

June 2018

BOLT

**Monthly Current
Affairs**



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Monthly Current Affairs (June 2018)

INDEX

Banking	3
Economy	8
State	11
National	14
International	19
India & world	22
Appointments & Resignations	27
Ranks & Reports	33
Important days	36
Sports	42
Awards	45
Obituaries	47
Schemes	51
Person in News	53
Summit & Conference	55
Defence	58
Agreements	61
Books & Authors	63
Science & Technology	65
Environment	67
Apps & Portals	69
Acquisitions & Mergers	72

Banking

News: Most Important

1. *RBI raises repo rate by 25 bps*

In its second bi-monthly meeting for the fiscal ,The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) hiked its key policy rate, the repo rate, by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent, this was its first hike in four-and-half-years.

It came against the backdrop of rising inflation as well as improving growth numbers in the recent past. The CPI rose to 4.58 per cent in April.

2. *Financial Literacy Week launched by RBI*

The Reserve Bank of India launched Financial Literacy Week on June 4th across the country with customer protection as its main theme.

The event will focus on creating awareness among customers of banks about financial products and services, good financial practices and going digital.

3. *SBI, PNB and ICICI bank raises lending rate*

State Bank of India (SBI) has raised its benchmark lending rates by 10 basis points (bps), followed by PNB & ICICI Bank, it was meant to pass on the rising cost of funds to customers and an effort to protect the net interest margin. SBI's one-year marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR), is now 8.25 per cent and those of ICICI and PNB are 8.4 per cent.

4. *RBI amends Gold Monetisation Scheme*

The Reserve Bank of India has amended the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) 2015, whereby deposits can be placed with banks for broken periods such as one year three months, or 13 years four months 15 days. The designated banks are free to fix the interest rates on short-term bank deposits (STBDs), which are for a short period of one to three years.

5. *Committee formed to examine setting up of Asset Reconstruction Company / Asset Management Company*

A Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of **Sunil Mehta**, non-executive chairman of Punjab National Bank to examine the setting up of an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) and/or Asset Management Company (AMC) for faster resolution of stressed assets involving multiple Public-Sector Banks (PSBs).

6. *Karnataka Bank launches 'Deposit Only Card'*

The Karnataka Bank Ltd. has launched 'KBL-Deposit Only Card' that enables hassle-free cash deposit transactions at the bank's 24X7 e-lobby services.

This card is specially meant for the bank's current/overdraft customers. These customers can perform cash deposit transactions even with higher deposit limit at the bank's bunch note acceptor (BNA) or cash recycler kiosks by using this card. The limit for the cash deposit a day is Rs 10 lakh.

7. *IRDAI sets up panel to review norms for insurance marketing firms*

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has set up a 10-member committee to review norms related to Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF) with an aim to increase insurance penetration in the country.

The new distribution channel of IMF was introduced in 2015 by IRDAI, with the objective of increasing insurance penetration through an area-wise registration approach.

The committee will be headed by **Suresh Mathur** (ED-IMF, IRDAI)

8. *India is the largest borrower from AIIB*

With the total project portfolios of US\$4.4 Billion, India has been the largest borrower of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) lending since the time the Bank started its operations.

AIIB has only invested in one solar power project apart from Asia i.e. in Egypt

9. *Hyderabad may house first government blockchain centre*

The Centre is considering a proposal to set up a Centre of Excellence for blockchain technology in Hyderabad to drive innovation.

The proposal has been submitted by C-DAC Hyderabad, along with IDRBT & VJTI Mumbai.

ICICI Bank executed its first two transactions using Blockchain technology in October 2016 followed by Yes Bank in January 2017.

10. *Bank of Baroda collaborates with IBM, Accenture*

Bank of Baroda collaborated with IBM, Accenture to create an IT Centre of Excellence (ITCoE) and Analytics Centre of Excellence (ACoE) as part of the bank's strategy to use technology to drive growth.

The alliance is indicative of the bank's support for the government's steadfast focus on growing technology opportunities through initiatives such as "Digital India" and meet "Ease of Banking" directive.

11. *Exim Bank extends \$10 mn loan facility to Seychelles*

The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended \$10 million worth of line of credit (LOC) to Seychelles for healthcare and procurement of goods and projects. It is the first tranche of the \$50 million sanctioned by the bank.

News: Others

1. *Yes bank launches deposit scheme which could fetch up to 8 per cent.*

Yes Bank has launched a deposit scheme which could fetch up to 8 per cent for a tenure of little over 18 months.

The scheme named 'Green Future: Deposit' is targeted at securing Rs 1,000 crore for the private lender.

2. *Citi Bank becomes the first corporate bank to make use of UK's Open Banking regime.*

Citi Bank has successfully enrolled as a Payment Initiation Service Provider (PISP) on the UK Open Banking Directory, becoming the first corporate bank to do so. Inclusion in the directory will allow Ci to begin piloting new payment and collection services for clients.

3. *SEBI panel to study option of direct overseas listings*

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted an expert committee to examine the possibility of allowing unlisted Indian companies to directly list equity overseas while also allowing foreign companies to list directly on the Indian bourses

The nine-member panel will include **Ranu Vohra**, MD & CEO, Avendus Capital, **Cyril Shroff**, Managing Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, **Kamal Yadav**, MD, Morgan Stanley, **S**

Ramesh, MD & CEO, Kotak Investment Banking, **Deep Kalra**, Chairman, MakeMyTrip.com and **Jamil Khatri** of KPMG.

4. *RBI revises housing loan limits under priority sector*

Reserve Bank of India has revised the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines for housing loans with Affordable Housing definition under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Housing loans of up to Rs 35 lakh, for dwellings costing less than Rs 45 lakh, will be treated as priority sector lending (PSL) to give a fillip to the low-cost segment.

5. *Fitch downgrades ICICI Bank, revises Axis Bank rating to negative*

Fitch downgraded its support rating for ICICI Bank from '2' to '3' and revised the outlook on Axis Bank to 'negative' from 'stable'.

Support ratings reflect expectation of a moderate probability of extraordinary state (government) support, if required. This is due to private ownership and lower systemic importance compared to larger banks.

6. *Bajaj Finance market cap sails past Axis Bank*

Bajaj Finance surpassed Axis Bank in market value for the first time. The market capitalisation of the finance company stood at of Rs 134,952 crore.

This made Bajaj Finance the sixth most valuable company in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector in India.

Quick Revision: Policy Rates

Policy/Exchange rate & Reserve ratio	Percentage
Repo rate	6.25 percent
Reverse Repo rate	6 percent
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	6.5 percent
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4 percent
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.5 percent
Bank Rate	6.5 percent

Economy

News: Most Important

1. *Group appointed to study SEZ Policy of India*

The government has constituted a group headed by Bharat Forge Chairman **Baba Kalyani** to evaluate policy on the country's special economic zones (SEZs).

The group will also ensure that the policy is WTO compatible, make comparative analysis of the SEZ scheme and dovetail the policy with other similar schemes.

The group comprises top government officials and corporates including Ravindra Sannareddy, MD, Sricity SEZ; Neel Raheja, Group President, K. Raheja Group; Arun Misra, MD, Tata Steel SEZ.

2. *US pips India as top greenfield FDI investment destination*

According to FDI Report 2018 compiled by FDI Intelligence US has surpassed India as the top destination to attract Greenfield FDI investment.

The number of greenfield FDI projects in India during the year fell sharply by 21 per cent

In the Asia and Pacific region, **China** was on top in terms of FDI in total number of new projects and capital investment, followed by India.

3. *FDI rose to \$61.96 billion in 2017-18*

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India increased by about 3% to \$61.96 billion in 2017-18 on account of steps taken by the government to improve business climate and liberalised policy norms.

FDI inflows stood at \$60 billion in the previous fiscal which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital.

4. *India's trade deficit widens*

A sharp rise in crude oil bill led to India's trade deficit widening to a 61-month high , despite sustained growth in engineering and pharmaceutical products that boosted exports by 17.57 per cent.

The trade deficit increased to \$16.61 billion, up from the \$14.62 billion gap in May. This was primarily fuelled by a jump in crude oil imports.

5. *Fitch ups India growth forecast to 7.4% for FY'19*

Fitch Ratings raised India growth forecast for 2018-19 to 7.4 per cent from 7.3 per cent but cited higher financing costs and rising oil prices as risks to growth. For 2019-20, it estimated the country to grow at 7.5 per cent.

6. *The MPC retains the GDP growth projection at 7.4%*

The Monetary Policy Committee decided to retain the projection of GDP growth for the financial year 2018-2019 at 7.4% after reviewing evolving global and domestic macro developments.

7. *World Bank forecasts 7.3 per cent growth for India*

The World Bank has forecast a growth rate of 7.3 per cent for India this year and 7.5 per cent for the next two years, making it the fastest growing country among major emerging economies.

