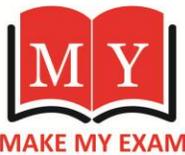


# Monthly GK Capsule

## 01 November – 30 November, 2018

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## National News

### **1. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 'Run for Unity' marathon from Major Dhyanchand Stadium in New Delhi**

- ✦ Thousands of people from all over the country are participating in this landmark event to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel
- ✦ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Statue of Unity, the tallest statue in the world, will be inaugurated today by PM Narendra Modi in Gujarat's Sadhu Bet on his 143rd birth anniversary.
- ✦ The birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is also celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' (National Unity Day) to commemorate the legacy of India's first Home Minister.

### **2. 2nd Guwahati International Film Festival begins**

- ✦ The 2nd Guwahati International Film Festival began with a collection of 108 acclaimed films from over 50 countries to be screened in the next one week.
- ✦ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the seven-day long film extravaganza saying that the festival is aimed to integrate the world as a family.
- ✦ The aim of cinema is to integrate the society, humanity and create brotherhood. It's like a global village and small family.

### **3. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi Inaugurates the 5th Edition of 'Women of India National Organic Festival' in New Delhi**

- ✦ The 5th edition of the 'Women of India National Organic Festival' was inaugurated by Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
- ✦ The Festival celebrates and promotes women entrepreneurs/producers and farmers in the organic field from across India.
- ✦ The Minister also encouraged festive gifting with organic products, and encouraged Delhiites too, to adopt this unique gifting idea.

### **4. UN to launch project on creating India's intangible heritage inventory**

- ✦ The UN will launch a project on creating an "inventory" of art forms, craftsmanship and other intangible cultural heritage of the country.
- ✦ India is endowed with not just with wealth of iconic monuments and landmarks and built heritage, but also home to countless intangible cultural heritage, like folk music, art forms, textile design, craftsmanship

- ✦ The United Nations had dedicated its iconic campus here to India's cultural heritage as its office in New Delhi marked the UN Day with a dazzling display of the country's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

### **5. India's First Engineless Train To Make Debut On Tracks**

- ✦ India's first engineless, self-propelled train, the Train-18 trainset, makes its debut on the tracks.
- ✦ Engineless trains till now ran in big cities as part of the Metro network, but Train-18 will be the first semi-high speed train to offer a comfortable inter-city ride.
- ✦ The swanky 16-coach prototype will travel at 160 kmph and is expected to cut travel time by 15 per cent compared to the Shatabdi Express trains, which it will eventually replace.
- ✦ The "Make in India" train has been manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai at the cost of Rs. 100 crore.

### **6. Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurates Gujarat's first Mega Food Park in Surat**

- ✦ Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat.
- ✦ The Gujarat Agro Mega Food Park will benefit the people of Surat District and the people of nearby Districts of Navsari, Tapi, Narmada & Bharuch.
- ✦ Under the Scheme, Government of India provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50.00 Crore per Mega Food Park project..

### **7. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh lays foundation stone of 'Technology Facility Center' at Jorhat**

- ✦ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region Dr Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone of new Science Centre, the "Technology Facility Centre" (TFC) in the premises of the CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology (NEIST) in Jorhat, Assam.
- ✦ For setting up the new Science Centre, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) had allocated Rs.40 crore for its construction.
- ✦ This will work as a Center of Excellence for all the eight States of Northeast for promoting research as well as job creation.

### **8. 5th National Summit on Public Health Care begins at Kaziranga in Assam**

- ✦ The 5th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India began at Kaziranga in Assam
- ✦ AIR correspondent reports that the objective of the summit is to share and learn the good practices being implemented by several states and organizations for the betterment of the health sector.
- ✦ Addressing the summit Union Health Minister J P Nadda stressed on perform, reform and transform as emphasised by Prime Minister.

### **9. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 'Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan' in Maharashtra**

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurate the three-day 'Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan' at Mangi Tungi in Satana taluka
- ✦ At the function, the president will present the first international 'Bhagwan Rishabhdev Award' to Teerthanker Mahaveer University, based in Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ The award consisted of a cash prize of Rs. 11 lakh, a memento and a citation. It was received by chancellor of Teerthanker Mahaveer University Suresh Jain.

### **10. PM Modi inaugurates 36th Indian Carpets Expo at Varanasi**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 36th Indian Carpets Expo at Varanasi.
- ✦ Addressing a gathering via a video conference, Prime Minister Modi said that Varanasi, Bhadohi and Mirzapur—cities in Uttar Pradesh— were important centres of the carpet industry while also underlining the efforts being made to encourage handicrafts and small and medium industries.
- ✦ This is also a part of the 'Made in India' initiative. India is today the biggest producer of carpets, and has about 35 per cent of the global market share.

### **11. PM to launch major Support and Outreach Initiative for MSME sector**

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will launch the Union Government's Support and Outreach Initiative for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ✦ This outreach and support programme, which will run for the next 100 days, covering the entire country, is expected to provide even greater synergy to the efforts being made for this sector.
- ✦ The progress of this programme, to be implemented in mission mode, will be monitored on a continuous basis by senior officials of Union and State Governments.

## 12. Cabinet clears renaming Jharsuguda aerodrome as Veer Surendra Sai airport

- ✦ The Cabinet approved renaming Jharsuguda aerodrome in Odisha as 'Veer Surendra Sai Airport'. Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.
- ✦ The renaming of the airport as 'Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda' was cleared by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✦ The airport has been developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in collaboration with Odisha government at an estimated cost of Rs 210 crore, with Rs 75 crore contribution from the state.

## 13. Cabinet nod for opening up of Solar Alliance to all UN countries

- ✦ The Union Cabinet gave its approval for moving a resolution in the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to amend the framework agreement of the alliance to open up its membership to all UN countries.
- ✦ The Cabinet also apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Russia.
- ✦ To strengthen cooperation in the field of tourism, the Cabinet approved signing of an MoU between India and Korea. The aim is to expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector and to encourage investment in the tourism and hospitality sectors.
- ✦ Approval was also given for renaming of Odisha's Jharsuguda Airport, as "Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda".

## 14. PM launches historic Support and Outreach Initiative for MSME sector, 12 Key Initiatives

- ✦ Prime Minister launched a historic support and outreach programme for the Micro, small and Medium Enterprises sector and unveiled 12 key initiative which will help the growth, expansion and facilitation of MSMEs across the country.
- ✦ The Prime Minister announced the launch of the 59 minute loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs.
- ✦ Mr. Modi mentioned the second announcement as a 2 percent interest subvention for all GST registered MSMEs, on fresh or incremental loans.

## 15. Odisha Government launches 'Saura Jalnidhi' scheme

- ✦ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Saura Jalnidhi' scheme. The objective of this scheme is to encourage the use of solar energy in irrigation by farmers.

- ✦ The state government has decided to increase the use of solar photovoltaic pump sets in those areas so that the irrigation facilities can be provided where the power system is bad.
- ✦ Under this scheme, farmers will be given 90 per cent subsidy and 5,000 solar pumps. This will provide irrigation benefits in 2,500 acres of the state.

### **16. Railways Ministry launches 'UTS on Mobile' facility to enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets**

- ✦ The Ministry of Railways on November 1, 2018 launched the 'Unreserved Mobile Ticketing' facility (UTS on Mobile) to enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets all over Indian Railways, wiping out the need for passengers to wait in queues for purchasing the tickets.
- ✦ With this, the booking of unreserved tickets on all non-suburban sections across all Zonal Railways will now be made available on mobile from November 1, 2018. This move aims to promote three (C) Cashless transactions (Digital payment), Contact less ticketing (no need to physically visit the point of sale), Customer convenience and experience.
- ✦ The process of ticket booking involves downloading the application and registration by furnishing the necessary details.

### **17. 'Delhi's Eiffel Tower': Signature Bridge inaugurated, opens to public**

- ✦ Delhi's iconic Signature Bridge was inaugurated by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.
- ✦ The 675-metre Signature Bridge, which will be opened to public tomorrow, is an eight-lane carriageway that will reduce the travel time between north and northeast Delhi and share the burden of the Wazirabad Bridge.
- ✦ The bridge, boasts of 127 strands of back-stay cables, spherical bearings of 17,300 tonne vertical capacity, pendulum bearing to resist uplift of 6,300 tonnes, and transportation and handling of 460 tonne pylon base segment and is being projected as India's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge.
- ✦ Four elevators will take a total of 50 people to the top of the bridge. It will have designated spots for selfie-lovers.

### **18. UP's Faizabad district to be known as Ayodhya, says Yogi Adityanath**

- ✦ Uttar Pradesh's Faizabad district will be known as Ayodhya after the temple town that is home to the Ram temple, said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- ✦ He also announced a medical college named after King Dashrath, Ram's father, and an airport to be called Raja Ram.

- ✦ The demand that the government rename Faizabad picked pace soon after the government decided to rename Allahabad as Prayag last month.

### **19. UN World Food Programme and Alibaba join hands to achieve zero hunger**

- ✦ The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Alibaba Group (Alibaba), the world's largest e-commerce company by transaction value, have entered into a strategic partnership to support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 a world with zero hunger.
- ✦ Under the framework, Alibaba will provide its leading technology and resources to support the digital transformation of WFP's operations.
- ✦ In particular, Alibaba Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Alibaba, will collaborate with WFP to develop a digital World Hunger Map to monitor the status of global hunger and help enhance the efficiency of operations to support efforts towards the goal of ending world hunger by 2030.

### **20. WCD launches online portal to promote women farmers and entrepreneurs "Mahila-E-Haat"**

- ✦ The Women and Child Development Ministry has set up an online marketing portal for unique organic products of the women farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country.
- ✦ Named "Mahila-E-Haat", the portal was launched ahead of the "Women of India National Organic Festival, 2018" which was organised by the ministry to promote women entrepreneurs.
- ✦ The 5th edition of the 10-day festival, which ended November 4, saw the participation of women farmers and entrepreneurs from across the country.

### **21. Cabinet approves setting up of Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh**

- ✦ The Union cabinet on Thursday approved setting up of 'Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh'. It will be established in Relli village of Vizianagaram District.
- ✦ The proposed university will come up after necessary amendment in the Central Universities Act.
- ✦ The 'Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh' will be set up in Relli village of Vizianagaram District as provided under the Thirteenth Schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

### **22. Lucknow's Ekana Cricket Stadium Renamed After Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

- ✦ The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government changed the name of the Ekana International Cricket Stadium to “Bharat Ratan Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium”
- ✦ UP Governor Ram Naik was the one who approved the government proposal to this effect. Orders for the same were issued by Principal Secretary (Housing) Nitin Ramesh Gokaran.
- ✦ The state government used the powers vested in it as per this clause, on the eve of the high-decibel match, and changed its name in the memory of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who passed away in August this year.

### **23. US exempts India from certain sanctions over Iran's Chabahar Port**

- ✦ The United States has exempted India from the imposition of certain sanctions for the development of the strategically-located Chabahar Port in Iran, along with the construction of the railway line connecting it with Afghanistan.
- ✦ The US imposed "the toughest ever" sanctions on a defiant Iran aimed at altering the Iranian regime's "behaviour".
- ✦ The exemptions to India are with respect to development of Chabahar port, construction of associated railway and for shipment of non-sanctionable good.

### **24. Kerala government scheme to provide free education to Ockhi-hit kids**

- ✦ The Kerala Government has initiated a scheme to provide free education and vocational training to the children of those fishermen who died or went missing in the 2017 Ockhi cyclonic storm.
- ✦ A total of 194 students, which includes children at all levels, from lower primary to professional colleges, have been identified as beneficiaries.
- ✦ The scheme envisages a package of Rs 10,000 per year for children in classes from LKG to Class V, Rs 25,000 for children in classes 6 to 10, Rs 30,000 for higher secondary students and up to Rs 1,00,000 for students doing graduation.

### **25. Manipur government signs MoU to implement Smart City project**

- ✦ The Manipur government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IL&FS Township and Urban Assets Limited and Pricewaterhouse Coopers Private Limited for implementing the smart city project.
- ✦ The covers key infrastructure development like upgrading the sewerage system, Nambul and Imphal river rejuvenation, development of kangla fort, better transport service, pollution control and beautification activities in the capital.
- ✦ The chief minister has asked the company to prepare a detail.

**26. Tamil Nadu gets SEBI approval to launch State Shelter Fund**

- ✦ Tamil Nadu has received the nod from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment.
- ✦ The fund is a social impact fund to provide investors with profit besides getting social and environmental benefits.
- ✦ This was announced at an event called 'Innovative and Alternative Finance for Business and Infrastructure Development in India.'

**27. 'Pune' Best City to live in , is also the 7th most congested city in India**

- ✦ Pune city which was recently named as the number one city to live in India has now got a thing which no Punekar will be proud.
- ✦ The city which is an educational hub, IT industry and cultural capital is also the 7th most congested city in India.
- ✦ Pune is the seventh most congested city in India, according to a recent research published under the US-based organisation.

