

September 2018

# BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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

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## Banking

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *PM launched India Post Payments Bank*

PM Modi launched India Post payment bank, at Talkatora Stadium in **New Delhi**, it will start its operation via 650 branches across the country. It will join the league of Airtel Paytm Payments Banks etc. India Post has 1.55 lakh access points and will be used by Dec 2018.

#### 2. *UPI tops 300 million monthly transactions*

Unified Payments Interface, the bank-to-bank account settlement mechanism run by the NPCI, has crossed an important milestone of 300 million monthly transactions. It registered 312 million transactions in August, up 32% from July.

#### 3. *Banks with over 10 branches to have internal ombudsman (IO): RBI*

RBI has tightened the selection & operating procedure for internal ombudsman (IO) in banks, making it mandatory for lenders with more than 10 branches to have an independent authority to review complaints that were partially or wholly rejected by the respective banks.

#### 4. *ICRA downgrades ratings of IL&FS loans, debentures to 'junk' status*

Rating agency ICRA has effected a multi-notch rating downgrade for Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), which is facing liquidity pressure and overleverage. Its loans and debentures now carry "BB" (junk or non-investment status) as against the previous rating of "AA+".

#### 5. *RBI may conduct OMO purchase to infuse liquidity into banking*

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to conduct an open market operation (OMO) purchase this week to infuse liquidity into the banking system, which is further going to tighten on account of advance tax payments.

#### 6. *ADB launches Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2018 flagship report*

According to a new report by the **Manila Headquartered**, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia and the Pacific account for a growing share of global gross domestic product (GDP), while the region continues to make progress to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**7. *Centre proposes to amalgamate Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank***

The government has proposed amalgamation of **Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank,** and **Dena Bank** to create India's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest globally competitive Bank.

Amalgamation will increase the banking operations.

**8. *World Bank approves Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India***

World Bank has endorsed a 5-yr CPF for India to support its objectives of high, sustainable and inclusive growth. It addresses India's key development priorities like resource efficient and growth, job creation and building its human capital.

**9. *HDFC Ergo launches cyber insurance cover***

HDFC Ergo has launched a personal cyber insurance policy **E@Secure**, that will provide cover to individuals and families from cyber-crimes, including cyber-attacks, identity theft, phishing, and reputational risks such as bullying and trolling.

**10. *NABARD sanctioned Rs 335 cr to West Bengal***

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has sanctioned an amount of Rs 335 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to West Bengal.

The fund would be used for 158 minor irrigation projects and 23 flood protection projects.

**11. *LIC, SBI, ORIX to subscribe to Rs 4500 crore IL&FS rights issue***

Largest shareholders Life Insurance Corp (LIC), ORIX Corp, and State Bank of India (SBI) announced that they would subscribe to the proposed Rs 4,500 crore rights issue of the debt-laden 'Infrastructure Leasing & Finance Services (IL&FS company)'.

## News: Others

### **1. *SBI hikes lending rates by 20 bps across all tenures up to 3 years***

State Bank of India (SBI), has raised its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 20 bps, the floor rate at which banks lend. Now, its rates range from **8.1 to 8.65 %**. It also raised term deposits rates by 45-90 basis points across maturities in 2018.

### **2. *Yes Bank slapped with Rs 38 crore in GST fines for violating domestic remittances norms***

Yes Bank has paid ₹ 38 Cr in fines to the GST department for alleged violations in domestic remittances. The money has been paid 'in protest' payment. Over ₹ 32 Cr has been paid to the GST department, while ₹ 6 Cr has been paid in service tax.

### **3. *IRDAI to develop 'sandbox' approach for financial technology related products***

IRDAI has decided to develop a regulatory sandbox to enable testing of products in a controlled environment to keep pace with the fast-evolving fintech. The approach can be used to carve out a safe and conducive space to experiment with fintech solutions.

### **4. *Household debt almost doubles in 2017-18: RBI data***

The indebtedness of Indian households nearly doubled in the year to March 2018, with their financial liabilities rising around 80 percent to Rs 6.74 lakh crore. The trends reflect the aspirational lifestyles of consumers who are accessing cheap loans.

