

November 2018

# BOLT

*Monthly Current Affairs*



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## Banking

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Sunil Mehta panel incorporates 'Sashakt India AMC' for large NPAs*

Sunil Mehta panel incorporated an asset management company for resolving large NPAs that will be called as **Sashakt India Asset Management**. The panel is working to identifying potential investors for an alternate investment fund which will fund the AMC.

#### 2. *RBI decided to retain the Capital Adequacy Ratio*

RBI has mandated that banks maintain CRAR of **9%**, 1 percentage point higher than Basel norms. RBI also agreed to extend the transition period for implementing the last tranche the Capital Conservation Buffer (0.625%) up to **March 31, 2020**.

#### 3. *Reserve Bank liberalises norms governing external commercial borrowings for infrastructure creation*

According to the RBI's new norms for ECB, the minimum average maturity for the ECB in the infrastructure space raised by eligible borrowers reduced to **3 years from 5 years**. The average maturity for mandatory hedging has reduced to 5 years from 10 years.

#### 4. *Chinese bank sets up \$200 million fund for investing in Indian MSMEs*

The Indian unit of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China has set up a **\$200 million** fund for investing in micro, small and medium enterprises and ventures. Zheng Bin is the CEO of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). The ICBC opened its branch in Mumbai in 2011.

#### 5. *HSBC India and ING Bank Brussels executes Blockchain trade finance*

HSBC India and ING Bank Brussels successfully executed a blockchain-enabled Letter of Credit (LC) transaction between Reliance Industries (RIL) and Tricon Energy. The Letter of Credit (LC) was issued by ING Bank for Tricon Energy USA (importer).

#### 6. *SBI, Hitachi Payments form a joint venture for a digital payment platform*

State Bank of India and Hitachi Payment Services India are set to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance & digital payment platform. It would provide various payment options to customers and merchants

#### 7. *RBI imposes fine of Rs 3 crore each on Deutsche Bank, J&K Bank*

RBI imposed a penalty of over Rs 3 crore on Deutsche Bank for non-compliance of various norms, including asset classification and KYC. It also slapped a fine of Rs 3 crore on state-owned Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd for violating similar norms.

#### 8. *IndusInd Bank launches India's first interactive credit card with buttons*

IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of IndusInd Bank **Nexxt Credit Card**, which empowers customers with a choice of payment options. It provides 3 payment options at a POS terminal — Credit, Converting Transactions into EMIs with 4 tenure options (6, 12, 18 & 24 months).

**9. *European Investment Bank and SBI to step up financing of wind energy projects across India***

European Investment Bank & State Bank of India have agreed to cooperate on financing renewable energy & providing new support for wind energy projects. The promoters will benefit from long-term low-cost financing under the EUR 600 million financing programme.

**10. *RBI moves to ease liquidity for non-banking finance firms***

In a move to make more liquidity available to non-banking finance firms, the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the securitization norms by relaxing the minimum holding period requirement **from six months to one year**. It will help loan with big tenure.

**11. *Banks plan to create blockchain platform with SWIFT India to avert frauds***

The banking sector is set to create a blockchain platform with SWIFT India to prevent frauds and ensure transparency and security of real-time transactions. SWIFT India has partnered with fin-tech company **MonetaGo** for a pilot project.

**12. *RBI reduces mandatory hedging of overseas borrowings***

The Reserve Bank of India has reduced mandatory hedging requirement for borrowers raising overseas funds to **70 percent from 100 percent**. It can help in reducing hedging costs during overseas fundraising which will ease the burden on cash crunch of NBFC.

**13. *Paytm partners with LIC for insurance premium payments***

Paytm and arch-rival Mobikwik, have simultaneously announced entry into online insurance payments and purchase of digital insurance on their platforms. Paytm has partnered with the LIC to offer online insurance premium payments on its platform.

**14. *HDFC ERGO sets up remote sensing lab for crop insurance***

HDFC ERGO General Insurance has set up a remote sensing lab for **crop insurance**. The lab will work on accurately assessing the risks of the insurers and will also be able to give early warnings about the losses.

**News: Others**

**1. *SBICAP Ventures launches SME, affordable housing funds***

SBICAP Ventures Ltd launched a corpus of ₹400 crore for SME Fund and ₹350 crore for Affordable Housing Fund. These funds are aimed at addressing the equity gap in the SME sector and in improving the availability of affordable housing in India.

**2. *Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches personal loan facility for salaried individuals***

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched personal loan facility for salaried professionals. The personal loan will be available for salaried professionals who are earning a monthly salary above Rs 15, 000. Individuals can avail loans starting from Rs 50,000 up to Rs 15 lakhs.

### 3. **RBI licence to start a non-banking financial company (NBFC) Kirloskar Capital**

The Kirloskar group received a licence from the Reserve Bank to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC). It will invest Rs 1,000 crore in the proposed NBFC and will focus on providing growth capital to the industry with an initial focus on SMEs

### 4. **Karnataka Bank launched new SB scheme 'KBL SB – TASC'**

Karnataka Bank has introduced a new savings bank (SB) scheme 'KBL SB – TASC'. The CASA (current account savings account) campaign aims at on-boarding additional 4 lakh-plus customers to its existing customer base of 1 crore.

### 5. **RBI starts the process to set up the Public Credit Registry (PCR)**

RBI has initiated setting up a digital Public Credit Registry to capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters and the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies. PCR will provide a 360-degree profile of borrowers.

### 6. **RBI imposes fine on Fino Payments Bank**

RBI has imposed **Rs 1 crore** fine on Fino Payments Bank for opening new a/c despite the warning. It is imposed for contravention of the direction to stop the opening of new a/c until further instructions on account of violation of certain licensing conditions.

## Quick revision

Policy/Exchange rate & Reserve ratio	Percentage
Repo rate	6.50 percent
Reverse Repo rate	6.25 percent
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	6.75 percent
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4 percent
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.5 percent
Bank Rate	6.75 percent

## Economy

### News: Most Important

#### 1. **India's economic growth may slow down to 7.3 percent in 2019: Moody's**

According to Moody's Global Macro Outlook 2019-20, the Indian economy can expand to 7.4% in 2018, but the growth will slow down to 7.3% in 2019. The economy grew 7.9% in the first half (Jan-June) of 2018, which reflects post demonetization base effect.

#### 2. **Indian Economy to Grow At 7.8% In 2018-19, Says Fitch**

Fitch put the real GDP growth of India in the current financial year 2018-19 at 7.8%, up from 6.7% in the previous FY2017-18. It expected current-account deficit to widen to 3% in FY2018-19 and 3.1% in FY2019-20 from 1.9% in FY2017-18.



**3. *India GDP to slow down marginally, but remain strong at 7.5% in 2019 & 2020: OECD***

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development projected India 's economic growth to slow down to 7.5% in 2019 & 2020. India's GDP grew 6.7% in 2017-18. It also projected GDP at market prices to grow 7.3% in 2019 & 7.4% in 2020 from 7.5% in 2018.

**4. *Wage growth: India recorded highest average growth in South Asia, says ILO report***

According to a report by the ILO, India recorded the highest average real wage growth in South Asia during 2008-17. In South Asia, India led the average real wage growth (5.5) followed by Nepal (4.7) & Sri Lanka (4).

**5. *India's unemployment rate jumps to 2-year high of 6.9%***

According to a report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the unemployment rate rose to 6.9% in October. It is the highest in 2 years. The estimated number of people employed during October 2018 was 397 million & only 39.5% of the adult was employed.

**6. *Retail inflation falls to a one-year low of 3.31 percent in October***

Retail inflation fell to a one-year low of 3.31% in October. The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.7% in September 2018 and 3.58% in October 2017. The retail inflation number is the lowest since September 2017 when it touched 3.28%.

**News: Others**

**1. *Kenya hosts inaugural Sustainable Blue Economy(SBE) conference***

The first ever Sustainable Blue economy Conference took place in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. SBE provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations, restores, protects and maintains the diversity, productivity and resilience of marine ecosystems.

**2. *GST collections cross Rs 1 lakh crore in October***

GST collections in October crossed ₹ 1 Lakh Crore mark, after a gap of 5 months. The states which achieved extraordinary growth in total taxes collected include Kerala (44%), Jharkhand (20%), Rajasthan (14%), Uttarakhand (13%) & Maharashtra (11%).

**3. *Digital payment transactions rise over 3-fold at 207% to 244.81 Cr in August 2018***

The number of digital payment transactions in India zoomed 207% to 244.81 Cr in Aug 2018, more than 3-fold rise from Oct 2016. New payment modes BHIM-UPI, AePS & NETC have transformed the digital payment ecosystem by increasing P2P as well as P2M payments.

**4. *Unified Payments Interface transactions on the rise***

According to Data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI transactions in October increases by 19% in volume than September. The value of UPI transactions in October has increased by 25% to ₹74,978.27 crore.

## Quick revision

Organization/Parameters	Rate
Moody's	7.4% (2018), 7.3% (2019)
Fitch	7.8% (2018-19)
OECD	7.5% (2018), 7.3% (2019)
Unemployment rate	6.9% (October 2018)
Retail Inflation	3.31% (October 2018)

## State

### News: Most Important

#### 1. **World Bank's loan to make farming viable in Andhra Pradesh**

World Bank has signed an agreement with the government of Andhra Pradesh to extend a loan of \$172.2 million to help turn farming in the state i.e. a financially viable activity. The project covers 1,000 small-scale community-based irrigation systems.

#### 2. **Technology-driven 'Mo bus' service launched in Odisha**

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched the technology-driven and citizen-friendly 'Mo bus' service in Odisha. The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authorities have decided that the buses will start in the first phase. Tickets can be booked via. App.

#### 3. **ADB to give \$300mn for civic facilities in four Punjab cities**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US\$300 million for upgradation of infrastructure and civic facilities in four Punjab cities-Sargodha, Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan and Bahawalpur, while provincial government would also add \$50 million.

#### 4. **GoI and ADB signed Loan pact for Bihar**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India (GoI) signed a \$200 million loan to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 Kilometres State Highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features which will boost connectivity.