**28. Goa Bans Import Of Fish For 6 Months**

- ✦ The Goa government announced a ban on import of fish into the state for six months.
- ✦ The move comes against the backdrop of a scare in the coastal state that formalin, a potential cancer-causing chemical, was being used to preserved fish.
- ✦ The state government is banning fish imports for the second time this year, the earlier one, for fifteen days, having been announced by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar in July.

**29. UP cabinet approves renaming of Faizabad as Ayodhya**

- ✦ The Uttar Pradesh government approved renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively.
- ✦ Prayagraj division will comprise Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Fatehpur and Pratapgarh districts, while Ayodhya , Ambedkarnagar, Sultanpur, Amethi and Barabaki districts, Khanna.
- ✦ The decision came a day after the Allahabad high court asked the Centre and the state government to file counter affidavits with a week on a petition challenging the decision to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.

**30. PM Modi inaugurates projects worth over Rs 2,400 crore in Varanasi**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation several projects including two National Highways and an Inland Waterways Terminal on

River Ganga at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The total cost of these projects is 2413 crore rupees.

- ✦ Our correspondent reports that these projects will also provide increased employment opportunities, development of small and medium industries and give a boost to economic development in the area.
- ✦ The Prime Minister also received the country's first container cargo transported on inland waterways from Kolkata.

### **31. Union Agriculture Minister launches NCDC's new scheme to promote young entrepreneurs in cooperatives**

- ✦ To cater to the needs and aspirations of the youth, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has come up with a youth-friendly scheme 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' for attracting them to cooperative business ventures.
- ✦ NCDC has created a dedicated fund with liberal features enabling youth to avail the scheme.
- ✦ The Central Government has been encouraging 'Start-Ups' for ease of doing business, non-conventional opportunities are emerging and are being encouraged.

### **32. Govt to issue Rs 75 coin to mark 75th anniversary of Tricolour hoisting by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**

- ✦ The government will release a Rs 75 coin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisting the Tricolour for the first time at Port Blair.
- ✦ The Ministry of Finance has issued a notification regarding the release of the Rs 75 coin along with its specifications.
- ✦ A numeral 75th along with inscription "anniversary" will be depicted below the portrait. The coin will carry an inscription saying 'First Flag Hoisting Day' in both Devnagari script and English.

### **33. Union Minister Mahesh Sharma Inaugurates 38th India International Trade Fair**

- ✦ The 38th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) kickstarted at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan.
- ✦ In a special video message, Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu said, due to fast decision-making process and trade policy, business is growing in the country.
- ✦ This year the theme of the fair is Rural Enterprises in India. In this year's fair Afghanistan is the Partner Country, while Nepal is the Focus Country.

**34. HRD Ministry launches LEAP and ARPIT programmes for higher education faculty**

- ✦ Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, launched two new initiatives, namely, the Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and the Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT) 2018 for higher education faculty.
- ✦ Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) is a three weeks (2 weeks domestic and one week foreign training) flagship leadership development training programme for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions.
- ✦ LEAP will make Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) perform their roles of developing better students who will be future torch bearers.

**35. India Post launches e-commerce portal**

- ✦ India Post on announced the soft launch of its e-commerce portal.
- ✦ While details of the e-commerce service that will be provided through India Post could not be ascertained.
- ✦ The Department of Posts has been focusing on the e-commerce sector to increase its revenue receipts.
- ✦ The ongoing e-commerce business segment resulted in increase of 13 per cent revenue of India Post in 2017-18 and total revenue the department earned under Speed post till January 2008.

**36. Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Central tourism Ministry inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh**

- ✦ Two important projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India were inaugurated at PTSO Lake in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✦ These projects are “Development of North East Circuits: Bhalukpong-Bomdila - Tawang Project & Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys-Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha Project”.
- ✦ The Ministry of Tourism has also set up Hotel Managements and Food Craft Institutes for creating skilled manpower in tourism and hospitality sector in the North Eastern Region.

**37. Kerala Govt launches Gau Samridhi scheme for dairy farmers**

- ✦ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'cow samridhi Plus Scheme to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state
- ✦ The government subsidized scheme, as Proposed will give insurance coverage to dairy farmers at low premium rates.
- ✦ "Gau Samridhi plus scheme, which gives insurance coverage to dairy farmers.

**38. India International Cherry Blossom Festival begins**

- ✦ The third edition of the India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 got underway at Polo 5th Ground.
- ✦ The four-day long festival is being organised by the Forest and Environment Department, Govt of Meghalaya
- ✦ It celebrates the unique autumn flowering of the Himalayan Cherry Blossoms with several cultural events.

**39. Andhra govt reveals Amaravati art-inspired state emblem**

- ✦ The Andhra Pradesh government has finalised its new emblem for official use, five years after the state's bifurcation in 2014.
- ✦ The state emblem, inspired by the Amaravati School of Art, consists of "Dhamma Chakka" - "the Wheel of Law" embellished with a ring of Triratnas alternating with pinnate leaves and precious stones.
- ✦ The National Emblem is placed at the bottom of the emblem, which should never be reduced to a size of less than 24 mm in height, according to an official release.

**40. NITI Aayog constitutes Himalayan State Regional Council**

- ✦ NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region. NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region
- ✦ The Council has been constituted to review and implement the identified action points based on the Reports of five Working Groups.
- ✦ The Himalayan State Regional Council will be chaired by the Dr VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and will consist of the Chief Secretaries of the Himalayan States.

**41. India's first elephant hospital opens in Mathura**

- ✦ India's first specialized hospital for elephants was opened by Agra Divisional Commissioner Anil Kumar at Farah block's Churmura village, Mathura.
- ✦ The facility, armed with facilities such as wireless digital X-Ray, thermal imaging, ultrasonography, tranquilization devices and quarantine facilities, has not only come as a respite to the elephants but is also attracting local and foreign tourists.
- ✦ India's elephant population fell to 27,312 in 2017 from 29,391-30,711 in 2012, government data shows.

**42. Odisha govt announces new Biotechnology Policy**

- ✦ Odisha government announced a new Biotechnology Policy 2018 to attract investments in the sector at the concluding day of the Make in Odisha Conclave.
- ✦ The development of the biotech sector in Odisha will be based on three key pillars - innovation, entrepreneurship and investment.
- ✦ 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.

#### **43. Kerala Introduces New 'KOOL' Open Online Learning Programme**

- ✦ The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has rolled out-- KOOL, its Online Open Learning training platform.
- ✦ 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, which is becoming popular worldwide.
- ✦ KOOL is a major step by the State of Kerala to become India's first complete digital state in Education", said Prof C Raveendranath, state Education minister.

#### **44. Government approves 3 proposals under Nirbhaya Fund; 1023 Fast Track Courts to be set up**

- ✦ The Empowered Committee of Officers under Nirbhaya Fund, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Women and Child Development Ministry on November 16, 2018 three proposals under the Nirbhaya Fund including setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts.
- ✦ The Committee approved the proposal of the Department of Justice under Ministry of Law and Justice to set up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) to dispose off pending cases of rape and POCSO Act across the country.
- ✦ The project was approved with a total financial outlay of Rs 767.25 crores.

#### **45. NSE launches app, web platform for retail investors to buy G-secs**

- ✦ The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) announced the launch of its new mobile app and web-based platform 'NSE goBID' for retail investors to buy government securities.
- ✦ Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi launched the new app which would be available to all the registered investors with NSE's trading members and will also facilitate trading members in acquiring new retail investors.
- ✦ NSE goBID will allow retail investors to make payment directly from their bank accounts using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and internet banking.

#### **46. BSE to end partnership with S&P Dow Jones**

- ✦ The Bombay Stock Exchange has decided to end its partnership with S&P Dow Jones (SPDJI) to manage the benchmark Sensex from December 31. The two had formed a joint venture in 2013, but BSE reckons that the partnership could not do much in terms of expanding the index to global markets.

- ✦ Prior to joining hands with the BSE in 2013, SPDJI was a partner of National Stock Exchange (NSE) in India for nearly a decade. While the partnership gave S&P a foothold in India, NSE got global reach for its benchmark index, Nifty.
- ✦ Experts in exchange and regulatory matters told BusinessLine that any tie-up of India's bourses will have to be viewed in terms of their competition and global alliances.

#### **47. Hookah bars permanently banned in Punjab as President Ram Nath Kovind okays Bill**

- ✦ Hookah bars have been permanently banned in Punjab as President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to a Bill from the state to check use of tobacco.
- ✦ The Punjab assembly had passed the Bill in March. The objective of bringing the law is to check the use of tobacco in various forms and prevent diseases caused by the use of the tobacco products.
- ✦ Punjab is the third state in the country after Gujarat and Maharashtra where hookah bars or lounges were banned through law.

#### **48. PM Modi opens Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the much-delayed Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway in Haryana's Gurgaon district – a project that will divert heavy polluting vehicles from Delhi.
- ✦ The project was divided into Eastern Peripheral Expressway, inaugurated earlier this year and Western Peripheral Expressway.
- ✦ The Western Peripheral Expressway project has been developed at a cost of Rs 6,400 crore out of which Rs 2,788 crore was spent to acquire 3,846 acres of land.

#### **49. Commerce Minister Releases Report on Industrial Park Rating System**

- ✦ The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, released the report prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, on Industrial Park Rating System.
- ✦ To optimise resource utilisation and enhance the efficiency of the manufacturing sector, DIPP launched the Industrial Information System (IIS), a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas and clusters across the country in May 2017.
- ✦ The portal serves as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information including availability of raw material – agriculture, horticulture, minerals, natural resources, distance from key logistic nodes, layers of terrain and urban infrastructure.
- ✦ Over the last one year, State Governments and Industrial Development Corporations have actively used the portal and nominated over 200 parks for their assessment along the above parameters.

#### **50. PM to lay foundation stone of City Gas Distribution projects in 129 districts**

- ✦ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi would lay the Foundation Stones of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Projects in 65 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 129 Districts under the 9th CGD Bidding Round recently awarded by PNGRB.
- ✦ Government of India has put thrust to promote the usage of environment friendly clean fuel i.e. natural gas as a fuel/feedstock across the country to move towards a gas based economy.
- ✦ Natural gas is a superior fuel as compared with coal and other liquid fuels being an environment friendly, safer and cheaper fuel.

### **51. West Bengal Assembly passes Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers**

- ✦ The West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed a Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal, ending an era of uncertain future for the people residing in those enclaves.
- ✦ Bangladesh and India had exchanged a total of 162 enclaves on August 1, 2015, ending one of the world's most-complex border disputes that had lingered for seven decades since Independence.
- ✦ The Bill will help in the distribution of land-right documents to the people of the enclaves in the border district of Cooch Behar, adding that the state government was working hard to give beneficiaries their due.

### **52. AirSewa 2.0 Launched; Chennai Airport Awarded for 100% Grievance Redressal**

- ✦ The Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha launched the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
- ✦ Speaking on this occasion the Civil Aviation Minister said that a need was felt for development of an upgraded version of AirSewa to provide a superior user experience with enhanced functionalities.
- ✦ The upgraded, improved version of AirSewa operates through an interactive web portal as well as through a mobile app for both Android and iOS platforms and will offer passengers a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience.
- ✦ Air passengers face issues like flight delays, problem in refunds, long queues, inadequate facilities at airports and complaints of lost baggage.

### **53. Andhra Pradesh launches 'Bhudaar' portal to make land records accessible to people**

- ✦ Andhra Pradesh launched a web portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers just like Aadhar number.
- ✦ The "Bhudaar" is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state.
- ✦ The Bhudaar is an 11-digit unique identification code to be assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban property.
- ✦ The unique ID for permanent Bhudaar will start with 28 and if it is a government land, 28 is followed by 00.

### **54. HDFC ERGO sets up remote sensing lab for crop insurance**

- ✦ Private general insurance company HDFC ERGO General Insurance has set up a remote sensing lab for crop insurance.
- ✦ The company has hired a specialist in the area of remote sensing to look into the data and assess the information so that predictions can be made.
- ✦ HDFC ERGO was one of the first non-life insurers to use drones on a pilot basis to look into estimate losses from any catastrophic events for the crop areas that they covered.

### **55. India Skills Report: Andhra tops in employability rate, talent quality**

- ✦ Andhra Pradesh has topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana, as per the India Skills Report 2019.
- ✦ The employability levels have increased across all the sectors, touching a new high of 63.11 per cent, which remained at 42.08 last year. However, the employability levels of MBA and polytechnic stand low between 47.18 per cent and 45.90 per cent.
- ✦ The report stated that Andhra Pradesh is one of the preferred hiring destinations in India, which offers equal space to both male and female workers.

### **56. UP Government launches Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign**

- ✦ Uttar Pradesh Government recently launched the 'Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan' or Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign to develop leadership capacities in women and make them vocal for their rights.
- ✦ The Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign was launched by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow.
- ✦ The Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign main aim is to ensure the empowerment of women through different programs in the state Under it.

