

*July 2018*

# BOLT

**Monthly Current Affairs**



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## Banking


### News - Most Important

#### **1. *RBI to issue new ₹100 banknote***

The Reserve Bank of India will issue ₹ 100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series soon.

 Motif - "RANI KI VAV

 Colour - Lavender

 Dimension - 66 mm × 142 mm

#### **2. *RBI cancels licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank***

The RBI cancelled the licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar, Rajasthan as it is not in a position to pay its depositors in full as and when their claims accrue, among other reasons.

#### **3. *Cabinet approves extension of Scheme of Recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks up to 2019-20***

The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the scheme of recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for the next three years i.e. up to 2019-20. This will enable the RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9 percent.

**4. *Reserve Bank makes it compulsory to incorporate purchaser's name on the face of payment instrumentalities to prevent money laundering***

The Reserve Bank has made it compulsory to incorporate the purchaser's name on the face of demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques and other instruments, in order to address the concerns arising out of the anonymity and to prevent money laundering.

**5. *Banks, financial institutions sign an agreement to speed up resolution of bad loans***


Banks and Financial Institutions, including SBI and LIC, have signed the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) framework to speed up the resolution of stressed assets which are under the 500-crore rupee bracket. The framework is part of the **Project Sashakt**, the report on bad bank drafted and submitted by the committee headed by **Sunil Mehta**, Non-executive Chairman of PNB.

**6. *RBI grants licence to Bank of China to set up branch in India***


The RBI has issued licence to Bank of China to set up its first branch in India. Bank of China is one of the very few state-owned commercial banks in China.

**7. *Finmin approves Rs 11,336 crore capital infusion in 5 PSU Banks***

The government has approved capital infusion of Rs 11,336 crore in five public sector banks, to help them meet regulatory capital requirements.

 Punjab National Bank - Rs 2,816 crore

 Corporation Bank - Rs 2,555 crore

 Indian Overseas Bank - Rs 2,157 crore

 Andhra Bank - Rs 2,019 crore

 Allahabad Bank - Rs 1,790 crore

**8. *India becomes EBRD's newest shareholder***

India became the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), paving the way for more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation.

**9. *SBI organised outreach programme for farmers***

The Country's largest lender State Bank of India organised a nation-wide Kisan Mela as an outreach programme for farmers and to impart financial literacy. As part of Kisan Mela, bank also offers farmers with Kisan Credit Card (KCC) an enhancement of 10 per cent to their credit limit on renewing the account.

**10. *YES Bank receives SEBI approval to launch Mutual Fund Business***

Private lender YES Bank has received final regulatory approval from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start mutual fund business.

**11. *MoU on Defence Salary Package signed between Indian Army and State Bank of India***

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and State Bank of India on the Defence Salary Package.

**12. *Federal Bank gets RBI nod to enter Bahrain, Kuwait, Singapore***

South-based private sector lender Federal Bank has received the regulatory nod to open offices in Bahrain, Kuwait and Singapore.

**13. *NABARD launches first ever centre for climate change in Lucknow***

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has launched the centre for climate change, the first its kind in South East Asia, in Lucknow for accelerating concerted climate action by various stakeholders in government, private, financial and non-government sectors.

#### **14. *All-Women J&K Bank branch inaugurated***

The first 'All-Women Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank' was e—inaugurated by First Lady Usha Vohra. The special schemes also launched, which included Pink Gold Saving Scheme, Pink Platinum Saving Scheme, Special Loan Facility for Women Entrepreneurs, Pink Gold Debit Card and Pink Platinum Credit Card.

#### **15. *SEBI proposes using UPI to reduce public issue timeline***

Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India proposed Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payments for retail investors investing in initial public offerings (IPO). The move will help cut down the time taken between closing of an IPO and listing of the security from current six days to just three days.

#### **16. *Panel to review third party motor cover costs***

Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019. The committee is headed by P J Joseph, IRDAI member – Non-Life.

### **News – Others**

#### **1. *SBI and NABARD tie-up for credit in Telangana***

State Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have joined hands to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups in Telangana. The two signed an MoU, along with seven NGOs from Nizamabad, Medak and Warangal districts, for the promotion and credit linkage of 2,000 JLGs during the current year.

**2. *ICICI Bank aims to grow home loan book to Rs 2 trillion by FY20***

ICICI Bank is the largest private player in the mortgage loan portfolio segment. It crossed the Rs 1.5-trillion milestone in this segment. The lender is targeting to grow it to Rs 2 trillion by FY20.

**3. *HDFC Bank most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China***

HDFC Bank has become the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China. There are four lenders from India that now rank among the world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by Housing Development Finance, Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India.

**4. *IFC invests \$100 million in Mahindra Finance***

World Bank Group Member International Finance Corporation (IFC) has invested \$100 million in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (Mahindra Finance) to augment its growth by extending loans to individuals along with financing small and medium enterprises.

**5. *Airtel Payments Bank gets RBI nod to resume enrolling customers***

Airtel Payments Bank Ltd has received requisite approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to start onboarding customers using Aadhaar based e-KYC norms.

**6. *Jana Small Finance Bank launches commercial operations***

The Bengaluru based Jana Small Finance Bank announced the commercial launch of its banking operations, the last microfinance company to convert itself into a small finance bank (SFB), three years after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its in-principle approval.

**7. *HDFC securities enable MF transactions through Facebook messenger***

HDFC securities announced the launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant, Arya.

**8. *YES BANK to address India's Urban Development Challenges***

YES BANK launched the 7th edition of Transformation Series to address India's Urban Development Challenges through 'Collaboration as a service' (CAAS) to bring together global brands, students from premier educational institutes and the Government to work on identifying solutions for pressing issues faced by Smart Cities, thereby helping accelerate their development.

**9. *Tougher entry into India for investors from 25 nations in 'high risk' list***

The global custodians have recognised 25 countries including Mauritius, Cyprus and United Arab Emirates (UAE) as 'high-risk jurisdictions'. Currently, the KYC requirements of FPIs are based on the category they fall under. Category I and II FPIs, who are considered low-risk investors, need to provide minimum documentation while Category III FPIs who are unregulated entities are subject to additional disclosures.

**10. *Allahabad Bank to close lone foreign branch in Hong Kong***

State-owned Allahabad Bank has announced that it proposes to close its only foreign branch in Hong Kong as part of rationalization of its overseas operations. The step is in the compliance with the government's directives under PSBs' reform agenda.

### **Quick Revision: Policy Rates**

<b>Policy/Exchange rate &amp; Reserve ratio</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Repo rate	6.25 %
Reverse Repo rate	6 %
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	6.5 %
Cash Reserve Ratio	4 %
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	19.5 %
Bank Rate	6.5 %

## **Economy**

### **News – Most Important**

#### **1. *India fastest growing economy in Asia - ADB***

Asian Development Bank projected India's growth rate by 7.3 per cent and further accelerating to 7.6 per cent in 2019, as measures taken to strengthen the banking system and tax reform boost investment.

#### **2. *India's GDP to grow around 7.5% - FICCI***

Despite short-term challenges, India's economic growth story remains intact and the country's GDP is expected to grow around 7.5 per cent in the current financial year, industry body FICCI.

**3. *IMF trims India's economic growth forecast to 7.3% in 2018, 7.5% in 2019***

The IMF has forecast India will grow by 7.3 per cent in 2018-19 against the earlier estimate of 7.4 per cent. The economy was projected to grow 7.8 per cent by 2019-20 by the Fund earlier, but now the projection stood at 7.5 per cent, according to the World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update.

**4. *India to grow over 7% - OECD***

India's economic growth is poised to rise to 7.4% in 2018 and 7.5% in 2019 as the economy has been able to navigate through growth obstacles due to demonetisation and impact of GST rollout.

**5. *India becomes world's sixth biggest economy, pushes France to 7<sup>th</sup> place in World Bank ranking***

India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017.

**News – Others**

**1. *HCL Technologies seeks govt nod to set up SEZ in Andhra Pradesh***

HCL Technologies has set up a new IT special economic zone (SEZ) in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, with a proposed investment of Rs 408.48 crore.

**2. *Reliance Industries becomes India's largest tax payer in private sector***

Reliance Industries is the India's largest payer of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax in the private sector.

### 3. *Haryana has topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST*

Haryana has topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST and is also the fourth highest generator of e-way bills in the country.

#### Quick Revision

Organization	Projected Rate
Asian Development Bank	7.3 %
FICCI	7.5 %
International Monetary Fund	7.3 %
OCED	7.4 %

## State

#### News – Most Important

### 1. *Happiness curriculum in Delhi govt schools*

The Delhi government launched a “happiness curriculum” in state-run schools.

The curriculum will be taught to around eight lakh students from nursery up to Class 8 of all Delhi government schools from the new academic session.

### 2. *Animals are 'legal persons', all citizens their parents, orders Uttarakhand HC*

Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of a "legal person or entity" to animals in the state, they have a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person.

**3. *Haryana launches plantation drive in Gurugram***

Haryana launched the 'Paudhagiri' campaign, aimed at increasing the green cover in the state. Under this campaign, 22 lakh students from class 6 to 12 of all government and private schools in Haryana will plant a sapling each during three months of monsoon -- July, August and September.

**4. *Bihar to get world's cheapest clean drinking water***

Bihar launched the cost-effective innovative water project to provide the cheapest drinking water in the world. With the help of this project, the people will easily be able to get pure and clean water only in 50paise/litre. The project 'Sulabh Jal' was launched in Darbhanga. It will convert contaminated pond water into safe drinking water.

**5. *"I Am Not Afraid of English" Campaign Launched in Haryana Schools***

The Haryana Education Department has launched "I am not afraid of English" initiative to promote English language right from Class 1 in the state's primary schools. The initiative is aimed at capacity building of teachers to enable them to help the students to learn, read, write and speak English.

**6. *Mumbai's Elphinstone Road Station To Be Renamed As Prabhadevi***

The name of Mumbai's suburban Elphinstone station was renamed as Prabhadevi. The Station code for Prabhadevi would be PBHD.

**7. *Asian Development Bank approves 503-million US Dollar project of lining of Son canal in Bihar***

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved 503-million US Dollar lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar which would benefit the agriculture sector immensely in the region.