#### 5. **ADB to provide loan for water supply project in Karnataka**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a 75-million-dollar loan for a water supply project in four coastal towns of Karnataka. The project would ensure round the clock water supply in four towns Kundapura, Mangalore, Puttur, and Udupi.

#### 6. **Himachal Pradesh Becomes First State To Launch Single Emergency Number**

Himachal Pradesh became the first Indian state to launch a single emergency number 112 which will connect to police, fire, health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre in the state.

**7. *PM Narendra Modi inaugurates first multi-modal terminal on Ganga river in Varanasi***

PM inaugurated the first multi-modal terminal on Ganga river in Varanasi under Jal Marg Vikas Project aimed at promoting inland waterways as a cheaper & more environment-friendly means of transport. IWAI is the project implementing agency.

**8. *NMDC launches quick response (QR)-enabled fridge magnets for digital payment of bills***

The New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) launched a "smart" initiative wherein it will distribute quick response-enabled smiley fridge magnets to its consumers to facilitate digital payment of utility bills. It is Powered by SignCatch - an IT and services company.

**News: Others**

**1. *Kerala introduces new open online learning programme- 'KOOL'***

The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has rolled out-KOOL, its Online Open Learning training platform. It is a major step by Kerala to become India's first complete digital state in Education. The platform can be used to train teachers, students and the general public.

**2. *Ekalavya model residential schools to be set up in Meghalaya***

Ministry of Tribal Affairs constructing 36 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in Meghalaya at the cost of 20 crore rupees each in a time frame of three years. EMRS is a Government of India scheme for model residential school for Indian tribes.

**3. *TN gets SEBI nod for State Shelter Fund launch***

Tamil Nadu has received the nod from SEBI to launch its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment. The fund is a social impact fund to provide investors with profit besides getting social and environmental benefits.

**4. *BHEL commissions 120 MW Pulichintala hydro project in Telangana***

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has fully commissioned the 120 MW Pulichintala Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) in Telangana. The greenfield project has been set up for Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGENCO) on the river Krishna.

## National

**News: Most Important**

**1. *ADB grants EESL \$13 million to promote efficient energy usage in the country***

The Asian Development Bank the Energy Efficiency Services (EESL) signed a USD 13 million loans to EESL to promote efficient energy usage in India. The grant is to be provided by the Global Environment Facility for promoting end-use energy efficiency.



**2. *NITI Aayog constitutes Himalayan State Regional Council***

NITI Aayog has constituted the Himalayan State Regional Council chaired by **VK Saraswat** to ensure sustainable development of the Himalayan region. The council will review & implement the identified action points based on the Reports of five Working Groups.

**3. *Asian Development Bank extends \$300 million to support IIFCL's lending***

ADB & India have signed a \$300-million loan to support lending by India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL). It enhances the availability of long-term finance for Public-Private Partnership projects, improve the operational capacity of IIFCL.

**4. *World's tallest Statue of Unity inaugurated***

PM Modi dedicated to the nation Statue of Unity, built in honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Kevadiya in Narmada, Gujarat. The statue is of the 182-meter statue is twice the height of the Statue of Liberty in the US makes it tallest in the world.

**5. *7<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart organized in Agartala***

The Ministry of Tourism, GoI in association with Tripura Govt. organized "International Tourism Mart" in Agartala, Tripura. Its 7th edition of the International Tourism Mart, an annually organized in the North Eastern region to showcase the tourism.

**6. *Cabinet decides to open a central tribal university in Andhra Pradesh***

The Cabinet has approved an amendment to the Central Universities Act- 2009 for setting up of a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh. A fund of 420 Cr rupees has been granted as the first phase expenditure towards the establishment of the University.

**7. *CCEA approves disinvestment of 100% Govt stake in Dredging Corporation of India***

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved 100% strategic disinvestment of the government's equity in the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. Presently, the government of India holds 73.44% shares in Dredging Corporation of India Limited.

**8. *'HAUSLA-2018' inaugurated in New Delhi***

The National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- "Hausla 2018" organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. "Child Safety" is a theme for 2018. It provides a platform for the children from CCIs to showcase their talent.

**9. *PAiSA Portal for Credit to needy launched***

"Paisa – Portal for Affordable Credit & Interest Subvention Access", Launched Under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). It is a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans.

**10. *India elected as a Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council***

India has been elected as a Member of the ITU Council for a 4-year term (2019-22) by securing 165 votes. India ranked 3rd among the 13 countries elected to the Council from the Asia-Australasia region & 8th among the 48 countries globally.

**11. *National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) & UN-Habitat organize a policy dialogue - Urban Café 'River for Habitat.'***

The National Mission for Clean Ganga partnered with UN-Habitat to organize a policy dialogue- '**Urban Cafe: River for Habitat**' in New Delhi on World Cities Day 2018. The various aspects of human civilization - our cities, our daily lives, the challenges to maintaining healthy river ecosystems were discussed.

**12. *IAMAI forms a committee to promote Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR)***

The Internet and Mobile Association of India has formed a new industry expert committee chaired by Namrita Mahindro with an aim to promote Augmented & Virtual Reality technology to drive economic growth, job creation, and skill development in the country.

**13. *UGC to set up a consortium for approved journals***

University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to set up a Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) which will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines. CARE will be headed by the UGC Vice Chairman.

**News: Others**

**1. *NITI Aayog Organises Capacity Building Programme for Urban Water Management***

NITI Aayog organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Urban Management Programme on 'Water Recycling and Reuse' in collaboration with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise & TF International. It Highlighted the importance of this capacity building programme on management of water.

**2. *Task Force for drafting a New Direct Tax Legislation***

A task force under Akhilesh Ranjan as a Convenor setup to review the Income-tax Act, 1961 and to draft a new direct tax law in consonance with the economic needs of the country. The Task Force must submit its report to the Government by February 28, 2019

**3. *Centre approves a process for constituting IIM boards***

The Centre approved the process for constituting new Boards of Governors for 20 Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) as per the IIM Act 2017. The board has been given full powers for running the institutions and will ensure the quality expansion of higher education.

**4. *49<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India organized in Goa***

The 49<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI) organized in Goa. Shaji Karun directed Malayalam movie Olu was the opening movie of the feature film section of Indian panorama. While Israel was the focus country, Jharkhand was the focus state.

**5. *Aadi Mahotsav festival celebrated***

The 15-day Aadi Mahotsav festival is celebrated in the national capital Delhi. The theme of the festival is 'celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, craft, cuisine and commerce'. It will feature the exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, arts.

**6. *Nongkrem dance festival celebrated amid fanfare in Shillong***

Nongkrem dance festival is an annual event during which prayers are offered for good harvest, peace and prosperity of the community. The unique dance is performed by the members of Hima Khyrim.

**7. *Sangai Festival takes pace in Manipur***

The 10-day Sangai Festival took place at Hafta Kangjeibung ground in Imphal. The festival has been organized to promote Manipur as a world-class tourism destination besides showcasing the uniqueness of the state's picturesque beauties.

**8. *Jhiri Festival celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir***

Jhiri Mela is an annual event organized every year in Jammu to commemorate the martyrdom of Baba Jittoo, a farmer who gave up his life in protest the oppressive demands of a land lord about 500 years ago.

**9. *Jangalmahal Festival celebrated in Kolkata***

A three-day-long cultural extravaganza celebrated for showcasing the culture and tradition of the people of 'Jangalmahal', the adjoining forested area of West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia districts.

**10. *Odisha's Baliyatra festival inaugurated***

The Baliyatra festival celebrated in Odisha which is associated with the maritime glory of ancient Kalinga. It is basically a trade and cultural fare that attracts revellers.

## International

### News: Most Important

**1. *World's first Artificial Intelligence news anchor unveiled in China***

The world's first AI news anchor unveiled in China. It has a male image with a voice, facial expressions. He learns from live broadcasting videos by himself & can read texts. He was developed by Xinhua News Agency & Sogou.com (Chinese Search engine).

**2. *Seychelles launches World's First Sovereign Blue Bond***

Seychelles has launched the world's first sovereign blue bond. It is a pioneering financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects. The bond has raised US\$15 million from international investors.

**3. *UN World Food Programme and Alibaba join hands to achieve zero hunger***

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Alibaba Group (Alibaba) have entered into a strategic partnership to support efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 a world with zero hunger by 2030.

**4. *CII organised ConMac 2018***

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in support with Indian embassy in Nepal organising an exhibition of construction equipment and technology-ConMac 2018 at Kathmandu, Nepal. Ambassador of India to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri is the Guest of Honour.

**5. *Millie Bobby Brown named UNICEF's youngest-ever goodwill ambassador***

Millie Bobby Brown has been named UNICEF's newest Goodwill Ambassador. She will be the youngest person to ever hold that title. She will be tasked with raising awareness around children's rights and issues such as violence, poverty, bullying etc.

**6. *UNICEF appoints singer Nahid Afrin as first 'Youth Advocate' of north-eastern region***

Nahid Afrin of Assam has been appointed as the first Youth Advocate of the north-eastern region by the UNICEF to fight for child rights. The UNICEF engages Youth Advocates to harness their voice as agents of change in society.

**7. *PM Modi attended G-20 summit at Argentina***

PM Modi attended the G-20 summit in Argentina. G-20 is a leading forum of the world's major economies. G20 was instrumental in stabilizing the world economy. India will host the G20 summit in 2022.

**News: Others**

**1. *Morocco to unveil Africa's first ever high-speed train line***

French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa. It will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca in 2 hours 10 minutes at a speed of up to 320 kph.

**2. *Donbass wins the Golden Peacock at IFFI 2018***

Donbass' directed by Sergei Loznitsa has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Award carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakhs to be shared equally between the Producer and the Director.

**3. *First China International Import Expo inaugurated***

India has set up a Country Pavilion in the 1st China International Import Expo (CIIE) at Shanghai. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) is the lead agency for the India Country Pavilion in CIIE. China is India's largest trading partner.

