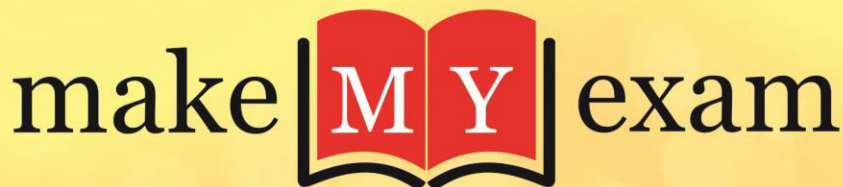


Monthly GK Capsule

01 September – 30 September, 2018



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National News

1. NITI Aayog's move Cyclathon to promote clean mobility

- ✦ The cyclathon organised by NITI Aayog is spreading the message of clean mobility to the Indian public
- ✦ As a part of the ongoing Mobility Week (August 31 — September 6), several events will facilitate interactions with various stakeholders from India and abroad.
- ✦ The event was aimed at promoting cycling for healthier life & less polluting city and spread message of a shared, connected, and zero-emission mobility in the country.

2. Krishna Kutir, a home for 1000 widows inaugurated by Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi and Shri Adityanath Yogi at Vrindavan

- ✦ The Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, alongwith Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Adityanath Yogi today inaugurated the widows' home 'Krishna Kutir' at a function at Vrindavan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ Krishna Kutir is a special home for 1000 widows set up by the Ministry of Women & Child Development under Swadhar Greh scheme of the Ministry and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by a government organization.
- ✦ An area of 4 acres has now been allocated near the home by the district administration which will be developed into a park and which can be used by the widows of the home, she disclosed.
- ✦ It aims to ensure economic and social security to women in distress or victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.

3. President Ram Nath Kovind approval for bill on old buildings

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to three state bills, including a legislation which will smoothen the process of reconstructing dilapidated buildings or a complex in land-starved Mumbai.
- ✦ The Maharashtra Apartment Ownership (Amendment) Bill, the Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling (Amendment) Bill 2015 and the Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling (Amendment) Bill, 2017 have got the presidential nod.
- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind reached Cyprus on Sunday on the first leg of his three-nation visit to Europe.

4. Health Ministry releases draft rules for e-pharmacies to regulate online sale of medicines

- ✦ The Union Health Ministry has come out with draft rules on sale of drugs by e-pharmacies with an aim to regulate online sale of medicines across India and provide patients accessibility to genuine drugs from authentic online portals.

- ✦ The draft rules on "sale of drugs by e-pharmacy" state that no person will distribute or sell, stock, exhibit or offer for sale of drugs through e-pharmacy portal unless registered.
- ✦ The draft notification says the application of registration of e-pharmacy will have to be accompanied by a sum of Rs 50,000 while asserting that an e-pharmacy registration holder will have to comply with provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000
- ✦ Elaborating on the main highlights of the draft, the Drugs Controller General of India Eswara Reddy said rules have been proposed to ensure accessibility and availability of drugs to the people across India.

5. One-Nation-One-Card For Public Transport Soon, Says NITI Aayog CEO

- ✦ India will shortly unveil a one-nation-one-card policy for public transport that will bring seamless connectivity between various modes of transport, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said.
- ✦ A robust transportation sector was the backbone for the development of any economy, especially for a densely populated developing country like India, and the focus of the nation's mobility strategy was on sustainable modes of public transport, transport-oriented planning and digitisation.
- ✦ "The objective of the strategy is to plan for the citizens first, rather than focusing on vehicles alone, by providing sustainable mobility and accessibility by switching to cleaner mode of transportation.

6. Suresh Prabhu launches Coffee Connect app, Coffee KrishiTharanga services for coffee stakeholders

- ✦ The 'Coffee Connect' mobile app has been developed to ease the work of field functionaries and to improve the work efficiency.
- ✦ The application provides solution by harnessing the power of mobility comprising the latest technology in easing the whole process of the field activities like digitisation of Coffee Growers & Estates with Geo Tagging, collecting the Plantation details.
- ✦ The Coffee KrishiTharanga services are aimed at providing customised information and services to increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

7. Vice President to visit US to participate in 2nd World Hindu Congress

- ✦ The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu to visit United States of America on September 8-9, 2018 to address the 2nd Hindu Congress being held in Chicago on the occasion of 125 Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Historic Speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893.
- ✦ The Vice President will also Participate in a programme organized by Telugu Associations of the US at Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago.
- ✦ He will also participate in bilateral discussion with several world leaders, who are attending this event, on the sidelines of this Congress.

8. Govt makes Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana open-ended scheme

- ✦ The government decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts.
- ✦ The flagship financial inclusion scheme was launched in August 2014 for a period of four years.
- ✦ The free accident insurance cover for those opening Jan Dhan accounts after August 28 too has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh.
- ✦ The age limit for availing overdraft facility under this revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years.

9. 6th edition of Bengaluru Space Expo inaugurated

- ✦ The 6th edition of the biennial Bengaluru Space Expo was inaugurated by ISRO Chairman Dr.K Sivan in Bengaluru.
- ✦ The three day event will showcase industry participation in Indian space programme.
- ✦ ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan said that the Indian Space Research Organisation wants to offer manufacturing of PSLV and small satellite launch vehicles along with small satellites to private industries.
- ✦ He said France will provide space medicines for Indian astronauts who will be part of India's first Manned Space Mission Gaganyaan.

10. PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate first Global Mobility Summit

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first Global Mobility Summit called MOVE, which will deliberate on steps to promote electric vehicles and shared mobility.
- ✦ The summit will deliberate on five themes including comprehensive: electrification and alternative fuels, reinventing public transport, goods transport and logistics and data analytics and mobility.
- ✦ The two day summit is being organized by the government think-tank NITI Aayog.
- ✦ NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said that the main aim through the summit is to revolutionise the way people travel in India, along with making more connected, shared and seamless.

11. Minister of State for HRD, Dr. Satya Pal Singh successfully attended G20 Education Ministers' and Joint Ministerial Meeting at Mendoza, Argentina

- ✦ The Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr. Satya Pal Singh lead a high level delegation to the G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting as well as Joint Ministerial Meeting held at Mendoza, Argentina on 5th & 6th September, 2018. It was the first ever meeting of Education Ministers in the history of G-20.
- ✦ The two meetings included Ministers of Education and Ministers for Labour and Employment from member countries as well as representatives of International Organizations like the World Bank, UNESCO.
- ✦ During G20 Summit of Education Ministers, Dr Satya Pal Singh successfully held bilateral talks with education minister of 9 countries.

12. The Odisha Assembly passed a resolution for establishing Legislative Council

- ✦ The Odisha Assembly passed a resolution for establishing Legislative Council, or Vidhan Parishad
- ✦ While legislators of the Indian National Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party chose to walk out, the ruling Biju Janat Dal's 104 MLAs present in the assembly voted in favour of the resolution.
- ✦ The resolution was passed with as many as 104 of total 147 legislators casting their votes in its favour. The resolution now will be sent to Central Government (Union cabinet) for approval, following which it will be tabled in both houses of the Parliament.
- ✦ Currently, seven states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh have a Legislative Council.

13. Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10KW transmitter of AIR at Patnitop in J&K

- ✦ The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 10KW transmitter of All India Radio at Patnitop in Ramban District of Jammu & Kashmir, that will provide services to people living in a radius of around 60 km (aerial) in various districts.
- ✦ With the commissioning of the relay FM transmitter at Patnitop, the people living on high reaches and remote areas would be able to listen to radio more clearly
- ✦ The minister of state in PMO Singh said radio as a medium is prompt, credible and instantaneous and has continued to remain so despite the fast changing media landscape.
- ✦ The 10 KW transmitter will help cover an aerial distance of 60 kilometre in nearby districts of Doda, Kishtwar, Udhampur and parts of Jammu and even across the border.

14. Delhi CM Kejriwal launches doorstep delivery of services

- ✦ The Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) rolled out doorstep delivery of public services for Delhiites
- ✦ In the first phase of the Delhi government's scheme, 40 services will be provided for a nominal charge of Rs 50.
- ✦ VFS Global, one of the biggest visa and passport service providers in the world, has been given the contract to run the project for three years.

15. Shri Piyush Goyal launches a web portal "Rail Sahyog"

- ✦ The "Rail Sahyog" portal is an example of changing times & speedy execution of projects in Railways. Salient feature of this portal is its simplicity & transparency.
- ✦ This portal will provide an opportunity for Industry/ Companies/ Associations to collaborate with Railways.
- ✦ This portal will not only be beneficial for passengers but also for neighbourhood of Railway vicinity."

- ✦ Indian Railways, with its vast network and presence across the length and breadth of the country, has always been at the forefront to serve the society. Inspired by the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister for a New India by 2022
- ✦ The web portal will provide a platform for the Corporates and PSUs to contribute to creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations through Corporate Social Responsibility funds.

16. Union Agriculture Minister releases a profile booklet titled 'NCDC- Assisting Cooperative. Always!'

- ✦ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh released a booklet titled 'NCDC-Assisting Cooperatives. Always!' highlighting the role and activities assisted by National Cooperative Development Corporation in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
- ✦ Shri Singh recalled that NCDC nurtures cooperatives which represent by and large small and marginal farmers.
- ✦ NCDC is the most preferred financial institution in the world of cooperatives and aligning itself with the Mission of New India 2022, NCDC has embarked on Sahakar 22, a Mission for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022.

17. NITI Aayog, Intel and TIFR collaborate to set up a Model International Center for Transformative AI

- ✦ NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) announced on that they are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.
- ✦ This initiative is part of NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' Discussion Paper that focuses on establishing ICTAI in the country through private sector collaboration.
- ✦ Through this collaborative effort, the model ICTAI is chartered to develop AI foundational frameworks, tools and assets, including curated datasets and unique AI algorithms.
- ✦ The intent is to develop standards and support policy development related to information technology such as data-storage, information security, privacy, and ethics for data capture and use.

18. Cabinet approves New Umbrella Scheme Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan

- ✦ The Union Cabinet approved new Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan, PM-AASHA
- ✦ The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.
- ✦ This step aims at protecting the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- ✦ It is expected that the increase in MSP will be translated to farmer's income by way of robust procurement mechanism in coordination with the State Governments.

19. Tamil Naidu bans e-cigarettes, prohibits online sale too

- ✦ The Tamil Nadu government has issued a government order banning its manufacture, sale and possession with immediate effect in the state.
- ✦ The government prohibits the manufacture, sale (including online sale), of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), known as E-Cigarettes or by any other name or component with immediate effect in Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Listing the ill-effects of using e-cigarettes, the government order said it is a myth that it is less harmful than beedis and cigarettes.

20. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, flags off the Battery Operated Bus services at AIIMS

- ✦ Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare flagged off the Battery Operated Bus Services at AIIMS, New Delhi, a CSR initiative of Independent News Services Pvt. Ltd. (INDIA TV).
- ✦ Speaking at the occasion, Shri Nadda stated that AIIMS is a pioneering and unique Institute that maintains a fine balance between quantity and quality.
- ✦ The Health Minister assured that the Government is committed to ensuring that the new AIIMS will meet the same standards of service as AIIMS, New Delhi.

21. Cabinet approves continuation of Capacity Development Scheme for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20

- ✦ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the Capacity Development Scheme for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an outlay of Rs 2,250 crore.
- ✦ The overall objective of the scheme is to augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for making available credible and timely Official Statistics for policy makers and public at large.
- ✦ The Capacity Development Scheme has two Sub-schemes, Economic Census and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS).
- ✦ In view of the requirement for better statistical coverage of sectors/areas, in addition to the regular ongoing activities, the Ministry proposes to also take up three new surveys under the Capacity Development Scheme.

22. Union Minister for HRD Shri Prakash Javadekar Inaugurates 4th World Summit on Accreditation

- ✦ Union Minister for HRD Shri Prakash Javadekar Inaugurates 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) at New Delhi
- ✦ Speaking on this occasion the Minister said that 'Ratings and Rankings' both the quality hallmark for any educational institutions therefore accreditation becomes very important.
- ✦ The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Human Resource Development engaged in quality assurance of the programs offered by the professional and technical institutions in India through accreditation.

- ✦ World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA) is a biennial Summit organized by NBA, which provides platform to stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation.

23. In a first in Asia, Bengaluru airport set to use face recognition as 'boarding pass' next year

- ✦ Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru is set to become the first airport in Asia next year to use face recognition as the boarding procedure for passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport.
- ✦ Hari Marar, CEO of Bengaluru International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), which operates KIA, and Miguel Leitmann, CEO of Vision Box, a Portuguese software firm, signed an agreement to this effect in Lisbon on September 5 to introduce face recognition technology at the airport from 2019
- ✦ Face recognition based passage system will simplify journey of air passengers by making it paperless from registration to boarding.

24. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launches National Scholarship Portal Mobile App

- ✦ Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched the country's first "National Scholarship Portal Mobile App"
- ✦ Shri Naqvi said that this "National Scholarship Portal Mobile App" will ensure a smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students from poor and weaker sections.
- ✦ "National Scholarship Portal Mobile App" will prove beneficial for students, and will help in strengthening a transparent mechanism for the scholarships.

25. Power Ministry launches Chiller Star Labelling Program to improve energy efficiency

- ✦ Ministry of Power, Government of India launched an ambitious program to encourage the deployment of Energy Efficient chiller systems in the country
- ✦ The Chiller Star Labelling Program has been formulated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- ✦ The program envisages providing star rating in terms of its energy performance. Initially, the program is launched on a voluntary basis and will be valid upto 31st December 2020.
- ✦ Through Chiller star labeling Program, it is estimated that more than 500 million units of electricity would be saved in 2019 along with Green House Gases (GHG) reduction of 0.5 million-ton equivalent of CO₂.

26. ACI ranks Hyderabad airport No. 1 in 5 to 15 million category

- ✦ GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) said its Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) here has ranked no. 1 in the Airports Council International's service quality in the category of 5 to 15 million passengers per annum.

- ✦ GHIAL's CEO S G K Kishore yesterday received the trophy from ACI's Director General Angela Gittens and CEO of Airports Company South Africa, Bongani Maseko, during the 27th ACI Africa/world annual general assembly, conference and exhibition at Port Louis in Mauritius.
- ✦ The trophy was formally handed over for the year 2016, ranking RGIA as the 'world's number one airport' in the category.

27. Rajasthan minister inaugurates Stats'a First Lion safari

- ✦ Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar launched the lion safari at Nahargarh Biological Park.
- ✦ The tourist attraction will be thrown open for visitors from next month, an official of the forest department said.
- ✦ The park is located on the Delhi-Jaipur National Highway, nearly 12 kilometers from Jaipur.
- ✦ Lions in this park were brought from Junagarh, Gujarat under an exchange programme. Total of 10 lions will be released in the park in a phased manner.

28. WPI inflation drops to four-month low of 4.53%

- ✦ Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation in August eased to a four-month low of 4.53 per cent on softening of food prices.
- ✦ The effect of rising petrol and diesel prices has been neutralised by deflation in food articles, which resulted a lower WPI inflation for August.
- ✦ The WPI-based inflation stood at 5.09 per cent in July and 3.24 per cent in August last year. As per government data released Friday, food articles registered deflation at 4.04 per cent in August 2018. Last month, deflation in this category was 2.16 per cent.

29. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: Sushma Swaraj, Yogi Adityanath launch website

- ✦ As External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath threw open the PBD 2019 website on Saturday afternoon, registrations started, and they will continue till November 15
- ✦ Uttar Pradesh is hosting the event this year, at two venues—Varanasi, where the main events will take place, and Allahabad, where the delegates will get to take a holy dip in the Ganga and soak in the vibrancy of an ancient heritage of which they, too, share
- ✦ PBD is usually celebrated on January 9 every year, that commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa on 9th January, 1915.

30. Jaipur Literature Festival begins in Houston

- ✦ Jaipur Literature Festival which is conducted since 2006, is held in Jaipur every year. This is the first time it is held in Houston.
- ✦ The festival is touted as the world's largest free literary festival. The inaugural session also saw Congress leader and writer Shashi Tharoor discuss his book "Why i am a Hindu" with writer Namita Gokhale.

- ✦ Renowned authors and thinkers participated in the festival and discussions on various topics and other cultural events were also held.

31. Isro unveils Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar at Sriharikota spaceport

- ✦ The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) inaugurated the Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar at Sriharikota spaceport near Chennai.
- ✦ The S-Band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar facility was launched at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota by Isro Chairman Dr K Sivan.
- ✦ The radar has been developed by Bharat Electronics Ltd, Bengaluru under ToT (Training of Trainers) from ISRO.
- ✦ The Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) provides advanced information, enhances the lead-time essential for saving lives and property in the event of a natural disaster associated with severe weather.

32. Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign commences across region

- ✦ Under the guidance of ZEO Pouni Gopal Krishan Sharma and ZEPO Pouni P.D Bali Swachhata Hi Seva Programme got commenced at Govt. Middle School Kharoti (Pouni), District Reasi.
- ✦ During the inaugural address to the students, Headmaster of the School Sat Paul Puri lauded the efforts put by the small kids of the school in the recently held programme Swachhta Pakhwara.
- ✦ All 22 districts, 4,171 Gram Panchayats and 7,565 villages in the state are open defecation free as per Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) guidelines.

33. NACO releases HIV Estimations 2017 report

- ✦ “HIV Estimations 2017” released by Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Maharashtra has the highest number of people living with HIV in India.
- ✦ There were around 87,000 new HIV infections and over 69,000 AIDS-related deaths (ARDs) in 2017. Around 22,675 mothers needed Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.
- ✦ The HIV Estimations 2017 is the 14th round in the series of HIV-estimations under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). NACO undertakes HIV estimations biennially in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS).

34. PM inaugurates Parakram Parv, pays homage to martyrs at Konark War Memorial

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attend the Combined Commanders Conference.
- ✦ He inspected a tri-services guard of honour on arrival at the Air Force Station in Jodhpur. He paid homage to martyrs at Konark War Memorial
- ✦ At Konark Stadium, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Parakram Parv. He witnessed an exhibition set up on this occasion.
- ✦ He also recalled and paid homage to the braves who have made the supreme sacrifice, and are symbols of inspiration, for generations.

35. Narendra Modi govt constitutes 8-member Lokpal search committee

- ✦ The Modi government constituted an eight-member search committee, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.
- ✦ The process of Lokpal selection is going as per the guidelines laid down in the Lokpal Act
- ✦ The decision to constitute the search committee comes four years after the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act.

36. NITI Aayog and Oracle sign a Statement of Intent to pilot drug supply-chain using blockchain.

- ✦ In order to fight the growing problem of counterfeit drugs in India, NITI Aayog and Oracle signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to pilot a real drug supply-chain using blockchain distributed ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software.
- ✦ The SoI was signed by Adviser NITI Aayog, Ms. Anna Roy and Regional Managing Director of Oracle India, Shailender Kumar, in the presence of CEO of NITI Aayog.
- ✦ The major advantages of blockchain software will be its ability to allow the sharing of information across the drug supply chain securely with every exchange of information getting recorded, inability to tamper with any record of the drug movement and inability to delete any records so there can be no dispute, if an offender is caught.

37. President Kovind clears ordinance to set up a committee to run Medical Council of India until Parliament passes legislation

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to promulgate an Ordinance to set up a committee to run the Medical Council of India, MCI, until Parliament passes legislation to replace the body with a new commission.
- ✦ Speaking to media in New Delhi, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said, the Cabinet cleared the Ordinance.
- ✦ The Board of Governors who would run the MCI include Niti Aayog member Dr V K Paul and AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria. A Bill to replace the Council with a National Medical Commission is pending in Parliament.

38. Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurates the first ever India tourism Mart 2018

- ✦ The Union Minister for Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 'first ever' India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) in the presence of Union Tourism Minister, Shri K J Alphons and the Tourism Minister of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Sajid, in New Delhi
- ✦ The India Tourism Mart is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism from 16th to 18th September 2018, in partnership with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) and with support of State /UT Governments.

- ✦ India Tourism Mart (ITM) is being held for the first time and the Tourism industry stakeholders are coming together for such a large scale event with Ministry's support.
- ✦ The FAITH and State Governments is also offering a pre and post event FAM trips (Familiarization trips) for the buyer delegates from overseas.

39. 'E-Sahaj' portal for grant of Security Clearance Launched by Union Home Secretary

- ✦ The Union Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba launched an online 'e-sehaj' portal for grant of Security Clearance. The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.
- ✦ Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) has cleared about 1,100 cases of security clearance on the past one year. Although the given timeline is 90days, MHA strives to decide Security Clearance cases in 60 days(average time per case in 2018 is 53 days) which is being reduced further
- ✦ The introduction of online portal, the process has become standardized, resulting in a process which will be faster, transparent and easy to monitor. Various functionaries can access the application and documents online and take timely decisions.

40. PM inaugurates key development projects in Varanasi

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several important development projects, at a public gathering in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
- ✦ Among the projects inaugurated are the Integrated Power Development Scheme(IPDS) for Puraani Kashi; and an Atal Incubation Centre at Banaras Hindu University
- ✦ The cumulative value of all projects which were inaugurated is over Rs.550 crore.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said that the efforts to bring about change in Varanasi, are also attempting to preserve the city's rich heritage.

41. 'Swachta Hi Seva' activities across the country

- ✦ The Ministry of Tourism is organizing the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign at various important tourist sites across the country from 15th September to 2nd October 2018.
- ✦ Cleanliness and awareness activities are being conducted through Regional offices of the Tourism Ministry with active participation from local communities, Institutes of the Ministry, State Governments and Stakeholders.
- ✦ Swachhta Hi Seva campaign launched at DighaliPukhuri, Guwahati by Indiatourism Guwahati in association with Assam Tourism Department Corporation.

42. Odisha CM launches star-rating system for industries to reduce air pollution

- ✦ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a 'Star Rating program' for industries to strengthen State Pollution Control Board's (SPCB) regulatory efforts to reduce pollution.
- ✦ It is a first-of-its-kind transparency initiative to categorise industries from one to five stars compliant to pollution standards.
- ✦ The Star- Rating Program is an excellent example of the 3T framework Teamwork, Transparency and Technology. This programme will help the public to find out whether industries in their vicinity are fair in their environmental compliance and empower them to strengthen regulations through public participation.

43. ESIC approves new scheme, Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for cash relief to unemployed insured persons

- ✦ The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a new scheme- Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for Insured Persons covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act.
- ✦ The Employees' This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement. The decision was taken at the ESIC board meeting chaired by the Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar in New Delhi.
- ✦ According to an official release, the eligibility for availing Super Specialty treatment for dependents of Insured Person has now been relaxed to insurable employment of one year with 156 days of contributions.

44. Union Home Minister launches two portals to strengthen Women Safety

- ✦ Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh here launched two separate portals to strengthen Women Safety.
- ✦ The portal "cybercrime.gov.in" will receive complaints from citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.
- ✦ The Union Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba highlighted the need for timebound completion of investigation in sexual crimes to instill deterrence among potential offenders.
- ✦ The Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC) portal is convenient and user friendly that will enable complainants in reporting cases without disclosing their identity.

45. PM lays foundation stone for India International Convention and Expo Centre, Dwarka

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, laid the foundation stone for India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) at Dwarka, New Delhi.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said that this Centre would reflect India's economic progress, rich cultural heritage, and our consciousness towards environment protection.
- ✦ It will be used for offering setting for international and national events, meetings, conferences, exhibitions and trade shows.

46. Home Ministry Signs Pact with ISRO to Set up Emergency Response Control Room

- ✦ The Home Ministry signed an agreement with the ISRO for setting up of a state-of-the-art integrated control room for emergency response (ICR-ER) which will deal with disaster and internal security related urgency.
- ✦ The ministry said Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will render its technical expertise for the proposed ICR-ER whereas the project will be executed under its overall supervision.
- ✦ The MoU was signed by Joint Secretary in the ministry Sanjeev Kumar Jindal and Deputy Director, NRSC, ISRO, P V N Rao.

47. India puts four more nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards

- ✦ India has decided to place four more reactors under the IAEA safeguards. Accordingly, two Russian-designed Pressurised Light Water Reactors and two Pressurised Heavy Reactors being built with Indian technology will be covered.
- ✦ With this, a total of 26 Indian nuclear facilities will be under the international nuclear energy watchdog.
- ✦ The indigenously developed prototype fast breeder reactor of 500 MWe is undergoing sodium commissioning and criticality is expected next year.
- ✦ IAEA is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

48. Union Cabinet Approves Ordinance to Criminalise Triple Talaq

- ✦ The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved an ordinance making triple talaq a punishable offence, including a jail term of up to three years and a fine.
- ✦ Announcing the decision after the cabinet meeting, union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told the media the practice of triple talaq has continued despite the Supreme Court striking it down.
- ✦ The Bill, brought by the Narendra Modi government aiming to criminalise instant divorce or talaq-e-biddat by men by uttering “talaq” thrice in quick succession, is currently stalled in the parliament.
- ✦ Citing the lack of ‘consensus’ in the House, Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, on the last day of the Monsoon session, deferred the Bill till the Winter Session .

49. Govt launches online database of sex offenders

- ✦ The government launched an online National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO) which will have names, addresses, photographs and fingerprint details of persons convicted on charges of rape, gang rape, offences related to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, and stalking.
- ✦ The NDSO data will not be available for general public but only to law enforcement agencies for effectively tracking and investigating cases of sexual offences. The government promised the database will not compromise the privacy of individuals.

