August 2018

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs

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Bolt is a series of GK Summary ebooks by Oliveboard for quick revision
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Banking

News: Most Important

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hikes repo rate by 25 basis points

In its third bi-monthly monetary policy review of 2018-19, the monetary policy committee (MPC) of RBI hiked repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent. This is the first time since October 2013 that the rate has been increased at consecutive policy meetings.

2. PayPal partners with HDFC Bank to drive incremental digital spends

PayPal has partnered with HDFC Bank to drive incremental digital spend. Now, HDFC cards will be presented as a payment option during enrolment and subsequent payments. It will also facilitate consumers to easily open PayPal accounts.

3. Axis Bank introduces iris authentication for Aadhaar-based transactions

Mumbai Headquartered, Axis Bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets. This makes Aadhaar authentication process hassle-free and eventually offers easier access to digital banking.

4. India & World Bank sign $300 Mn Agreement for Energy Efficiency

India and World Bank signed a $220 mn Loan Agreement and a $80 mn Guarantee Agreement for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program. Aim is to avoid lifetime greenhouse gas emissions of 170 mn tons of CO₂ and 10 GW of additional generation capacity. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) will implemented it.
5. **World Bank to issue world’s first block-chain bond**

World Bank has announced to sell the first-ever bond to be issued entirely using blockchain technology. It aims to raise about Aus$50 million through blockchain bond. The two-year bond will rely on the real-world money--Australian dollars. It is the brainchild of the World Bank’s innovation lab.

6. **DBS India Launches Real-Time Digital Cross-Border Payment Tracking**

Singapore Headquartered DBS bank Indian subsidiary has launched a Real-Time Digital Cross-Border Payment Tracking for providing better cash flow visibility facility for all their commercial payments to DBS corporate clients in India. It is Powered by SWIFT Global Payments Innovation (GPI).

7. **Exim Bank signs MoU with BRICS development banks for blockchain technology**

Exim Bank of India has signed a cooperation agreement with member development banks of BRICS to undertake ‘collaborative research’ in blockchain technology. Exim Bank is the nominated member development bank under the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.

8. **HDFC Life ties up with Vijaya Bank**

HDFC Life Insurance & Vijaya Bank have entered into a corporate agency tie-up. As part of this plan, the bank will sell the insurer's products through its branches. Generally, Banks are allowed to tie-up with three life, three non-life and three standalone health insurers to sell their policies.
9. **Bharti AXA, Airtel Payments Bank team up to offer PMJJBY**

Bharti AXA & Airtel Payments Bank have teamed up to offer Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). Under PMJJBY, Bharti AXA provides Rs 2 lakh life insurance cover at an annual premium of Rs 330 which can now be purchased by Airtel Payments Bank savings bank account holders between ages 18-50.

10. **Ujjivan SF Bank launches overdraft facility for micro, small enterprises**

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has launched overdraft (OD) facility for micro & small enterprise (MSE) customers across its branches, nationally. This facility is available to all MSEs with a turnover of Rs 50 lakh or more, at a competitive rate of interest.

11. **Punjab National Bank gets top rank in digital transaction: Finmin report**

According to the Department of Financial Services report, PNB has been ranked number one PSU bank in digital transactions in India. The bank is fully committed to the Digital India initiative. With a score of 71, it has been rated as 'Good' by the govt.

12. **ICICI Bank announces partnership with Manchester United**

ICICI Bank has agreed on a partnership with Manchester United in order to bringing a range of competitive co-branded credit and debit card to the club’s 35 million Indian followers. The Bank will offer Manchester United Platinum Credit Card and Signature Credit Card.
13. **SBI to customers, switch to chip-based debit cards by Dec 31:**

State bank of India has asked its customers to get their ATM-cum-debit cards with magnetic stripe replaced with the one with 'Europay MasterCard Visa (EMV) chip before December 31. EMV chip card protects against counterfeit (skimming) card fraud.

**News: Others**

1. **J.P. Morgan joins hands with IIM-A to mentor financial inclusion start-ups**

J.P. Morgan has joined hands with the IIM-Ahmedabad to start a financial inclusion lab to help early stage fin-tech startups to achieve scale. The $9.5 million-dollar initiative will be part of the IIM-A’s incubation and entrepreneurship centre.

2. **Paytm Money to offer MF investment products at no fee to customers**

Paytm Money, a subsidiary of digital payments major Paytm, will offer mutual fund investment products at zero fee to its customers. It will also offer mutual fund schemes in direct plans that come with lower expense ratios.

3. **State Bank of Mauritius readies for India play with local unit**

The State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) is set to merge its existing operations with the newly registered local SBM Bank (India) Ltd as it seeks to become the first foreign bank to incorporate a local subsidiary in the country.
4. **Reserve Bank backs REC-promoted ARC for power sector stressed assets**

In a presentation to a panel headed by financial services secretary, Rajiv Kumar,

RBI has backed the idea of state-owned Rural Electrification Corporation's proposal to form an asset reconstruction company (ARC) dedicated to take over stressed assets in the power sector.

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**Quick Revision : Policy Rates**

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<thead>
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<th>Policy/Exchange rate &amp; Reserve ratio</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Repo rate</td>
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<td>Reverse Repo rate</td>
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<td>Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)</td>
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<td>Bank Rate</td>
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**Economy**

**News: Most Important**

1. **IMF Forecasts India's GDP to Grow At 7.5 Per Cent In 2019-20**

According to the IMF latest report, India is projected to clock an economic growth of 7.5 % in the FY 2019-20, on strengthening of investment and robust private consumption. Current account deficit (CAD) is projected to widen further to 2.6 % of GDP.
2. **IRDAI constitutes working group to review surveyor norms**

Under the Chairmanship of Yegna Priya Bharat, CGM (Nonlife), IRDA, Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 7-member working group to address areas pertaining to licensing, renewal and IIISLA Membership in the context of the existing regulatory framework for Surveyors and Loss Assessors.

3. **India Ratings lowers GDP growth estimate to 7.2 %**

Indian Rating & Research (Fitch group subsidiary) has lowered the growth projection for the current fiscal (2018-19) to **7.2 %** from the earlier projection of 7.4 %. Factors such as Elevated crude oil prices, depreciating rupee, rising trade protectionism, etc are the reason for so.

4. **SBI expects Q1 GDP growth at 7.7 % over boost in bank credit, auto sale**

According to SBI report based on Composite Leading Indicator (CLI), the country's GDP is expected to grow by **7.7 %** in the April-June (Q1 FY19) on the back of pick up in leading indicators like cement production, sale of vehicles and bank credit. GVA growth is expected to be 7.6 per cent.

5. **Moody's puts India growth in 2018, 2019 at 7.5%**

According to Moody’s investor Global Macro Outlook for 2018-19, Indian economy is largely resilient to external pressures and is expected to grow around **7.5%** in 2018 & 2019. Growth is supported by strong urban & rural demand and improved industrial activity.
6. **India to clock 7.5% GDP growth, recovery to remain robust: Morgan Stanley**

According to Morgan Stanley report, India’s economic growth momentum is likely to pick up further in the April-June period and the country is expected to clock GDP growth of **7.5 per cent** in this financial year. The macro-stability indicator of the economy like inflation & current account deficit are likely to be in check.

7. **GDP likely to clock 7.4% growth on pick up in industrial activity, monsoon: RBI**

The Reserve Bank expects India’s economic growth rate to accelerate to **7.4 per cent** in the current financial year on pick up in industrial activity and good monsoon. It also expressed confidence that the Current Account Deficit would largely be financed by foreign direct investment.

8. **Current account deficit (CAD) to hit 2.8% of GDP in FY19, says SBI report**

According to State Bank of India report, India’s Current account deficit (CAD) is likely to touch 2.8% of GDP in FY19 on surge in crude oil prices and moderate growth in exports. Amidst the recent devaluation of the Chinese Yuan, the country’s imports from China increased in recent months.
News:Others

1. **Government to release a new industrial policy soon**
   Government will shortly unveil a new industrial policy that aims to speed up regulatory reforms and lower power tariffs to make businesses more competitive. The overarching body like GST will be established.

2. **AGS Transact Tech files ₹1,000 crore IPO papers with SEBI**
   Payment solutions provider AGS Transact Technologies has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to mop-up ₹1,000 crore through an initial public offer. In the year 2015 also, It filed initial papers with SEBI to raise up to ₹1,350 crore.

3. **India’s average per capita income at nearly Rs 80,000 for last four years**
   According to govt report, the average per capita income in the country over the last four years has been higher at approximately **Rs 80,000** per person as compared to earlier fiscals. The average per capita income from FY12 to FY15 was around Rs 67,594.