News: Others

1. *Google to invest \$550 mn in Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com*

Google is set to invest \$550 million in Chinese e-commerce powerhouse JD.com, part of the U.S. internet company's efforts to expand its presence in fast-growing Asian markets and battle rivals including Amazon.com.

It will also help JD.com expand beyond its base in China and Southeast Asia and establish a meaningful presence in U.S. and European market.

2. *Indian money in Swiss banks surges*

According to Swiss National Bank data, the amount of money Indians hold in Swiss bank accounts surged more than 50% in 2017 to 1.01 billion Swiss francs (Rs. 7,000 crore). The increase reverses a three-year downtrend amid India's clampdown on suspected black money stashed there.

3. *States collected taxes worth Rs. 10000 crores under e-governance initiative*

Under the Centre's ambitious e-Governance initiative. States have collected taxes worth Rs 10,000 crore online since the rollout of Transport Mission Mode Project (MMP), which has also automated regional transport operations (RTOs), The government has done so with the help of applications namely, **Vahan** and **Sarathi**.

Vahan deal with vehicle registration, taxation, permit, fitness and associated services; while Sarathi is related to driving licence, learner licence, driving schools and related activities.

Quick revision

Organization/Committee	Projected Rate
Monetary Policy Committee, RBI	7.4 %
Fitch Ratings	7.4 %
World Bank	7.3 %

State

News: Most Important

1. *Kerala unveils 'Water Literacy' campaign*

The Kerala state literacy mission unveiled a major drive 'Jalasaksharatha' (water literacy) to create awareness among the public on the need to conserve water bodies in the state, known for its abundance of rivers, backwaters, waterfalls, streams and ponds.

2. *Sikkim's longest tunnel inaugurated*

The Centre inaugurated the 578-metre long Theng Tunnel in North Sikkim, which authorities argue will improve connectivity in both North and East Sikkim.

The construction of Sikkim's longest tunnel was undertaken by Project Swastik, an arm of the Border Roads Organisation in its Eastern sector.

3. *Odisha's Chandrabhaga to get Asia's first 'Blue Flag' beach tag*

The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification — the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists. It was awarded the honour on World Environment Day on June 5.

Twelve more beaches in the country are being developed by the Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM).

4. *Integrated Command and Control Centre inaugurated at Naya Raipur (Chhattisgarh).*

The Prime Minister inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Centre at Naya Raipur Smart City.

The centre will control and monitor online water and power supply, sanitation, traffic movement, integrated building management, city connectivity and Internet infrastructure (data centre), under one roof.

5. *Gujarat launches wind-solar hybrid power policy*

The Gujarat government announced 'Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018' aiming to make optimum utilisation of the land and grid.

The policy, which will have a coverage period of five years, provides encouragement to renewable power producers supplying to the grid as well as to those having captive use.

6. *3-day annual Sindhu Darshan Festival held in Ladakh region of J&K*

The three-day annual Sindhu Darshan Festival celebrates on the bank of Indus River held in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.

It was organised by Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti and Ladakh Phandey Tsogspa, Leh & was focused at national integration, communal harmony and national pride.

News:Others

1. *A.P. becomes first State to complete automation of Crime Records Bureau*

The Andhra Pradesh police, who lead in using crime data analytics and big data applications, has become the first in the country to complete automation of the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB).

It will provide comparative analytics of gender violence, bodily offences and property offences in each unit, range, region and State using data charts.

2. *PM inaugurated 'Kabir Mahotsav' in U.P.*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a two-day 'Kabir Mahotsav' at Maghar in Sant Kabir district of Uttar Pradesh, to mark the 500th death anniversary of Kabir Das.

The festival organised by the Ministry of Culture, featured folk music, dance performances, and musical theatre participants from all over India.

3. *Yoga Aayog in Haryana*

Haryana State Government has decided to constitute Yoga Aayog.

Haryana will become the second state after Chhattisgarh in the country to constitute such Aayog for the promotion of yoga.

The state government has initiated Rahgiri programmes to make people's life stress-free.

National

News: Important

1. *India's first national sports university to be set up in Manipur*

President Kovind gave assent to an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in Imphal, Manipur.

The University will provide a boost to sports activities in the country and will also improve the country's sports performance at the national and international levels.

2. *India's first ever National Police Museum in Delhi*

India's first ever national police museum as the unique facility will be established in Lutyens' Delhi. The museum - depicting the history, artefacts, uniforms and gear of central and state police forces will be inaugurated on October 21 (Police Commemoration Day).

3. *Solar Power Projects of NLCIL inaugurated*

Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated three Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) 100 MW Solar Power Projects each in Tamil Nadu.

The projects were erected at Thoppalaakkarai, Sethupuram in Virudhunagar district and Sellaiya Sezhiyanallur in Tirunelveli district, with an installed capacity of 100 MW each.

4. *Shillong (Meghalaya) gets selected as the 100th Smart City*

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation announced **Shillong**, capital city of Meghalaya as the 100th Smart City. The total proposed investment in the finally selected 100 cities under the Smart Cities Mission is Rs.2,05,018 crores.

5. *Government plans largest National Data Centre in Bhopal*

The government plans to expand its BPO promotion scheme to one lakh seats by setting up India's largest National data centre in Bhopal .

The National Data Centres - that host Government websites, services and apps - are currently operational at four locations - Pune, Hyderabad, Delhi and Bhubaneswar.

6. *India's first Advanced Forensic Lab launched in Chandigarh*

Minister for Woman and Child Development Ms. **Maneka Gandhi** launched India's first Advanced Forensic Lab in Chandigarh. The lab is called 'Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory'.

The lab will consist of four units--sexual assault and homicide unit, paternity unit, human identification unit and mitochondrial unit-- for addressing different kinds of cases.

7. *National Digital Library (NDL) of India launched*

The new digital initiative of HRD Ministry 'National Digital Library of India' was launched on the occasion of National Reading Day in New Delhi.

It is a project of the HRD Ministry under the aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT). The objective of NDL is to make digital educational resources available to all citizens of the country to empower, inspire and encourage learning. It is developed by IIT Kharagpur.

8. *Swachh Survekshan, 2018 rankings*

Union Ministry of Urban Affairs released Swachh Survekshan rankings, Indore topped the list followed by Bhopal & Chandigarh.

The objective of the survey was to encourage large scale citizen participation and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.

9. *Water aerodrome plan in Chilika lagoon*

Centre proposed to set up a **water aerodrome** in the Chilika lagoon straddling three districts in an apparent bid to give a boost to tourism.

It will come up in an area of open water to be used regularly by seaplanes or amphibious aircraft. SpiceJet has been short-listed for setting up the facility, the first of its kind in the state.

10. *Government to set up panels under task force led by MoS for Civil*

Aviation

The government is set to form three committees to help a task force led by **Jayant Sinha** to prepare a roadmap for implementing the drone technology in the country. The committees will separately make their recommendations on manufacturing and license of drones, airspace and air traffic management and policy and law-related issues.

11. *E Sreedharan Committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems*

The government has set up a committee under former Delhi Metro chief **E Sreedharan** to lay down standardisation norms for components with an aim to cut costs in the construction and operation of metro rail systems in the country and bring them under the Make in India umbrella.

12. *24 degrees as default setting for ACs*

The government is set to consider making **24 degree** Celsius as mandatory default setting for air conditioners.

AC makers will label the optimum temperature setting for the benefits of consumers both from financial and their health points of view.

Every one degree increase in the air-conditioner temperature setting results in saving of 6 per cent of electricity consumed.

News: Others

1. *Govt sets up panel to bring transparency in jobs data*

Technical Committee headed by T.C.A. Anant, former chief statistician of India has been set to bring in transparency in the jobs data calculation and presentation

Labour bureau carries out two major surveys on employment scenario: Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey (AEUS) and Quarterly Employment Survey.

2. *Mughalsarai officially becomes Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction*

The Bhartiya Janata Party-led Uttar Pradesh government has changed Mughalsarai railway station name as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya station. Governor Ram Naik gave his consent to the proposal to rename none of the busiest railway stations in India, Mughalsarai, as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction.

3. *States to implement National Health Insurance scheme*

Twenty states have signed memorandums of understanding with the Centre to implement the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS).

West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are some of the states that have not signed up yet.

Gujarat, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have decided to adopt the hybrid model where a part of the payment will be made through insurance and the rest through trusts.

4. *Granite cluster to come up in Karimnagar*

The Centre has decided to adopt the cluster development approach (CDA) to help enhance productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity-building of entrepreneurs for this ,the first-of-its-kind granite cluster in Telangana will come up at Bahupeta village on the outskirts of Karimnagar town.

5. *Centre may scrap UGC, proposes new regulator*

The Centre has placed a draft Bill in the public domain for a Higher Education Commission of India, aimed at replacing the University Grants Commission. The draft Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Act, 2018, takes away funding powers from the proposed regulator and gives it powers to ensure academic quality and even close down bogus institutions.

