghat decommissioned:

- ✦ Warships INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat were decommissioned in Mumbai after a long and glorious service for Navy for 30 and 28 years respectively.
- ✦ The two warships participated in many operations including 'Parakram' and 'Vijay'.

34. BSE, NSE to launch new IRF contracts:

- ✦ BSE and NSE will launch new Interest Rate Futures (IRF) contracts offering 7.17% yield on the Government bonds.
- ✦ The 10 year benchmark bonds will be mature on 8th January 2028.

35. Petroleum Ministry launches Saksham Campaign:

- ✦ The Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched a campaign Saksham 2018 (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav).
- ✦ Saksham, that aims to sensitize masses about fuel conservation, is an annual flagship event of PCRA with active involvement of Oil and Gas PSUs along with the state governments.

36. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav held in Kerala:

- ✦ 7th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2018 under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program has begun in Bengaluru, Karnataka from 14th January.
- ✦ The event that aims to celebrate national integration and idea of unity in diversity of country, was organized by the Union Ministry of Culture.

37. Kerala Government launches Kerala Accelerator Program:

- ✦ Kerala Government has launched a virtual accelerator program known as 'Kerala Accelerator Program' to promote start-ups in early revenue stage.
- ✦ The 3 month long program has been launched by the Kerala Startup Mission in association with Zone Startups in India.

38. Government ends Haj subsidy:

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has decided to end Haj subsidy from this year on the recommendations of AfzalAmanullah Committee.
- ✦ The decision has been taken to empower minorities with dignity.
- ✦ The Supreme Court in May 2012 had stated that Haj subsidy should be removed by 2022.

39. 3rdRaisina Dialogue held in New Delhi:

- ✦ The 3rd edition of the Raisina Dialogue was recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu in New Delhi.
- ✦ The geo-political conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation.

40. Central Advisory Board of Education meeting held in New Delhi:

- ✦ The 65th edition of the Central advisory Board Education (CABE) meeting was recently held in New Delhi.
- ✦ The meeting which was attended by Education Ministers of 20 states, Vice-Chancellors of Universities and CAB members was chaired by HRD Minister PrakashJavadekar.
- ✦ It was decided to launch Operation Digital Board in all the schools in five years.

41. Rajasthan's first oil refinery at Barmer:

- ✦ Prime Minister NarendraModi has inaugurated the first ever oil refinery of Rajasthan in Barmer district.
- ✦ The project is a joint venture of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Rajasthan Government.

42. IIM launches centre for Teaching and Learning:

- ✦ The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore has established the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- ✦ The centre has been established to improve the learning abilities of students and teaching inputs of the faculty members.

43. PDS to be linked with Aadhaar in Maharashtra:

- ✦ Maharashtra government is going to link the Public Distribution System (PDS) with Aadhaar across all the 52,000 ration shops by the end of March 2018.
- ✦ This move has come after the pilot project in Nagpur helped the Government to save around Rs 14 crore.

44. Maharashtra becomes first state to unveil Public Cloud Policy:

- ✦ Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to unveil Public Cloud Policy that virtually mandates state government departments to shift their data storage on cloud.
- ✦ It aims to generate 5 lakh jobs in the next 5 years.

45. Country's first Automatic Early Warning Dissemination System to be established in Odisha:

- ✦ Government has decided to commission India's first Automatic Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) in Odisha by March 2018.
- ✦ EWDS will be implemented under National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project with the help of World Bank.
- ✦ It will be the first of its kind automatic public address system that aims to provide fool proof communication system to address the existing gaps in disseminating disaster warning upto the community level.

46. Maharashtra approves Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna:

- ✦ With an aim to promote climate-resilient agriculture, Maharashtra Government has approved NanajiDeshmukhKrishiSanjivaniYojna.
- ✦ The scheme has been named after social activist NanajiDeshmukh and will be implemented in 5,142 villages across 15 districts.
- ✦ The scheme aims to improve soil quality and develop foodgrain varieties which can sustain climate variations.
- ✦ The total cost of the project is Rs 4000 crore, 70% of which will be given by the World Bank.

47. Government launches Cyber SurakshitBharat initiative:

- ✦ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative to strengthen the cyber security ecosystem under the Digital India campaign.
- ✦ Cyber Surakshit Bharat will spread awareness about cyber-crime and building capacity for safety measures by leveraging the expertise of IT industry.

48. 2018 to be observed as National Year of Millets:

- ✦ Government has approved 2018 as the National Year of Millets to boost the production of millets and the sunrise agri-industry involved in it.
- ✦ The step has been taken to increase the production and consumption of millets that will substantially contribute in fight against targeted hunger.