4. **India’s forex reserves dip by $950.9 mn to $404.2 bn**
   India’s foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 950.9 million to USD 404.192 billion in August first week, because of a fall in the foreign currency assets, In the previous week, the reserves had increased a marginal USD 67.7 million to USD 405.143 billion.
5. **CII plans to launch a new index to judge the quality of fiscal deficit**

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will launch a new index to judge the quality of fiscal deficit, starting from 2004-05. It will be based on six factors that include fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, tax revenues and debt payment or servicing.

### Quick revision

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization/Committee</th>
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<td>IMF</td>
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<tr>
<td>RBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moody’s Investor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Stanley</td>
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<td>SBI</td>
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### State

#### News: Most Important

1. **UP govt sanctions Rs 150 cr for developing pilgrim centres**

The Uttar Pradesh government has sanctioned proposals worth Rs 150 crore to improve infrastructure of some notified pilgrim centres of the state. UP Brij Tirth Vikas Parishad has declared Vrindavan, Govardhan, Radhakund, Barsana, Nandgaon, Gokul and Baldeo as pilgrim centres.
2. **UP govt, IIT Kanpur join hands for Bundelkhand Defence Corridor centre**

The Uttar Pradesh government & the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K), have joined hands to set up a Centre of Excellence for the proposed Bundelkhand Defence Corridor (BDC). The proposed centre would entail investment of about Rs 3.65 billion.

Bundelkhand Defence Corridor spans six districts i.e. Agra, Aligarh, **Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi & Chitrakoot**.

3. **Odisha to get Legislative Council**

Odisha is all set to get a Legislative Council, consisting of 49 members. The state govt set up a committee in 2015 to study the Legislative Councils in States of Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra & Karnataka. Around ₹35 crore will be spent annually for the Council.

4. **Rajasthan first State to implement biofuel policy**

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to implement the national policy on biofuels unveiled by the Centre in May this year. It will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and will eventually, establish a Centre for Excellence in Udaipur.

5. **President of India inaugurates the ‘Festival of Democracy’ in Kerala**

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the ‘Festival of Democracy’ in Thiruvananthapuram, to mark the conclusion of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Kerala legislative assembly.
6. **Telangana govt launches Disaster Response Force in Hyderabad**

Telangana govt. has launched Disaster Response Force (DRF) vehicles in the Hyderabad city. The vehicles will be parked at 24 locations with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) DRF staff & they will reach the emergency spots in no time.

7. **Naya Raipur to be named as Atal Nagar**

Chhattisgarh is set to name Naya Raipur, the upcoming capital city of the state, as 'Atal Nagar' in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. His statue will be installed at Naya Raipur as well as in all 27-district headquarters of the state.

8. **UP cabinet okays bill to restore anticipatory bail provisions**

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet cleared a long-awaited Bill proposing to restore the provision of anticipatory bail. The Bill will be sent to the Centre for ratification after being passed by the state Assembly in the upcoming Monsoon Session. It has been restored after 42 years.

9. **Rajasthan & World Bank sign a $250 Mn Agreement for Electricity Distribution Sector Reforms**

The government of Rajasthan and World Bank have signed a $250 mn Development Policy Loan (DPL), in order to improve the performance of its Electricity Distribution Sector under the State’s 24x7 Power for All program. The First Loan closed in March 2017.
News: Others

1. Humanoid robots introduced at Chennai airport

The Chennai Airport introduced humanoid robots, which can navigate on their own, identify and greet passengers & respond to “queries deciphering variances in accent”. One each was positioned at the Arrival and Departure sections in the domestic terminal.

2. Maharashtra govt announces special assistance of 500 crore for OBC community

Maharashtra Government has announced a special assistance of 500 crore rupees for OBC community to help them develop employment opportunities for the youth.

OBCs constitute 52 % of the state’s population and they enjoy 17 % reservation.

3. Odisha eyes tie-ups with TCS, Reliance Jio, Cisco for Make in Odisha 2.0

The Odisha government is all set to tie up with software and networking majors such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, Cisco and Reliance Jio for collaborations in the upcoming Make in Odisha investment summit which is to be held from November 11-15.

4. Digital certificates to be given to students of CBSE affiliated schools in Kerala

CBSE has decided to provide digital documents to students, whose academic documents have been lost or damaged in the Kerala floods. CBSE with NeGD has developed digital academic repository called ‘Parinam Manjusha’, integrated with DigiLocker.
National

News: Important

1. **President gives assent to bill on fugitive economic offenders**
   President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to a Bill that will deter fugitive economic offenders i.e. individual against whom warrants for arrest are issued for his involvement in select economic offences, from evading the legal process in India and fleeing the country.

2. **Parliament passes Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018**
   The Parliament has passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018 which ensures stringent punishment for those convicted of raping girls below 12 years of age. It stipulates a minimum jail term of 20 years which may go up to life in prison or death sentence.

3. **Centre sets up GoM headed by Suresh Prabhu to decide on RCEP talks**
   The government has set up a four-member group of ministers (GoM) headed by Commerce & trade minister Suresh Prabhu to advise PM Modi on whether to continue with or withdraw from the 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.

4. **Defence Minister dedicates new bridge at Hussainiwala to nation**
   Defence Minister,Nirmala Sitharaman dedicated a strategically important 280-ft-long bridge at Hussainiwala, destroyed during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, to the nation. It connects Ferozpur with Hussainiwala Barrage on River Sutlej on the old Ferozpur-Lahore Highway.
5. **ISRO to send Indian astronaut into space by 2022**

ISRO is planning to put an Indian astronaut for seven days in space at a cost less than Rs 10,000 crore as part of its manned mission by 2022. The rocket to be used for the mission would be a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV-Mk III).

6. **Life Insurance Corp (LIC)-IDBI Bank deal receives cabinet approval**

Life Insurance Corp. of India has received approval from the Union cabinet to buy a majority stake in state-run IDBI Bank Ltd. It clears the way for LIC to seek the go-ahead from the Reserve Bank of India and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India for the transaction.

7. **NITI Aayog launches ‘Move Hack, a global mobility hackathon’**

NITI Aayog has launched Move Hack, a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions, aimed at the future of mobility in India. It is focused on 10 themes and structured over 3 legs: Online, followed by Singapore leg, and the finals in New Delhi.

8. **HAL becomes first PSU to transact on TReDS: RXIL**

Acc. to the RXIL reports, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has become the first public sector entp. to make a transaction on the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform, an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of MSME through multiple financiers.
9. **Government unveils draft UDAN scheme for international routes**

The Centre has unveiled a draft scheme for extending the affordable air travel programme UDAN, a scheme launched in 2016 for making air travel affordable, to international circuits. The draft International Air Connectivity (IAC) scheme envisages to increase the international ticketing to 20 crores by 2027.

10. **Panel for rollout of 5G services by 2020**

A panel set up by the DoT under the chairmanship of AJ Paulraj to prepare a roadmap for rollout of 5G telephony in India expects the service to be operational by 2020. The nine-member Steering Committee recommended releasing additional spectrum for 5G services.

11. **India’s first ISTS connected Wind Power Project Commissioned**

Ostro Kutch Wind Private Limited commissioned an Inter-State Transmission system connected Wind Power Project of capacity-126 MW in Bhuj, Gujarat. The energy generated from this project is being purchased by Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand & UP.

12. **India’s first biofuel powered flight undertakes maiden voyage**

SpiceJet, powered by indigenously produced aviation biofuel from jatropha oil took a maiden flight from Dehradun to Delhi. The use of bio jet fuel reduces greenhouse gas emissions by about 15 percent and cost savings in jet fuel supply. This technology has been patented by CSIR-IIP Dehradun.
13. Committee on review of penal provisions of Company Act 2013 submits final report

Injeti Srinivas committee which was constituted in July 2018 has submitted its report on reviewing existing framework dealing with offences under the Companies Act, 2013. It recommended that the existing law should continue for serious offences covering different categories.

News: Others

1. Jindal Steel to supply rails to Indian Railways

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) secured the major contract through a global tender to produce and supply one lakh tonnes of rail to Indian Railways. The company has already supplied Rails to national railways of Iran and Bangladesh.

2. TRIBES India Outlets to open at airports soon

The Airport Authority of India has allotted space to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) for opening of Tribes India outlets at various airports. The aim is to bring about a multi-dimensional transformation of the tribal society and a shift in the perception of their existing image.

3. President gives assent to Insolvency second amendment law

The President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Act 2018. It will replace the June 6 insolvency ordinance, which among other things provided relief to home buyers and promoters of MSMEs. It received nod by Rajya Sabha on August 10 through a voice vote.
4. **Logo, tagline launched for 'Geographic Indications (GI)'**

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched a logo and tagline for Geographical Indications (GI) to increase awareness about intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the country. Darjeeling Tea, Tirupati Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are among the registered GIs in India.