International

News: Most Important

1. *Indonesia wins UNSC vote*

In the plenary session held at the UN headquarters in New York, Indonesia won the seat after securing 144 votes against 46 for the Maldives.

In the election, **190** members participated, and the winning members had to get two-thirds majority or 127 votes. Indonesia is likely to take up the seat on January 1, 2019 with other newly elected non-permanent members — **Germany, Belgium, Dominican Republic** and **South Africa**.

2. *NASA extends Juno's science operations until July 2021*

With NASA's Juno spacecraft needing more time to gather the mission's required data, the US space agency has decided to extend its science operations until July 2021, making way for the probe to spend three more years in orbit around Jupiter.

Juno is in 53-day orbits rather than 14-day orbits as initially planned because of a concern about valves on the spacecraft's fuel system.

3. *World Bank Provides \$700 Million to Improve Primary Education in Bangladesh*

World Bank has approved \$700 million loan to Bangladesh to achieve its education for all vision by improving the primary education sector.

The Quality Learning for All Program (QLEAP) will benefit more than 18 million children studying in pre-primary level to grade 5. It will finance implementation of the government's Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP4)

4. *Russia Launches Soyuz-2.1b Carrier Rocket with Glonass-M Navigation Satellite*

Russia launched a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from the Plesetsk space centre to orbit a Glonass-M satellite.

GLONASS (acronym for 'Global Navigation Satellite System') was intended to become operational in 1995, the same year that the US launched its GPS, but due to lack of funding the system was put on hold.

News: Others

1. *Saudi Arabia gave its first batch of driving licenses to women*

Saudi Arabia is set to allow women driving in coming weeks, about ten months after a royal decree was issued announcing the end of a decades-long ban on women driving.

The move, which follows a government crackdown on women activists, is part of a much-publicised liberalisation drive launched by powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as he seeks to modernise the petro-state.

2. *Global Top 100 reach record \$20 trillion*

The total market capitalisation of the Global Top 100 companies has increased by 15% since last year to \$20 trillion. The US retains the leading position with 54 companies in the Top 100, accounting for 61% of total market capitalisation, China was placed second.

Amazon is the strongest performer gaining \$278 bn or 66% in value compared to 2017. It is followed by two Chinese companies: Tencent and Alibaba. The next three highest performers in absolute terms are Microsoft, Alphabet and Apple.

India & world

News: Most Important

1. *India to host European Union Film Festival*

India is set to host 23rd edition of European Film Festival, The Festival will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, **Mr Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore**.

It will be organized by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India partnering with the Delegation of the European Union and embassies of EU Member States in various city film clubs.

2. *India, Italy agree to revitalise bilateral ties*

External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** met the top Italian leadership and discussed steps to revitalise bilateral ties. The leaders agreed to boost cooperation in counter-terrorism and cybersecurity.

To augment collaboration in areas of mutual benefit, the Ministers agreed to hold the next meeting of the **Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation** (JCEC) in India later this year.

3. *World's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics launched in India*

World's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics was launched in Gujarat, India by the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU) in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation for India, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives.

The Centre will conduct various academic and professional programmes, training, research and provide technical expertise to support operations in the field of humanitarian forensics.

4. *Indian, Indonesian navies participate in Passage exercise*

The navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX). Indian Naval ships **INS Shakti** and **INS Kamorta** under the command of Rear Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, undertook PASSEX with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Madidihang (855) a Stingrays Class Fast Patrol Craft on leaving the Port of Makassar.

5. *President Kovind Visit to 3 nation Greece , Suriname and Cuba*

President Ram Nath Kovind embarked on an eight-day three-nation tour to Greece, Suriname and Cuba, He held meeting with Pavlopoulos as well as with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Leader of the Opposition Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

It was the first ever visit by an Indian head of state to Greece, the South American nation.

6. *Urban planning and development: India & Singapore*

Cabinet approved MoU between India and Singapore on Cooperation in the field of Planning

The objective of the MOU is to facilitate government agencies in the Centre and States, including Municipal Bodies, to readily tap into the expertise of Singapore agencies in the areas of urban development and management and other areas, and thus help in urban rejuvenation, mission.

7. *Science & Technology: India & Denmark*

Cabinet approved MoU between India and Denmark in the field of Science & Tech.

It will help researchers from scientific organisations, academia, research and development laboratories and companies. Renewable energy, water, material science, affordable healthcare, synthetic biology, functional food, and blue economy were identified as potential areas for immediate collaboration.

8. *Maritime Domain Awareness: India & France*

The Cabinet approved implementing arrangement for pre-formulation studies of a Maritime Domain Awareness Mission signed between India and France. The objective is to monitor the maritime traffic and to identify the non-compliant ships at the maximum possible revisit frequency.

9. *Civil aviation: India & Germany*

Cabinet approved India's re-cooperation in the field of civil aviation with Germany.

It will lead to promotion of safe, effective and efficient development of air transport between India and Germany and will also help in development of heliports and helicopter emergency medical services.

10. *Railways sector: India & Indonesia*

Union cabinet has approved (MoU) between India and Indonesia on Technical Cooperation in the field of railways sector.

The MoU will provide a framework of cooperation for, exchange of knowledge, technology, institutional cooperation including capacity building, modernization of rolling stock, as well as of signalling and communication systems in railways.

11. *Healthcare: India and Bahrain*

Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bahrain on cooperation in the field of Healthcare. It covers the following areas of cooperation: -Exchange of information including publications and research outcomes, exchanging visits by governmental officials, academic staff, scholars, teachers, experts and students, encouraging health and medical research activities at both the private-sector and the academic level.

News: Others

1. *Government teams up with Google for flood warning*

Union Water Resources Ministry has teamed up with Google to generate flood warnings. If there are signs of an imminent flood, a Google Maps user will be able to see what regions are likely to see water logging first and if their neighbourhood is under threat.

Currently, the Central Water Commission (CWC) warns of floods based on the rising water levels in reservoirs and if these are nearing a dam's 'danger marks.'

2. *India's proposed Assumption Island deal drifts*

Seychelles President Danny Faure has cancelled the agreement with India for the development of Assumption Island in the Indian Ocean.

It came due to protests over a perceived loss of sovereignty and is a blow to the India's "SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region) programme.

3. *SAARC Development Fund set to launch a SEDP*

Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund will be launching a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across eight-member states, including India.

SDF was established by the heads of the eight SAARC member states in April 2010 and its governing council comprises finance ministers of these eight countries.

It will create access to financial services & will eventually boost job creation, raise income, reduce vulnerability and increase investments in human capital.

4. *India to import 1st Russian LNG*

India will import its first ever cargo of LNG from Russia under a long-term deal as the world's fourth-largest buyer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) diversifies its import basket to meet its vast energy needs.

GAIL India Ltd will bring the shipload of LNG from Gazprom at Petronet LNG Ltd's import terminal in India.

Quick revision : Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State	Currency
Singapore	Singapore city	Halimah Yacob	Singapore dollar
Denmark	Copenhagen	Queen Margrethe II	Danish Krone
France	Paris	Emmanuel Macron	Euro
Germany	Berlin	Frank-Walter Steinmeier	Euro
Indonesia	Jakarta	Joko Widodo	Rupiah
Greece	Athens	Prokipsis Pavlopoulos	Euro
Suriname	Paramaribo	Desi Bouterse	Surinamese dollar
Cuba	Havana	Miguel Diaz Canel	Cuban Peso
Bahrain	Manama	Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa	Bahraini Dinar

Appointments & Resignations

News: Important

1. *M.K. Jain appointed RBI Deputy Governor*

IDBI CEO Mahesh Kumar Jain was been appointed as fourth deputy governor for a three-year term.

The fourth deputy governor's post has been vacant since SS Mundra retired in July 2017. As per the RBI Act, the central bank should have four deputy governors, two from within the ranks, a commercial banker and an economist to head the monetary policy department.

2. *Yes Bank reappoints Rana Kapoor as CEO*

Yes Bank has re-appointed Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO of the bank for a period of three years. The re-appointment will be effective for a period of three years from September 1, 2018 subject to final approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

3. *ICICI Bank board appoints Girish Chandra as non-executive chairman*

The ICICI bank has appointed Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as an additional (independent) director effective for a period of 3 years. He has served as Additional Secretary in the Financial Services with the government of India.

Sandeep Bakhshi has been appointed as Wholetime Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO).

4. *B Sriram appointed MD and CEO of IDBI Bank*

Mr. B. Sriram has been appointed as the IDBI Bank's CEO and Managing Director (MD) for three months, replacing Mahesh Kumar Jain.

He stepped down as the Managing Director (Corporate and Global Banking) of State Bank of India, a post he held since July 2014

5. *Bandhan Bank appointed H R Khan as chairman*

Bandhan Bank has appointed H R Khan, a former RBI deputy governor, as non-executive chairman. His appointment will be for a period of three years with or till the expiry of his term as an independent director whichever is earlier.