49. Government launches Website Accessibility Project:

- ✦ With an aim to make 100 government websites accessible to persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched Website Accessibility Project.
- ✦ The project has been launched under the Accessible India Campaign on the occasion of National Conference on Improving Accessibility.

50. Maharashtra Government launches 'Balasaheb Thackeray ShaheedSanmaan' scheme:

- ✦ The Maharashtra Government has launched 'Balasaheb Thackeray ShaheedSanmaan' scheme under which the family members of martyrs would be provided jobs in the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation.
- ✦ The widows of martyrs would also be provided with lifetime free bus passes.

51. 'Bharat Ke Veer' anthem launched:

- ✦ The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched official anthem for 'Bharat Ke Veer'.
- ✦ The anthem has been composed and sung by singer KailashKher.
- ✦ Bharat ke Veer is an initiative to collect fund to help the families of paramilitary troopers killed in the line of duty.

52. 1st International Dam Safety Conference held in Kerala:

- ✦ The first edition of the International Dam Safety Conference was recently held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from 23rd-24th January.
- ✦ Inaugurated by the CM of Kerala PinarayiVijayan, the conference is the fourth in series organized under the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).

53. Manipur launches health assurance scheme for poor and disabled:

- ✦ The Government of Manipur has launched the Chief Minister-GiHakshelgiTembang (CMHT), a health assurance scheme for poor and disabled people.
- ✦ The scheme will provide cashless treatment to the poor at the Government hospitals, health centres and selected private hospitals.

54. Kolkata becomes first metro city to get floating market:

- ✦ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the floating market in Kolkata.
- ✦ With this, Kolkata has become the first metro city in India to get the floating market.
- ✦ The market is located on lake at Patuli and aims to rehabilitate over 200 shopkeepers from nearby market that was demolished for widening the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass (EMB).

55. Punjab launches Mahatma Gandhi SarbatVikasYojna:

- ✦ Punjab Government has launched Mahatma Gandhi SarbatVikasYojna (MGSVY) for the welfare of distressed sections of the state.
- ✦ The scheme will identify poor and distressed households which have been deprived of the benefits of various welfare schemes and provide them social and economic help.

56. Pulse Polio Programme 2018:

- ✦ Administering polio drops to children at the RashtrapatiBhavan, President Ram NathKovind has launched Pulse Polio ImmunisationProgramme 2018.
- ✦ The polio eradication programme was organized on the occasion of National Immunisation Day, observed on 28th January.
- ✦ Pulse Polio ImmunisationProgramme was launched by the Central Government in 1995 under the World Health Organisation's Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

International News & Foreign Affairs**1. India and Pakistan exchange list of nuclear installations:**

- ✦ Under the “Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations”, India and Pakistan have exchanged the list of their nuclear installations and facilities.
- ✦ This is the 27th consecutive exchange of the list between the two countries after the first list was exchanged in 1992.

2. UP Education Board to help Nepal to conduct school exams:

- ✦ UP Education Board will provide support and guidance to the newly established National Examination Board of Nepal in conducting high school and intermediate exams.

3. China develops underwater surveillance in Indian Ocean and South China Sea:

- ✦ China has successfully developed an underwater surveillance network to help its submarines get stronger and accurate hold on the targets.
- ✦ The project is a part of China's military expansion in the world's oceans apart from protecting its interests along the maritime silk-road which also includes Indian Ocean.

4. Cabinet approval for Indo-Myanmar agreement on land border crossing:

- ✦ The Union Cabinet has given approval to the agreement on Land Border Crossing between India and Myanmar.
- ✦ The agreement will allow the convenient movement of people across the border of both the countries.
- ✦ The agreement will give a boost to the economy of the north eastern states as it will facilitate connectivity and enhanced interaction of the people of North Eastern states with Myanmar.

5. VAT introduced in Saudi Arabia and UAE for the first time:

- ✦ With an aim to increase their revenues, Saudi Arabia and UAE have recently introduced Value Added Tax.
- ✦ With this, the two have become the only countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to introduce VAT.
- ✦ The other 4 members of GCC- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar have also committed to introduce VAT till 2019.

6. World Book Fair in New Delhi:

- ✦ The 26th edition of the World Book Fair was recently organized by the National Book Trust (NBT) in association of India Trade Promotion Organisation in New Delhi.
- ✦ This year's theme is "Environment and Climate Change".
- ✦ European Union was the Guest of Honour Country this year.

7. World's largest ice festival in China:

- ✦ The 34th edition of the Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival which is the world's largest ice festival has started in China.
- ✦ The festival has used nearly 2 lakh cubic metres of ice and 1.5 cubic metres of snow to feature various sculptures of the world including Moscow's Red Square and Bangkok's Buddha Temple.

