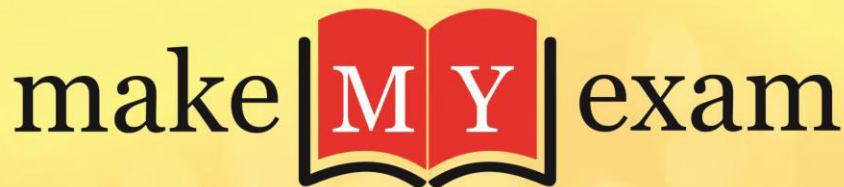


Monthly GK Capsule

01 August – 31 August, 2018



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<p>REMAINDER THEOREM - I</p> <p>AMIT PANDEY</p> <p>Number System REMAINDER THEOREM(Part-1) By Amit Pandey</p>	<p>Parts of Speech NOUN</p> <p>By SAJJID AMAN KHAN</p> <p>Parts of Speech : NOUN By Sajid Aman Khan (General English).....</p>	<p>CURRENT AFFAIRS BULLETIN</p> <p>10 - 16 April 2017</p> <p>Neha Singh</p> <p>Current Affairs Bulletin of the week 11-10 April To 16 April 2017</p>	<p>President of India Part-I</p> <p>AMIT PANDEY</p> <p>President of India (Qualification & Election) By Vipin Goyal</p>
<p>SBI PO - PRE EXAM TRAINING</p> <p>Are you ready for SBI PO EXAM ?</p> <p>Online 8 days</p> <p>SBI PO : 8 Days online PRE EXAM TRAINING</p>	<p>SBI PO - PRE EXAM TRAINING</p> <p>DAY-2 (2 HOURS)</p> <p>REASONING ABILITY</p> <p>Online 8 days</p> <p>SBI PO online PET : Day 2 Reasoning Ability</p>	<p>SBI PO - PRE EXAM TRAINING</p> <p>DAY-3 (2 HOURS)</p> <p>QUANTITATIVE ABILITY</p> <p>Online 8 days</p> <p>SBI PO Online PET : Day 3 Maths - Percentage, Profit & Loss & All...</p>	<p>SBI PO - PRE EXAM TRAINING</p> <p>DAY - 7</p> <p>GENERAL ENGLISH</p> <p>Online 8 Days</p> <p>SBI PO online PET : Day 7 GENERAL ENGLISH - CLOZE TEST, S. REAR...</p>

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- Current Affairs bulletin
- Exam Notification & Analysis
- Pre Exam Training
- G.K Sessions
- Debates & discussions
- Success Stories
- Live Interview Sessions
- Group discussions

National News

1. Shri JP Nadda Launches National Viral Hepatitis Control Program

- ✦ Shri JP Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family welfare launched the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program to mark the World Hepatitis Day on July 28, 2018.
- ✦ JP Nadda also released the Operational Guidelines for National Viral Hepatitis Control Program, National Laboratory Guidelines for Viral Hepatitis Testing and National Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Viral Hepatitis.
- ✦ Shri Nadda stated, the government has also launched the 'Test and Treat Policy for HIV' where in as soon as a person is tested and found to be positive, he will be provided with ART irrespective of this CD count or clinical Stage.

2. Dharmendra Pradhan lays the Foundation stone for Permanent campus for National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) for women in Mohali

- ✦ The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, laid the foundation stone for permanent campus of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) for Women at Mohali.
- ✦ NSTI is 1st Institute for Punjab and only one of its kind in India which is exclusively for women. Minister also launched a unique Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) which would admit differently abled persons as well, also a first of its kind in India at Mohali.
- ✦ These programs has been launched under "Skill India" Initiative of the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.
- ✦ The land for the project has been given by the farmers of village Saneta near Mohali and the cost of the project is Rs.17 crores.

3. PM Modi Launches 81 projects in Uttar Pradesh

- ✦ PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated 81 investment projects worth Rs worth Rs 60,000 crore. This is Modi's fifth visit in the past one month to Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ Modi laid the foundation stones and inaugurated 99 urban development projects for Uttar Pradesh worth Rs 3897 crore.
- ✦ Eighty industrialists, including major firms such as Birla, Reliance and Adani, attended the ceremony alongside Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ✦ The ceremony was held to implement 81 of the 1045 MOUs signed at the Uttar Pradesh Investors Summit.

4. Meghalaya milk Mission Launched in Shillong

- ✦ Union Minister for Agriculture and farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh launched the Meghalaya Milk Mission in Shillong.

- ✦ The amount sanctioned for the project is of Rs 215 Crores through National Cooperative Development Corporation.
- ✦ The mission will facilitate in achieving the Centre's goal of doubling farmers income by 2022 through the promotion of milk business in the state.

5. Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana(PMKVY) Pan – India Basis

- ✦ The Government is implementing a flagship scheme known as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) on pan- India basis which enables prospective youth to take up short Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) through accredited and affiliated training centers.
- ✦ The scheme has two components namely Centrally Sponsored Centrally Managed(CSCM) which is implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)and Centrally Sponsored State Managed(CSSM) which is implemented by state skill Development Mission of the State.
- ✦ At this stage, the focus is on the overall development that cuts across all subject areas so that the children acquire essential skill such as problem solving skill, personal character and values, physical and aesthetic development, ICT skills, interpersonal skill and cognitive skill for laying a firm foundation of learning.

6. Government launches Swachh Bharat Internship to promote involvement of students in rural cleanliness

- ✦ Government launched “Swachh Bharat Summer Internship- 100 hours of Swachhta” Program for the students of Universities and Higher Education Institutions.
- ✦ The students are to devote approximately 100 hours conduction Swachhta-related activities in villages selected by them and approved by their parent institution.
- ✦ The participants are to conduct (i) Information Education communication activities for increasing awareness of village people about sanitation and hygiene and (ii) Solid Waste Management related activities in villages.
- ✦ All the participants of the Internship program will be given a Swachh Bharat Summer Internship Certificate on completion of their internship and its approval by their parent institution.

7. “The Walled City of Jaipur, Rajasthan, India” is the next proposed site for UNESCO World Heritage recognition

- ✦ The site namely “The Walled City of Jaipur, Rajasthan, India” has been proposed for World Heritage.
- ✦ As per Operation Guidelines 2017, only one site can be nominated by the state party each year.
- ✦ It boost domestic and international tourism leading to increased employment Generation, creation of World class infrastructure and augmentation of sale of local handicrafts, handlooms and heritage memorabilia.

8. India's first Mobile Open Exchange zone inaugurated at Noida

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of country's first Mobile Open Exchange (MOX) zone in Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- ✦ The Uttar Pradesh government had earlier this year signed an MoU with World Trade Center, Noida, to develop a 'tech zone' as a nucleus of the Mobile Open Exchange Zone (MOX).
- ✦ This unique zone will play pivotal role in attracting investment and area will reap huge benefits from it.

9. Rajasthan Becomes first State to implement bio fuel policy

- ✦ Rajasthan became first state in the country to implement National Policy on Bio fuels unveiled by Union Government.
- ✦ The State will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and establish a Centre for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in the fields of alternative fuels and energy resources.
- ✦ The policy categorises of bio fuels in to first generation(1G), second generation(2G) and third generation(3G) to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.

10. Government imposes 25% safeguard duty on import of solar cells

- ✦ Union Government has imposed safeguard duty of 25% on import of solar cells from China and Malaysia.
- ✦ The finance ministry said 25 per cent safeguard duty have been imposed for July 30 to July 29, 2019, which will gradually come down to 20 per cent during July 30, 2019 to January 29, 2020 and 15 per cent during January 30, 2020 to July 29, 2020.
- ✦ The decision by Union Government follows long deliberation by Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), which recommended safeguard duty structure after considering application by Indian solar cell manufacturers.

11. E- Aksharayan, Desktop Software Launched by IT ministry

- ✦ The IT ministry launched a desktop software E- Aksharayan in a conference for Indian Languages Technology Industry 'Bhashantara'.
- ✦ The aim is to enable editing and printing of text in scanned documents.
- ✦ The software E-Aksharayan was launched in 7 Indian Languages. Hindi, Bangla , Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil , Kannada and Assamese.
- ✦ Ravi Shankar Prasad is the present Minister of Electronics and Information Technology of India.

12. Shri Piyush Goyal Approves New Promotion Policy for Railway Sportspersons

- ✦ Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal has approved a new Policy for Promotion of Sports persons whereby in addition to the sportspersons who won a medal in Olympics, all those sportspersons & coaches who have been awarded with Padma Shri will be promoted as officers.

- ✦ This liberalized promotion policy will act as an incentive to the country's elite sportspersons/coaches and reaffirms Railways commitment to the promotion of sports in the country.
- ✦ Sportsperson, who are winners of any of the awards like Arjuna/Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award would also be entitled to the said promotion.
- ✦ The Minister had also emphasized the role of coaches in producing successful sportspersons.

13. NITI Aayog launches Move Hack, global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solution for future of mobility in India

- ✦ NITI Aayog has launched Move Hack, a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solution aimed at the future of mobility in India.
- ✦ Envisaged to be one of the largest hackathons globally, Move Hack is focused on 10 themes and structured over three legs.
- ✦ MoveHack aim to bring about innovation, dynamic and scalable solution to pertaining to mobility.

14. Union Cabinet approves extension of CFS for infrastructure projects abroad

- ✦ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the first extension of Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) to support Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad for five years till 2023.
- ✦ In the five Year period, the financial implications towards payment of Interest Equalisation Support(IES) for the existing projects will be about 96 million dollars or Rs 625 crore.
- ✦ The scheme envisages the government to provide counter guarantee and interest equalization of 2 percent to EXIM Bank to offer concessional finance to any foreign government or foreign government owned or controlled entity, if any Indian entity, succeeds in getting contract for the execution of a project.
- ✦ Under this Scheme, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) selects the specific projects keeping in view strategic interest of India and sends the same to Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

15. Cabinet approves amendments to GST law

- ✦ The Cabinet approved GST laws amendments which included hiking threshold limit for availing composition scheme dealers to Rs1.5 crore, among other things.
- ✦ It also has modification of reverse charge mechanism, separate registration for companies having different business verticals, cancellation of registration, new return filing norms and issuance of consolidated debit/credit notes covering multiple invoices.
- ✦ Amendments will allow employers to claim input tax Credit on Facilities like food, transport and insurance provided to employees under any law.

16. Lok Sabha passes bill for speedy disposal of commercial disputes

- ✦ A bill to amend the law for speedy disposal of commercial disputes and seeking to reduce the pecuniary jurisdiction of commercial courts from Rs 1 crore to Rs 3 lakh was passed by the Lok Sabha.
- ✦ The Aim of the Bill is to Reduction in pecuniary limit, Establishment of certain commercial courts, Commercial Appellate Courts.
- ✦ This bill is a larger narrative pursuance to ensuring India's performance in the ease of doing business.

17. Ministry of Culture launches 'Seva Bhoj Yojna'

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Culture launched a scheme to reimburse central share of CGST and IGST on food, prasada, langar or bhandara offered by religious and charitable institutions.
- ✦ The scheme, Seva Bhoj Yojna, has a total outlay of Rs 325.00 crore for financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- ✦ The scheme will compensate the religious and charitable institutions of the Central Government share of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST).

18. Environment & Skill Development Ministers Sign MOU to train one lakh RAC Service Technicians

- ✦ Union Minister for Environment, Dr Harsh Vardhan signs MOU to bring a change by skilling, up- skilling and re- skilling technicians to bring down the emission of harmful greenhouse gases.
- ✦ The courses to provide Skill development to scientists and technicians have also been drawn up in the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ✦ The MOU signing ceremony was attended by the representatives of multilateral and bilateral agencies including UN Environment , representatives of various government departments.

19. Andhra approves unemployment allowance, to benefit 12 lakh youth

- ✦ The Andhra Pradesh Government has approved the "Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam" scheme that makes unemployed youth in the state, eligible of receiving Rs 1000 per month from the government.
- ✦ The scheme won't be applicable to those paying provident fund.
- ✦ The allowance will directly credited in bank account of selected beneficiary through biometric authentication in transparent manner.

20. Geographical Indications (GI) logo, tagline launched

- ✦ Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh prabhu launched a logo and tagline for Geographical Indication (GI) to increase awareness about intellectual property rights in the country.
- ✦ Darjeeling Tea, Triupati Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are among the registered GIs in India.
- ✦ The logo has tagline "Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India" Printed below it.

- ✦ This Act is administered by Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, who is also Registrar of Geographical Indication and is based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

21. Constitution (123rd amendment) Bill passed in Lok Sabha

- ✦ The Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill with over two-third majority.
- ✦ The Bill was passed superseding the amendments by the Rajya Sabha which seeks to grant constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). All 406 members present in the House voted in favour of it.
- ✦ The Bill gives NCBC powers of civil court while investigating or inquiring into any complaints.
- ✦ The Bill mentions that NCBC will comprise of five members appointed by President. Their tenure and conditions of service will also be decided by president through rules.

22. 122 New Research project Proposals at a cost of Rs 112 Crore selected for funding under IMPRINT-2

- ✦ Government has approved 122 new research project proposals at a cost of Rs 112 crore under IMPRINT- 2 Covering Energy, Security, Healthcare, Advanced Materials , ICT and Security/Defence domains.
- ✦ Out of 2145 proposals, 122 best proposals were selected for funding under IMPRINT-II, advancing cutting edge level technology.
- ✦ IMPRINT provides the overarching vision that guides research into areas that are predominantly socially relevant.
- ✦ IMPRINT is the First, to address the major science and engineering challenges that India must address and Champion to enable, empower and embolden the nation for inclusive growth and self- reliance.

23. 'Shaur nahin' Mobile app launched in Shimla, Manali

- ✦ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur Launched 'horn not ok' awareness campaign and 'shaur nahin'(no noise) mobile application with aim to stop unnecessary noise pollution.
- ✦ The 'Shaur nahin' mobile application can be used by the general public to report cases of noise pollution.
- ✦ This application has settings two types of users- General Public and officers, both of whom would be authenticated with one time Password(OTP).
- ✦ All complaints will be immediately made available through the application to the concerned deputy commissioner, superintendent of police, sub- divisional magistrate and sub- divisional police officer.

24. Mughalsarai Junction renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction

- ✦ The iconic Mughalsarai Railway Junction in Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station.

- ✦ Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were Present on the occasion.
- ✦ A goods train with an all- woman crew was also flagged off. A smart yard project was also launched on the occasion.