6. *Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian resigns*

Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian resigned and will be leaving the finance ministry because of "pressing family commitments" and will shift base to the US .

He took charge as the CEA on October 16, 2014 for a period of three years. In 2017, his term was extended for a year.

7. *Jordan's new Prime Minister appointed*

Jordan's King Abdullah appointed **Omar al-Razzaz** as new prime minister after resignation of prime minister Hani Mulki. It was aimed at defusing big protests over tax hikes that are part of an IMF-backed economic reform program. He is a Harvard-educated economist who served with the World Bank.

8. *Ivan Duque has been elected president of Colombia*

Ivan Duque of the rightist Democratic Centre Party won Colombia's second presidential run-off. He has been elected as the new chief of state for the 2018-2022 period. He garnered 53.95 percent of the votes (more than 10.3 million votes) and became the youngest popularly elected as president in Colombian history.

9. *Mehbooba Mufti resigned as Jammu and Kashmir's chief minister*

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti submitted her resignation to Governor **NN Vohra**. The resignation came after BJP severed its ties with the PDP citing that it has become untenable for the saffron party to continue in the alliance government in the state.

10. *Ex-RBI Deputy Governor joined Paytm as an Advisor*

Paytm has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor **Rama Subramaniam Gandhi** as an advisor. He has over three decades of experience in banking with cross-functional exposure in technology, payment systems, capital markets, securities, forex, money market and International Banking among others.

11. *Arijit Basu appointed new Managing Director of SBI*

Centre in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has appointed Arijit Basu as the Managing Director of the bank. His appointment is with effect from the date of his taking over charge of the post and till the date of his superannuation -- October 31, 2020, whichever is earlier.

12. *Anant Barua elected whole-time member of SEBI for three years*

Anant Barua has been appointed as a whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for three years. Prior to this assignment he was legal adviser in Legal Affairs Department (LAD), SEBI.

13. *Mr. Janardan Singh Gehlot appointed president of the IKF*

Janardan Singh Gehlot, an Indian sports administrator, was elected as the president of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) for the next four years. It was declared after the Annual General Congress (AGC) of the federation, conducted in Dubai, the UAE.

News: Others

1. *S Sundari Nanda appointed, the first woman DGP of Puducherry*

S. Sundari Nanda has been appointed as the Union Territory's first woman Director-General of Police. She replaced the incumbent DGP S.K. Gautam.

She is a 1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre, earlier served as the Special Commissioner of Police (Headquarters), Delhi police.

2. *Dhivya Suryadevara named CFO of General Motors*

Chennai-born Dhivya Suryadevara has been named the Chief Finance Officer of the US largest automaker, General Motors, the first woman to get the position in the auto industry.

GM's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Mary Barra**, is head of the automaker since 2014 and the only woman to run an automobile company.

3. *Rudrendra Tandon appointed as next Ambassador of India to ASEAN*

A 1994 Batch IFS Officer, Rudrendra Tandon , presently Joint Secretary at Headquarters, has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to ASEAN.

4. *Suranjan Gupta takes over as EEPC India ED*

Suranjan Gupta took over as the Executive Director and Secretary of engineering exporters' body **Engineering exports promotion council** (EEPC) India.

India exports transport equipment, capital goods, other machinery/equipment and light engineering products such as castings, forgings and fasteners to various nations across the world.

Shipments from the engineering sector account for 25 per cent of the country's total merchandise exports.

5. *Arvind Saxena appointed acting UPSC chief*

UPSC member Arvind Saxena has been appointed as the acting Chairman of the commission.

He is a 1978-batch Indian Postal Service officer, took charge from incumbent Vinay Mittal who completed his term at the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) .

6. *Bharti Infratel appointed S. Balasubramanian as new CFO*

Bharti Infratel has appointed S. Balasubramanian as their chief financial officer (CFO) after Pankaj Miglani resigned from his position.

He will take over reins at a time when Bharti Infratel and Indus Towers are getting the regulatory approvals for their merger.

7. *Uday Vora, appointed as the member of the National Wetland Committee.*

The Union government has appointed Uday Vora, the chief conservator of forests, Gujarat, as the member of the National Wetland Committee.

He will be the member along with **Arvind Kumar**, president, Chair Founder of India Water Foundation Hydrology, **BC Jha**, former principal scientist, ex-officio Head, Reservoir & Wetland Fisheries Division, CIFRI Fisheries and also director, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi Landscape planning.

The Committee has been formed under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.

8. *JP Morgan elevates Chase Bank India CEO*

JP Morgan has elevated Madhav Kalyan, CEO and MD, JPMorgan Chase Bank in India, to a regional role as the head of corporate banking in **South and South East Asia** as it seeks to capitalise on the growing opportunities in the region.

Quick revision

Appointment	Post
Mahesh Kumar Jain	RBI Deputy Governor
Arvind Saxena	Acting UPSC Chief
Suranjan Gupta	ED,EEPC
Rana Kapoor	CEO, Yes bank
Janardan Singh Gehlot	President, IKF
Arijit Basu	MD,SBI
Rama Subramaniam Gandhi	Advisor, Paytm
Ivan Duque	President, Colombia
Omar al-Razzaz	PM, Jordan
H R Khan	Chairman ,Bandhan Bank
B. Sriram	MD & CEO ,IDBI Bank
Girish Chandra Chaturvedi	Non-Executive Chairman, ICICI

Ranks & Reports

News: Most Important

1. *India ranked 136th in the global peace Index*

India moved one notch higher to 136th position in the **2018 Global Peace Index** prepared by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

The report covers 99.7 per cent of the world's population and used 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators grouped into three key domains -- ongoing conflict, safety and security, and militarisation .

Iceland topped the list followed by New Zealand & Austria.

2. *Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) released by NITI Aayog*

NITI Aayog prepared a report on Composite Water Management Index (CWMI).

It ranks Gujarat as number one, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Tripura has been adjudged number one followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam.

It seeks to enable data-backed water management in the country and promote 'competitive, cooperative federalism'.

3. *HDFC 5th biggest consumer financial services company globally*

On a list compiled by Forbes magazine, HDFC has been ranked as the 5th biggest public company globally in the 'consumer financial services category'.

American Express has topped this category, while Indiabulls Housing Finance is the only other Indian company (at 13th place) on the list.

The list was compiled on the basis of four metrics: sales, profits, assets and market value.

News: Others

1. *Maternal mortality ratio drops from 167 to 130*

As per the data from latest Sample Registration System (SRS), the Maternal Mortality Rate (number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births) of India has dropped from 167 (in 2011-2013, the last SRS period) to 130.

Kerala tops with an MMR of 46 (down from 61) whereas Maharashtra retains its second position with 61 and Tamil Nadu is in the third position.

2. *National disaster risk index ranking*

As per National Disaster Risk Index, Maharashtra has been ranked at the top of the list of Indian states, vulnerable to natural disasters, followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Delhi is the most vulnerable among the Union Territories

The index takes factors like the exposure of population, agriculture and livestock, along with the environmental risk.

3. *Delhi Metro network set to become 5th largest in world*

Expanding Metro network in Delhi will make it the world's fifth largest after Beijing, London, Shanghai and New York.

The over 11-km Mundka-Bahadurgarh section of Delhi Metro's Green Line, connecting the capital to Haryana, was recently inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi.

4. *NITI Aayog releases First Delta Ranking of Aspirational Districts*

The NITI Aayog launched the first Delta ranking (incremental progress) for the Aspirational Districts, based on self-reported data of districts between March 31, 2018 to May 31, 2018, across areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure.

Important days

News: Most Important

1. *World Milk Day observed : June 1st*

World Milk Day was observed on June 1st. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organizes it to recognise the importance of milk as a global food. It has been observed on June 1 each year since 2001. The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.

2018 theme in India was, *"Drink Move Be Strong"*.

2. *World bicycle day: June 3rd*

3rd of June was celebrated as World bicycle day. It was approved on 12th April 2018 as an official United Nations day of awareness about the multiple societal benefits of using the bicycle for transport and leisure.

New Delhi was one of the three cities in the world where major events were being organized to mark the day. Berlin & New York are the other two places.

3. *World Environment Day observed : June 5th*

World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5th ,it was hosted by *India*.

The day urged governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together and explore sustainable alternatives and urgently reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastic polluting our oceans, damaging marine life and threatening human health.

The theme for World Environment 2018 was "*Beat Plastic Pollution*".

4. *World Oceans Day observed : June 8th*

8th of June was observed as World Oceans Day to raise awareness of the vital importance of our oceans and the role they play in sustaining a healthy planet.

The United Nations General Assembly through its resolution in year 2008 designated June 8 as the World Oceans Day.

The theme for World Oceans Day 2018 was "*Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean*"

5. *World Day Against Child Labour : June 12th*

12th of June was observed as the World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) .It shine a spotlight on the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour. It aims to accelerate action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.7 of ending all forms of child labour by 2025.