- ✦ All states in the US have sex offender registries where information is available to the public online, except in cases where the offenders are juveniles.

50. Mizoram's first international short film festival inaugurated

- ✦ The first-ever Mizoram International Short Film Festival (MISFF) was inaugurated with the screening Gulshan Grover's internationally acclaimed short film 'Forbidden'.
- ✦ The festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla at the iconic Aijal Club in Aizawl
- ✦ The film festival, which is the first of its kind in Mizoram, has been jointly organised by the Government of Mizoram and Innovations India, aimed at promoting Mizoram as a preferred destination for film making, and to reach out to the international film makers to showcase the unexplored beauty of the state.

51. PM inaugurates Jharsuguda Airport and flags off UDAN flight between Jharsuguda-Raipur sector

- ✦ The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a new airport in Jharsuguda - also known as the powerhouse of Odisha.
- ✦ Jharsuguda is the second airport of Odisha after Bhubaneswar to become operational and the first one to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under RCS UDAN.
- ✦ In Odisha, other than Jharsuguda, three more airports, namely, Jeypore in Koraput District, Rourkela in Sundargarh District and Utkela in Kalahandi District are being developed to provide connectivity to remote and far flung areas of the coastal state.

52. President inaugurates centenary celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in New Delhi.
- ✦ President said that institutions like the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha have played a very important role in strengthening the emotional unity of the country.
- ✦ He noted that the Sabha has developed a network of about 20 thousand Hindi campaigners.

53. PM inaugurates Pakyong Airport, as air connectivity reaches Sikkim

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim. This is the first airport in the Himalayan State, and the 100th airport in the country.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said that Pakyong Airport would greatly ease connectivity to Sikkim. He said that in order to ensure that it is useful to the common man, this airport is part of the UDAN scheme.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said that out of 100 airports in the country today, 35 have been operationalized in the last four years.

54. PM launches world's largest state-funded Ayushman Bharat health Scheme

- ✦ PM Narendra Modi launched the world's largest state-funded health insurance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, which aims to provide free secondary and tertiary care to 50 crore people across the country.
- ✦ Calling the scheme a "game changer", Modi said the plan will change the healthcare scenario in India and will form a model for other countries to follow and replicate.
- ✦ More than 50 crore people will get insurance up to Rs lakh. This is the world's first such scheme.

55. Finance Ministry Launches Mobile Application "Jan Dhan Darshak" as A Part of Financial Inclusion

- ✦ Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) has jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative.
- ✦ This app will act as a guide for the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.
- ✦ Jan Dhan Darshak app will be in a unique position to provide a citizen-centric platform for locating financial service touch points across all providers such as banks.

56. Shri Arun Jaitley launches the Financial Inclusion Index

- ✦ The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley, launched the Financial Inclusion Index after his Annual Performance Review Meeting with CEOs of the Public Sector Banks.
- ✦ The index will have three measurement dimensions; (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality.
- ✦ The various components of the index will also help to measure financial services for use of internal policy making. Financial Inclusion Index can be used directly as a composite measure in development indicators.

57. Finance Minister launches web portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com

- ✦ The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley, launched a transformative initiative in MSME credit space.
- ✦ The web portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to Rs. 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- ✦ It is a strategic initiative of SIDBI-led PSB consortium incubated under the aegis of Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- ✦ A first in MSME banking credit space, www.psbloansin59minutes.com is one of its kind platform in MSME segment which integrates advanced fintech to ensure seamless loan approval and management.

58. Delhi Gets First WAYU Air Pollution Control Device

- ✦ Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) in delhi.
- ✦ The device can purify air in a area of 500 meter square. Around 54 more such device are to be installed by October 15 in Delhi.
- ✦ The device installed at Income Tax Office (ITO) intersection and Mukarba Chowk, generates wind in order to dilute the air pollutants and removes the active pollutants like carbon (charcoal) with the help of one fan and filter.

59. 'Parakram Parv' to be celebrated at Pune from 28 September to 30 September 2018

- ✦ The Indian Armed Forces will observe 'Parakram Parv' from 28-30 September 2018 to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes against terror camps across the Line of Control (LoC) and to "showcase the courage, valour and sacrifice of the Armed Forces"
- ✦ The event will be organised in all important Military Stations/Cantonments across the country to exhibit the might of the Indian Armed Forces.
- ✦ Indian Army had conducted surgical strikes in 2016, which had strategic ramifications and were aimed to dissuade inimical adversary from adopting the path of violence and to ensure an environment of peace for the Nation.

60. Supreme Court declares Centre's Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid

- ✦ The Supreme Court on declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as Constitutionally valid.
- ✦ The apex court's five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said Aadhaar is meant to help benefits reach the marginalised sections of the society and takes into account the dignity of people not only from personal but also from community point of view.
- ✦ Justice Sikri said unique identification proof also empowers and gives identity to marginalised sections of society.

61. PM Modi gets UN's highest environmental honour

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is amongst the six winners of the United Nation's highest environmental honour, the 'Champions of the Earth Awards' for his "unprecedented pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022.
- ✦ Modi along with French President Emmanuel Macron were recognised in the 'Policy Leadership Category' for their "pioneering work in championing" the International Solar Alliance and "new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action.
- ✦ The other winners include environmental and indigenous rights defender Joan Carling and the 'Beyond Meat and Impossible Food' in the Science and Innovation category for their popular, plant-based alternative to beef and "their efforts to educate consumers about environmentally conscious alternatives"

62. Govt launches Agmark online quality Certification

- ✦ The government launched an online platform for processing applications related to quality certification mark 'Agmark' for agricultural products.
- ✦ Agmark is certification mark that assures conformity to a set of standards approved by the government agency Directorate of Marketing and Inspection.
- ✦ The process of application will be simple, quick, transparent and 24x7. Through the Agmark online system, certificate of authorisation, permission of printing press, permission of laboratories and services related to laboratory information management system will be provided.
- ✦ The use of modern technologies by the National Informatics Center has made these processes easy, reliable and cost effective by providing online electronic mode.

63. Hyderabad Metro Rail expands operations to become country's second-largest after Delhi

- ✦ Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Governor ESL Narasimhan flagged off a metro train on Hyderabad Metro Rail's (HMR) much-awaited 16-km stretch between Ameerpet and LB Nagar.
- ✦ The opening of this stretch completes the entire 29-km Corridor One of the HMR project, now India's second-largest metro network after Delhi.
- ✦ It is also the world's largest metro project under the public-private-partnership (PPP) model with a total estimated cost of over Rs 20,000 crore courtesy time.

64. Adultery not a crime, Supreme Court strikes down Section 497

- ✦ The court declared that Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code-the adultery law-was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court unanimously struck down a 158-year-old law that considers adultery to be an offence committed by one man against another, and has been criticised for treating women as possessions rather than human beings.
- ✦ Misra, who wrote a judgment for himself and Justice AM Khanwilkar, said the unequal treatment of women invites the wrath of the Constitution, and that any provision treating women unequally isn't constitutional.
- ✦ The other judges on the bench were Justice RF Nariman, Justice DY Chandrachud, and Justice Indu Malhotra.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Mauritius tops India's FDI charts again in FY18

- ✦ Mauritius remained the top source of foreign direct investment into India in 2017-18 followed by Singapore.
- ✦ FDI from Mauritius totalled USD 13.41 billion as against USD 13.38 billion in the previous year, inflows from Singapore rose to USD 9.27 billion from USD 6.52 billion.

- ✦ The provisional data for the financial year ended March revealed that foreign direct investment (FDI) into the manufacturing sector witnessed a substantial decline to USD 7.06 billion, as against USD 11.97 billion in the year-ago period.

2. International tourism arrivals hit record high in 2017, India leads growth in South Asia

- ✦ The number of people travelling abroad hit record levels in 2017 with a total of 1,323 million international tourist arrivals recorded in destinations around the world, with India leading the growth in the South Asian region, according to data from the UN's tourism organisation
- ✦ Europe and Africa led the regions with increases in arrivals, with growth of eight per cent and nine per cent, respectively.
- ✦ The UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, added that tourism is the world's third largest export category, earning USD 1.3 trillion in receipts in 2017: an increase of five per cent.

3. Bi-annual talks between Indian and Bangladeshi border forces to begin in New Delhi

- ✦ The bi-annual talks between Indian and Bangladeshi border forces will begin in New Delhi today. Director General of Border Security Force (BSF) KK Sharma will represent the Indian side while Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Major General Md Shafeenul Islam will lead the Bangladeshi side in the talks
- ✦ The meeting is aimed at increasing bilateral cooperation in checking trans-border crimes such as smuggling of drugs and narcotics, cattle lifting and gun running across the international border between the two countries. More from our correspondent.
- ✦ This is the 47th DG-level conference between the two sides since it began in 1975. Joint efforts for effective implementation of Comprehensive Border Management Plan, Confidence Building Measures, Simultaneous Coordinated patrolling, Sharing of Information, expansion of crime-free zones will be on the agenda during the talks.

4. Shri J P Nadda addresses the '71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

- ✦ India has fast-tracked many initiatives aimed at achieving all the core tenets of Universal Health Coverage i.e, strengthening health systems, improving access to free medicines & diagnostics and reducing catastrophic healthcare spending. This was stated by Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare at the inauguration of the '71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia
- ✦ Shri J P Nadda further stated that India on its part firmly believes in the objective of attainment of the highest possible level of health, where health is a state of complete physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- ✦ Moving toward this objective have adopted the National Health Policy 2017 with the aim to provide affordable healthcare for all.

5. India and Cyprus sign 2 MoUs

- ✦ India and Cyprus signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in the field of environment.
- ✦ President Kovind is in Cyprus on the first leg of his three-nation visit to Europe to continue India's high-level engagements with European countries. Kovind and Anastasiades exchanged views on economic cooperation during their talks.
- ✦ The MoU on combating money laundering was signed between Financial Intelligence Unit, India, and Unit for Combating Money Laundering of Cyprus.

6. Tsunami mock drill 'IOWave18' begins: India along with 23 countries participates in exercise

- ✦ Indian Ocean Wave Exercise 2018 (IOWave18) began on September 4, 2018 in the Indian Ocean.
- ✦ India along with 23 other nations is participating in this major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill which involves evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen coastal states.
- ✦ Exercise IOWave18 will simulate Indian Ocean countries being put in a tsunami warning situation and require the respective National Tsunami Warning Centres and the Disaster Management Offices in each country to implement their Standard Operating Procedures.

7. International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 Kicks Off in Nepal

- ✦ Nepal is currently witnessing the three-day International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 that kickstarted in Kathmandu.
- ✦ With a theme entitled 'Equality begins with Economic Empowerment', the summit aims to bring onto a single platform, many influential women business leaders, international service providers, professionals and organisations, government representatives and other stakeholders to discuss on innovative economic transformation through collaboration.
- ✦ Inaugurating the event, the Vice-President of Nepal Nanda Bahadur Pun stressed on the need for women empowerment in all social, political and economic aspects

8. India and France sign an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY"

- ✦ India and France have signed an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC) here last evening in the presence of Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and Shri Alexander Ziegler, Ambassador of France in India.
- ✦ Mobilise Your City (MYC) is part of an international initiative which is supported by the French and the German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December, 2015.
- ✦ The MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities viz. Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad in their efforts to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.

9. India, Czech Republic sign five agreements

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind, who is Czech Republic on the last leg of 3-nation Europe tour, met Prime Minister Andrej Babis of Czech Republic.
- ✦ The two leaders discussed closer defence and business relations and the scope for Czech manufacturing companies to partner with India.
- ✦ These agreements are Cooperation between Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, India, and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

10. Eight bird species are the first to be declared extinct this decade

- ✦ The rainforests of South America are a little lonelier now, with the highly likely or confirmed extinction of eight bird species.
- ✦ According to a statistical analysis conducted by BirdLife International and published in the journal Biological Conservation, five of the eight likely extinctions occurred in South America, the result of deforestation. This bucks the trend of small-island birds going extinct due to invasive species or hunting.
- ✦ BirdLife conducted an eight-year study of 51 critically endangered bird species, weighing three factors: intensity of threats, timing and reliability of records and the timing and quantity of search efforts for the species.

11. India, Bangladesh jointly inaugurate three projects

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, and Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Tripura jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh via video conferencing.
- ✦ These include 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, Akhaura - Agartala Rail Link and Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said that Akhaura-Agartala rail connectivity will provide another link in the cross-border connectivity between the two countries.

12. Suresh Prabhu holds meetings with Russian Ministers at Vladivostok

- ✦ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, had a meeting with Dmitry Kobylkin, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Russian Federation.
- ✦ Both sides discussed issues of mutual cooperation in areas of common concern like conservation of environment, saving the tiger, water cooperation and environmental sustainability
- ✦ During the meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Yury Trutnev, the Commerce Minister discussed issues of mutual cooperation in sectors like mining and geological exploration in gold and diamond, water cooperation, forestry, timber and agriculture.