### **57. Uttarakhand cabinet ratifies renaming Jolly Grant airport after Vajpayee**

- ✦ The Uttarakhand cabinet has ratified a proposal to rename the Jolly Grant airport in the state capital after late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- ✦ A senior official said that Vajpayee was instrumental in the creation of Uttarakhand and hence renaming the airport after him would be a homage to him.
- ✦ The proposal will now be sent to the Aiprorts Authority of India and the Union Civil Aviation Ministry for approval.

### **58. J-K Governor inaugurates 'Jhiri Mela'**

- ✦ Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik inaugurated a week long 'Jhiri Mela' at village Jhiri in Jammu district.
- ✦ The annual fair is commemorated in the memory of the martyrdom of 'Baba Jittoo', a farmer who gave up his life about 500 years ago in protest against the oppressive demands of a land lord.

- ✦ A cultural programme comprising folk songs and a Dogridance was presented by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of ArtCulture and Languages on the occasion.

### **59. NITI Aayog Organises Capacity Building Programme for Urban Water Management**

- ✦ NITI Aayog organized Second Phase of Urban Management Programme on 'Water Recycling and Reuse' in collaboration with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise & TF International at India Habitat Centre in the capital.
- ✦ Highlighting the importance of this capacity building programme on management of water, particularly its recycling & reuse, as crucial for future urban planning and policy.
- ✦ In order to develop recycled water as part of sustainable and diverse water portfolio, NITI Aayog has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise.

### **60. Gujarat tops in implementing Ayushman Bharat**

- ✦ Two months after the launch of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Gujarat has emerged as the top performer of the Centre's ambitious health financing scheme.
- ✦ AB-PMJAY, which was launched on September 23, promises health coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family to over 10 crore poor families.
- ✦ Claims of Rs 400 crore have been raised under this scheme so far, of which Rs 350 crore has already been given out by the Centre and states, requesting anonymity.

### **61. Nitish Kumar Unveils Lord Buddha's 70-Foot Statue In Bihar's Rajgir**

- ✦ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today unveiled a 70-feet tall statue of Lord Buddha at Rajgir in Nalanda district.
- ✦ The statue has been installed above a 16 metre radius pedestal in the middle of the lake Ghora Katora and has been made from 45,000 cubic foot pink sand stone.
- ✦ Mr Kumar unveiled the statue of Lord Buddha, the second tallest statue of Buddha in the country, in the presence of Mahabodhi temple's chief monk Bhante Chalinda amid the chanting of hymns.

### **62. Kartarpur Corridor: India lays foundation stone for Sikh pilgrimage route**

- ✦ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Dera Baba Nanak-Kartarpur Sahib road corridor in the presence of the Punjab chief minister and Union ministers.
- ✦ The decision to build the corridor from Dera Baba Nanak to the International Border was taken on November 22 by India's Union Cabinet.
- ✦ The corridor will help lakhs of pilgrims from India to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur on the banks of river Ravi in Pakistan where Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, is believed to have spent his last 18 years.

**63. "Aadi Mahotsav" organized by Tribal Affairs Ministry continues in full fervour at Dilli Haat**

- ✦ The 4th edition of annual "Aadi Mahotsav", a National Tribal Festival organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs held in new delhi.
- ✦ This year, more than 600 tribal artisans from 23 states, 80 tribal chefs hailing from 20 States besides 14 cultural troupes comprising more than 200 artists are taking part in the Mahotsav.
- ✦ The "Aadi Mahotsav" is receiving very encouraging patronage from Delhites this year also, as people throng the festival in large numbers.

**64. Union Commerce Minister revealed logo and brochure of 3-day Logix India 2019 which will be held in New Delhi in 2019**

- ✦ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, launched the logo and brochure of Logix India 2019 in New Delhi.
- ✦ A 3-day Logix India 2019 is scheduled to take place in New Delhi from 31st January to 2nd February 2019.
- ✦ It will be organized by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) to improve logistics cost effectiveness and operational efficiencies for India's global trade.

**65. Raksha Mantri Launches 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti'**

- ✦ Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman has formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti'. The event showcased salient inventions and innovations achieved by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✦ A panel discussion was held with participation of Chairman and Managing Directors of all DPSUs to formulate a strategy for the future in this regard.
- ✦ It aimed to provide a boost to IPR culture in indigenous defence industry. The main objective of this programme was to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.

**66. Nation expected to achieve 100% household electrification by 31st December, 2018" says the Minister**

- ✦ "8 States have achieved 100% saturation in household electrification under Saubhagya namely Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, J&K, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal.
- ✦ Saubhagya – 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' was launched in September, 2017 with the objective to provide access to electricity to all the remaining households in the country.
- ✦ Many more State like Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh etc. are left with small number of un-electrified households and expected to achieve saturation any time.

**67. Himachal Pradesh Becomes First State To Launch Single Emergency Number**

- ✦ Himachal Pradesh became the first Indian state to launch a single emergency number "112" which will connect to police, fire, health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) in the state.
- ✦ Under the project, one ERC has been established in Shimla along with 12 District Command Centres covering the entire state.
- ✦ The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108) and women helpline (1090) services to provide emergency services via single emergency number 112," said a Union Home Ministry statement.

### **68. NITI Aayog holds Dialogue on Health System for New India**

- ✦ The NITI Aayog organized a day-long dialogue on "Health System for A New India: Building Blocks", with national and international academia, practitioners, Indian policymakers and other stakeholders of the healthcare ecosystem.
- ✦ The dialogue was the first in the series of NITI Aayog's "Development Dialogues" that aims to facilitate multisectoral conversations on India's developmental issues, which constitute a part of the country's 15 Year Vision document.
- ✦ This dialogue is a sign that Health has taken center-stage of the policy narrative.
- ✦ The dialogue focused on strengthening and further building on the existing blocks for Health Systems for a New India and prioritized four critical health systems issues for discussion and debate.

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## **International News & Foreign Affairs**

### **1. British Council, Arunachal Pradesh Sign MoU On Educational Collaboration**

- ✦ The British Council and Arunachal Pradesh Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation, to support the knowledge ambitions and economic growth of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✦ The overarching MoU celebrates the British Council's 70th anniversary in India and seeks to strengthen the relationship for the next 70 years.
- ✦ The MoU will also work towards improving English communication of Arunachal Pradesh's civil servants, developing capacity-building initiatives in the state, supporting improvements in the teaching of Mathematics and Science.
- ✦ As an immediate result of this MoU, 50 faculty members from government higher education institutions will be trained by British Council every year, starting in December 2018.

## 2. Amazon is overtaken by Microsoft as world's second most-valuable company

- ✦ Amazon's shares took an unexpected down-turn, this week - seeing them overtaken by rival Microsoft as the world's second most-valuable company.
- ✦ Apple Inc (AAPL.O) tops the list at over \$1 trillion after crossing that threshold in September. Microsoft's market capitalization was Wall Street's highest in late 1998 through early 2000 before the dot-com bubble burst.
- ✦ The average analyst price target for Microsoft puts its market cap at \$963 billion, while the average price target for Amazon values it at \$1.068 trillion.

## 3. India-Italy tech meet focuses on technological entrepreneurship

- ✦ A two-day technology summit between India and Italy began here today with the Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan calling for promotion of high quality and high impact collaborative research projects across the value chain, with a focus on boosting technological entrepreneurship.
- ✦ India and Italy are already part of great innovative collaborations such as the Mission Innovation to accelerate global innovation in clean energy.
- ✦ The focus of the summit is renewable energy, clean technology, information and communication technology, healthcare, aerospace, education and preservation of cultural heritage.

## 4. WTO to set up dispute panel on India-US case on export subsidies

- ✦ The World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement body has set up a panel to examine the US complaint against certain export-subsidy measures by India as both the sides failed to resolve the issue at consultation level.
- ✦ The US has requested for the establishment of a dispute panel to examine the allegations on India's export incentive measures.
- ✦ According to US, all WTO members, including India, are required to provide subsidies consistent with provisions of the WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

## 5. India, China sign agreement on security cooperation

- ✦ The first India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation held in New Delhi.
- ✦ During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism and welcomed increased cooperation between India and China in the area of security.

- ✦ An Agreement on security cooperation was also signed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and State Councilor and Minister of Public Security of China, Zhao Kezhi.
- ✦ It will further strengthen and consolidate discussions and cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism, organized crimes, drug control and other such relevant areas.

## **6. Paytm teams up with Softbank, Yahoo to launch QR-based service in Japan**

- ✦ Paytm, India's largest digital financial services provider teams up with Softbank, Yahoo to launch QR based service "PayPay" in Japan.
- ✦ PayPay Corporation is the joint venture set up by Japanese conglomerate SoftBank Corp. and Yahoo Japan Corporation in June this year that aims to tap the country's ongoing digital drive.
- ✦ The Japanese government is taking measures to raise the cashless payment ratio from the current 20% to 40% by 2025, and the recent regulatory changes to this end are expected to come into effect in the next two years.

## **7. 27th fusion energy conference begins in Gandhinagar**

- ✦ The 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) was held recently in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, It was organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.
- ✦ The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy.
- ✦ The scientific scope of FEC 2018 is intended to reflect the priorities of this new era in fusion energy research.
- ✦ The IAEA is the world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field. It was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the United Nations family.

## **8. India, Croatia sign two agreements**

- ✦ India and Croatia signed two agreements to strengthen cultural and diplomatic cooperation between the two countries.
- ✦ Both leaders discussed ways to step up cooperation in trade and investment, health, science and technology, education, tourism and culture.
- ✦ Both sides affirmed a commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism, its financing and safe havens.

- ✦ The agreements were signed following External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Croatia Marija Pejčinović Burić in New Delhi this afternoon.

### **9. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Korea in the field of tourism**

- ✦ The cabinet on approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and Korea for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism
- ✦ The main objectives of the MoU are to expand bilateral cooperation in tourism, including cooperation in data related to tourism, between tourism stakeholders.
- ✦ "India and Korea have enjoyed a strong diplomatic and long economic relationship. The two parties are now desiring to strengthen and further develop the established relationship for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism.

### **10. WHO's First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health held in Geneva**

- ✦ The first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health will be held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva on 30 October - 1 November 2018.
- ✦ The conference is being held in collaboration with UN Environment, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
- ✦ The Objective of it is To combat one of the world's most significant causes of premature death: Air Pollution.

### **11. India ranked 12 globally in web-borne threats: Kaspersky Lab**

- ✦ Globally, India ranks 12th when it comes to the dangers associated with surfing the web, according to a new report from Russia-based global cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab.
- ✦ Among other methods, the attackers exploited vulnerabilities in browsers and their plugins (drive-by download).
- ✦ The share of malicious incidents caused by malware hosted in India was 0.68 per cent -- that is 6,450,023 incidents in the period July-September 2018, the research showed.

### **12. India to participate in China's first international import expo**

- ✦ India will participate in China's first international import expo in Shanghai as part of its efforts to reduce the over USD 51 billion trade deficit with the neighbouring nation

- ✦ The six-day China International Import Expo (CIIE) will be inaugurated by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- ✦ Leaders of 18 countries, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will take part in the event, which is aimed at showcasing China's import potential.

### **13. India re-elected as member of ITU council till 2022**

- ✦ India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for another 4-year term - from 2019 to 2022,
- ✦ The elections to the council were held during the ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai, UAE.
- ✦ India secured 165 votes and ranked third among the 13 countries elected to the council from the Asia-Australasia region, and eighth among the 48 countries elected to the council globally.
- ✦ The presence of India in the council of global body will help the country have its say at a time when global standards for technology will be finalized and currently work is going on around 5G standards.

### **14. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Italy for continuing training and education in the fields of Labour and Employment**

- ✦ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Italy for training and education in the fields of Labour and Employment.
- ✦ The MoU will facilitate expansion of the training and education activities to promote decent work in the world of work, through: conducting joint training programmes on training methodologies and techniques; developing new training modules for different social partners;
- ✦ The major impact of the MoU would be up-gradation of technical capacities of both the institutions in responding to the challenges emanating from transformations in the world of work.

### **15. Cabinet approves signing, ratifying extradition pact between India, Morocco**

- ✦ The Cabinet approved the signing and ratifying of an extradition agreement between India and Morocco.
- ✦ The agreement will provide a strong legal base for the extradition of fugitive offenders who are accused of economic offences, terrorism and other serious offences in one state and found in the other state.
- ✦ This agreement between India and Morocco will enhance cooperation in the service of summons, judicial documents, letters of request and the execution of judgments decrees and arbitral awards.

**16. USA moves to grant waiver to India on Chabahar Port and rail link to Afghan border**

- ✦ The US, which has allowed India to continue importing oil from Iran, has granted a waiver from sanctions for New Delhi's role in the Chabahar port and the construction of a railway line from the Iranian port city to the Afghan border.
- ✦ The decision comes after US imposed toughest ever sanctions on Iran under Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act, 2012.
- ✦ This exception relates to reconstruction assistance and economic development for Afghanistan. These activities are vital for ongoing support of Afghan.