### **5. *Morgan Stanley to give clients bitcoin trading options***

Morgan Stanley plans to offer trading in bitcoins. The bank is already technically prepared to offer the Bitcoin swap trading. Bitcoins are digital currency based on encryption techniques.

### **6. *RBI sets the rule for joint priority sector lending***

RBI has set the rule to banks making them share a maximum 80% credit risk with non-banking finance companies (NBFC) for priority sector loans. The lenders will now charge a single interest rate to borrowers based on the respective interest rates and proportion of risk sharing.

## Quick Revision :Policy Rates

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 GDP grows at 8.2 per cent in 2018-19 Q1**

India's economy grew at an impressive **8.2** per cent in the first quarter of 2018-19 FY on the back of a strong core performance and a healthy base. Sectors such as manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply etc. registered growth of over 7 percent.

#### **2. Jan Dhan Yojana: Govt doubles up overdraft facility from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000**

To make the PMJDY scheme more attractive, the government has decided to double the overdraft facility from **Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000**. It has also been made an open-ended scheme by adding more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts.

#### **3. SEBI Panel Proposes To Relax Foreign Fund Ownership Rules**

As a set of relaxations to its earlier foreign fund ownership rules, a panel set up by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has suggested that beneficial ownership criteria should be applicable for know-your-customer rules only and not for eligibility for foreign investors.

#### **4. ADB maintains India's growth forecast at 7.3%**

The multilateral agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) maintained India's growth forecast for the current fiscal at **7.3** per cent. It also expects India to grow at 7.6 per cent during next fiscal (2019-20).

**5. *India's exports record faster growth to touch a three-month high of over 19%***

India's exports rose at the fastest pace in three months to reach 27.84 billion US dollars in August on account of healthy growth in petroleum products, engineering, pharma, and gems and jewellery shipments.

**6. *Fitch raises India's GDP forecast to 7.8% from 7.4% for FY19***

In its Global Economic Outlook Fitch Ratings upped India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to **7.8** per cent, from 7.4 per cent projected earlier. It flagged tightening of financial conditions, rising oil bill and weak bank balance sheets as headwinds to growth.

**7. *BSE, NSE get SEBI approval to launch commodity derivatives***

BSE, NSE get SEBI approval to launch commodity derivatives. BSE will enter the segment with non-agriculture commodities like metals initially, followed by agricultural commodities subsequently.

**8. *Government hikes interest rate on PPF, other small savings***

Government raised interest rates on Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Saving Certificate (NSC), it will fetch annual interest rate of 8% as compared to existing 7.6%. Kisan Vikas Patra will yield 7.7% and will now mature in 112 months. Sukanya Samriddhi account will earn higher interest rate of 8.5%.

**9. *Retail Inflation eases to 3.69% in August***

As per recent data, retail inflation which is measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 3.69 in Aug 2018. Driven by cheaper food product prices, inflation falls below RBI's medium-term target of 4%. Fuel and electricity inflation stood at 8.47%.



## News: Others

### **1. *Wipro bags \$1.6 billion contract, its largest-ever***

Acc. to CEO and executive director Abidali Neemuchwala ,Wipro has bagged a \$1.6 billion 10-year contract ,to provide digital solutions to Illinois-based Alight Solutions LLC. This deal will result in revenues of \$1.5 to \$1.6 billion for Wipro over the tenure.

### **2. *Govt reaps Rs 10,000 crore tax bonanza from Flipkart deal***

Walmart's acquisition of 77% stake in Flipkart has made the income tax department richer by over Rs 10,000 crore. The payment by Walmart brings to an end the uncertainty regarding tax dues related to the \$16-billion transaction.

### **3. *Centre Sets Up Panel of Secretaries to Look into E-Commerce Issues***

The government has set up a group of secretaries to investigate the issues raised on some proposals of the draft e-commerce policy. The group will be chaired by the Secretary , Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

### **4. *SEBI approves new KYC norms for FPIs***

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved new KYC norms for foreign portfolio investors. It will allow foreign portfolio investors to trade in commodity derivatives market, except for sensitive commodities.