25. International Conference on Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling Inaugurated: NITI Aayog

- ✦ NITI Aayog's International Conference on "Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling:Policy Prescriptions" was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Nitin Gadkari at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra.
- ✦ Recycling will increase growth, create wealth, and generate employment.
- ✦ The day long conference has 5 technical sessions on "Circular Economy in Material Recycling", "Infrastructural Issues in Recycling Industry", "Standardization and certification in Recycling Industry", "Environmental Benefits of material Recycling", "Financial and Taxation issues in Recycling Industry".

26. Dr. Mahesh Sharma Inaugurates 64th Foundation Day Celebrations of Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi

- ✦ The National Academy of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi(LKA), established in 1954 by the Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, celebrated its 64th Foundation Day.
- ✦ The event also witnessed the launch of a book on eminent artist Ganesh Pyne- 'A Painter of Eloquent Silence' written by Pranav Ranjan Ray.'
- ✦ The event was inaugurated by minister of State for culture, Dr Mahesh Sharma.

27. Parliament passes bill to provide death to child rape convict

- ✦ The Parliament passed the criminal Law(Amendment) Bill, 2018 with the Rajya Sabha clearing it by a voice vote. The bill replaces the Criminal Law(Amendment) Ordinance promulgated on April 21 this year
- ✦ The punishment for gang rape of a girl below 16 years will invariably be imprisonment for the rest of life of the convict.
- ✦ The Bill amends Indian Penal Code(IPC), Criminal Procedure Code, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences and Indian Evidence Act.
- ✦ Parliament has passed Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, prescribing death penalty to those convicted of raping girls below age of 12 years and making against sexual offences.

28. Andhra Pradesh CM to Inaugurate First- Ever Thermal Battery Plant

- ✦ Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu unveil the world's first –ever thermal battery in his Andhra Pradesh State.
- ✦ Manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology private Limited(BEST), the first of its kind cell is aimed at boosting up renewable sources of energy production, instead of non- renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.

- ✦ It will also be used to store energy for telecommunication, commercial establishments, electric vehicles and highway charging stations.
- ✦ This is expected to be upgraded to a 10 GW Capacity by 2025.
- ✦ The thermal battery is based on alternative sources of energy production, and its presence is expected to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

29. Startup India Launched Startup Academia Alliance

- ✦ Start Up India has launched the Startup Academia Alliance Programme providing a unique opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.
- ✦ The Startup Academia Alliance aims to reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications in order to increase the efficacy to these technologies and to widen their impact.
- ✦ The first phase of the Programme was kick started through partnering with the energy and Resources institute(TERI), Regional Centre for Biotechnology, council on Energy, environment and TERI School of Advanced Studies.

30. Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launches Mobile App Niryat Mitra

- ✦ Union Minister of commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched Niryat Mitra- mobile App
- ✦ The app developed by the federation of India Export Organization is available both on Android and on IOS platforms.
- ✦ The app works internally to map the ITC HS code of other countries with that of India and provides all the required data without the users bothering about the HS code of any country.
- ✦ It will provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade right from the policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff market access requirements- SPS and TBT measures.
- ✦ Federation of India Export Organization (FIEO) was set up in 1965.

31. Union Government, NABARD and NWDA sign revised MOA for funding of 99 projects under PMKSY

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Water Resources, the NABARD and the National Water Development Agency signed a revised Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) for funding of central share of 99 prioritised irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana(PMKSY).
- ✦ The revised MOA will enable the Ministry of Water Resources to release Central Assistance to prioritized projects under PMKSY as per the requirements from time to time.
- ✦ The funding will be done through the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF).

32. President of India to inaugurate 'one district one product' summit in Lucknow

- ✦ The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, visit Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) to inaugurate the 'One District One Product' Summit.
- ✦ The aim of the Project is to Promote traditional Industries in every district of the state.
- ✦ During the Summit, with a tagline of 'Nayi Uddan, Nayi Pehchan' the President Distributed loan Sanction papers to some artisans.

33. "PARIVESH" an environmental single window hub for Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ clearance launched

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched PARIVESH on the occasion of World Biofuel Day.
- ✦ PARIVESH is a Single-Window Integrated Environment Management System, developed in pursuance of the spirit of 'Digital India' initiated by the Prime Minister and capturing the essence of Minimum Government and Maximum Governance.
- ✦ Dr.Vardhan emphasized that with the launch of PARIVESH, the vision of the Prime Minister for E-Governance and enhancing Ease of Doing Responsible Business is being translated into action by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

34. National Sports University Bill passed in Parliament

- ✦ Parliament has passed the National Sports University Bill 2018 after Rajya Sabha approving it.
- ✦ The Bill seeks to establish a first-of-its Kind National Sports University in Manipur for the Promotion of sports.
- ✦ The main campus will be in Manipur. Regional centres of the university will also be set up in other parts of India and other countries.
- ✦ The Sports University will offer education in the area of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management and sports coaching.

35. Vision document for digital northeast launched, aims to enhance the ease of living

- ✦ Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad released a vision document for a digital northeast that aims to improve people's lives by building of government staff and doubling BPO strength in the region.
- ✦ Digital North East vision 2022 is launched in Guwahati.
- ✦ The Document Identifies eight digital thrust areas- Digital Infrastructure, Digital services, digital empowerment, Promotion of Electronics Manufacturing, Promotion of IT and ITES including BPOs, Digital payments, Innovation & Startups and Cybersecurity.

36. Shri Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates 20 Ghats in Kanpur and Bithoor

- ✦ Union Minister for Water Resources, Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 20 newly constructed/ restored Ghats on river Ganga in Kanpur and Bithoor.

- ✦ The Minister also announced projects to tackle pollution from two of Kanpur's biggest pollution hotspots- jajmau- a source of industrial effluents and Sisamau-source of domestic sewage.
- ✦ Shri Gadkari announced that a 20 MLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant(CETP) has been approved for jajmau at an estimated cost of Rs.554 crore for treatment of effluent from tanneries.
- ✦ She also announced that the complete tapping of SisamanuNala would be done by October this year.

37. Film festival to be held on theme of "Freedom Struggle and Freedom Fighter"

- ✦ Films Division, Ministry of information and Broadcasting will hold film festival on occasion of 72nd Independence Day on the theme, "Freedom Struggle and Freedom Fighters" on 15th August 2018.
- ✦ The festival will be inaugurated by Smt. Rama Khandwala, nonagenarian freedom fighter and Indian National Army(INA) veteran.
- ✦ During the festival, noteworthy documentary films on freedom struggle and freedom fighters will be screened.

38. Rajnath Singh Inaugurates NDMC Smart City Projects

- ✦ The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh rollout of the Smart City projects will help New emerge as a world class city.
- ✦ The various projects inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh include Smart Poles, Solar Tree, Ideation Centre, 50 LED interactive screens, Ambedkar Vatika and two hi- tech nurseries, four mechanical road sweepers, two litter picking machines and ten auto tippers.
- ✦ He also launched MTNL's hi speed Broadband on optical fiber & Hi speed Wi-Fi in Connaught Place.

39. FSSAI unveils initiative to collect, convert used cooking oil into biofuel

- ✦ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India(FSSAI) launched RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil), an initiative that will enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to bio diesel.
- ✦ Under this initiative, 64 companies at 101 locations have been identified to enable collection of used cooking oil.
- ✦ According to FSSAI regulations, the maximum permissible Limits for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) have been set at 25 per cent, beyond which the cooking oil is unsafe for consumption.
- ✦ FSSAI has additionally launched a micro-site to monitor the progress of the collection and conversion of used cooking oil into biodiesel.

40. On India's 72nd Independence Day PM Modi announces healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives his final independence Day 2018 speech from the ramparts of Red fort during his current tenure.

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the achievements of the NDA government in the last four years – Swachh Bharat, PMFBY, Mudra loans, GST.
- ✦ During the address, he also announced his flagship health policy-Aayushman Bharat from the Red Fort. The ambitious Ayushman Bharat or National Health Protection Scheme aims to cover over 10 crore vulnerable families and provide health cover up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
- ✦ The scheme will be rolled out on September 25, on the occasion of Deen Dayal Upadhyay's anniversary.

41. First project under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme the 'North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom' Inaugurating in Manipur

- ✦ Governor of Manipur inaugurating the project "Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom" implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- ✦ Swadesh Darshan scheme is one of the flagship scheme of Ministry of tourism for Development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.
- ✦ The project covers two sites i.e Kangla and Khongiom in Manipur.
- ✦ The scheme was Union Tourism Ministry with an objective to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country.

42. First genetic bank for rare species inaugurated in Hyderabad

- ✦ National Wildlife Genetic Resource bank was inaugurated in Laborator Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✦ This is the first of its kind facility in India where genetic material will be stored for posterity and will be a ready reckoner for future generations.
- ✦ It is equipped with sophisticated equipment to preserve the genetic resources that could be utilized to virtually resurrect an animal species in case it goes extinct.

43. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare proposes to United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization to declare an upcoming year as "International Year of Millets"

- ✦ The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh has written to the Director General , United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization(FAO) and Proposed the declaration of an upcoming year as "International Year of Millets"
- ✦ The Union Agriculture Minister stated that India is celebrating 2018 as the National Year of Millets and is promoting cultivation by amending cropping pattern of areas which are especially susceptible to climate change.
- ✦ Shri Singh said that adoption of this proposal by FAO with the support of its Member Nations will enable it to be moved to the UNGA for declaration of an upcoming year as international year of Millets.

44. Government unveils draft UDAN scheme for international route

- ✦ The Centre unveiled a draft scheme for extending the affordable air travel programme UDAN to international circuits, with state government identifying the routes for Operation.
- ✦ The draft International Air Connectivity (IAC) scheme envisages to increase the international ticketing to 20 crore by 2017.
- ✦ UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) was launched in 2016 to make air travel affordable for people through subsidised ticket rates and to provide air connectivity to smaller towns.

45. IIT Kharagpur to set up Re-Water Research Center

- ✦ IIT Kharagpur will set up a Re-Water Research Center, seed-funded by two alumni members to replenish and rejuvenate water resources.
- ✦ The move is to tackle the challenge of resolving two burning issues faced by urban India sewage disposal and access to clean potable water, it said on the 68th Foundation Day of the premier institution
- ✦ The 'Aditya Choubey Center for Re-Water Research' would be networking with government bodies to take up this technology and the process and meet the water challenge in various cities.
- ✦ The institute is setting up an on-campus plant which will convert 1.35 million litre of sewage water from the hostels to 1.2 million liter of potable water, on a daily basis.

46. Health policies to cover mental illness

- ✦ Insurance regulator IRDAI issued a circular directing insurers to cover mental illness, which has reached serious proportions in the country.
- ✦ The Mental Healthcare Act 2017 which came into force from May 29 has made it mandatory to provide “for medical insurance for Treatment of mental illness on the same basis as is available for treatment of physical treatment.
- ✦ According to Sec 21(4) of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 every insurer is supposed to make provision for medical insurance for treatment of mental illness on the same basis that is available for treatment of physical.

47. Telangna Govt launches Disaster Response force in Hyderabad

- ✦ Government of Telangna launched for the first time Disaster Response Force (DRF) vehicles in the Hyderabad city
- ✦ The vehicles will be parked at 24 locations with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) DRF staff and they will reach the emergency spots in no time.
- ✦ The main aim to start this DRF is that a state should have its own Disaster force.
- ✦ The Disaster personal will be available on the field for 24/7.

48. NOTA cannot be allowed in Rajya Sabha polls: Supreme Court

- ✦ The Supreme Court overruled an Election Commission saying that NOTA (None of the Above) option cannot allowed in Rajya Sabha election.
- ✦ A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud has set aside the Election Commission's notification allowing NOTA option in the ballot Papers for Rajya Sabha polls.
- ✦ NOTA was introduced Lok Sabha polls(direct election) by Election Commission of India(ECI) following 2013 Supreme Court decision . It was extended Rajya Sabha election via notification in January 2014.
- ✦ It came on petition by Shailesh Parmar, who was congress chief whip in Gujarat, challenging EC decision to allow NOTA in Rajya Sabha polls.

49. Naya Raipur to be renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee Declared by Chhattisgarh Govt

- ✦ Showing respect to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh announced that a motion of condolence has been passed to rename some places after Vajpayee.
- ✦ As a mark of tribute, Naya Raipur will be renamed as Atal Nagar while as Bilaspur University will be renamed as Atal Bihari Vajpayee University
- ✦ Naya Raipur is the proposed administrative capital of Chhattisgarh.

50. President Inaugurates International Buddhist Conclave 2018 in New Delhi

- ✦ The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 6th international Buddhist conclave in New Delhi. This conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- ✦ The voyage of Buddhism from India to Asia and the transcontinental links that were created carried more than just spiritualism.
- ✦ The theme of the conclave is "Buddha Path –The Living Heritage" Which aims to showcase Buddhist Heritage in India and boost tourism to the Buddhist Heritage in India and boost tourism to the Buddhist sites in the country.

51. India Banking Conclave 2018 held in New Delhi

- ✦ India Banking Conclave (IBC) 2018 was held in New Delhi from 23-24, 2018.
- ✦ It was organized by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) along with its knowledge partner and government Think Tank, NITI Aayog.
- ✦ The conclave was aimed at making India's banking sector more adaptable to face multiple future challenges in the coming years.

52. Odisha Govt to Set Up Interpretation Centre At Bhitarkanika National Park

- ✦ The Odisha government has decided to set up a state of the art interpretation centre at Bhitarkanika National Park to showcase its flora, fauna and rich biodiversity.
- ✦ At present, the national park has an interpretation centre at Dangmal but it has proved to be inadequate in preserving the vast reserve of the finest biodiversity hotspots of the state, the official said.
- ✦ Mangrove and wild life researchers had also suggested for better showcasing of the natural heritage.
- ✦ The park is also famous for its mangroves, turtles and migratory birds

53. Arun Jaitley resumes charge as Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

- ✦ After a gap of almost three months, Arun Jaitley is back as the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs. The President has issued orders to this effect.
- ✦ Jaitley underwent a kidney transplant at AIIMS in May due to which his portfolio was assigned temporarily on May 14 to Railways Minister Piyush Goyal as an interim arrangement till Jaitley could return to work
- ✦ Jaitley had continued in the Cabinet so far as a Minister without portfolio.

54. Secretaries panel approve setting up national logistics portal

- ✦ A committee of secretaries has approved a proposal by department of commerce(DOC) to setup a National Logistics Portal(NLP) to ease transportation of goods across the country and those meant for export.
- ✦ The logistics division of the department has developed a proof of concept(POC) of the common online platform to integrate all transactions involved in their production and export.
- ✦ The portal is being planned in three phases-development of a logistics e-marketplace whose test run is being planned by March, single window certification by bringing in 81 authorities on board, and integrating financial services on the platform.
- ✦ Stakeholders like traders, manufacturers, logistics service providers, infrastructure providers, financial services, Government departments and groups and associations will all be on one platform.