13. SEBI panel may ease investment rules for NRIs, foreign funds

- ✦ Foreign portfolio investors will breathe a sigh of relief after a Securities and Exchange Board of India-appointed panel recommended easing some of the

restrictions the regulator had imposed on investments by non-resident Indians and some foreign funds.

- ✦ SEBI relax foreign fund rules initiated a public consultation process for finalising the new guidelines on KYC and beneficial owner identification.
- ✦ FPIs will be given 6 months to comply to new rules and non-compliant investors can be given further 180 days to stop their operations.

14. TCIL, MEA sign MOU for pan Africa e-Network project

- ✦ Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) signed an agreement with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for the implementation of e-VBAB (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati) Network Project for a total value of Rs. 865 Crores.
- ✦ TCIL had already successfully executed Phase-1 of PAeNP from 2008 to 2017.
- ✦ The project is seen as digital bridge of knowledge and health between India and Africa.
- ✦ The e-VBAB Project is fully funded by MEA, GoI and is envisaged to be implemented in 9 months followed by 5 years of operations and maintenance

15. Vice President embarks on three-nation visit to Serbia, Malta and Romania

- ✦ The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu embarked three-nation visit to Serbia, Malta and Romania on a weeklong trip from September 14 -21
- ✦ The Vice President's visit is expected to strengthen India's bilateral relations with these three countries. This visit will help the countries to exchange expertise and share knowledge in the fields of economy, environment, trade and culture.
- ✦ In Romania, the Vice President will hold delegation level talks with the President of the Senate of Romania, Mr. Calin Popescu-Tariceanu and witness signing of MOUs.
- ✦ He is scheduled to hold delegation level talks with the President of Romania, Mr. Klaus Werner Lohannis and later proceed to the Parliament to address the members of Senate.

16. India ranked third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies: Credit Suisse report

- ✦ India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies of \$839 billion total market capitalisation, followed closely after China with 159 firms and the United States with 121 firms
- ✦ According to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018' report, published by the Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI), in terms of a number of family-owned businesses, within the non-Japan Asian region, China, India and Hong Kong dominate the list.
- ✦ Korea came in fourth place, with 43 companies (\$434.1 billion market capitalisation), followed by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, each with 26 companies.

17. India ranks 96th on Economic Freedom Index; HK, Singapore retain top spot

- ✦ India's rank improved by a couple of notches, but it was still placed 96th among 162 countries in this year's report on Economic Freedom in the World
- ✦ In overall ranking, India was evenly placed among BRICS nations. While Russia and South Africa are ahead of India at 87th and 94th, China and Brazil are behind at 108th and 144th positions.
- ✦ Hong Kong and Singapore again topped the index, continuing their streak as the first and the second country, respectively.

18. Rajnath Singh to inaugurate smart fence pilot project along India-Pakistan border

- ✦ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh is slated to inaugurate the first 'smart fence' pilot project of the country along the India-Pakistan international border in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✦ The pilot project will be inaugurated by the Home Minister during his one-day visit to the state.
- ✦ The BSF had taken up the initiative as part of the comprehensive integrated border management system.
- ✦ The Home Minister will reach Border Security Force (BSF) headquarters at Paloura on Monday morning and formally launch the initiative taken by the force.

19. Nepal and China Conducts 2nd JME 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2018

- ✦ The Nepal Army on began its second wargame with the Chinese military at Chengdu.
- ✦ The "Sagarmatha Friendship-2" military exercise in China's Sichuan province will last 10 days. Both sides have fielded a platoon for the drill that will focus on counter-terrorism and disaster management.
- ✦ Nepal Capital- Kathmandu
- ✦ President: Bidya Devi Bnadari

20. Hangzhou confirmed as host of 2022 Asian Para Games

- ✦ Hangzhou has been confirmed as the host of the 2022 Asian Para Games. The Chinese city was already confirmed as the host of the Olympic Council of Asia-run Asian Games in four year's time.
- ✦ The APC delegation was taken to sports facilities and were talked through plans to "fully integrate" Hangzhou's disabled population into the community by 2020.
- ✦ Nearly, 5.5 % of the total population of 9.5 million people in Hangzhou city are said to have an impairment.

21. India, Germany sign skill development agreement

- ✦ India and Germany signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on skill development, which will provide dual vocational training to Indian youth.

- ✦ Explaining the concept to the media here at the signing ceremony, German Ambassador to India, Martin Ney, said that the dual vocational training programme has been existing in Germany for a long time now.
- ✦ A joint body called German Indian Institute of Vocational Education and Training (GIIVET) that has been set up will look after the programme.

22. India and Romania have agreed to intensify cooperation at the United Nations and other multilateral fora in order to address global challenges.

- ✦ This was stated in a joint statement issued after one to one talks between Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and President of Romania, Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis in Bucharest yesterday.
- ✦ Mr. Naidu appreciated Romania for its support to India's bid for permanent membership of United Nations Security Council.
- ✦ He said, there is a need to fight the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and work together to eliminate the financing of terror and safe havens for terrorists and their sponsors.

23. Afghan Envoy Resigns on the Day President Ghani Visits India

- ✦ Afghanistan's Ambassador to India Dr Shaida Abdali resigned on Wednesday, 19 September, as Afghan's ambassador to India.
- ✦ The resignation from Abdali comes on the same day Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani visited India and met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✦ The Afghan President has assured that efforts are being made to ensure the safe release of the Indian Nationals.
- ✦ Both leaders expressed determination to Strengthen connectivity, including through Chabahar Port and Air-Freight Corridor.

24. India and Morocco sign Air Services Agreement enabling greater connectivity

- ✦ India and Morocco signed the revised Air Services Agreement between the two countries enabling greater connectivity through a modernized agreement.
- ✦ The delegation of the two countries have met three times in the past years wherein they have worked towards liberalization of markets between the two countries and updating of the existing Air Services Agreement.
- ✦ The two sides cleared the legal and technical difficulties and agreed to a modern new text for the Air Services Agreement.
- ✦ This milestone is enabler for greater air connectivity between India and Morocco and will enable the airlines of each side to enter into code share with airlines of other party, as well as provide greater freedom in mounting direct flights.

25. Vice President returns after successful visit to Serbia, Malta and Romania

- ✦ The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was on an official Visit to Serbia, Malta and Romania from September 14-20, 2018 and returned after a successful official visit.

- ✦ The visit was characterised by extremely cordial discussions with Heads of Governments, PMs and other senior political leaders. The visit helped in deepening bilateral ties with each of these three countries.
- ✦ Some key outcomes: Support for India's aspiration to be on UNSC and for taking forward UN reforms.
- ✦ Endorsement of India's stand on terror and support for early adoption of United Nation's Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
- ✦ Strong support for resuming EU-India trade agreement after Romania assumes Presidency of EU.

26. First General Assembly Of International Solar Alliance On October 2

- ✦ The inaugural General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will take place on October 2
- ✦ The Founding Conference of the ISA was jointly hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in March this year.
- ✦ The ISA, formation of which was initiated by India and France, aims to bring all countries together for cooperation on solar energy.
- ✦ During the founding conference, PM Modi had announced India's commitment to extend nearly USD 1.4 billion worth of lines of credit (LOCs) to cover 27 projects in 15 countries, especially in Africa.

27. India, Nepal to explore using satellite images in boundary survey work

- ✦ India and Nepal have agreed to explore the possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work
- ✦ The two countries also agreed to maintain status quo in cultivation of the disputed land until an agreement is reached between the two governments.
- ✦ The three-day meeting also reviewed the outcome of the 4th BWG meet held in Dehradun last year and ensured that the guidelines issued earlier have been properly followed.
- ✦ The BWG is a joint body constituted by India and Nepal in 2014 to conduct works in the fields of construction, restoration and repair of boundary pillars, including clearance of no-man's land and other technical tasks.

28. Israel, India to commemorate Centenary of the Battle of Haifa

- ✦ Centenary celebrations to commemorate hundred years of liberation of Haifa in Israel by the Indian troops in 1918 culminates with a grand function in New Delhi today.
- ✦ The Battle of Haifa is being commemorated in Israel, Delhi and Jaipur.
- ✦ The Indian Army commemorates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respects to the two brave Indian Cavalry Regiments, Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers, that helped liberate the city following a dashing cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.

29. 4th India International Science Festival to be inaugurated by President of India

- ✦ The fourth edition of India International Science Festival will be inaugurated by President of India in Lucknow on October 6, 2018. IISF-2018 is expected to be represented by approximately 10000 delegates including 5000 students
- ✦ IISF-2018 with its focal theme “Science for Transformation” will have 23 special events.
- ✦ Secretary Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Renu Swaroop said that the special role of Women Scientists and Entrepreneurs in shaping the scientific growth trajectory will be another highlight of this Festival.

30. Nepal to be world's first country to double its tiger population

- ✦ Nepal is likely to be the first country in the world to double its tiger population.
- ✦ On the occasion of National Conservation Day today, Nepal announced that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the country, nearly doubling the baseline of around 121 tigers in 2009.
- ✦ Nepal, if these trends continue, could become the first country to double its national tiger population since the launch of ambitious TX2 goal at the St Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010 to double the world's wild tiger population by 2022.

31. India and Morocco agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security

- ✦ Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of the National Defence Administration, Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr Abdeltif Loudyi is on a two day official visit to India.
- ✦ This is the first ever visit of a Moroccan Defence Minister to India.
- ✦ During the meeting, both Ministers agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security.
- ✦ Two bilateral MoUs, (i) ‘Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Outer Space’ between ISRO and the Moroccan Centre of Remote Sensing and (ii) ‘Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security’ between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team.

32. UN declares Nelson Mandela decade of peace

- ✦ President Uhuru Kenyatta on Monday affirmed Kenya's support for a historic UN Political Declaration of 2019-2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace.
- ✦ Speaking during the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, on the sidelines of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York, Uhuru said Kenya is committed to Mandela's values that defined his legacy.
- ✦ To commemorate the peace summit, he unveiled a statue of Mandela at UN headquarters in New York.

33. UN Announces Global Media Compact to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals

- ✦ The United Nations announced the launch of the SDG Media Compact, an initiative marking a new drive to advance awareness of the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) that were unanimously adopted by all world leaders at the United Nations in 2015.

- ✦ The Compact seeks to inspire media and entertainment companies around the world to leverage their resources and creative talent to advance the Goals.
- ✦ The Compact is an initiative of the United Nations, in collaboration with the UN Foundation and with the support of FleishmanHillard.

34. Famous 'Indra Jatra' festival being celebrated in Kathmandu

- ✦ In Nepal, the famous Indra Jatra festival is being celebrated in Kathmandu with gaiety and religious fervor.
- ✦ The eight day long annual festival is observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.
- ✦ The chariot procession and mask dances are the main attraction of Indra Jatra.
- ✦ Nepal's living Goddess Trishna Shakya made her first public appearance after she was appointed in September last year.

Banking

1. SBI, ICICI banks hike benchmark lending rate by up to 0.2%

- ✦ On September 1, 2018, ICICI increased its lending rates or MCLR by 0.15 percent
- ✦ The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has increased the lending rate by 20 basis points across all tenors up to three years.
- ✦ Both the banks had last revised their MCLR in June, just before the second bi-monthly monetary policy review.
- ✦ It comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hiked benchmark lending rate called repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.5 percent.

2. HDFC ERGO makes Cyber Insurance Personal with the Launch of E Secure

- ✦ India's third largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, announced the launch of 'E@Secure', a Cyber Insurance Policy for individuals.
- ✦ This policy aims at providing comprehensive protection to individuals and their families against any cyber-attacks, cyber frauds or digital threats that could lead to a financial loss and or reputational loss.
- ✦ India is the second largest online market, with a huge potential for exponential growth.

3. Sanctioned Rs 335 crore to West Bengal in August: NABARD

- ✦ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has sanctioned an amount of Rs 335 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to West Bengal.
- ✦ The fund, allotted in August, would be used for 158 minor irrigation projects and 23 flood protection projects, NABARD said in a statement.

- ✦ The minor irrigation projects are expected to benefit 20,506 hectares, covering 3.09 lakh population in 699 villages of 22 districts, while the flood protection projects would address the problem of rapid bank erosion caused by rivers.