6. *World Blood Donor day observed : June 14th*

14th of June was celebrated as World Blood Donor Day. The event served to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure the quality, safety and availability of blood and blood products for patients in need.

The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2018 events was Greece.

The theme for Blood Donation Day in 2018 was "*Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life*"

7. *Indian Army Observes 2018 As 'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty'*

The Indian Army is observing the year 2018 as the 'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty' to honour soldiers who have been disabled in the line of duty while serving the nation and to celebrate the undying spirit of 'Soldiering'.

The main aim of the observance is to alleviate the sufferings of the soldiers, who have done their duty with utmost dedication to the nation and have been disabled for life.

8. *World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought : June 17th*

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was observed on 17th of June to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels.

2018 Theme "*Land has true value – invest in it.*"

9. *4th International Yoga Day celebrated all over the world*

June 21 was celebrated as fourth International Yoga Day was celebrated all over the world.

The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations (IDY-2018) was held at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.

It aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga, a physical, mental and spiritual practice. The theme for Yoga Day 2018 was "*Yoga for Peace.*"

10. *International Olympic Day*

Olympic Day was celebrated on June 23rd

To mark the 70th anniversary, this year's Olympic Day theme is "*United By*", which aims to highlight how sport has the power to unite regardless of age, gender, religion, nationality, ability, and works to build a unified celebration of Olympic Ideas and values.

11. *International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: June 26th*

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed on June 26 .

It marks as an expression of determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

The theme for 2018 was: "*Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe.*"

12. *Statistics Day: June 29th, Professor P. C. Mahalanobis 125th birth anniversary celebrated*

29th of June was celebrated as the "Statistics Day" in the category of Special Days at the National level to mark the notable contributions made by Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning.

Venkaiah Naidu released Rs 125 Coin on the occasion.

The theme for the year was "*Quality Assurance in Official Statistics*".

News: Others

1. *Sustainable Gastronomy Day : June 18th*

Sustainable Gastronomy Day was observed on 18th of June ,it emphasizes the need to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play. It acknowledges gastronomy as a cultural expression related to the natural and cultural diversity of the world.

2. *World Refugee Day observed : June 20th*

20th of June was observed as World Refugee Day, to honour the courage and resilience of refugees--recognizing the hardships they have faced, the new lives they have created, and the positive impact they have on our communities.

It also marks a key moment for the public to show support for families forced to flee.

3. *UN MSME Day observed : June 27th*

UN MSME Day was observed on 27th of June ,The Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), organized National Conclave (UdyamSangam) on this occasion. Its purpose was to encourage dialogue and partnership among various stakeholders of the MSME ecosystem and for promoting innovation and knowledge sharing on MSME related issues.

4. *International Day of Family Remittances observed: June 16th*

June 16th was observed as International Day of Family Remittances .It was aimed at recognizing the significant financial contribution migrant workers make to the wellbeing of their families back home and to the sustainable development of their countries of origin.

Quick revision

Date	Observed Day	Theme
1 st June	World Milk Day	<i>Drink Move Be Strong</i>
5 th June	World Environment Day	<i>Beat Plastic Pollution</i>
8 th June	World Ocean Day	<i>Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean</i>
14 th June	World Blood Donor Day	<i>Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life</i>
17 th June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	<i>Land has true value – invest in it</i>
21 st June	International Yoga Day	<i>Yoga for Peace</i>
23 rd June	International Olympic Day	<i>United By</i>
26 th June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	<i>Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe</i>
29 th June	Statistics Day	<i>Quality Assurance in Official Statistics</i>

Sports

News: Most Important

1. *Virat Kohli ranked 83rd in world's 100 highest-paid athletes, 2018*

Virat Kohli with earnings of USD 24 million ranked 83rd in Forbes World's Highest-Paid Athletes, he is the only sportsperson from India to be featured in the list.

Floyd Mayweather topped the list followed by Lionel Messi & Cristiano Ronaldo.

2. *Halep beats Stephens to win maiden Grand Slam title*

Simona Halep claimed her first Grand Slam title by beating Sloane Stephens 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a gruelling **French Open** final. The world number one had lost all three of her previous major finals, including two at Roland Garros.

World number one **Rafael Nadal** won 11th French Open men's title by beating Austrian Dominic Thiem in straight sets.

3. *India lifts 2018 Intercontinental Cup*

India thrashed Kenya 2-0 to clinch the Intercontinental Cup at the Mumbai Football Arena.

The 2018 Intercontinental Cup is a 4-team association football tournament held at the Mumbai Football Arena in the Indian city of Mumbai. The tournament was organized by the **AIFF** as part of the senior men's team's preparation for 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

4. *Roger Federer claims 98th career title with victory in Stuttgart*

Roger Federer claimed his 98th ATP title with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) victory over Milos Raonic in the Stuttgart Cup final.

He beat his Canadian opponent for the 11th time in 14 meetings while winning a first Stuttgart title.

5. *Indian shooters finish on top in Germany*

India Finish on Top of Medals Tally at Junior Shooting World Cup held in **Suhl, Germany**.

India collected **26** medals in all including 15 gold, two silver and nine bronze medals.

They picked up eight medals, including five gold, on the concluding day of the tournament.

6. *Rani Rampal to lead India in Women's Hockey World Cup*

Forward Rani Rampal has been named as the captain of India's 18-member squad for the women's hockey World Cup to be played in **London** next month. Goalkeeper Savita has been named as her deputy.

The tournament will witness the return of goalkeeper Rajani Etimarpu.

7. *Australia claimed a 15th Champions Trophy title*

Australia defeated **India** to win **Men's Rabobank Hockey Champions Trophy 2018**.

European champions the Netherlands (WR:4) claimed the bronze medal thanks to a 2-0 victory over Rio 2016 Olympic gold medallists Argentina (WR:2)

The tournament was held at **Breda, Netherlands**.

News: Others

1. *Ulaanbaatar Cup 2018: India finish with nine medals*

India won one gold, four silver, and four bronze medals at Ulaanbaatar Cup 2018.

Mandeep Jangra (69kg) was the lone Indian boxer to claim a gold medal among the five finalists.

The silver medals went to both the women finalists Sonia Lather (57kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Himanshu Sharma (49kg) and Etash Khan (56kg).

2. *Deepika Kumari clinched gold medal in the women's recurve event*

Ace Indian archer Deepika Kumari clinched the gold medal in the women's recurve event at the World Cup (Stage III) after a gap of six years, beating Germany's Michelle Kroppen 7-3 to qualify for the circuit Final.

3. *Chennai boy is world's second youngest Grandmaster*

R. Praggnanandhaa, who missed out on the chance to become the game's youngest-ever Grandmaster in March this year, completed the technical formalities to become the world's youngest GM at present, and the second youngest on the all-time list.

Awards

News: Most Important

1. *Virat Kohli presented the Polly Umrigar Award*

Virat Kohli was presented with the prestigious Polly Umrigar award for the best international cricketer (2016-17 and 2017-18) at the BCCI Awards held in Bengaluru.

Harmanpreet Kaur and **Smriti Mandhana** received award for best international cricketer (women) for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons respectively.

2. *HDFC bank won the Champion Security Award*

HDFC Bank was recognized with the Champion Security Award at the **14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit**. For the second time in a row, the bank has won the award in the India and South Asia category. The Award is a mark of excellence reflecting leadership in risk management and payment security performance.

3. *WCD Ministry conferred with 'Best Performing Social Sector Ministry' award*

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been adjudged the Best Performing Social Sector Ministry' by SKOCH, that deals with socio-economic issues.

The award was given to Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi.

4. *IIFA Awards 2018 announced*

Irrfan Khan won Best Actor in a leading role for Hindi Medium while Sridevi won Best Actress (posthumously) for her role in 2017 film MOM.

Tumhari Sulu was adjudged best picture & award for best direction went to Saket Chaudhary for Hindi Medium.

Anupam Kher was conferred with Lifetime Achievement honour. The 19th edition of IIFA is being held in Bangkok.

News: Others

1. *The Corporation Bank bagged 'Investor Relations Awards 2018'*

Corporation Bank has bagged 'Investor Relations Awards 2018' under the category 'Best Expectation Management (Mid Cap)' for 2017-18. An award instituted by Investor Relations Society India. Bank General Manager U. Chandrakanth Nayak received the award.

2. *Jane Fonda to receive 2018 Lumiere Award*

Jane Fonda, an American activist, will be awarded the Lumiere Award for this year in Lyon, France. She has won Oscar award & BAFTA award twice and Golden Globe Award four times.

She will be presented with the award by festival director Thierry Fremaux.

3. *Vasundhara Raje conferred with 'Chief Minister of the Year' award*

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance. The award was given at the 52nd Skoch Summit held in New Delhi.

4. *K. Srikanth wins Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year award for 2017*

The Commonwealth Games 2018 gold-medal winning shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, was adjudged as the Sportsperson of the Year for 2017 by the Sports Illustrated India magazine

The ceremony took place at the Roseate House, Aerocity in New Delhi.