**8. *Andhra Pradesh government launches 'Anna Canteens'***

The Andhra Pradesh government launched 'Anna Canteens' in various parts of the state. The setting up Anna canteens, where breakfast, lunch and dinner would be offered at ₹5 each.

**9. *Gujarat CM launches special drive against malnutrition***

Gujarat launched 'Poshan Abhiyan', a state-wide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. Gujarat also launched '**Purna** project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of 14 to 18. Purna' stands for Prevention of Under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls.

**10. *Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launches online pension system***

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh launched an online portal and mobile app called 'Aabhaar-Aapki seva ka' by the online pension management system for the pensioners of the state.

**11. *MP govt to appoint girls as district Brand Ambassador***

Madhya Pradesh government will appoint girls as a district Brand Ambassador who have recorded significant achievements in any field under the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme.

**12. *UNESCO to set up a 'Design University for Gaming' in Visakhapatnam***

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will be setting up a 'Design University for Gaming' in Visakhapatnam. UNESCO delegation entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) for the establishment of 'Gaming Digital Learning Hub'.

**13. *Seema darshan: Gujarat government to invest additional money to develop infrastructure***

The Gujarat government is planned to invest additional Rs 39 crore to develop infrastructure for state's "Seema Darshan" or border tourism project at Nadabet near Suigam in Banaskantha district.

**14. *Patnaik releases first-ever tribal atlas of Odisha***

The first-ever tribal atlas of Odisha has released. It has a set of maps and statistics highlighting the tribal demography of the state.

**15. *West Bengal to launch Ayushman Bharat under joint banner***

The West Bengal government signed an agreement to implement the Centre's health insurance scheme under the joint banner "**Ayushman Bharat - Swasthya Sathi**". Under the agreement, the state government is expected to expand the number of beneficiaries under its existing health scheme to provide more than 11 million families with health cover of Rs 5 lakh each.

**16. *Odisha launches 'Green Mahanadi Mission'***

Odisha government launched the 'Green Mahanadi Mission', a plantation drive under which 2 crore saplings will be planted along the Mahanadi river and its tributaries.

**17. *NRL becomes 1st oil PSU to introduce online legal compliance***

Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam has become the first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing 'Legatrix'.

**News – Others**

**1. *Union Cabinet gives approval to rename Agartala airport***

Union Cabinet approved to rename the Agartala Airport in Tripura as **Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport**, Agartala. The decision comes for paying tribute to Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore.

**2. *Doorstep ration introduced in New Delhi***

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal approved the doorstep ration delivery system and directed the Food Department to implement it immediately.

**3. *Gujarat Government grants religious minority status to Jews***

The Gujarat Government granted Religious Minority Status to Jews living in the state. Gujarat became the third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

**4. *Odisha constitutes Heritage Cabinet***

The Odisha government constituted 'Heritage Cabinet,' headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, aiming at protection of ancient monuments, temples and archaeological sites in Odisha and take steps to preserve the states culture, language and literature.

**5. *Odisha: Record number of crocodile nesting sites found in Bhitarkanika***

The Bhitarkanika national park, Odisha has become the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country with a record number of their nesting sites spotted in it.

**6. *Himachal govt announces MIS for apple procurement***

The Himachal government has approved implementation of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of apple. Under the scheme, 279 procurement centres will be opened as per demand of the fruit growers.

**7. *Government of Karnataka and NASSCOM launch Centre of Excellence for Data Science in Bengaluru***

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has launched a Centre of Excellence for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (CoE – DSAI) in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka, in Bengaluru.

## 8. *T-Hub to host country's 1st Defence incubator*

The country's first Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad, which is India's missile development centre and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries.

The incubator will be housed at T-Hub.

### Quick Revision

Campaign/Project/Mission	State
Green Mahanadi Mission	Odisha
Seema Darshan Project	Gujarat
Purna Project	Gujarat
I am not afraid of English'	Haryana
Sulabh Jal	Bihar
Paudhagiri	Haryana
Dope test	Punjab

## National

### News – Most Important

#### 1. *Jharkhand to set up country's first Khadi mall*

The First Khadi mall of the country has set up in Jharkhand. The land in the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) campus will be made available to the Khadi Board to develop the country's first Khadi mall.

#### 2. *Bengaluru to get India's first e-waste plant*

The country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The unit, to be set up by the ministry, is likely to be ready in four months, and is in keeping with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan drive.

### **3. *Train 18: Made-in-India 160 kmph train to run from September***

The indigenously manufactured semi high-speed train, code-named Train 18 built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Chennai to promote Make in India, is capable of running at a speed of 160 km per hour. It is expected to be rolled out in September.

### **4. *PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended till March 2019: CBDT***

The Central Board of Direct Taxes extended the deadline for the PAN-Aadhaar linking to March 21, 2019.

### **5. *Supreme Court upholds Chief Justice of India as 'Master of Roster'***

The Supreme Court has upheld 'Chief Justice of India' (CJI) as the 'Master of Roaster'. The Chief Justice of India is an individual judge and not the powerful collective of five senior- most judges of the Supreme Court called the 'Collegium'.

### **6. *Samsung opens world's largest mobile phone factory in Noida***

The World's Biggest mobile manufacturing plant of Samsung is located in Noida. It was Inaugurated by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Another plant of Samsung is located in Sriperumbudur, Chennai.

### **7. *First ever 'India Tourism Mart' to be hosted in New Delhi***

The first India Tourism Mart will be organized in New Delhi from 16th of September to create a global tourism mart for India on lines of major international travel marts.

**8. *HRD grants 'Institutions of Eminence' status to six public and private institutes***

The HRD Ministry granted "Institutions of Eminence" status to three public and three private institutes, enabling them to get full autonomy and special incentives to project them as "world class universities".

✚ Public Sector - IIT-Delhi, IIT-Bombay and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

✚ Private Sector - Manipal Academy of Higher Education, BITS Pilani and Jio Institute by Reliance Foundation.

**9. *Net neutrality gets the okay from Telecom Commission***

The Telecom Commission (TC), the highest-decision making body within the DoT approved the new neutrality rules. It was recommended by TRAI. Internet access in India will remain unfettered.

**10. *First-ever metal craft exhibition inaugurated in Leh***

The first-ever metal craft exhibition was held in Chilling, Leh to promote and preserve the metal craft tradition of Ladakh.

**11. *India's first private UAV factory to come up in Kota***

India's first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned air vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group in Kota.

**12. *Railways launched its first consolidated Bridge Management System***

The Railways has launched its first consolidated Bridge Management System, a web-enabled IT application to store data on its one lakh 50 thousand bridges.

**13. *ASI issues order to permit photography within the premises of centrally protected monuments/sites.***

The Archaeological Survey of India has issued an order allowing photography within the premises of all centrally protected monuments or sites, except at Ajanta Caves, Leh Palace and Taj Mahal.

**14. *The most advanced System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR) at ChandniChowk in Delhi***

Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan unveiled a state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) in New Delhi. The giant true colour LED display gives out real-time air quality index on 24x7 basis with colour coding along with 72-hour advance forecast. SAFAR is implemented in four cities of India – Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad as an operational service.

**15. *Union Home Minister to launch Student Police Cadet Programme***

The Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme launched in Haryana. The programme seeks to build a bridge between the Police and the larger community through school. The programme focuses on students of class 8 & 9.

**16. *Ministry of Women and Child Development organises POSHAN Abhiyaan***

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has organized 2nd meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog Dr. Rajiv Kumar. The month of September will be celebrated as National Nutrition Month every year.

**17. *Foundation stone of skill training institute laid in Odisha***

India's first National Skill Training Institute will set up in Odisha. Foundation stone laid by Dharmendra Pradhan.

**18. *IIT Madras Unveils Rs. 40 Crore Microscope To View Atoms Of A Material***

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras launched a Rs 40 crore remotely operable microscope 'Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP)', claimed to be the world's first of its kind, that would enable precise view of atoms of a material.

**19. *IIT Kanpur unveils online tool to help deal with mental health issues***

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, has developed an online tool, TreadWill, to help people cope with issues related to their mental health.

TreadWill is a website designed to help people deal with stress, low mood, lethargy and other depressive symptoms through different online exercises, questionnaires and games.

**20. *Government Launched MicroDot Technology To Check Vehicle Thefts***

The Indian Government has announced the launch of a new MicroDot technology to help check vehicle thefts.

**21. *Cabinet approves Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Higher Education (RISE) by 2022***

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for expanding the scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) by enhancing its capital base to Rs. 10,000 crore and tasking it to mobilise Rs. 1,00,000 Crore for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022.

**22. *Govt forms panel to upgrade norms for state, district level economic data collection***

The government has set up a 13-member committee to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation. The committee is headed **by Ravindra H Dholakia**, a retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad. The base year **to 2017-18 for** the calculation of GDP and IIP numbers from the current 2011-12 with an aim to capture changes in the economy.

**23. *Government sets up task force on ways to reduce import***

The government has set up a high-level task force to identify various items and policy interventions to reduce dependence on import. It would suggest ways to cut import of those items which can be manufactured or explored in the country. It is headed by Cabinet Secretary **P K Sinha**.

**24. *MCA has constituted a 10-Member Committee to review the offences under the Companies Act, 2013***

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a 10 Member Committee for review of the penal provisions in the Companies Act, 2013. The Committee shall submit its report within thirty days to the Central Government for consideration of its recommendations. The committee is headed **by Mr Injeti Srinivas**, The Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

**25. *Committee set up to synergise NCC and NSS***

The Government has decided to set up a committee to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS). The Committee will deal with on issues like expansion, strengthening training infrastructure, rationalizing resources, reducing manpower deficiency affecting NCC and NSS. The Committee will also submit recommend for building synergies between these two institutions viz. NCC and NSS and further strengthen them for empowering the youth. It will be headed by Shri **Anil Swarup**.

**26. *Centre forms panel to tackle pollution near Taj Mahal days after Supreme Court's criticism***

The Centre set up a committee to address the matter of industrial pollution affecting the Taj Mahal. It will be led by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Secretary **CK Mishra**.

**27. *Centre constitutes high-level committees to deal with mob violence, lynching***

In order to formulate appropriate measures to prevent incidents of mob violence and lynching, Government has set up a high-level committee chaired by the Union **Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba** to deliberate in the matter and make recommendations.