4. Indian Overseas Bank gets RBI nod for call option on bonds worth Rs 655 cr

- ✦ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has received RBI nod to exercise call option on bonds worth Rs 655.30 crore
- ✦ The call option is scheduled to be exercised on September 17.
- ✦ In a call option, the issuer of the bond can redeem the instruments before its maturity.
- ✦ Indian Overseas Bank-Headquarters: Chennai, CEO: R. Subramaniakumar

5. RBI Changes Rules For Exchange Of Defective Currency Notes

- ✦ The RBI norms for exchange of mutilated currency notes following introduction of Rs. 2,000, Rs. 200 and other lower denomination currencies.
- ✦ Public can exchange banks mutilated or defective notes at RBI offices and designated bank branches across the country for either full or half value, depending upon the condition of the currency.
- ✦ This includes the denomination of Rs.10, Rs. 20, Rs. 50, Rs. 100, Rs.200, Rs. 500 and Rs.2000 of the Mahatma Gandhi (New) series.

6. PayU Receives Nod From RBI To Operate Its Own NBFC

- ✦ PayU has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate its own non-bank financial company (NBFC), which is subject to certain pending RBI compliance
- ✦ The company had applied for NBFC license earlier in February 2018, in line with its aegis PayUMoney, a secure payment solution that can be used by anyone who wants to collect payments in India.
- ✦ PayU India was founded in 2011 by Nitin Gupta and Shailaz Nag. It has two business verticals – PayUBiz & PayUmoney.

7. Govt proposes to merge Dena Bank, Vijaya Bank and Bank of Baroda

- ✦ The Centre proposed the amalgamation of state-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to create India's third largest bank as parts of reforms in the public sector banking segment.
- ✦ The decision was taken at the meeting of a ministerial panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley which oversees merger proposals of state-owned banks.
- ✦ The Alternative Mechanism took the view that aspirations of the fastest growing economy have to be supported by stronger and globally competitive banks with increased choices to the stakeholders. Accordingly, it was decided to consolidate the three banks.

8. India signs \$74 million loan pact with World Bank for Uttarakhand

- ✦ India has signed a financing loan agreement with the World Bank for \$74 million for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP)
- ✦ The objective is to improve the quality and relevance of training at priority Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and to increase the number of labour-market-relevant workers through short term training in Uttarakhand.
- ✦ The project has three components improving the quality and relevance of ITI training; increasing the number of skilled workers certified under National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF); and policy and institutional development and project management.

9. India Post Payments Bank formalises agreement with Bajaj Allianz to sell life-insurance

- ✦ India Post Payments Bank signed a five-year Corporate Agency Agreement with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd. to provide life insurance products to its consumers.
- ✦ “It will be a simple term-product with accidental cover; very easy-to-understand,” said Tarun Chugh, MD and CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.
- ✦ Postmen and ‘Grameen Dak Sevaks’ will be involved in selling insurance solutions. These products will be initially available in 3250 access points in IPPB’s network. Later it will be extended to 155,000 post offices throughout India.

10. Yes Bank partners with RupeeBoss.com

- ✦ Private sector lender Yes Bank has partnered with online financial services company RupeeBoss.com for the integration of the bank’s chat bot based platform to support instant loan eligibilities for its several loan products.
- ✦ By authorising RupeeBoss’s expansive agents network, Yes Bank will be able to provide its loan applicants with instant information without needing to know all the details about the customer, thereby speeding up the pace of sourcing customers.
- ✦ It can be accessed across platforms like the online portal RupeeBoss.com for the customers, Magic Finmart , RupeeBoss Business Associate app etc.

11. Punjab National Bank board approves proposal to raise Rs 5,431 crore fund from government

- ✦ The board of Punjab National Bank (PNB) approved proposal to seek Rs 5,431 crore capital support from the government.
- ✦ The finance minister committed capital support to banks after meeting heads of public sector lenders.
- ✦ The government infused Rs 2,816 crore as capital infusion via preferential allotment of equity shares this month to meet regulatory ratios.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Pakistan Gets First Woman Chief Justice of High Court

- ✦ Justice Tahira Safdar was sworn in on Saturday as the first woman chief justice of a Pakistani high court.
- ✦ Justice Safdar was sworn in as the chief justice of Balochistan High Court at a ceremony held at the Governor House in Balochistan.
- ✦ She made history in 1982 when she became the first woman civil judge in Balochistan.
- ✦ She is currently a member of the three-judge special court conducting the trial of former President Pervez Musharraf.

2. PTI's Dr Arif Alvi elected 13th President of Pakistan

- ✦ Dr Arif Alvi, a member of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's PTI, secured 212 votes out of 432 votes cast by the electoral college.
- ✦ Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Dr Arif Alvi has been elected as the 13th President of Pakistan.
- ✦ The opposition candidate in the Pakistan presidential elections, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, got merely 131 votes. Aitzaz Ahsan, a member of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), got just 81 votes, said the report in The Express Tribune.
- ✦ Dr. Alvi had started his political career about five decades ago when he was student of de'Montmonrency College of Dentistry in Lahore.

3. The next CJI Justice Gogoi will take over as the 46th Chief Justice of India

- ✦ The Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra, due to retire in October, has named the senior-most judge of the Supreme court after him as his successor.
- ✦ Justice Gogoi will take over as the 46th Chief Justice of India on October 3, a day after CJI Misra retires.
- ✦ Justice Ranjan Gogoi is a Judge of the Supreme Court of India since April, 2012. Prior to his present post, he was the Chief Justice, Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- ✦ His father Keshab Chandra Gogoi was a Chief minister under the Indian National Congress regime in the state of Assam in the year 1982.

4. BSNL Ropes in Boxer Mary Kom on Board as Brand Ambassador for 2 Years

- ✦ BSNL hits a double whammy as it brings in decorated boxer Mary Kom as its brand ambassador for two years and also signed a MoU with the Indian Army for providing them with telecom services for the next three years, all across India.
- ✦ According to Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary, Telecom, in the competitive telecom sector, associating with Mary Kom will help BSNL in improving its brand image and attract more customers.
- ✦ The two-year contract will see boxer Mary Kom endorsing as well as engaging in various promotional events organized by BSNL for its different telecom services.

5. Akshay Kumar is honorary ambassador for Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation

- ✦ Actor Akshay Kumar is proud about getting selected as an honorary ambassador for Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation.
- ✦ With him putting his weight behind the cause of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation, the campaign for the welfare of the soldier (jawan) and the farmer (kisan) community of the country is set to get a further boost.
- ✦ Akshay Kumar was made the first honorary ambassador of Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation.

6. Poonam Khetrpal Singh re-elected in World Health Organisation

- ✦ Poonam Khetrpal Singh was elected as Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia for a second five-year term, World Health Organisation.
- ✦ Singh's candidature was unopposed, as the 11 member countries of WHO South-East Asia Region met at the ongoing Regional Committee session to elect the next Regional Director.
- ✦ She had served as civil servant in India as member of Indian Administrative Services for over two decades. She was the Health Secretary of Punjab.

7. Anshula Kant Appointed Managing Director Of SBI

- ✦ Anshula Kant was appointed as the Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI)
- ✦ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Kant as the Managing Director (MD), SBI till the date of her superannuation i.e. September 30, 2020.
- ✦ The post of MD, SBI fell vacant after the resignation of B Sriram, who took over as the MD and CEO of IDBI Bank.
- ✦ SBI chairman- Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters- Mumbai

8. Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan to head panel to select new Chief Economic Advisor

- ✦ The Union Government has appointed former Reserve Bank of India governor Bimal Jalan as the head of the panel that has been tasked with selecting India's next chief economic advisor (CEA).
- ✦ The move comes two months after the government sought applications for the post after previous CEA Arvind Subramanian resigned from office.
- ✦ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give the final stamp of approval for the appointment of the next CEA.

9. Amitabh Chaudhry of HDFC Life appointed CEO & MD of Axis Bank

- ✦ Amitabh Chaudhry has been appointed managing director and chief executive of Axis Bank for a three-year term. He will take charge on January 1, 2019.

- ✦ Chaudhry, 54, will succeed the current MD & CEO Shikha Sharma, whose term ends on December 31.
- ✦ The board of private sector lender Axis Bank on Saturday vetted Chaudhry's appointment after getting approval from the Reserve Bank of India.

10. B. Vanlalvawna appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Azerbaijan

- ✦ B. Vanlalvawna (IFS:1998), presently Consul General, Consulate General of India, Sydney has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- ✦ He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- ✦ Republic of Azerbaijan-Capital: Baku, Currency: Azerbaijani manat

11. Om Prakash Mishra set to become Nepal's new Chief Justice

- ✦ Om Prakash Mishra, who studied law in India, is set to become Nepal's new Chief Justice after the Parliamentary Hearing Committee unanimously endorsed his name for the top judicial post.
- ✦ Mishra, the senior-most justice after Justice Deepak Raj Joshee, will assume charge as the Chief Justice after President Bidya Devi Bhandari officially appoints him.
- ✦ Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli is the current Prime Minister of Nepal.

12. HDFC LIFE appoints Vibha Padalkar as MD & CEO for 3 years

- ✦ The board of HDFC Standard Life appointed Vibha Padalkar, the executive director and Chief financial officer of HDFC Standard Life, as the Managing director and CEO.
- ✦ After the exit of Amitabh Chaudhary, who joined Axis Bank on September 8, Padalkar, a board member of HDFC Life, was the front runner for the top job.
- ✦ Before joining HDFC Life, she was associated with WNS Global Services, Colgate-Palmolive (India) and Price water house coopers.
- ✦ Padalkar is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

13. L K Advani renominated as chairman of Lok Sabha ethics panel

- ✦ P Karunakaran has also been renominated as chairman of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.
- ✦ The Committee examines complaints relating to unethical conduct by members of Parliament.
- ✦ Veteran BJP leader L K Advani has been renominated as the chairman of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee by Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

14. Justice Ranjan Gogoi appointed as next Chief Justice of India

- ✦ The President of India has appointed Justice Ranjan Gogoi as the next Chief Justice of India. He will assume the office of Chief Justice on 3rd October, 2018 after the retirement of the current Chief Justice, Justice Dipak Misra.
- ✦ Born on 18th November, 1954, Justice Gogoi was enrolled as an advocate in 1978.
- ✦ He was appointed as Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court on 12th February, 2011. He was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 23rd April, 2012.

15. Prashant Kumar takes charge as SBI Chief Financial officer(CFO)

- ✦ Prashant Kumar has taken charge as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the SBI Bank.
- ✦ Before Kumar, Anshula Kant, who has been promoted as Managing Director of SBI, was the CFO.
- ✦ Prior to this appointment, Kumar was designated as Deputy Managing Director (HR) & Corporate Development Officer of India's largest bank.
- ✦ Kumar has earlier worked as DMD and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Bank.

16. Varun Dhawan, Anushka Sharma signed as ambassadors of Skill India Campaign

- ✦ Actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✦ The actors through their film "Sui Dhaaga - Made in India" are saluting India's entrepreneurs and skilled workforce, especially homegrown artisans, craftspeople and weavers.
- ✦ Skill India is led by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It aims to standardize vocational training.

17. Anindo Majumdar, Appointed Central Vigilance Commission Secretary

- ✦ Financial Commissioner of Delhi Anindo Majumdar has been appointed as Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- ✦ Mr Majumdar, who was the chief secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands before coming to Delhi, was in July, appointed financial commissioner, which is a statutory post.
- ✦ The financial commissioner exercises the powers of the lieutenant governor/chief commissioner, delegated under various statutes.

18. Indian cine artist Jaya Prada appointed goodwill ambassador for Nepal tourism

- ✦ Former Member of Parliament and Bollywood actress Jaya Prada has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the promotion of Nepal tourism.
- ✦ Tourism is an important source of revenue and employment generation in Nepal. India is the biggest source market for Nepal tourism.

- ✦ The Nepal government has also decided to observe the year 2020 as the 'Visit Nepal Year' and has set a target of attracting two million international visitors.

19. Maldives Opposition's Ibrahim Mohamed Solih Wins Presidential Election

- ✦ Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won the Maldives' presidential election, a surprise defeat for President Abdulla Yameen following a campaign observers said was rigged in the strongman's favour.
- ✦ Results released by the Elections Commission early Monday morning showed Solih had secured 58.3 percent of the popular vote.
- ✦ Celebrations broke out across the tropical archipelago with opposition supporters carrying yellow flags of Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and dancing on the streets. There was no response from Yameen after results were announced.

20. Mary Kom named brand ambassador of Tribes India

- ✦ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the "Punch Tantra" collection to promote tribal artefacts and named world boxing champion Mary Kom as the brand ambassador of "Tribes India" -- an initiative to promote tribal artefacts.
- ✦ The Punch Tantra range of tribal artefacts promoted by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) includes handlooms and handicrafts which will be promoted by Kom, as per a release.
- ✦ Such initiatives would bring great change in the lives of the tribal people, socially and economically.