5. **CCI approves Walmart-Flipkart deal**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Flipkart by US-based Walmart, three months after the acquisition plan. According to CCI proposed combination is not likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.

6. **Govt imposes restrictions on import of bio-fuels**

Through an amendment in import policy, the government has imposed restriction on import of bio-fuels including ethyl alcohol and other denatured spirits, bio-diesel, petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals other than crude.

7. **Bill to give constitutional status to OBC commission gets Lok Sabha nod**

Lok Sabha has unanimously passed the 123rd Constitutional Amendment bill, 2018 that provides constitutional status to the OBC commission. The bill seeks to grant constitutional status to the National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC).

8. **Government ropes in PSUs to undertake skilling**

PM Modi’s flagship Skill India Mission has roped National Aluminium Company (NALCO) to undertake skilling. It will put in Rs 50 crore towards skill development and entrepreneurship till 2020. The Skill India was launched on World Youth Skills Day (15 July) in 2015.
International News: Most Important

1. **Macau set to overtake Qatar as World's Richest Place By 2020**

   According to projections from IMF, the global casino hub Macau’s economy will reach the equivalent of about $143,116 per person by 2020 putting it ahead of Qatar. Macau has become a gambling mecca since returning to Chinese control two decades ago.

2. **Apple market value hits $1 trillion mark**

   Apple Inc. became the first US-based company with a market value of $1 trillion, four decades after it was co-founded by Steve Jobs in a Silicon Valley garage. It later revolutionized the worlds of computing, mobile communication & music.

3. **Indonesia president Joko Widodo opens 18th Asian Games**

   The 18th Asian Games, the biggest multi-sport event after Olympics, began in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, it will run till September 2, 2018. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has sent a contingent of 570 athletes to participate in the games.

4. **China launches twin navigation satellites**

   China successfully sent twin navigation satellites into the space on a single carrier rocket. Long March-3B carrier rocket lifted off from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. After few tests, they will work together with 10 other BeiDou-3 satellites which started serving China in 2000.
**News: Others**

1. **China launches high-resolution Earth observation satellite to monitor BRI**

China has successfully launched an optical remote sensing satellite, as part of its high-resolution Earth observation project which will also provide data for the Belt and Road Initiative. The Gaofen-11 satellite was launched on a Long March 4B.

2. **NASA launches daring space probe to ‘touch the sun’**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Parker Solar Probe, mankind’s first mission to ‘touch’ the Sun, was launched on a seven-year long journey to unlock the mysteries of our star’s fiery outer atmosphere and its effects on space weather.

**India & world**

**News: Most Important**

1. **Arianespace to launch three more heavy Indian satellites: ISRO**

Global commercial launch provider Arianespace will launch 3 more heavy Indian satellites from its rocket port at Kourou in French Guiana over the next 9 months. It will launch GSAT-11 on November 30, followed by GSAT-31 in December and GSAT-30 in May 2019.
2. **India third Asian nation to get STA-1 status from US**

India has become the third Asian country after Japan and South Korea to get the Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) status. India is the 37th country to be designated the STA-1 status by the US. STA1 status paves way for high technology product sales to India.

3. **Sushma Swaraj inaugurates Panini Language lab in Mauritius**

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Panini Language Laboratory' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in Mauritius. The lab, gifted by the Indian government, will help MGI in teaching Indian languages in Mauritius.

4. **India, Japan resolve to deepen maritime cooperation**

India and Japan resolved to expand their maritime cooperation and work together to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, which is witnessing growing Chinese assertiveness. Co-development of military platforms and weapons also discussed.

5. **China defence minister meets Indian PM as ties warm further**

China defence minister Lieutenant General Wei Fenghe met Indian PM as ties warm further, to strengthen the relations between the countries, which has taken a steady improvement after the Wuhan informal summit between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in April.

6. **2nd Protocol Amending India & Singapore CECA Signed**

India & Singapore signed the 2nd Protocol amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). CECA was the first comprehensive agreement covering trade in goods, services and investments, which India signed with any of its trading partners.
7. **Sushma Swaraj in Vietnam to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation**

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived at Hanoi, on the 1st leg of her four-day two-nation tour. Aimed at deepening India’s strategic cooperation with Vietnam & Cambodia - the key countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region.

**News: Others**

1. **Israel opens visa application centre in Kolkata**

To encourage more Indians to visit Israel, Israel has opened a visa application center in the Kolkata for tourists from West Bengal and the North Eastern states. The visa application categories include employment, business, tourism, meeting, students.

2. **India, China to expand military cooperation**

India & China are set to draft a fresh memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation & further expand the engagements between their armed forces. Additional measures for peace along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC) also discussed.

3. **Defence Minister Visits Kingdom of Thailand**

Nirmala Sitharaman went for an official bilateral visit to Thailand. Both sides discussed bunch of issues relating to defence cooperation between countries. India offered additional training opportunities for the Royal Thai Army in India.
4. **Infosys opens new tech. & innovation hub in North Carolina**

Bengaluru, headquartered software services major, Infosys has opened technology and innovation hub in North Carolina, taking it to three such hubs in the US. It was inaugurated in Raleigh. The other two were recently set up in Indianapolis and Connecticut.

5. **Facebook scores La Liga broadcast rights in India**

Facebook displaced Sony to win the rights to screen La Liga matches across the Indian subcontinent. It will allow hundreds of millions of South Asian users to watch top-tier Spanish football matches for free over the next three seasons.

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**Quick revision: Facts**

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<th>Capital</th>
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Appointments & Resignations

News: Important

1. **Deepak Parekh reappointed HDFC Director**
   HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh has been reappointed as a non-executive director on the board of country’s largest mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd (HDFC). Apart from him, J.J Irani and Keki Mistry too were re-appointed as directors to HDFC’s board with more favourable votes.

2. **First woman Judge to head J&K High Court**
   Justice Geeta Mittal has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court, becoming the first woman judge in the history to head it. Sindhu Sharma also became the first woman judge of the Jammu and Kashmir HC.

3. **S Gurumurthy & Satish Marathe appointed to RBI Board**
   Government appointed journalist **S Gurumurthy** and Sahakar Bharathi patron **Satish Marathe** of as part-time directors on the RBI board after an approval from the appointments committee of the cabinet. Both appointments are for a four-year term.

4. **S Gopakumar appointed Director & GM of United India Insurance**
   S Gopakumar has been appointed as Director and General Manager of United India Insurance Company, a Public sector non-life insurance firm. Prior to this appointment he was serving GIC Housing Finance Ltd as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
5. **Michelle Bachelet appointed Next UN Human Rights Chief**

Chile's twice-serving president, Michelle Bachelet, has been appointed as the new chief of UN human rights by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. She will replace Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein of Jordan.

6. **Rekha Sharma appointed chairperson of the National Commission for Women**

NCW member Rekha Sharma, 54, has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women. She was holding the additional charge of NCW chairperson & recently stoked a controversy by suggesting abolition of confessions in churches.

7. **NDA candidate Harivansh Singh elected deputy chairman of RS**

NDA candidate and JD(U) member Harivansh Narayan Singh has been elected as deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha, defeating opposition's B.K. Hariprasad by 20 votes. The post was lying vacant since the retirement of P.J. Kurien on July 1.

8. **RS Sharma reappointed as TRAI chief till 2020**

The Appointment Committee of Cabinet has reappointed RS Sharma as the chief of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). He will now head the telecom authority till September 30, 2020.

9. **Canara Bank, Bank of India non-executive chairmen get extension**

The Centre extended the terms of non-executive chairmen of Canara Bank & Bank of India for two years.

Thothala Narayanasamy Manoharan - renominated non-executive chairman, Canara Bank, Gopalaraman Padmanabhan - renominated non-executive chairman, BOI.
10. **S.S Mundra appointed Independent Director of Indiabulls Housing Finance**

Subhash Sheoratan Mundra has been appointed as Independent Director on the Board of Indiabulls Housing Finance for a period of three years. He is presently on the Board of the Bombay Stock Exchange and DSP Blackrock Investment Managers.

11. **Anandiben Patel takes Oath as Governor of Chhattisgarh**

Chhattisgarh High Court Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi administered the oath of office to Ms Patel during a simple function at the Raj Bhawan in Raipur. She was given the addt. charge of Chhattisgarh following the death of governor Balramji Dass Tandon.

12. **Imran Khan sworn in as Pakistan PM**

Imran Khan, 65 was sworn in as Pakistan’s new prime minister. He is the Chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) & was administered the oath of office by President Mamnoon Hussain at the Aiwan-e-Sadr (the President House) in Islamabad.