55. NITI Aayog launches 5 Thematic Reports on Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayan Region

- ✦ Recognizing the uniqueness of the Himalayas and the challenges for sustainable development, NITI Aayog had set up 5 Working Groups (WGs) in June 2017 to prepare a roadmap for actions in 5 thematic areas.
- ✦ The themes include: Inventory and Revival of Springs in Himalayas for Water Security, Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region, Transformative Approach to Shifting Cultivation, Strengthening Skill & Entrepreneurship Landscape in Himalayas and Data/Information for Informed Decision Making.
- ✦ These reports list challenges in all defined five thematic areas and discuss significance, challenges, ongoing actions and future roadmap

- ✦ The reports lists challenges in all 5 thematic areas. Nearly 30% of springs crucial to water security of people are drying and 50% have reported reduced discharge.
- ✦ Himalayan Tourism growing annually at 6.8% has created huge challenge related to solid waste, water, traffic, loss of bio-cultural diversity etc

56. Shri Piyush Goyal flags off new train service Naini-Doon Janshatabdi Express between Kathgodam- Dehradun

- ✦ Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways & Coal, flagged off 12091/12092 Kathgodam-Dehradun Naini-Doon Janshatabdi Express (5 Days A Week) through video conferencing from Rail Bhavan.
- ✦ Shri Piyush Goyal said, “The new train will connect two important destinations for tourism i.e. Dehradun (Mussorie) & Kathgodam (Nainital)
- ✦ This new train will also bring development to the region as it will connect important business cities like Rudrapur & Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ Piyush Vedprakash Goyal is an Indian politician. He is the current minister of Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs in the Government of India.

57. BNHS to open its regional centre at Barkul to study Chilka Lake

- ✦ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), one of India’s premier avian research institutes, will start operating its regional centre on the campus of Wetland Research and Training Centre near Chilika Lake.
- ✦ The BNHS has been active in avian research in the Chilika Lake, which hosts nearly one million birds with 97 species being intercontinental migratory in nature during the winter season.
- ✦ The centre will carry out research on avian disease by collecting samples and monitor the Nalabana Bird Sanctuary.

58. Kolkata, Bhopal top among Indian cities in clean transport by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

- ✦ Bhopal tops for lowest overall emission and energy use from urban commute.
- ✦ Kolkata emits least among six mega cities due to high usage of public transport and walking.
- ✦ Delhi, despite being the third highest for high share of public transport trips, tanks to the bottom as overall emissions and fuel use are highest due to the sheer number of people, high volume of travel and personal vehicles, and long trip distances.

59. M.P. seeks revival of cheetah reintroduction project

- ✦ The Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the State’s Nauradehi sanctuary
- ✦ The ambitious project, conceived in 2009, had hit a roadblock for want of funds.

- ✦ Dehradun based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) also had prepared Rs. 260 crore Cheetah Re-introduction Project in 2012.
- ✦ Namibia Cheetah Conservation Fund had then showed its willingness to donate felines to India

60. Shri Nitin Gadkari Signs MoU with Chief Ministers of Uttrakhand, UP, HP, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi for construction of Lakhwar Multipurpose Project on Yamuna near Dehradun

- ✦ Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Water Resources signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh -New Delhi for the construction of Rs. 3966.51 crore Lakhwar Multi-Purpose project in the Upper Yamuna Basin.
- ✦ Extending his gratitude to the Chief Ministers of all six States for mutually consenting to this impending project, Shri Gadkari said that the problem of water shortage in all six States will be resolved once the project is complete as water flow in River Yamuna will improve in dry season from December to May/June every year.
- ✦ Uttrakhand will also get the benefit of total power generation once the project is complete.

61. Vietnam to host Indian Ocean conference on August 27, 28

- ✦ The third edition of Indian Ocean Conference is set to begin on August 27 at Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.
- ✦ The theme of the two- day conference will focus on 'Building Regional Architectures', particularly with regards to trade and commerce, security and governance.
- ✦ The Indian Ocean Conference will emphasize on better cooperation, strategic collaboration and governance architectures.
- ✦ This conference will serve a platform to the countries to come closer and exchange better views on the economic and strategic importance of the region and neighborhood.

62. Government of India and the World Bank sign \$300 Million Agreement to help scale-up India's Energy Efficiency Program

- ✦ The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$220 million Loan Agreement and a \$80 million Guarantee Agreement for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program.
- ✦ The Program, to be implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), will help scale-up the deployment of energy saving measures in residential and public sectors, strengthen EESL's institutional capacity, and enhance its access to commercial financing.
- ✦ The investments under the Program are expected to avoid lifetime greenhouse gas emissions of 170 million tons of CO₂, and contribute to avoiding an estimated 10 GW of additional generation capacity.

- ✦ The Agreement for the Project was signed by Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Hisham Abdo, Acting Country Director, World Bank India, on behalf of the World Bank.

63. Charging Stations for e-Vehicles Inaugurated in Udyog Bhawan

- ✦ Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Anant G. Geete inaugurated two charging stations, one for fast charging (DC) and the other for slow charging (AC), in Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✦ Eight charging stations have been installed in the premises of Udyog Bhawan for facilitating charging of e-vehicles.
- ✦ The eight charging stations, two fast charging stations have been installed by BHEL and six slow charging stations have been installed by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- ✦ As a part of Swachh Bharat Mission and to continue with the Government of India's sustained effort to promote electric mobility in the country, the Department of Heavy Industry has allocated 455 electric buses to selected cities and special category states.

64. Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways & Coal, inaugurates Smart Railway Conclave organized by FICCI, in New Delhi

- ✦ In his opening remarks, he reiterated Government's commitment to ensure a smart Railway and a smart nation so that every citizen of India gets a better future.
- ✦ He also emphasized on smart planning, smart project implementation being put into effect holistically in Railways.
- ✦ Minister of Railways & Coal emphasizes on smart planning, smart project implementation being put into effect holistically in Railways.

65. Two new projects of Punjab and Tripura got sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme: Tourism Ministry

- ✦ The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned two new projects under Heritage and North East Circuits of Swadesh Darshan Scheme for Rs 164.95 crore in Punjab and Tripura.
- ✦ 'Swadesh Darshan' (tour of country) is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tourism for the development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritized manner.
- ✦ In Punjab, the project covers sites of Anandpur Sahib Fatehgarh Sahib Chamkaur Sahib Ferozpur Amritsar Khatkar Kalan Kalanour Patiala at the cost of Rs 99.95 crore,
- ✦ The project includes development of Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar at the cost of Rs 8 crore, development of tourist infrastructure and heritage path at Anandpur Sahib (Rs 28.99 crore), Fatehgarh Sahib covering sites of Samadhi of Shahid Uddham Singhji, Jajah Haveli of Divan Todar Mal, Mir Miran Tomb, Sadna Kasai Tomb (Rs 19.20 crore).

66. HRD Ministry launches innovation cell for higher education institutions

- ✦ The Ministry of Human Resource Development launched a cell to promote innovation in higher education institutions (HEIs) across the country.
- ✦ The aim of the cell, established at the All India Council of Technical Education (AICE) premises, is to introduce students to new ideas and inculcate innovative activities in their formative years
- ✦ India has already improved in the global innovation ranking to 57th place from 86th place five years ago.

67. PM to launch India Post Payments Bank on Saturday, 1st September

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will launch the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on September 1st, 2018.
- ✦ IPPB has been envisioned as an accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man, to help speedily achieve the financial inclusion objectives of the Union Government.
- ✦ It will leverage the vast network of the Department of Posts, which covers every corner of the country with more than 300,000 Postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks
- ✦ IPPB will offer a range of products such as savings and current accounts, money transfer, direct benefit transfers, bill and utility payments, and enterprise and merchant payments.

68. Environment Ministry releases India's National REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) Strategy

- ✦ The national Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) strategy for India prepared by Indian Council of Forestry and Education, Dehradun for the Government was released in New Delhi by Union Minister for Environment.
- ✦ India's national REDD+ strategy is one of the tools to further supplement India's commitment to the Paris agreement.
- ✦ The union minister also appreciated the work of the expert committee members and invited experts for their contribution in preparing this national REDD+ strategy.

69. FDI growth up 23 per cent in April-June quarter this fiscal

- ✦ Foreign direct investment in India grew by 23 per cent to USD 12.75 billion during the April-June quarter of 2018-19, according to official data.
- ✦ The foreign fund inflows in April-June 2017-18 stood at USD 10.4 billion, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion data showed.
- ✦ A growth in foreign investment assumes significance against the backdrop of widening current account deficit and trade deficit.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Durban hosted 3rd BRICS film festival, South Africa

- ✦ The 3rd BRICS Film Festival was held in Durban, South Africa, along with the International Durban Film Festival (DIFF).
- ✦ Best Actress : Bhanita Das, Village Rockstar ,Best Film Newton by Amit Masurkar
- ✦ BRICS Countries –Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
- ✦ The last day of the festival was celebrated as India Country Day.

2. United Nations E-Government Index: India Jumps 22 Places in Four Years Under Modi, Breaks Into Top 100

- ✦ India's rank has improved by 22 places in the past four years and 11 ranks in the past two years. Currently, India occupies the 96th position in the ranking.
- ✦ The E-Government Development Index (EGDI), which assesses e-government development at the national level, is a composite index based on the weighted average of three normalized indices. The UN E-government index is released once in two years.
- ✦ Top three Countries in the Index are Denmark, Australia, Republic of Korea
- ✦ The 2018 edition was titled as 'Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'

3. Sushma Swaraj calls on Kyrgyz president Jeenbekov, discusses bilateral ties

- ✦ External Affairs Minister is in Kyrgyzstan for bilateral meeting with her Kazakh External Affairs counterpart.
- ✦ They discussed measures to expand and reinvigorate India's ties with central Asian Country Counterpart.

4. UK plans to change law for organ donation to address urgent need among India- origin People

- ✦ The UK government announced new plans to change the law for organ and tissue donation to address the urgent need for organs within Indian- origin communities in the country.
- ✦ Under the new presumed consent system, those who do not want to donate their organs will be able to record their decision on the state-funded National Health Service(NHS) Organ Donor Register(ODR).
- ✦ This will come in to effect in England in 2020 as part of a drive to help black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people desperately waiting for a life-saving transplant.

5. Saudi Arabia freezes trade relations with Canada

- ✦ Saudi Arabia has said it is freezing all new trade with Canada and expelling its ambassador over its "interference" in the kingdom's domestic affairs.

- ✦ The Saudi decisions were in reaction to Canada's "blatant and unacceptable interference" in the domestic affairs of the kingdom, the ministry explained.
- ✦ Saudi Arabia Capital – Riyadh , Currency – Saudi riyal
- ✦ Canada Capital –Ottawa , Currency –Canadian Dollar

6. Nepal delegation meets Union Home Secretary

- ✦ An official delegation from Nepal headed by Inspector General, Armed Police Force of Nepal, Shri Shailendra Khanal is on official visit to India from August 7-10 for the 3rd India- Nepal Coordination Meeting.
- ✦ During the meeting, Shri Rajiv Gauba stated that India and Nepal relationship derives strength from shared history, trade, economic partnership, cultural ties and close and intense people-to-people contact.
- ✦ Several important matters like security scenario along the border, coordination meetings at field level, sharing of information about crimes and criminals, training of armed police personnel, mutual visits by officers of two countries, etc will be discussed.
- ✦ Khadga Prasad Sharma Oil is the current Prime Minister of Nepal.

7. Restricted Area Permit eased for Foreigners visiting 29 Andaman Islands

- ✦ In a major step to increase footfalls and promote tourism in the remote Andaman and Nicobar islands, the government has excluded 29 inhabited islands in the Union Territory from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime till December 31, 2022.
- ✦ These include Havelock, Long Island, Curfew Island, North Andaman, Smith Island, Neil Island, Flat Bay and Strait Island among others.
- ✦ The lifting of RAP means that foreigners will now be allowed to visit these islands without prior permission from the government.
- ✦ Government is also planning to open 11 other uninhabited islands to foreigners.

8. Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve Becomes 11th Biosphere Reserve from India to be included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

- ✦ The Khangchendzonga biosphere Reserve has become the 11th biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of biosphere Reserves (WNBR).
- ✦ Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in WNBR was taken at the 30th Session of International Coordinating council (ICC) of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at Palembang, Indonesia
- ✦ Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in Sikkim is one of the highest ecosystems in the world, reaching elevations of 1220 meters above sea-level.
- ✦ India has 18 Biosphere Reserves and with the inclusion of Khangchendzonga, the number of internationally designated WNBR has become 11, with 7 Biosphere Reserves being domestic Biosphere Reserves.

9. Indian-American high Schooler wins International Geography Bee World Championship

- ✦ Indian-American high school student Avi Goel has won the world championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division was held in Berlin.
- ✦ He won a gold medal in seven out of the 10 medal event, and a silver medal in two of the events, topping the overall medals table.
- ✦ He also bagged the top spot in all the three events counting towards the world championship title: the International Geography Exam, the International Geography Showdown, and the International Geography Bee.
- ✦ 14 year old Avi is a tenth grader at Silver Creek High School in Evergreen, San Jose, California.

10. Global Innovation Index, GII-2018 launched in India

- ✦ India's rank on the Global Innovation Index(GII) has improved from 60 in 2017 to 57 in 2018. India has been consistently climbing the GII ranking for the past two years.
- ✦ This year's report shows that India has been constantly outperforming on innovation relative to its level of development for many years in a row.
- ✦ According to sources NITI Aayog will join hands with CII to drive innovation in India.

11. India Elected President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development(AIBD)

- ✦ India elected as the president of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development, a regional inter- government organization established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO.
- ✦ India has been appointed for the period of two Years.
- ✦ The AIBD is mandated to achieve a vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment In the Asia- Pacific region through policy and resource development.

12. World Congress of Philosophy opens in Beijing

- ✦ The 24th World Congress of Philosophy opened in Beijing. It is the first time that the once-every five year event is held in China.
- ✦ Themed "Learning to be Human" the event will include more than 1,000 activities, such as plenary sessions, symposia, lecture, and roundtables, according to the Chinese Organizing Committee of WCP 2018.
- ✦ World congress of Philosophy. It is global meeting of philosophers held every under auspices of International Federation of Philosophical Societies.
- ✦ This year's event is organized by the International Federation of Philosophical Societies, and Peking University.