### **5. *Forex reserves fell below \$400 billion***

Foreign exchange reserves consisting of currency assets, gold, SDR and reserve tranche stood at \$399.28 billion as a result of the Reserve Bank of India's intervention at a time when portfolio flows were witnessing some reversals. The reserves peaked at \$426 billion in mid-April.

## Quick revision

<b>Organization/Committee</b>	<b>Projected GDP Rate</b>
ADB	7.3 %
Fitch ratings	7.8 %
Govt. of India	8.2 % (actual)



## State

### News: Most Important

- 1. *Pranab Mukherjee Inaugurates Smartgram Yojana Projects In Haryana***  
Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated various projects under the Smartgram Yojana in Haryana. The Smartgram Project in Haryana started in July 2016, when Pranab Mukherjee adopted five villages as the serving President.
- 2. *Odisha Legislative Council resolution passed in Assembly***  
The Odisha Assembly passed a resolution for the establishment of a Legislative Council in the state. The resolution got support of 104 of 147 members of the Assembly, Congress & BJP walked out. The resolution will be sent to the Centre for approval.
- 3. *First Ever Bus Services between Bihar & Nepal flagged Off***  
First ever bus service between Bihar and Nepal was flagged off by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar. The service will link Bodh Gaya and Patna in Bihar to Kathmandu and Janakpur in Nepal. The bus service will strengthen the relations between India and Nepal.
- 4. *Country's first Tribal Tourism Circuit in Chhattisgarh***  
India's first tribal circuit tourism project under the **Swadesh Darshan scheme** was inaugurated in Chhattisgarh. Major components include eco log huts, craft haats, tourist facilitation centres, an open amphitheatre, tribal interpretation centres.
- 5. *Festival of Nuakhai celebrated in Odisha***  
The festival of **Nuakhai** celebrated in Odisha. During this harvest festival of western Odisha, newly produced Nabannis is offered to presiding deities. The Nuakhai Juhar is a major ritual of the festival, during which greetings are exchanged.
- 6. *Jharkhand govt inks MoU with NACL for Ayushman Bharat Scheme***  
Jharkhand govt has signed a MoU with National Insurance Company Ltd to provide timely medical facilities to the people of the state under the Centre's flagship health scheme - Ayushman Bharat Yojana. About 80% population of the state will be covered under it.

**7. *Odisha: PM Modi inaugurates Jharsuguda Airport***

P.M. Modi inaugurated a new airport in **Jharsuguda** - also known as the **powerhouse of Odisha**. Developed by the Airports Authority of India, it is the second airport of Odisha after Bhubaneswar to become operational.

**6. *Special research centres to be set up in universities of Uttar Pradesh***

The UP government has set up Deen Dayal Upadhyay Research Centre in 15 state universities. Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath Research Centre will also be established in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University.

**7. *Tamil Nadu announced a novel scheme for the protection of the Neela Kurinji plants.***

Tamil Nadu govt has announced a novel scheme for the protection of the exotic **Neela Kurinji plants** that flower only once in 12 years. Following complaints that these rare and ecologically unique flowers are being packaged and sold on commercial basis.

**News: Others**

**1. *Tamil Nadu govt bans e-cigarettes in state***

The Tamil Nadu government has banned e-cigarettes i.e. Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems in the state. The ban covers distribution, trade, display, marketing, advertisement, use, import and possession of e-cigarettes.

**2. *Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir sign a historic agreement on the Shahpur Kandi project***

Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir signed a historic agreement on the Shahpur Kandi project. Shahpur Kandi was vital as it would allow India to fully utilise the water of river Ravi as per the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan.

**3. *NTPC to invest ₹9,785 crore for expansion of Talcher plant in Odisha***

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) board has approved an investment of ₹9,785 crore for the 1,320 MW Stage-III expansion of Talcher thermal power plant situated in Angul district of Odisha. It is one of the top performing power stations.

#### 4. *Gujarat govt doubles farmers' accident insurance amounts*

The Gujarat government has doubled the monetary assistance to farmers under the state-run Farmers' Accident Insurance Scheme. The insurance scheme covers over 2.5 crore farmers who own agricultural land in the state.