**17. The Pacific island nation of Palau just became the first country to ban reef-killing sunscreen**

- ✦ Palau became the first country in the world to impose a ban on sunscreens toxic to coral reefs.
- ✦ According to the law, retailers will be fined \$1,000 for selling sunscreens that contain 10 chemicals deemed harmed for coral and marine life.
- ✦ The president of Palau, Tommy Remengesau Jr. signed The Responsible Tourism Education Act of 2018.

**18. 17th AEC Council Meeting held in Singapore**

- ✦ The 17th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting was held in Singapore as part of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summit Meetings.
- ✦ The agreements will help create a more conducive environment for the growth of e-Commerce in the region through advancing trade rules in e-Commerce and building up greater digital connectivity in ASEAN.
- ✦ It also seeks to deepen the integration of ASEAN services markets and introduce commitments related to services trade, thereby creating a more liberal, stable and predictable environment.

**19. 2-day annual meeting of WEF Global Future Councils begins in Dubai**

- ✦ In the UAE, the two day annual meeting of World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Future Councils began in Dubai
- ✦ Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum attended the opening session.
- ✦ 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.

**20. India, UK sign pact to collaborate on cancer research**

- ✦ India and the UK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in cancer research, the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ✦ The pact between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Cancer Research UK (CRUK) for the India-UK Cancer Research Initiative was signed here for collaboration for the next five years.
- ✦ The India-UK Cancer Research Initiative will identify a core set of research challenges that address issues of affordability, prevention and care of cancer patients.

### **21. PM Attends East Asia Summit In Singapore, Gives Vision For Indo-Pacific**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 13th East Asia Summit in Singapore during which the leaders of the grouping discussed global and regional issues, including maritime cooperation.
- ✦ It was Prime Minister Modi's 5th East Asia Summit. India has been participating in the East Asia Summit since its inception in 2005.
- ✦ The East Asia Summit was formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity.

### **22. Morocco beats South Africa, to unveil Africa's first ever high speed train line**

- ✦ French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI are inaugurating Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa.
- ✦ The \$2 billion project was launched in September 2011 by the king and Nicolas Sarkozy, the former president of France, which jointly funded the line with several Arab states.
- ✦ Known as the LGV - French for "high speed line" - it will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca in 2 hours 10 minutes at a speed of 320 km/h (199m/h) instead of almost 5 hours on a regular train.

### **23. India, Morocco sign pacts to combat global terror including ISIS**

- ✦ India and Morocco, Africa's second biggest economy, have concluded extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties and also affirmed that they will jointly fight threats from ISIS under their counter-terror partnership.
- ✦ The agreements were inked this week during Moroccan Justice Minister Mohamed Auajjar's visit to Delhi.
- ✦ Morocco has a well-established school of counter-terrorism, which is globally recognised

### **24. President Kovind To Begin Four-Day Australia Tour**

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind will be on a four-day Australia tour, in the first ever state visit by an Indian president to the country, during which he will discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties with top Australian leaders.

- ✦ The President will visit Sydney and Melbourne on an invitation from Governor General Peter Cosgrove.
- ✦ President Kovind will also address the Australian Financial Review Business summit and will also grace the annual dinner of the Australia-India Business Council.

### **25. BlackBerry to buy security firm Cylance for \$1.4 billion**

- ✦ BlackBerry Ltd, the former mobile phone giant that's now focused on producing software, is acquiring cybersecurity company Cylance Inc. for \$1.4 billion.
- ✦ Waterloo, Ontario-based BlackBerry said the acquisition of Cylance would enable it to add artificial intelligence capabilities to its existing software products.
- ✦ The purchase is BlackBerry's largest acquisition in seven years, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

### **26. The 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will begin Panaji in Goa.**

- ✦ The 9-day event will showcase 212 films from 68 countries. While TheAspern Papers is the opening film, Sealed Lips will be the closing movie.
- ✦ Veteran Israeli filmmaker Dan Wolman will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award this year. Movies in the Jharkhand Package include Death in the Gunj, Ranchi Diaries and Begum Jaan.

### **27. World malaria report by WHO; Malaria cases declined by 24% in India**

- ✦ The World Health Organisation (WHO) in a report stated that India is the only country to have recorded a substantial decline in malaria cases in 2017 out of the 11 highest burden countries worldwide.
- ✦ India accounted for 4 percent of global malaria cases in 2017 and has made significant progress in bringing down its malaria burden since.
- ✦ As reflected in this year's World malaria report, the country registered a 24 percent reduction in cases over 2016, largely due to substantial declines of the disease in the highly malarious state of Odisha, home to approximately 40 percent of all malaria cases in the country," the report read.

### **28. Cabinet approves construction of Kartarpur Corridor from Punjab's Gurdaspur to Pakistan; Islamabad likely to begin project next month**

- ✦ A day ahead of Guru Nanak Jayanti, the Union Cabinet approved the construction and development of the Kartarpur Corridor from the Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district to the India-Pakistan border.
- ✦ The decision was made at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in view of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in 2019.
- ✦ He also announced the government's plan to develop Punjab's heritage town of Sultanpur Lodhi, which is of religious significance to the Sikh community.

**29. Australia and Poland join US rejection of UN migration pact**

- ✦ Australia and Poland have refused to support a pact designed to improve global co-operation on migration, joining populist governments in the US, Hungary and Austria in opposing the UN's accord.
- ✦ The global compact on migration does not impose new legal obligations on states and is not an international treaty," said Guy Goodwin-Gill, law professor at University New South Wales.
- ✦ The pact outlines a set of principles and policies to help governments manage people flows and better protect migrants. It has been negotiated by international governments over 18 months and is due to be adopted in December.

**30. China to inspect imports of Indian fish meal and fish oil**

- ✦ India and China signed an agreement allowing Beijing to inspect imports of Indian fish meal and fish oil, as the two nations work out a broader trade deal following a thaw in relations this year.
- ✦ The decision was part of discussions between India's commerce ministry and a six-member Chinese delegation, led by Vice Minister, General Administration of Customs of China, Hu Wei.
- ✦ This protocol for export of fish meal and fish oil from India to China is significant as India has been seeking market access for these items from China.

**31. First-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue being held in Russia**

- ✦ The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue is being held at St. Petersburg in Russia.
- ✦ The Indian side is being led by NITI Aayog 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.
- ✦ Transport, agriculture and agro-processing, Small and Medium Enterprises, digital transformation and frontier technologies and industrial cooperation are some of the key areas of focus.

**32. PM Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping to meet on sidelines of G20 summit in Argentina**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet on the sidelines of the tenth upcoming G20 meeting in Argentina on November 30.
- ✦ Modi and Xi have met twice after their informal summit in Wuhan this year — at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held in June in China's Qingdao, and the BRICS Summit in South Africa's Johannesburg in July.
- ✦ The meeting is being held amid the ongoing trade war between the US and China.
- ✦ Briefing the media about the G20 summit, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said, "At the tenth anniversary of the G20, it's our expectation that leaders will

reflect on what has been achieved in past 10 years and what could be done in next 10 years.”

### 33. India recorded highest average real wage growth in South Asia

- ✦ India recorded the highest average real wage growth in South Asia, according to a report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- ✦ Reflecting more rapid economic growth than in other regions, workers in Asia and the Pacific have enjoyed the highest real wage growth among all regions over the period 2006–17, with countries such as China, India, Thailand and Viet Nam leading the way.
- ✦ Russia suffered a significant drop in wage growth in 2015, again owing to the decline in oil prices, but has since then bounced back with moderate though positive wage growth.

### 34. Nepal govt launches Social Security Scheme

- ✦ Nepal government has launched a Social Security Scheme for formal sector workers of the country.
- ✦ Unveiling the scheme in Kathmandu, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli said, a new era of social security has begun in Nepal.
- ✦ The new social security scheme is contribution based and it will cover health and medical facilities, safe motherhood, accident and physical incapacity security, security to dependent family members and security at old age.

### 35. Kenya hosts inaugural Sustainable Blue Economy conference

- ✦ Africa is hosting a historic conference that has to do with environmental protection.
- ✦ The three-day conference has high global support with over twenty world leaders in Nairobi for the event. A number of environment friendly civil society organizations are also in attendance.
- ✦ The main aim is to advance the global conversation on the sustainable development of the Blue Economy.
- ✦ The theme of this conference was ‘The Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 36. 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) ends with glittering ceremony

- ✦ The 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) ended in Goa with a glittering ceremony.
- ✦ The closing ceremony was held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Taleigaon.
- ✦ In a video message played at the ceremony, Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore said, 49th IFFI proved that cinema knows no language. He said, films inspire, entertain and above all, they connect all people as human beings

## **Banking**

### **1. SBI to issue and encash electoral bonds from Oct 1 to 10**

- ✦ The finance ministry said that State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, was authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds with effect from October 1 to 10.
- ✦ According to the provisions of the Electoral Bond scheme notified in January this year, these bonds could be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or an entity incorporated or established in India.
- ✦ An individual can buy electoral bonds either singly or jointly with other individuals.
- ✦ Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the previous Lok Sabha or Assembly election are eligible to receive the electoral bonds.

### **2. RBI to inject Rs 40,000 cr into banking system via OMO**

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India will inject Rs 40,000 crore in the banking system next month
- ✦ This move will help ease cash shortage in the system and stabilise debt market rates. Open market operation (OMO) is an RBI mechanism to infuse or suck liquidity from the system.
- ✦ RBI's currency intervention is one of the factors that has contributed to the tightening in banking system liquidity with the central bank's dollar sales infusing more rupees into the system.

### **3. RBI clears re-appointment of Aditya Puri as HDFC Bank CEO for 2 years**

- ✦ HDFC Bank said the RBI had approved the re-appointment of Aditya Puri as managing director of the bank for another two years.
- ✦ Reserve Bank of India, vide its letter dated October 22, 2018, has accorded its approval to HDFC Bank Ltd. for re-appointment of Aditya Puri, as MD & CEO of the bank, from November 1, 2018 to October 26, 2020
- ✦ Puri has been with HDFC Bank since 1994, making him the longest-serving head of any private bank in the country.

### **4. Kirloskar group gets RBI nod for NBFC biz; to invest 1,000 cr**

- ✦ The Kirloskar group said that it has received licence from the Reserve Bank to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC), Kirloskar Capital, which will be headed by industry veteran Vimal Bhandari
- ✦ The group company said it will invest Rs 1,000 crore in the proposed NBFC, which will be a fully-owned subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines, and will focus on providing growth capital to industry with an initial focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- ✦ Apart from Kirloskar Oil Engines, the Pune-based group also runs Kirloskar Industries, Kirloskar Ferrous and Kirloskar Pneumatic.

#### **5. RBI allows banks to provide partial credit enhancement of NBFC bonds**

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed banks to provide partial credit enhancement (PCE) to bonds issued by systemically important non-deposit taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) registered with the RBI and housing finance companies (HFCs) registered with the National Housing Bank.
- ✦ The move is aimed at enhancing the credit rating of the bonds and enabling these NBFCs to access funds from the bond market on better terms.
- ✦ The RBI said the tenure of these bonds shall not be less than three years and that proceeds from them shall only be utilized to refinance existing debt.

#### **6. HSBC-ING complete blockchain-based transaction for Reliance Industries**

- ✦ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp (HSBC) India and ING Bank Belgium have jointly executed a trade transaction using blockchain enabling cross border payment from a US-based company to India's Reliance Industries in a totally digital form.
- ✦ The transaction allowed a digital transfer of the title of goods from the seller to the buyer in the underlying trade
- ✦ The Letter of Credit (LC) was issued by ING Bank for Tricon Energy USA (importer) with HSBC India as the advising and negotiating bank for Reliance Industries.

#### **7. RBI starts process to set up digital Public Credit Registry for capturing all details of borrowers**

- ✦ The Reserve Bank has initiated steps to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.
- ✦ The PCR will also include data from entities like market regulator Sebi, the corporate affairs ministry, Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN)

and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to enable the banks and financial institutions to get 360 degree profile of existing and prospective borrowers on a real-time basis.

- ✦ The Reserve Bank has invited expression of interest (EOI) for developing the registry from companies with a turnover of over Rs 100 crore in the last three years.

### **8. World Bank inks \$172 million project agreement with AP**

- ✦ The Central and Andhra Pradesh governments and the World Bank have signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, and climate resilience of poor and marginalised farmers in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ The projects seeks to ensure that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity.
- ✦ The Andhra Pradesh Integrated Irrigation and Agriculture Transformation Project (APIIATP) will be implemented in rural areas largely dependent upon rain-fed agriculture.