8. 4th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry held in New Delhi:

- ✦ The 4th edition of ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry was held in New Delhi.
- ✦ The meeting which aims to promote joint research for increasing production and productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries was attended by the representatives of 10 ASEAN countries.

9. Sri Lanka lifts ban on women drinking liquor:

- ✦ The Sri Lankan Government has confirmed that women over the age of 18 can buy alcohol legally.
- ✦ The Government has amended a 1955 law ending more than 60 years of ban on women buying alcohol.

10. MoUs between India and UK on illegal Indian migrants:

- ✦ India and United Kingdom have signed 2 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) regarding the return of Indians residing in Britain as illegal migrants and sharing of criminal records.
- ✦ The MoUs were signed by India's Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju and UK's Minister of immigration Caroline Nokes in London.

11. Global Manufacturing Index: India ranks 30th:

- ✦ India has secured 30th rank among 100 countries in the Global Manufacturing Index (GMI), released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ✦ The index was released as a part of WEF's first 'Readiness for the future of production' report which analysed how countries are shaping their industrial strategies according to the emerging technology.

12. Ethiopia bans adoptions by foreigners over alleged abuse:

- ✦ Ethiopia has banned the adoption of children by foreigners due to rising cases of child abuse.
- ✦ The adoption made by foreigners makes children vulnerable to identity crisis, psychological problems and violation of rights.

13. Turkmenistan bans women from driving:

- ✦ Turkmenistan has banned women from driving as the President issued the order considering a request which claims that women drivers are responsible for the majority of car accidents in the country.

14. India first ever FDI in fertilizer sector:

- ✦ Yara International, a fertilizer company of Norway has acquired Tata Chemicals' 1.2 million tonnes per annum production capacity urea plant in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ This is the first ever Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India's highly regulated urea sector.

15. International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure held in New Delhi:

- ✦ Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDRI) in New Delhi.
- ✦ The workshop was organized by National Disaster management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).
- ✦ The workshop aims to improve the Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and enhance the global cooperation further.

16. India-Israel pact on co-production of films:

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu have signed an agreement for the co-production of films between the two countries.

17. Global Forum for Food and Agriculture held in Berlin:

- ✦ The 10th edition of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture which is the world's largest conference of agriculture ministers, was recently started in Berlin, Germany from 18th-20th January 2018.
- ✦ The conference focuses upon the development of the global agri-food industry.

- ✦ This year's theme was 'Shaping the future of livestock- sustainably, responsibly and efficiently.

18. PM Modi and Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurate iCREATE facility:

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated iCREATE facility in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ✦ iCREATE is an independent centre which will be used to facilitate entrepreneurship by using innovation and technology to deal with major issues such as food security, cyber-security, IT and electronics.

19. India becomes member of Australia Group:

- ✦ India has become the 43rd member of the Australia Group, a key export control regime that keeps a tight control over exports of substances used in making of chemical weapons.
- ✦ This inclusion is expected to strengthen India's bid to enter 48-member Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG).

20. India ranked 177 in Environmental Performance Index (EPI):

- ✦ India has achieved 177th rank among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI)- 2018.
- ✦ The index has been released by Yale University and Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.
- ✦ Switzerland has achieved top rank followed by France and Denmark.

21. India ranks 81st on Global Talent Competitiveness Index:

- ✦ India has secured 81st rank on the Global Talent Competitiveness Index.
- ✦ Switzerland is on the top of the list followed by Singapore and US.
- ✦ The Index is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

22. ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit:

- ✦ The ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit was held in New Delhi to celebrate 25 years of the establishment of sectoral dialogue.
- ✦ Delhi Declaration, a joint statement was issued focusing on counter-terrorism, military cooperation and bilateral financial support.
- ✦ The theme for the occasion was- "Shared Values, Common Destiny".

Banking & Finance

1. Bandhan Bank to raise over Rs. 2,500 crore via IPO:

- ✦ Kolkata based Bandhan Bank has approached the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its Initial Public Offer (IPO) to raise an estimated amount of over Rs.2,500crore.

2. Allahabad Bank ties up with NeSL:

- ✦ Allahabad Bank has signed an agreement with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL) for utilizing its Information Utility Services under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

3. KKR to start India's 1st Foreign-owned ARC:

- ✦ US based KKR & Company has received approval from RBI to become the first foreign investor to fully own an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) in India.

4. SBI cuts base rate by 30 basis points:

- ✦ India's largest public sector lender SBI has bring down its base rate by 30 basis points.
- ✦ With this, the base rate becomes 8.65% for existing customers from 8.95%.
- ✦ This will come into effect from 2nd January 2018.