13. US announces creation of Iran Action Group to pressurize Iran

- ✦ US has announced creation of Iran Action Group (IAG) to execute President Donald Trump administration's Iran strategy .
- ✦ IAG(Iran Action Group) will be responsible for directing, reviewing, and coordinating all aspects of State Department's Iran-related activity.

- ✦ In August 2018, uS re-imposed sanctions on Iran on non-energy areas and notified that it will slap remaining sanctions in November 2018 that concentrate on Iran's key economic areas such as energy, shipping and ports.

14. Walmart completes acquisition of majority stake in Flipkart for \$16 bn

- ✦ Walmart, the world's largest retailer, has completed the acquisition of majority stake in India's leading e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart. Walmart now holds 77 per cent stake in the Indian firm.
- ✦ Walmart and Flipkart announced the completion of the \$16-billion deal that would see the US giant taking ownership of 77 per cent stake in the Indian firm.
- ✦ Initially, Steuart Walton, Judith McKenna and Dirk Van den Berghe, regional CEO of Walmart Canada and Asia, will join the Flipkart board.
- ✦ Flipkart Headquarters: Bengaluru.

15. Festival Esala Maha Perehera Begins in Srilanka

- ✦ In Sri Lanka, the ten-day festival of the historic Esala Maha Perehera began In Kandy with a grand procession.
- ✦ The procession set off from the biggest Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka, Sri Dalada Maligawa at an auspicious time.
- ✦ The Esala Perahera is one of the oldest and grandest of all Buddhist festivals in Sri Lanka, featuring dancers, jugglers, musicians, fire-breathers and lavishly decorated elephants.
- ✦ It is celebrated to honour the sacred tooth relic and the four Gods Natha, Vishnu, Kataragama and Goddess Pattini.

16. Kempegowda International second fastest growing airport in world

- ✦ The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has emerged as the second fastest growing airport in the world in the first half of 2018 in terms of actual growth in number of passengers
- ✦ Out of top 20 fastest-growing major airports in the world China and India accounted 10 airports.
- ✦ Only airports which have crossed a figure of 2.5 million passengers in the first six months of 2018 have been considered for analysis.

17. India, Singapore sign Second Protocol amending bilateral trade pact

- ✦ India and Singapore on signed the "Second Protocol" amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to boost trade ties between the two countries, an official statement said.
- ✦ The protocol was signed by Joint Secretary of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Rajneesh and Francis Chong, Senior Director, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Government of Singapore.

- ✦ The CECA was signed on June 29, 2005 and its first review was concluded on October 1, 2007.
- ✦ The signing of the Second Protocol, amending CECA, will boost bilateral trade between India and Singapore.

18. Myanmar media group inks MoU with Prasar Bharati

- ✦ Mizzima Media Company Limited and Prasar Bharati signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to codify the terms of the Agreement in New Delhi
- ✦ The agreement will realize cooperation and collaboration in broadcasting and envisions content-sharing covering a wide range of genres, including culture, entertainment, education, science, news and sports along with other areas of mutual interest.
- ✦ Mizzima media products such as SMS, radio news, video news and images are also available on various digital platforms and mobile phones in Myanmar. In March this year, Mizzima launched its Free-to-Air TV channel with a strong focus on youth and development of Myanmar.

19. Sushma Swaraj inaugurates Panini Language lab in Mauritius

- ✦ External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Panini Language Laboratory' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in Mauritius.
- ✦ The lab, gifted by the Indian government, will help MGI in teaching Indian languages in Mauritius.
- ✦ Panini language lab aims to promote reading and writing Hindi amongst young generation and its further development.
- ✦ The lab has 35 computers and equipments along with advanced software of various Indian languages installed by Indian IT professionals to aid students of junior, middle and high schools to imbibe new techniques of language learning.

20. India - Kenya Joint Trade Committee meeting held in Nairobi

- ✦ The 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22nd – 25th August, 2018.
- ✦ The meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu and Mr. Peter Munya, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of Kenya
- ✦ The discussions during the meetings covered India's contribution in implementation of Kenya's Big Four Agenda – food security, affordable housing, universal healthcare and manufacturing, expansion and diversification of bilateral trade.
- ✦ A meeting of India-Kenya Joint Business Council was held on the side-lines of the Joint Trade Committee meeting.

21. G20 member nations to promote policies that bridges all forms of digital divide

- ✦ At the G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting in Salta, in the north-west of Argentina, G20 ministers and senior officials issued a declaration that reflects the G20's commitment towards promoting "policies and actions that catalyze digital transformations"
- ✦ India was represented by Union Minister for Electronics and IT & Law and Justice, Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- ✦ The Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting, held on 23-24 August, was attended by 33 heads of delegation- Ministers, senior officials and representatives from invited countries and international organizations, like EU, UNCTAD, ITU etc

22. Raksha Mantri Visits Kingdom of Thailand

- ✦ Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman is on an official bilateral visit to the Kingdom of Thailand from 27 to 28 August 2018.
- ✦ Raksha Mantri held bilateral talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Thailand. During the meetings, both sides discussed a gamut of issues relating to defence cooperation between India and Thailand.
- ✦ It was decided to step up military-to-military engagement by commencing bilateral navy exercises. In addition, both countries will explore enhancement of ongoing joint exercises, the MAITREE counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism Army Exercise as well as their SIAM BHARAT Air Force exercise.

23. AYUSH Minister to inaugurate the Fourth International Ayurveda Congress at Netherlands

- ✦ Minister of State, (IC), for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik will be inaugurated the Fourth International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) at Netherlands.
- ✦ The Minister is visiting Netherlands from September 1-4, 2018 to participate in the Congress jointly organized by International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi and the International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune in association with the Indian Embassy in the Netherlands.
- ✦ The congress would focus on promotion and propagation of Ayurveda in Netherlands and its neighboring countries of Europe.

24. Fourth Asian Electoral Stakeholders Forum Begins In Colombo

- ✦ The two-day forum is being held for the first time in South Asia with support from the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and the Asian network for free elections (ANFREL).
- ✦ The theme is, 'Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together'.
- ✦ Sri Lanka Capital: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

25. Google launches Navlekhā for Indian Language Publishers

- ✦ Google has launched a platform for Indian language publishers to digitize their content, at the annual Google for India event.

- ✦ This initiative is called Navlekhā, a word derived from Sanskrit meaning “a new way to write.”
- ✦ The initiative is expected to make it easy for print publishers to create mobile-friendly web content.
- ✦ The platform provides Indian language publishers with free web hosting with AdSense support, so they can immediately start monetizing their content.

26. Fourth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration, Kathmandu, Nepal (August 30-31, 2018)

- ✦ The Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Chief Advisor of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Myanmar, Nepal, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, met in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018 for the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit.
- ✦ Taking into consideration the importance of trade and investment as one of the major contributing factors for fostering economic and social development in the region.
- ✦ Reaffirming the firm commitment to the principles and purposes of BIMSTEC as enshrined in the 1997 Bangkok.

27. Google rebrands 'Tez' payment app as Google Pay, adds new features

- ✦ Last September, Google launched Tez, an app for instant money transfers in India. At its annual event in the capital of New Delhi, the company announced it’s rebranding the app to Google Pay.
- ✦ The company stressed its ongoing efforts to help digitize payments by announcing upcoming support for Google Pay in more than 15,000 retail stores across the country by the time the festival of Diwali rolls around in early November.
- ✦ That means it’s unifying its global payments services with what it’s built for India. Tez is based on UPI, a platform built by a consortium of India-based banks that allows for on-demand transactions between bank accounts used by individuals and businesses.

28. Suresh Prabhu attends the 6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting in Singapore

- ✦ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu is leading the Indian delegation for the 6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting which begins in Singapore
- ✦ The Minister will participate in the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) Ministerial Meeting) meeting consisting of 10 ASEAN countries and six ASEAN FTA partners namely, India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand.
- ✦ The Ministers will deliberate on the current global economic situation and exchange views on promotion of rule-based multilateral trading system and its importance to the stability and effective functioning of the global economic order.

- ✦ ASEAN is amongst the fastest growing markets in the world and presents substantial trade and investments opportunities for India.

29. PM inaugurates Pashupatinath Dharmashala in Kathmandu

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, jointly inaugurated the Pashupatinath Dharmashala in Kathmandu, with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri K.P. Oli.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said that the temples of Pashupatinath, Muktinath and Jankidham showcase Nepal's unity in diversity, besides strengthening its bonds with India.
- ✦ The Prime Minister stressed on the need for development, especially the need for progress of the weaker and marginalized sections of society.

30. India, Nepal exchange MoU on Raxaul-Kathmandu railway line as PM Modi meets Oli

- ✦ India and Nepal on Friday exchanged an MoU to build a strategic railway line connecting Bihar's Raxaul City to Kathmandu after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks on all aspects of bilateral ties with his Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli.
- ✦ This was the third meeting between Modi and Oli this year. They met earlier during Oli's visit to India in April and the subsequent visit of Prime Minister Modi to Nepal in May.
- ✦ Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said that the two leaders held a detailed review on all aspects of Bilateral relationship.

Banking

1. RBI hikes repo rate by 25 bps for second time in a row

- ✦ The Reserve Bank on hiked repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent in its third bi-monthly monetary policy review of 2018-19.
- ✦ Repurchase rate, or repo, is the rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.
- ✦ RBI also raised the average inflation projection for the second half of the year to 4.8% from 4.7% in June.

2. Star Agri finance Signs MOU with Karur Vysya Bank

- ✦ StarAgri Finance Ltd, a subsidiary of StarAgriWarehousing and Collateral Management Ltd, today signed a MoU with private sector Karur Vysya Bank to provide financial assistance to commodity traders and farmers.

- ✦ Under the memorandum of understanding, the assistance would be provided to the targeted sections against their commodities stored in warehouses of StarAgri Finance, a joint statement from the companies.
- ✦ Micro-lending would be provided to traders and farmers in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ✦ The Partnership would ensure credit facilities to the rural customers through a formal lending system enabling them to grow their farm business.

3. NABARD sanctions Rs 772 Crore for water projects in Haryana

- ✦ NABARD has sanctioned Rs 722 crore for eight water projects in the rural areas of Haryana.
- ✦ Works on these projects, which will supply water to 256 villages and 72 hamlets and the state government has sent three more project proposals, costing Rs 236.85 crore, to NABARD for financial assistance.
- ✦ NABARD Chairman- Harsh kumar Bhanwala

4. India's GDP growth may rise to 7.5% this Fiscal: Morgan Stanley report

- ✦ India's economic growth is likely to pick up further in the April-June period and the country is expected to clock GDP growth of 7.5 per cent in this financial year, says a Morgan report.
- ✦ Consumer Price Index inflation to remain slightly above the inflation target of 4% and the current account deficit below 2.5% of GDP.
- ✦ In aggregate, GDP growth to pick up to 7.5 per cent in this financial year as against 6.7 per cent in 2017-18.

5. SBI ties up with Jio to accelerate digital transaction

- ✦ State Bank of India has inked a pack with Reliance Jio infocomm to integrate its digital banking solution Yono with My jio application to boost digital payment.
- ✦ Existing Jio customers will get the benefits either by downloading Yono on their handsets or at the time of replacement Cycle.
- ✦ The Aim of this tie up is to boost digital payment
- ✦ It is a 30:70 Joint Venture between SBI and Reliance.

6. SBI launches MOPAD, a unified payment terminal

- ✦ State Bank of India, the largest lender with a fifth of the market share, launched a payment machine that would help merchants eliminate the multiple choices that they keep to Facilitate transactions from cards to QR code based payments.
- ✦ The new device titled MOPAD is a Point of Sale(POS) terminal that would along with cards accept payments through UPI, Bharat QR, and SBI Buddy wallet.
- ✦ MOPAD stands for Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device.

7. RBI to pay Rs 50,000 crore dividend to government for FY 18

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) said it has decided to pay a dividend of Rs. 50,000 crore to the union government for the year ending June 30,2018.
- ✦ The RBI had last year transferred a surplus of Rs 30,659 crore as dividend to the government for the year ended June 30,2017 which was less than half of what it paid in the previous year.
- ✦ RBI surplus forms sizeable chunk of revenue which government earns under head of 'non-tax', which is mainly dividends distributed by state owned firms.

8. Axis bank Introduced Iris Authentication Over Micro ATMs for Aadhar-based Transactions

- ✦ Axis Bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.
- ✦ The Bank has deployed highly secure iris powered micro ATM tablets which are STQC certified & UIDAI compliant registered devices with completely integrated iris sensors.
- ✦ Iris scan technology is completely contactless and provides up to 98.2% authentication success rate (as per study conducted by the international Centre for Biometric Research) and offers an edge over other prevalent biometric modes.
- ✦ This Project is being run as a pilot project in 8 branches of rural Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

9. Vijaya Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Entered into Bancassurance Deal

- ✦ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has entered into a Bancassurance deal with Vijaya Bank.
- ✦ This corporate agency agreement will enable distribution of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance products through the bank's network of 2,129 branched across the country.
- ✦ Under this strategic tie-up, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will offer personal accident, home, motor and travel along with a commercial line of insurance product.

10. Exim bank signs MOU with BRICS development banks

- ✦ Exim bank of India has signed a multilateral cooperation agreement with member development bank of BRICS to undertake "collaborative research" in distributed ledger/ block chain technology.
- ✦ Under this umbrella agreement, the signatories have agreed to constitute a joint research working group which will formulate the research agenda and targeted outcome.
- ✦ The MOU signed by Exim Bank Managing Director David Rasquinha-was an outcome of the discussion the member development banks had during their annual meeting, with the objective of strengthening the cooperation under the BRICS Interbank Cooperation mechanism.

11. SBI ranked as India's most patriotic brand

- ✦ Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, according to a survey, followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL.
- ✦ Around 16% respondents ranked SBI to be the most patriotic brand overall, followed by Tata Motors and Patanjali with 8% each, and Reliance Jio and BSNL with 6% each, the survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov.
- ✦ The survey, which covered 152 brands across 11 categories, is based on data collected online by YouGov Omnibus among 1193 respondents in the country between 2 August and 8 August using its panel of an online representation of India.

12. Bharti Axe ties up with Airtel Payments Bank to offer Jeevan Jyoti Bima

- ✦ Bharti Axe Life Insurance and Airtel Payments Bank entered into an alliance to offer the 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' (PMJJBY), a government backed life insurance scheme.
- ✦ The alliance will leverage Airtel Payments Bank's vast network to reach deep rural pocket and serve the under-insured.
- ✦ Airtel Payments Bank also becomes the first payments bank in India to offer the Government of India-backed life insurance scheme.
- ✦ This aims to increase penetration of life insurance products among the underinsured masses and boost financial inclusion.