**28. *UGC to suggest reforms in higher education institutions***

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has formed a committee to suggest examination reforms in institutions of higher learning. The committee is chaired by **M Salunkhe**, former vice chancellor, Central University, Rajasthan.

**29. *Panel to regulate fee charged by medical colleges formed: UGC***

The UGC has constituted a committee to regulate the fees chargeable by self-financed deemed-to-be universities in medical and dental courses in view of the exorbitant fees being charged by them. The committee is chaired by **R C Deka**.

**30. *Minimum Support price on Paddy and Sugarcane***

The Union Cabinet has approved a hike in minimum support prices (MSPs) for kharif crops so that they are 50% higher than the cost of production, not including land costs.

This includes a **₹200 per quintal** increase in the MSP for paddy, which is likely to inflate the food subsidy bill by over cost the government more than ₹15,000 crore.

The government decided to increase the minimum price sugar mills pay to cane growers by **Rs 20 per quintal to Rs 275 per quintal** for the next marketing year starting October. The decision to increase the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for the 2018-19 marketing year.

**31. *Wholesale Inflation***

India's wholesale inflation grew 5.77 percent in June, a four-and-half year high, driven by some food items and fuel prices.

## **News – Others**

### **1. *NMCG organises 'Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan' in five Ganga Basin States***

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organised "Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan" in five main stem Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. 9<sup>th</sup> of July, and the week up to 15<sup>th</sup> July was observed as 'Shubharambh Saptah'.

### **2. *KVIC launches e-marketing system***

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched its, in-house developed, single- umbrella e-marketing system named Khadi Institution Management and Information System (KIMIS) in New Delhi.

### **3. *Tax dept offers instant e-PAN based on Aadhaar***

The Income Tax department launched the facility of e-PAN on a real-time basis to reduce the interaction with the department and help tax payers generate the Permanent Account Number without any hassle. It is not available for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), firms, trusts and companies. E-PAN would be generated using the details available in Aadhar.

### **4. *Centre for Skilling & Technical Support (CSTS) and lay Foundation Stone of new CIPET Building at Doiwala, Dehradun***

Centre for Skilling & Technical Support (CSTS) at ITI Building and laid the foundation stone of new Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) Building at Doiwala, Dehradun. CSTS, Dehradun is the 32<sup>nd</sup> CIPET centre in the country.

**5. *NITI Aayog Reveal 'Breathe India' Plan to Reduce Air Pollution, Delhi, Agra on Focus***

NITI Aayog has developed a 15-points action plan, titled 'Breathe India', for top 10 most polluted cities in India to combat rising air pollution. The cities that have been identified are Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Varanasi, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Gurgaon and Muzaffarpur.

**6. *Steel CPSE Employees Pension Scheme Announced***

Ministry of Steel has agreed to the proposal received from various CPSEs like SAIL, RINL, MSTC, FSNL, MECON and KIOCL to introduce the pension scheme. The pension scheme will benefit over 94,000 serving and 56,000 retired employees of CPSEs.

**7. *Manoj Sinha inaugurates Ghazipur Regional Rail Training Institute***

The Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI) has set up at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh to strengthen the expertise and capabilities of the employees of North-Eastern Railways.

**8. *NIWE Has Installed LiDAR For Assessment of Offshore Wind***

National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), an autonomous institution under the Ministry has installed a remote sensing instrument- LiDAR for assessment of offshore wind resource at Gulf of Khambhat, off the Gujarat Coast.

**9. *Next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Varanasi***

The next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in the holy city of Varanasi in January 2019.



Theme - Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India

**10. *Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Launches the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018***

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launches the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in New Delhi. An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts from 1st to 31st August 2018, and the results will be announced in the form of a ranking of all districts and states on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters.

**11. *Childline1098 Contest***

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a contest, Childline1098, inviting people to share images of the Childline 1098 logo that they spot at unique locations and send it with a tagline, to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30.

**12. *Flipkart launches video ad platform with Hotstar***

Flipkart has launched a video advertisement platform, Shopper Audience Network, in partnership with Hotstar as a part of its broader strategy to generate more revenue from the booming video advertising business.

**13. *Behdienkhlam festival at Jowai, Meghalaya***

Behdienkhlam is celebrated in the month of July for good health, property and bumper harvest. Although Behdienkhlam is celebrated all over the Jaintia hills, the main spectacle happens in the town of Jowai, about 64 km away from Shillong.

**14. *The traditional Kharchi Puja celebrated in Tripura***

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated the week-long festival – Kharchi Puja at Chaturdash Devata Mandir in Khayerpur, in the outskirts of capital Agartala.

**15. *3rd Kabira festival to begin on November 16***

The third edition of Kabira festival, that celebrates the spirit of 15th-century mystic poet Kabir, will begin on November 16 in Varanasi.

## **International**

### **News – Most Important**

**1. *UN Security Council adopts resolution to protect children in armed conflict***

The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution 2427 aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle.

## **2. *China launches two remote sensing satellites for Pakistan***

China launched two remote sensing satellites for Pakistan, marking the first international commercial launch for the Long March-2C rocket in about 19 years. The satellites - PRSS-1 and PakTES-1A - were launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.

## **3. *UN Secretary-General Appoints High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation***

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has established a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, to inform on the benefits of digital technology and investigate how to protect against unwanted impacts and negative externalities. The panel, announced is to be co- chaired by Melinda Gates, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Jack Ma, Alibaba Group, and is comprised of 20 members representing industry, civil society and academia.

## **4. *First land-based communication link between Pakistan and China open***

An optical fibre cable project that would be the first land-based communication link between China and Pakistan has been launched. It has been completed in two years and will help develop the telecom sector in Gilgit-Baltistan region.

## **5. *NASA releases online toolkit to increase commercial use of satellite data***

NASA has launched an online toolkit to make it easier for users to find, analyse and utilise the most relevant satellite data for their research, business projects or conservation efforts. The "Remote Sensing Toolkit" provides a simple system that quickly identifies relevant sources based on user input.

**6. *China to launch 300 satellites to provide worldwide low-orbit communications***

China has planned to launch 300 low-orbit satellites to provide worldwide communication services, with the first in the series to be launched later this year. The constellation will be built in three stages.

**7. *UNEP partners with Google for monitoring impact of human activity on global ecosystem***

The UN Environment Programme has entered into a partnership with Google to monitor the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools. The aim of the partnership is to develop a platform to enable governments, NGO's and the public to track specific environment-related development targets with a user-friendly Google front- end.

**8. *Facebook to launch internet satellite Athena***

Facebook is working on a low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite named Athena that will provide internet coverage. The company aims to launch in 2019.

**9. *Google Is Being Fined a Record \$5 Billion by the EU and Ordered to Alter Android Model***

Google was fined 4.3 billion euros (\$5 billion) by the European Union and ordered to change the way it puts search and web browser apps on Android mobile devices, setting a global record for antitrust penalties.

## **10. *Tokyo Unveils World's First All-Digital Psychedelic Art Museum***

The world's first digital art museum opened its doors to the public in Tokyo, Japan allowing patrons to step all the way into the artworks.

### **News - Others**

#### **1. *Europe, Japan sign massive free trade deal in 'clear message' against protectionism***

The EU and Japan signed a sweeping free trade deal 'clear message' against protectionism in Tokyo. This is the biggest ever negotiated by the EU and creates a free trade zone covering nearly a third of the world's GDP.

#### **2. *Pakistan gets its first woman chief justice of high court***

Pakistan has got its first-ever woman Chief Justice of a high court. Justice Tahira Safdar was named as the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar.

#### **3. *Tata Steel clinches JV with Thyssenkrupp, to launch new European steel giant***

Tata Steel and German Steel giant Thyssenkrupp AG have signed a definitive agreement to create a 50:50 joint venture. Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel BV would be the second-largest steelmaker in European steel sector after Lakshmi Mittal's ArcelorMittal.

#### **4. *Google-owned YouTube to invest \$25mn in countering fake news***

Google-owned video-sharing platform YouTube will invest \$25 million to fight fake news -- especially for the urgent coverage of breaking news.

## India & World

### **News – Most Important**

#### **1. *Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai Inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site***

The iconic cluster of Victorian Gothic and Art Deco buildings in Mumbai was inscribed in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is the third such honour for the metropolis after the Elephanta Caves and the majestic Victoria Terminus, rechristened Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus railway station.

#### **2. *India becomes the Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO)***

India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years.

#### **3. *Invest India and Business France Sign MoU to Promote Investment***

Invest India and Business France have signed an MoU to promote investment facilitation and cooperation between start-ups of India and France. The goal will be to facilitate direct foreign investment by providing practical investment information to enterprises and support the companies pursuing those opportunities which contribute positively to economic growth of the two countries.

#### **4. *India, US to enhance cooperation***

India and the United States resolved to enhance cooperation in areas like counter-terror, immigration and aviation security. The Homeland Security Dialogue focused on issues relating to security cooperation, customs and immigration, aviation security, capacity building.

#### **5. *China, India clinch deal to reduce tariffs on Indian medicines, anti-cancer drugs***

China has clinched a deal with India on the reduction of import duties on Indian medicines including anti-cancer drugs, which are highly expensive in the country. Beijing, which earlier announced a cut on import duties on over 8,500 Indian items.

#### **6. *Myanmar joins International Solar Alliance, becomes 68th member***

Myanmar has joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming the 68th member of the grouping that is aiming at optimum utilisation of solar energy.

#### **7. *India and Sri Lanka***

India would operate Sri Lanka's loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota. It is dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to a lack of flights. PM Modi also launched a countrywide emergency ambulance service for Sri Lanka.

**8. *India, Ghana ink 2 MoUs***

India and Ghana signed two agreements in an effort to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The two MOUs on Cultural Exchange Programme and on cooperation between Bureau of Indian Standards and Ghana Standards Authority were signed.

**9. *India, UK signed MoU for enhancing bilateral cooperation in legal affairs.***

India and UK signed a MoU for enhancing bilateral cooperation in legal affairs which provides a framework for promoting greater co-operation between the judicial and legal professionals in both countries through exchange of expertise and training.

**10. *India signs revised travel agreement with Bangladesh***

India signed a revised travel agreement with Bangladesh to ease visa restrictions for citizens from the neighbouring country. Also, A new integrated state-of-the-art integrated Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) was inaugurated at Dhaka's Jamuna Future Park, by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and his Bangladeshi counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan.