5. RBI gives nod to TIHCL to operate as NBFC:

- ✦ Reserve Bank of India has given green signal to Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd. (TIHCL) to function as a non-banking finance company (NBFC).
- ✦ It will be the first state promoted and co-financing NBFC.

6. AIIB to issue first US Dollar bonds:

- ✦ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is going to issue its first US dollar denominated bond with minimum worth of \$1 billion by June 2018.
- ✦ The minimum size of the issuance will be one billion dollars but as the demand will increase, the bank may increase the size.
- ✦ The maturity period will be between 3 to 5 years.

7. World Bank projects India's growth rate as 7.3% in 2018:

- ✦ According to the World Bank's report, India's growth will be 7.3% for 2018 and 7.5% for the next two years.
- ✦ Jim Yong Kim is the President of World Bank.

8. Mauritius was the largest source of FDI in India in 2016-2017: RBI

- ✦ According to the Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies 2016-17 released by RBI, Mauritius was the largest source of foreign investment in India.
- ✦ Mauritius was followed by US, UK, Singapore and Japan.

9. Axis Bank launches 4th edition of “Evolve”

- ✦ Private sector Axis Bank has launched the 4th edition of “Evolve”, an annual multy city knowledge series for Bank’s SME customers.

New Appointments & Person in News**1. Pankaj Jain appointed as IIFCL Managing Director:**

- ✦ Pankaj Jain, a 1990 batch IAS officer has recently assumed the charge of Managing Director in the India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).
- ✦ IIFCL is a state owned company which focuses on infrastructure financing and development.

2. George Weah- New President of Liberia:

- ✦ Former Football player George Weah has taken charge as the new President of Liberia.

3. OP Singh: New DGP of UP:

- ✦ Senior IPS officer Om Prakash Singh has been appointed as the new Director General of Police in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ He will succeed the incumbent Sulkhana Singh.

4. Salil Parekh: New CEO of Infosys:

- ✦ Salil Parekh has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the leading IT firm Infosys.

5. RajinderKhanna appointed as Deputy National Security Advisor:

- ✦ Former RAW Chief RajinderKhanna has been appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- ✦ The 1978 batch Officer will assist the National Security Advisor AjitDoval.

6. TS Tirumurti appointed as economic relations secretary:

- ✦ TS Tirumurti has been appointed as the economic relations secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✦ He will succeed Vijay KeshavGokhale.

7. Ravi Menon: Central Bank Governor of the Asia Pacific Region:

- ✦ Ravi Menon, an Indian origin banker in Singapore has been named as the best central bank governor in Asia Pacific for 2018.

8. Woman performs non-stop yoga, creates world record:

- ✦ Kavitha Bharanidaran has created a new Guinness World Record by performing yoga continuously for over 105 years.
- ✦ He has broken the previous record of 103 hours.

9. K. Sivan appointed as the new chairman of ISRO:

- ✦ Rocket scientist K. Sivan has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- ✦ He will succeed A.S. Kiran Kumar and will have a tenure of 3 years.

10. Indu Malhotra becomes the first woman lawyer to be directly promoted as Supreme Court judge:

- ✦ The Supreme Court collegium has unanimously recommended the name of senior advocate Indu Malhotra to be appointed as a judge of Supreme Court.
- ✦ With this, she becomes the first woman lawyer from the country to be directly elected for the post of judge of the apex court.

11. IOA appoints Harjinder Singh as 'Chef de Mission':

- ✦ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed Harjinder Singh as the 'Chef de Mission' for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games scheduled to be held at Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.

12. Sudeep Lakhtakia: New DG of NSG:

- ✦ 1984 batch Senior IPS officer Sudeep Lakhtakia has been appointed as the new Director General of National Security Guard (NSG).
- ✦ He has succeeded SP Singh.

13. Anandiben Patel appointed as the Governor of MP:

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed former Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ She will replace Om Prakash Kohli.

14. Romania's PM Mihai Tudose resigns:

- ✦ Due to internal clashes and struggles within the party, the President of Romania, Mihai Tudose has resigned.

15. Om Prakash Rawat appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner:

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India.

- ✦ He will succeed Achal Kumar Jyoti.

16. S. Somanath- New Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre:

- ✦ Renowned scientist S. Somanath has become the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ✦ He has succeeded K Sivan, who was recently appointed as the Chairman of ISRO.

17. Indian origin scientist receives top British honour:

- ✦ PratibhaLaxmanGai, an acclaimed expert on electron microscopy has been selected for Damehood, leading a number of people of Indian-origin in the Queen's New Year's Honor List of 2018.
- ✦ She has been honored for services to chemical science and technology.
- ✦ Damehood is the female counterpart of Knighthood.