#### **4. *Japan to join International Solar Alliance (ISA)***

In a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), Japan announced joining the group submitting the instrument of ratification. Japan would be the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA Framework.

#### **5. *Toxic declared Oxford Word of the Year***

Oxford Dictionary has declared the adjective 'toxic' as the Word of the Year for what it says reflects the ethos, mood, or preoccupations in 2018. The word toxic was selected from a shortlist that included contenders such as 'gaslighting,' 'incel' and 'techlash.'

## **India & world**

### **News: Most Important**

#### **1. *India, South Korea sign MoU on cooperation in sports***

India and South Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in sports in New Delhi. The objective of the MoU is to establish a framework to facilitate and promote cooperation between the two countries based on reciprocity.

#### **2. *India, Malawi sign MoUs in Extradition Treaty, Atomic Energy and VISA Waiver***

India and Malawi signed three MoUs on Extradition Treaty, cooperation in the field of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes and VISA Waiver for Diplomatic and Official Passports. India will also extend a Line of credit to Malawi for the water project.

#### **3. *Cabinet approves an agreement between India & Morocco on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters***

The Union Cabinet approved an agreement between India and Morocco on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. It will help in investigation and prosecution of crime, tracing, restraint, forfeiture or confiscation or proceeds and instruments of crime.

#### **4. *India, Nepal agree to set up hotline for effective coordination in checking smuggling***

India and Nepal have decided to set up a hotline to ensure effective coordination between them to check smuggling. They also decided to establish a hotline between the two countries for effective coordination.

#### **5. *India, Vietnam to step up defence cooperation, oil exploration***

India & Vietnam have decided to step up defence cooperation & oil exploration to boost bilateral ties. They also agreed to effectively implement the Joint Vision Statement on Vietnam-India Defence Cooperation for the period of 2015-2020.

#### **6. *India, UK vow to strengthen cooperation to deal with counter-terror challenges***

India and the UK agreed to strengthen cooperation to deal with terrorism-related challenges such as countering radicalization and terror financing as well as preventing the use of the internet for terrorist purposes.



### 7. *India, Russia finalize a deal for construction of warships*

Agreement for manufacturing of the two Talvar-class warships **at USD 500 million** was signed between defense PSU Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Russia's state-run defense major Rosoboronexport under the government-to-government framework for defense cooperation.

### 8. *India, Australia ink 5 pacts*

Ramnath Kovind, the first-ever Indian head of state to visit Australia signed five agreements to boost investments and enhance cooperation in key sectors like disability, agricultural research and education with Australian Prime minister Scott Morrison.

## News: Others

### 1. *India-China amend double taxation avoidance treaty to help prevent tax evasion*

India and China have amended the bilateral tax treaty which will help prevent tax evasion by allowing the exchange of information. They have signed a protocol to amend the DTAA and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

### 2. *Venkaiah Naidu visits France*

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the first India-built war memorial in northern France to pay tribute to thousands of Indian soldiers who fought selflessly and made supreme sacrifices during World War I.

### 3. *China taps India as a digital economy partner*

India and China are partnering on new digital economy measures. One such measure is standardizing 2D barcodes (QR codes) which reduce some issues with widespread digital trade, like verifying genuine buyers and sellers of products and services.

### 4. *Nepal names former law minister as ambassador to India*

The Nepal government nominated former law minister and senior politician Nilambar Acharya as ambassador to India. The position of Nepalese ambassador to India was vacant for about a year after Deep Kumar Upadhyay resigned October last year.

## Quick Revision: Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State /Govt.	Currency
South Korea	Seoul	Moon Jae-in	Won
Malawi	Lilongwe	Peter Mutharika	Kwacha
Morocco	Rabat	Mohammed VI	Dirham
France	Paris	Emmanuel Macron	Euro
China	Beijing	Xi Jinping	Renminbi
Nepal	Kathmandu	Bidhya Devi Bhandari	Rupee
Vietnam	Hanoi	Nguyen Xuan Phuc	Dong
UK	London	Theresa May	Pound sterling
Australia	Canberra	Scott Morrison	Dollar
Russia	Moscow	Vladimir Putin	Ruble

## Appointments & Resignations

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *A.M. Naik appointed as Chairman of NSDC*

A.M. Naik has been appointed as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2009 for contribution to the economic growth of the country.

#### 2. *Arvind Saxena appointed UPSC chairman*

Arvind Saxena has been appointed as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). UPSC is a constitutional body under article 315 to 323 of Indian Constitution. His appointment will be till 7th of August 2020 when he attains 65 years.

#### 3. *Sunil Arora to be new Chief Election Commissioner of India*

Sunil Arora will be the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. He succeeds Om Prakash Rawat. A former bureaucrat, Arora was appointed as Election Commissioner in August 2017. CEC have tenure upto 65 years of age or 6 years whichever is early.

#### 4. *Tanzania's Joyce Msuya appointed to head U.N. Environment Programme*

Tanzania's Joyce Msuya has been appointed to head the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) following the resignation of its executive director, Erik Solheim. She was appointed to the global organisation as the deputy executive director in August 2018.

#### 5. *UNICEF appoints Hima Das as India's first ever Youth Ambassador*

UNICEF - India has appointed Asian Games gold-medallist sprinter Hima Das as the country's first ever youth ambassador. She will be working towards raising awareness about the rights and needs of children.

#### 6. *Ashok Chawla resigns as non-executive chairman of Yes Bank*

Former bureaucrat Ashok Chawla resigned as non-executive chairman of Yes Bank. Former finance secretary Mr Chawla had also worked as chairman of fair-trade regulator CCI or Competition Commission of India.

#### 7. *Bainimarama sworn in for second term as Fiji PM*

Incumbent Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama was sworn in for a second term after his ruling Fiji First party won this year's general elections. Bainimarama was sworn in by President Jioji Konrote. Fiji is small Island nation in South Pacific Ocean.

#### 8. *Kim Jong-yang elected as Interpol president*

South Korea's Kim Jong Yang has been elected as Interpol President for a two-year term. The decision was taken at the 87th General Assembly of the Agency in Dubai. He becomes first South Korean to head Interpol. Kim has replaced Meng Hongwei of China.

**9. *Ajay Bhushan Pandey to replace Hasmukh Adhia as Revenue Secretary***

Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UIDAI, has been appointed the Revenue Secretary by the central government. Pandey will be replacing Hasmukh Adhia, who is set to retire soon. Ajay Bhushan Pandey also working as GSTN Chairman.

**10. *Raghu Ram elected president of ASI***

The director of KIMS-Ushalakshmi Centre for Breast Diseases P. Raghu Ram has been elected the president of Association of Surgeons of India. He has become one of the youngest surgeons in the country to be elected to the post of president of the association.

**11. *RBI Clears Re-Appointment of Aditya Puri as HDFC Bank CEO***

RBI has approved re-appointment of Aditya Puri as MD & CEO of HDFC bank for another two years. Shareholders had already approved his appointment in 2015 for a period of five years subject to RBI approval.

**12. *State Bank of Mauritius appoints Sidharth Rath as its CEO***

State Bank of Mauritius has appointed Sidharth Rath as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. He was associated with Axis Bank as its Group Executive and Head of Corporate, Transaction Banking and International Banking.

**13. *Ashok Kumar Gupta appointed as the chairman of Competition Commission of India***

Former IAS officer Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the chairperson of the Competition Commission of India. The appointment would be till October 25, 2022. He would replace acting chairperson Sudhir Mital.

**14. *Senior IPS officer S S Deswal appointed ITBP chief***

Senior IPS officer S S Deswal was appointed the chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) till August 31, 2021. He is at present the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). He has replaced R K Pachnanda.

**15. *Anupam Kher resigns as FTII chairman***

Actor Anupam Kher has resigned as the chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India citing commitments to an international TV show for which he must be stationed in the U.S. He replaced Gajendra Chauhan as the head of the FTII.

**News: Others**

**1. *Nageshwara Rao Guntur appointed as Atomic Energy Regulatory Board chief***

Nageshwara Rao Guntur has been appointed as chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). He is the chairman, Project Design Safety Committee, Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor and former distinguished scientist Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

**2. *Gafur Rakhimov elected president of AIBA***

Gafur Rakhimov has been elected as president of International Boxing Association or AIBA, originally the Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur. He is Uzbek businessman. He beat Serik Konakbayev Gafur to win the presidency.

**3. *Vodafone appoints Ahuja as a non-executive director***

Vodafone Group appointed Sanjiv Ahuja as a non-executive director with immediate effect. Ahuja is the chairman of Tillman Global Holdings, which he founded in 2013. Sanjiv was a chief operating officer and president of Telcordia Technologies.

**4. *Flipkart Group CEO Binny Bansal resigns***

Flipkart Group CEO Binny Bansal has resigned following a probe into 'serious personal misconduct'. Bansal was accused of sexual assault in 2016 by a former woman employee of Flipkart. He was co-founded Flipkart with Sachin Bansal in 2007.

**5. *Bharti Airtel names Adarsh Nair as Chief Product Officer***

Bharti Airtel has named Adarsh Nair its Chief Product Officer (CPO) to drive the Sunil Mittal-led telco's digital transformation. He was previously head (product & growth) at US-based Convoy Inc, would report to Bharti Airtel CEO Gopal Vittal.

**6. *Siddharth Tiwari joins BIS as Chief Representative for Asia, Pacific***

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has appointed Siddharth Tiwari as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific. He succeeds Eli Remolona as Chief Representative of the Asian Office to deepen cooperation between the BIS & central banks.

**7. *Infosys names Jayesh Sanghrajka as interim CFO***

Infosys has appointed Jayesh Sanghrajka as the interim chief financial officer of the company and key managerial personnel. Sanghrajka is currently the deputy CFO of the Bengaluru-headquartered IT services exporter.

**8. *Amir Yaron appointed as Bank of Israel Chief***

Amir Yaron, a finance professor at University of Pennsylvania's Wharton school of business, was appointed as Bank of Israel governor. He succeeds Karnit Flug as a governor of Bank of Israel. Karnit Flug was first women governor of central bank of Israel.