## **11. *India and South Korea***





India and South Korea have set a target of increasing bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030 from \$20 billion and speedily conclude negotiations to upgrade the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

India and South Korea signed five MoUs in the field of Science & Technology.





They signed three MoUs for (i) Programme of Cooperation 2018-21, (ii) Establishment of Future Strategy Group, (iii) Cooperation in Biotechnology & Bio economy.

Two other MoUs were signed between Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and South Korean National Research Council for Science & Technology and IIT Mumbai and Korea Institute of Science & Technology, to further accelerate future-oriented cooperation in their respective sectors. The MoUs were signed at the conclusion of the 4th India-Korea Science & Technology Ministers Steering Committee Meeting.

## **12. *MoUs signed between India and Uganda during visit of Prime Minister to Uganda***

-  MoU on Defence Cooperation
-  MoU on Visa exemption for Diplomatic and official passport holders.
-  MoU on Cultural Exchange Programme.
-  MoU on Material Testing Laboratory.

### **13. *India and Bahrain***

-  MoU on the exemption from short-stay visa for holders of diplomatic and official/special passports.
-  MoU for cooperation in the field of healthcare, which would contribute in expanding the cooperation between the two countries.
-  An MoU for cooperation in the field of renewable energy to encourage and promote bilateral technical cooperation on new and renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity.
-  They agreed to work towards integration of e-Migrate system with the work permit issuance system of Bahrain.

### **News – Others**

#### **1. *Google 'Launchpad Accelerator' India chapter to nurture desi start-ups***

Tata Consultancy Services had signed a partnership with French energy company Total to create a digital innovation centre in Pune. It will focus on the use of digital technologies to improve the different aspects of the refining business.

#### **2. *India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre Inaugurated***

The India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre was Inaugurated by the Minister of State (I/C) MSME Giriraj Singh and Minister of SMEs and Start-ups of Republic of Korea, Hong Jong- hakin in New Delhi.

### **Quick Revision – Facts**

Country	Capital	Head of State	Currency
USA	Washington D C	Donald Trump	US Dollar
Myanmar	Naypyidaw	Win Myint	Burmese Kyat
France	Paris	Emmanuel Macron	Euro
Uganda	Kampala	Yoweri Museveni	Shilling
South Korea	Seoul	Moon Jae-in	South Korean won
Rwanda	Kigali	Paul Kagame	Franc
Ghana	Accra	Nana Akufo-Addo	Ghana cedi
Sri Lanka	Colombo	Maithripala Sirisena	Sri Lankan Rupee
Bahrain	Manama	Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa	Bahraini Dinar
China	Beijing	Xi Jinping	Renminbi
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Abdul Hamid	Taka

### **Appointments/Resignations**

#### **News – Most Important**

**1. *Adarsh Kumar Goel appointed as Chairman of National Green Tribunal***

Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel has appointed as the Chairperson of National Green Tribunal. The post had been vacant for the past eight months after Justice Swatanter Kumar retired.

**2. *TCA Raghavan named as Director General of Indian Council of World***

***Affairs***

TCA Raghavan has appointed as Director-General of Indian Council of World Affairs. The appointment was made by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, who is the President of ICWA on the basis of a decision taken at the meetings of the Governing Body and the Governing Council of the ICWA.

**3. *T Latha takes charge as MD and CEO, Dhanlaxmi Bank***

T Latha has been appointed as the CEO and MD of Dhanlaxmi Bank. TLatha has taken the helm of the Thrissur (Kerala)-headquartered bank from G. Sreeram.

**4. *Government renews appointment of Prof Sahasrabudhe as AICTE chairman***

The central government has renewed the appointment of Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe as the chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the renewal of appointment of Sahasrabudhe till he attains the age of 65 years.

**5. *Vishwas Patel has been appointed as the Chairman of Payments Council of India***

Payments Council of India (PCI), an apex body representing companies in payments and settlement system, has a new Chairman in Vishwas Patel. Patel, who is Director at Infibeam Avenues, has been associated with PCI since its inception in 2013 and was serving as the co- Chairman of PCI.

**6. *ICICI Bank appoints Sandeep Batra as president***

ICICI Bank announced Sandeep Batra as its new President - Corporate Centre. Batra was earlier ED at Prudential Life Insurance.

**7. *Vijay Srinivas appointed Director & GM of United India Insurance***

Chennai-based United India Insurance Company announced the appointment of K B Vijay Srinivas as its Director and General Manager.

**8. *Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador wins Mexico's presidential election***

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador won presidential election by a landslide, ushering in a new era in Mexican politics that could have profound implications for the country's domestic and international policies — including its relationship with the United States.

**9. *Dipika Pallikal to represent Asia in CGF Athletes Advisory Commission***

Dipika Pallikal was appointed to represent Asia in the Athletes Advisory Commission of the Commonwealth Federation (CGF).

**10. *Brexit Secretary David Davis resigns***

David Davis, who has been leading UK negotiations to leave the EU, has quit his role as Brexit Secretary.

**11. *Indian Women Cricket Coach***

Indian Women's Cricket team coach Tushar Arothe resigned due to alleged differences with some of the star players, who had protested against his training methods. **Ramesh Powar** has appointed as new coach.

**12. *Prof. Sandeep Sancheti takes charge as the President of AIU***

Dr. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has assumed charge as the 97th President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi.

**13. *P K Shrivastava appointed Director General and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board***

P K Shrivastava took over the reins of the Ordnance Factory Board as its new director general and chairman. Shrivastava was earlier the additional director general of ordnance factories and member at OFB.

**14. *Indian Cricketer Mohammad Kaif retired from all forms of cricket***

Mohammad Kaif announced his retirement from all forms of competitive cricket, almost 12 years after he last played for the Indian team in which he stood out as much for his acrobatic fielding as for his effective lower-order batting.

**15. *T V Narendran has appointed as the chairman and non-executive additional director of the Bhushan Steel Ltd.***

Bhushan Steel Ltd, acquired by Tata Steel under corporate resolution process that its board of directors has approved the appointment of T V Narendran as chairman and non-executive additional director of the company. **Koushik Chatterjee** too has been appointed as non- executive additional director.

**16. *Hima Das has appointed as the first sports brand ambassador of Assam***

Assam Government has announced the young athlete sensation Hima Das as the State's brand ambassador for sports.

**17. *Rishi Srivastava appointed as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata AIA Life***

Tata AIA Life Limited, a private life insurer, has announced the elevation of Rishi Srivastava as the new Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of the company with effect from August 1.

**18. *Nina Tshering La has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Congo.***

Ms. Nina Tshering La, presently Deputy Chief of Mission, Hanoi has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**19. *Amitabh Malhotra appointed as HSBC India Head – Investment Banking***

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Ltd has appointed Amitabh Malhotra as the Head of Investment Banking for HSBC India.

**News – Others**

**1. *Saraswati Prasad has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)***

The government appointed senior IAS officer Saraswati Prasad as the new chairman and managing director of SAIL. He is the special secretary and financial advisor in the steel ministry, has been given additional charge of SAIL CMD on retirement of incumbent P K S Singh.

**2. *The Muthoot Pappachan Group has appointed Vidya Balan as its brand ambassador***

The Muthoot Pappachan Group, which is mainly into the financial services business, has appointed film actress Vidya Balan as brand ambassador and unveiled a new corporate identity.

**3. *Arman Ali as executive director of NCPEDP***

Arman Ali has been appointed as the executive director of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP).

**4. *Analjit Singh has appointed as non-executive Chairman of Max Financial Services***

Max Financial Services, which houses the life insurance business of the \$3-billion Max Group, has named its sponsor and founding shareholder Analjit Singh as nonexecutive chairman of the company.

**5. *Dipa Karmakar has appointed as the brand ambassador of Tripura***

Ace Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar, who bagged the gold medal in the women's vault event at the Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup in Turkey, has become brand ambassador of Tripura.

**6. *Tata Capital Housing Finance has appointed Anil Kaul as the Managing Director of the company***

Tata Capital, the financial services arm of the Tata Group, has appointed Anil Kaul as the Managing Director of Tata Capital Housing Finance, replacing R Vaithianathan.

**7. *Uday Kumar Varma has appointed as a member of BCCC***

Former Information and Broadcasting secretary Uday Kumar Varma has been appointed as a member of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council, a self-regulatory body for general entertainment channels.

**8. *Jeremy Hunt replaces Boris Johnson as UK Foreign Secretary***

British Prime Minister Theresa May has appointed Jeremy Hunt as the new Foreign Secretary, following Boris Johnson's resignation from the job amid deep divisions over Britain's departure from the European Union (EU) or Brexit.

**Quick Revision**

Appointment	Post
Adarsh Kumar Goel	Chairman of National Green Tribunal
T Latha	CMD of Dhanlaxmi Bank
Sandeep Sancheti	President of Association of Indian Universities
TCA Raghavan	Director-General of Indian Council of World Affairs
Amitabh Malhotra	HSBC India Head – Investment Banking
Hima Das	Sports Brand Ambassador of Assam
Vishwas Patel	Chairman of Payment Council of India
Sandeep Batra	President of ICICI Bank
Ramesh Powar	Indian Woman Cricket team Coach
Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador	Mexican President
P K Shrivastava	Director General and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board

## Ranks & Reports

### News – Most Important

#### **1. *India drops three ranks in AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index***

India **ranks 11 in the** 2018 AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index due to teething troubles in the implementation of the goods and services tax and the government's demonetisation decision in 2016.

#### **2. *Global Innovation Index ranks India the 57th most innovative nation***

Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as **the 57th most** innovative nation in the world. The GII is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.

Switzerland has been ranked at the top every year. This year, Netherlands follows at second place and Sweden at third.

#### **3. *Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017***

According to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) latest 'Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017 report, India has the world's **fifth largest** cultivated area under genetically modified (GM) crops, at 11.4 million hectares (mh) in 2017.

#### 4. *Ease of Doing Business Index*

Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank conducted an annual reform exercise for all States and UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP). The final rankings of States in Ease of Doing Business released in New Delhi.

The top rankers are **Andhra Pradesh**, Telangana and Haryana. Jharkhand and Gujarat stood fourth and fifth respectively.