18. Dr Narayanan appointed as Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion System Centre:

- ✦ Senior scientist Dr V Narayanan has been appointed as the Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion System Centre (LPSC).
- ✦ He has succeeded S. Somnath, who has assumed the charge of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

19. UshaAnanthasubramanian- First woman IBA chief:

- ✦ UshaAnanthasubramanian has been selected as the first woman chairperson of the Indian Banks Association (IBA).

20. Vijay KeshavGokhale- New Foreign Secretary:

- ✦ Vijay KeshavGokhale has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary of India.
- ✦ He has succeeded S Jaishankar.

Science Tech & Defence**1. ISRO to launch 31 satellites in single mission in January 2018:**

- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced to launch 31 satellites in a single mission on 10th January 2018.
- ✦ These satellites, including Cartosat-2 series will be launched by PSLV-C40 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

2. S-400 Missile loan deal between Turkey and Russia:

- ✦ Turkey and Russia have signed a loan agreement worth \$2.5 billion in which Russia will provide four batteries of S-400 surface to air missile system and Turkey in turn will pay 45% of the cost up front with Moscow.

3. NASA to launch Parker Solar Probe to explore sun's outer atmosphere:

- ✦ With an aim to explore the sun's outer atmosphere, NASA is going to launch 'Parker Solar Probe' in the honor of renowned astrophysicist Eugene Parker.
- ✦ This is for the first time NASA has named a spacecraft after a living person.
- ✦ It will be NASA's first mission to the sun and its outermost atmosphere corona.

4. Pakistan successfully test fires Harba missile:

- ✦ Pakistan has successfully test fired its indigenously built cruise missile 'Harba'.
- ✦ The missile, which has been inducted in the Pakistan Navy, is capable of hitting its target from surface to surface.

5. Kolkata airport gets CAT III B technology:

- ✦ Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport at Kolkata has become the 5th airport in India to have CAT III landing system.
- ✦ Prior to this, the airports of Delhi, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Jaipur have achieved this status.

6. IT Department launches online chat service:

- ✦ With an aim to facilitate taxpayers to resolve their queries, the Income Tax Department has launched an online chat service on its national website.
- ✦ The module can also be accessed through a mobile app called 'AayakarSetu' on android phones.

7. India's first energy storage startup competition:

- ✦ The India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) is going to organize India's first start up competition with focus on energy storage, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

8. New Railway Technology Mission:

- ✦ Three central ministries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a technology mission for Indian Railways and academic and research institutions.
- ✦ Ministry of Railways, HRD and Science and Technology have come together to provide world class technologies to the national transporter.

9. GOLD and ICON missions of NASA:

- ✦ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is going to launch two missions- GOLD and ICON in 2018.

- ✦ The Global-scale Observation of the Limb and Disk (GOLD) mission and Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON) will explore the ionosphere located 90 km above the earth's surface.

10. Defence Innovation Centre to be established in Coimbatore:

- ✦ With an aim to assist small industries in the manufacturing components for the defence sector, the Government is going to set up a Defence Innovation Centre in Coimbatore.
- ✦ The Defence Ministry will provide an initial funding of Rs 20 crore to the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association to set up the innovation centre.

11. India's fastest supercomputer Pratyush unveiled:

- ✦ India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer named Pratyush (meaning Sun) has been recently unveiled at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune.
- ✦ Pratyush will help the country to better forecast in terms of monsoon, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes etc.

12. 25th Raising Day of Army Air Defence Corps:

- ✦ The Corps of Army Air Defence has celebrated its 25th raising day on 10th January 2018.
- ✦ The Corps of Army Air Defence which was established in 1939, is a part of Indian Army which is assigned with the task of protecting the Indian air spaces from enemy aircrafts and missiles, specially below 5000 feet.

13. ISRO launches its 100th satellite into space:

- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched weather observation satellite 'Cartosat' 2 into space.
- ✦ Apart from Cartosat 2, 29 other spacecraft were onboard.
- ✦ The successful orbiting of the satellites by PSLV C-40 comes four months after the ISRO's mission to launch back up navigation spacecraft IRNSS-1H onboard PSLV-39 ended in a failure.

14. Agni-5 missile successfully test-fired:

- ✦ The indigenously developed long-range, surface to surface Agni-5 ballistic missile was successfully test-fired from Abdul Kalam Wheeler Island, Odisha.
- ✦ The 3-stage, solid propellant, nuclear capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

15. WhatsApp Business app launched:

- ✦ Facebook owned instant messaging platform WhatsApp formally announced the launch of a new business application called 'WhatsApp Business' which is free to download android app for business users.
- ✦ The app will help the users with useful information such as business description, email or store addresses and website.