**9. *WhatsApp appoints Abhijit Bose as Head of WhatsApp India***

WhatsApp appoints Abhijit Bose as Head of WhatsApp India. He is set to join WhatsApp in early 2019. Bose is the co-founder and CEO of Ezetap which is an electronic payments company backed by top-tier Venture Capitalists. It will be based in Gurgaon.

**10. *Robyn Denholm named as new chair of Tesla to replace Elon Musk***

Tesla Inc. has appointed Robyn Denholm as chair of its board. She has replaced the electric carmaker's billionaire founder Elon Musk. She is one of two female directors on the nine-member board. She can only leave after her six-month notice period.

### 11. Citigroup appoints John Dugan as its new chairman

New York-headquartered Citigroup appoints John Dugan as its new chairman replacing Mike O'Neill. He is a former bank lobbyist & was previously head of Citigroup's primary banking regulator, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

#### Quick Revision

Appointment/Resignation	Post
Ashok Kumar Gupta	Chairman, Competition Commission of India
Rajesh Ram Mishra	President, IESA
S S Deswal	ITBP chief
Arvind Saxena	Chairman, Union Public Service Commission
A.M. Naik	Chairman, National Skill Development Corporation
Sunil Arora	Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India
Joyce Msuya	Head of United Nations Environment Programme
OP Bhatt	External Expert of Search & Selection Committee of Yes Bank
Hima Das	Youth ambassador, UNICEF - India
Ashok Chawla	Non-executive chairman of Yes Bank
Voreqe Bainimarama	Prime Minister of Fiji
Kim Jong Yang	President, Interpol
Ajay Bhushan Pandey	Revenue Secretary
P. Raghu Ram	President, Association of Surgeons of India
Aditya Puri	MD & CEO of HDFC bank
Sidharth Rath	MD & CEO of State Bank of Mauritius
Nageshwara Rao Guntur	Chairperson, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).
Jayesh Sanghrajka	Interim Chief Financial Officer, Infosys
Amir Yaron	Chief of Bank of Israel
Abhijit Bose	Head of WhatsApp - India
Sanjay Kumar	Chief Operating Officer of Air Asia
Siddharth Tiwari	Chief Representative for Asia, Pacific (BIS)
Robyn Denholm	Chairperson, Tesla
Gafur Rakhimov	President, AIBA
Sanjiv Ahuja	Non-executive Director, Vodafone
Ashish Chowdhary	Head (India), Apple
Adarsh Nair	Chief Product Officer, Bharti Airtel
Binny Bansal	CEO, Flipkart
G.N. Bajpai	Director, IL&FS' board
Anupam Kher	Chairman, FTII
Santiago Solari	Coach, Real Madrid
John Dugan	Chairman, Citi Group



## Ranks & Reports

### News: Most Important

**1. *Ease of Doing Business: India jumps 23 spots to 77<sup>th</sup> rank in World Bank's latest report***

India was ranked at **77<sup>th</sup>** in the World Bank's latest Ease of Doing Business rankings. India has jumped 23 notches from last year. The report recognized India as one of the top 10 improvers in this year's assessment, for the second successive time.

**2. *India's best city to live in is Indore: Survey***

According to the combined survey conducted by Jagaran.com, KPMG and Facebook-- Indore is India's best city to live in and the safest city is Dehradun. Top three big cities Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru where people migrate for the job didn't rank in the top.

**3. *WHO World Malaria Report 2018***

India has turned out as the only country among the 11 highest-burden countries to mark progress in reducing its disease burden, registering a 24 percent decrease in 2017 than 2016, according to WHO World Malaria Report 2018. Malaria is caused by parasites. India has set a target of being malaria-free by 2027.

**4. *India slips two places to 53<sup>rd</sup> position on global talent ranking; Switzerland tops***

India has slipped 2 places to rank **53<sup>rd</sup>** on a global annual talent ranking released by IMD Business School Switzerland. Within Asia, Singapore has topped the charts with a global 13th place on the list. Switzerland has topped the global ranking followed by Denmark & Norway

**5. *Andhra Pradesh tops in employability level among states***

According to India Skills Report-2019, Andhra Pradesh has emerged on top in terms of employability among the states with the engineering graduates having the highest level of employability. Employability level of engineering students shot up to 63.11% from 42.08%.

**6. *Gujarat tops in implementing Ayushman Bharat***

Gujarat has emerged as the top performer of the Centre's ambitious health financing scheme Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. As of November 23, the PM's home state accounted for around 26% of the total number of hospital admissions cleared.

### News: Others

**1. *India is the most vacation deprived nation in the world: Survey***

According to the Expedia Vacation Deprivation Survey, India is the most vacation deprived nation in the world followed by South Korea and Hong Kong. 53% of Indians take fewer vacation days than they get and 35% don't take leave as work schedule does not allow for vacation.

## 2. *Singapore is Asia's most sustainable city*

Acc. to engineering firm Arcadis, Singapore maintained its rank as Asia's top city in the Sustainability Index. It clinched the fourth spot in the global rankings for its collective approach in rolling out its Smart Nation initiatives. The List was topped by London & dominated by European cities.

## 3. *Bangalore ranked India's most congested city*

According to the National Bureau of economic research, Bangalore is the most congested city followed by Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai & Kolkata. Pune is the seventh most congested city in India. In another index of traffic speed, Kolkata was ranked as the slowest city followed by Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai.

## 4. *Iceland is the safest country to visit: World Risk Report*

According to the World Risk Report on natural disasters, NHS Fit for Travel website on Foreign Office's assessments of the risks of terrorism Iceland is the safest country to visit, while India is the fourth dangerous. The data extracted from WEF on the crime rate.

South Africa is ranked the most dangerous country.

## 5. *Gas expected to be world's second-largest energy source by 2030: IEA*

According to the World Energy Outlook 2018 by International Energy Agency, Natural gas is expected to overtake coal as the world's second-largest energy source after oil by 2030 due to a drive to cut air pollution and the rise in liquefied natural gas use.

## Important days

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *World Tsunami Awareness Day-5 November*

In 2018, World Tsunami Awareness Day aligned with the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the "Sendai Seven Campaign" and will focus on Target "C" of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which aims at reducing direct disaster economic loss in relation to GDP.

#### 2. *2018 Ayurveda Day is observed on 5<sup>th</sup> November*

The Ayurveda Day was observed across India on November 5 on the Dhanawantari Jayanti or Dhanteras with an aim to further promote Ayurveda as the mainstream system of medicine. The 2018 theme was "**Ayurveda for Public health**".

#### 3. *International Day of Medical Physics – November 7*

International Day of Medical Physics is observed on Nov 7 to raise awareness about the role medical physicists play for benefit of patients. The theme of IDMP 2018 is '**Medical Physics for Patient Benefit**'.

#### 4. *World Science Day for Peace and Development - November 10*

The day is celebrated every year on Nov 10 which highlights the significant role of science in society & the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. The 2018 Theme was '**Science, a Human Right**'.

**5. *World Pneumonia Day – November 12***

World Pneumonia Day is observed every year on November 12 to promote interventions to protect against the disease, prevent and treat pneumonia. This year theme was “**Stop Pneumonia: Invest in Child Health.**”

**6. *World Diabetes Day 2018 – November 14***

World Diabetes Day is being observed on November 14. It is an initiative that addresses growing concerns about the increase in the cases of this lifestyle disease. The theme for the day 2018 and 2019 is **The Family and Diabetes.**

**7. *National Press Day – 16 November***

FM Arun Jaitley inaugurated the National Press Day celebrations in New Delhi. The National Press Day is symbolic of a free and responsible press in India. It was on this day that the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog.

**8. *International Day for Tolerance - 16 November***

The United Nations’ (UN) International Day for Tolerance is annually observed on November 16 to educate people about the need for tolerance in society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance.

**9. *World Toilet Day – November 19***

19 November is celebrated as World Toilet Day every year. United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of sanitation and water for all by 2030. A theme is- **When nature calls, we need a toilet.**

**10. *World COPD Day 2018 – November 21***

World COPD Day is celebrated with the aim to raise awareness about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and improve COPD care worldwide. This year theme was ‘**Never too early, Never too late**’. It is always right time to address airway diseases.

**11. *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - 25 November***

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls is observed on 25 Nov. The Heads of UN agencies, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA, calling for solidarity with survivors and survivor advocates and women’s human rights defenders.

**News: Others**

**1. *National cancer awareness day November 7***

The Day is observed every year on Nov 7. 50-60% patients do not follow up due to treatment cost & lack of affordable facilities. Pendharkar model has been developed to train the government staff for handling cancer care & providing chemotherapy.

**2. *World Radiography Day – November 8***

World Radiography Day is celebrated on 8 November each year. The date marks the anniversary of the discovery of x-radiation by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895.

**3. *National Education Day observed – November 11***

National Education Day was celebrated on the 11th of November. The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He was a freedom fighter, scholar and the first Education Minister of independent India.

**4. *Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) Day- 12th Nov***

November 12 is observed as the Public Service Broadcasting Day in India to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's maiden visit to All India Radio (AIR) studio. It was Gandhi's first and last visit to the studio of AIR.

**5. *World Philosophy Day – November 15***

World Philosophy Day is celebrated each year on the **third Thursday of November**. This year's World Philosophy Day is observed on 15 Nov. The day underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for everyone.

**6. *AYUSH Ministry celebrating first Naturopathy Day***

The Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (Ayush) ministry celebrated the first Naturopathy Day on 18th November with the aim of promoting the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.

**7. *World Television Day - 21 November***

The United Nations' (UN) World Television Day is annually observed in many places around the world on November 21. The day recognizes that television plays a major role in presenting different issue that affect people.

**8. *National Constitution Day – November 26***

Constitution day which is also known as the Samvidhan Divas is celebrated every year on November 26 to mark the day on which the Constitution of India was adopted. While the adoption of the Constitution took place on November 26, 1949, it came into effect on January 26, 1950.

**9. *National Milk Day – November 26***

National Milk Day is dedicated to Dr. Verghese Kurien who was the architect of Operation Flood which led India from being 50<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of milk production. The Operation flood aimed at helping the dairy industry sustain itself economically while providing employment to poor farmers.