### **9. Centre to infuse Rs 3,054 cr as capital in Allahabad Bank**

- ✦ The Centre will infuse Rs 3054 crore as capital into state-run Allahabad Bank.
- ✦ According to a notification to the National Stock Exchange, the bank says that it has received a communication from Finance Ministry regarding a fresh capital infusion of Rs 3054 crore.
- ✦ The infusion will be made through the preferential allotment of equity shares (Special Securities/Bonds) of the Bank during the financial year 2018-19.

### **10. RBI cancels registration of 31 NBFCs**

- ✦ The RBI cancelled the certificate of registrations of as many as 31 NBFCs for unspecified reasons.
- ✦ Bengal is followed by Uttar Pradesh, which has seen four NBFC license cancellation.
- ✦ A majority of voluntary application for license cancellation are also from Bengal.
- ✦ The list includes Ramky Finance & Investments, which is based in Hyderabad. It also has city-based Propycon Trading & investment.

### **11. Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign \$300 Million Loan to support India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)in India**

- ✦ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed \$300 million Loan Agreement to support lending by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).
- ✦ The Project supports the renewed effort of the Government of India in accelerating infrastructure growth through increased Private Sector investment.
- ✦ The Project is relevant and responsive to the constraints to bank based infrastructure financing, fiscal space creation, and repercussions on GDP growth.
- ✦ The \$300 million ADB loan is expected to help catalyze the financial closing of \$2.4 billion in investments.

### **12. IndusInd Bank launches India's first interactive credit card with buttons**

- ✦ IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card, which 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.
- ✦ This card provides customers with the flexibility of 3 payment options at a POS terminal — Credit, Converting Transactions into EMIs with 4 tenure options (6, 12, 18 & 24 months) or using accumulated Reward Points.

### **13. Karnataka Bank launches CASA campaign**

- ✦ Karnataka Bank has launched Current & Savings Accounts campaign (CASA) of FY 2018-19 and introduced a new SB scheme 'KBL SB - TASC' a specialized product
- ✦ Karnataka Bank operates as a private sector bank. Its products and services include current account, demand, time, cumulative, cash certificates, insurance linked savings bank deposits
- ✦ Under this nationwide campaign starting from November 15, 2018 to February 28, 2019, Bank intends to open more than 4.18 lakh Current & Savings accounts.

### **14. SBICAP Ventures launches SME, affordable housing funds**

- ✦ SBICAP Ventures (SVL), an alternative asset manager and a wholly owned subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets, launched two funds for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and affordable housing sectors.
- ✦ The SME fund is expecting to raise a corpus of Rs 400 crore, while the affordable housing fund would look at raising Rs 350 crore.
- ✦ The SME fund will be starting in September 2019 and the first close, which will be at least 60 per cent of the fund, or around Rs 240 crore, is expected by June 2020, according to Purandare.

**15. Central bank and government to jointly set up panel to decide on surplus reserves**

- ✦ The board of directors of the Reserve Bank of India decided that an expert panel set up jointly by the government and the central bank will examine the economic capital framework to decide on matters related to the RBI's surplus reserves.
- ✦ The decisions were taken during a crucial nine-hour meeting of the board of directors in Mumbai.
- ✦ A restructuring scheme for stressed micro, small and medium enterprises was also discussed during the meeting.

**16. Paytm partners with LIC for insurance premium payments**

- ✦ Paytm (One 97 Communications Limited) and arch rival Mobikwik, have simultaneously announced entry into online insurance payments and purchase of digital insurance on their platforms
- ✦ Paytm has partnered with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to offer online insurance premium payments on its platform.
- ✦ Paytm, on the other hand, aims to achieve a run rate of 30-40 million policies by end of the year.

**17. RBI moves to ease liquidity for non-banking finance firms**

- ✦ In a move to make more liquidity available to non-banking finance firms, the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the securitisation norms by relaxing the minimum holding period requirement.
- ✦ The move follows a demand from the government for a special window for NBFCs, to provide them liquidity support.
- ✦ The relaxation on the minimum holding period will be allowed when the NBFC retains 20% of the book value of these loans.

**18. Sebi unveils rules for reclassification of promoter as public investor**

- ✦ Markets regulator Sebi has come out with new rules for re-classification of a promoter as a public investor, wherein an outgoing promoter will have to relinquish special rights as well as control over the affairs of the listed firm and not be allowed to hold over 10 per cent stake.
- ✦ The norms, aimed at simplifying, streamlining and bringing greater clarity in existing regulations, come after Sebi's board in September approved a proposal in this regard.
- ✦ These norms will prevent the outgoing promoters from continuing to exercise their control on the company directly or indirectly.

**19. Modi govt launches PAiSA, Portal for Affordable Credit, to connect directly with loan beneficiaries**

- ✦ In a bid to connect directly with beneficiaries, ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in delivery of services, the PM Narendra Modi government has launched PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access.
- ✦ The centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries has been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- ✦ The portal was launched during the course of a day long National Workshop on Municipal Finance and Urban Planning organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and provided a platform to identify key areas of concern regarding municipal finance and urban planning.

## 20. RBI eases hedging norms for ECBs to 70% from current 100%

- ✦ The Reserve Bank relaxed norms for external commercial borrowings (ECBs) by reducing the mandatory hedging provision to 70% from the current 100%.
- ✦ The relaxed norms will apply to the ECBs with a maturity period between 3 and 5 years.
- ✦ Further, the RBI also clarified that the ECBs raised prior to this circular will be required to mandatorily roll over their existing hedge only to the extent of 70% of outstanding ECB exposure.
- ✦ According to the RBI, Track I refers to medium-term foreign currency-denominated ECB with a minimum average maturity of 3-5 years.

## 21. ADB to lend \$75 million for 24-hour water supply in four Karnataka towns

- ✦ India signed a \$75-million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide round-the-clock water supply to Karnataka's four coastal towns of Kundapura, Mangalore Puttur and Udupi, and to improve sanitation infrastructure in Mangalore town.
- ✦ The project finances would be used to augment water treatment production capacity by about 16 millions liters per day, lay about 90 kilometers of new water transmission lines and feeder mains.
- ✦ It aims to improve urban water resource management in selected river basins in Karnataka through modernization and expansion of urban water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

## 22. Sebi issues norms for interoperability among clearing corporations

- ✦ With an aim to reduce trading costs, regulator Sebi Tuesday came out with a framework for interoperability among clearing corporations (CCPs), which will be operationalised by June 1, 2019.
- ✦ The framework comes after the Sebi board in September approved a proposal to enable interoperability among CCPs.
- ✦ Interoperability among clearing corporations means linking of multiple clearing corporations in order to allow market participants to effectively consolidate their clearing and settlement functions at the single clearing corporation.

## 23. SBI raises deposit rates by up to 10 bps

- ✦ The country's largest lender State Bank of India increased the fixed deposit rates by up to 10 basis points or 0.10 percent to 6.80 percent on select maturities.
- ✦ The new rates ranging from 5 to 10 bps are applicable for deposits below Rs 1 crore and are effective immediately. One basis point is one hundredth of a per cent.
- ✦ Senior citizens will get a rate of 7.30 per cent as against 7.25 percent on deposits with tenor of two to less than three years.

## **New Appointments & Person in News**

### **1. Michael D Higgins re-elected as Irish president for second term**

- ✦ Michael D Higgins has been re-elected as Irish president after receiving 56% of the country's election vote.
- ✦ Businessman Peter Casey came second with 23.1%, while none of the other four candidates polled more than 10%.

### **2. Jair Bolsonaro declared Brazil's next president**

- ✦ Jair Bolsonaro, a 63-year-old former paratrooper who built his campaign around pledges to crush corruption was therefore elected Brazil's next president.
- ✦ Jair Bolsonaro won 55.2% of the votes surpassing his rival Fernando Haddad of Workers' Party, who had secured 44.8% in the presidential election.
- ✦ The president-elect, Jair Bolsonaro, has exalted the country's military dictatorship, advocated torture and threatened to destroy, jail or drive into exile his political opponents.

### **3. Mary Kom named brand ambassador of 2018 Women's World Boxing Championships**

- ✦ Olympic bronze medalist MC Mary Kom was named as the brand ambassador of the 10th edition of the Women's World Championship in New Delhi.
- ✦ The World Championships will see close to 300 pugilists from 70 countries across 10 weight categories, the tournament's highest-ever participation, including Olympic medalists, World and European Champions.
- ✦ BFI President Ajay Singh said that India will definitely do well at home, who also unveiled the logo and anthem of the championships.

**4. Atul Goel takes over as MD, CEO of UCO Bank**

- ✦ Atul Kumar Goel on assumed charge as Managing Director and CEO of UCO Bank. Prior to this assignment, he was executive director of Union Bank of India.
- ✦ Goel takes over from R K Takkar who completed his three-year tenure on November 1, 2018.
- ✦ He started his carrier as Chartered Accountant in Allahabad Bank in 1992 and worked various segments including corporate credit, foreign exchange and treasury.

**5. Justice Ramesh Ranganathan sworn in as Uttarakhand HC chief justice**

- ✦ Justice Ramesh Ranganathan was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. He was administered the oath of office by Governor Baby Rani Maurya at the Raj Bhawan in Dehradun. Justice Ranganathan, a qualified Chartered Accountant and a Company Secretary, has a Law Degree from Bangalore University.
- ✦ He enrolled as an advocate in the Andhra Pradesh High Court in 1985. In 2005, he was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court, and in 2006, he was appointed a permanent judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- ✦ In July 2016, he was appointed the acting chief justice of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

**6. Myntra, Jabong to merge; Ananth Narayanan to continue as CEO**

- ✦ Online fashion retailer Myntra integrate its sister company Jabong, which will continue to operate as a separate brand.
- ✦ Myntra chief executive officer Ananth Narayanan will lead the Myntra-Jabong team.
- ✦ Flipkart had acquired online fashion portal Myntra in 2014 and Myntra had acquired Jabong in 2016.

**7. Sanjay Kumar Mishra Appointed As Full-Time Chief Of Enforcement Directorate**

- ✦ IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra was appointed as the full-time chief of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)
- ✦ Mr Mishra, a 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income Tax cadre, was appointed as the principal special director in the central probe agency.
- ✦ An order issued by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi headed Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) gave a two-year tenure to Mr Mishra "from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

**8. Adobe CEO in Fortune Business Person of the Year list**

- ✦ Indian-American Shantanu Narayen, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Adobe, has been named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list.
- ✦ The list ranks 20 business executives “delivering on the bottom line and beyond”.
- ✦ Shantanu Narayen ranks 12th on the list while CEO of insurance company Progressive Tricia Griffith tops the list.

### 9. Interpol elects South Korean as its president, in blow to Russia

- ✦ South Korea’s Kim Jong-yang has been elected as Interpol’s next president, edging out a longtime veteran of Russia’s security services who was strongly opposed by the US, Britain and other European nations.
- ✦ Prokopchuk is a general in the Russian interior ministry and serves as an Interpol vice-president.
- ✦ Kim had been serving as Interpol’s acting president since Meng resigned and was a vice-president representing Asia.

### 10. Yes Bank Director R. Chandrashekhar quits

- ✦ An independent director at Yes Bank Ltd NSE a lender that’s been ordered by India’s central bank to replace its chief executive officer, resigned saying he was concerned about recent events at the company.
- ✦ The Mumbai-based lender has seen a spate of resignations in the past week as it continues its search for a new CEO to replace the incumbent, Rana Kapoor.
- ✦ Yes Bank Chandrashekhar has resigned for personal reasons. It said the bank will look for a replacement in the field of information technology and cyber security.

### 11. BCCI CEO Rahul Johri Cleared In Sexual Harassment Case

- ✦ The Committee of Administrators' three-member probe panel cleared Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) CEO Rahul Johri of allegations of sexual harassment dismissing the charges levelled by two women as "mischievous and fabricated.
- ✦ Johri was on forced leave for the past three weeks but can now resume office even though one member of the probe committee recommended "gender sensitivity counselling" for him.
- ✦ The first allegation against Johri was an anonymous e-mail accusing him of sexual misconduct, shared by a Twitter handle, which was later deleted.

### 12. WhatsApp appoints Abhijit Bose as head of WhatsApp India

- ✦ WhatsApp announced that it has appointed Abhijit Bose as head of WhatsApp India.
- ✦ Bose, who joins WhatsApp from Ezetap where he has served as co-founder and CEO will build WhatsApp's first full country team outside of California and will be based in Gurgaon
- ✦ WhatsApp said Bose and his team will focus on helping businesses, both large and small connect with their customers

**13. Ashok Kumar Gupta is appointed as the new CCI Chairman**

- ✦ Former IAS Officer Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the Chairman of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- ✦ His appointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- ✦ Gupta is a 1981 Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer. He completed his Post-Graduate in Public Administration from the Syracuse University (USA) and holds a Master of Philosophy in Defence and Strategic Studies from the Madras University.