#### 5. *Public Affairs Index - 2018*

**Kerala** is the best governed state in the country according to the Public Affairs Index 2018. Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat are the other states delivering good governance. **Bihar**, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha ranked the lowest on the index.

### News – Others

#### 1. *The 2018 'Soft Power 30' index*

The UK has topped an annual global ranking of nations' soft power, with France placed second on the list of 30 countries which does not feature India. Germany ranked as third followed by the US. This year's report also features a chapter dedicated solely to Asia, listing 10 countries in the region, ranking India's soft power as eighth.

## **2. *Forbes List of World's highest-paid entertainers 2018***

According to a list released on Forbes, Akshay Kumar came on the 86th position with income worth \$40.5 million, followed by Shah Rukh Khan at the 93rd position earning \$38 million and lastly Salman Khan making \$37.7 million featuring 94 on the list of top 100.

Top three - Floyd Mayweather (Athlete, Boxing, \$285M), George Clooney (British liquor giant, \$239M), Kylie Jenner (Founder, Kylie Cosmetics, \$166.5M)

## **3. *Udaipur, City of Lakes, Third Among World's 15 Best Cities: Travel Poll***

The city of Udaipur has been ranked among the World's Best Cities by Travel + Leisure. Udaipur is on the third place among the 15 of the world's best cities. The top 2 cities are both in Mexico: San Miguel de Allende and Oaxaca.

## **Important Days**


### **News – Most Important**

#### **1. *Goods and Services Day – July 1***

The Indian government will celebrate 1 July 2018, as GST Day to mark one year of the goods and services tax. The first year of GST has been an example to the world of the readiness of Indian taxpayers to be a partner in the unprecedented tax reform in India.

## **2. *National Doctors' Day – July 1***

India celebrates the National Doctors' Day on July 1 to honour the legendary physician, freedom fighter and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

 Theme – Zero tolerance to violence against doctors and clinical establishment

## **3. *World Zoonoses Day – July 6***

Every year on July 6 the world zoonoses day is celebrated. This is a day which is designed to create awareness among the people for zoonotic diseases.

## **4. *World Population Day – July 11***

The World Population Day is a United Nations' initiative celebrated on the 11th of July every year. This day aims at spreading awareness about the exploding world population and the importance of reproductive health.

 Theme – Family Planning is a Human Right

## **5. *Nelson Mandela International Day – July 18***

Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 marks 100 years since the birth of Nelson Mandela. The Centenary is an occasion to reflect on his life and legacy, and to follow his call to "make of the world a better place." Mandela embodied the highest values of the United Nations.

## **6. *World Hepatitis Day – July 28***

July 28 marks World Hepatitis Day 2018, organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness of the disease and focus on how it can be treated, and eliminated.



Theme - Test. Treat. Hepatitis

## **7. *World Day against Trafficking in Persons– July 30***

World Day against Trafficking in Persons is organized across the world by the United Nations on 30 July to combat Trafficking in persons, urging governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to defeat this scourge.



Theme – Responding to the trafficking of children and young people

## **News – Others**

### **1. *NABARD Foundation Day – July 12***

Completing 36 years of Yeomen service to the nation, NABARD celebrated 37<sup>th</sup> foundation Day on July 12.

### **2. *World Youth Skills Day – July 15***

World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) is observed on July 15 to raise awareness about the importance of youth developing skills.

### **3. *International Tiger Day – July 29***

World Tiger Day was observed on July 29 to reinforce the imperatives of conservation of tiger and create public awareness.

## **Quick Revision**




Days	Observed Day	Theme
July 1	Goods and Services Day	N A
July 1	National Doctors Day	Zero tolerance to violence against doctors and clinical establishment
July 6	World Zoonoses Day	N A
July 11	World Population Day	Family Planning is a Human Right
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day	N A
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	Test Treat Hepatitis

## **Sports**

### **News - Most Important**






#### **1. *France clinches their second World Cup Football title***

France have clinched their second World Cup Football title. The 19-year-old Mbappe became only the second teenager after Pele to score in a World Cup final. Mario Mandzukic pulled one back for the Croatians in the 69th. Croatia were playing in their first World Cup final. For France, it was a first World Cup crown since winning on home soil in 1998.

-  England's Harry Kane - Golden Boot Award (top scorer with six goals)
-  Croatia captain Luka Modric - Golden Ball award for the World Cup's best player
-  Kylian Mbappe of France - Young Player of the Tournament Award (19-year-old)
-  Belgium's Thibaut Courtois - Golden Glove award for the best goalkeeper.

## 2. **Wimbledon title 2018**

Wimbledon Championship held in London. The following are winners list of Wimbledon Championship.

-  Novak Djokovic has lifted his fourth Wimbledon Men's Singles title 2018
-  Women's Single - Angelique Kerber
-  Men's Doubles - Mike Bryan and Jack Sock
-  Women's Doubles - Barbora Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova
-  Mixed Doubles - Alexander Peya and Nicole Melichar

## 3. **All India Football Federation Award -2017**

All India Football Federation announced the awards recently. The following are the winners of 2017.

-  AIFF Woman Footballer of the Year: Kamala Devi.
-  AIFF Player of the Year: Sunil Chhetri.
-  AIFF Award for Best Grassroots Development Programme: Kerala FA.
-  AIFF Award for Best Assistant Referee: Sumanta Datta (Assam).
-  AIFF Award for Best Referee: C R Srikrishna.
-  AIFF Emerging Woman Footballer of the Year: E Panthoi.
-  AIFF Emerging Player of the Year: Anirudh Thapa.

#### **4. *Malaysian Open Title – 2018***

Malaysian shuttler Lee Chong Wei defeated Japan's Kento Momota to win 12th Malaysia Open title 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

-  Men's singles - Lee Chong Wei
-  Mixed doubles - Zheng Siwei-Huang Yaqiong
-  Women's doubles - Misaki Matsutomo-Ayaka Takahashi
-  Women's singles - Tai Tzu-ying
-  Men's doubles - Takeshi Kamura-Keigo Sonoda

#### **5. *India Clinched Kabaddi Masters Title 2018***

India clinched the six-nation Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 title after beating Iran in the final. India thrashed Iran 44-26 to emerge champions of the six-nation Kabaddi Masters Dubai, in Dubai.

#### **6. *Tbilisi Grand Prix 2018***

Bajrang Punia has won the title of Tbilisi Grand Prix in the 65 kg Category. Deepak Punia clinched a bronze in the 86kg category.

#### **7. *Dipa Karmakar wins gold at the Gymnastics World Cup***

Ace gymnast Dipa Karmakar took the women's vault gold medal in FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey and claimed the fourth place in balance beam.

**8. *Hima Das becomes first Indian woman to win gold in World Jr Athletics Championships***

Hima Das became the first Indian woman to win a gold at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships in Tampere, Finland. She clinched the top spot in the women's 400m final race.

**9. *India's ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinches gold medal in Sotteville Athletics meet in France***

Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra clinched a gold at Sotteville Athletics Meet in France, beating a competitive field which included 2012 London Olympics gold-medallist Keshorn Walcott.

**10. *Badminton: Lakshya wins Asian junior crown***

Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen bagged the gold medal in the final match of the Badminton Asia Junior Championship in Jakarta, Thailand. The Badminton Association of India has announced ₹ 10 lakh cash reward for winning gold medal.

**11. *Lewis Hamilton – German Grand Prix***

Lewis Hamilton won German Grand Prix and retake the Formula One championship lead from Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who crashed.

**12. *Fakhar Zaman becomes quickest player to reach 1000 runs in One Day Internationals***

The first player from Pakistan to score a double century in a One-Day International, Fakhar Zaman reached a further milestone in becoming the quickest player in history to reach 1,000 runs.

**13. *Indian hockey team lead***

Striker Rani Rampal will lead Indian women's hockey team at the Asian Games to be held in Indonesia from August 18 to September 2. Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will lead the 18- member Indian men's hockey squad while Chinglensana Singh Kangujam will serve as his deputy in the 18th Asian Games.

**14. *Max Verstappen has won the title of the Austrian Grand Prix 2018***

Max Verstappen may have won Red Bull's home race but with Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas both failing to finish for Mercedes.

**15. *Sebastian Vettel has won British Grand Prix title 2018***

Sebastian Vettel has won a thrilling British Grand Prix to extend his championship lead over Lewis Hamilton.

**News - Others**

**1. *India's Dalabehera bags bronze in Junior World Weightlifting***

Indian lifter Jhilli Dalabehera bagged the bronze medal in the 2018 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships at Tashkent. She lifted 167 kg in the 48 kg category to finish third on the podium.

## **2. *Seven Medal event to upcoming Winter Olympics***

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that they will add seven new medal events to the upcoming 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Seven Events - women's monobob, Big Air freestyle skiing for men and women, plus mixed team events in short track speed skating, ski jumping, ski aerials and snow board cross.

## **3. *MS Dhoni become 4<sup>th</sup> Indian to reach 10000 runs in ODI***

Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the fourth Indian to reach the milestone of 10,000 runs in One Day Internationals. Also, MS Dhoni has become the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian to reach the milestone of playing 500 International Cricket matches.

## **4. *Target Olympic Podium Scheme***

The entire Indian hockey team have been included in Target Olympic Podium Scheme, rewarding the players for their silver medal-winning performance at the Champions Trophy. Each of the 18 members of the hockey team will now get a monthly allowance of Rs 50,000.

## **5. *Junior Wrestling Championship 2018***

India Won 8 medals (2 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze) in the Junior Asian Wrestling Championship, New Delhi. Sachin Rathi (74 kg) and Deepak Puniya (86 kg) won two gold. Iran secured first place in the team championship. Viresh Kunda won bronze medal.

## 6. *Pension for Sportsperson*

The rate of pension for sportspersons who have won medals in international competitions and have retired from active sports, has been doubled from April 1.

Olympic and Para Olympic medallists will get a sum of Rs **20,000 per month** each, while gold medallists at World Cups and World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will receive **Rs 16,000 per month**.

Silver and bronze medallists at World Cups in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will receive a sum of **Rs 14,000 per month** and an equal amount is payable to gold medallists of the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Para Asian Games.

Silver and bronze medallists of the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Para Asian Games will receive **Rs 12,000 per month**.

## 7. *Khelo India Talent Development Scheme*

A total of 734 youngsters were shortlisted for scholarship under the Khelo India Talent Development Scheme. The scheme is a unique programme to nurture sporting talent.