16. India to establish \$350 million Solar Development Fund for Solar Projects:

- ✦ The Central Government has announced to set up \$350 million Solar Development Fund for financing solar projects under the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ✦ This was announced during the first ever ISA outreach program 'International Solar Alliance Forum' held in Abu Dhabi's World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2018.

17. China commissions new missile 'Rizhao':

- ✦ Chinese Navy has commissioned a new missile frigate 'Rizhao' in the Dalian naval port.
- ✦ It is China's indigenous missile frigate named after Rizhao city in Shandong Province in China.
- ✦ Frigates are naval vessels intermediate between corvettes and destroyers.

18. Government to install digital boards in all schools:

- ✦ The Union Government has decided to launch Operation Digital Board to help students to view diagrams and presentations through digital tools.
- ✦ It will be implemented within next 5 years and make the learning process more interesting.

19. Indo-US joint military exercise 'VajraPrahar':

- ✦ With an aim to increase the military cooperation, a joint military exercise 'VajraPrahar' between India and USA will be held in Seattle in third week of January.
- ✦ The exercise will focus on special operations in urban areas.

20. ICG patrol vessel OPV Vijaya launched:

- ✦ Indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Vijaya' was recently launched at Kattupalli Shipyard, Tamil Nadu for Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- ✦ The vessel which has been built by Larsen and Toubro(L&T) Shipyard is expected to be inducted into the services by September 2018.

21. Google got patent for Tencent:

- ✦ Tech giant Google has signed a patent licensing agreement with Tencent which is the leading provider of internet value added services in China.

- ✦ According to Google, the agreement covers a broad range of products and technologies for long term.

22. Facebook launches Marketplace to buy and sell goods in India:

- ✦ Facebook has launched its Marketplace to buy and sell used goods and services in different categories such as electronics, entertainment and housing in India.

23. SARAS PT1N makes successful maiden flight:

- ✦ SARAS PT1N, the new upgraded version of indigenous transport aircraft SARAS developed by National Aeronautics Laboratory (NAL), successfully made its first flight in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

24. Ashok Chakra to IAF Corporal JyotiPrakashNirala:

- ✦ India highest peacetime military decoration Ashok Chakra has been awarded posthumously to IAF Garud Commando Corporal JyotiPrakashNirala.
- ✦ The award was given by President Ram NathKovind.

Important days

1. 1st January: Global Family Day:

- ✦ Global family Day is celebrated each year on 1st January.

2. 4th January: World Braille Day:

- ✦ World Braille Day is celebrated every year on 4th January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the person who invented Braille script for helping blind and visually impaired people to read and write.

3. 6th January: World Day of War Orphans:

- ✦ The World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on 6th January to enable the world to recognize the plight of war orphans.

4. 9th January- PravasiBhartiya Divas:

- ✦ The PravasiBhartiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year on 9th January to highlight the contribution and efforts of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- ✦ This year ASEAN- India partnership was celebrated during the event.
- ✦ The theme for this year is 'Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN-INDIA Partnership'.

5. 10th January: World Hindi Day

- ✦ World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10th January for commemorating the first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975.
- ✦ The first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

6. 12th January: National Youth Day:

- ✦ The National Youth Day is observed every year on 12th January to mark the birth anniversary of the social reformer, philosopher and youth icon Swami Vivekananda.
- ✦ This year, his 155th birth anniversary was celebrated.
- ✦ On this day, his philosophy and ideals are propagated that act as a great source of inspiration for the Indian Youth.

7. 19th January: National Disaster Response Force Raising Day:

- ✦ National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has celebrated its 13th Raising Day on 19th January.
- ✦ The force was raised on 19th January 2006 as a specialized agency capable of responding to any type of disaster in the country and abroad.

8. 15th January: Indian Army Day:

- ✦ The 70th Indian Army Day is celebrated on 15th January.
- ✦ On this day in 1949, Lieutenant General KM Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army replacing General Sir Francis Butcher, the last Commander-in-Chief.

9. 24th January: National Girl Child Day:

- ✦ National Girl Child Day is observed every year on 24th January.
- ✦ The day is celebrated every year to highlight the inequalities faced by a majority of girls in India.
- ✦ This year's theme is –“A girl is a flower, not a thorn”.

10. 25th January- National Voter's Day:

- ✦ The 8th National Voter's Day has been celebrated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on 25th January across the nation.
- ✦ The objective of this day is to increase enrollment of voters.
- ✦ The theme for this year is- “Accessible Elections”.