**14. Centre clears appointment of Chief Justices of 4 High Courts**

- ✦ The Central government cleared the appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts of Allahabad, Patna, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura.
- ✦ Justice Govind Mathur, the most senior judge of the Rajasthan High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. Justice Mathur is functioning at present, on transfer, in Allahabad HC.
- ✦ Justice A P Sahi, the most senior judge of the Allahabad HC, has been appointed the Chief Justice of Patna HC. He will succeed Justice M R Shah, who has been elevated as a Supreme Court judge.

**15. Senior IPS officer S S Deswal appointed ITBP chief**

- ✦ Senior IPS officer S S Deswal appointed the chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), that guards country's frontier with China, according to an official order.
- ✦ Deswal, a 1984 batch IPS officer of Haryana cadre, is at present the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal.
- ✦ He has been appointed in place of R K Pachnanda, who superannuated.

**16. Flipkart group CEO Binny Bansal resigns due to allegation of personal Misconduct**

- ✦ Binny Bansal resigned as CEO of flipKart due to allegations of Personal Misconduct.
- ✦ Binny has been an important part of flipkart since co-founding the company, but recent events risked becoming a distraction and he has made a decision to step down.
- ✦ Ananth Narayanan will continue providing great leadership as CEO of Myntra and Jabong. and will report into Kalyan.

**17. Vinod Dasari, CEO and MD of Ashok Leyland, steps down**

- ✦ Vinod Dasari announced his decision to resign from the company citing personal reasons. Dasari will continue to work in the current position until 31 March 2019.
- ✦ The announcement was made during the company's Q2 results, for the quarter ended September where it reported a profit was Rs. 459.7 crore compared to Rs. 334 crore in the same period last year.
- ✦ The Board has meanwhile called upon Dheeraj Hinduja to step in as executive chairman (EC) with immediate effect.

### **18. BIS Names Siddharth Tiwari as Chief Representative for Asia**

- ✦ The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced a new addition to its team with Siddharth Tiwari joining as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific.
- ✦ He starts his new role with more than three decades worth of experience in the finance industry, having spent 32 years at the International Monetary Fund.
- ✦ Tiwari joined BIS at the beginning of this month, with his position as Chief Representative being effective from November 1, 2018.

### **19. Ashok Chawla resigns as Yes Bank's non-executive chairman**

- ✦ Ashok Chawla, Yes Bank's non-executive chairman, stepped down with immediate effect.
- ✦ The bank said Chawla has tendered his resignation as he felt the private lender would need a chairman who could devote more time and attention while chief executive Rana Kapoor is on his way out.
- ✦ Chawla is also the chairman of National Stock Exchange since 2016. People has questioned the possibility of a conflict of interest in his dual role.

### **20. Justice Govind Mathur takes oath as Allahabad High Court Chief Justice**

- ✦ Justice Govind Mathur took oath as the chief justice of the Allahabad High Court.
- ✦ The oath was administered by Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik in a simple ceremony in the court room of chief justice.
- ✦ Justice Mathur was initially appointed as a judge in the Rajasthan High Court in September 2004, from where he was transferred to the Allahabad High Court in November 2017.

### **21. UNICEF appoints singer Nahid Afrin as first 'Youth Advocate' of northeastern region**

- ✦ Popular 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 harness their voice as agents of change in society.
- ✦ UNICEF's India representative Yasmin Ali Haque said 17-year-old Nahid was appointed as 'Youth Advocate' in the North East at an event in Guwahati.
- ✦ Nahid made her playback debut in the 2016 Bollywood film 'Akira' starring Sonakshi Sinha in the lead. She received the best female playback singer award at the Assam state Film Award 2018.

## **22. Uber Eats appoints alia Bhatt as brand Ambassador**

- ✦ Uber Eats, the world's largest food delivery platform, announced the appointment of leading actress and youth icon, Alia Bhatt, as its brand ambassador.
- ✦ India will be the first country for Uber Eats globally, to have appointed a brand ambassador.
- ✦ Uber Eats is gaining popularity among consumers across 37 cities in India to order food of their choice at the click a button.

## **23. Sunil Arora Is Next Election Panel Chief, Takes Charge On Dec 02**

- ✦ Sunil Arora has been appointed the new Chief Election Commissioner by President Ram Nath Kovind. He will take over from OP Rawat on December 02.
- ✦ A 1980 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, Mr Arora has worked in ministries and departments such as Finance, Textiles and Planning Commission.
- ✦ He also served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation during 1999-2002 and CMD, Indian Airlines for five years (two years as additional charge and three years as full charge).

## **24. Guntur Nageswara Rao appointed as Atomic Energy Regulatory Board chairman**

- ✦ Renowned scientist Guntur Nageswara Rao has been appointed as Atomic Energy Regulatory Board chairman.
- ✦ He will continue in the post three year. The government of India issued a notification to this effect.
- ✦ Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was established in November 1983 to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions in the fields of nuclear and radiation safety on a countrywide basis.

## **25. Shri Arvind Saxena appointed as Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**

- ✦ The President has appointed Shri Arvind Saxena as Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ✦ The term of his appointment will be till 07.08.2020 when he attains the age of 65 years or till further orders whichever is earlier.

- ✦ Shri Arvind Saxena joined UPSC as a Member on May 8, 2015, and has been performing duties of the post of Chairman, UPSC since June 20, 2018.

## 26. OYO appoints Rohit Kapoor as CEO of new real estate business

- ✦ Hospitality firm OYO said it has appointed Max Healthcare Executive Director Rohit Kapoor as the chief executive officer (CEO) of its new real estate businesses, effective 6 December.
- ✦ Kapoor will be entrusted with the responsibility to drive new real estate business opportunities which will include exploring new domains and categories and other strategic initiatives.
- ✦ Rohit Kapoor stated that he is thrilled to join OYO's mission of upgrading different forms of real estate and creating unique accommodations experiences.

## 27. He Jiankui defends 'world's first gene-edited babies'

- ✦ A Chinese scientist who claims to have created the world's first genetically edited babies has defended his work.
- ✦ Many scientists have condemned his announcement. Such gene-editing work is banned in most countries, including China.
- ✦ He sought to disable a gene called CCR5 that forms a protein doorway that allows HIV, the virus that causes Aids, to enter a cell.

# Science Tech & Defence

## 1. IBM to acquire software company Red Hat for \$34 billion

- ✦ IBM Corp had agreed to acquire U.S. software company Red Hat Inc for \$34 billion, including debt, as it seeks to diversify its technology hardware and consulting business into higher-margin products and services.
- ✦ The transaction is by far IBM's biggest acquisition. Founded in 1993, Red Hat specializes in Linux operating systems, the most popular type of open-source software, which was developed as an alternative to proprietary software made by Microsoft Corp.
- ✦ IBM, which has a market capitalization of \$114 billion, will pay \$190 per share in cash for Red Hat, a 63 percent premium to Friday's closing share price.

## 2. CII partners with WhatsApp to train SMEs across India

- ✦ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will work with WhatsApp to educate and train small-medium business owners (SMEs) and

entrepreneurs on how the WhatsApp Business app can help them connect with their customers and grow their businesses.

- ✦ CII said WhatsApp and CII will work to enhance business communication for Indian SME's through CII's SME Technology Facilitation Centre.
- ✦ This was set up in November 2016, with the objective of creating awareness amongst SMEs in India on technological solutions that can be optimally adopted to enhance their overall competitiveness.

### **3. New web-based tool to help monitor fake news on Facebook, Twitter**

- ✦ Scientists have developed a web-based tool to help monitor the prevalence of fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.
- ✦ Developed by researchers at the University of Michigan in the US, the tool uses a Platform Health Metric called the Iffy Quotient, which draws data from two external entities.
- ✦ It also shows that the two social media platform companies have made progress since early 2017 on their promises to crack down on misinformation, but one has succeeded more than the other.

### **4. Russian forces arrive in Pakistan for third joint-military drill**

- ✦ A Russian Army contingent arrived to take part in the third edition of a joint bilateral military training exercise.
- ✦ The two armies will be holding joint military drills in the mountains of northwestern Pakistan which will continue till November 4
- ✦ This will be the third joint military drill between Pakistan and Russia under the bilateral training cooperation agreement.

### **5. India conducts successful night trial of nuclear-capable Agni-I missile**

- ✦ India successfully conducted the night trial of the indigenously developed nuclear capable Agni-I ballistic missile off the Odisha coast.
- ✦ The surface-to-surface missile test was test-fired as part of a user-trial from the Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast.
- ✦ The night trial of the ballistic missile with a strike range of 700 km was first conducted in April 2014.
- ✦ The missile with a strike range of beyond 700 km has a specialised navigation system. It has already been inducted in the Indian Army.

### **6. India-Japan military exercise begins in Mizoram**

- ✦ Armies of India and Japan began their first ever joint military exercise at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte with a focus on strengthening counter-terror cooperation
- ✦ The focus of the two-week-long exercise 'Dharma Guardian-2018' will be to enhance tactical skills against global terrorism and increase interoperability between the two forces .
- ✦ The Japanese contingent is represented by 32nd Infantry Battalion, while the Indian side by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles.
- ✦ The objective of the exercise is to build and promote Army to Army relation in addition to exchange skills and experiences of both the armies.

### **7. IIT-Madras creates India's first indigenous microprocessor called 'Shakti'**

- ✦ Lead researcher and Professor Kamakoti Veezhinathan said that 'Shakti' is India's first and indigenous microprocessor that has been developed by Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) at an outlay of about Rs 11 crore, which will not be outdated anytime soon
- ✦ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has designed and booted up 'Shakti', which can be used for wireless and networking systems, as well as mobile computing.
- ✦ Veezhinathan, the lead researcher at IITM's Reconfigurable Intelligent Systems Engineering (RISE) Laboratory said that "Shakti" could be used by others as it was at par with international standards.

### **8. Offshore patrol vessel ICGS Varaha launched**

- ✦ The Indian Coast Guard has launched a new offshore patrol vessel called ICGS Varaha from a corporate shipyard near Chennai.
- ✦ This is the third in a series of seven similar ships to be handed over to the Coast Guard. The timeline for the delivery of all the vessels is March 2021.
- ✦ ICGS Varaha will soon be fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries. The weapons will include a 30 mm guns with Fire Control Systems.

### **9. India's nuclear submarine INS Arihant completes first 'deterrence patrol'**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India's first indigenous nuclear submarine INS Arihant has successfully completed its "first deterrence patrol".
- ✦ The development signifies that the underwater warship has completed its maiden long-range mission with "live" nuclear-tipped missiles.

- ✦ Following the successful completion of its "deterrence patrol", INS Arihant can now be considered a fully functional underwater ballistic missile delivery platform.

#### **10. S. Korean-US to resume marine exercise**

- ✦ South Korea and the United States will resume this week battalion-level marine exercises that were delayed as part of efforts to help facilitate a detente with North Korea, Seoul military .
- ✦ The two marine forces will begin joint training lasting two weeks around the southeastern port city of Pohang.
- ✦ The Korea Marine Exercise Programme (KMEP) exercise has been suspended for six months since May as the two countries engaged in diplomacy with North Korea.

#### **11. Singapore-India Bilateral Naval Exercise SIMBEX-18 Kicks off**

- ✦ The 25th edition of the SIMBEX – Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 2018 marking the Silver Jubilee of maritime combat drills between the two countries kicked off at Port Blair in Andaman Nicobar Islands.
- ✦ It may be noted here that there are only a few militaries that can boast of continuity and cooperation in the field of maritime combat drills like the navies of Singapore and India .
- ✦ The exercise has graduated to complex maritime combat drills including missile and torpedo firings and shore based intensive professional exchanges.

#### **12. INS Rana to take part in 'Samudra Shakti', a bilateral exercise between India and Indonesia**

- ✦ INS Rana of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command is on deployment to South East Asia and arrived at the port of Surabaya to participate in the inaugural edition of Indian Navy - Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' scheduled from November 12 to 18.
- ✦ The aim of the exercise is to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.
- ✦ The exercise would start with a Harbour Phase scheduled from November 12 to 15 encompassing planning and briefing on various activities, professional interactions, cross deck visits, sports fixtures and social interactions.

#### **13. World's largest brain-like supercomputer switched on for first time**

- ✦ The world's largest supercomputer designed to work in the same way as the human brain has been switched on for the first time.
- ✦ Researchers eventually aim to model up to a billion biological neurons in real time and are now a step closer.
- ✦ To reach this point it has taken 15 million in funding, 20 years in conception and over 10 years in construction, with the initial build starting way back in 2006.

#### **14. India, Indonesia launch their maiden naval exercise**

- ✦ The first bilateral naval exercise named "Samudra Shakti" between the Indian and the Indonesian Navies was inaugurated in Surabaya, Indonesia giving further momentum to bilateral strategic partnership.
- ✦ These bilateral naval exercises will be conducted in Java Sea and would last until 18 November.
- ✦ The exercise would be held in two phases: the harbour phase and followed by the sea phase.
- ✦ During the sea phase, the ships will conduct various activities pertaining to maritime safety and security, including Search and Rescue as well as procedures of investigating and engaging various types of hostile platforms at sea.