## Quick Revision

Date	Observed Day	Theme/Campaign
November 5	National Ayurveda Day	Ayurveda for Public health
November 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day	Sendai Seven Campaign
November 7	International Day of Medical Physics	Medical Physics for Patient Benefit
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Science, a Human Right
November 12	World Pneumonia Day	Stop Pneumonia: Invest in Child Health
November 14	World Diabetes Day	The Family and Diabetes
November 16	National Press Day	NA
November 16	International Day for Tolerance	NA
November 19	World Toilet Day	When nature calls, we need a toilet
November 21	World COPD Day	Never too early, Never too late
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls	NA

## Sports

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 Kicks Off*

India is hosting the 2018 International Hockey Federation Men's Hockey World Cup at Bhubaneswar, Odisha is scheduled from November 28 to December 16. 16 nations are competing, which are divided into 4 pools.

#### 2. *Pankaj Advani wins the second leg of Asian Snooker Tour in Jinan, China*

The 19-time world champion Pankaj Advani has won the second leg of the Asian Snooker Tour in Jinan, China. He defeated China's Ju Reti in the final and become the first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event.

#### 3. *Qatar To Host World Corporate Games in 2019*

Qatar will host the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the World Corporate Games in 2019. This is the first time the World Corporate Games will be held in the Middle East. The sporting event takes place every one to two years and the last edition was held in Houston.

#### 4. *Marc Marquez clinches Malaysian Grand Prix 2018*

World champion Marc Marquez clinched the Malaysia Grand Prix 2018 title. He won his ninth race of the MotoGP season after Valentino Rossi crashed four laps from the finish while leading the race & eventually finished second.

#### 5. *Pankaj Advani wins third straight IBSF billiards crown*

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani won third straight IBSF billiards crown in the 150-up format, taking the overall tally of world titles to 20. He overcame Nay Thway Oo of Myanmar in the final. It was organized by World Confederation of Billiards Sports.



**6. *Netherlands wins FIH Women's Hockey Champions Trophy***

The Netherlands defeated Australia to win its seventh Women's Hockey Champions Trophy at the Wujin Hockey Stadium. Australia finished second followed by Argentina, China, Britain and Japan. The tournament featured only six teams.

**7. *Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix***

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton has won the Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix at Yas Marina Circuit. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel was second and Max Verstappen of Red Bull was third. World champion Lewis Hamilton recorded his 11th win of the season.

**8. *Mary Kom wins historic sixth World Championships gold***

M C Mary Kom ,35 became the most successful boxer in the history of Women's World Championships by winning her sixth gold medal with a unanimous 5-0 result (48kg Category) over Ukraine's Hanna Okhota.

**9. *Sameer Verma Defends Syed Modi International title***

The world no 16 Sameer defeated China's Lu Guangzu in the final of to lift the trophy for the second successive time. Former champion Saina failed to Chinese Han Yue in a lop-sided women's singles summit clash.

**10. *Alexander Zverev won ATP World Tour 2018 Title***

Alexander Zverev defeated world number one Novak Djokovic in straight sets to claim the season-ending ATP Finals and earn the biggest victory of his career. Zverev became the first player to beat both Djokovic and Federer in the same ATP Finals.

**11. *Shubhankar Dey wins SaarLorLux Open***

India's Shubhankar Dey defeated fifth seed Rajeev Ouseph in straight games to win the SaarLorLux Open Badminton Championship Super 100 badminton tournament in Germany. SaarLorLux Open was established in 1980.

**12. *Bajwa shoots historic skeet gold at Asian Shotgun Championship***

Angad Vir Singh Bajwa (shot 60 out of 60) has won a gold in the men's skeet final in the 8th Asian Shotgun Championship, Kuwait. He became the first Indian skeet shooter to win a continental/world level event. He defeated China's Di Jin who shot 58.

**13. *Lewis Hamilton wins Brazilian Grand Prix***

Lewis Hamilton clinched Brazilian Grand Prix helping his Mercedes team to take the constructors' title for the fifth year in a row. He won his 10th race of the season and 72nd of his career. Red Bull's Max Verstappen stood second in the race.

**14. *Bajrang Punia becomes number one in the world in 65kg***

Bajrang Punia became the no. 1 rank in the world in the 65kg category. He has won 5 medals, including CWG & Asian Games gold. Pooja Dhanda, who became the 4th Indian woman to win a World Championship medal, is ranked 6th in the women's 57kg.

**15. *Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first Indian to slam a century in women's T20I***

Harmanpreet Kaur became the first ever Indian woman to score a century in T20Is. She recorded a magnificent century in the very first game of the marquee tournament against New Zealand. She scored 103 runs in 51-balls including 7 fours & 8 sixes.

**16. *Saurabh Chaudhary claims gold at 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Airgun Championships***

Saurabh Chaudhary claimed a gold medal in the 10m air pistol junior men's event of the Asian Airgun Championship. The Indian women's Junior team consisting of Manu Bhaker, Abhidnya Patil and Neha won the team silver in the 10m Air Pistol.

**News: Others**

**1. *Khalin Joshi Wins Panasonic Open India For Maiden Asian Tour Title***

Khalin Joshi continued India's domination at the USD 400,000 Panasonic Open India, securing a one-stroke win for his maiden Asian Tour title at the prestigious Delhi Golf Club. Joshi became the 7th Indian to win the Panasonic Open India in the last eight.

**2. *Croatia win Davis Cup 2018 title***

Marin Cilic clinched Croatia's second Davis Cup title as he beat France's Lucas Pouille. The 2018 Davis Cup is the 107th edition of the Davis Cup, a tournament between national teams in men's tennis. Croatia won Davis cup title 13 years after the first title.

**3. *15-year-old Kashmiri student wins gold for India at World Kick Boxing Championship***

A 15-year-old Kashmiri student has won gold at the World Kick Boxing Championship in Argentina. In 2016, Tajamul Islam became the youngest Kashmiri girl to strike gold for India in the world kickboxing championship in Italy.

**4. *Team Abu Dhabi wins F1H2O Grand Prix of India at Amaravati***

Team Abu Dhabi's Shaun Torrente emerged as a winner in the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of India held in Amaravati, the emerging capital of Andhra Pradesh. The second place went to the Emirates Racing's Marit Stromoy, the only woman racer.

## Awards

**News: Most Important**

**1. *Malala Yousafzai to be conferred 2018 Gleitsman Award***

Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai would be honored with the 2018 Gleitsman Award by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education. She became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

2. ***Journalist Swati Chaturvedi receives RSF Press Freedom Award for Courage***

Swati Chaturvedi was awarded the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Press Freedom Award for Courage. She works as a freelance journalist & won the award for her book I Am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Digital Army.

3. ***Jawahar Lal Sarin to be conferred with France's highest civilian honour***

Jawahar Lal Sarin has conferred with **France's highest civilian honour 'Knight of the Legion of Honour'** for his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation & promoting the French language. The award was given by the French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler.

4. ***ATP World Tour Awards 2018***

**Novak Djokovic** won the ATP Comeback Player of the Year Award after returning from an elbow injury to win two grand slams and returning top of the rankings. Djokovic's coach **Marian Vajda** was also named ATP Coach of the Year. **Rafael Nadal** won the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award "for his fair play, professionalism and integrity on and off the court. **Roger Federer** has won the fans' favourite award.

5. ***Veteran journalist N Ram awarded Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award***

Journalist and Chairman of the Hindu Publishing Group, N Ram has been selected for Raja Ram Mohan Roy award. Ruby Sarkar of Deshbandhu, Bhopal and Rajesh Joshte of Daily Pudhari, Ratnagiri will share the award in category of Rural Journalism.

6. ***Film superstar Amitabh Bachchan receives Sayaji Ratna Award***

Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III. Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and noted industrialist Ratan Tata have been given the award earlier.

7. ***Bharat Electronics wins CII-Exim Bank Business Award***

Bharat Electronics Ltd won the CII-Exim Bank Business Excellence Award & the jury's commendation for being a role-model organisation i.e. is the highest recognition. CII recognises organisations at 3 levels- Gold Plus, Platinum & Award at the highest.

**News: Others**

1. ***Dr. Debabhuson Borah gets Munin Barkotoki Literary Award***

The prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic Dr. Debabhuson Borah for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'. The annual Award is instituted to encourage young and promising writers in Assamese.

2. ***Dr. Martha Farrell receives lifetime achievement award***

Late Dr. Martha Farrell has been honoured with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi. She has been recognized for her lifelong work towards gender equality, women's empowerment and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.

**3. *Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati conferred with Global Education Leaders Award 2018***

Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati has been conferred with the coveted Global Education Leaders Award 2018 in the 2nd edition of India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) on 30th October 2018. She is recognized in the education sector for imparting education.

**4. *Renowned flautist Keshav Ginde to get Pt. Bhimsen Joshi award***

Renowned flautist Pandit Keshav Ginde shall be conferred this year's prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Lifetime Achievement Award for Classical Music. The annual award, instituted by Maharashtra, honours maestros in classical music and singing.

**5. *Indian Social Entrepreneur Wins the First UN Geospatial Ambassador Award***

Sanjay Kumar was conferred the 'Global Geospatial Industry Ambassador' Award by UN-GGIM (United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management) for his perseverance to create awareness about geospatial technologies, to connect communities and build networks.

**Quick Revision**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Gleitsman Award	Malala Yousafzai
RSF Press Freedom Award	Swati Chaturvedi
Knight of the Legion of Honour	Jawahar Lal Sarin
ATP Comeback Player of the Year Award	Novak Djokovic
ATP Coach of the Year	Marian Vajda
Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award	Rafael Nadal
ATP Fans' Favourite Award	Roger Federer
Raja Ram Mohan Roy award	N. Ram
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sayaji Ratna Award	Amitabh Bachchan
CII-Exim Bank Business Excellence Award	Bharat Electronics Ltd
Pt. Bhimsen Joshi award	Keshav Ginde
Global Education Leaders Award 2018	Dr. Saroj Suman Gulati
Munin Barkotoki Literary Award	Debabhuson Borah

## Obituaries

### 1. ***Union Minister Ananth Kumar passed away***

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister and Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers passed away at the age of 59. He represented the Bengaluru South parliamentary constituency six times since 1996.