## **National**

### **News : Important**

#### 1. *Indian Railways launches Ramayana Yatra Express*

Indian Railways will run a Ramayana Yatra Express on November 14 on the Ramayana circuit to cover the major spots related to the Hindu epic. 800-seater train will depart from Madurai and complete its journey at Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, in 15 days.

#### 2. *NCLT gives go-ahead to Idea-Vodafone merger*

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger of Idea Cellular & Vodafone India. It becomes India's largest mobile phone company with the most subscribers and revenue share. Idea Cellular is a part of Aditya Birla Group.

#### 3. *NSIC integrated marketing development centre for MSMEs inaugurated in Bhubaneshwar*

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship inaugurated National Small Industries Corporation's (NSIC) - Integrated Marketing Development Centre named as "**Dharampad Bhawan**" in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.

#### 4. *Tata Communications partners with CII to launch 'The Grand India IoT Innovation Challenge'*

Tata Communication has partnered with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to launch a 3-month long hackathon on the HackerEarth platform. Namely, 'The Grand India IoT Innovation Challenge', which will be open to engineering students from 26 colleges and universities across India.

#### 5. *One-nation-one-card for public transport soon: NITI Aayog*

According to NITI Aayog, India will shortly unveil a one-nation-one-card policy for public transport that will bring seamless connectivity between various modes of transport. Road transportation segment alone contributes to around **4 percent** of India's GDP.

**6. *India to buy 18 bullet trains from Japan for Rs 7,000 crore***

As part of the government's plan to launch country's first high speed rail corridor by **2022**, India will buy 18 bullet train sets worth Rs 7,000 crore from Japan. The deal will include a pledge to transfer technology for local production.

**7. *Union Cabinet Approves Establishment Of Permanent Campus For 7 New IIMs***

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of permanent campus for seven new IIMs. The seven IIMs are at **Amritsar, Bodh Gaya, Nagpur, Sambalpur, Sirmour, Vishakhapatnam** and **Jammu**. These IIMs were established in the year 2015-16 & 2016-17.

**8. *Homosexuality no longer a crime, Section 377 Supreme Court rewrites history***

The Supreme Court Five-judge bench was led by CJI Dipak Misra restored a landmark Delhi High Court judgement which had decriminalised homosexuality in a move that was immediately hailed by the minority LGBT community.

**9. *Upgraded research reactor 'Apsara-U' becomes re-operational***

According to the Department of Atomic Energy, 'Apsara-U', a higher capacity version of Asia's first research reactor- 'Apsara' has become operational, in its new avatar, the reactor was born at the Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Maharashtra.

**10. *India's 1<sup>st</sup> Railway Varsity Starts Operations in Vadodara***

India's first institute offering a degree course in the transport sector, the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), started its operation recently. The institute is currently operating out of National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara.

**11. *Paryatan Parv' by the Ministry of Tourism inaugurated***

The 'Paryatan Parv' by the Ministry of Tourism was inaugurated by Home Minister Rajnath Singh. An exhibition on the theme "**Saaf Niyat Sahi Vikas**" was also organised by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

**12. Piyush Goyal inaugurated the first ever India tourism Mart**

Piyush Goyal inaugurated the India Tourism Mart ,organized by the Ministry of Tourism to showcase the potential of Tourism in India. ITM will be an annual event hereafter in line with other International Tourism Marts and it will be held in the month of **September**.

**13. Cabinet approved funds to J&K under DAY – NRLM without linking it with poverty ratio**

Union Cabinet approved an allocation of funds to J&K State under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) on a need basis for the implementation of the Special Package without linking it to poverty ratio.

**14. Govt. of India inaugurated the All India Pension Adalat**

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) DoNER, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the 'Pension Adalat' , organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, GoI.

**15. PM Modi sets tone of Ajay Bharat Atal BJP for 2019 polls**

Setting the tone for the 2019 parliamentary election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi , coined a new slogan, '**Ajay Bharat, Atal BJP**', highlighting BJP's commitment to its core values and the country's progress and forward march.

**16. Petroleum Minister to launch SATAT initiative**

Petroleum Minister launched SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative. SATAT promotes green transport fuel that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers.