In 2017, the shuttler won 4 Super series titles – Indonesia, Australia, Denmark and France and finished the season as World No. 2

Quick revision

Award	Winner
Polly Umrigar award	Virat Kohli
Champion Security Award	HDFC Bank
IIFA Awards: Best Picture	Tumhari Sulu
IIFA Awards: Best Director	Saket Chaudhary
IIFA Awards: Best Actor	Irrfan Khan
IIFA Awards: Best Actress	Late Sridevi
IIFA Awards: Life Time Achievement	Anupam Kher
Sportsperson of the Year for 2017(By Illustrated magazine)	Kidambi Srikanth
Chief Minister of the Year	Vasundhara Raje
Lumiere Award	Jane Fonda
Investor Relations Awards	Corporation Bank
Best Performing Social Sector Ministry (SKOCH)	Ministry of Women and Child Development

Obituaries

News: Most Important

1. *Ex-footballer Timothy Pereira passed away*

Timothy Pereira, former football player passed away after a long-term illness, in Mumbai, he was 75. He first played for Goan sports and State Bank before joining Tata SC.

2. *'Rasraj' Narayan Prasad Singh passed away*

Odisha's most popular lyricist, Narayan Prasad Singh popularly known as Rasaraj passed away at his residence in Bhubaneswar. He was 86.

He made his debut by writing songs for Akashvani and came to be known as Rasaraj in Odia film industry for penning more than a hundred of songs that touched the heart of both the urban and rural population.

3. *Journalist Shujaat Bukhari shot dead*

Veteran journalist Shujaat Bukhari, editor-in-chief of the Srinagar-based newspaper Rising Kashmir, was shot dead by unknown assailants.

He was bureau chief of The Hindu in Srinagar for nearly 15 years, Prior to launching his own newspaper. He used to write in Kashmiri and Urdu as well as English. He was also the president of Adbee Markaz Kamraz, the biggest and oldest cultural and literary organisation of the Valley.

4. *Veteran journalist Adiraju Venkateswara Rao passed away*

Veteran journalist and author Adiraju Venkateswara Rao, 80 passed away after a brief illness.

He was Popularly known as Adiraju, Mr. Venkateswara Rao was born in 1938 at Panditapuram village in Khammam district.

In a career spanning over five-and-a-half decades, he worked for several Telugu and English dailies and news agencies including Andhra Jyothi, Udayam, Deccan Chronicle, Indian Express, Himachal Times and Hindustan Samachar at Hyderabad and Delhi.

5. *Australian golfer Peter Thomson passed is no more*

Australian golfer Peter Thomson dies aged 88 ,due to Parkinson's disease.

He won the British Open five times.

He was the first Australian to win the British Open, claiming the famous claret jug on five occasions between 1954 and 1965, including three consecutive wins.

6. *Charles Krauthammer, Pulitzer prize-winning columnist and pundit passed away*

Charles Krauthammer, the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and pundit. He is credited with coining the term "The Reagan Doctrine" for President Reagan's policy of aiding anti-Communist movements worldwide. He was a leading advocate for the Iraq War and a prominent critic of President Barack Obama, whom he praised for his "first-class intellect and first-class temperament" and denounced for having a "highly suspect" character.

7. *Renowned mimicry artist Venu Madhav is no more*

Nerella Venu Madhav, world renowned mimicry artiste died after a brief illness at his home in Mattewada in the city. He was 85

He was nominated as MLC by former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1971.

He was conferred Kala Prapurna title by the Andhra University in 1978 and was awarded Padma Sri by the Central Government in 2001.

8. *Poetess Sujatha Devi passed away*

Poetess and winner of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award, B Sujatha Devi, passed away at a private hospital here today following brief illness, she was 72

News: Others

1. *Former Congress MP Shantaram Naik passed away in Goa*

Former Congress MP Shantaram Naik passed away in Margao, Goa, after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 73-year-old & a one-time North Goa Lok Sabha MP and a two-time Rajya Sabha MP. He also headed the Goa Congress.

2. *Donald Hall, a former poet laureate of the United States passed away*

Donald Hall, a prolific and award-winning poet and man of letters who was widely admired for his sharp humor and painful candor about nature, mortality, baseball and the distant past, has died. He was 89.

3. *Spiritual guru Bhaiyyu Maharaj committed suicide*

Spiritual guru Bhaiyyu Maharaj allegedly committed suicide in Indore by shooting himself, his original name is Uday Singh Deshmukh.

He was very popular in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh because of his spiritual and social works.

Quick revision

Obituary(Name)	Related Field
Timothy Pereira	Football Player
Narayan Prasad Singh	Lyricist
Shujaat Bukhari	Journalist
Adiraju Venkateswara Rao	Journalist & Author
Peter Thomson	Golf
Charles Krauthammer	Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist
Nerella Venu Madhav	Mimicry artist
B Sujatha Devi	Poetess
Shantaram Naik	Politician
Donald Hall	Poet
Bhaiyyu Maharaj	Spiritual guru

Schemes

News: Most Important

1. *President launches Solar Charkha Mission*

President Ram Nath Kovind launched the Solar Charkha Mission under which the government will disburse a subsidy of Rs 550 crore to thousands of artisans, generating employment in rural areas.

It was launched during the event of **Udyam Sangam -National MSME Conclave** -on World MSME Day.

2. *Government introduces new scheme 'Seva Bhoj Yojna'*

The Ministry of Culture introduced a new scheme namely 'Seva Bhoj Yojna' with a total outlay of Rs. 325.00 Crores for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The scheme envisages to reimburse the Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) so as to lessen the financial burden of such Charitable Religious Institutions who provide Food/Prasad/Langar (Community Kitchen)/Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to Public/Devotees.

3. *Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan implemented*

The Ministry of Agriculture and farmers' welfare in line of vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022 has launched the Krishi kalyan Abhiyaan to aid, assist and advice farmers on how to improve their farming techniques and raise their incomes. It will be undertaken in 25 Villages with more than 1000 population each in Aspirational Districts identified in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development as per directions of NITI Aayog.

4. *Odisha launched health insurance scheme for journalists*

Odisha government launched a health insurance scheme the scheme called "**Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana**" for working journalists in the state. In the first phase, as many as 3,233 working journalists will get health insurance coverage up to Rs 2 lakh a year. At least five members of the journalist's family will be covered under the scheme.

News: Others

1. *Govt approves 33% increase in carpet area of houses under PMAY-U*

The government has approved a 33-percent increase in carpet area of houses eligible for interest subsidy under its affordable housing scheme **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)** to attract more beneficiaries.

The carpet area of a house has been enhanced to 160 sq. m from 120 sq. m for Middle Income Group-I (MIG-I), while it has been increased to 200 sq. m from 150 sq. m in case of MIG -II.

2. *NTPC adopted Hyderabad's Charminar under the Swachh Iconic Places Project*

NTPC Ltd and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) have signed a MoU for implementation of development and beautification works under '**Charminar Pedestrianization Project**' in Hyderabad, it was a special drive under the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission.

Person in News

News: Most Important

1. *Bindeshwar Pathak presented Nikkei Asia Prize*

Social worker Bindeshwar Pathak, the founder of Sulabh International, was honoured with Japan's prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize for his contribution towards culture and community. He received the award for the invention of two-pit pour-flush ecological compost toilets that help provide low-cost environment friendly toilets to millions in the developing world.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Infosys' co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy have received this award in past.

2. *Record-Breaking Astronaut Peggy Whitson Retires from NASA*

NASA astronaut **Peggy Whitson**, who spent a record-breaking 665 days in space, has retired from the space agency. She holds the US record for most cumulative time in space.

She also claimed the title for most spacewalks by a woman & set the record for most time spent in space by a US astronaut, placing eighth on the all-time space endurance list.

3. *AR Rahman appointed Sikkim's brand ambassador for a year*

Renowned music composer A.R. Rahman has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the Sikkim government, he will promote and project the state's achievements nationally and globally,

Sikkim, is world famous eco-tourism destination, besides attaining a distinct identity as the first fully organic farming state of the country.

4. *Sunil Bharti Mittal named as honorary chairman of ICC*

The **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** named Bharti Enterprises' chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal as honorary chairman after his two-year long tenure as the chairman comes to an end.

Under his leadership, ICC has increased its geographical outreach by having new members from diverse regions. He is being replaced by Unilever Chief Executive Paul Polman as chairman.

News: Others

1. *Erdogan wins re-election as president of Turkey*

Turkey's long-standing leader **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** has won a new five-year term after securing outright victory in the first round of a presidential poll.

He got nearly 53% with almost all votes counted. His closest rival Muharrem Ince was on 31%.

2. *Pallavi Durua ,India's first 'Tribal Queen'*

Pallavi Durua, who belongs to Odisha's Koraput district, was crowned as the first Tribal Queen at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap.