13. **Infosys CFO Ranganath resigns, deputy may replace him**

Infosys Chief Financial Officer MD Ranganath, has stepped down from his position, marking the second CFO departure at Infosys in three years. Jayesh Sanghrajka, deputy CFO at Infosys, is likely to replace Ranganath as the company’s next finance chief.
14. **Seven states get new governors, Malik replaces Vohra in J&K**

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed seven new governors-
Satya Pal Malik - J&K, Lalji Tandon- Bihar, Satyadev Narayan Arya -Haryana,
Baby Rani Maurya -Uttarakhand, Ganga Prasad- Sikkim, Tathagata Roy-
Meghalaya & Kaptan Singh Solanki- Tripura.

15. **Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia's new PM**

Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison has been sworn in as the 30th Prime Minister of Australia ,after winning a Liberal party leadership vote. He won an internal ballot 45-40 over former Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton.

16. **G. Satheesh Reddy appointed as new DRDO chairman**

The Centre appointed renowned scientist, Dr. G Satheesh Reddy, as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation and Secretary in Department of Defence Research & Development for a period of two years. At present, he is Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister.

17. **Indiabulls Ventures appoints ex-NPCI MD as Independent Director**

Indiabulls Ventures has appointed Abhaya Prasad Hota, former managing director at the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), as an independent director on the board for a period of 3 years. He worked on launching the NEFT, RTGS, IMPS & ABPS.

18. **Anil Ambani resigns as director of Reliance Naval and Engineering**

Anil D Ambani has resigned as director of the Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNAVAL), he resigned in compliance with provisions of Section 165 of the Companies Act, 2013, prescribing the limit on directorships to only 10 public companies. RNAVAL- Country’s largest integrated shipbuilding facilitator.
19. **Satya S Tripathi appointed as UN Assistant Secretary-General**

Satya S Tripathi has been appointed an assistant Secretary-General and will head the UN Environment Programme’s (UNEP) New York office. He has been the Senior Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UNEP since 2017.

**News: Others**

1. **Manjula Chellur appointed as new chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity**

Justice Manjula Chellur has been appointed as the new chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (ATE), the power ministry informed today. Prior to this, Chellur was Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

2. **K S Srinivas takes over as MPEDA chief**

K S Srinivas took over as the Chairman of the city-based Marine Products Export Development Authority, an agency under the Union Commerce Ministry. Prior to this he served as Joint Secretary in the Dept. of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare.

3. **High court chief justices appointed to the Supreme Court**

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed KM Joseph, Indira Banerjee and Vineet Saran to the Supreme Court. Justice Banerjee became the eight-woman judge in the history of the Supreme Court. Taking the total number of judges in the apex court to 25.
4. **Paytm Payments Bank CEO resigned**

Paytm Payments Bank CEO Renu Satti has resigned from the role and will now head Paytm's new retail initiative. In the past, she has built businesses ground up that include marketplace, movie ticketing and most recently Paytm Payments Bank.

5. **Keita re-elected Mali president with landslide**

Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been re-elected for a five-year term after winning a landslide in a runoff ballot, he picked up 67.17% of the vote against 32.83% for opposition challenger and former finance minister Soumaila Cisse.

6. **Ashish Kumar Bhutani appointed CEO of PM crop insurance scheme**

Senior bureaucrat Ashish Kumar Bhutani has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). PMFBY was launched in 2016, the PMFBY is in line with one nation – one scheme theme.

7. **N Raghuram elected Chair of International Nitrogen Initiative**

Indian scientist-academician, N Raghuram, has been elected Chair of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), a global policy making initiative. He is the first Indian & Asian to be elected to the Chair. He will succeed Mark Sutton of the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Edinburgh.
## Quick revision

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<td>Imran Khan</td>
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**Ranks & Reports**

**News: Most Important**

1. **Marie Curie tops BBC History poll of women who changed the world**

   Marie Curie, the pioneering scientist has topped a poll asking which woman has had the most significant impact on world history by BBC. She was followed by Rosa Parks, Emmeline Pankhurst, Ada Lovelace and Rosalind Franklin.

2. **SBI tops the Chart as India's Most Patriotic Brand: Survey**

   According to a survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov, Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL.

3. **Pune, the most liveable city in the country**

   Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh released Ease of Living Index, according to it, Pune is the most liveable city followed by Navi Mumbai & Greater Mumbai. Ranking is based upon 4 parameters of ease of living - governance, social, economic and physical infrastructure.

4. **Vienna tops Melbourne as world’s most liveable city in 2018: Economist survey**

   Vienna has dislodged Melbourne for the first time at the top of the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index, making it world's most pleasant city to live in. Damascus retained last place, followed by the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka. Melbourne was the world's most liveable city from 2011 to 2017.
5. **Smitha Crishna, Roshni Nadar top India’s richest women list**

According to the Kotak Wealth Hurun report 2018, Smitha V Crishna of the Godrej Group, with wealth worth ₹37,570 crore, is the richest Indian woman, followed by Roshni Nadar of HCL & Indu Jain of Bennett Coleman.

6. **First ‘State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index’ released**


‘Front Runner’ states - Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan.

7. **Bhopal records lowest emission, energy use; Delhi ranked last**

A report by the Centre for Science and Environment - Bhopal has got the top spot for lowest overall emission and energy use from the urban commute. Delhi ranked last in overall emission and fuel use. Statistics from 14 cities in India were analysed.

Kolkata and Mumbai are among the mega cities which emit least.
**News: Others**

1. **Railway Ministry releases Third Cleanliness Audit**
   Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal released the survey report on station cleanliness conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI). Jodhpur & Marwar railway stations were declared as the cleanest railway station in A1 & A category respectively.

2. **NABARD Survey: Farmer income grew 37 percent between FY13 and FY16**
   According to the All India Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS), the annual income of farmers increased 37.4% between FY13 & 16. More than 88% of rural households now have bank accounts, but only about 24% of them use ATM services at least once in three months.

3. **NITI Aayog launches 5 Thematic Reports (TRs) on Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayan Region**

4. **India may not reach 100GW solar power target by 2022: CRISIL report**
   Acc. to CRISIL’s report, India will not be able to achieve its ambitious target of generating 100GW solar power by 2022, it will touch 78-80 GW. Additional 56-58GW of solar capacity addition between fiscals 2019 and 2023 is expected. The Current solar capacity of India is 21.65 GW.
**Important days**

**News: Most Important**

1. **International Day of the World's Indigenous People**
   The UN International Day of the World's Indigenous People was observed on August 9 each year to promote and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population. It recognizes the contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues.
   
   2018 Theme: Indigenous peoples’ migration and movement

2. **World Biofuel Day is observed on 10th August**
   World Biofuel Day was observed on 10th of August, every year, it is observed to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector.

3. **International Youth Day (IYD) observed on 12th of August**
   International Youth Day was observed on 12th of August, aimed to attract recognition to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding the youth.
   
   The first International Youth Day was observed on August 12, 2000, by the United Nations.

   Theme for IYD 2018 - **Safe Spaces for Youth.**
4. **World Humanitarian Day (WHD) observed across the world on August, 19**

World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on 19\textsuperscript{th} of August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world. 2018 campaign: #NotATarget

5. **Agriculture minister proposes to FAO to declare the year 2019 as International Year of Millets**

Union Agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh has proposed to the UNs Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to declare the year 2019 as international year of millets. This will promote cultivation by amending cropping patterns of areas which are especially susceptible to climate change.

**News: Others**

1. **World Mosquito Day (WMD) observed on 20\textsuperscript{th} of August**

World Mosquito Day’ (WMD) was Observed on 20\textsuperscript{th} of August. It is observed in commemoration of India born – Noble prize winner Sir Ronald Ross discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

2. **The World Photography Day celebrated worldwide**

The World Photography Day was celebrated on August, 19. It celebrates the artist’s eye for the way they look at the world and create the image long before it gets materialised. The day came in to force in 2009. World’s 1st photograph taken by-Joseph Nicephore Niepce.
**Quick revision**

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</tbody>
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**Sports**

**News: Most Important**

1. **Kento Momota, Carolina Marin capture world badminton titles**
   
   Kento Momota of Japan defeated Shi Yuqi of China 21-11, 21-13 in the men's final at the badminton world championships, 2018. In women's singles, Carolina Marin of Spain defeated India's P.V Sindhu 21-19, 21-10 to clinch the third world title.

2. **Madappa becomes youngest Indian to win Asian Tour title**
   
   Viraj Madappa, 20 became the youngest Indian to win the Asian Tour Title, ending one shot ahead of Zimbabwean Scott Vincent. He broke the record held by Gagandeep Bhullar who won the Indonesia Invitational when he was 21.