## **News: Others**

### **1. ₹1,000 crore subsidy likely for EV charging infrastructure**

Union govt will provide ₹1,000 crore subsidy for building a nationwide charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. This will expedite the roll-out of India's ambitious EV programme. A charging station will be installed at every 25km on these highways.

### **2. Tata to make wings for Lockheed Martin's F-16 fighter jets in India**

Maryland-based Lockheed Martin has entered into an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) for the production of the wings. Lockheed has offered to move its entire F-16 manufacturing base to India.

### **3. SSLV will offer cost-effective satellite launch options in India**

According to Antrix, ISRO's commercial arm, the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), being built by ISRO, will offer affordable launch options in India & help boost revenues. SSLV is meant exclusively for small satellites such as nanosats and cubesats.

### **4. EC removes NOTA option from Rajya Sabha, Legislative Council polls**

EC withdrew the 'none of the above' (NOTA) option from ballot papers of the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council polls following a Supreme Court directive. NOTA continue to be an option in direct elections such as the LS and the state assemblies.

### **5. GoI bans the manufacturing of FDC for human use**

Ministry of Health and Family has prohibited the manufacturing of 328 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) with immediate effect. A combination drug that includes 2 or more active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) combined in a single dosage form known as FDCs.

### **6. Cabinet approved equity infusion of RCF in Talcher Fertilizers Ltd.**

The Cabinet Committee has approved equity investment in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) a Miniratna company. Amount of Rs.1033.54 crore has been provided for setting up a Coal Gasification based fertilizer project in Talcher Fertilizer Ltd. (TFL).



**7. *Cabinet approved an ordinance making triple talaq a punishable offence***

Union cabinet approved an ordinance making instant triple talaq a punishable offence with a three-year jail term. Crime will be recognised only when the woman herself or her blood relative files a complaint against the husband.

**8. *Cabinet clears ₹3,466 crore dam improvement project***

The Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP). DRIP projects will improve the safety and operational performance of selected 198 existing dams in seven States.

## **International**

### **News: Most Important**

**1. *Amazon follows Apple to cross trillion-dollar milestone***

Amazon.com has become the second U.S. company to reach \$1 trillion in stock market value, just weeks after Apple hit the same milestone on August 2. Its shares hit the \$2050.2677 level to give its stock a value of \$1 trillion.

**2. *Typhoon Jebi: Japan hit by strongest storm of 25 years***

A powerful typhoon Jebi slammed into western Japan. It comes soon after parts of Japan were hit by torrential rains in July that killed more than 200 people. The storm is the strongest to hit the country in 25 years.

**3. *NASA launches ICESat-2***

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched **Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2** (ICESat-2). The satellite will provide critical observations of how ice sheets, glaciers and sea ice are changing, leading to insights into how these changes impact people where they live.

**4. *Hubble starts a new mission to study early galaxies: NASA***

The Hubble Space Telescope has started a new mission to study six massive galaxy clusters that may help shed light on how the earliest galaxies evolved in the universe which is crucial for our understanding of the cosmos.

**5. *Porsche first German carmaker to abandon diesel engines***

Sports car maker **Porsche** has become the first German auto giant to abandon the diesel engine, reacting to malpractices in some companies and resulting urban driving bans. Instead, the company would concentrate on powerful petrol, hybrid engines.



## 6. *South Korea confirms first MERS case since 2015*

South Korean authorities confirmed the first case of the **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)** coronavirus since the outbreak that affected the country in 2015. A 61-year-old man was diagnosed with the virus, symptoms included high fever and pneumonia.

### News: Others

#### 1. *UN agrees global plan to step up the fight against TB*

UN members have agreed on a global plan to step up a fight against tuberculosis, the world's number one killer among infectious diseases. First TB summit is scheduled on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept in New York. Every year **World TB Day** is observed on **24<sup>th</sup> of March**.

#### 2. *Turkey, Russia agree on demilitarized zone in Syria's Idlib*

The leaders of Russia and Turkey agreed to establish a demilitarized zone in Syria's Idlib region, the last major stronghold of anti-government rebels. The deal marked a significant step as it would help to resolve a humanitarian crisis.