The jury included a pool of guests from national and state-level, headed by Padma Shri Tulasi Munda, who is also the ambassador of the event.

Summit & Conference

News: Most Important

1. *The 106th Indian Science Congress to be held at LPU*

Lovely Professional University (LPU), Jalandhar, will host the 106th Indian Science Congress on its campus from January 3 to 7, 2019. The event will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It will stimulate scientific research and advancement of science in India.

2. *Mauritius to host the 11th World Hindi Conference*

The 11th World Hindi Conference or Vishwa Hindi Sammellan will be held from 18-20 August at **Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre in Mauritius**.

The event, held once in three years, is dedicated to Hindi language. It sees participation from Hindi scholars, writers and laureates from different parts of the world who contribute to the language. The previous conference was held in Bhopal in 2015.

3. *High-Level Conference on International Decade of Water for Sustainable Development*

The International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development,' 2018-2028 was organized jointly by the Government of the **Republic of Tajikistan** and the UN.

It facilitated the implementation of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development,' 2018-2018, which was endorsed by the UN General Assembly resolution 71/222 on 21 December 2016.

4. *First-ever World Tolerance Summit to be held in Dubai*

Around 1,000 leaders and delegates from the fields of politics, religion, and culture, among others, will convene in Dubai in November for the first-ever World Tolerance Summit (WTS) to forge alliances against extremism and sectarianism. The summit, an initiative of Dubai-based International Institute of Tolerance (IIT), will be held on November 15 and 16, coinciding with the International Day of Tolerance (November 16).

5. *NSG plenary meeting held in Jurmala, Latvia*

The 28th Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), chaired by Ambassador Janis Zlamets of Latvia, was held in Jurmala, Latvia

The NSG brings together 48 Participating Governments with the European Commission and the Chair of the Zangger Committee participating as permanent observers. It aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation on a national basis of export controls for nuclear and nuclear-related material, "dual use" material, equipment, software and technology, without hindering international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

6. *Eleventh edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 organised*

The Eleventh edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 organised by Geospatial Media and Communication with Directorate General of Information System as Knowledge Partners and Military Survey as Co-organisers, took place at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The theme of Seminar was '**Geospatial : A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security**'. The seminar brought together the military, security officials including BSF and Police Forces, Government and industry together to examine the latest technology solutions and on the critical role of geospatial technology in military and security applications

News: Others

1. *National Consultation on Making Agriculture Sustainable & Profitable*

The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Inaugurated a two-day National Consultation on Making Agriculture Sustainable and Profitable 'Making Agriculture Sustainable and Profitable', at **Pune**, Maharashtra.

He called for making agriculture viable, profitable and sustainable to improve the lot of farmers and ensure home-grown food security.

2. *7th India Minerals & Metals Forum*

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organized the 7th India Minerals and Metals Forum at Shangri-La's – Eros Hotel, **New Delhi**.

It emphasized on utilizing low grade minerals to reduce burden on high end minerals. It was expressed that India has been conservative in exploration of deep seated minerals due to environmental concerns, but it needs quick progress and there is a lot of scope for private sector for carrying out such researches.

Quick revision

Summit/Conference	Venue
106 th Indian Science Congress	LPU, Jalandhar
7 th India Minerals and Metals Forum	New Delhi
National Consultation on Making Agriculture Sustainable and Profitable	Pune, Maharashtra
28 th NSG Plenary meeting	Jurmala, Latvia
International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development' conference	Republic of Tajikistan
World Tolerance Summit	Dubai
Geo-Intelligence Asia	New Delhi

Defence

News: Most Important

1. *India to host first BIMSTEC war games*

India will host the first military exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focussing on counter-terrorism in September.

The aim of the exercise is to promote strategic alignment among the member-states and to share best practices in the area of counter-terrorism

2. *Dhanush artillery gun passes the final tests, ready to be inducted to the Army*

India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun "Dhanush" has passed its final test at Pokhran, paving the way for its induction into the Army.

The gun has passed tests under severe cold conditions in Sikkim and Leh and in hot and humid weather in Balasore, Odisha, Babina in Jhansi and in the desert of Pokhran in Rajasthan.

Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun and is also called the "desi Bofors".

3. *India and Bangladesh join hands*

India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute a **Coordinated Patrol** (CORPAT) as an annual feature between the two Navies. The first edition will be inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba during his visit there.

The Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. It also conducts EEZ surveillance of Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles on their request.

4. *INS Sahyadri reaches Pearl Harbour for RIMPAC exercise*

Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri, commanded by Captain Shantanu Jha has reached the Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, to participate in the 26th edition of Exercise **RIM of Pacific (RIMPAC)**.

RIMPAC provides a platform for multilateral operational interactions aimed at increased interoperability and development of common understanding of procedures for maritime security operations.

It is the largest multilateral naval exercise in the world and is held biennially in the Western Pacific Ocean.

News: Others

1. *Institution of "Home Minister's Special Operation"*

The Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** has approved the institution of "Home Minister's Special Operation Medal". Police Officers of States & Union Territories, Central Police Organisations (CPOs), Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Security Organisation involved in Special Operations will be eligible for it.

He also instituted three more Medals, - the Antarik Suraksha Medal, Asadharan Aashuchan Padak, and Utkrisht & Ati-Utkrisht Seva Medal. The Medals will be awarded annually.

2. *DRDO turns Pinaka rocket system into guided missile*

The indigenous Pinaka rocket system of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), known for firing a salvo of 12 rockets in just 44 seconds, has been turned into a precision-guided missile, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets.

Initial version of the Pinaka rocket was further developed into **Pinaka Mark II**, which has an enhanced range of 70 to 80 km compared to Mark I, with a range of 40 km.

Agreements

News: Most Important

1. *Japan's SoftBank to invest up to \$100 billion in Indian solar*

Japan's Softbank Group Corp has decided to invest \$60 bn - \$100 bn in India's solar power generation.

The investment fund will be backed by **Saudi Arabia's** government. Saudi Arabia is the largest investor in SoftBank's Vision Fund, which raised over \$93 billion last year.

India has set a target to achieve an operational solar power capacity of 100 GW by 2022, five times current levels.

2. *World Bank approves Rs. 6,000 crore Atal Bhujal Yojana*

The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), a Rs.6000 crore Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

It aims to improve ground water management in priority areas i.e. states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the country through community participation.

3. *Singapore signs MoU with AP*

Andhra Pradesh entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore to accelerate the construction work of its new capital, Amravati.

The MoU was signed between AP Real Estate Regulatory Authority and Building (APRERA) and Construction Authority of Singapore

The MoU aims to empower APRERA which in turn will promote and create a safe, high quality, environment-friendly built environment in Andhra Pradesh with the help of expertise relating to the set-up, operation, experience and best practices in construction.

News: Others

1. *NSDC, Muthoot Fincorp join hands*

Muthoot Fincorp Limited and National Skill Development Corporation announced its partnership to train over 10,000 youth under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) programme.

They will train people for next three years and will make them job ready. NSDC has approved a target of 3,000 candidates in the first year and 3,500 each in the subsequent two years.

2. *BHEL inks pact with Korean firm NANO for emission controlling equipment*

BHEL has inked a pact with South Korean firm NANO Co Ltd for design and manufacture of emission controlling devices for coal-based power plants.

This Technology Collaboration Agreement (TCA) is meant for design and manufacture of SCR Catalysts for De-NOx application in coal-fired plants

Books & Authors

News: Most Important

1. *WWF-India launches first-ever nature-themed comic book*

Aiming to foster love for the nature and raise awareness about its protection among children, the WWF-India has launched its first-ever comic book '**The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Bicky**' that celebrates the geographical diversity of the country.

2. *Vice President releases the book **The Emergency: Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour***

M Venkaiah Naidu launched a book titled 'The Emergency-Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour' written by **A. Surya Prakash**, chairman Prasar Bharati Board.

According to him emergency is a bad part of Indian history and there is a need for systematic documentation of the emergency.

3. *Vice President releases the **Human Rights, Values and Cultural Ethos***

The Vice President, **M. Venkaiah Naidu** released the book titled "Human Rights, Values and Cultural Ethos", authored by Dr. R.P. Dhokalia, in New Delhi.

He stressed that the globalized world of our times needs both scientific and spiritual development.

4. *NABARD Publication on Water Productivity Mapping released*

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** released a book 'Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops' published by NABARD.

The book is based on study of 10 important crops under the leadership of leading agricultural economist **Dr. Ashok Gulati**. It suggests realigning cropping pattern keeping in view water scarcity of irrigation, ration irrigation supplies in canal irrigation system, improve micro-irrigation and invest in water harvesting.

News: Others

1. *Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu received the book "Vedvigyan Alok"*

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has received the book "Vedvigyan Alok" (Maharishi Aitareya Mahidas Praneet - Aitareya Brahmina ki Vaigyanik Vyakhya) authored by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik.