11. 26th January- International Customs Day:

- ✦ The International Customs Day is celebrated on 26th January every year to commemorate the very first official conference of the World Customs Organisation.

12. 27th January- International Holocaust Remembrance Day:

- ✦ International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed every year on 27th January to commemorate the tragedy of the holocaust that occurred during the World War II.

13. 28th January: World Leprosy Day:

- ✦ The World Leprosy Day is observed globally on 28th January to raise awareness about leprosy disease.
- ✦ The day targets zero cases of leprosy related disabilities in children.

14. 28th January- National Immunization Day:

- ✦ The National Immunization Day was observed on 28th January as a nationwide campaign to deliver supplement doses of oral polio virus vaccine.

15. 28th January- Data Privacy Day:

- ✦ Data Privacy Day is observed on 28th January to raise awareness and promote privacy by adopting best data protection practices.

Books & Author**1. Book on Odisha's former CM - The Tall Man BijuPatnaik:**

- ✦ Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik released a book on the birth centenary of former CM of Odisha and his father, BijuPatnaik.
- ✦ The book titled "The Tall Man BijuPatnaik" has been written by SundarGaneshan.

Awards**1. Lifetime Achievement award for S.P. Balasubrahmanyam:**

- ✦ Singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam was recently conferred with the Lifetime Achievement award at an event titled 'Violin maestro Kalaimamani L. Vaidyanath-75-a celebration of his life and music'.

2. Mangalajodi Ecotourism Trust wins UNWTO Award:

- ✦ Mangalajodi Ecotourism Trust in Odisha has won the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Award for innovation in Tourism Enterprise at the 14th UNWTO Awards ceremony held in Madrid, Spain.

- ✦ The award has been given acknowledging the Mangalajodi's business model which economically viable and environmentally sustainable based on principles of community ownership and Eco-Tourism.

3. ICC Awards 2017:

- ✦ Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year-ViratKohli (India)
- ✦ ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year- Steve Smith (Australia)
- ✦ ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year-ViratKohli (India)
- ✦ David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year- Marais Erasmus

4. Girish Karnad selected for Ammannur award:

- ✦ Film actor and director GirishKarnad has been selected for the Ammannur Madhava Chakyar award instituted by Kerala Sangeet Nataka Akademi.

5. President confers SangeetNatakAkademy Awards for 2016:

- ✦ President Ram NathKovind will confer the SangeetNatakAkademi Fellowships (AkademiRatnas) and SangeetNatakAkademi Awards (AkademiPuruskar) for 2016 to an eminent group of musicians, dancers and theatre artists.
- ✦ The four persons who will receive AkademiRatna are: Arvind Parikh, R Vedavalli, Ram Gopal Bajaj and Sunil Kothari.
- ✦ These two awards are the national honors given by the Government to performing artists, teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts.

6. Afghans award Medal of Bravery to Donald Trump:

- ✦ The residents of Afghanistan's Logar province has awarded the US President Donald Trump with a Medal of Bravery for his stance against Pakistan.

7. Filmfare Awards 2018: Hindi Medium named best film:

- ✦ Irrfan Khan starrer'Hindi Medium' was named the best film at the 63rd edition of Filmfare Awards.
- ✦ Irrfan Khan and VidyaBalan won the best actor and actress awards.
- ✦ 'Newton' won the best film (Critics) Filmfare award.

8. WEF's Crystal Award to Shah Rukh Khan:

- ✦ World Economic Forum's (WEF) Crystal Award has been given to Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan at the 48th Annual meeting for leadership in championing children and women rights in India.

9. Tamil Nadu CM receives UNESCO Award:

- ✦ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanichamy has received UNESCO Award of Merit for the iconic SrirangamRanganathaswamy temple in Tiruchirapalli.

10. N. Lokesh receives Innovation in Governance Award:

- ✦ N. Lokesh, the Panchayati Raj and IT Minister of Andhra Pradesh has received the “Kalam Innovation in Governance Award 2018.
- ✦ The award has been presented by the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Centre in New Delhi as a part of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Memorial Summit and Awards on Innovation in Governance.

11. AshaBhonsle selected for 5thYash Chopra Memorial Award:

- ✦ Veteran Playback Singer AshaBhonsle has been selected for the 5th edition of Yash Chopra Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to the Hindi Film industry.

Sports**1. Shiv Kapoor wins third Asian Tour Golf title 2017:**

- ✦ Indian golfer Shiv Kapoor has won the Royal Cup, claiming his third Asian Tour Title of 2017.
- ✦ He has won the European Challenge Tour twice and is the only Indian who has won three times on Asian Tour.