13. Andhra Bank raises MCLR by 0.15% for various tenors

- ✦ State owned Andhra bank has increased the marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.15 per cent to up to 8.70 per cent for various tenors.
- ✦ The move will make consumer loans such as auto, car and home loans costlier for buyers.
- ✦ Andhra Bank increased the MCLR by 0.05 percent to up to 8.55 percent for various tenor.

14. NABARD releases All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey Report

- ✦ NABARD All India Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS), conducted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), revealed that farm households register higher income than the families solely dependent on non-farm livelihood activities in rural areas.
- ✦ The survey, with reference year of 2015-16, which covered 40,327 rural households, highlighted that the average annual income of an agricultural household is Rs 1,07,172 compared to Rs 87,228 for families engaged only in non-agricultural activities.
- ✦ The survey defined farm households as families having over Rs 5,000 as value of produce from agricultural operations in the year preceding the survey.

- ✦ The Nabard survey was conducted in 2016 in 245 districts of 29 states covering 40,327 households. The survey had considered 2015-16 as the reference year and all data are pertained to that year.

15. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches overdraft facility for micro, small enterprises

- ✦ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd, has launched overdraft (OD) facility for micro and small enterprise (MSE) customers across its branches nationally. The facility is an add-on product to the existing MSE term loans offered by the bank.
- ✦ The OD facility is offered to all MSEs with a turnover of Rs 50 lakh or more, at a competitive rate of interest.
- ✦ A key feature of the facility is that it allows MSE customers to pay EMI only on the utilized amount and repay the amount at any time during the tenure of the OD facility, to replenish the credit limit back to its original amount.

16. PNB gets top rank in digital transaction

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

17. Axis Securities launches trading in commodity derivatives

- ✦ Axis Securities become the first subsidiary of a bank to launch trading in commodity derivatives with the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)
- ✦ Axis Securities managing director and chief executive officer Arun Thukral said the move to allow bank-led brokers to offer commodity derivatives will not only expand the market volumes significantly but will also increase retail customer participation.
- ✦ The trading was introduced under its flagship brand, Axis Direct, and all its existing and new customers will now be able to trade in 29 commodity futures and five options contracts, covering bullion, industrial metals, energy and agricultural segments.

18. Government of India and ADB Sign \$375 Million Loan to Improve Irrigation Efficiency in Madhya Pradesh

- ✦ Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$375 million loan agreement to contribute to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.
- ✦ The Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project will develop 125,000 hectares of new, highly efficient and climate resilient irrigation

networks and improve water use efficiency in more than 400 villages, benefiting over 800,000 people in Madhya Pradesh.

- ✦ The Project will support the efforts of Government of Madhya Pradesh for irrigation expansion and modernization plan by maximizing irrigation efficiency and water productivity.
- ✦ The ADB funds will be used to develop a large-scale pressurized and automated irrigation system for boosting irrigation efficiency.

19. India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4 % in current financial year: RBI

- ✦ The Reserve Bank expects India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4 per cent in the current financial year on pick up in industrial activity and good monsoon
- ✦ RBI releasing its annual report in Mumbai, due to the evolving economic conditions, real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4 per cent from 6.7 percent in the previous year.
- ✦ The RBI said its monetary policy will continue to be guided by the objective of achieving the medium term target for retail inflation of four per cent. Agricultural production is likely to remain strong, growth in industry are strengthening and all other major sectors are reporting robust sales and improvement in profitability.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Surendra Rosha Named HSBC India CEO

- ✦ The Hongkong and Shanghai banking Corporation appointed Surrendra Rosha as Chief Executive Officer for HSBC India.
- ✦ Rosha succeeds jayant Rikhye, who is taking a leave of absence for medical reasons.
- ✦ Rosha, who is currently HSBC's Head of Financial Institutions Group (FIG) for Asia-Pacific, has 27 years of experience in financial services sector.

2. Oscar Kerketta appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Rwanda

- ✦ Shri Oscar Kerketta, presently Additional Secretary (FSI) has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Rwanda.
- ✦ Rwanda President- Paul Kagame, Prime Minister- Edouard Ngirente.
- ✦ He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

3. Haryana Teen scales Mount Kilimanjaro

- ✦ Shivangi Pathak became the youngest Indian woman to reach the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro in 3 days.
- ✦ Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro measures 5895 meters in height.
- ✦ Shivangi's next target is to scale Europe's highest peak.

- ✦ The Haryana teen, who acknowledged the endless support of her parents and family in her journey, aims to be an inspiration to girls all over India to relentlessly pursue their passion.

4. C B Ananthakrishnan takes charge as Director (Finance) of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd(HAL)

- ✦ C B Ananthakrishnan took charge as Director (Finance) of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). Earlier, C B Ananthakrishnan was the Executive Director (Finance) at HAL Corporate Office
- ✦ Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Ltd– T Suvarna Raju
- ✦ He was also HAL nominee Director in the Board of three joint ventures of HAL.

5. 3 High Court Women Judges are appointed as Supreme Court justices

- ✦ Three high court women judges were appointed to Supreme Court, taking the total number of judges in the apex court to 25.
- ✦ Notifications announcing the appointment of Uttarakhand High Court Chief Justice K.M Joseph, Madras HC Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Orissa HC Chief Justice Vineet Saran to the Supreme Court were Issued.
- ✦ The number of Judges in the top court after the fresh appointments has gone up to 25. There would still be six vacancies.

6. Ajay Data, first Indian in ICANN

- ✦ "Ajay Data becomes the first Indian to be appointed as a member of country code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO).
- ✦ Data has been appointed on the panel by nomination committee of ccNSO--one of the three policy making bodies at ICANN.
- ✦ He is founder & CEO of Data XGen Plus and global leader in email linguistic services. He is creator of world's first email address mobile app and email solution for IDN (Internationalized Domain Names) Domains.
- ✦ ICANN stands for The Internet Corporation for Assigned names And Numbers

7. Harivansh Narayan Elected as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

- ✦ NDA candidate Harivansh was elected as Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, defeating Opposition's BK Hariprasad.
- ✦ Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu initiated the process of the election by calling for division of votes in the house. While Harivansh secured 125 votes, Hariprasad got 105.
- ✦ Harivansh is an MP from the Janta Dal and a parliamentarian from Bihar and a former journalist.
- ✦ The nomination of Harivansh was proposed by Ram Prasad Singh and BJP president Amit Shah among others.

8. Ivan Duque sworn in as Colombia's next president

- ✦ Colombia's President-elect Ivan Duque has been sworn in as the country's 60th President.
- ✦ More than 12,000 police were deployed in the historic centre of the capital Bogota for Duque's inauguration.
- ✦ He replaced Juan Manuel Santos and became the youngest president in Colombia's recent history.

9. RSS thinker S Gurumurthy, Satish Marathe appointed as non official Directors of RBI board

- ✦ Swaminathan Gurumurthy and Satish Kashinath Marathe appointed as Part-time non official directors of the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) Board.
- ✦ Gurumurthy, an economist and chartered accountant by profession, is also the co-convenor of RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch.
- ✦ Gurumurthy is also the editor of Tamil magazine Thuglak. He had referred demonetisation decision as equivalent of Financial Pokhran.

10. Dr. R. G Anand appointed as Member of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

- ✦ The Government of India has appointed Dr. R G Anand as Member of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- ✦ He is appointed for a period of three years, or until on attaining the age of 60 years, whichever is the earlier.
- ✦ Chairperson of National Commission for protection of Child Rights is Ms. Stuti Kacker

11. New Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity appointed

- ✦ Justice Manjula Chellur took Oath as Chairperson, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, Ministry of Power.
- ✦ Prior to this, Smt. Justice Manjula Chellur was Chief justice of Bombay high Court.
- ✦ Smt. Justice Manjula Chellur was born on 5th December, 1955 in Karnataka. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Allum Sunmangalamma Women's College.

12. 'Pionerring' former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet officially appointed new UN human rights chief

- ✦ Former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet (66) was appointed as next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Right.
- ✦ The decision was taken by consensus by the 193 nation assembly after Secretary- General Antonio Guterres put forward Bachelet to be the next human rights commissioner.
- ✦ She will have four year term and shell replace Jordanian diplomat Zeid Ra'ad Hussein(served a single term, beginning in 2014).

13. Ashish Kumar Bhutani appointed CEO of PM crop insurance scheme

- ✦ Senior bureaucrat Ashish Kumar Bhutani has been appointed Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna(PMFBY).
- ✦ It incorporates the best features of all previous schemes and at the same time, all previous shortcomings and weaknesses have been removed to ensure faster insurance services or relief to farmers.
- ✦ He has been appointed to post till May 2020.
- ✦ Under this scheme, farmers need to pay uniform premium of only 2% for all Kharif crops and 1.5 for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers have to pay premium of only 5%.

14. KS Jhaveri takes oath as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

- ✦ Justice Kalpesh Satyendra Jhaveri took oath as the new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.
- ✦ Governor Ganeshi Lal administered the oath of the office and secrecy to justice Jhaveri at a ceremony organized on the premises of Orissa HC. Jhaveri was sworn in as the 30th Chief Justice of Orissa HC.
- ✦ He obtained BSC and LLB degree from Gujarat University had started his career as lawyer at Gujarat HC in 1983.
- ✦ He was elected as Joint Secretary in 1984 and General Secretary of Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association in 1988.

15. D Bala Venkatesh Varma appointed Ambassador to Russia

- ✦ Senior diplomat D Bala Venkatesh Varma appointed as India's next ambassador to Russia, considered a high-profile posting due to expanse of strategic cooperation between the two countries.
- ✦ Venkatesh Sharma, a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service officer is currently serving as Indian envoy in Spain.
- ✦ He will succeed Pankaj Saran who has been appointed deputy National Security Advisor.
- ✦ The government also appointed Partha Satpathy as next Ambassador of India to Ukraine.

16. Film Actor Akshay Kumar Becomes Brand Ambassador for Road Safety Campaign

- ✦ Union Minister for Road Transport Shri Nitin Gadkari launched three short films for generating public awareness towards road safety.
- ✦ Film actor Shri Akshay Kumar has featured in these films, which are directed by Shri R.Balki.
- ✦ Secretary in the Road Transport and Highways Ministry Shri Y S Malik welcomed the spirit of Akshay Kumar in accepting the government's offer to join as its Brand Ambassador.

17. Godrej's Smitha Krishna India's wealthiest women: Kotak Wealth-Hurun report

- ✦ Smitha Crishna, third-generation heir of the Godrej Empire, has topped the India's wealthiest women list for 2018, prepared by Kotak Wealth Hurun Report.
- ✦ Roshni Nadar, CEO and executive director, HCL, ranks second.
- ✦ This is a first of a Kind report released by Kotak Wealth Management along with London-based Hurun Report.
- ✦ More than 50 wealthiest women are based in either New Delhi or Mumbai. The Hurun Global Rich List 2018 has 404 women. Out of this 14 women are from India.

18. Imran Khan takes oath as 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan

- ✦ Imran Khan took oath as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan on Saturday, a day after he won the backing from the newly-elected Parliament.
- ✦ Imran Khan secured 176 votes while his only rival and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief Sharif got 96 votes.
- ✦ Khan, has famously captained the national cricket team to World Cup glory in 1992
- ✦ The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) emerged as the single largest party with 116 seats in July 25 elections.

19. Infosys CFO MD Ranganath quits

- ✦ Infosys Ltd announced that Chief Financial Officer M D Ranganath has stepped down to pursue "professional opportunities in new areas"
- ✦ Ranganath will remain CFO until November 16.
- ✦ He has worked with Infosys for 18 years. He has been a part of the Infosys Leadership team.
- ✦ This is the first major exit under the current CEO Salil parikh.

20. Subhash Sheoratan Mundra appointed Independent Director of Indiabulls Housing Finance

- ✦ Subhash Sheoratan Mundra has been appointed as Independent Director on the Board of Indiabulls Housing Finance for a period of three years, effective August 18 onwards.
- ✦ Mundra, a Post-Graduate from the University of Poona, used to be the Chairman of Bank of Baroda and an Executive Director at Union Bank of India.
- ✦ He also headed several committees set up by the central bank and was the nominated member on the G20 Forum's Financial Stability Board.

21. Ram Nath Kovind appoints 7 new governors

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed governors for seven states – Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura.
- ✦ Governor Satya Pal Malik has been transferred from Bihar to Jammu and Kashmir to replace NN Vohra, while senior BJP leader Lalji Tandon has been appointed the Governor of Bihar, replacing Malik.

- ✦ Kaptan Singh Solanki, the Governor of Haryana, has been transferred to Tripura, while Satyadev Narayan Arya will be the new Haryana governor
- ✦ Tripura governor Tathagata Roy has been transferred to Meghalaya, and Ganga Prasad, the Governor of Meghalaya, has been transferred to Sikkim. Baby Rani Maurya will be the new Governor of Uttarakhand.

22. The World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018: George Clooney Tops List With \$239 Million

- ✦ George Clooney, the 57-year-old tops Forbes' annual ranking of highest-paid actors, which tallies both onscreen and extracurricular earnings in our 12-month scoring frame.
- ✦ India's Actor Akshay Kumar took Seventh Place and Salman Khan took Ninth place.
- ✦ Top three persons on Forbes' list are 1. George Clooney \$239m 2. Dwayne Johnson \$124m 3. Robert Downey Jr \$81m

23. U K Varma appointed Assocham Secretary General

- ✦ Industry chamber Assocham appointed former bureaucrat Uday Kumar Varma as its new Secretary General.
- ✦ He succeeds DS Rawat who held the position for nearly 14 years.
- ✦ Varma retired from the position of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on June 30, 2013, and has extensive administrative experience at the highest levels of administration both in the state government (of Madhya Pradesh) and central government.
- ✦ During his tenure Dr Rawat strengthened links between India Inc. and the government and transformed Assocham, which represents businesses of all sizes and sectors as a national and global business network, Assocham President Sandeep Jajodia said.

24. Dr G. Satheesh Reddy appointed Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO

- ✦ Dr G Satheesh Reddy has been appointed research and Development Organisation (DRDO) secretary of the Department of Defence research and department and chairman of the Defence
- ✦ Dr Satheesh Reddy is well known for his significant contribution towards indigenous design, development, deployment of diversified Missiles & Strategic Systems, Guided Weapons, Avionics technologies and for sustained efforts in advancement of Aerospace technologies & industries in India.
- ✦ The topmost post of the DRDO was lying vacant when the chief Dr S Christopher stepped down. Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra was then given additional charge of the organisation.