The book is the scriptural verse in Vedas' prose. The texts were composed only by the Brahmin community; hence their names are called "Brahmins".

2. *Maneka Gandhi launches book on prevention of crimes against children*

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi launched a handbook on ways to prevent crimes against children.

Titled "Legal Processes for the Police in Respect of Crime Against Children", to ensure congruent capacity building of the police to deal with this growing menace.

It was brought out by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai.

Quick Revision

Book	Author/Brought by
Legal Processes for the Police in Respect of Crime Against Children	BPR&D and TISS
Vedvigyan Alok	Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik
Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops	NABARD
Human Rights, Values and Cultural Ethos	R.P. Dhokalia
The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Bikky	WWF-India
The Emergency-Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour	A. Surya Prakash

Science & Technology

News: Most Important

1. *US unveils "Summit", the world's most powerful scientific supercomputer*

The US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee unveiled the 'Summit' supercomputer that can deliver a peak performance of 200 petaflops, or about 200 quadrillion calculations per second. Summit is 60% faster than the TaihuLight supercomputer, which could achieve a peak performance of 93 petaflops.

2. *China approves world's first long-acting anti-HIV drug*

The China Food and Drug Administration approved the domestically developed, long-acting injectable HIV drug **Albuvirtide**. It is the world's first long-acting intravenous treatment for HIV.

Developed by the Nanjing-based Frontier Biotechnologies Inc, the drug can block the fusion of the viral and host cell membranes, interrupting the HIV life cycle in its earliest stage.

3. *ISRO to Transfer Lithium Ion Cell Tech to Indian Electric Vehicle Industry*

Indian space agency ISRO has decided to transfer its own Lithium-ion cell technology to Indian industry on a non-exclusive basis for usage in automobiles for **Rs. 1 crore**. The initiative will accelerate the development of indigenous electric vehicle industry.

4. *India's first robotic telescope opens its eyes to the universe*

India's first robotic telescope has started observing the skies. It is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh & is designed to observe dynamic or transient events in the universe.

The facility at Hanle Called GROWTH-India, is part of a multi-country collaborative initiative known as 'Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen' (GROWTH).

News: Others

1. *Novel material can remove pollutants from water*

Researchers from Spain have identified absorbent materials i.e. types of phyllosilicates that can help soak up pollutants found in urban waste water in less than 24 hours. Phyllosilicates are a subclass of silicates and include common mineral in very different environments.

2. *"Scout"- First-ever browser controlled by voice*

Mozilla the creator of Firefox, is working on a voice-controlled platform of its own, called Scout. Move over keyboards, mice, or even finger swipes, as after the success of Google Assistant, Apple Siri, and Amazon Alexa, Mozilla is also considering that the future of Web browsing is voice control.

Environment

News: Most Important

1. *Two frog species discovered in Eastern and Western Ghats*

Two species of frogs have been recorded in the Indian peninsular — **Fejervarya kalinaga** from the Eastern Ghats and **Fejervarya krishnan** from the Western Ghats. The Eastern Ghats species attains significance since it is endemic to moist high-altitude forest of the region. It is one of the very few species of herpetofauna endemic to the Eastern Ghats.

2. *Endangered species listing considered for rare Nevada toad*

U.S. wildlife officials are set to consider Endangered Species Act protection for a **rare toad** in northern Nevada's high desert.

Nevada toad is a 2-inch-long (5-centimeters) toad with flecks of gold on its olive-coloured body and was discovered in 2007 in thick underbrush of a spring-fed marsh in the Dixie Valley, where an ancient lake once covered 190,000 square miles.

3. *World's first manta ray nursery found*

Scientists have discovered the world's first known natural manta ray nursery, which could allow them to observe the juvenile marine creatures in their habitat and learn more about them. It is located in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Texas at U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

News: Others

1. *South Asia's Hotspots: World Bank report*

A new World Bank report, South Asia's Hotspots, found that average temperatures in the region have increased in the last sixty years and will continue rising.

Eight hundred million South Asians are at risk to see their standards of living and incomes decline as rising temperatures and more erratic rainfalls will cut down crop yields, make water more scarce, and push more people away from their homes to seek safer places.

2. *World's oldest animal footprints discovered in China*

The earliest known footprints left by an animal on Earth, dating back at least 541 million years, have been uncovered in China.

According to the report in the US journal, Science Advances ,this is considered the **earliest animal fossil footprint record**.

Apps & Portals

News: Most Important

1. *Suresh Prabhu launches ReUnite app*

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu on Friday launched a mobile application — ReUnite — to trace missing and abandoned children in India.

The app is multiuser where parents and citizens can upload pictures of children, and provide detailed description like name, birth mark, address, report to the police station, search and identify missing kids.

Amazon Rekognition, web facial recognition service, is being used to identify missing kids.

2. *External Affairs Minister launched a Passport Seva app*

External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** launched a Passport Seva app for seamless application and issue of passports.

The two new schemes - Passport application from anywhere in India, and filling passport application forms from mobile phones, would make the procedure for obtaining passports simpler.

3. *Ministry of Railways launches two apps*

The Ministry of Railways launched two mobile applications to ease the travelling experience. The two apps, 'Rail MADAD' and 'Menu on Rails'.

While **Rail MADAD** will enable travellers to lodge complaints, **Menu on Rails** will facilitate seamless ordering of food.

4. *Indian Railways introduce mobile app- utsonmobile*

The Railways introduced a new mobile application 'utsonmobile' The app will enable booking and cancellation of unreserved tickets, renewal of season and platform tickets, check and load R-wallet balance and will also help maintain user profile management and booking history.

5. *Punjab govt offers free saplings through mobile app*

To increase the state's green cover, the Punjab government has launched a smartphone application that lets users order free plant saplings.

The 'i-Hariyali' app under 'Mission Tandarust'

The app aims to inspire people to plant more saplings to save the environment from pollution. It will ensure clean, green, healthy and robust Punjab with the active participation of people.

News: Others

1. *Tourism Minister launches the new Incredible India website*

The Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism K.J. Alphons launched the new Incredible India website in New Delhi . The website showcases India as a holistic destination, revolving around major experiences, such as, spirituality, heritage, adventure, culture, yoga, wellness and more. The website follows the trends and technologies of international standards with an aim to project India as a “must-visit” destination, among its overseas travellers.

2. *Online RTI Portal of Election Commission of India*

Chief Election Commissioner **O.P. Rawat**, Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa launched the online RTI Portal of Election Commission of India. It will help applicants looking for information under the Right to Information Act.

3. *'COP CONNECT' mobile App for Telangana police launched*

A mobile app namely 'COP CONNECT' has been launched to support the professional communication and collaboration needs of the complete police department of Telangana

It's end-to-end encryption with server being with Police Department ensures absolute security and confidentiality of internal Police communication.

Quick revision

App/Portal/Website	Launched by
COP CONNECT	Telangana Police
Online portal for RTI	Election Commission
Incredible India website	K.J. Alphons
i-Hariyali	Punjab govt.
Utsonmobile, Rail MADAD and Menu on Rails	Railway Ministry
Passport Seva	Sushma Swaraj
ReUnite	Suresh Prabhu

Acquisitions & Mergers

News: Most Important

1. *IRDAI permitted LIC to pick up to 51 per cent stake in the IDBI Bank*

Insurance regulator ,Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India permitted LIC to pick up to 51 per cent stake in the debt ridden IDBI Bank.

LIC currently hold 11 per cent stake in the bank. With this deal the IDBI Bank will get capital support of Rs 10,000-Rs 13,000 crore.

2. *Tata to raise Bhushan steel stake to 75%, to acquire additional 2.5%*

Tata Steel plans to buy an additional 2.5 per cent stake in Bhushan Steel from lenders, taking its stake from 72.65 per cent to over 75 per cent.

Tata Steel's subsidiary Bamnival Steel has acquired 72.65 per cent stake in Bhushan Steel in May this year after the company failed to repay its Rs 560 billion in debts

3. *RBL Bank raises its stake in Swadhaar Finserve Pvt. Ltd*

RBL Bank has fully acquired Mumbai-based financial product distribution firm Swadhaar FinServe Pvt Ltd where it had 60.49 per cent holding earlier.

RBL has purchased 35.94 per cent from Accion International and 3.58 per cent from promoters and others.

Swadhaar is a business correspondence that works exclusively for RBL Bank.

News: Others

1. *Truecaller acquires Chillr*

Truecaller acquired Chillr, an Indian multi-bank payments app.

Truecaller will get a fillip to get into the Indian payments space which is seeing players such as Phonepe, WhatsApp and others vying for a piece of the lucrative market.

2. *Microsoft buys Flipgrid*

Microsoft has acquired Flipgrid Inc., a maker of video discussion software and services for the education market, for an undisclosed amount.

Flipgrid counts more than 20 million educators, students and families in 180 countries as its customers. The Minneapolis, Minn.-based company was founded in 2015.

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