#### **15. #PowerOf18: Twitter's Campaign To Boost Youth Engagement For 2019 Polls**

- ✦ Twitter India on launched a new initiative titled #PowerOf18, aimed at encouraging the youth to contribute in public debates and participate in civic engagement for the 2019 general elections.
- ✦ The #PowerOf18 will serve as a resource for young Indians to find more information about the elections, support social causes they are passionate about and join the public conversation.
- ✦ In a nationwide survey conducted with 3,622 youth respondents from India, Twitter found an overwhelming 94 per cent of respondents indicating that they would vote in the upcoming elections.

#### **16. India GSLV MkIII-D2 successfully launches GSAT-29**

- ✦ India's GSAT-29 communication satellite was successfully launched by the second developmental flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MarkIII (GSLV MkIII-D2) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR
- ✦ GSLV MkIII-D2 lifted off from the Second Launch Pad of SDSC SHAR at 17:08 hours (IST), carrying the 3423-kg GSAT-29 satellite. About 17 minutes later, the vehicle injected the satellite into the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)

- ✦ After injection, ISRO's Master Control Facility at Hassan has assumed the control of the satellite. In the coming days, three orbit raising manoeuvres will be executed to position the satellite in the Geostationary Orbit at its designated location.

### **17. Indo-Russian military exercises from November 18**

- ✦ India and Russia will hold joint military exercises in Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh from November 18
- ✦ Exercise "Indra 2018" will begin at the Babina Field Firing Ranges. This forms part of a drill to combat insurgency under the UN aegis.
- ✦ The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct enhance interoperability of the two Armies in peace keeping and enforcement environment under UN aegis.

### **18. IIT Researchers Make Smartphone-Based System To Detect Milk Adulteration**

- ✦ Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad, have developed a smartphone-based system to detect adulteration in milk.
- ✦ The detector system measures acidity in milk using an indicator paper that changes colour according to acidity. They have also developed algorithms that can be incorporated on to a smartphone to accurately detect the colour change.
- ✦ They used a process called "electrospinning" to produce paper-like material made of nanosized nylon fibre, loaded with a combination of three dyes. The paper is "halochromic" which changes colour in response to changes in acidity.

### **19. Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' commences in Jaipur**

- ✦ The 12-day long joint military exercise between India and the United States known as 'Vajra Prahar' commenced in Jaipur.
- ✦ A contingent of the United States Pacific Commander arrived at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges on November 18 for undertaking Joint training with the Indian Special Forces.
- ✦ The US contingent comprises of one officer and 10 other ranks from the Special Forces Group, informed Rajasthan Defence PRO Lt Col Sombhit Ghosh.
- ✦ The contingents will train on different aspects including hostage rescue, building intervention, desert survival, medical aid and combat firing. Lastly, the Special Forces will undertake a three-day outdoor exercise to validate their practices.

### **20. Morocco launches second earth observation satellite 'Mohammed VI-B'**

- ✦ Morocco launched its second earth observation satellite, Mohammed VI-B, from French Guiana early on the second in a year.
- ✦ Its first satellite, Mohammed VI-A, was launched on November 8, 2017, by the Vega rocket from the same Kourou space centre.

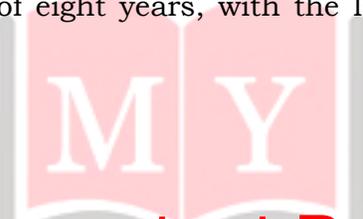
- ✦ The Mohammed VI-B was the second satellite of Morocco's ambitious space program -- the first in Africa -- that was launched in 2013 by King Mohammed VI, after whom the satellites are named.

## 21. ISRO launches earth observation satellite HysIS along with 30 others

- ✦ Isro has launched India's earth observation satellite HysIS along with 30 other foreign satellites, including 23 from the US. The satellites were carried by the workhorse rocket PSLV-C43.
- ✦ The 45th flight of PSLV was launched from the First Launch Pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on Thursday at 9.58 am (IST).
- ✦ Primary purpose of HysIS satellite is to observe earth's surface in infrared region.

## 22. Air forces of the US and India to hold joint exercise 'Cope India 2019'

- ✦ Air forces of the United States and India are scheduled to participate in a 12-day joint exercise 'Cope India 2019' at two air force stations in West Bengal
- ✦ The exercise will be held from December 3 to 14 at Air Station Kalaikunda and Air Station Arjan Singh (Panagarh).
- ✦ The exercise will be held from December 3 to 14 at The Cope India exercise is being held after a gap of eight years, with the last one having taken place in 2010.

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## Important Days

### 1. United nation Day observed on 24 October

- ✦ United Nations Day is devoted to making known to people of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations Organization. United Nations Day is part of United Nations Week, which runs from 20 to 26 October.
- ✦ In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly declared 24 October, the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, as which "shall be devoted to making known to the people of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations and to gaining their support for" its work
- ✦ Antonio Guterres is the secretary general of the United Nations.

### 2. Ayurveda Day to be celebrated throughout the Country on 5th November

- ✦ This year Ayurveda Day is being observed on 5th November 2018.

- ✦ Ministry is organising a “National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda” in association with NITI Aayog on 4th & 5th November 2018 at Dr. Ambedkar International centre, Janapth, New Delhi.
- ✦ The aim isto encourage entrepreneurs and Ayurveda stakeholders towards businesses opportunities in the sector.

### 3. National cancer awareness day 7 November

- ✦ National Cancer Awareness Day will be observed across the country on November 7 every year.
- ✦ Two-thirds of cancer cases are diagnosed at an advanced stage, reducing patients' chances of survival.
- ✦ Indian society of oncology had partnered with four states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh to launch the‘Pendharkar model’.
- ✦ Under this, government staff at district hospitals will be trained in handling cancer care and providing chemotherapy.

### 4. Legal Services Day 9 November

- ✦ Legal Services Day is celebrated every year on 9th of November in all the states Authorities.
- ✦ At this day variety of legal literacy camps and functions are organized at many places in the capital city of the country.
- ✦ The 9th of November is selected as the Legal Services Day which was first started by the Supreme Court in the year 1995 all across the India.
- ✦ The aim of celebrating the Legal Services Day is to offer the free of charge, proficient and legal services to the people of weaker sections of society.

### 5. National Education Day is celebrated on November 11

- ✦ The nation celebrates the National Education Day on November 11 as a mark of respect to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- ✦ The latter was a freedom fighter and independent India’s first Education Minister (served from 1947 to 1958).
- ✦ The ex-minister was a renowned scholar and poet and was well-versed in many languages.

### 6. World Fisheries Day: A look at fisheries resources and fisher-folks of India

- ✦ Fisheries is an important sector in India that provides employment to millions of people apart from contributing to the food security of the country.
- ✦ Fishing communities celebrate this day through rallies, workshops, public meetings, cultural dramas, exhibition, and music shows.

- ✦ World Fisheries Day is celebrated every year on November 21 to highlight the importance of healthy oceans ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world.

### 7. 26 November observed as constitution day

- ✦ Constitution Day (National Law Day), also known as Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of Constitution of India.
- ✦ On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- ✦ The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification.

### 8. People's participation, awareness key for encouraging organ donation ; Organ Donation Day 27 November

- ✦ On the 9th Indian Organ Donation Day, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar said people's participation and people's awareness is the key for encouraging organ donation.
- ✦ Organised by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation here, he also administered the Pledge to the participation to donate organs.
- ✦ National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) Headquarters: New Delhi

### 9. Jharkhand Day celebrated at IFFI

- ✦ Jharkhand Day was celebrated at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa
- ✦ Jharkhand is the focus state at this year's IFFI. This is for the first time that any state has been made focus state at IFFI.
- ✦ Jharkhand is home to some of the biggest celebrities including, MS Dhoni, Priyanka Chopra, and archer Deepika Kumar.

### 10. National Flag day 30 November

- ✦ National Flag day is observed on 30 November.
- ✦ The Flag Day initiative aims to inculcate the culture of respecting the national flag as a symbol of the country's sovereignty, unity and a sense of belonging.
- ✦ The Flag Day initiative targets students in around 800 schools and universities nationwide, including both Emiratis and expatriate students, as well as their parents and guardians.

### 11. World Aids Day ; 1 December

- ✦ On 1 December 2018, WHO will join global partners to commemorate World AIDS Day under the theme "Know Your Status".
- ✦ This will also be an occasion to celebrate the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day – a pioneering global health campaign first initiated by WHO in 1988.

- ✦ Urge policy-makers to promote a “health for all” agenda for HIV and related health services, such as tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis and noncommunicable diseases.

## Obituaries

### **1. Former Delhi chief minister and BJP leader Madan Lal Khurana passes away**

- ✦ Former Delhi chief minister Madan Lal Khurana passed away here after a prolonged illness.
- ✦ A veteran of the BJP, Khurana was the chief minister of Delhi from 1993 to 1996 and was appointed the governor of Rajasthan in 2004.
- ✦ Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari expressed grief over Khurana's death, saying his contribution to the development of Delhi would be remembered.

### **2. Senior composer & lyricist Yashwant Dev passes away in Mumbai**

- ✦ Senior composer and lyricist Yashwant Dev passed away in Mumbai early this morning. He was 92.
- ✦ He had composed and written many popular Marathi songs. He had also served in Music section of All India Radio, Mumbai.
- ✦ He was honored with many awards including Gan-samradni Lata Mangeshkar Award and Gadima puraskar.

### **3. Union Minister Ananth Kumar passes away**

- ✦ Union Fertilizer & Chemicals, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar died in Bengaluru.
- ✦ In his second term itself, he became Union Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet. He has earlier served as Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister.
- ✦ He represented Bengaluru South since 1996, and won non-stop for six terms. He was 59 years.

### **4. Former SC Judge Justice S N Phukan Passes Away**

- ✦ Former Supreme Court judge Justice S N Phukan passed away at Jorhat, Assam. He was aged 81 years
- ✦ He was a judge at the Supreme Court from January 28, 1999 to April 1, 2002.

- ✦ He joined the Meghalaya government in July, 1970 and worked in the Law Department. He was also appointed as the Law Secretary and Legal Remembrancer in January, 1976.

#### **5. 1971 war hero Kuldip Singh Chandpuri, who inspired Border movie, dies**

- ✦ Kuldip Singh Chandpuri was suffering from cancer and died at a Punjab hospital
- ✦ Chandpuri was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for his leadership during the Battle of Longewala
- ✦ Chandpuri retired as a brigadier in the Indian Army.
- ✦ Kuldip Singh Chandpuri was a major in the Indian Army during the war of 1971. The war, which saw India defeat Pakistan, led to the liberation of Bangladesh.

#### **6. Oscar-winning screenwriter William Goldman dies at 87**

- ✦ The Oscar-winning screenwriter and best-selling author William Goldman, known for "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "All The President's Men", died. He was 87.
- ✦ According to The Washington Post, Goldman, who also wrote the novels and then the screenplays for Marathon Man (1976), Magic (1978) and the much-loved.
- ✦ The cause of death was complications from colon cancer and pneumonia, his daughter, Jenny Goldman, told the newspaper.

## **Sports**

#### **1. Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Final India and Pakistan declared joint winners**

- ✦ India and Pakistan will share the trophy. Both teams have won the tournament twice each in the past.
- ✦ The start of the final match was delayed due to heavy rain. As the turf was completely waterlogged the teams couldn't play.
- ✦ Both India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy.
- ✦ India had won the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy in 2011 and 2016.

#### **2. Sourav Kothari wins World Billiards Championship title**

- ✦ India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 1134-944 of to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title

- ✦ The former national and Asian Billiards champion was pipped at the post for the coveted World Billiards crown on two occasions in the last two years, including a loss to Gilchrist in the 2016 final in Bengaluru.
- ✦ Earlier in the semis, Kothari steered his way to a dramatic victory in the dying minutes of the game over 6-time World and defending champion David Causier of England by 1317-1246.

### **3. Azhar Ali announces retirement from ODIs**

- ✦ Senior Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali announced his retirement from limited overs cricket in order to concentrate fully on Test cricket.
- ✦ Azhar, who had to step down as captain of the ODI team last year, however felt that he could have done more in 50-over cricket.
- ✦ Azhar has been one of Pakistan's most prolific run-scorers in Test cricket as he scored a triple century and a double hundred in Tests in the UAE and Australia in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

### **4. Rohit Sharma becomes first batsman to hit four T20I hundreds**

- ✦ Rohit Sharma became the first batsman to hit four T20I hundreds. His whirlwind, unbeaten knock of 111 of 61 balls powered India to 195-2 in their second T20I against the West Indies.
- ✦ He also overtook Virat Kohli to become India's leading run-getter in T20Is, and ended up second on the list of the highest run-getters in the world, just behind New Zealand's Martin Guptill.
- ✦ He also became the first captain to score two T20I hundreds. He also became the first captain to score two T20I hundreds.