## 8. *Tokyo 2020 Committee Officially Unveils Olympic Mascots*

The name of the blue-checked Olympic mascot Miraitowa is derived from a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity and seeks to "promote a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people all over the world.

## 9. *Marc Marquez won German Grand Prix*

Honda's Marc Marquez cruised to his ninth consecutive German Grand Prix victory to extend his MotoGP lead.

## Awards

### News – Most Important

#### 1. *Man Booker Prize 2018*

**Michael Ondaatje's** novel 'The English Patient' was announced as the winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize in 50 years.

The Man Booker Prize long listed novels are following:

✚ Canadian author Michael Ondaatje has again made the Man Booker Prize list with his latest novel "Warlight".

✚ Nick Drnaso's Sabrina, the first graphic novel ever to reach the Booker longlist, explores the chilling effect of 24-hour news after a girl has disappeared.

#### 2. *Man Who Inspired "3 Idiots" Phunsuk Wangdu Wins Ramon Magsaysay Award*

Two Indians, **Bharat Vatwani** and **Sonam Wangchuk**, are among the winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award, regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. Youk Chhang from Cambodia, Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz from East Timor, Howard Dee from the Philippines and Vo Thi Hoang Yen from Vietnam are other winners of the award.

#### 3. *Aruna Sairam gets Sangita Kalanidhi Award*



Prominent Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam has been selected for Sangita Kalanidhi Award, instituted by the Music Academy, Chennai.

#### **4. *NABARD Award 2018***

Repco Micro Finance Ltd, a non-banking finance company promoted by Repco Bank, received Nabard 2018 award for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.

#### **5. *Times Network and ICICI Bank Awards 2018***

The fifth edition of Times Network and ICICI Bank Awards 2018:

-  NRI of the Year Award - Prem Watsa, founder of Fairfax Financial Holdings
-  Global Indian Icon award - Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri

#### **6. *Dravid, Ponting and Taylor inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame***

Former captains Rahul Dravid of India, Ricky Ponting of Australia and retired England Women wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor were inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame during a glittering ceremony in Dublin.

Rahul Dravid became the fifth player from India won this award. Ponting is the 25th from Australia and Taylor is the seventh woman overall and the third female player from England to be named in the list.

#### **7. *Kalidasa Samman Award***

Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon, 78 received the National Kalidas Samman in Delhi for visual arts from the Madhya Pradesh government.

**8. *Cochin airport wins UN's top environment award***

The world's first solar-powered airport, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has honoured by the UN with the Champion of Earth Prize for the year 2018, after having successfully implemented the use of solar energy rendering it the world's only airport on solar power.

**9. *India's ICZM Project wins World Bank's internal award***

India's Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project has won the World Bank's internal award for exceptional performance in achieving many development goals.

**News – Others**

**1. *Himachal gets national award for best performance***

Himachal Pradesh got national award for its best performance under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritav Abhiyan (PMSMA) in the country.

**2. *National Maritime Search and Rescue Award 2018***

Milan Shankar Tare, a fisherman of Palghar district, Maharashtra, has received the National Maritime Search and Rescue Award 2018, instituted by the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board.

**3. *Knowledge Excellence Award 2018***

Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, CMD, NALCO gets Knowledge Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution in Aluminium Knowledge domain.

#### **4. *Indian experts get Oxford awards for arsenic poisoning research in Ganga-Brahmaputra delta***

A team comprising experts from the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur and the University of Oxford has been selected for an award for exceptional research-led innovation to mitigate arsenic poisoning in the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta in north and northeast India.

#### **Quick Revision**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Golden Man Booker Prize	The English Patient
Sangita Kalanidhi Award	Aruna Sairam
NABARD Award	Repco Micro Finance Ltd
ICC Cricket Hall of Fame	Rahul Dravid, Ricky Ponting, Claire Taylor
World Bank's internal award	ICZM Project
National Kalidasa Samman	Anjolie Ela Menon

### **Obituaries**

#### **News - Most Important**

##### **1. *Former chief of naval staff Admiral JG Nadkarni passed away.***

Former chief of naval staff Admiral JG Nadkarni passed away. He was 86 & was the Navy chief from December 1987 to November 1990.

##### **2. *Kumaoni folk singer Kabutari Devi passed away***

Famous Kumaoni folk singer Kabutari Devi on Saturday passed away. She was 70, The songs of eminent musician depicted the struggles in the life of Pahari women, shot to fame after her maiden performance at All India Radio, Lucknow in the 1980s.

**3. *The Veteran journalist J N Sadhu passed away***

Veteran journalist J N Sadhu passed away. Sadhu was 94. He worked with The Indian Express for nearly 35 years. After his retirement, he was working as a freelance journalist.

**4. *Spiritual leader J P Vaswani passed away in Pune***

Noted spiritual leader and educationist Dada J.P. Vaswani, the moral force behind the Sadhu Vaswani Mission and a tireless promoter of vegetarianism and animal rights passed away, aged 99, days short of his centenary.

**5. *The group editor of Hindi daily 'Dainik Bhaskar', Kalpesh Yagnik passed away***

Kalpesh Yagnik, the National Group Editor of Dainik Bhaskar, passed away in Indore. He was 55-year-old. He joined Dainik Bhaskar in 1998 before which he also worked at Free Press Journal. His cremation will take place at Mukti Dham crematorium.

**6. *Kannada poet MN Vyasa Rao passed away***

Kannada poet and film song lyricist M.N. Vyasa Rao passed away. He was 73. He worked as a bank employee for 34 years before taking voluntary retirement from UCO Bank. He entered the Kannada film industry as a lyricist in 1975 in the hit film Shubhamangala, directed by Puttanna Kanagal.

**7. *Actor Rita Bhaduri Passed away***

Veteran actor Rita Bhaduri died. she was 62. She was the popular character actor who worked in both films and TV was still active and was playing the grandmother's role in Star Bharat's Nimki Mukhiya.

**8. *Noted activist Rajmata Satvashila Bhosle passed away***

Noted activist from Konkan region in Maharashtra, Rajmata Satvashila Devi Bhosle of Sawantwadi Sansthan passed away. She was 83. She was the wife of the last King of the Sawantwadi Kingdom late Shivramraje Bhosle who was coronated before the merger of the princely state into Union of India.

**9. *Hindi poet Gopal Das Neeraj passed away***

Famous Hindi poet Gopal Das Neeraj passed away. He was 93. Neeraj, he was a Padma Bhushan awardee.

**News - Others**

**1. *The former finance minister of Chhattisgarh Ramchandra Singh deo passed away***

The former and first finance minister of Chhattisgarh, Ramchandra Singh deo, passed away. He was 88-year-old.

**2. *Pulitzer prize winning Restaurant Critic Jonathan Gold passed away***

Jonathan Gold, the first restaurant critic to win the Pulitzer prize for criticism, died. He was 57. He earned worldwide acclaim as a food critic, but he possessed the soul of a poet whose words helped readers everywhere understand the history and culture of our city.

**3. *Veteran sports journalist Swapan Sarkar passed away***

Veteran sports journalist Swapan Sarkar passed away. He was 67 years old. He worked for a number of dailies and was also the Delhi sports correspondent of Ananda Bazaar Patrika (ABP) from mid-1990's.

**4. *Veteran Bengali actress Basabi Nandi passed away***

Veteran Bengali actress Basabi Nandi passed away. she was 82. She Nandi earned accolades for her roles on both stage and screen for over two decades.

**5. *Actor Kavi Kumar Azad is no more***

Actor Kavi Kumar Azad, best known for his role in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, passed away.

He appeared in films like Mela and Fun2shh, he struck gold after bagging the role of Dr Hansraj Hathi in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah.

**6. *Senior Congress leader MM Jacob passed away***

Senior Congress leader and former Meghalaya Governor MM Jacob passed away due to age-related ailments. He was 90.

He was a former Union minister and also served as deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha in the 80s.

**7. *Former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court Justice VA Mohta passed away.***

Former Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court V. A. Mohata passed away. He served as Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court from September 28, 1994, to April 25, 1995. During his tenure as Chief Justice, Mohata delivered a lot of landmark judgements. He also recommended the name of current Chief Justice of India, Dipak Mishra as a judge.

### **Quick Revision**

Obituary (Name)	Related Field/To
JG Nadkarni	Naval staff
Swapn Sarkar	Sports Journalist
Kavi Kumar Azad	Actor
Basabi Nandi	Bengali Actress
Jonathan Gold	Restaurant Critic
Ramchandra Singh deo	Politician
Gopal Das Neeraj	Poet
MN Vyasa Rao	Poet
Kalpesh Yagnik	Editor
J P Vaswani	Spiritual Leader
VA Mohta	Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court
J N Sadhu	Journalist
Rajmata Satvashila Bhosle	Activist
MM Jacob	Politician

### **Schemes**

#### **News - Most Important**

**1. *Minimum Annual Deposit of Sukanya Samriddhi Account Slashed To Rs. 250 From Rs. 1,000***

The minimum deposit for government-backed small savings scheme for the girl child, Sukanya Samriddhi, has been slashed to Rs. 250 from Rs. 1,000. The maximum yearly deposit, however, stands unchanged at Rs. 1,50,000.

**2. *MP govt launches outstanding power bill waiver scheme 'Sambal'***

In Madhya Pradesh, the government has launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme 'Sambal' for labourers and poor families. Under the scheme, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of 200 rupees per month.

**3. *Maharashtra govt allocates Rs 15 crore for pension scheme for journalists***

The Maharashtra government made a provision of Rs 15 crore for implementing the pension scheme for journalists, called Acharya Balshastri Jambhekar Sanman Yojana.

**4. *One farmer one transformer' scheme in Maharashtra***

In order to reduce electricity losses, the Maharashtra government will next month launch a new scheme allocating one transformer per farmer.

**5. *Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme to empower rural women through community participation***

Govt approved a scheme-Mahila Shakti Kendra for implementation up to 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation. The Scheme is implemented with cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between centre & states (except NE & Special Category States- 90:10).

**News – Others**

**1. *Environment Ministry Reintroduces Award For Hindi Authors***

The environment ministry has decided to re-introduce a scheme for awarding Indian authors for their original work in Hindi on subjects related to environment including pollution and climate change. The Medini Puraskar Yojna, which aims at promoting original writing of books in Hindi, will have four awards for authors of various environmental topics.