3. **Netherlands win Women’s Hockey World Cup, 2018**
   
   Netherlands has been crowned Women's Hockey World Cup winners for a record eighth time as a crushing 6-0 victory ended Ireland's fairy-tale tournament. Van Male finished as the tournament's top scorer with eight goals.
4. **Wrestler Bajrang wins India’s first gold medal at Asian Games 2018**

   Bajrang Punia claimed India’s first gold medal on the first day of the Asian Games 2018 as he beat Japan's Daichi Takatani 11-8 in the final of Men's Freestyle 65 kg category.

   Apurvi Chandela, Ravi Kumar bag bronze medal in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team.

5. **Vinesh Phogat wins India's second gold in 50 kg freestyle event**

   Vinesh Phogat picked up India's second gold of the Asian Games with a comfortable win against Yuki Irie of Japan in the women's freestyle 50kg in Jakarta.

   Shooter Deepak Kumar won air rifle silver, Lakshay won silver medal in men's trap shooting.

6. **16-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m air pistol gold**

   Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary, 16 claimed gold in the Asian Games (AG) 2018. He also set a Games record with his sensational effort. His last two shots were a 10.2 and 10.4, giving him the decisive lead. Abhishek Verma shot bronze in the same event.

7. **Rahi Sarnobat becomes first Indian woman to shoot Asiad gold**

   Rahi Sarnobat became the first Indian woman shooter to win a gold at the Asian Games, achieving the feat after a nerve-wracking 25m air pistol finals in Asiad 2018. She grabbed to gold-medal at the 2010 Delhi CW Games.

8. **At 15, Shardul Vihan wins silver in men’s double trap**

   Shardul Vihan, 15 became the youngest Indian shooter to win a medal at the Asian Games after he finished second in the men’s double trap. He shot 73 in the final after topping the qualification. He also won a medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany.
9. **Rohan Bopanna, Divij Sharan clinch gold medal for India in men's doubles event**

Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan notched up their maiden men's doubles gold medal at the Asian Games, 2018. They defeated Aleksander Bublik and Denis Yevseyev of Kazakhstan 6-3 6-4. India have claimed the men's doubles gold on four occasions at the Games.

10. **Maiden European tour title for Bhullar**

India’s Gaganjeet Bhullar hold off a charging Anthony Quayle to claim the Fiji International by one stroke. It was his ninth Asian Tour title and 10th crown overall. He now becomes the most successful Indian player on Asian Tour, overtaking the tally of eight Tour wins by Arjun Atwal and Jyoti Randhawa.

11. **Tejinder Toor clinches gold in men's shot put with record throw**

The 23-yr-old Tejinderpal Singh Toor clinched the men's shot-put gold to open India's medal account in athletics in the Asian Games. He threw the Iron ball to 20.75m & set a national record. Dipika Pallikal & Joshna Chinappa won Bronze Medals in Squash.

12. **Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian to win javelin throw gold in Asian Games**

Neeraj Chopra won Gold in the Men’s Javelin Throw Final at the 18th Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia. He shattered his own national record by clearing 88.06m. It was India’s second medal India in javelin throw in Asian Games history, Gurtej Singh won bronze in javelin throw in Asian Games, 1982.
13. **Indian men’s table tennis team settles for a bronze medal**

The Indian men’s table tennis team settled for a historic bronze medal after losing to South Korea in semi-final. The team comprised G. Sathiyan, Achanta Sharath Kamal and A. Amalraj. India had defeated Japan 3-1 in the quarterfinals.

**News: Others**

1. **Esow Alben wins silver at World Junior Track cycling**

Teen cyclist Esow Alben has scripted history by claiming India’s first ever medal, a silver at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships. He finished just 0.017 seconds behind gold medallist Czech Republic’s Jakub Stastny.

2. **Novak Djokovic beats Roger Federer in Cincinnati master’s final**

Novak Djokovic won the men’s singles final at the Western and Southern Open, AKA the Cincinnati Masters. He beat Roger Federer in the final, 6-4, 6-4. In the women’s final, Kiki Bertens downed world No. 1 Simona Halep, 2-6, 7-6(6), 6-2.

3. **Ramesh Powar appointed Indian women’s cricket team head coach**

Former India spinner Ramesh Powar has been named head coach of the women's national team till the ICC World T20, scheduled to be held in November. He was appointed interim coach of the team last month after the resignation of Tushar Arothe.
4. **Indian girls’ football team claim SAFF U-15 title**

Indian girls’ football team claimed the SAFF U-15 Championship, defeating Bangladesh by a goal in the finals held at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimpu. They scored 16 goals in a total of four matches. Top Scorer was Priyanga Devi Naorem (4 goals).

5. **New Delhi to host Combined ISSF World Cup ahead of Tokyo Olympics 2020**

New Delhi has been granted hosting rights of Combined ISSF World Cup, to be held before the Tokyo Olympics. It involves events in rifle, pistol, and shotgun. It is 7th continental or global multi-nation shooting competition staged in India since 2012.

6. **Muhammed Anas, Hima Das, Dutee Chand clinch silver medals in athletics**

At the Asian games 2018, Hima Das and Muhammed Anas won a silver each in women's and men 400m, while Dutee Chand grabbed silver in Women 100m dash.

Muhammed Anas- 400m in 45.69 seconds, Dutee Chand- 100m in 11.32 seconds, Hima Das- 400m in 50.59 seconds.
**Awards**

**News: Most Important**

1. **Gopalkrishna Gandhi to be conferred Rajiv Sadbhavana Award 2018**
   Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been chosen for 24th ‘Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award’ for promoting communal harmony and peace. The award will be presented on August 20, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

2. **President gives away Outstanding Parliamentarian awards**

3. **Indian-origin mathematician Akshay Venkatesh wins Fields medal**
   India-origin mathematician Akshay Venkatesh was awarded the prestigious Fields medal. It is referred to as the Nobel prize for mathematics. The Fields medal is awarded once in four years to the most promising mathematicians under the age of 40.
   
   Other 3 awardee- Caucher Birkar, Peter Scholze, Alessio Figalli

4. **ET Startup Awards 2018: OYO wins Startup of the Year**
   Budget hotel aggregator OYO Rooms won top honours at India’s biggest and best awards for startups - ET Startup Awards, joining a group of peers distinguished by technical and entrepreneurial prowess.
5. **WHO awards India for fall in tobacco consumption**

The World Health Organization has awarded India for its efforts to reduce the tobacco prevalence in the country. India is the only winner to receive the highly prestigious WHO 'World NO Tobacco Day 2018 Award' from Southeast Asia region among 11 countries.

Delhi govt’s add. director of health S.K. Arora received the award.

### News: Others

1. **General Dalbir Singh Suhag awarded with US Legion of Merit**

United States government rewarded retired General Dalbir Singh Suhag’s exemplary service as Chief of Army Staff (COAS) with ‘Legion of Merit’ (Degree of Commander). He received the award at Pentagon, Washington DC.

2. **Reliance Power unit wins $56 million international arbitration award**

Reliance Power Netherlands BV has won an international arbitration award of $56 mn against Prestige Capital Holdings (a Seychelles-based company) and Kokos Jiang. It was related to a contractual dispute in the context of company's coal mines in Indonesia.

3. **Yes Bank bags global award**

Yes Bank, India’s fourth-largest private sector bank, was adjudged the global winner in payments at the ‘Technology Project Awards-2018’, an award recognising innovation in financial technology instituted by The Banker, a London-based global financial publication.
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Obituary

News: Most Important

1. **Prominent film personality M. Bhaktavatsala passed away**

Prominent film personality M. Bhaktavatsala, an octogenarian, passed away owing to age-related ailments. He entered the film industry in the 1960s quitting a job in HMT & was a writer, film producer, film distributor, and even an exhibitor.

2. **Veteran Congress leader R K Dhawan passed away at 81**

Veteran Congress leader and a close companion of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, RK Dhawan, passed away, he was 81. He joined Indira Gandhi’s office in 1962 and remained with her till her assassination on October 31, 1984.

3. **DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi, passed away**

DMK patriarch Muthuvel Karunanidhi passed away, he was 94. His death marks the end of an 80-year long illustrious political career, leaving behind a huge Dravidian legacy. The Tamil Nadu government announced a seven-day mourning period and a public holiday.
4. **British Novelist V S Naipaul, Nobel prize winning author, passed away**

Nobel laureate V S Naipaul died recently in London. He was 85 years old. He was born in Trinidad. The Nobel Prize in Literature 2001 was awarded to V. S. Naipaul for having united perceptive narrative and incorruptible scrutiny in works.

5. **Former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, 89, passed away**

Former Lok Sabha Speaker and veteran communist leader Somnath Chatterjee passed away, he was 89. He held the post of Speaker from 2004 to 2009 during the UPA-I regime & was a ten-time Lok Sabha MP.