21. Rajni Kant Misra Appointed BSF Chief, SS Deswal to Head SSB

- ✦ Senior IPS officers Rajni Kant Misra and S S Deswal were appointed director general of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) respectively.
- ✦ Misra, a 1984-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present serving as the SSB chief.
- ✦ Deswal, a 1984-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre, will head the SSB in place of Misra. He will hold the post for a period up to his superannuation on August 31, 2021
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22. Vikram Misri India's next ambassador to China

- ✦ Senior diplomat Vikram Misri has been appointed as India's next ambassador to China, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced.
- ✦ He will replace Gautam Bambawale. Misri, a 1989-batch India Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently serving as Indian envoy in Myanmar.
- ✦ His appointment comes at a time when India and China are trying to deepen their cooperation in various areas, leaving behind last year's Doklam standoff which was the most serious military face-off in decades.

Books and Authors

1. PM addresses book release event to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu

- ✦ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, released the book “Moving On, Moving Forward – A Year in Office” to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
- ✦ The Prime Minister recalled that when former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to include Shri Venkaiah Naidu in his Cabinet, then Venkaiahji had requested for the Rural Development portfolio.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana came into being due to the efforts of Shri Venkaiah Naidu.

2. Gandhiji's book on basic education 'Nai Talim' launched by Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar

- ✦ Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched a book and curriculum on Gandhiji's 'Nai Talim' to mark the Teachers Day.
- ✦ The title of the book is 'Experiential Learning - Gandhiji's Nai Talim'.
- ✦ The curriculum was brought out in 13 languages -- Assamese, Tamil, Bengali, Odiya, Kannada, Malyalam, Punjabi, Marathi, Telugu, Gujarati, Urdu, Hindi, and English.
- ✦ Nai Talim or basic education is a principle promoted by Mahatma Gandhi which states that knowledge and work are not separate.

Science Tech & Defence

1. BEL gets contract for surface-to-air missiles

- ✦ A Rs 9,200 crore order for supply of seven long range surface-to-air missile (LRSAM) systems has pushed the order book of state-run Bharat Electronics Ltd beyond Rs 50,000 crore for the first time in a single financial year.
- ✦ The company has entered into contracts worth about Rs 9,200 crore with Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) to supply LRSAM systems.
- ✦ BEL is state-owned leading defence electronics company. It is one of nine PSUs under the Union Ministry of Defence of India.

2. Ukraine launches joint military drills with NATO members

- ✦ Ukraine launched joint military exercises with the United States and a string of other NATO countries as tensions with Russia remain high over the Kremlin-backed insurgency in the country's east.

- ✦ The annual Rapid Trident military exercises, taking place in the western Ukrainian village of Starychi until September 15, involve some 2,200 soldiers from 14 countries.
- ✦ Its main goal is to practice countering armed aggression in conditions of the hybrid war.
- ✦ The exercise is composed of multinational, brigade-level, computer-assisted command post exercise, that is integrated with battalion-level field training exercise and platoon-level situational training exercise.

3. Internet Society inks pact with ISPAI to secure Internet infrastructure

- ✦ The Internet Society (ISOC) said it has partnered with Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) to undertake activities to promote security of network infrastructure in India to make the web safe for businesses and consumers alike.
- ✦ The agreement will see the two partners undertake initiatives and activities in India to promote 'Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS)' a programme whose objective is to improve the resilience and security of the routing infrastructure.
- ✦ Both ISOC and ISPAI share a mutual vision of an open and global Internet that enables innovation and social opportunities.

4. Paytm Money enters mutual funds domain with SIPs starting at just Rs 100

- ✦ Paytm Money Ltd, the wholly-owned subsidiary of One97 Communications Ltd targets to sell mutual fund to around 25 million people in the next three to five years, according to a senior executive.
- ✦ The investment and wealth management app offers mutual fund investment products at zero fees and commissions along with up to 1% higher returns.
- ✦ Investors must complete Know Your Customer (KYC) formalities and create their risk profiles, which is stored in the app. These will be displayed every time the investor checks out a scheme, before actually buying it.

5. Indian Navy Beats 22 Other Teams To Win KAKADU-18 Cup

- ✦ The Indian Navy left its mark in Australia as it participated in a multilateral maritime exercise involving 27 navies.
- ✦ Exercise KAKADU, which started in 1993, is a premier multilateral regional maritime engagement hosted by the Royal Australian Navy and supported by Royal Australian Air Force.
- ✦ KAKADU 2018 is a biannual joint exercise taking place both ashore and at sea off the coast of Darwin.
- ✦ The exercise KAKADU derives its name Kakadu National Park which is a protected area in the northern territory of Australia, 171 km south-east of Darwin.

6. Indian Air Force successfully carries first-ever mid-air refuelling of fighter aircraft Tejas

- ✦ A dry run of mid-air refuelling of Tejas fighter jet by an Indian Air Force aircraft was successfully conducted.
- ✦ The test conducted involved a dry linkup, meaning no fuel was actually transferred between Indian Air Force Il-78 tanker and Tejas fighter jet through its air-to-air refuelling probe.
- ✦ For this test, Russian-built IL-78 MKI tanker was launched from IAF's base in Agra while LCA Tejas fighter was launched from Gwalior.

7. Indian navy ships & aircraft arrive in Sri Lanka to participate in joint exercise SLINEX-2018

- ✦ Indian navy ships and aircraft have arrived in Sri Lanka to take part in the joint exercise SLINEX-2018 to be held with Sri Lankan navy at Trincomalee
- ✦ The exercise which was previously held biannually has been converted to an annual event from this year to enhance cooperation in the maritime domain and to further strengthen mutual trust and interoperability between the two navies.
- ✦ The scope of the week-long exercise has been significantly increased this year with three ships, two maritime patrol aircraft and one helicopter participating from the Indian side.

8. Nepal refuses to participate in first BIMSTEC joint military exercise

- ✦ The Nepal Army will not participate in the first ever joint military exercise of BIMSTEC nations in India next week
- ✦ The proposal for the joint military drill was first forwarded by the Indian Army in June, followed by an initial meeting of BIMSTEC senior army officials in New Delhi.
- ✦ The first BIMSTEC field training exercise will be conducted at Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra from September 10 and 16, 2018.
- ✦ Nepal will not take part in the BIMSTEC joint military exercise. This is the official decision of the government.

9. Pune to host first joint military exercise with BIMSTEC countries

- ✦ The first joint military exercise of the seven member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), with a focus on counter-terrorism in semi-urban areas, is set to commence in Pune on September 10.
- ✦ The week-long field training exercise, named MILEX-18, is to be held between September 10 and 16 at the city's Aundh Military Station.
- ✦ The exercise will include training in search-and-cordon operations and handling and neutralisation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) among other things.

10. Opening Ceremony: Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Exercise KAZIND 2018

- ✦ Exercise KAZIND-2018, a joint military exercise between Indian and Kazakhstan Armies, commenced in Otar Military Area, Kazakhstan.

- ✦ This is the third edition of joint military training exercise between Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army. The 14 day long joint exercise is being conducted from 10 Sep to 23 Sep 2018.
- ✦ The Kazakh contingent is represented by Military Base 85395 while the Indian side is represented by 5 LADAKH SCOUTS Regiment.
- ✦ The joint training aims to build & promote army to army relations and exchange skills & experiences between Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army.
- ✦ Ex KAZIND-2018 will contribute immensely in developing mutual understanding and respect for each other's military.

11. INDO-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018

- ✦ As part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 is scheduled to be conducted in the foothills of Himalayas at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand from 16 September to 29 September 2018.
- ✦ This will be the 14th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by both countries.
- ✦ The joint exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 will simulate a scenario where both nations will work together in counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment in mountainous terrain under United Nation charter.

12. Vostok 2018 war games will be Russia's largest since 1981

- ✦ Russia is set to hold its largest military drills in almost four decades
- ✦ Dubbed Vostok 2018, the massive exercise will involve nearly 300,000 troops, more than 1,000 planes, helicopters and drones, and up to 36,000 tanks, armored personnel carriers and other vehicles, as well as up to 80 ships and other vessels
- ✦ Vostok 2018 will taking place at a time of heightened tensions between the West and Russia, which is concerned about the build-up of the NATO military alliance on its western flank.

13. Successful test flight lands at Sindhudurg Airport

- ✦ A familiarization flight from Mumbai to Sindhudurg landed at Parule Chipi Greenfield airport in Sindhudurg district of the Konkan region of Maharashtra.
- ✦ With this successful test flight access to the Konkan coast of Maharashtra will become easier and some of Maharashtra's top tourist attractions will become accessible to visitors from all over India.
- ✦ The airport is located between Malvan and Vengurla, the Tarkarli beach and Sindhudurg fort are 20 kms away.

14. India's first missile tracking ship is readying for sea trials

- ✦ Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is gearing up to undertake sea trials of India's first missile tracking ship by the first week of October.
- ✦ The keel of the ship, which was laid on June 30, 2014, is being built for the National Technical Research Organisation, the technical intelligence agency

working directly under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office and the National Security Adviser.

- ✦ This will be the first of its kind ocean surveillance ship being built as part of the efforts under the NDA government to strengthen the country's strategic weapons programme.
- ✦ The ship was built inside the covered dry dock. It has the capacity to carry 300-strong crew with hi-tech gadgets and communication equipment, powered by two diesel engines, and a large deck capable of helicopter landing.

15. BSNL, Unlimit ink partnership for IoT/M2M services in India

- ✦ Unlimit, end-to-end IoT service provider in India announced its partnership with State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to offer comprehensive Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and services to the enterprise customers across India.
- ✦ The partnership between Unlimit and BSNL will leverage seamless wireless network footprint pan India to provide its solutions and services across industries.
- ✦ BSNL's connectivity especially in Rural India will help Unlimit further penetrate the India enterprise market, focusing on industries such as automobile, digital manufacturing, transportation, logistics, public-sector enterprises and agriculture.
- ✦ This Partnership focus on Industries such as automobile, digital manufacturing, transportation, logistics, public-sector enterprises and agriculture.

16. Coast Guard commissions patrol vessel Vijaya Commissioned by Defense Secretary

- ✦ Indian Coast Guard Ship Vijaya, the second in the series of 98 m offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), was commissioned by Defense Secretary Sanjay Mitra in the presence of Rajendra Singh, Director-General, Indian Coast Guard, in Chennai
- ✦ Designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro, the OPV is fitted with advanced technology navigation and communication equipment and sensors.
- ✦ It is fitted with a 30 mm gun and will be fitted with a 12.7 mm gun with fire control system.

17. Indo-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018

- ✦ Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 a joint military exercise of Indian and US armies, commenced this morning at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand with a short yet impressive opening ceremony that saw the unfurling of the national flags of both countries
- ✦ The US contingent was represented by 1st Infantry Battalion, 23 Infantry Regiment, US Army while Indian side is represented by an Infantry Battalion.
- ✦ Both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats that may be encountered in UN peace keeping operations during division level command post exercise.

18. PSLV-C42 launches 2 foreign satellites

- ✦ The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C42) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched two satellites -- NovaSAR and S1-4-- from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.
- ✦ The PSLV-C42 lifted off from the First Launch Pad of SHAR at 10.08 pm (IST). Both satellites were injected into the Sun Synchronous Orbit, about 17 minutes later, at an altitude of 583 km.
- ✦ The satellites belong to UK-based Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), which has a contract with Antrix Corporation Ltd, the commercial arm of ISRO. NovaSAR carries S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and an Automatic Identification Receiver payloads.

19. Country's biggest cyclotron facility in Kolkata operational, to boost cancer treatment

- ✦ India's largest Cyclotron, a type of particle accelerator that produces radioisotopes, for medical applications became operational last week in Kolkata.
- ✦ According to the Department of Atomic Energy, the facility called Cyclone-30 at the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) in Kolkata will provide affordable radioisotopes and related radiopharmaceuticals.
- ✦ Cyclone-30 is in the first phase of production generating Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), a radioisotope used for date imaging and oncological tissue imaging.

20. Indo-Mongolia joint exercise kicks off in Ulaanbaatar

- ✦ Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, commenced today at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia with a brief but impressive opening ceremony.
- ✦ The 12 days long joint exercise will be conducted from 10 Sep to 21 Sep 2018.
- ✦ Exercise Nomadic Elephant is an annual, bilateral exercise since 2006 which is designed to strengthen the partnership between the Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces.

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23. Infosys to acquire Fluidio for up to Rs 545 crore

- ✦ India's second largest IT services firm Infosys said Friday it will acquire Finland-based Fluidio in a deal worth up to 65 million euros (over Rs 545 crore).
- ✦ The acquisition -- for "up to 65 million euros including earn-out, management incentives and bonuses -- is expected to close during the third quarter of fiscal 2019, subject to customary closing conditions," Infosys said in a statement.
- ✦ Infosys CEO-Salil Parekh
- ✦ Headquarters-Bengaluru

24. DRDO successfully tests anti-tank missile

- ✦ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a low-weight indigenously developed man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) at its Ahmednagar range
- ✦ The two flight-tests were for different ranges, including maximum range capability," a Defence Ministry statement said. "All the mission objectives have been met."
- ✦ MPATGM is third-generation anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) indigenously developed by DRDO.