## **2. *India's first plastic buyback scheme to come into force***

To ensure recycling of plastics that are not banned, Maharashtra is set to implement a buyback scheme for PET bottles and milk pouches. Maharashtra is the first in India to implement buyback depository systems which is prevalent in 40 countries.

### **Person in News**

#### **News – Most Important**

### **1. *Major General VD Dogra becomes first serving Indian Army officer to complete Ironman competition***

Major General VD Dogra became the first serving Indian Army officer and the only General across the world to have completed a gruelling 'Ironman' competition held in Austria.

### **2. *Anju Khosla - Oldest Indian woman to complete Ironman Triathlon***

Anju Khosla has become the oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon – one of the toughest one-day sporting events.

### **3. *Satyarup Siddhanta becomes second Indian to climb world's highest volcano***

Satyarup Siddhanta has become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world.

**4. *8-year-old yoga champion named 'British Indian of the Year' Young Achiever***

The eight-year-old Indian-origin schoolboy who is the under-11, UK national yoga champion has been named the 'British Indian of the Year' in young achiever category for his accomplishments in the field.

**5. *Jeff Bezos Becomes the Richest Man in Modern History, Topping \$150 Billion***

The Amazon.com Inc. founder's Jeff Bezos is the richest person in modern history with net worth cracked \$150 billion in New York, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. That's about \$55 billion more than Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates, the world's second-richest person.

**News – Other**

**1. *Two Indian-origin women on Forbes list of America's richest self-made women***

Indian-origin technology executives Jayshree Ullal and Neerja Sethi have made it to the Forbes' list of America's 60 richest self-made women. Ullal is ranked 18th in the list of 60 self-made women, having a net worth of 1.3 billion dollars while Sethi is ranked 21<sup>st</sup> with a net worth of a billion dollars.

**2. *Mukesh Ambani pips Alibaba's Jack Ma to become Asia's richest person***

India's richest man Mukesh Ambani has replaced Chinese giant Alibaba Group's founder Jack Ma to become Asia's richest person.

### **3. *Brij Bhushan Saran Singh to be named India's Chef de Mission at Asian Games***

The president of Wrestling Federation of India Brij Bhushan Saran Singh is set to be named the Chef de Mission of the Asian Games-bound contingent.

## **Summits and Conferences**

### **News – Most Important**

#### **1. *Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated 17th World Sanskrit Conference in Vancouver, Canada***

The 17th World Sanskrit Conference was held at Vancouver, Canada. More than 500 scholars and delegates from over 40 countries participated in this conference and exchange their knowledge by presenting papers on various subjects followed by discussions from amongst the members.

#### **2. *Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin meet in Helsinki***

US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin held their first summit at Helsinki in Finland. They had a "good start" to their high-stakes summit.

#### **3. *Nepal to host BIMSTEC Summit***

The fourth BIMSTEC Summit will be held in Kathmandu. The Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional economic bloc comprising seven-member states lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

**4. *10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg***

The 10th BRICS Summit held at Johannesburg in South Africa. The theme is 'BRICS in Africa - collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th industrial revolution'.

**5. *India, US to hold first '2+2 dialogue' on September 6.***

The two-plus-two dialogue' between India and the US will be held in New Delhi. Both the countries would discuss strengthening strategic, security and defence cooperation" as the US and India jointly address challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

**6. *India to host IUFoST 2018, 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology***

World Congress of Food Science and Technology will be held in Navi Mumbai, India from October 23-27, 2018. The Theme is 25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe and Diverse Foods.

**7. *The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Delhi Dialogue***

The 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue held in New Delhi. The theme of meeting is 'Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Co-operation'.

## **News – Others**

### **1. *The Heads of Mission Conference in New Delhi***

The ninth Heads of Mission Conference held in New Delhi. The government explained the top diplomats on economic reform initiatives and measures taken for improving ease-of- doing business in India. The Theme is Unprecedented Outreach: Unparalleled Outcomes.

### **2. *The First meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats***

The first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats concluded in Agartala, Tripura. During the two-day meeting both sides noted the positive impact of Border Haats on the livelihoods of the people living in areas adjoining the Haats.

### **3. *8th India-Oman Joint Commission meeting held in Muscat***

The eighth session of India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in Muscat, Oman. Suresh Prabhu extended an invite to Omani companies to build on their success in India and make investments to benefit from 'Make in India' and 'Invest India' programmes, which are aimed at encouraging manufacturing.

### **4. *2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of High Joint Commission in Bahrain***

The second meeting of High Joint commission held in Bahrain. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired with her Bahraini counterpart Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

## 5. **MOVE: Global Mobility Summit**

NITI Aayog is to be organised 'MOVE: Global Mobility Summit' on September 7-8, 2018 in New Delhi. It will help to drive India's goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth, thus, speeding up India's transition to a clean energy economy.

### **Quick Revision**

Conference/Summit	Venue
10th BRICS Summit	Johannesburg
Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin meet	Helsinki, Finland
17th World Sanskrit Conference	Vancouver, Canada
2 + 2 Dialogue	New Delhi
19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology	Navi Mumbai
BIMSTEC Summit	Kathmandu, Nepal
The 10th edition of Delhi Dialogue	New Delhi

## **Defence**

### **News - Most Important**

#### **1. *India's longest-range ballistic missile, Agni-5 missile flight tested***

India's longest-range ballistic missile, Agni-5 missile was flight tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. It is developed by DRDO and can carry nuclear warhead weighing 1.5 tonnes to a distance of over 5,000 km and is the longest missile in India's arsenal capable of reaching most parts of China.

#### **2. *ISRO carried out Crew Escape System flight test***

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) carried out a flight test for a newly-designed Crew Escape System, meant for saving lives of astronauts in an exigency.

**3. *First-ever warship to enter port of Sabang in Indonesia.***

Indian naval ship INS Sumitra became the first-ever warship to enter port of Sabang in Indonesia. It was received by traditional dancers and Indonesian traditional band & was welcomed by Indian Ambassador to Indonesia PK Rawat. The warship was deployed in Malacca Straits.

**4. *INS Tarangini Visited Sunderland to Participate in Tall Ship Races – 2018.***

INS Tarangini visited Sunderland in the UK, during her Lokayan-18 voyage and also to participate in the prestigious 'tall ship races - 2018'. The ship is part of the first Training Squadron based at Kochi, under the Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy. It is the first ship of the Indian Navy to have circumnavigated the globe in the year 2003-04

**5. *India and Pakistan to commence a multi-nation counter-terror exercise***

India and Pakistan will be part of a multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia in September, along with China and several other countries. The military exercise will take place under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

**6. *Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos test fired from the ITR***

Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur. It is a joint venture between DRDO and the NPOM of Russia. The highly versatile BrahMos has been operationalised in the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.

## **7. *ISRO roped partners to help assemble 27 satellites***

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has roped in three partners to help it assemble 27 satellites at a quick pace over the next three years. ISRO's nodal satellites division URSC (U.R. Rao Satellite Centre) signed separate three-year contracts with Alpha Design Technologies P Ltd and its six consortium members; with defence public enterprise Bharat Electronics Ltd; and with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, Hyderabad.

## **8. *Indian Air Force participates in 'Pitch Black 2018' for first time in Australia.***

An Indian Air Force contingent comprising of four Su-30 MKI, 01 X C-130 and 01 X C-17 aircraft, participated in 'Pitch Black 2018' along with Royal Australian Air Force. The exercise involves over 100 aircraft from around the globe and will provide a unique opportunity to the air-warriors to operate in a dynamic warlike environment.

## **News - Others**

### **1. *BEL signed a MoU with Saab, Sweden***

Defence public sector undertaking BEL has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Saab, Sweden for jointly marketing the L-Band 3D Air Surveillance Radar, RAWL-03, co-developed by BEL and Saab. It is a cost-effective L Band three-dimensional radar and helps for early detection and tracking of air and surface targets.

## **2. *INS Trikand reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit***

India's latest frontline warship INS Trikand has reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit. INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art warship of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions – air, surface and sub-surface.

## **3. *SES-12 launched to help support India's growing DTH Market***

The SES-12 was launched to help support India's growing direct-to-home (DTH) TV market, as more and more consumers in rural India embrace the medium. The satellite will be able to help accelerate the country's push towards a Digital India.

## **4. *ISRO conducted a ground test of Vikas Engine***

ISRO conducted a ground test of its high thrust version of the Vikas Engine in Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. It would improve the payload capability of the space agency's launch vehicles.

## **Agreements**

### **News - Most Important**

## **1. *National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) signed an agreement with Nasdaq***

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) have signed an agreement with Nasdaq to deliver a customized real-time clearing, risk management and settlement technology to one of the world's largest stock exchanges. Nasdaq has also signed an agreement with NSEIT to utilize NSEIT's capability in implementations and project augmentation globally.

**2. *NSG signed an agreement with IRCTC***

National Security Guard (NSG) has signed an agreement with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to eliminate the need for carrying railway warrants by the NSG Personnel. The NSG is the first central paramilitary force to opt for e – ticketing instead of railway warrant.

**3. *NASSCOM signs MOU with NITI Aayog***

NASSCOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NITI Aayog to collaboratively foster applied research, accelerating adoption and ethics, privacy and security.

**4. *Infosys signs an MoU with BMRC***

Infosys Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to contribute Rs 200 crore to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd for construction of Konappana Agrahara Metro Station and metro railway track.

**5. *Vice president signs MoU with Rwanda senate***

M. Venkaiah Naidu became the first Chairman of Rajya Sabha to sign an MOU with Senate of Rwanda representing Rajya Sabha. They agreed to promote dialogue, capacity building and cooperation.

**6. *Facebook & NSDC partners***

Facebook and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have entered into strategic partnership to train youth and entrepreneurs in the country on digital skills.

**7. *Rajasthan signs MoU with Microsoft***

Rajasthan has emerged as the first State to sign a memorandum of understanding with Microsoft to provide digital training to 9,500 students of government colleges. It will also train 500 faculty members.

**8. *CSIR- NPL has signed a MoU with HPCL.***

CSIR- National Physical laboratory (NPL) has signed a MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for indigenous development of petroleum certified reference materials (CRMs) under trade name of Bhartiya Niredeshak Dravyas (BNDTM).