6. **Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Dass Tandon passed away**

Chhattisgarh Governor Balramji Dass Tandon, one of the founder members of the BJP’s parent organisation Jan Sangh, passed away, he was 90. During his long political career, he served as deputy chief minister of Punjab. He was also jailed during Emergency.

7. **Ajit Wadekar, who taught India to win overseas, passes away**

Former Indian cricket team captain Ajit Wadekar, who led India to maiden Test series wins in England and West Indies in 1971, passed away, he was 77. He left an indelible mark on Indian cricket despite making a mere 37 Test appearances.

8. **Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, 76, passed away**

Aretha Franklin, the preacher’s daughter whose powerful voice made her the long-reigning “Queen of Soul” with such hit songs as “Respect” and “Chain of Fools,” passed away, she was 76.
9. **Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee passed away**  
   Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee passes away, he was 93. He was the first and the only non-Congress Prime Minister to serve a full five-year term from 1999 to 2004; and for short periods of 13 days in 1996 and 13 months in 1998. He was elected to Lok Sabha from Lucknow for Five terms.

10. **Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan passed away**  
    Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan passed away, he was 80. He served as the 7th Secretary-General from January 1997 to December 2006. He is the founder and chairman of the Kofi Annan Foundation. He was recipient of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize along with UN.

11. **Uri Avnery, Israeli Journalist and Peace Activist passed away**  
    Uri Avnery, an Israeli journalist, politician and peace activist who riled the establishment by exposing national scandals and conferring with Yasir Arafat, the father of the Palestinian cause, passed away. He was 94.

12. **Veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar passed away**  
    Veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha member Kuldip Nayar passed away, he was 95. He was known for his stand against the Indira Gandhi govt. during the Emergency as the Editor of The Statesman. He was arrested for his vocal protest during the time. He was former High Commissioner of India to United Kingdom.

13. **John McCain, senator and political maverick, passed away**  
    US Senator John McCain, a former prisoner of war in Vietnam who ran unsuccessfully for president as a self-styled maverick Republican in 2008 and became a prominent critic of President Donald Trump passed away, he was 81 and was battling glioblastoma. He lost in 2008 to Democrat Barack Obama.
14. **Nandamuri Harikrishna, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader passed away**

Nandamuri Harikrishna, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and son of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N T Rama Rao, passed away in a car accident. He was the fourth son of NTR, was also a popular Telugu actor, director and producer. He launched his own party, Anna Telugu Desam Party, in 1999.

**News: Others**

1. **Former Union Minister Bhishma Narain Singh passed away at 99**

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Dr Bhishma Narain Singh passed away this evening aged 85 at a hospital in Noida after a prolonged illness. He held various portfolios during the Congress rule led by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He was also the Governor of Assam and Tamil Nadu.

2. **Marathi Actor Vijay Chavan expires At 63**

Veteran Marathi actor Vijay Chavan died after a prolonged illness. He was 63. He was best remembered for his comic roles in Marathi films such as Jatra, Zapatlela, Pachadlele, Mumbaicha Dabewala and Shrimanta Damodar Panta among others.

The actor had featured in more than 350 films.

3. **Renowned Malayalam poet Chemmanam Chacko passed away**

Noted Malayalam poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee Chemmanam Chacko passed away, he was 92. He won several awards, including those by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Sanjayan Award, Kunjan Nambiar Kavitha puraskaram, P Smaraka Puraskaram and Mahakavi Ulloor Award. His first published work was Pravachanam in 1946.
4. **Asian Games gold medallist Hakam Singh passed away**

   Dhyan Chand awardee Asian Games gold medallist athlete Hakam Singh passed away, he was 64. He won gold in 20 km race walk event during the 1978 Asiad at Bangkok.

   He also served as Havaldar in the Six Sikh regiment.

5. **Veteran Odia actor Debu Bose passes away**

   Veteran Odia actor Debu Bose passed away following a prolonged illness, he was 75. He had worked in more than 120 films, television shows and innumerable plays. He was a disciple of Odissi dancer Late Guru Kelurcharan Mohapatra.

   He started his career with Odia movie Tapasya in the 1980s.

6. **Union minister & Congress MP Gurudas Kamat passed away**

   Senior Congress leader and former Union minister Gurudas Kamat passed away, he was 63. He was a strong organizational man and headed the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee (MRCC) & also held the post of general secretary of All India Congress Committee.
## Quick revision

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## Schemes

### News: Most Important

1. **President launches UP Govt’s ODOP scheme in Lucknow**

   President launched UP Govt’s One District One Product (ODOP) scheme in Lucknow,

   UP govt has set a goal of providing employment to 25 L people in 5 years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 Cr. It will strengthen the inclusive and sustainable development of UP.
2. **Ministry of Culture launched the new scheme ‘Seva Bhoj Yojana’**

   The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has launched the new scheme namely Seva Bhoj Yojana with a total outlay of Rs. 325.00 Crores for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-20. The scheme envisages to reimburse the CGST & IGST of such as Religious Institutions who provide Food/Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to Public/Devotees.

3. **Ayushman Bharat to be launched on September 25**

   PM Modi will launch ambitious healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat on September 25, which aims to provide a coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family annually, benefiting more than 10 crore poor families. It is considered as the world’s largest healthcare scheme.

**News: Others**

1. **Odisha: Naveen Patnaik launches Biju Swasthya Yojana**

   Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched a new health scheme, the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana. Having an extended coverage up to Rs 5 lakh per year. The amount is Rs 7 lakh for women & is focussed on welfare of all, particularly the farmers, women and youth.

2. **Amended Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme introduced**

   Union Ministry of Textiles has introduced Amended TUFS, allowing co-operative banks to lend to textile units for technology upgradation under this scheme. The scheme also been extended to limited liability partnership (LLP) firms.
Person in News

News: Most Important

1. **Abhinav Bindra appointed in IOC’s Athletes’ Commission**
   Ace Indian shooter **Abhinav Bindra** has been appointed as a member of the Athletes’ Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) , which aims to uphold the athletes’ viewpoint in all decisions. He is second after Saina Nehwal who was elected back in 2016.

2. **Mario Abdo Benitez sworn in as the 50th President of Paraguay**
   Mario Abdo Benitez, 46 has been sworn in as Paraguay's new president, four months after playing down close family ties with the South American country's late dictator.
   He expressed solidarity with the peoples of Nicaragua and Venezuela and Nicaragua.

3. **Neeraj Chopra to be India’s flag-bearer at Asian Games 2018**
   Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been handed the honour of being the Indian contingent's flag bearer at the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia. The announcement was made by Narinder Batra, President of the Indian Olympic Association.

4. **Emmerson Mnangagwa wins Zimbabwe’s presidential election**
   Emmerson Mnangagwa of ruling ZANU-PF party has won Zimbabwe's presidential election in a poll marred by violence and opposition allegations of vote rigging. He defeated Nelson Chamisa, of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDA) Alliance.
5. **Sunil Chhetri named ‘Asian Icon’ by Asian Football Confederation**

Sunil Chhetri was named an 'Asian Icon' by the game's continental governing AFC. Chhetri is currently the highest goal-scoring active Asian and third in the world after Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

6. **Mitchell Johnson retires from all forms of cricket**

Australian pacer Mitchell Johnson announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

He ended his Test career with 313 wickets and is only behind Shane Warne, Denis Lillee and Glen McGrath on the all-time wicket-takers list for Australia in tests.

7. **Germany’s Mario Gomez Retires From International Football**

Veteran German striker **Mario Gomez**, 33 announced his retirement from international football. He made his debut for Germany in 2007, scored 31 goals in 78 international appearances & represented his country at the FIFA World Cup in 2010 and 2018 and the Euro Cup in 2008 and 2012.

7. **Film Actor Akshay Kumar becomes Brand Ambassador for Road Safety Campaigns**

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has been appointed Akshay Kumar as Road Safety Brand Ambassador to promote road safety through its new campaign. As a part of the campaign, three short videos directed by R Balki, were also launched.

8. **Nihal Sarin becomes India’s 53rd Grandmaster**

Nihal Sarin became India’s 53rd Grandmaster after attaining his third and final GM-norm in the Abu Dhabi Masters. He reached the stipulated rating of 2500, meeting the requirements to be a Grandmaster.
News: Others

1. Kolkata Man tops IQ World Competition

Amit Sahai, a senior IT and sales professional from Kolkata has joined the coveted list and attained the numero uno position by getting an intelligence quotient (IQ) of 148. He is a member of the International High IQ Society.

2. Shahan Ali Mohsin to represent India In IAME International Karting Series At Le Mans

Agra-based karting racer Shahan Ali Mohsin, 14 is set to become first Indian to represent the country in the IAME International Karting Series at Le Mans, France. He was recently crowned the karting champion in the 2018 MSports X30 Challenge, Junior category.