### 2. ***Former legislator Madhavrao Gaikwad passed away at 95***

Former legislator Madhavrao Gaikwad passed away. He was 95. He contested the state Assembly elections from the Manmad constituency in 1985 and remained an MLA till 1990 & was the leader of opposition in the state Legislative Council from 1960 to 1962.

### 3. ***Stan Lee, Marvel Comics' Real-Life Superhero, Dies at 95***

Stan Lee, the legendary writer, editor and publisher of Marvel Comics whose fantabulous but flawed creations made him a real-life superhero to comic book lovers everywhere, died. He was 95. He created or co-created Black Panther, Spider-Man, the X-Men etc.

### 4. ***Veteran Marathi actor Lalan Sarang dies in Pune at 79***

Veteran Marathi film actor Lalan Sarang died. She was known for her defiant acting in plays like Kamala, Sakharam Binder, Geedhade & RathChakra & films like Samna. She had written books like Nataka Magil Natak, Mee Ani Majhi Bhumika, Jagle Jasi.

### 5. ***Free trade advocate T.N. Srinivasan passes away***

Distinguished economist Padma Bhushan TN Srinivasan passed away in Chennai. He earned a doctorate in Economics from Yale University in 1962 & was a strong votary of free trade and multilateralism & authored several books on economics and development.

### 6. ***Former Railway Minister CK Jaffer Sharief passes away in Bengaluru***

Former Railway Minister CK Jaffer Sharief passed away in Bengaluru. He was 85. He was admitted to the hospital a few days ago after he collapsed while getting into his car for Friday namaz. He was one of India's most successful Railway minister.

### 7. ***Former hockey forward Sandeep Michael dies***

Former Indian hockey player Sandeep Michael died. He was 33. In 2001, Sandeep Michael made his debut for the country as a junior in the Under-18 Asia Cup at Ipoh in Malaysia under Jugraj Singh. He captained the Indian junior team to an Asia Cup gold in 2003.

### 8. ***Actor politician Ambareesh passes away***

Kannada actor and politician Ambareesh,66 has passed away. He was a three-time Lok Sabha member and a former State minister. He also acted in over 200 films in a more than four-decade long movie career.



**9. *Former MP Baishnab Charan Parida Passes Away***

Former Odisha MP and senior leader Baishnab Charan Parida passed away. He was 77. He was a well-known politician, columnist and a social activist. He had been fighting to bring the Odisha Official Language Act, 1954.

**10. *Noted Classical Musician Ustad Imrat Khan dies at 83***

Classical music stalwart Ustad Imrat Khan, 83 who dedicated his life to propagating the sitar & the surbahar has died in the US. He had turned down the Padma Shri last year saying the recognition had come too late & diminished his achievements.

**11. *Oscar-winning screenwriter William Goldman passes away at 87***

The Oscar-winning screenwriter and best-selling author William Goldman, known for "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "All the President's Men" died due to colon cancer, pneumonia. He was 87. He wrote the novels and then the screenplays for Marathon Man (1976), Magic (1978).

**12. *Mardala exponent Banamali Maharana passes away***

Eminent percussionist Guru Banamali Maharana passed away after prolonged illness in Bhubaneswar. He was 77. He was an accompanying percussionist for Odissi dancers like Sanjukta Panigrahi, Priyambada Hejmadi, Sonal Mansingh, Aruna Mohanty and Sujata Mohapatra.

**News: Others**

**1. *SpongeBob Squarepants' Creator Stephen Hillenburg Dies at 57***

SpongeBob SquarePants creator Stephen Hillenburg has passed away at the age of 57. Hillenburg gained notoriety while working as a director on Rocko's Modern Life. By the time the show's final season came around, in 1995, Hillenburg was promoted to creative director.

**2. *Singer Mohammed Aziz passes away***

Well-known singer Mohammed Aziz passed away in Mumbai. He made his singing debut with Bengali film Jyoti. He recorded over 20,000 songs in his three-decade long career. Aziz sung for numerous Hindi, Bengali and Odia films.

**3. *Comic-Con President John Rogers passes away at 57***

John Rogers, president of Comic-Con International, has died. He was 57. He served as president of the organization for more than 30 years. He had been in charge of Comic-Con since being elected as president in 1986.

**4. *Vice Admiral MP Awati passes away***

Indian Navy, Vice Admiral (retired) Manohar Prahlad Awati, died at Vinchurni in Satara district. He was 91. He headed the National Defence Academy and was known as the father of Indian Navy's circumnavigation adventures. He was the commanding officer of INS Kamorta during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

**5. *Iravatham Mahadevan passed away***

Iravatham Mahadevan, one of the world's leading scholars on the Indus Valley Script, a scholar on the Tamil Brahmi script, passed away. He is widely recognized for his work as Epigraphist. He was a former member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

## 6. *India-Born Pakistani Poet Fahmida Riaz died at 73*

Noted India-born Pakistani poet and human rights activist Fahmida Riaz died at the age of 73 in Lahore. She was a well-known progressive Urdu writer, poet, human rights activist and feminist, worked with Radio Pakistan and BBC Urdu service (Radio).

## 7. *Mario's Real-Life Namesake, Mario Segale, passes away*

Mario Segale, the namesake for Nintendo's Mario character & a successful American real estate developer, passed away. He was 84. It is the best-selling video game franchise of all time, comprising dozens of games across 3 decades' worth of gaming systems.

### Quick Revision

Obituary (Name)	Related Field
Ananth Kumar	Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Madhavrao Gaikwad	Former legislator
Stan Lee	Writer, editor & publisher of Marvel Comics'
CK Jaffer Sharief	Former Union Railway Minister
Sandeep Michael	Former Indian hockey player
T.N. Srinivasan	Economist, free trade advocate
Lalan Sarang	Marathi film actor
Ambareesh	Kannada Actor and Politician
Baishnab Charan Parida	Former Odisha MP
Ustad Imrat Khan	Classical music stalwart
William Goldman	Screenwriter
Guru Banamali Maharana	Percussionist
Iravatham Mahadevan	Scholar
Mario Segale	Namesake for Mario character

## Schemes

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *'Soura Jananidhi' scheme launched in Odisha*

Odisha has launched the Soura Jananidhi scheme that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land. Under the scheme, 5,000 solar pumps will be given to Odisha farmers at a subsidy of 90% to irrigate 2,500 acres of land.

#### 2. *Union Agriculture Ministry launches NCDC's 'Yuva Sahakar Scheme' to promote young entrepreneurs*

Radha Mohan Singh launched the 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' of the National Cooperative Development Corporation. The scheme will be linked to ₹ 1000 Cr Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund.

#### 3. *Kerala Govt launches Gau Samridhi scheme for dairy farmers*

Kerala launched the 'Cow Samridhi Plus Scheme' to provide insurance coverage to dairy farmers in the state. The farmers belonging to the general category will be getting 50% subsidy on premiums and SC & ST category would get 70% subsidy on the premium.

#### 4. ***Himachal govt approves Sashakt Mahila Yojana***

The Himachal Pradesh government gave the approval to implement Sashakt Mahila Yojana in the state with a vision to empower rural women by providing them an interface for organisation and socio-economic development.

#### 5. ***Defence Minister Launches 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti'***

Defence Minister launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' which aims to provide a boost to the IPR culture in the indigenous defence industry. The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has entrusted as Nodal Agency for this programme.

### **News: Others**

#### 1. ***HRD launches 2 programmes for higher education faculty***

The Human resource Development ministry launched two initiatives Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) which will empower the higher education teaching faculty.

#### 2. ***Divisional level ODOP Summit in UP from November 29***

The Uttar Pradesh government is set to organize the ODOP summit for promoting the **One District One Product Scheme** at the divisional levels. It will be organized at Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Moradabad, Agra, Kanpur and Saharanpur from Nov 29 to Dec 24.

#### 3. ***IIT Researchers Devise Programme To Maximise LPG Connections***

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur have devised the 'Decision Support System' (DSS) focusing on the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' for maximizing (optimizing) the number of LPG connections, particularly in BPL households.

## **Person in News**

### **News: Most Important**

#### 1. ***Uber Eats signs Alia Bhatt as brand ambassador in India***

Uber Eats has roped in actress Alia Bhatt as its brand ambassador in India. For Uber Eats, India will be the first country to have a brand ambassador. Uber Eats is currently present across 37 cities in India.

#### 2. ***Bharat Matrimony ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador***

Online matrimony service provider Bharat Matrimony has roped in cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador. The company would soon launch a marketing campaign featuring the cricketer on television, print, radio and outdoor.

#### 3. ***Munaf Patel Announces Retirement from International Cricket***

India fast bowler Munaf Patel has announced his retirement from all forms of the game. He made his debut for India in March 2006, played 13 Tests, 70 ODIs and three T20Is for the team. He was a member of the 2011 World Cup winning team.

**4. *Virat Kohli launched 'Jersey knows no gender' campaign***

Virat Kohli launched 'Jersey knows no gender' campaign to support national women cricketers competing in the ongoing International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's World T20. 2018 ICC Women's World Twenty20 is currently being hosted in the West Indies.

**5. *Mexico's highest honour for Indian academic***

The first Indian academic, Professor S.P. Ganguly has been awarded the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest civilian honour given to a foreigner by Mexico. He is a well-known Hispanist who headed the Centre for Spanish and Latin American Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**6. *Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018: Lifetime achievement honour for Azim Premji***

Chairman of Wipro Azim Premji has received the Forbes India Leadership Awards for his continued efforts at transforming the vegetable oil company into an IT behemoth. Energy Efficiency Services Limited won the award for the best public sector company.

**News: Others**

**1. *Former England and Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole retires***

Former England and Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole have announced his retirement from football. He made 716 appearances & scored 104 goals for seven clubs. He represented England in 2002, 2006 and 2010 World Cups.