### **5. Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta scales Mt Giluwe in Papua New Guinea**

- ✦ Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe – the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea.
- ✦ Satyarup reached the summit of the mountain which is at an elevation of 4,367 metres on November 11.
- ✦ In September this year, Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatua created history by climbing Asia's highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand and became the first Bengalis to do so.

### **6. F1: Lewis Hamilton Wins Brazilian Grand Prix**

- ✦ Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, who scored his 10th victory of the Formula 1 season, won Brazilian Grand Prix
- ✦ Hamilton lead through the first half of the race before he was passed by Max Verstappen who then looked all set to take the podium.
- ✦ Team Mercedes also lifted the Constructors title for the fifth consecutive time.

### **7. Australia's John Hastings Retires From International Cricket Due To Lung Disease**

- ✦ Australia all-rounder John Hastings announced retirement from all forms of cricket due to a lung disease.
- ✦ Hastings had already retired from ODI and Test cricket last year but continued to play T20 cricket.
- ✦ In an 11-year-long cricket career, Hastings played for Victoria and Melbourne Stars at home and Durham in English county.

### **8. UNICEF appoints Hima Das as India's first ever Youth Ambassador**

- ✦ Teenage sprint sensation Hima Das, who won three medals, including gold in 4x400m women's relay at the Asian Games and a historic gold medal at the U-20 World Championship in Finland, has been appointed India's first ever Youth Ambassador by UNICEF.
- ✦ In her role as a Youth Ambassador, Hima will be working towards raising awareness about the rights and needs of children.
- ✦ She will help amplify the voices of children and young people as active participants in decision making, thus contributing to their holistic development.

### **9. Women's World Boxing Championships begin in Delhi**

- ✦ The Women's World Boxing Championships begin in Delhi. This tenth edition of the tournament is set to be the biggest ever as more than 300 boxers from 72 countries will be taking part.
- ✦ MC Mary Kom will be aiming for a historic sixth gold at the event, which is being hosted by India for the first time since 2006 when the country had topped the table with four gold, one silver and three bronze medals.
- ✦ This time, the 10-member Indian team, led by Mary Kom, is a mix of seasoned and young boxers.

### **10. Bajrang Punia becomes number one in world in 65kg**

- ✦ Star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia touched a new high in his career by achieving the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category.
- ✦ It has turned out to be a remarkable season for Bajrang, who was also the only Indian grappler to be given a seeding at the Budapest World Championship.
- ✦ The 24-year-old Bajrang, who has won five medals this season, including CWG and Asian Games gold and a silver at the World Championship, was placed atop the ranking table with 96 points in the UWW list.

### **11. India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani wins third straight IBSF billiards crown**

- ✦ India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani won his third straight IBSF billiards crown in the 150-up format, taking his overall tally of world titles to a staggering 20.
- ✦ The 33-year-old from Bengaluru overcame Nay Thway Oo of Myanmar in a high-quality final.
- ✦ It was also a proud moment for Myanmar which saw its own player in the title round for the first time.

### **12. Lakshya Sen gets boys singles bronze at World Junior Badminton Championships**

- ✦ Lakshya Sen is the only Indian medallist in this year's BWF World Junior Championships
- ✦ Lakshya's bronze medal is India's fifth in the Championships in boys singles
- ✦ Saina Nehwal is India's sole gold medallist at the BWF World Junior Championships
- ✦ This was India's fifth boys singles bronze medal at the BWF World Junior Championships and the only medal India got at this year's Championships.

### **13. India Win Two Bronze Medals in Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup**

- ✦ Indian gymnasts won two bronze medals in the men's and women's group events of the FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup in Baku.
- ✦ Germany's Kudryashov, Aleksandr Sorokin, Valeriy Tukashvili and Kirill Zadorin were ranked first with a score of 28.336, while Pavel Gubskiy, Kirill Lukyanov, Vladimir Petrov and Denis Solun finished second after scoring 28.005.
- ✦ Teams from Belarus, Israel, Kazakhstan, India, Russia and Ukraine participated in the competitions.

### **14. Mary Kom clinches record 6th World Championship gold**

- ✦ M C Mary Kom became the most successful boxer in the history of Women's World Championships by winning her sixth gold medal with an unanimous 5-0 result over Ukraine's Hanna Okhota here.
- ✦ The 35-year-old Mary Kom beat her opponent in the 48kg category without breaking a sweat. She now has an incredible six gold and one silver in the tournament.
- ✦ With this gold, 'Magnificent Mary' also matched Cuban men's legend Felix Savon as the joint most successful pugilist (men and women) in the World Championships history.

### **15. World T20 renamed as T20 World Cup**

- ✦ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that it has renamed the ICC World T20 as the ICC T20 World Cup.
- ✦ This means next editions of the events in 2020 in Australia will be known as the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020.

- ✦ The renaming of the event is also aimed at cementing the importance this event holds in the international cricket calendar and ensuring parity across all three formats of the game.

#### **16. Women's World T20 final: Australia beat England to claim fourth crown**

- ✦ Australia have wrapped up their fourth World Cup T20 crown, cruising past England in the final at Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Antigua.
- ✦ Ellyse Perry became the second woman to reach an incredible 100 wickets milestone in T20 internationals as Australia dismantled England's batting line-up.
- ✦ It's the third time Australia have got the better of England in the final, previously lifting the trophy in 2012 and 2014.

#### **17. Lewis Hamilton wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix: F1**

- ✦ Lewis Hamilton rounds off a stunning season with victory in Abu Dhabi.
- ✦ The world champion took victory after starting on pole at Yas Marina, with Vettel taking second ahead of Verstappen.
- ✦ The title is his 11th win of this year's campaign and overall 73rd career win and is now 18 wins away from Michael Schumacher's all-time record.

#### **18. Odisha Hockey Men's World cup 2018 Inauguated at Kalinga Stadium**

- ✦ The opening ceremony of the 14th Men's Hockey World cup has nicely set up the tournament proper to begin in the Odisha capital after it was declared open by chief minister Naveen Patnaik.
- ✦ The three hour show witnessed a fitting musical climax as the music maestro and his troupe put up a spell binding performance.
- ✦ Turtle 'Olly' is the official mascot for the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup. It represents the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles that travel thousands of miles in the ocean and arrive in millions every year on Odisha's beaches for their annual nesting.
- ✦ And the ceremony had to end with the official song of the Odisha hockey men's world cup 2018 sung and composed by Rahman, written by veteran writer Gulzar and featuring Shah Rukh in the the video.

#### **19. National Shooting Championships: 13-Year-Old Esha Singh Wins Three Gold Medals**

- ✦ Esha Singh, who is the daughter of a national level rally driver, won medals in the youth, junior and senior categories.
- ✦ 13-year-old Esha Singh, who hails from Telangana, took the National Shooting Championships by storm after winning three gold medals, leaving behind experienced shooters such as Heena Sidhu and Manu Bhaker.
- ✦ Shooting 241.0 in the women's final, the teenager beat Manu Bhaker, who finished second with a score of 238.9. And experienced shooter Heena Sidhu trailed behind at sixth with a disappointing score of 154.9.

## **Books and Author**

### **1. AR Rahman launches biography 'Notes of a Dream'**

- ✦ Oscar-winning musician AR Rahman released his biography, Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman.
- ✦ Written by author Krishna Trilok, the book is in association with Landmark and Penguin Random House.
- ✦ Notes of a Dream has been a journey for me that took me to those corners of my life which have remained candid for a long time. The insightful conversations with Krishna Trilok have unravelled parts of my creative and personal life which are not known to many," Rahman said.

### **2. Mansi Gulati's book 'Yoga And Mindfulness' launched by VP Venkaiah Naidu**

- ✦ Famous yoga exponent and author, Mansi Gulati launched her book, "Yoga and Mindfulness".
- ✦ The book was launched by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- ✦ It helps in understanding the philosophy behind yoga and also explains how various asanas are performed, with the help of pictures. It also lists the benefits of every asana.

### **3. Dr Jitendra Singh releases book 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War'**

- ✦ The Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh released a book titled 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War' written by Dr Rajesh Bhat
- ✦ Dr Jitendra Singh congratulated the author of the book and appreciated his efforts for writing a book on Jammu and Kashmir after extensive and in-depth research.
- ✦ The book titled 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War' has emanated from an extensive and intensive research by the author on the significant role played by the media in safeguarding the strategic interest of the Government.

### **4. President of India Receives the First Copy of the book "Making of New India"**

- ✦ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book "Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government", from Shri Arun Jaitley.
- ✦ Shri Jaitley formally released it at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✦ Numerous measures have been taken to ensure that socio-economic groups, communities and regions that had so far been left behind in the India growth story are mainstreamed in a holistic manner.

## Awards

### 1. Pakistani lawyer Asma Jahangir wins UN Human Rights Prize posthumously

- ✦ Pakistan's iconic human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir was posthumously awarded the 2018 UN Human Rights Prize.
- ✦ She was one of the four winners of the award which was announced by the United Nations.
- ✦ The "United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights" is an honorary award given for outstanding achievement in human rights.

### 2. Prof. MS Swaminathan receives 1st World Agriculture Prize

- ✦ Renowned agricultural scientist and the chief architect of the green revolution in India, Prof. MS Swaminathan was awarded the very 1st World Agriculture Prize for his immense contributions to Indian agriculture by Indian Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.
- ✦ Naidu called the eminent agricultural scientist as a Vishwaguru in Agriculture, a teacher and a scholar who continues to leave his inspirational, ideational thoughts and prints on the world.
- ✦ Concerned over the decrease in number of people engaged in agriculture, the Vice President called for concerted, coordinated action to address a number of issues that impact the growth of agriculture sector.

### 3. Athletics body wins Ficci award

- ✦ The Athletics Federation of India has been chosen winner of the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards 2018 for the category of Best National Sports Federation (NSF). The eminent Jury was chaired by Justice (retd) Mukul Mudgal.
- ✦ This is a true recognition of the work done by AFI for growth and development of Sports in the country.
- ✦ The award will be presented at the India Sports Awards ceremony, at Federation House, New Delhi.

### 4. MAHE Chancellor Dr Ramdas M Pai Conferred Life Time Achievement Award by FICCI

- ✦ Dr. Ramdas M Pai was awarded the 'Lifetime Achievement Award 2018', in recognition of his enormous contributions in the fields of Education and Healthcare by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi on 30th October 2018.
- ✦ Dr Pai, a recipient of Padma Bhushan, "Is an epitome of dedication and perseverance, who has contributed immensely at national and

international level. He has spent his entire life working with all the Group of Institutions and his name has till date been synonymous with perseverance, dedication and attaining a larger purpose in all human endeavor.

- ✦ His principled stance, his unwavering commitment to promoting affordable and accessible education and healthcare has greatly benefited the public at large.

#### **5. Veteran Journalist N. Ram to Receive Press Council's Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award**

- ✦ Veteran journalist and Hindu publishing group chairman N. Ram has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award, presented by the Press Council of India, for his outstanding contribution towards journalism.
- ✦ The award will be presented on November 16 on the occasion of the National Press Day.
- ✦ The Press Council of India (PCI) also announced other winners of the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2018. Ruby Sarkar, Chief Correspondent, Deshbandhu, Bhopal, and Rajesh Parshuram Joshte, Daily Pudhari, Ratnagiri, have been jointly named as winners of the award in the category of 'Rural Journalism'.

#### **6. Centre awards Assam Police for citizen services**

- ✦ The Union government has awarded the Assam Police for "good practices" under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), an e-governance project
- ✦ The Ministry of Home Affairs has also awarded Anil Kumar Jha, Special Director General (CID) of the force, for his outstanding contribution in implementing the project.
- ✦ The award was given for citizen centric service delivery, in which the state police has automated passport verification and Permanent Residential Certificate (PRC) services using the online CCTNS.

#### **7. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan presented lifetime achievement award in Delhi**

- ✦ Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, was presented the 'Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement' at the Kamani Auditorium, 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.
- ✦ Best known for his clear and fast 'ekhara taans', Khan was born in 1945 in Gwalior. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan (2001), and is among the tallest Indian classical musicians.

#### **8. Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati conferred with Global Education Leaders Award 2018**

- ✦ Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati, Director, Blue Bells Group of Schools has been conferred with the coveted Global Education Leaders Award 2018
- ✦ An educationist par excellence, Dr. Gulati was among the nine eminent education leaders from India who were awarded for their exemplary contribution in various spheres of education.
- ✦ The event was held at The Atlantis, Dubai in the presence of His Excellency Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to UAE, Mr. Manpreet Singh Badal.

### 9. Amitabh Bachchan honoured with Sayaji Ratna Award for contribution to social causes

- ✦ Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III.
- ✦ The Baroda Management Association hd, in 2013, instituted the award to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the ruler, known for undertaking major social reform measures during his rule in the early twentieth century.
- ✦ Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and noted industrialist Ratan Tata have been given the award earlier.

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