25. Asia Society to honour PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi as Game Changer of the Year

- ✦ PepsiCo's India-born CEO Indra Nooyi will be honoured with the Game Changer of the Year award by a global cultural organisation in recognition of her business achievements.
- ✦ The 2018 Asia Game Changer Awards will be given in October to individuals and institutions who have broken barriers, defined courage, worked miracles, and in turn inspired their fellow citizens of the world.
- ✦ She will be honored in recognition of her business achievements, humanitarian record and advocacy for women and girls around the world.

26. Satya Tripathi Becomes Assistant Secretary-General Of UN Environment Body

- ✦ UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has appointed veteran Indian development economist and UN official Satya S Tripathi as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✦ Mr Tripathi, who will succeed Elliott Harris of Trinidad and Tobago, has since 2017 served as senior adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at UNEP.
- ✦ Mr Tripathi was previously the Director and Executive Head of the United Nations Office for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries Coordination in Indonesia

27. Ruchi Ghanashyam Appointed India's Next High Commissioner To UK

- ✦ Senior diplomat Ruchi Ghanashyam has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
- ✦ She succeeds YK Sinha who had assumed the charge as the Indian High Commissioner in the UK in December, 2016.
- ✦ Ms Ghanashyam, a 1982-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently Secretary at the headquarters in Delhi and is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- ✦ Her appointment comes at a crucial time when the UK is in the process of coming out of the European Union.

Science Tech & Defence

1. 'Made in India' engines handed to Army Vice Chief Devaraj Anbu by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

- ✦ Defence Ministry Nirmala Sitharaman handed over two types of indigenously built high-power multi-fuel engines to the Vice Chief of Army Staff Devaraj Anbu.
- ✦ The engines were manufactured by the Engine Factory, Avadi, a unit of Ordnance Factory Board, Department of Defence Production. It was made with 100% local parts.

- ✦ These were based on the Russian design of critical assemblies like turbocharger, supercharger, fuel injection pumps.
- ✦ The efforts under Make in India by the Engine Factory would save Rs 80 crore of the exchequer every year.

2. Ballistic Missile Interceptor AAD Successfully Flight Tested

- ✦ DADO Conducted the successful test of the Ballistic Missile interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- ✦ It is capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms was launched against multiple simulated targets of 1500km class ballistic missile.
- ✦ The missile is 24.6 feet long and is equipped with a state of the art navigation system. It is a single- stage, solid fuel, rocket-propelled guided missile that can track its target independently.
- ✦ DADO stands for Defence Research & Development Organization

3. Ranchi man develops humanoid robot Rashmi, Indian version of 'Sophia'

- ✦ Ranchi man Ranjit Srivastava,38, has developed Indian version of 'Sophia,' a social humanoid robot developed by a Hong Kong based company, named Rashmi which can speak Hindi, Bhojपुरi and Marathi along with English
- ✦ The developer claimed it as world's first Hindi speaking realistic humanoid robot and India's first lip-synching robot.
- ✦ Rashmi uses linguistic interpretation (LI), artificial intelligence (AI), visual data and facial recognition systems.

4. Apple Becomes First U.S. Company to Hit \$1 Trillion Value

- ✦ Apple became the first U.S.-based company with a market value of \$1 trillion, four decades after it was co-founded by Steve Jobs in a Silicon Valley garage and later revolutionized the worlds of computing, music and mobile communications.
- ✦ The shares rose 2.9 percent to close at \$207.39 in New York
- ✦ CEO of Apple Tim cook

5. China successfully tests first hypersonic aircraft that can carry nuclear warheads

- ✦ China announced that it has successfully tested its first hypersonic aircraft which could carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence system seen as a breakthrough in developing Cutting edge weapons.
- ✦ The Xingkong-2 - also called Starry Sky-2 - was fired at a target range in north-west China and tested for 10 minutes.
- ✦ It is reported that Xingkong-2 is a flight vehicle which flies in the atmosphere and glides at high speeds using shockwaves generated by its own hypersonic flight with the air.

- ✦ The hypersonic waverider flight vehicle was designed by state-run China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA) in collaboration with China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

6. TOKYO 2020 Olympics to up security with facial recognition technology

- ✦ A facial recognition system will be used across an Olympics for the first time as Tokyo organizers work to keep security tight and efficient at dozens of venues during the 2020 Games.
- ✦ The NeoFace technology developed by NEC Corp. will be customized to monitor every accredited person-including athletes, officials, staff and media-at more than 40 venues, games villages and media centers.
- ✦ It is the fastest system where the technology takes only 0.3 seconds to match up face with pre registered photo.

7. Nirmala Sitharaman, Yogi launched defence industrial corridor in Aligarh

- ✦ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a defence industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ The move is Part of the government's efforts to develop specialized zones dedicated to defence production in the state.
- ✦ Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi have been identified in state for the corridor.
- ✦ Sanjay Mitra (present Defence Secretary) is the present chairman of DRDO.

8. Chandrayaan-2 to be launched in January-March window in 2019

- ✦ India's second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 will now be launched in the January-March window in 2019.
- ✦ The 800-crore rupees is the cost of lunar mission named "Chandrayaan-2"
- ✦ The 3890 kg Chandrayaan-2 which will be launched onboard the Geosynchronous satellite launched Vehicle MK-3.

9. World's first mission to touch the Sun lifts off: NASA

- ✦ NASA's Parker Solar Probe, mankind's first mission to 'touch' the Sun, has been launched on a seven-year long journey to unlock the mysteries of our star's fiery outer atmosphere and its effects on space weather.
- ✦ Liftoff took place from Space Launch Complex 37 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in the US early
- ✦ It will make the closest-ever observations of a star when it travels through the Sun's outer atmosphere which is called the corona.
- ✦ The spacecraft is of the size of a car. It will directly travel into the Sun's atmosphere, nearly 4 million miles from its surface and more than 7 times closer than any spacecraft has gone before.

10. Aditya - L1, ISRO's satellite to study the Sun

- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Aditya-L1 mission, originally named as the Aditya-1 mission, is a satellite designed to study the solar corona (outer layers of the Sun) which is quite similar to NASA's Parker Solar Probe.
- ✦ The satellite was conceived as a 400 kg class satellite carrying just one payload, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC).
- ✦ The Aditya - L1 will be inserted in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1), which is 1.5 million km from the Earth.

11. India, Thailand Complete Two-Week-Long Joint Military "Exercise Maitree"

- ✦ The Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army completed a two-week-long platoon level annual joint military exercise aimed at strengthening partnership and cooperation between them, the Army said in New Delhi.
- ✦ This year, the exercise began with a cross-training period involving familiarisation training between the two armies to evolve drills and procedures involved in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist operations in urban, rural and jungle terrain under the United Nations mandate.
- ✦ It focused on familiarizing with each other's modus operandi, basic maneuvers and evolving joint drills.

12. 'HELINA' was successfully flight tested from Indian Army Helicopter at Pokhran range

- ✦ Indigenously developed helicopter launched anti-tank guided missile HELINA has been successfully flight tested from Army helicopter in the ranges of Pokhran range.
- ✦ The HELINA weapon system released smoothly from the launch platform has tracked the target all through its course and hit the target with high precision
- ✦ This technology is possessed by very few nations. It also possesses advanced passive homing guidance system.

13. INS Khanjar visits Yangon, Myanmar

- ✦ INS Khanjar a Missile Corvette of Indian Navy was on a three-day visit to Yangon, Myanmar to undertake operational turn around (OTR) and as part of goodwill visit from 18 to 20 Aug 18
- ✦ On arrival at Yangon, the Commanding Officer called-on Captain Tet Lwin Run, Fleet Commander 1st Fleet and the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Shri Vikram Misri.
- ✦ A joint Yoga Session for IN and Myanmar Naval personnel was also organised in addition to the cross visits between Indian Navy and Myanmar Naval personnel.

14. Chandrayaan-I data confirms presence of ice on Moon

- ✦ Scientists have found frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, that was launched by India ten years ago.

- ✦ With enough ice sitting at the surface- within the top few millimeters – water would possibly be accessible as a resource for future expeditions to explore and even stay on the Moon, and potentially easier to access than the water detected beneath the Moon's surface.
- ✦ M3, aboard the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, launched in 2008 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was uniquely equipped to confirm the presence of solid ice on the Moon.

15. Wind Survey satellite 'Aeolus' launched from French Guyana

- ✦ Europe has launched a rocket from French Guyana to put a satellite into orbit designed to track global winds.
- ✦ A rocket holding the Aeolus wind surveying satellite launched from Europe's spaceport Kourou.
- ✦ The Aeolus satellite, named after the keeper of the winds in Greek mythology, is equipped with a Doppler wind lidar – an advanced laser system designed to measure global wind patterns from space.
- ✦ It has been described as the world's first space mission to acquire profiles of the Earth's wind on a global scale.
- ✦ It is part of the Copernicus project, a joint initiative of the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA) to track environmental damage and aid disaster relief operations.

16. SpiceJet to fly India's first biofuel-powered flight, between Dehradun and Delhi

- ✦ SpiceJet, fly India's first biofuel-powered flight from Dehradun to Delhi on its Turboprop Q400 plane.
- ✦ The fuel has been developed by Indian Institute of Petroleum, based in the capital of Uttarakhand.
- ✦ A huge step towards encouraging sustainable and alternative fuels for the transportation & aviation sector as envisaged in National Bio fuel Policy

17. ISRO unveils plan of Gaganyaan programme to put Indian in space before 2022

- ✦ The Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, unveiled India's Gaganyaan programme for manned space flight before 2022 as announced by the Prime Minister on the Independence Day.
- ✦ ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said the manned mission to space having 3 crew members will be in space for 5-7 days.
- ✦ Mr. Sivan said the spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit of 300-400 km and the total programme cost is expected to be less than Rs 10,000 crores.
- ✦ Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh said the mission is much cheaper in comparison to other man missions sent to space.

18. INS Sahyadri Reaches Australia's Port Of Darwin For Maritime Exercise

- ✦ Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri entered the Port of Darwin, Australia, to take part in a multilateral maritime exercise.
- ✦ The ship was deployed in the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean for over four months, which included representing the Navy in multinational exercises MALABAR 18 at Guam and RIMPAC 18 at Hawaii
- ✦ Exercise KAKADU, which started in 1993, is a premier multilateral regional maritime engagement hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- ✦ KAKADU 2018, the fourteenth edition of the exercise, is scheduled between August 29 and September 18 and would see participation from 23 warships, one submarine, 45 aircraft, 250 marines and approximately 52 foreign staff from over 25 different countries.

19. New 21-member panel to advise PM on science, tech & innovations

- ✦ The government constituted a 21-member panel to advise Narendra Modi on science, technology and innovations.
- ✦ Advising the government on developing 'Clusters of Excellence' in science including city based R&D Clusters will also be one of the 17 tasks of the panel.
- ✦ The council will advise PM on science, technology, as well as innovation. It will also coordinate implementation of PMs scientific vision

make exam

Important Days

1. 10 August is observed as World Bio-Fuel Day

- ✦ World Bio fuel day to be observed on 10th August 2018. World Bio fuel Day is observed every year on 10th August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the bio fuel sector.
- ✦ Bio Fuels have the benefits of reducing import dependency on crude oil, cleaner environment, additional income to farmers and employment generation in rural areas.
- ✦ The government approved the National Policy on Biofuels-2018 in June 2018. The policy has the objective of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending.

2. International Youth Day: 12 August

- ✦ August 12 is observed as International Youth Day.
- ✦ It is awareness day to draw attention to cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.
- ✦ The Theme for International Youth day 2018 is "Safe space for Youth".
- ✦ The first International day is observed on 12 August, 2000.

3. World Humanitarian Day observed on 19 August

- ✚ Every year on 19 August, World Humanitarian Day brings citizens of the world together to rally support for people living in crises and to pay tribute to the aid workers who help them
- ✚ The World Humanitarian Day was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by passing a resolution A/63/L.49 in 2008.
- ✚ It pays tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service and also to rally support for people affected by crisis around the world.

4. World senior citizen day- August 21, 2018

- ✚ National Senior Citizens Day is an observance on August 21 to honor the contributions of senior citizens in the United States.
- ✚ The day is acknowledged to raise awareness about the factors and issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and to examine issues that affect their lives such as abuse of elderly people.
- ✚ The history of International Senior Citizens comes from the period of 1988. It was officially established by the former president of United States of America.
- ✚ The World Senior Citizens Day on 21 August 2017 is kept with the theme of “Stepping into the Future : Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.

5. National Sports Day Observed on 29 August

- ✚ National Sports Day in India is commemorated on 29 August every year. This day denotes the birthday of Dhyan Chand, the hockey player who won gold decorations in Olympics for India in the years 1928, 1934 and 1936.
- ✚ The most noted remembrance for him is the Major Dhyan Chand Award, the most honor award for lifetime accomplishment in games and diversions in India, and the National Sport day Celebration on his birthday.
- ✚ The National Sports Day in India (also called Rashtriya Khel Divas) is celebrated on 29th August every year with a lot of enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Awards

1. President gives away Outstanding Parliamentary awards

- ✚ Central Hall of Parliament bearing witness to a grand ceremony to felicitate the Best Parliamentarians from 2013 till 2017 in New Delhi
- ✚ Award winners are Dr Najma Haptullah (2013), Hukum Dev Narayan (2014), Ghulam Nabi Azad (2015), Dinesh Trivedi (2016), Bhartruhari Mahabadi (2017)
- ✚ Chairman of Rajya Sabha – Venkaiah Naidu

2. Javed Akhtar received Shaloka Samman, highest honour of Hindi Sahitya Academy

- ✦ Javed Akhtar received highest Shalaka Samman for 2017-18 to lyricist and poet Javed Akhtar.
- ✦ The award includes a cash reward of Rs 5 Lakh
- ✦ The scriptwriter, lyricist and poet has five National Awards for Best Lyricist to his name for works such as border, Refugee and Lagaan.
- ✦ The lyricist has also been honoured with the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhudhan in 2007. He is also a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu for his collection of poems entitled Lava.

3. President Ram Nath Kovind approves 131 Gallantry Awards for members of military, paramilitary forces

- ✦ On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 131 Gallantry Awards to members of Armed Forces personnel and Paramilitary Forces.
- ✦ The Defence Ministry said that one Kirti Chakra, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Vayn Sena Medals(Gallantry), 11 Nao Sena Medals(Gallantry), 20 Shaurya Chakras and 93 Sena Medals(Gallantry) will be awarded.
- ✦ Six women officers of the Indian Navy will be awarded Nao Sena medals. They were part of the expedition to circumnavigate the globe.