25. Defence Acquisition Council approves procurement of upgraded Akash missile system

- ✦ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman o accorded approval for the procurement of defence equipment worth Rs 9,100 crore, including the latest version of the Akash missile.
- ✦ The DAC approved the procurement of two regiments of the Akash missile system under the 'Buy Indian' category from the state-owned Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- ✦ "The missile to be procured is an upgraded version of the previously inducted Akash missiles and will include seeker technology, possess 360 degree coverage and will be of compact configuration with reduced signature
- ✦ The upgraded Akash weapon system is operationally critical equipment which will provide protection to vital assets.

26. India successfully test fires Prahaar missile

- ✦ India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed surface-to-surface short-range tactical ballistic missile 'Prahaar' from the Odisha coast

- ✦ Prahar', developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is capable of filling the gap between the multi-barrel rocket system 'Pinaka' and medium-range ballistic missile 'Prithvi'.
- ✦ The test launch was successful as the missile travelled a range of 200 km before zeroing in on the target, achieving all mission objectives, the sources said.

27. NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) discovers two new Earth-like planets: "super-Earth" and "hot Earth"

- ✦ A planet-hunting orbital telescope designed to detect worlds beyond our solar system discovered two distant planets this week five months after its launch from Cape Canaveral, Florida
- ✦ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, better known as TESS, made an early discovery of "super-Earth" and "hot Earth" planets in solar systems at least 49 light-years away, marking the satellite's first discovery since its April launch.
- ✦ TESS is designed to build on the work of its predecessor, the Kepler space telescope, which discovered the bulk of some 3,700 exoplanets documented during the past 20 years and is running out of fuel.
- ✦ NASA expects to pinpoint thousands more previously unknown worlds, perhaps hundreds of them Earth-sized or "super-Earth" sized – no larger than twice as big as our home planet.

29. BSNL signs deal with Softbank, NTT to roll out 5G, internet of things

- ✦ State-run telecom firm BSNL has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India
- ✦ BSNL competitors are still looking at monetising their 4G services and hence leading companies have started looking at the State-run firm for 5G services roll out.
- ✦ Under the agreement with Softbank, BSNL will look at collaborating with the Japanese firm for its satellite constellation which will have around 900 satellites to provide high speed internet services across the globe.

30. First human oesophagus created in lab using stem cells

- ✦ In a first, US scientists have used stem cells to grow human oesophagus — known as the food pipe — in the laboratory, an advance that will enable personalised disease diagnosis, regenerative therapies.
- ✦ PSCs are master cells that can potentially produce any cell or tissue the body needs to repair itself. The oesophageal organoids grew to a length of about 300-800 micrometers in about two months.
- ✦ A team from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio successfully generated fully formed human oesophageal organoids — tiny version of an organ produced in vitro in three dimensions — using pluripotent stem cells (PSCs).

31. Google's new Privacy Chief officer proposes a new framework for Security Regulation

- ✦ Google announced a new Chief Privacy Officer as Keith Enright, who has served a decade at leading Google's Privacy Legal team.
- ✦ Enright has always been heavily involved in speaking out regarding Google's Privacy and Security
- ✦ Google has already been taking measures when it comes to security as it launched a "Protect your Election program", last month, which included security policies to defend against the state-sponsored phishing attacks.

32. Successful Flight Test of Astra BVR Air-to-Air Missile

- ✦ Astra, the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), was successfully test fired by the Indian Air Force from Su-30 aircraft, from Air Force Station, Kalaikunda.
- ✦ The missile successfully engaged a manoeuvring target with high precision meeting the mission objectives.
- ✦ In the series of trials held to date, Astra has been launched in the complete Su-30 flight envelope.

Awards

1. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan Collects Meryl Streep Award

- ✦ Aishwarya Rai Bachchan received Meryl Streep Award for Excellence at the first edition of Women In Film and Television (WIFT) India Award along with her daughter Aaradhya.
- ✦ At the ceremony -- established to honour the best female talent in Bollywood and Hollywood -- the actor was bestowed with the inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence.
- ✦ The 44-year-old later took to Instagram to celebrate her win and shared pictures with the trophy in her hand and Aaradhya by her side.

2. Secondary Steel Sector Awarded for contribution to National Economy

- ✦ Ministry of Steel gave away Secondary Steel sector awards, for the first time, to 26 mini steel companies in recognition of their contribution to the national economy.
- ✦ The secondary steel sector is a critical and important segment of the market spanning from construction, machine tools, cold rolled products, pipes, stainless steel, galvanized and color coated steel as well as exports.
- ✦ Steel is one of the core sectors of the Indian economy and India is the 3rd largest steel producer in the world. Steel contributes to over 2% to India's GDP and creates a virtuous cycle of employment generation throughout the economy.

3. Tourism Minister presents National Tourism Awards 2016-17

- ✦ Tourism Minister K J Alphons presented National Tourism Awards 2016-17 in New Delhi. The Awards were presented to various segments of the travel and tourism industry.
- ✦ These awards are presented to State Governments/ Union Territories, classified hotels, heritage hotels, approved travel agents, tour operators and tourist transport operators, individuals and other private organizations in recognition of their performance in their respective fields.
- ✦ The awardees were chosen on the basis of several parameters including tourist traffic and efforts undertaken to make the state tourist friendly.

4. Kerala Tourism wins two Pacific Asia Travel Association gold awards

- ✦ Kerala Tourism's wins two Pacific Asia Travel Association gold awards.
- ✦ Kerala Tourism got the first gold for its 'Yalla Kerala' travel advertisement print media campaign in the Gulf countries.
- ✦ With the punch line, 'Yalla Kerala', the campaign triggered a lot of interest for God's Own Country as a tourism destination in the Gulf countries.
- ✦ The second gold award came for an innovative poster Kerala Tourism had developed for the third edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB), the biggest contemporary art show in South Asia.

5. JK Tyre Chairman & Managing Director Dr. Raghupati Singhania conferred highest civilian honour of Mexico

- ✦ Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director, Jk Tyre & Industries Ltd, has been conferred the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle the highest Honour Accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico.
- ✦ On the 128th National Day of Mexico, Melba Priya, Ambassador of Mexico to India, Presented the award to Dr. Singhania on behalf of the President of Mexico
- ✦ The top honour is in recognition of Dr. Singhania's exemplary leadership, his noteworthy services towards humanity and his efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Mexico.

6. Mirabai Chanu and Virat Kohli to get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

- ✦ National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four year.
- ✦ Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu will receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award- India's highest sports honour.
- ✦ Kohli will become the third Indian cricketer after legendary Sachin Tendulkar (1997) and the talismanic former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (2007) once the sports ministry officially accepts the committee's recommendation.
- ✦ Chanu is the current Commonwealth Games gold-medallist and India's biggest medal hope in weightlifting going into the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✦ Arjuna Awards 2018 : CWG and Asiad gold medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, Asiad double medalist sprinter Hima Das and Indian batswoman Smriti Mandhana are some the names in the list.

7. AP, Odisha & Madhya Pradesh Bag Award of Three Best Performing States in Ease of Living Index

- ✦ Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of “Ease of Living Index” rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- ✦ It was followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. The three States were awarded best performing States at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018
- ✦ The Ease of Living Index is a transformative initiative of the Ministry to help the cities assess their liveability vis-à-vis national and global benchmarks.

8. Best Fifa Football Awards 2018: Luka Modric named men's player of the year

- ✦ Luka Modric was named Best Fifa Footballer of the Year in a London ceremony noted as much for the the players in absentia as the awards.
- ✦ The Croatian beat Mohamed Salah and Cristiano Ronaldo to become the first player other than Ronaldo and Lionel Messi to win since Kaka in 2007.
- ✦ The award was decided by national team coaches and captains, select members of the media and online voting.

make exam

Important Days

1. Teachers Day 2018 celebrated on 5 September

- ✦ In India, 5th September is celebrated as Teachers' Day as a mark of tribute to the contribution made by teachers to the society.
- ✦ 5th September is the birth anniversary of a great teacher Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was a staunch believer of education, and was a well-known diplomat, scholar, the President of India and above all, a teacher.
- ✦ Even according to our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi “Teaching is not a profession, a way of life”. Further he added that teaching is not a profession but “Jeevan Dharm” (a way of life) and asked teachers to understand changes happening across the world to prepare the new generation accordingly.

2. National Nutrition Month being celebrated across country to mark the fight against malnutrition

- ✦ The National Nutrition Month is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition.
- ✦ During this month, various programmes have been organized by the Women and Child Development Ministry to spread broad awareness on the issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children.
- ✦ The Nutrition Month will also focus on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to eliminate the deficiencies prevailing in the Health sector.

3. International Literacy Day 2018 observed on 8 September

- ✦ Each year September 8th marks UNESCO's International Literacy day, raising awareness globally on the issues surrounding adult and child literacy.
- ✦ International Literacy day highlights the changes and improvements being made worldwide in literacy development.
- ✦ UNESCO has been central to improving global literacy since 1946 and promotes International Literacy day in partnership with governments, charities, local communities and experts in the field worldwide.
- ✦ This year's theme is Literacy and skills development.

4. National Hindi Divas 2018 observed across India on September 14, 2018

- ✦ National Hindi Divas (Hindi Day) was observed across India on September 14, 2018 to promote Hindi as Matra Bhasha (mother tongue) of India.
- ✦ The day marks the adaptation of Hindi language as the official language of India by the Constituent Assembly of India on September 14, 1949.
- ✦ The day was marked by literary festivals, Hindi poetry sessions, Hindi essay writing competitions, Hindi speech contests and other events.
- ✦ On this occasion, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the Rajbhasha Awards to chiefs of various departments, Ministries and offices for their outstanding performances in promoting the language.

5. International Day of Democracy and Engineers Day observed on September 15

- ✦ This year's International Day of democracy is an opportunity to look for ways to invigorate democracy and seek answers to the systemic challenges it Faces.
- ✦ 2018 Theme of democracy day is Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World
- ✦ With this Year's 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights The International Day of Democracy is also an Opportunity to Highlight the values of freedom and respect for Human rights as Essential Elements of Democracy.
- ✦ The Engineering Community across India celebrates Engineers Day on 15 September every year as a tribute to the greatest Indian Engineer Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
- ✦ "Role of Engineers in a developing India" is the theme of Engineers Day 2017.
- ✦ Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya India's most prolific civil engineer, dam builder, economist, statesman, and can be counted among the last century's foremost nation-builders.

6. September 16: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

- ✦ September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- ✦ This designation had been made on December 19, 2000, in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- ✦ This year, the theme for the Day is 'Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol'

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8. International Day of Peace 21 September

- ✦ Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.
- ✦ The theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document in the history of human rights.
- ✦ The United Nations Member States adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 because they understood that it would not be possible to build a peaceful world if steps were not taken to achieve economic and social development for all people everywhere, and ensure that their rights were protected.

9. International Day of Sign Languages: 23 September

- ✦ International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated on 23 September every year along with International Week of the Deaf.
- ✦ This day aims to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.
- ✦ According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80% of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

10. World Tourism Day 2018 Appreciates Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development

- ✦ World tourism Day is celebrated on 27th September at Budapest, Hungary as well as across the globe.
- ✦ The theme for World Tourism Day 2018 hovers around Digital Transformation and Innovation that Advanced Technologies can bring to the tourism sector to make it a crucial contributor for all round sustainable development of the world.
- ✦ In this digital era innovations like Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Platforms can play a remarkable role in ensuring sustainable growth by making tourism a more responsible sector and connecting tourism at the global level.

Sports

1. Gold 15, Silver 24, Bronze 30 equals India's best Asian Game

- ✦ The 2018 Asian Games turned out to be India's best ever outing at the quadrennial sports extravaganza, matching the country's best gold medal count while registering the biggest haul in terms of total medals won.
- ✦ India end the Games with a total of 69 medals and 15 golds and are likely to finish in the eighth spot in the medal's tally.
- ✦ China topped the medals table for the 10th Games in succession, a streak stretching back to New Delhi 1982, with a runaway 132 golds.
- ✦ The 2018 Asian Games (Indonesian: Pesta Olahraga Asia 2018, Asian Games 2018), officially known as the 18th Asian Games and also known as Jakarta-Palembang 2018, was a pan-Asian multi-sport event being held from 18 August to 2 September 2018 in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.

2. Asian Games 2018: Japan's Rikako Ikee Named Most Valuable Player

- ✦ Rikako, 18, who grabbed a record six gold medals in Jakarta, said she hoped she had put Japanese swimming on the map ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- ✦ Teenage swimming sensation Rikako Ikee said she would celebrate with barbecued beef and sushi as she was named the best athlete at the Asian Games
- ✦ Rikako is the first woman to win six golds at a single Games, and she finished with eight medals in total -- equalling the record set by North Korean shooter So Gin Man in 1982.