**9. *A Statement of Intent (SoI) signed between NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation***

A Statement of Intent (SoI) was signed between NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme. It will facilitate indicators like education, health & nutrition, financial inclusion and skill development along with agriculture and water resources.

**10. *Oxygen and Fincare Small Finance Bank***

Oxygen and Fincare Small Finance Bank signed an agreement to roll out the Branchless Banking services, using Oxygen's flagship Point of Sale device called the Oxygen Micro ATM Super PoS.

**11. *Ola, Haryana government sign MoU to create 35,000 jobs***

Cab-hailing firm Ola has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Haryana government's department of employment to create 35,000 entrepreneurial opportunities in the state. The MoU is part of the state's Saksham Haryana initiative which was rolled out early last year to empower the youth through various skill development initiatives.

## **News - Others**

### **1. *Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) entered into an agreement with BME.***

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has entered into an agreement with Bombay Metal Exchange (BME) for the development of commodity derivatives markets in the non-ferrous metals complex. They will work jointly on initiatives to deepen the understanding of commodity market among stakeholders.

### **2. *MORTH signs a MoU with UK-based Transport for London (TFL)***

The ministry of road transport & highways has signed a memorandum of understanding with UK-based Transport for London (TFL), to improve public transport in India. It will help mainly in sharing information and areas of cooperation like improving the public transport system with an augmentation of passenger capacity, services, data analysis, induction of electric vehicles, new technologies, ticketing and the provision of passenger information, urban transport planning and policy.

### **3. *IIT Delhi and the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed an agreement***

IIT Delhi and the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) have signed an agreement to give "scientific validation" to the ancient medical science and integrate it with technology. The projects would be funded by the Ayush Ministry.

### **4. *Five PSUs signed a joint venture***

Five central oil PSUs (IOCL, ONGC, GAIL OIL and NRL) signed a joint venture agreement for executing the North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid as a step towards the Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project.

## Books & Authors

### News - Most Important

#### 1. *Hussain Zaidi's new novel 'Eleventh Hour'*

Crime writer Hussain Zaidi pays tribute to the men in uniform in his new novel "Eleventh Hour". It is inspired by and derived from real-life events - a vast stash of RDX that has remained undiscovered since the Mumbai serial blasts of 1993 and the agencies totally clueless about it; the jailbreak in Bhopal of five men; the hijacking of an Indian ship and a commercial vessel by Somali pirates and Pakistan's designs to spread terror in India.

#### 2. *Ramachandra Guha pens 'the most ambitious book' on Mahatma Gandhi*

Ramachandra Guha has penned the new book on father of nation – Gandhi: The years that Changed the World (1914-1948). It reveals Gandhi ji to the readers just as he was understood by his contemporaries. The book also includes new readings of his arguments with B.R. Ambedkar, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Subhas Chandra Bose, among others.

### News - Others

#### 1. *Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly by Abhirup Bhattacharya*

On the occasion of Sourav Ganguly's birthday the book **Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly** written by Abhirup Bhattacharya was launched. The book says how Ganguly's gamble on youngsters helped India retain Dhoni.

## 2. *J.K. Rowling 'Lethal White' get September 18 as release date*

J.K. Rowling announced her latest instalment in the Cormoran Strike series, Lethal White, which will be released on September 18. The fourth book in the series, available now for pre order, will be published under Rowling's pen name Robert Galbraith.

### Quick Revision

Book	Author
Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly	Abhirup Bhattacharya
Lethal White	J.K. Rowling
Gandhi: The years that Changed the World (1914-1948)	Ramchandra Guha
Eleventh Hour	Hussain Zaidi

## Science and Technology

### News - Most Important

#### 1. *A new method of microscopy to help view proteins under human cells.*

A team of scientists at the University of Warwick have produced a new method of microscopy to help view proteins under human cells. The tagging device is called 2FerriTag, the device uses electron microscopy to allow proteins to be viewed at a precise scale.

#### 2. *Ways to turn asteroids into giant, autonomous spacecrafts assisted by NASA*

NASA is set to provide financial assistance to a California-based 3D printing company for finding ways to turn asteroids into giant, autonomous spacecrafts, which could fly to outposts in space. The name of the Project is RAMA (Reconstituting Asteroids into Mechanical Automata).

### **3. *Silk-based hydrogel that emulates the process of hair growth***

Scientists from IIT Delhi have developed a silk-based hydrogel that emulates the process of hair growth, an advance that may help screen novel drugs for treating hair loss without using animal tests.

## **News - Others**

### **1. *The first ever 3D colour X-ray on humans***

Scientists in New Zealand has performed the first ever 3D colour X-ray on humans, with the support of CERN physics lab. The newly developed technique will help improve the medical field diagnosis.

### **2. *Injection Voveran Banned***

India's drug regulator has enforced a ban on the manufacture and sale of pain killer injection, Diclofenac, made by Themis Medicare and marketed by Novartis India Ltd under the brand name Inj Voveran 1ml.

## **Environment**

## **News – Important**

### **1. *4 species added to recovery programme by Wildlife Board***

The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has given its nod to include four diverse species named Northern River Terrapin (riverine turtle), Red Panda, Clouded Leopard and Arabian Sea Humpback Whale in the recovery programme for critically endangered species. The species recovery programme of the Union Environment Ministry is implemented under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.

## **2. *Oldest colours in the geological record discovered***

Scientists from ANU and overseas have discovered the oldest colours in the geological record, 1.1 billion-year-old bright pink pigments extracted from rocks deep beneath the Sahara Desert in Africa.

### **News – Others**

## **1. *Rising sea levels could cost the world \$14 trillion a year by 2100***

A study led by the UK National Oceanographic Centre (NOC) found flooding from rising sea levels could cost \$14 trillion worldwide annually by 2100, if the target of holding global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels is missed.

## **2. *Seven new wasp species discovered in the Amazon forests***

Researchers have discovered seven new wasp species belonging to the genus *Clistopyga* from Peru, Venezuela and Colombia. The new wasp species are: *Clistopyga crassicaudata*, *C.kalima*, *C.panchei*, *C.taironae*, *C.nigriventri*, *C.splendida*. *C.isayae*.

### **Apps & Portals**

### **News - Most Important**

## **1. *Election Commission launched an app, 'Cvigil,'***

The Election Commission launched a mobile app, called 'Cvigil,' for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.

## 2. ***Ministry of Coal has launched a Web GIS & Mobile Application***

Ministry of Coal launched a Web GIS Application called Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) and Mobile Application 'Khan Prahari' developed by CMPDI, **The CMSMS** - Sites for unauthorised mining can be detected.

**Khan Prahari** - illegal coal mining like rat hole mining, pilferage etc.

## 3. ***BSNL unveiled first internet telephony service***

BSNL has unveiled first internet telephony service in the country that will allow users to dial any telephone number in India through its mobile app 'Wings'.

## 4. ***"Innovate India Platform" launched successfully***

Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov launched the "Innovate India Platform", a collaboration between the Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov, a citizen centric platform of the Government of India. The Innovate India portal will serve as the common point for all the innovation happening across the nation.

## 5. ***E- Pragati portal to connect all state govt departments***

Andhra Pradesh government launched 'e-Pragati core platform. e-Pragati, a forward-looking digital initiative, is aimed at connecting the citizen to 34 departments, 336 autonomous organisations and 745-plus services.

## 6. ***'Bijli Mitra' Mobile app for replacement of transformers in Rajasthan***

The process of replacing transformers used to consume a lot of time, therefore, the government decided to introduce mobile app 'Bijli Mitra' so that farmers can register their complaint. The transformer would be replaced within six hours of the complaint

## **News - Others**

### **1. *Application named 'Stop JE/AES' to combat the epidemic***

The Gorakhpur, U.P administration launched an android based smart phone application named 'Stop JE/AES', the to combat the epidemic. A software, Rashtriya Bal Suraksha Karyakaram (RBSK) will help display the details of children referred to the CHCs/PHCs and hospitals on CMS portal.

### **2. *App 'GST Verify' to protect interest of consumers***

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has developed a mobile app 'GST Verify' to protect interest of consumers. It is an android app to verify if the person collecting GST from the consumer is eligible to collect it or not.

### **3. *IFFCO partnered with technology firm to start an e-commerce platform***

Fertiliser major IFFCO has partnered with Singapore-based technology firm iMandi to start an e-commerce platform for farmers with an investment of about Rs 80 crore. An e-commerce app, 'IFFCO iMandi', has been launched that would cater to 5.5 crore farmers already associated with the cooperative. A web portal has also been developed.

## **Quick Revision**

<b>App/Portal</b>	<b>Launched by</b>
Cvigil	Election Commission of India
Wings	BSNL
Innovate India Platform	Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov
Stop JE/AES	Uttar Pradesh
GST Verify	Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
CMSMS & Khan Prahari	Ministry of Coal
E- Pragati	Andhra Pradesh Govt.
IFFCO iMandi	IFFCO & firm iMandi
Bijli Mitra	Rajasthan Govt

## Mergers & Acquisitions

### News - Most Important

#### **1. *Bharti Infratel merged with Indus Tower***

Bharti Infratel has received approval of the trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) for its merger with Indus Tower Limited to create the largest mobile tower operator in the world outside China with over 163000 towers across 22 telecom service area.

#### **2. *51 per cent stake in the mortgage lender PNB Housing Finance***

Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Carlyle Group plan to sell at least 51 per cent stake in the mortgage lender PNB Housing Finance owns 32.79 per cent stake and Carlyle Group, through its investment vehicle Quality Investment Holdings, owns 32.36 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of PNB Housing Finance.

#### **3. *LIC board approves acquisition of up to 51% stake in IDBI Bank***

The board of Life Insurance Corporation of India approved the acquisition of up to 51 per cent stake in debt-ridden IDBI Bank.

### News – Others

#### **1. *PhonePe acquires Zopper Retail***

PhonePe has acquired Zopper Retail as part of its strategy to aggressively ramp up its offline business. As part of the deal, Zopper co-founder and CEO Neeraj Jain will join PhonePe as Head of Product, Offline Merchant Solutions.

#### **2. *Conditional approval to Idea Cellular and Vodafone merger.***

The government gave a conditional approval to the merger between Idea Cellular and Vodafone which will make it the country's largest telecom company Bharti Airtel.

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