3. Paresh Sukthankar quits HDFC Bank

Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank Paresh Sukthankar has resigned from the post. He has been with HDFC Bank since its inception in 1994. At present he is overseeing the banks’ credit and risk management departments as well as finance and human resources.

4. Fernando Alonso to retire from F1 at end of season

Two-time world champion Spanish Fernando Alonso, 37 has announced his retirement from Formula One at the end of the 2018 season. He will leave McLaren at the end of the year once his current contract expires. He clinched 2005 & 2006 F1 Championship title.
1. **Smart Railway Conclave organised by FICCI in New Delhi**

   Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways inaugurated Smart Railway Conclave organised by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), in New Delhi. Indian Railway is working on putting a GPS device on every locomotive so that every train can be tracked on mobile phones and smarter signalling.

2. **World Congress of Philosophy held in Beijing**

   The 24th WCP took place in Beijing, China. The event included more than 1,000 activities, such as plenary sessions, symposia, lectures and roundtables. It was organized by the International Federation of Philosophical Societies, and Peking University. The Theme for this year was -"Learning to Be Human”.

3. **4th India International Footwear Fair 2018 (IIFF) held**

   The fourth edition of the event ,India International Footwear Fair ( IIFF) Delhi held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It displayed the entire range of products relating to footwear and leather industries: footwear, raw material, finished products and auxiliary products

4. **11th World Hindi Conference (WHC) starts in Mauritius capital Port Louis**

   The 11th WHC started in Port Louis, Inaugurated by the PM of Mauritius Praveen Kumar Jugnauth. During the 3-day conference more than 2000 delegates from 20 countries including India will deliberate on topics related to language and Culture.

   Theme of WHC ,2018 -“Hindi World and Indian Culture”.

www.oliveboard.in
5. **President inaugurates “International Buddhist Conclave 2018”**

The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the “International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018” in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It is organized by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Govts of Maharashtra, Bihar and UP.

Themed at- "Buddha Path - The Living Heritage".

**News:Others**

1. **CEPR and NITI Aayog to organise India Banking Conclave in New Delhi**

   CEPR and NITI Aayog will organise two-day India Banking Conclave in New Delhi between August 23 and August 24, 2018 in which best minds of the banking and financial sectors will participate. The focus will be on reform in the banking sector.

2. **India-Nepal coordination meet to discuss border security**

   Issues related to security along the border and sharing of information on criminals was discussed threadbare at the 3rd India-Nepal Coordination meeting.

   A 7-member delegation from Nepal, headed by Inspector General of Nepal Armed Police Force Shailendra Khanal attended it.

3. **North Korea to host International blockchain conference in October**

   North Korea plans to hold an international conference on blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies in Pyongyang in October. The first-ever Conference will be held over two-day starting Oct 1. Blockchain systems-Popularised by cryptocurrency, Bitcoin.
Quick revision

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Defence

News: Most Important

1. **India, Thailand Begin Two-Week Military Exercise**
   
   Armies of India and Thailand began a two week-long military exercise 'Maitree' with a focus on increasing interoperability & enhancing coordination in dealing with terrorism. They will train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills.

2. **Ballistic Missile Interceptor AAD Successfully Flight Tested**
   
   DRDO conducted the successful test of the Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. It is indigenously developed supersonic interceptor missile, capable of destroying any incoming hostile ballistic missile.

3. **India successfully test fires HeliNa anti-tank guided missile**
   
   India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Helicopter-launched Nag (HeliNa) anti-tank missile at the Pokhran Range in Rajasthan. It is designed to be launched from the helicopters operated by the Indian Army Aviation Corps. It will be launched by HAL.
4. **India Successfully tests Smart Anti Airfield Weapon**
   Indigenously designed and developed guided bombs Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) was successfully tested at a firing range in Rajasthan. It was integrated with a live warhead, which was able to destroy the targets with high precision.
   It was test-launched from a SEPECAT Jaguar aircraft in May 2016.

**News:Others**

1. **Government Approves Procurement Of six Offshore Patrol Vessels for Navy**
   The Defence ministry approved a long-pending proposal to procure 6 indigenously manufactured next generation offshore patrol vessels (NGOPVs) for the Navy at a cost of Rs. 4,941 crores. The go ahead was given by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).

2. **Helicopter deals among ₹ 46,000 crore worth approved by Defence Acquisition Council**
   Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) gave the approval for procurement of 111 Naval Utility Helicopters at a cost of ₹21000 Cr & few other proposals amounting to ₹24879.16 Cr, which included 150 indigenously developed 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems at a cost of ₹3364.78 Cr.
Agreements

News: Most Important

1. **Airtel partners Razorpay for UPI payments**

   Payments solution provider Razorpay has said that it has partnered with Bharti Airtel to help the latter’s customers make seamless online payments through UPI (Unified Payment Interface) on the telecom firm’s website and mobile app.

2. **PayU ties up with reliance Money to extend personal loans**

   Reliance Money has tied-up with digital payments major PayU, India to offer instant app-based personal loans namely, LazyPay to customers through the Citrus app. Loans in the range of Rs 100 to 1 lakh for tenure between 15 days & 24 months will be given.

3. **NHAI Signs MoU with SBI for a Long-Term Loan**

   (National Highways Authority of India) NHAI has signed Rs 25,000 crore long-term, unsecured loan from SBI. This is the largest amount of loan sanctioned to NHAI in one stroke by any institution. This is also the largest long-term unsecured loan sanctioned by SBI at a time to any entity.

4. **Reliance Jio, SBI tie up for digital banking service**

   Reliance Jio has tied up with SBI to provide a platform offering digital banking, commerce, & financial services to customers via the YONO app. Services would be provided through YONO (You Only Need One), a digital banking app launched by the SBI.

   RIL and SBI have a 70:30 joint venture, the Jio Payments Bank.

5. **Exim Bank signs MoU with BRICS development banks**
Exim Bank of India has signed a multilateral cooperation agreement with member development banks of BRICS to undertake “collaborative research” in distributed ledger/blockchain technology.

**News:Others**

1. **MoU signed between TRIFED and National Medicinal Plant Board**
   Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd & NMPB signed a MoU to promote MAPs forest produce for livelihood development of tribal people by promoting primary level value addition to MAPs produce from forest area at grassroots level.

2. **MoU to be signed for Indore-Manmad new railway line project**
   MoU is to be signed for Indore-Manmad (a town in Nasik district, Maharashtra) new railway line project. It will reduce the distance from Mumbai/Pune to key central India locations by 171 kms. It is estimated to result in cumulative net economic benefits of Rs 15,000 cr in the first 10 years of operations.

**Books & Authors**

**News: Most Important**

1. **PM Narendra Modi’s book ‘Exam Warriors’ releases in Odia edition**
   Union Minister for Oil & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Odia edition of the book ‘Exam Warriors’ written by PM Narendra Modi in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The book already has English & Hindi editions.

2. **Shane Warne to release his autobiography ‘No Spin’ in October**
   Australia Cricketer, Shane Warne is set release his extraordinary cricketing career and his life off the pitch besides unveiling several facts in his autobiography ‘NoSpin’ The book will be published in October 2018.
3. Autobiography of V.V.S Laxman set to launch

Indian batsman V.V.S Laxman has penned his emotional & amazing journey as cricket player through his autobiography “281 and Beyond”, It will be released in the month of November. The title has been borrowed from the Hyderabad stylist's fabulous series-turning innings of 281 against Australia at the Eden Gardens in 2001.

News: Others

1. Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu releases the Book ‘Bebak Baat’

The Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released the Book ‘Bebak Baat’, authored by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation, Shri Vijay Goel.

2. Minister of state for Culture releases 3 books at IGNCA, New Delhi

Minister of state for Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma released the books: ‘Untold Story of Broadcasting’, ‘Jewellery’ & ‘Ghats of Banaras’, at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts(IGNCA), in New Delhi.

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<td>Jewellery, Ghats of Banaras &amp; Untold Story of Broadcasting</td>
<td>Mahesh Sharma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Android 9 Pie rolls out with new tools to fight tech addiction**

Google released the latest version of its mobile OS Android 9 Pie, which includes a series of substantial changes. It boasts a machine learning-powered system to save battery power, a new gesture-based navigation tool & phone addiction tracker.

2. **Rashmi- Indian version of ‘Sophia’**

Indian Ranjit Srivastava has developed Indian version of ‘Sophia,’ named Rashmi which can speak Hindi, Bhojpuri and Marathi along with English. It uses linguistic interpretation (LI), artificial intelligence (AI), visual data and facial recognition systems. It has been developed by Hanson Robotics.