3. Saurabh Chaudhary sets new shooting record in junior ISSF World Championship

- ✦ India's Saurabh Chaudhary beat his own world record in the men's junior 10m Air Pistol event at the ISSF World Championship in Changwon.
- ✦ Saurabh not just set a new world record but also climbed to the top of the podium with Lim Hojin of Korea and India's Arjun Singh Cheema finishing third and fourth respectively.
- ✦ Saurabh shot a total of 245.5 to break his own world record he had set in June.

4. Hriday Hazarika, Indian Women's 10m Air Rifle Team Win Gold Medals At ISSF World Championships

- ✦ India's Hriday Hazarika won gold in men's 10m air rifle at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championships.
- ✦ Hazarika, the only Indian to qualify for the men's final with a total score of 627.3, was tied on 250.1 with Iran's Mohammed Amir Nekounam in the final
- ✦ Mohammed Amir clinched the silver medal, Russia's Grigorii Shamakov took home the bronze medal.

- ✦ The women's 10m air rifle team of Elavenil Valarivan (631), Shreya Agarwal (628.5) and Manini Kaushik (621.2) produced a brilliant performance to score a total of 1880.7.
- ✦ The 52nd ISSF World Shooting Championships are held in Changwon, South Korea from 2 to 14 September 2018.

5. India Blue trounces India Red to win Duleep Trophy

- ✦ India Blue thrashed defending champion India Red by an innings and 187 runs in the final to win the Duleep Trophy at NPR College ground.
- ✦ Spinners Deepak Jagbir Hooda (5 for 56) and Saurabh Kumar (5 for 51) needed just 10.5 overs on the fourth day to bundle out India Red for 172 in the second innings.
- ✦ Himachal Pradesh batsman Nikhil Gangta was named the Man of the Match.

6. US Open 2018: Novak Djokovic beats Juan Martin del Potro to win title

- ✦ Novak Djokovic produced an impeccable performance to beat Juan Martin del Potro in the US Open final and win his 14th Grand Slam title.
- ✦ Djokovic, who won Wimbledon in July, will climb to third in the world after back-to-back Grand Slam victories.
- ✦ Argentine third seed Del Potro, 29, was playing his first Grand Slam final since winning the 2009 US Open, having almost quit the game in 2015 because of multiple wrist injuries.
- ✦ Novak Djokovic is a Serbian professional tennis player who is currently ranked world No. 3 in men's singles tennis by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

7. Hima Das appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam

- ✦ Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal felicitated Hima Das, the outstanding athlete of Assam for her recent achievements in the Asian Games 2018 and IAAF World U-20 Championship 2018 at a function held at Srimanta Sankardev International Auditorium here.
- ✦ Chief Minister Sonowal while congratulating Hima on her extraordinary achievements in the recently concluded Asian Games said, Assam is proud of her achievements.
- ✦ Sonowal also handed over a cheque worth Rs. 1.60 crore to Hima Das.
- ✦ He also handed over an offer letter to Hima to make her the Sports Ambassador of Assam. Sonowal also offered her a job in the senior category of Sports and Youth Welfare Department and requested Hima to consider the offer.

8. Triple jumper Arpinder Singh becomes first Indian to win medal in IAAF Continental Cup

- ✦ Triple jumper Arpinder Singh created history by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup as he clinched a bronze with a modest effort of 16.59m

- ✦ Arpinder, who had won a gold in the Asian Games in Jakarta, cleared 16.59m in the first of his three jumps to be in the four-man semifinals.
- ✦ Nonetheless, he collected a bronze. The 25-year-old Arpinder was representing the Asia-Pacific team in the meet, held once every four years.

9. Annual general body meeting of the Indian Polo association

- ✦ The Annual General Body Meeting of the Indian Polo Association (IPA) was held under the Chairmanship of General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff who is also the President of the Indian Polo Association at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment on 09 Sep 2018.
- ✦ It was decided that the Jaipur Polo ground in Delhi would be renovated to bring it at par with International standards.
- ✦ Issue of player and horse safety was also discussed at length with serious concerns for evolving modus operandi for the safety of equines and players.

10. Former India captain Sardar Singh announces retirement from international hockey

- ✦ Former India Hockey captain Sardar Singh on Wednesday announced his retirement from international hockey after an illustrious career spanning 12 years.
- ✦ Singh's decision came on the same day his name was excluded from the 25-strong core group of national campers announced by the Hockey India.
- ✦ He was awarded Arjuna Award in 2012 and Padma Shri award in 2015. He was the youngest player to captain the Indian team when he led the team at the 2008 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.

11. Former England captain Paul Collingwood announced retirement

- ✦ Former England captain Paul Collingwood will retire from professional cricket at the end of the current season.
- ✦ Collingwood, 42, became the first England captain to win a trophy at a global tournament when he guided them to the ICC world T20 in 2010. He was part of three Ashes series wins over Australia before retiring from international cricket in 2011.
- ✦ He made 4259 runs in 68 tests and will play his final game against Middlesex starting on September 24.

12. India beat Bangladesh by three wickets to win seventh Asia Cup title

- ✦ India ended the tournament as the only unbeaten side while Rohit maintained a 100% captaincy record in the tournament.
- ✦ Stand-in Indian skipper Rohit Sharma has drawn many plaudits for his performance in the Asia Cup, both as a batsman and as a captain.
- ✦ Bangladesh did everything to be holders of a multi-nation trophy, having failed to cross the line in the same tournament trophy, having failed to cross the line in the same tournament twice before in the last six years.

- ✦ India beat a spirited Bangladesh by three wickets in a last-ball finish of the final to retain the title.

13. Ahmet Comert Tournament: India's 3 boxers clinch gold medals

- ✦ Simranjit Kaur (64kg), Monika (48kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (81kg) claimed gold medals as Indian boxers notched up an impressive seven podium finishes at the Ahmet Comert Tournament in Istanbul, Turkey.
- ✦ Simranjit, a former national medallist, defeated Turkey's Sema Caliskan to fetch the top honours.
- ✦ Competing in the light fly category, Monika beat Ayse Cagirer of Turkey to win the gold medal, while Bhagyabati got the better of Selma Karakoyun, who is also from the host nation, in the light heavyweight category.

14. Lewis Hamilton wins Singapore Grand Prix to extend lead in F1 title race

- ✦ Lewis Hamilton won the Singapore Grand Prix at Marina Bay Street Circuit, in Singapore.
- ✦ He was followed by Red Bull's Max Verstappen in the 2nd spot. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished in the 3rd place.
- ✦ Lewis Hamilton extended his drivers' championship lead over Sebastian Vettel to 40 points with a straightforward victory in Singapore.

15. New Kabaddi Federation launches Indo International Premier League

- ✦ The New Kabaddi Federation of India (NKFI) launched the Indo International Premier Kabaddi League beginning on January 26.
- ✦ With a winner's cheque of 1.25 crore, the league will see over 1000 players, both domestic and International players, competing as part of eight franchises.
- ✦ There is a pool of 823 Indian players, that includes 271 state level players, 137 national and International level, 84 International registered players with NKF. The player draft will take place on January 5.
- ✦ The league will feature eight teams in the inaugural edition, namely Bengaluru Rhinos, Chennai Cheetahs, Delhi Dumars, Telangana Bulls, Patna Panthers, Haryana Hurricanes, Mumbai Marathas and Kolkata Tigers.

16. Delhi to host Women's World Boxing C'ship

- ✦ The marquee tournament was last held in India in 2006 and remains the best for the country in terms of performance. India had topped the medal tally with four Gold, three Silver and one Bronze medal.
- ✦ The World Women's Boxing Championships, to be hosted by India after more than a decade, will be held from November 15 in the national capital
- ✦ The celebrated M C Mary Kom, who has been nicknamed 'Magnificent Mary' by the AIBA, will be gunning for a sixth world title at the event which would conclude with the finals on November 24.

17. Vaishali, India's first Braille chess player at World Chess Olympiad

- ✦ Blind chess player Vaishali Narendra Salavkar will become the first Indian female to be part of the International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) team at the world chess Olympiad, starting September 23 at Batumi in Georgia
- ✦ “Forty-five year old Vai-shali from Maharashtra has been playing chess for the past 20-25 years. She is an eight-time national champion.
- ✦ As per the Olympiad official website, the other Indian female chess player who will be playing in the Olympiad is Malika Handa (ELO rating 1,334) as part of the International Chess Committee of Deaf (ICCD) team.

18. Olympian PV Sindhu only sportsperson in Forbes India’s maiden 22 ‘tycoons of tomorrow’ list

- ✦ Badminton player and Olympian PV Sindhu is the only sportsperson featuring in the Forbes India’s maiden ‘tycoons of tomorrow’ list of 22 young achievers in the fields of business, acting and sports.
- ✦ It clarified that the ‘tycoons of tomorrow’ is not a ranking but a qualitative selection based on a long-list compiled by the Forbes India team, and suggestions made by a six-member jury.
- ✦ The magazine, known for its annual rich list, said this is an India-specific property adding the ranking is not based on their networth alone.

19. Madrid to host Davis Cup finals in 2019 and 2020

- ✦ Madrid will host the first two finals of the newly-transformed Davis Cup.
- ✦ Beginning next year, the top team event in men’s tennis will be played as an 18-team, season-ending tournament at a neutral site.
- ✦ Defending champion France will host Croatia in the last Davis Cup final in the current year-long format from Nov. 23-25 in Lille.

Obituaries

1. Bhagwati Kumar Sharma, noted Gujarati author passes away

- ✦ Bhagwati Kumar Sharma, noted Gujarati language author and poet passed away at the age of 84 years.
- ✦ Sharma wrote novels, short stories, poetry, essays and criticism and received Ranjitram Suvarna Chandraka in 1984 and Sahitya Academy award in 1988 for his novel ‘Assoryalok’
- ✦ His selected stories were published as Bhagvatikumarni Shresth Vartao in 1987. His collections of essays are ‘Shabdteet’ in 1980, ‘Bistantu’ in 1988, ‘Hriday Sarasa’ in 1995, ‘Dandiya Dool’ in 2005, ‘Jadabatod’ in 2006.

2. Padma Bhushan economist VS Vyas passes away

- ✦ Padma Bhushan awardee and noted agricultural economist Vijay Shankar Vyas passed away after a brief illness
- ✦ The economist was the director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur.
- ✦ He was also a senior advisor in the World Bank's agriculture and rural development department. Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and former chief minister Ashok Gehlot condoled Vyas's demise.

3. Former Odisha minister Dolagobinda Pradhan passes away

- ✦ Veteran freedom fighter and former Odisha Minister Dolagobinda Pradhan died at his residence in Bhubaneswar on Monday after a brief illness
- ✦ Pradhan, who was elected to the state Assembly twice from Cuttack Sadar constituency in 1980 and 1990, was a minister from 1989 to 1990.
- ✦ Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, he had left school in 1942 and joined the Quit India movement. He was also jailed during the freedom movement.
- ✦ He was 93 and is survived by wife, four sons and three daughters.

4. Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang dies of illness at 61

- ✦ Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang, the country's No. 2 after the ruling Communist Party's leader, died after a serious illness, the government said. He was 61.
- ✦ U.S Ambassador Daniel Kritenbrink praised Quang for his contributions to promote relations between the two former foes.
- ✦ Vietnam Capital- Hanoi, Currency Vietnamese Dong

5. Former BCCI president Biswanath Dutt passes away

- ✦ Former BCCI president Biswanath Dutt, best known in Indian cricket fraternity as Jagmohan Dalmiya's mentor, passed away Monday after suffering from acute lung infection.
- ✦ Dutt was the BCCI president in 1989 after a six-year stint as the vice-president of the parent body from 1982-88.
- ✦ He was 92. He is survived by his daughter and son Subrata Dutta, who is the senior vice-president of All India Football Federation.

6. Ex-Minister Shantaram Potdukhe passes away

- ✦ Former Union Minister and Congress leader Shantaram Potdukhe died at a hospital here on Sunday following brief illness, his family said.
- ✦ The four-time MP was being treated at a private hospital here since September 13.
- ✦ He was 86 and is survived by his wife, son and a daughter.

7. Noted Marathi writer Kavita Mahajan passes away at 51

- ✦ Noted Marathi writer and novelist Kavita Mahajan passed away here evening following a brief illness

- ✦ Mahajan, 51, was a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award. She was suffering from pneumonia for the past few days and was undergoing treatment at a private hospital,
- ✦ Mahajan was known for her critically acclaimed novels such as “Brr” and “Bhinna”. She had received the Sahitya Akademi award for her Marathi translation of “Rajai”, a collection of short stories by Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai.



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