#### 3. *Japanese businessman to become the first private moon tourist*

American company SpaceX revealed that **Yusaku Maezawa**, a Japanese billionaire, would be the first private paying customer to ride around the Moon aboard the company's next-generation rocket. Big Falcon Rocket will be used for this.

#### 4. *Hurricane Florence smashes into the US*

In the US, Flooding from Hurricane Florence swept across Carolina. The massive storm surged towards the coast, threatening record rainfall and leaving scores trapped by rising waters and thousands without power.

## India & world

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Gold becomes first Bollywood film to release in Saudi Arabia*

Akshay Kumar's "Gold" has become the first Bollywood film ever to release in Saudi Arabia. 'Gold' is the fictional re-telling of the India's iconic win at the 1948 London Olympics. Reema Kagti is the director of the movie.

#### 2. *Japan, Gujarat to strengthen cultural, business ties*

Indian delegation led by Deputy CM of Gujarat, Nitin Patel met officials from the Ministry of Economy, trade and Investment (METI) of Japan & signed agreements to promote bilateral cooperation in culture, business and interaction between the academia.

#### 3. *India & Bulgaria sign five MoUs*

After delegation level talks between President Ramnath Kovind and his counterpart Rumen Radev, India and Bulgaria sign five pacts on Investment, Tourism, Civil Nuclear Cooperation, Science & technology & Establishment of Hindi Chair at Sofia University.

#### 4. *India, US ink Co deal at 2+2 dialogue*

At the 2+2 bilateral summit, A military information sharing pact, COMCASA - **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement.**, which will give India access to the US technology to keep an eye on China and the neighbourhood was signed. A new tri-Services joint exercise on the eastern coast next year is also planned.

#### 5. *President Kovind arrives in Czech Republic*

President Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Czech Republic on the final leg of his visit to 3 European countries Cyprus, Bulgaria & Czech Republic. He is the 5<sup>th</sup> Indian President to visit the central European country, and the 1<sup>st</sup> since Shankar Dayal Sharma.

#### 6. *India, France set up working group for Gaganyaan*

For India's first manned space mission, ISRO & CNES National Center for Space Studies (CNES) i.e. French Space Agency, have set up a working group to combine the expertise in fields of space medicine, astronaut health monitoring, life support, radiation protection, space debris protection etc.

**7. *India, Bangladesh jointly inaugurate work for Agartala-Akhaura rail project***

PM Narendra Modi, along with Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the commencement of works for the Agartala-Akhaura rail project. It is a major step towards PM Modi's goal of developing North-East India into 'Astalaxmi' and 'HIRA'.

**8. *Indo-Bangla pipeline project Flagged off***

Prime Minister of India and Bangladesh flagged off Indo-Bangla Pipeline project. It is implemented by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation. The project replaces the existing practice of sending diesel by rail covering a distance of 510 kilometres.

**9. *India and Morocco signed the Air Services Agreement***

India and Morocco signed the revised Air Services Agreement enabling greater connectivity. This Agreement will enable the airlines of each side to enter into code-sharing with airlines of other party and provide greater freedom in mounting direct flights.

**10. *India, China to sign an internal security cooperation agreement***

India and China to sign an internal security cooperation agreement. The proposed pact is expected to cover areas of intelligence sharing, exchange programme, sharing of best practices, cooperation in disaster mitigation besides others.

**11. *SpiceJet launches air cargo arm SpiceXpress***

SpiceJet introduced air cargo services namely ,SpiceXpress. The service commenced from Sep. 18 & covered Delhi, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Hong Kong, Kabul and Amritsar. SpiceJet is looking forward to adding four more freighter aircraft in current fiscal.

## News: Others

### **1. *Indian Army contingent in Israel for 'liberation of Haifa' centenary celebrations***

A contingent led by **Major Arpit Rathee** of the Indian Army's 61 Cavalry based in Jaipur visited Israel to participate in the centenary celebrations of Israel's liberation of Haifa by the Indian troops. Haifa Day is celebrated by the government of Israel in September every year.