3. **Chandrayaan-2 scheduled to be launched in January 2019**

ISRO plans to launch Chandrayaan-2, in Jan 2019. The Mission will have an orbiter weighing 2379 kg, lander named Vikram weighing 1471 kg and a rover weighing 27 kg. It will require a GSLV MkIII rocket for launch. ISRO aims to launch 19 missions upto Mar 2019. Chandrayaan-1 was India's first lunar probe Oct 2008-Aug 2009

4. **UIDAI to roll out face recognition feature from September 15**

Aadhaar-issuing body UIDAI has announced a phased rollout of face recognition feature as an additional mode of authentication, starting telecom service providers from Sep 15. Move is aimed at curbing the possibility of fingerprint spoofing or cloning.
5. **Paytm launches its own AI cloud for India**

Paytm has announced the launch of its AI Cloud computing platform “Paytm AI Cloud for India” for developers, startups and enterprises. It is aimed at offering business-centric apps for organizations that need high-quality solutions for cloud computing.

6. **CSIR tech to make combat aircraft Tejas 20% lighter**

The technology developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Aerospace Laboratory (CSIR-NAL) which uses indigenously developed carbon fibre, is set to make combat aircraft Tejas 20% lighter. The composite tech. is must for the 4th gen.fighter aircraft.

**News: Others**

1. **Microsoft developing the next version of its BP Monitoring smart glasses**

Microsoft is developing the next version of its smart glasses, called **Glabella**, that can work as a cuff-less, wearable and unobtrusive blood pressure measuring device. It consists of optical sensors, processing, storage, and communication components.

2. **Indian telescope discovers most distant radio galaxy ever**

Astronomers using Giant Meter-wave Radio Telescope (GMRT) telescope, Pune has discovered the most distant radio galaxy ever known, located at a distance of 12 billion light-years. Galaxy is of a time when the universe was only 7 % of its current age.
3. **IIT Kharagpur to set up Re-Water Research Center**

The IIT Kharagpur will set up a Re-Water Research Center, to replenish and rejuvenate water resources. The move is to tackle the challenge of resolving two burning issues faced by urban India sewage disposal and access to clean potable water. The pilot plant is expected to be ready by March 2019.

4. **INS Vikramaditya to have marine hydraulic systems**

INS Vikramaditya is going to be fitted with marine hydraulic system for the 1st time as part of its upgrade that will give an edge to the air-capable wing of the ship. The systems will be fitted by Russia’s Rostec State Corporation starting Oct. this year.

INS Vikramaditya is India’s only aircraft carrier.

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**Environment**

**News: Most Important**

1. **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve enters UNESCO list**

The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR) of Sikkim, the highest biosphere reserve in the country that includes the third highest mountain peak in the world, Kanchenjunga (8,586 m), has been included in the UNESCO’s World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WHBR).
2. **UN Environment launches the report: Restoring forests and landscapes, the key to sustainable future**

UN Environment launched the report: Restoring forests and landscapes, the key to sustainable future, showcasing the success of large-scale restoration of landscapes burdened by natural or man-made disasters. It chronicles the results of long-term and large-scale research and outlines several case studies in forest and landscape restoration.

**News:Others**

1. **99-million-year-old beetle discovered trapped in Burmese Amber**

In Myanmar, Scientists have discovered a beetle trapped in amber that dates back to 99 million years, a finding that can help better understand the relationship between ancient flowering plants and pollinators.

2. **5,000 Years old Megalithic Mass Grave discovered in Kenya**

5,000 Years old Megalithic Massive Graveyard discovered in Kenya, it was constructed and used over a period of several centuries. It is believed that early herders built a platform about 98 feet (30 metres) in diameter and excavated a large cavity in the centre to bury their dead.
**Apps & Portals**

**News: Most Important**

1. **SBI launches MOPAD, a unified payment terminal**

   SBI has launched a new device Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device (MOPAD), a Point of Sale (PoS) terminal. It will facilitate transactions from cards to QR code-based payments. It accepts payments through UPI, Bharat QR, and SBI Buddy along with cards.

2. **IWAI launches dedicated portal for cargo owners and shippers**

   The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a dedicated portal to connect cargo owners and shippers with real time data on availability of vessels. The landmark e-connect measure will enable direct interaction among the vessel operators, shippers and cargo owners.

3. **TRAI launches DND, MyCall apps on UMANG platform**

   In order to have some control over unwanted calls or SMS by consumers, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) launched the Do not Call (DND) 2.0 and MyCall apps with the Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) platform.

4. **Commerce & Industry Minister launches Mobile App Niryat Mitra**

   Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu launched Niryat Mitra. The app is developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) & is available both on Android and on IOS platforms. It provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade.
5. **Goa CM Launches Goa's New App-Based Taxi Service**

   Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service called "GoaMiles". For ensuring that commuters are not cheated.

6. **PhonePe to facilitate convenient payments on IRCTC app**

   India’s fastest growing payments platform, PhonePe has announced entering into a partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to facilitate convenient, fast and secure payments through it, on the IRCTC Rail connect Android app.

7. **NPCI Launches Unified Payments Interface (UPI) 2.0**

   NPCI launched UPI 2.0, an upgraded version of UPI, which allows customers to link their overdraft account to UPI, create one-time mandates and pre-authorise transactions for payment at a later date, and help in checking the invoice sent by merchant prior to making payment.

8. **Flipkart unveils dedicated portal for refurbished goods**

   Flipkart has unveiled a dedicated portal '2Gud' for refurbished goods, including mobile phones, laptops and tablets, a week after shutting its eBay India operations. It aims to bring affordability, accessibility and availability to the refurbished market.

9. **A mobile App launched to rate, review 'Neta'**

   Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched the National Electoral Transformation or ‘NETA’ mobile application, a platform where voters can review and rate their elected representatives. It is available on Android and iOS and web in 16 languages.
10. **Petroleum Ministry launches online portal for booking on GAIL’s pipelines**

The online portal [www.gailonline.com](http://www.gailonline.com) is the first of its kind to provide gas consumers with the facility to register pipeline capacity bookings online. It would be a first step to facilitate gas trading on hub or exchange-traded platform in India.

**News: Others**

1. **e-Pashu Haat portal launched**

   Government has launched e-Pashu Haat portal for connecting breeders and farmers of indigenous breeds. Through the portal farmers can obtain information on location of quality indigenous germplasm in the form live animals, semen doses and embryos.

2. **Dept of Commerce to create portal, a single window online market place for trade**

   Ministry of Commerce & Industry is developing a National Logistics Portal to ensure ease of trading in the international & domestic markets. It will link all the stakeholders of EXIM, domestic trade and movement and all trade activities. Its aim is to reduce logistics cost from 14% of GDP to 10% by 2022.

3. **Walmart India activates UPI on its B2B e-commerce platform**

   Walmart India activated unified payments interface for all its registered members. It will enable members, especially kiranas/resellers, who shop online, to make direct and secured payments online from their bank account without sharing bank details.
4. **Rajasthan Govt launches New, Secure Payments App, Bhamashah Wallet**

Rajasthan Govt. has launched a Secure Payments App, Bhamashah Wallet via it, all communications between the wallet and banks are done over encrypted channels. It provides e-Mitra services, wallet-to-wallet, and wallet-to-bank transactions.

**Quick revision**

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<th>App/Portal/Website</th>
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<td>Petroleum Ministry</td>
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**Acquisitions & Mergers**

**News: Most Important**

1. **Bharti Airtel shareholders approve merger proposal with Tata Teleservices**

Telecom major Bharti Airtel shareholders have approved the proposed merger between the company and Tata Teleservices as part of ongoing proceedings at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
2. **UltraTech gets CCI nod to acquire Century Textiles cement business**

UltraTech has received an approval from the fair-trade regulator Competition Commission for the acquisition of the cement business of Century Textiles and Industries. CCI approved the proposal- under sub-section (1) of section 31 of the Competition Act, 2012.

**News: Others**

1. **Cisco to buy cyber security firm Duo for $2.35 billion**

Cisco Systems Inc has made an announcement to buy Duo Security, a venture capital-backed cybersecurity company, for $2.35 billion in cash, as it seeks to expand its offerings in cloud computing. Cisco is the world’s largest networking gear maker.

2. **Tech Mahindra to acquire Czech based engineering service firm**

Tech Mahindra is set acquire Czech Republic-based engineering services firm Inter-Informatics for around Rs 8 crore through a wholly-owned subsidiary. Inter-Informatics posted a revenue of USD 10.7 million in 2017.
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- DENA BANK PO | BOB MANIPAL | BOM MANIPAL | SYNDICATE BANK PO | IDBI BANK PO

**MBA**
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**Government and Insurance**
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- OICL AO | NICL AO | NIACL AO | IRDAI | IB ACIO | NIACL Assistant

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