**2. *Biles wins record 13<sup>th</sup> world gold***

Simone Biles became the first ever gymnast to win 13 world championship gold medals with victory in the individual vault competition 2018 held in Qatar. She broke record set by Belarusian male gymnast Vitaly Scherbo in 1996.

**3. *Apollo Tyres ropes in Sachin Tendulkar as brand ambassador***

Apollo Tyres has roped in Sachin Tendulkar as brand ambassador of the company for five years. This is the first time that the company has associated with a celebrity as the face of its brand.

**4. *Australia's John Hastings Retires from International Cricket due to Lung Disease***

Australia all-rounder John Hastings announced retirement from all forms of cricket due to a lung disease. He had already retired from ODI and Test cricket last year but continued to play T20 cricket.

## Summit & Conference

**News: Most Important**

**1. *World's biggest fintech event held in Singapore with greater ASEAN focus***

The Fintech event held in Singapore. It highlighted FinTech developments and opportunities in ASEAN and explores emerging AI solutions in trading, investment management, customer service, and risk management.



- 2. *DEPwD organized 'Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018'***  
Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi. The Global IT Challenge for disability is a capacity building project helps youth with disabilities to overcome their limitations & challenges for a better future through access to ICT.
- 3. *9<sup>th</sup> edition of National Foundry Conclave held in Coimbatore***  
The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Foundry Conclave organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry & Institute of Indian Foundrymen in Coimbatore. The conclave focused on planning, profitability, skilling, automation & technology.
- 4. *12<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Mountain Medicine held in Kathmandu***  
12<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Mountain Medicine was held in Kathmandu. The theme of the 4-day congress was "Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas". The event focused on science and research aspects of high-altitude medicine.
- 5. *World Tolerance Summit held in Dubai***  
The World Tolerance Summit 2018 was held in Dubai, UAE to commemorate the UN-designated International Day of Tolerance. The theme of the summit was 'Prospering from Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration'.
- 6. *DIPP organized Global Digital Content Market 2018***  
DIPP organized a conference on 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Digital Content Market 2018 in New Delhi. India was chosen as a host nation for the conference by World Intellectual Property Organization due to the strong creative industry in the country in films, music and media. The focus was the Asia Pacific region.
- 7. *World Customs Organisation's regional held in Jaipur***  
A four-day regional meeting of the World Customs Organisation held in Jaipur with representatives of 33-member countries of Asia. The meeting was slated to deliberate upon various issues including the steps required for the capacity building and reforms in customs.
- 8. *India's inaugural Asian Women in Leadership Summit 2018 held in Mumbai***  
The very first India session of The Asian Women in Leadership Summit 2018, held in Mumbai. The issue was to understand how to accelerate change and hold a constructive dialogue on Board Diversity and Gender Parity amongst India Inc.
- 9. *Power Minister inaugurated INSPIRE 2018***  
The second edition of INSPIRE was organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and the World Bank. The three-day symposium focused on enhancing grid management, e-Mobility, financial instruments and technologies for energy efficiency in India.



## News: Others

### 1. ***18<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting was held in Durban, South Africa***

The 18<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) was held in Durban, South Africa under the theme of "IORA: Uniting the Peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through enhanced cooperation for Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development".

### 2. ***Ministerial-level meeting for implementation of INSTC***

India is set to hold a meeting with Iran & Russia to implement the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). A ministerial-level meeting for implementation of INSTC, the first of its kind is likely to be held in Russia in the month of November.

### 3. ***Indo-Myanmar Regional Border Committee Meet***

The 13<sup>th</sup> Indo-Myanmar Regional Border Committee Meet is held at Mantripukhari Garrison, Imphal. It provides opportunities for discussing & resolving the crucial issues relating to border management, bi-lateral cooperation & insurgency.

### 4. ***RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting concludes***

The two-day RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting concluded in Singapore. The Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu led the Indian delegation to the meeting. He defended India's interests effectively and secured maximum flexibilities.

### 5. ***The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of TiE Global Summit held in New Delhi***

Commerce minister address 3rd TiE Global Summit held in New Delhi. The theme of the event is 'Entrepreneurship: Driving Employment, Driving Growth'. TiE Global Summit is the largest Global Entrepreneurial Leadership Summit across the globe.

### 6. ***Monaco to host 2019 Laureus Awards on February 2019***

The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in Monaco on February-18 next year. It is considered the 'Oscars of sports', the Laureus World Sports Awards celebrate global sporting achievements across the calendar year.

### 7. ***India to host the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health next year***

The 50<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action' which will be held from October 30 to November 2 next year. It will focus on what is needed to ensure commitments become action and targets are met.

## Quick Revision

Summit /Conference	Venue
FinTech Festival	Singapore
Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities	New Delhi
RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting	Singapore
World Tolerance Summit 2018	Dubai
2 <sup>nd</sup> conference on Global Digital Content Market	New Delhi
12 <sup>th</sup> World Congress on Mountain Medicine	Kathmandu
Asian Women in Leadership Summit 2018	Mumbai
World Customs Organisation	Jaipur
The 9 <sup>th</sup> edition of National Foundry Conclave	Coimbatore
TiE Global Summit	New Delhi

## Defence

### News: Most Important

#### 1. **25th edition of SIMBEX held in Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal**

The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of Singapore-India Maritime Exercise- SIMBEX took place in Andaman Sea & Bay of Bengal. The exercise between the navies of 2 countries witnessed the highest numbers & variety of platforms fielded by both sides.

#### 2. **Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' concluded**

INS Rana at Surabaya participated in Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'. The aim of the exercise was to strengthen bilateral relations and coordination between India and Indonesia.

#### 3. **Joint military exercise between Indian and Russia concluded**

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Indo-Russian joint military exercise **INDRA** concluded. The 11-day long joint training that commenced on November 18 included developing "common understanding of transnational terrorism.

#### 4. **India-Japan military exercise Dharma Guardian-2018 concluded in Mizoram**

Armies of India and Japan performed their first-ever joint military exercise in Mizoram. The focus of the two-week-long exercise 'Dharma Guardian-2018' was to enhance tactical skills against global terrorism and increase interoperability between the two forces.

#### 5. **Exercise KONKAN-18 takes place at Goa**

Naval cooperation between India and the United Kingdom via. Exercise KONKAN-2018 took place at Goa. The Royal Navy was represented by HMS Dragon while Indian Navy by field INS Kolkata. It aims to increase co-operation and sharing of knowledge.

#### 6. **First unmanned mission under Gaganyaan by Dec 2020**

According to ISRO chief, The Indian Space Research Organisation has set a 'target' of achieving the country's ambitious manned mission to space by 2021, with the first unmanned programme of 'Gaganyaan' planned for December 2020.

### 7. *Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' concluded*

The 12-day long joint military exercise between India and the United States known as '**Vajra Prahar**' concluded in Jaipur. The US Special Forces carried out rigorous joint training in semi-desert and rural terrain to enhance the interoperability of the two-armed forces.

### 8. *India signs \$950 million contract with Russia to buy two stealth frigates*

India has signed a \$950 million contract with Russia for 2 upgraded Krivak III-class stealth frigates. They are built by Yantar Shipyard of Russia & will be powered by Ukrainian gas turbine engines. They are expected to be delivered by the end of 2022.

## News: Others

### 1. *Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Inducts 3 Major Artillery Gun Systems*

Defence Minister inducted 3 major artillery gun systems, including the M777 American Ultralight Howitzers & the K-9 Vajra, into the Army. The third gun system inducted is the 'Composite Gun Towing Vehicle' while K-9 Vajra is a self-propelled artillery gun.

### 2. *Indian GSLV rocket set for GSAT-29 launch*

India's heavy-lift rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-Mk III) has been launched into orbit with the communication satellite GSAT-29 weighing 3,423 kg. It is the second developmental flight of GSLV-Mk III rocket.

### 3. *India, Russia finalise USD 500 million deal for construction of 2 warships for Indian Navy*

India and Russia sealed a USD 500 million deal for construction of two missile frigates in Goa for the Indian Navy, sending a clear signal of continuing with high-level defence collaborations notwithstanding the US warnings of sanctions.

### 4. *ISRO PSLV-C43 mission successfully launched HysIS satellite*

ISRO successfully launched the PSLV-C43 mission that carried the HysIS satellite as part of its payload. With this launch, HysIS will be able to monitor the Earth's surface within a bandwidth of 400nm-2500nm wavelength. Lifespan is of five years.

## Quick Revision

Exercise	Countries
SIMBEX – 2018	India & Singapore
Samudra Shakti – 2018	India & Indonesia
INDRA – 2018	India & Russia
Dharma Guardian - 2018	India & Japan
KONKAN - 2018	India & UK
Vajra Prahar - 2018	India & USA

## Agreements

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Odisha inks pacts with FICCI, firms to promote training ecosystem*

The Odisha government has signed several MoUs with FICCI as well as with companies to promote a robust ecosystem of training and recruitment in the state during the 'Make in Odisha' Conclave.

#### 2. *Google Team up with the International Cricket Council*

ICC has partnered with Google to offer fans a great viewing experience of the semi-finals & final of the ICC Women's World T20 2018 in West Indies. It includes allowing the casting of video content from the ICC mobile app on Cast-enabled devices.

#### 3. *Kerala govt signs MOU with Airbus BizLab*

Kerala's startup ecosystem got a major fillip as Kerala government signed a MoU with Airbus BizLab, a global aerospace accelerator. Under the MoU, an Innovation Centre will be set up in Thiruvananthapuram.

#### 4. *World Bank sign \$310 million Loan Agreement for Jharkhand Power System*

The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank signed a \$310 million Loan Agreement for Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project to provide reliable, quality, and affordable 24x7 electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand.

#### 5. *GoI & ADB Sign \$105 Million Loan to Support Hydropower Transmission in Himachal Pradesh*

Asian Development Bank and the India signed a \$105 million loan to continue financing the transmission system upgrades in Himachal Pradesh for increased supply of hydropower to the state and the national grid.