4. Albany Medical Center Prize 2018 awarded to 3 US Scientists

- ✦ Three US scientists James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg were declared winners 2018 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research.
- ✦ It is the second-highest value prize in medicine and biomedical research, awarded by the Albany Medical Center.
- ✦ They are James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg.
- ✦ Albany Medical Center Prize Founded in 2001, Founded by – Morris “Marty” Silverman.

5. General Dalbir Singh Suhag awarded Legion of Merit by US Government

- ✦ The United States government has awarded the Legion of merit(Degree of Commander) to General Dalbir Singh Suhag(Retired) of the Indian Army, for exceptionally meritorious service as Chief of the army staff, Indian Army.
- ✦ The award was presented to General Suhag on August 17,2018 at Pentagon, Washington.
- ✦ He becomes second India to get this award and first being General Rajendra Singh Jadeja in 1946.

6. Delhi government official wins WHO World No Tobacco Day Award as Delhi fights back tobacco

- ✦ Delhi government's additional director of health, SK Arora, made India proud as he was awarded the prestigious WHO World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.

- ✦ Arora was presented the World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award by Henk Bekedam, WHO India country head.
- ✦ Every year, the World Health Organization recognizes individuals or organisations alike in each of the six WHO regions for their accomplishments in the area of tobacco control.
- ✦ Tobacco prevalence in Delhi has come down by 6.5 per cent in the past six years which is more than the rest of India average figures.

7. Madhya Pradesh will give 3 awards after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared by Shivraj Chouhan

- ✦ Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said three national level awards of Rs 5 lakh each would also be given in the field of journalism, poetry and good administration in former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's memory.
- ✦ The life of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee would be taught in schools of Madhya Pradesh from the next academic session and his 'Asthi Kalash Yatra' will touch every village panchayat in the state.
- ✦ Atal Bihari Vajpayee was India's 10th prime minister and led the National Democratic Alliance government from 1998 to 2004.

8. Dr B K Misra to receive Dr B C Roy National Award as an Eminent Medical Person of the Year

- ✦ Dr Basant Kumar Misra, head, Department of Surgery, Neurosurgery & Gamma Knife Radiosurgery at P D Hinduja Hospital will be awarded with the Dr B C Roy National Award in the most prestigious category of 'Eminent Medical Person' of the year, the highest award in the field of medicine in India. Dr. Misra will receive the award from the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✦ Dr B C Roy National Award was instituted in 1962 by the Medical Council of India (MCI) in honour of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy - an eminent Indian physician, educationist, philanthropist and freedom fighter. He is one of the few people in the history to have obtained FRCS and MRCP degrees simultaneously. In India, the National Doctors' Day is celebrated in his memory on 1st July every year.
- ✦ Dr Misra is one of the leading neurosurgeons in India and has been attached to P D Hinduja Hospital since 1995. Under his guidance P D Hinduja Hospital was the first hospital in South Asia to acquire Gamma Knife Radiosurgery Facility.

Sports

1. Sourabh Verma Lifts Russia Open Badminton Trophy

- ✦ Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma lifted the Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok.
- ✦ Sourabh had won the Chinese Taipei Masters in 2016, and finished runner-up at Bitburger Open the same year.
- ✦ In the title clash, he defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe and won his first title of the season.
- ✦ Russia Capital – Moscow, Currency

2. A world record of 58.00sec set by Kathleen Baker at the US Swimming Championship

- ✦ Kathleen Baker set a world record of 58.00sec to win the 100m backstroke at the US swimming championships.
- ✦ Earlier world record of 58.10 set by Canadian Kylie Masse at the World Championships in Budapest on July 25 of last year.
- ✦ The top three finishers all broke 59 seconds, with Olivia Smoliga second in 58.75 and Smith third in 58.83.

3. Neeraj Chopra wins Gold Medal at Savo Games in Finland

- ✦ Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won gold with an impressive performance, beating his Chinese Taipei rival Chao-Tsun Cheng at the recently concluded Savo Games in Finland.
- ✦ Neeraj, the reigning Commonwealth Games gold medallist and Asian season leader, threw 85.69m in the event held at Lapinlahti, Finland.
- ✦ Chao-Tsun Cheng of Chinese Taipei made a throw of 82.52m and won a silver medal.
- ✦ Chao-Tsun is the only Asian to have thrown the javelin to a distance more than 90m.

4. World Badminton Championships 2018 complete list of Winners

- ✦ The 2018 World badminton Championship held at Nanjing Youth Olympic Games Sports Park Arena in Nanjing, China.
- ✦ In Men's Single Kento Momota (Japan) won Gold Medal. Silver medal is won by Shi Yuqi (China).
- ✦ In Women's Singles Carolina Marin of Spain won Gold medal. Silver Medal won by PV Sindhu of India.
- ✦ Men's Doubles- Li Junhui (China), Liu Yuchen (China)
- ✦ Women's Doubles- Maya Matsumoto (Japan), Wakana Nagahara (Japan).

5. Virat Kohli is the new No.1 batsman in Test Cricket

- ✦ Virat Kohli jumps past Steve Smith to become the seventh Indian to become the No.1 Test batsman in the world.
- ✦ Virat Kohli's century against England in the opening Test at Edgbaston, has helped him reach the top position.

- ✦ Apart from Kohli and Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Gautam Gambhir, Sunil Gavaskar, Virender Sehwag and Dilip Vengsarkar are the other India batsmen to have achieved number- one rankings during their careers.

6. Gaganjeet Bhullar claims his first European Tour title at Fiji International

- ✦ India's golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his maiden European title as he held out a record-breaking charge from Australian Anthony Quale to win the Fiji International by one stroke while Ernie Els shot a 7 under 65 to finish a further stroke behind.
- ✦ It was his first win on the European tour, ninth Asian Tour and 10th Crown overall.
- ✦ Suva is the capital city of Fiji

7. Women's Hockey World Cup: Netherlands win final to end Irish odyssey

- ✦ Netherlands were crowned Women's Hockey World Cup winners for a record eighth time as a crushing 6-0 victory ended Ireland's fairytale tournament.
- ✦ Spain won the third place match by defeating Australia 3-1 and won their first World Cup medal. India finished the tournament at 8th position.
- ✦ President of Hockey in India is Rajinder Singh , Headquarters- new Delhi.

8. Striker Mario Gomez retires from German National Team

- ✦ Striker Mario Gomez is retiring from international football after Germany's first round exit from the world Cup.
- ✦ The 33 year old, who made his debut for Germany in 2007, scored 31 goals in 78 international appearance.
- ✦ He also represented his country at the FIFA world Cup in 2010 and the Euro Cup in 2008 and 2012.

9. Nicholas Bett, Kenya's former 400m hurdles world champion dies aged 28

- ✦ Nicholas Bett, Kenya's former 400m hurdles world champion has died aged 28, following a car crash.
- ✦ Bett had just returned from the Africa Championships in Nigeria when he died in Nandi, north west Kenya.
- ✦ In 2015, he made history in China by becoming the first Kenyan to win a world gold at a distance shorter than 800m.

10. Virat Kohli tops 2018 charts for most runs scored in international cricket

- ✦ Virat Kohli tops charts for being the highest run-scorer in international cricket this year, leaving England's Jonny Bairstow behind. At present, Virat Kohli has 509 runs in Test cricket, 146 in T20s and 749 in ODIs.
- ✦ Shikhar Dhawan is the second Indian batsman in the list.
- ✦ Australia's Ricky Ponting is next in the list with 2833 runs reached in 2005.

11. Madappa becomes youngest Indian to win Asian Tour title

- ✦ Indian golfer Viraj Madappa won his maiden title on the Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru as he carded a four under 67 in the Fourth and final round to claim a two –shot victory.
- ✦ Madappa, who is 20 years old, became the youngest Indian to win on the Asian Tour. The earlier record was held by Gaganjeet Bhullar, who won the Indonesia Invitational, when he was 21 years and three months.
- ✦ Viraj Madappa is also the first rookie and youngest player to win on the continental Tour this season.

12. EME Ultra 25,000 Km Cycling Expedition Flagged Off

- ✦ The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers of Indian Army is undertaking an Ultra Cycling Expedition, as part of celebration for its Platinum Jubilee.
- ✦ The Expedition was flagged off on 15 August 2018 on the occasion of Independence Day from MCEME Secunderbad.
- ✦ The team will cover a distance of 25000 Km within 120 days and pass through all the states.
- ✦ The expedition will be completed in three phases. In first phase the team will cover Secunderbad to Leh and Leh to Kanyakumari. In second Phase, Kanyakumari to Tezu to Koteswar. And finally in third phase the team will cover Koteswar to Delhi and thus complete Golden Quadrilateral.

13. Teenager Esow wins maiden world track cycling medal for India

- ✦ The 17-year-old, Esow won the country's maiden medal in track cycling at the world level by claiming silver in the Men's Keirin event of the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Aigle, Switzerland.
- ✦ He won silver medal in Men's Keirin event of UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championship.
- ✦ Esow was only 0.017 seconds adrift of Czech Republic's Jakub Stastny, who secured gold in the pulsating final few seconds of the race.

14. Shooters Apurvi, Ravi Win Bronze in Asian Games 2018

- ✦ India opened its account at the 18th Asian Games after Ravi Kumar and Apurvi Chandela bagged the bronze in the 10m Air Rifle mixed team event.
- ✦ The Indians aggregated 429.9 after 42 shots in the 48-shot final and were in second spot for major part of the 48-shot finals before China overtook them to take the silver.
- ✦ The strong Chinese pairing of Ruozhu Zhao and Haoran Yang ended with a score of 492.5. Chinese Taipei's Yingshin Lin and Shaochuan Lu claimed the gold, scoring 494.1.

15. Bajrang Punia on winning Gold in 65 kg freestyle wrestling at Asian Games 2018

- ✦ Bajrang Punia opened India's gold medal account at the 2018 Asian Games. Bajrang won his maiden Asian Games gold in the 65kg category.
- ✦ Bajrang came into the Games after winning three tournament-Commonwealth Games, Tbilisi Grand Prix and Yasar Dogu International.
- ✦ He outclassed Uzbekistan's Sirojiddin Khasanov(13-3), Tajikistan's Fayziev Abdulqosim(12-2) and Mongolis's N Batmagnai Batchuluu(10-0) to storm into gold medal bout.

16. Mitchell Johnson announces retirement from all forms of cricket.

- ✦ Former Australian fastbowling sensation Mitchell Johnson has announced his retirement from all levels of cricket.
- ✦ The 36-year-old's lengthy career has started to take its toll upon his ageing body but he hopes to use his expertise in a future mentoring or coaching role.
- ✦ He ended up with having 590 international wickets, 313 Test wickets at an average of 28.40.
- ✦ Johnson played his last final Test match against New Zealand in Perth during the 2015-16 season.

17. Vinesh Phogat wins Gold Medal at Asian games

- ✦ Vinesh Phogat won Gold in 50kg wrestling event at the 18th Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia.
- ✦ Vinesh Phogat created history as she is the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold in the Asian Games.
- ✦ Bhin Bhin, kaka, and Atung are the mascots of the 2018 Asian Games.
- ✦ Vinesh Phogat beat Yuki Irie of Japan in the final of the women's wrestling at the Asian Games 2018.

18. Shooters Boost Medal Tally in Asian Games 2018

- ✦ Teen shooter Saurabh Chaudhary clinched gold, while Abhishek verma bagged bronze in men's 10m air pistol shooting at the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta.
- ✦ The 16 year old Saurabh Chaudhary shot a total of 240.7 to claim the top honour at the JSC-Shooting Range Saurabh Chaudhary's show was also an Asian Games record in 10m air pistol event.
- ✦ Abhishek Verma shot a total of 219.3 to finish third on the podium. Tomoyuki Matsuda of Japan secured the silver with 239.7.
- ✦ India's wrestler Divya Kakarn won the bronze medal in the women's 68-kilogram freestyle category at the 18th Asian Games.
- ✦ Divya thrashed Chen Wenling of Chinese Taipei by Technical Superiority in the play off the bronze medal.

19. Forbes Released List of Highest Paid Female Athlete: Serena Williams Tops

- ✦ Sarena Williams was the highest paid athlete for a third for a third consecutive year in 2018, according to List of Highest Paid Female Athletes 2018” published by Forbes.
- ✦ P.V Sindhu was at seventh place with earnings of \$8.5 million.
- ✦ Forbes is American Business Magazine Founded in 1917. Headquarters are in New York City,USA

20. Rishabh Pant becomes fourth Indian wicket-keeper to take five catches on Test debut

- ✦ Young Rishabh Pant became the fourth Indian wicket-keeper to take five catches on Test debut during the second day of the third test against England.
- ✦ Rishabh Pant achieved this feat by taking the catches of Alastair Cook, Keaton Jennings, Ollie Pope, Chris Woakes and Adil Rashid in England’s first innings
- ✦ Pant is also the first Asian wicket-keeper to take five catches in an innings on Test debut.

21. Odisha is to host 2018 Men’s Hockey World Cup for the First Time

- ✦ Ahead of the Men Hockey World Cup Tournament in the state, Odisha government has decided to launch a build up campaign in 17 cities from August 29.
- ✦ The campaign will be organized in Rourkela, Mumbai, New Delhi, Bhubaneswar and other important cities and hockey playing states.
- ✦ The Hague in Netherland hosted the previous tournament in the year 2014, in which Australia won the title which is their third title and the Netherland became the Runner Up. Only 12 Teams Participated in the Tournament.
- ✦ A nation-wide publicity campaign, 'Heartbeats for Hockey', was launched to showcase Bhubaneswar as a sporting venue and Odisha as a tourist destination.

22. Shardul Vihan Wins Double Trap Silver; Bronze In Kabaddi Tennis on Day 5 of Asian Games 2018

- ✦ Teenager Shardul Vihan starred for India and won silver on Day 5 of the Asian Games 2018.
- ✦ Shardul shot a total to 73 points while Korea’s 34-year old Shin Hyunwoo won the gold medal with a total of 74 points. Qatar’s Al Marri Hamed Ali bagged the bronze after shooting 53.
- ✦ Tennis player Ankita Raina opened India’s medal tally on Day 5 with a bronze in women’s single event after losing to Shuai Zhang of China in Straight sets.
- ✦ India men’s Kabaddi team failed to reach the tournament final. They lost the semi-final to Iran in a one-sided match.

23. Gold In Rowing, Tennis; Silver For Women's Kabaddi Team on Day 6 Asian Games 2018

- ✦ The Indian pair of Rohan Bopanna-Divij Sharan won tennis doubles gold after beating their opponents in straight sets
- ✦ In shooting, Heena Sindhu took home the bronze in women's 10m Air Pistol final after Manu Bhaker was eliminated
- ✦ India started their Asian Games 2018 Day 6 campaign with a bang by winning a gold and two bronze medals in rowing.
- ✦ The India women's kabaddi team missed out on their third successive Asian gold medal as they lost 24-27 to Iran in the final and won silver medal.