2. Vidarbha wins 2017 Ranji Trophy Tournament:

- ✦ Vidarbha Cricket Team has won its first Ranji Trophy Title.
- ✦ It has defeated Delhi in the final match of the 2017 Ranji Trophy Tournament.

3. 1st ever Baby Olympics in Bahrain:

- ✦ Bahrain has announced to host the first ever ‘Baby Olympics’ in which 2-4 years old kids will participate.
- ✦ There will be three events: medley relay for 4 years old, a hurdle toddle for 3 years old and a 15 meters freestyle race for 2 years old kids.
- ✦ Bhopal Railway station 1st to get sanitary napkin vending machine:
- ✦ Bhopal Railway station in Madhya Pradesh has become the 1st railway station in the country to have a sanitary napkin dispenser named ‘Happy Nari’.

4. Aanchal Thakur- 1st Indian to win an International medal in skiing:

- ✦ Aanchal Thakur has become the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing.
- ✦ He has won a bronze medal in the slalom race category at Alpine Ejder 3200 cup in Turkey.

5. Football Delhi signs MoU with ASSOCHAM:

- ✦ With an aim to increase the scope and development of football sport in the capital, Football Delhi has signed an MoU with ASSOCHAM.
- ✦ The MoU aims to focus on the grass-root level participation through jointly organized events and seminars.

6. Brazilian Footballer Ronaldinho retires:

- ✦ The Brazilian legend and the world cup winner Ronaldinho has retired from International football.

7. India wins Blind World Cup 2018:

- ✦ Indian Cricket team has won the Blind World Cup 2018 by defeating Pakistan by 2 wickets.
- ✦ The final was held at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in UAE.

8. West Indies to host 2018 Women's World T20:

- ✦ West Indies will host the 2018 Women's World T20.
- ✦ Windies will participate as the defending champions as they won the previous edition by defeating Australia in 2016.

9. Delhi clinches maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy:

- ✦ Delhi has defeated Rajasthan by 41 runs at Eden Gardens to win their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

10. Roger Federer wins Men's Singles title in Australian Open 2018:

- ✦ Roger Federer has won the Australian Open 2018, thus retaining his Men's Singles title
- ✦ In the final match, he defeated Croatia's Marin Cilic.

Obituaries

1. Renowned educationist M V Pylee passes away:

- ✦ Renowned educationist and Padma Bhushan M V Pylee passed away at the age of 98.

2. RadhaVishwanathan passed away:

- ✦ Renowned Carnatic singer RadhaVishwanathan has passed away at the age of 83.
- ✦ She was the daughter of the legendary musician M.S. Subbulakshmi.

3. Baldev Raj passes away:

- ✦ Baldev Raj, Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), has passed away in Pune.
- ✦ The Padme Shri awardee was 71 years of age.
- ✦ He was also the recipient of the Life Time Achievement Award of the Indian Nuclear Society.

4. Legendary moonwalker John Young passes away:

- ✦ John Young, the legendary astronaut of NASA who flew into space six times has passed away at the age of 87 in US.
- ✦ He was NASA's only astronaut to go into the space as a part of Gemini, Apollo and Space shuttle programme.
- ✦ He was the 9th man to walk on moon.

5. Former WTO DG Peter Sutherland dies:

- ✦ Peter Sutherland, former Director General of the World Trade Organisation passed away in Dublin, Ireland.
- ✦ He was 71 years old.

6. Renowned lawyer SatyendraVerma passes away:

- ✦ Eminent lawyer SatyendraVerma, also known as the "Master of land laws" in Pimpri-Chinchwad, passed away at the age of 62.

7. Veteran Actress Ava Mukherjee passes away:

- ✦ Beloved screen grandmother Ava Mukherjee has passed away at the age of 88.

8. Veteran Cinematographer W B Rao passes away:

- ✦ Renowned cinematographer W B Rao passed away due to prolonged illness.
- ✦ He is well known for his work in hit Bollywood movies like Rangeela and KhudaGawah

9. Cartoonist ChandiLahiri passes away:

- ✦ Renowned Cartoonist ChandiLahiri has passed away in Kolkata at the age of 86.
- ✦ He was also called the creator of Pocket Cartoons in Bengal.

10. Jimmy Armfield passes away:

- ✦ Former England Football Team Captain Jimmy Armfield passed away at the age of 82.

11. A.E. Manoharanpasses away:

- ✦ Pop Singer and actor A.E Manoharan, popularly known as 'Ceylon Manohar' passed away at the age of 73.
- ✦ He was best known for the song Surangini.

12. Pioneer of Indian Green Revolution passes away:

- ✦ DrGurcharan Singh Kalkat, the pioneer of Green Revolution in India has passes away in Chandigarh.
- ✦ He was 92 years of age.

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