### **2. *Iraq replaces Saudi as top oil supplier to India in August***

Data from industry and shipping sources in August showed, Iraq replaced Saudi Arabia as the top oil supplier to India, as refiners turned to Iraqi barrels to compensate for a lower intake of Iranian oil ahead of U.S. sanctions in November.

### **3. *Bangladesh Cabinet clears deal with India for port usage***

Bangladesh's Cabinet has approved a draft agreement with India to use the Chittagong and Mongla ports for the movement of goods to and from northeast India. A major objective of this is to strengthen the existing cordial bilateral ties.

### **4. *India is the only SAARC country to have a quit-line number***

India has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products. The quit-line number printed on all tobacco products manufactured after September 1, 2018. Words 'Quit today call — 1800-11-2356' appears on the packet.

### **5. *3.5-million-euro investment for Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme in India***

India & France signed an agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC). It is part of an international initiative supported by France and Germany. EU has agreed to provide funds of Euro 3.5 million for it. Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad are 3 pilot cities.

### **6. *ISRO plans its first overseas ground base at North Pole***

ISRO is planning to set up its first fully owned overseas satellite ground station near the North Pole, which would bolster the Indian Remote Sensing operations which are critically important in times like disaster management but also for the armed forces.

### Quick revision : Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State / Govt.	Currency
Bulgaria	Sofia	Rumen Radev	Lev
Czech Republic	Prague	Milos Zeman	Koruna
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Abdul Hamid	Taka
France	Paris	Emmanuel Macron	Euro
Morocco	Rabat	Saadeddine Othmani	Dirham
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Prince Mohammed bin Salman	Riyal
Japan	Tokyo	Shinzo Abe	Yen
China	Beijing	Xi Jinping	Renminbi
Iraq	Baghdad	Haider al-Abadi	Dinar
Cyprus	Nicosia	Nicos Anastasiades	Euro

## Appointments & Resignations

### News: Important

**1. *Indian Banks Association elects PNB's Sunil Mehta as chairman***

The Indian Banks Association (IBA) has elected Punjab National Bank's managing director and chief executive, Sunil Mehta, as the new chairman for 2018-19.

**2. *CJI Dipak Misra endorses Justice Ranjan Gogoi as successor***

Following the principle of seniority, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra has recommended the name of Justice Ranjan Gogoi as his successor. Justice Gogoi is the senior-most judge of the top court after Chief Justice Misra.

**3. *Girish Radhakrishnan appointed CMD of UIIC***

Girish Radhakrishnan have been appointed chairman-cum-managing director of the United India Insurance Company Radhakrishnan, he is at present general manager in the New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL).

**4. *Tajinder Mukherjee appointed CMD of the National Insurance Company Limited***

Tajinder Mukherjee have been appointed chairman-cum-managing directors of the National Insurance Company Limited. She has been appointed to the post till she attains the age of 60 years.

**5. *Prashant Kumar appointed SBI CFO***

State Bank of India appointed Prashant Kumar as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Bank. Prior to this appointment, he was designated as Deputy Managing Director (HR) & Corporate Development Officer of SBI.

**6. *SBI appoints Anshula Kant as Managing Director***

State Bank of India said the Government has appointed Anshula Kant as Managing Director of the Bank. Prior to this appointment, Kant was the bank's Deputy Managing Director. With this appointment, SBI now has 3 more MDs - **PK Gupta, DK Khara and Arijit Basu.**

**7. *Moutaz Mousa Abdallah becomes Sudan's new PM***

Moutaz Mousa Abdallah was sworn-in as Sudan's new Prime Minister at the presidential palace in Khartoum. Sudan has been grappling with an acute foreign exchange shortage and inflation above 65 percent for several months.

**8. *Vibha Padalkar appointed HDFC Life MD and CEO***

HDFC Standard Life Insurance has appointed Vibha Padalkar as its new Managing Director and CEO for a period of three years. Before elevation, she was the insurer's Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer.

**9. *Axis Bank appoints HDFC's Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO***

Amitabh Chaudhry will be MD & CEO of Axis Bank from January 1, 2019, for a period of three years. He is the MD & CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company at present.