24. Veteran Pacer Jhulan Goswami Retires from T20Is

- ✦ Veteran India women's pacer Jhulan Goswami has decided to call it quits from the shortest format of the game, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced.
- ✦ This means that Goswami won't take part in the women's WT20, which is scheduled to take place in West Indies in November this year.
- ✦ Goswami represented India in 68 T20Is picking up 56 wickets which included a five-wicket haul against Australia in 2012.
- ✦ At present, she is the leading wicket-taker in the women's ODI format. She is also the first woman cricketer to take 200 ODI wickets.

25. Rahi Sarnobat wins gold; four bronze medal in Wushu in Asian Games 2018

- ✦ India won total of five medal on Day 4 –a gold and four bronze
- ✦ Rahi Sarnobat won gold in the morning in shooting while the four bronze medals came in Wushu.
- ✦ Indian hockey men team broke their 86 year old record to register their biggest International win, defeating Hong Kong 26-0.
- ✦ India bagged four bronze medals in the wushu sanda competition at the 18th Asian Games.
- ✦ Three medals came from the men's competition as Santosh kumar(56 kg) Surya Bhanu Pratap Singh (60kg) and Narender Grewal (65kg) lost in their respective semi-finals.

26. FIFA takes control of Uruguay federation amid World Cup bid

- ✦ FIFA has taken temporary control of the Uruguayan soccer federation because of governance concerns as the country campaigns with Argentina and Paraguay to host the 2030 World Cup.
- ✦ FIFA says the electoral process “is not in accordance with the requirements of transparency as outlined in the FIFA and CONMEBOL statutes”.
- ✦ FIFA and CONMEBOL stressed the “normalization committee” will run the daily business of the association, adopt AUF's Statutes to international standards and organize its elections.
- ✦ Uruguay campaigns with Argentina and Paraguay to host the 2030 Football World Cup.

27. Tajinderpal Singh Toor Wins Shot Put Gold; 3 Bronze In Squash in Asian Games 2018

- ✦ Tajinderpal Singh Toor clinched the men's shot put gold with a record-shattering throw to open India's medal account in athletics in the Asian Games.
- ✦ The 23-year-old threw the iron ball to 20.75m to win the gold and set a national record as well.
- ✦ Squash player Dipika Pallikal opened India's medal account on Day 7 of the Asian Games 2018 by taking home a bronze medal.
- ✦ Joshna Chinappa added another squash bronze to the Indian tally.

28. Dutee Chand, Hima Das, Muhammed Anas Win Silver Medals in Athletics at Asian Games

- ✦ India's Muhammed Anas and Hima Das claimed the silver medals in the men's and women's 400 metres races respectively at the 18th Asian Games.
- ✦ Anas completed the race in 45.69 seconds to be second, while Hima clocked 50.79 seconds to take the second place in the women's race.
- ✦ India's Govindan Lakshmanan missed out on taking a medal in the men's 10,000 metres category at the 18th Asian Games.

29. Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold In Javelin Throw; Dharun Ayyasamy, Neena Varakil, Sudha Singh Win Silver Medals In Track And Field in Asian Games 2018

- ✦ Asian champion Neeraj Chopra created a new national record on his way to the men's javelin gold at the 18th Asian Games. Neeraj threw 88.06 metres in his third attempt to clinch the gold.
- ✦ India's Neena Varakil clinched silver in the women's long jump. Neena recorded a best attempt of 6.51 metres to finish second. The bronze medal went to China with Xu Xiaoling jumping 6.50m.
- ✦ India's Sudha Singh grabbed the silver medal in the women's 3000 metres steeplechase. Sudha clocked 9:40.03 minutes to finish behind Bahrain's Winfred Yavi, who completed the race in 9:36.52 minutes.
- ✦ India's Dharun Ayyasamy claimed the silver medal in the men's 400 metres hurdles. Dharun produced a personal best of 48.96 seconds to finish second behind Qatari Abderrahman Samba, who delivered a Games record timing of 47.6s.
- ✦ Saina won a historic bronze after losing to World No.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in women's singles semifinals.

30. North Korea to host Asian youth weightlifting championships

- ✦ The 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships will be held in the North Korean capital Pyongyang, a signal that the secretive country may be coming in from the sporting cold.
- ✦ The Asian Weightlifting Federation and North Korea's Sports Minister Kim Il Guk signed an agreement for the championship to be held in capital Pyongyang.
- ✦ North Korea Capital- Pyongyang, currency - North Korean won

31. Manjit Singh Clinches Gold, Jinson Johnson Bags Silver In Men's 800M in Asian Games 2018

- ✦ Manjit Singh won the gold in the men's 800 metres event while Jinson Johnson clinched the silver medal in men's 800 metres.
- ✦ With these two medals, India's medal tally now stands at 49 with 9 gold, 18 silver and 22 bronze.
- ✦ Manjit Singh finished the race in 1:46.15 minutes while second Jinson Johnson clocked 1:46.35
- ✦ The 2018 Asian Games officially known as the 18th Asian Games and also known as Jakarta-Palembang 2018, is a pan-Asian multi-sport event being held from 18 August to 2 September 2018 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.

32. Gold for Women's 4x400m relay team in Asian games 2018

- ✦ The Women's 4x400m relay team won gold yet again while the men's relay team squared off the athletics events with a silver.
- ✦ India's Jinson Johnson clinched the gold in the men's 1500 metres event at the 2018 Asian Games.
- ✦ Johnson clocked 3 minutes and 44.72 seconds to take the yellow metal. India won gold in the women's 4X400 meter event.
- ✦ The Indian quartet of Hima Das, Raju Poovamma, Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwad and Vismaya Koroth registered a time of 3 minutes and 28.72 seconds to finish at the top of the podium
- ✦ India's men's hockey team failed to reach the final as they lost to Malaysia in a dramatic penalty shoot-out.

33. Amit Panghal into boxing finals, women's hockey team wins silver in Asian Games 2018

- ✦ The India's women's hockey team faltered in the final and ended their campaign with 1-2 loss to Japan in the final game.
- ✦ In boxing, India's Vikas Krishan had to pull out of his semi-final due to medical reason and finished with bronze.
- ✦ Amit Panghal, however, entered the final of the lightfly weight and will box for gold. India women's squash team also entered the final. India won three medals in sailing on Friday.

Books & Authors

1. Dr. Mahesh Sharma releases 3 books at IGNCA New Delhi

- ✦ Minister of state for Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, released 3 books 'jewellery' by Dr. Gulab Kothari, 'Ghats of Banaras' by Dr. Sachidanand Joshi and 'Untold Story of Broadcasting' by Dr. Gautam Chatterjee at IGNCA ,New Delhi.
- ✦ The Book "Ghats of Banaras" is derived out of the similar documentation conducted recently at Varanasi. These Ghats situated at the bank of river Ganga in a semi-circular shape(ardhchandrakar), give a spectacular view of the city.
- ✦ Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi(IGNCA) is a premier government-funded arts organization in India. It is an autonomous institution under the Union Ministry of Culture.

2. Khaled Hosseini's latest book 'Sea Prayer' to release this month

- ✦ Khaled Hosseini, bestselling author of The Kite Runner is soon to release his latest book Sea Prayer.
- ✦ The book marks the third anniversary of the death of the three year old Syrian refugee, Alan Kurdi.
- ✦ Khaled Hosseini is an Afghan-born American novelist. He has written books like "The Kite Runner", "A Thousand Splendid Suns" and "And the Mountains Echoed". He was appointed a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador in 2006.

3. VVS Laxman pens autobiography

- ✦ Veteran cricketer VVS Laxman, known for the suppleness of his wrists, will now bring his expertise into play as he picks up the pen to write his tell-all book, which will hit the stands on November 20
- ✦ The former Indian cricketer's autobiography titled, "281 and Beyond"
- ✦ The title has been borrowed from the Hyderabad stylist's fabulous series-turning innings of 281 against Australia at the Eden Gardens in 2001.

4. Atal Ji Ne Kaha: A book on Vajpayee launched; PM says 'rich repository' of Speeches to impact masses

- ✦ "Atal Ji Ne Kaha" is the latest of the books on the BJP patriarch and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched with a message by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✦ Authored and compiled by Brijendra Rehi, noted Doordarshan producer, senior journalist then advisor to the former PM's select Speeches and Photographs.
- ✦ The book consists of 320 pages and 26 chapters.

5. Shri RK Singh releases book on "Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System"

- ✦ Shri R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy visited Power System Operation Corporation limited (POSOCO) and released a book on "Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System."

- ✦ This reference document has been developed by POSOCO in collaboration with IMD to facilitate enhanced utilization of Weather Portal in all spheres of Power Sector.
- ✦ The Minister interacted with System Operators and appreciated the efforts being made by them in maintaining the security and reliability of Power System. He advised that in the advent of complexities being encountered by the Power System, lot of controls and automation are required.

Obituaries

1. Eminent Bengali author Ramapada Chowdhury passes away at 95

- ✦ Sahitya Academy awardee Bengali writer Ramapada Chowdhury, who authored famous novels like 'Kharij', 'Bari Badle Jay' and 'Abhimanyu', passed away.
- ✦ Ramapada Chowdhury was 95 years old. He was born on December 28, 1922 at Kharagpur.
- ✦ He was awarded the Sahitya Academy award in 1988. He had also received the Rabindra Puraskar, Ananda Puraskar and Rabindranath Tagore Memorial International Prize.
- ✦ His story 'Abhimanyu' was made into an award winning Hindi movie named 'Ek doctor Ki maut' in 1990.

2. Library Scientist K.S. Deshpande Passes away

- ✦ Library Scientist Krishna Shripadrao Deshpande, 95 died at his residence in Malamaddi.
- ✦ Recognized internationally as an expert in Library Science, Deshpande was instrumental in setting up and developing libraries at Karnataka University and Goa University.
- ✦ He has also authored several books on various topics.

3. Shri M Karunanidhi, DMK chief and 5 Time CM, Passes Away

- ✦ Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Chief and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi Passes away in Chennai.
- ✦ Muthuvel Karunanidhi was an Indian writer and politician who served as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for five terms and twenty years between 1969 and 2011.
- ✦ He was the 94 year old veteran leader and writer.
- ✦ He was Born in Thirukkuvalai village in Nagapattinam district.

4. Journalist Mony K. Mathew dies

- ✦ Senior financial journalist Mony K. Mathew, who retired as senior assistant editor at The Hindu-Business Line, died of a heart attack in the morning. He was 66.

- ✦ He joined The Hindu- Business Line in Thiruvananthapuram in 1995, where he excelled in reporting on public sector undertakings, public finance and State government budgets.
- ✦ He had worked with The Indian Express and The Financial Express before joining The Hindu Business Line.

5. Nobel prize-winning author VS Naipaul dies aged 85

- ✦ Trinidad –born British author VS Naipaul, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 2001, has died at his home in London aged 85.
- ✦ Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul won numerous coveted literary awards during his career during which he wrote critically acclaimed novels such as A House for Mr. Biswas, In a Free State and A Bend in the River.
- ✦ He was born in Naipaul on 17 August 1932.

6. Somnath Chatterjee, Former Lok Sabha Speaker, Dies at 89 in Kolkata

- ✦ Former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee passed away by multiple organ failure. He was 89 years old.
- ✦ A 10 time Lok Sabha MP, Chatterjee was a central committee member of the CPI which he had joined in 1968.
- ✦ He was the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2004 to 2009.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Condolled Chatterjee's demise and described him as a "strong voice for the well-being of the poor and vulnerable"

7. Sahitya Akademi awardee Chemmanam Chacko died at 92

- ✦ Malayalam poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee Chemmanam Chacko died in Kakkannad.
- ✦ Chacko, 92 had been undergoing treatment for age-related ailments for quite sometime
- ✦ Chacko had won several awards, including those by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Sanjayan Award, Kunjan Nambiar Kavitha puraskaram, P Smaraka Puraskaram and Mahakavi Ulloor Award.

8. Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Dass Tandon Dies

- ✦ Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Dass Tandon died at a hospital in Raipur. He was 90.
- ✦ Tandon, one of the founder members of the Jansangh which later became the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), became the governor of Chhattisgarh in July 2014.
- ✦ During his long political career, he has served on various posts, including as deputy chief minister of Punjab. The six-time MLA was also jailed from 1975 to 1977 during Emergency.

9. Former India cricket captain Ajit Wadekar dead

- ✦ Ajit Wadekar, who deployed his famous spinners to devastating effect and recorded historic series wins in the West Indies and England in 1971, passed away.
- ✦ Mr. Ajit Wadekar was declared dead on arrival at the Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre. He had been critically unwell for some time and was seeking treatment for the same.”
- ✦ Dramatic happenings at the selection committee meeting to pick the captain for the 1971 tour of the West Indies resulted in him being named skipper ahead of Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi.

10. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister, dies at 93

- ✦ Former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee died at the age of 93.
- ✦ He was an Indian politician who thrice served as the Prime Minister of India, first for a term of 13 days in 1996, for a period of eleven months from 1998 to 1999, and then for a full term from 1999 to 2004.
- ✦ He was a member of the Indian Parliament for over four decades, having been elected to the Lok Sabha, the lower house, ten times, and twice to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house. He served as the Member of Parliament for Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh until 2009.
- ✦ Vajpayee was among the founding members of the Bhartiya Jana Sangh which he also headed from 1968-1972.
- ✦ The Modi government declared in 2014 that Vajpayee’s birthday, 25 December, would be marked as Good Governance Day.

11. Former UN chief and Nobel Peace laureate Kofi Annan passes away at 80

- ✦ Former United Nations Secretary-General and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kofi Annan has died after a short illness at the age of 80
- ✦ Annan was the first black African to take up the role of the world's top diplomat, serving two terms from 1997 to 2006
- ✦ He later served as the UN special envoy for Syria, leading efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.
- ✦ Annan was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with the UN in 2001 "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world". He was married with three children.

12. Kuldip Nayar, veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha MP, dies at 95

- ✦ Kuldip Nayar, renowned journalist, author and human rights activist passed away in Delhi. He was 95.
- ✦ A former editor of The Indian Express, Nayar Fought fiercely for press freedom, especially during Emergency.
- ✦ In 2015, he was honoured with the Ramnath Goenka Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to journalism.

- ✚ He authored 15 books including “Beyond the Lines”, “India after Nehru” and “Emergency Retold”. In the 90s, Nayar served as High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom. He was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1997.

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