### News: Others

#### 1. *CIMAP signs a pact with RIFM to standardize fragrant oils*

The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants signed an agreement with US-based Research Institute for Fragrant Materials (RIFM) for improving the quality of fragrant oils at the conclusion of the two-day annual conference of the International Fragrance Association in Paris.

#### 2. *Oil Marketing Companies, CSCs sign MoU to provide LPG-related services to people*

Oil Marketing Companies and Common Service Centres have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide **LPG-related services** to people. The agreement was signed in the presence of Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Electronics Ravi Shankar Prasad.

### 3. *Nokia inks pact with Infosys to drive enterprise digital transformation*

Nokia has joined hands with Infosys to help enterprises digitalize their operations by applying the latest in AI, machine learning, & lean management coupled with the ubiquitous connectivity offered by mobile broadband and Internet of Things network.

## Books & Authors

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Mansi Gulati's book 'Yoga and Mindfulness' launched by VP Venkaiah Naidu*

Mansi Gulati's book, '**Yoga and Mindfulness**' was launched by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu. The book helps in understanding the philosophy behind yoga and illustrates with the aid of pictures how the various asanas are executed.

#### 2. *Manisha Koirala Unveils her Book 'Healed'*

Actress Manisha Koirala unveiled her book "**Healed**", her personal story of a battle against ovarian cancer. The book is subtitled "How cancer gave me a new life." Penguin Random House India published the book 'Healed' in India. Neelam Kumar is a co-author of the book.

#### 3. *Dr. Jitendra Singh releases book 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War'*

Dr. Jitendra Singh released a book titled '**Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War**' written by Dr. Rajesh Bhat. Book highlight significant role played by the media in safeguarding the strategic interest of the Government and the masses of a nation.

#### 4. *Former PM launched the book "Fables of Fractured Times"*

Former PM Manmohan Singh launched Manish Tiwari's book "**Fables of Fractured Times**" The book contains his views on a wide array of issues, trends, and events in the domestic and international arena in today's fractured times. It published by Konark group.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Ex-Minister Ramanath Rai Releases Book 'Arivu'*

Ex-Minister Ramanath Rai has released the Book 'Arivu' which has been authored by Dr. Murali Mohan Chuntharu. It was released on National Cancer Awareness Day. The book explains about mouth cancer and prevention of the disease.

#### 2. *AR Rahman launches his biography "Notes of a Dream"*

Oscar-winning musician A.R. Rahman launched his biography "Notes of a Dream. Acc. to him has been a journey for me that took me to those corners of my life which have remained candid for a long time. It is authored by Krishna Trilok.



## Quick Revision

Books	Authored by/brought by
Arivu	Murali Mohan Chuntharu
Healed	Manisha Koirala
Yoga and Mindfulness	Mansi Gulati
Fables of Fractured Times	Manish Tiwari
Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War	Dr. Rajesh Bhat
Notes of a Dream	Krishna Trilok

## Science & Technology

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *GROWTH-India telescope's first science observation*

GROWTH-India telescope at the Indian Astronomical Observatory located in Ladakh has made its first science observation which is a follow-up study of a nova explosion. Novae are explosive events involving an increase in brightness of the star.

#### 2. *IIT-Bombay graduates launch India's first advanced personal robot for kids*

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay graduated launched India's first advanced personal robot for children called 'Miko 2'. The robot will help parents in early education, development of children by engaging in 'playful learning'.

#### 3. *IMD develops technology to assess water level in rivers and reservoirs*

IMD has developed an Impact Based Forecasting Approach to assess the rise of water level in rivers & reservoirs during rain. The technology shows pre-event scenario, can help state govts to minutely monitor the impact of rain & take real-time decisions.

#### 4. *Lupin launches first chatbot for patients to know about their ailments*

Lupin launched a chatbot named 'ANYA' designed to provide medically verified information for health-related queries. The disease awareness bot aims to answer patient queries related to ailments.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Human images from world's first total-body scanner unveiled*

The world's first medical imaging scanner EXPLORER that can capture a 3-D picture of the whole human body at once, has produced its first scans. This technology will help in improving diagnostics to tracking disease progression to researching new drug therapies.

#### 2. *World's longest DNA sequence decoded*

A team of UK scientists has claimed the record for decoding the world's longest DNA sequence. The scientists produced a DNA read that is about 10,000 times longer than normal, and twice as large as a previous record holder, from Australia.

### 3. *Oldest cave painting of an animal discovered in Borneo*

The oldest cave painting has been discovered by scientists in rural Borneo. Researchers led by Griffith University in Australia managed to access the cave. One painting found which depicted a banteng, a South Asian wild cow, & is at least 40000 years old.

### 4. *World's largest brain-like supercomputer switched on for the first time*

The world's largest supercomputer Spiking Neural Network Architecture (SpiNNaker) designed to work in the same way as the human brain has been switched on for the first time. The newly formed million-processor-core machine is made in the UK.

## Environment

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *India gets UN Environment award for combating trans-boundary environmental crime*

United Nation Environment has awarded Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with Asia Environment Enforcement Awards 2018 in the Innovation category for its excellent work done in combating transboundary environmental crime.

#### 2. *Harsh Vardhan launches Global Cooling Prize for cooling technology*

The Global Cooling Prize, a competition to incentivize the development of a residential cooling technology that will have at least five times less climate impact than the standard Room Air Conditioning was announced at the inaugural session of the Global Cooling Innovation Summit in New Delhi.

#### 3. *Ozone layer recovering: U.N. Study*

U.N. study has observed that Ozone layer that shields life from cancer-causing solar rays is recovering at a rate of **1 to 3 % per decade**, reversing years of dangerous depletion caused by the release of harmful chemicals. Montreal Protocol works on that.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Earth's Smallest Ape Weighed 8 lbs., Lived 12.5 Million Years Ago*

The remains of the smallest ape weighing around 7.7 lbs (3.5 kg) lived around 12.5 mn years ago discovered in Kenya. The new species, Simiolus minutus is known from only 3 tiny teeth. All 3 of the teeth samples are now in the National Museum of Kenya.

#### 2. *IIT Researchers Make Smartphone-Based System to Detect Milk Adulteration*

Researchers at IIT Hyderabad have developed a smartphone-based system to detect adulteration in milk. It measures acidity in milk using an indicator paper that changes colour according to acidity. Algorithms to accurately detect the colour change are also prepared.

## Apps & Portals

### News: Most Important

**1. *Ministry of Railways rolls out All-India Unreserved Mobile Ticketing facility***

Ministry of Railways launched the 'Unreserved Mobile Ticketing' facility (UTS on Mobile) to enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets all over Indian Railways with a view to promote Cashless transactions, Contactless ticketing & Customer convenience & experience.

**2. *NSE launches app, web platform for retail investors to buy G-secs***

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) announced the launch of its new mobile app and web platform 'NSE goBID' for retail investors to buy government securities. Through this app, retail investors can invest in treasury bills and various govt bond.

**3. *Google launches new app Neighbourly for Indian Markets***

Neighbourly, which is specifically designed for the Indian market by Google will give hyper-local information on neighbourhoods. This will be user-generated content, like Quora. Neighbourly is attempting to be an information repository of google.

**4. *Suresh Prabhu launches AirSewa 2.0***

The upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app was launched in New Delhi to provide a superior user experience with enhanced functionalities. Also, the Chennai airport which saw 100% timely closure of grievances in one year was awarded with the champion award.

**5. *Andhra Pradesh launches 'Bhudaar' portal to make land records accessible to people***

Andhra Pradesh launched a web portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers. The "Bhudaar" is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state.

**6. *Delhi Police launches e-learning portal NIPUN***

Delhi Police has launched an e-learning portal NIPUN to impart training and provide up to date information to police officers. NIPUN is an e-learning portal aiming to give online training and information to police personnel through specialised courses.

### News: Others

**1. *Facebook 'Lasso' Short Form Video App Launched for Android, iOS***

Facebook has launched a video app called Lasso that enables users to make and share short-format videos with filters and special effects. The app can be considered a Facebook version of the TikTok app that has become quite popular in the past year.

## 2. *Google Launches 'Play Academy' Free E-Learning Platform for Android App Developers*

Google launched 'Play Academy' e-learning platform which offers Android app developers access to courses that can help them learn how to use the Play Console, best practices for when they are ready to publish apps and analyzing downloads to grow their app.

### Quick Revision

App/Platform/Portal	Launched by
UTS on Mobile	Ministry of Railways
NSE goBID	National Stock Exchange of India
Neighbourly	Google
AirSewa 2.0	Suresh Prabhu
Bhudaar	Andhra Pradesh government
NIPUN	Delhi Police
Lasso	Facebook
Audible	Amazon
Play Academy	Google

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *NIIF buys debt provider IDFC Infrastructure Finance*

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India has acquired IDFC Infrastructure Finance Ltd (IDFC-IFL) that has been registered with RBI as an infrastructure debt fund. The acquisition is subject to approval from RBI and customary closing conditions.

#### 2. *Myntra, Jabong to merge*

Online fashion retailer Myntra would completely integrate its sister company Jabong, which would continue to operate as a separate brand. Flipkart had acquired online fashion portal Myntra in 2014 and Myntra had acquired Jabong in 2016.

#### 3. *IBM to acquire software company Red Hat for USD 34 billion*

IBM Corp had agreed to acquire US software company Red Hat Inc for USD 34 billion, including debt, as it seeks to diversify its technology hardware and consulting business into higher-margin products and services.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Zydus Group acquire privately held Heinz India*

Zydus Group entered into a definitive agreement to acquire privately held Heinz India, jointly with parent Cadila Healthcare, at a valuation of Rs 4,595 crore. The deal, one of the largest M&A transactions in recent times, offers Zydus access to brands.

#### 2. *BlackBerry to buy cybersecurity firm Cylance for \$1.4 billion*

BlackBerry is set to acquire Cylance, an artificial intelligence and cybersecurity company, for \$1.4 billion in cash. The acquisitions will help expand BlackBerry's QNX unit, which makes software for next-generation autonomous cars.

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