**10. *Bimal Jalan heads panel to select next CEA***

The government has appointed a panel under former RBI governor Bimal Jalan to select the next **chief economic adviser** (CEA) in the finance ministry. C Chandramouli and Subhash Chandra are other members of the panel.

**11. *Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won a ruling party leadership vote***

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won a ruling party leadership vote. This win will eventually set him on track to become Japan's longest-serving premier. He defeated former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba in the election for Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) chief.



**12. *Instagram co-founders resign from Facebook***

**Kevin Systrom** and **Mike Krieger** founded the photo-sharing app Instagram in 2010 and sold it to Facebook in 2012 for about \$1 billion. The co-founders of Instagram are resigning from their positions with the social media company.

**13. *R Madhavan assumes charge as CMD at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited***

R Madhavan took over as Chairman and Managing Director of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited from T Suvarna Raju. Prior to this, he was heading the Accessories Division of HAL at Lucknow as an Executive Director.

**14. *Govt appoints MDs, CEOs in 10 nationalised banks***

Appointments of 10 MDs and CEOs of state-owned banks were approved by the appointments committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**15. *Maldives: Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih wins the presidential election***

Maldives' Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won the presidential election with over 58 % of the popular vote. Incumbent President Abdulla Yameen was defeated by a united opposition.

**16. *N. Ravi unanimously elected PTI Chairman***

N. Ravi has been unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI). He is the publisher and former Editor in Chief of The Hindu. He succeeds Vivek Goenka who is the chairman and managing director of the Express Group.

**News: Others**

**1. *Sony's NP Singh elected as IBF's new President***

The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has announced NP Singh, CEO, Sony Pictures Networks as its new President, he will succeed Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd ( ZEEL) MD Punit Goenka who held the position for two years.

**2. *B Srinivas appointed Intelligence Chief Of Jammu And Kashmir Police***

In a bid to revamp intelligence network in the terrorism-hit state, the Jammu and Kashmir Police appointed B Srinivas as the new intelligence chief, replacing Abdul Gani Mir who has been sent to police headquarters.



**3. *Tata Trustee Vijay Singh made the chairman of Tata Advanced Systems***

Tata Trusts has appointed one of its trustees Vijay Singh as chairman of the Tata Advanced Systems (TAS) to help speed up building the group's defence business .TAS was set up in 2007 as a vehicle to extend the Tata's operations to the national security and defence sector.

**4. *Justice Om Prakash Mishra sworn in as new Chief Justice of Nepal.***

Justice Om Prakash Mishra has been sworn in as new Chief Justice of Nepal. Parliamentary Hearing Committee (PHC) unanimously endorsed his name for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He was appointed as a justice of the Supreme Court in 2014.

**5. *Rajni Kant Mishra appointed as new chief of BSF***

The government appointed Rajni Kant Mishra as the Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF). BSF is the primary border guarding organization of India established in 1965. It currently stands as the world's largest border guarding force.

### Quick revision

<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Post</b>
Sunil Mehta	Chairman, Indian Banks Association
Justice Ranjan Gogoi	Chief Justice of India
Anshula Kant	MD, SBI
Girish Radhakrishnan	CMD, UIIC
Vibha Padalkar	MD & CEO, HDFC Life
Prashant Kumar	CFO, SBI
B Srinivas	Intelligence Chief Of J & K
Moutaz Mousa Abdallah	PM, Sudan
Justice Om Prakash Mishra	Chief Justice, Nepal
Tajinder Mukherjee	CMD, NICL
NP Singh	President, IBF
R Madhavan	CMD, HAL
Vijay Singh	Chairman, Tata Advanced Systems
Shinzo Abe	PM, Japan
Amitabh Chaudhry	MD & CEO, HDFC
Mrutyunjay Mahapatra	MD & CEO, Syndicate Bank
Padmaja Chundru	MD & CEO, Indian Bank
Pallav Mohapatra	MD & CEO, Central Bank of India
J Packirisamy	MD & CEO, Andhra Bank
Karnam Shekhar	MD & CEO, Dena Bank
S S Mallikarjuna Rao	MD & CEO, Allahabad Bank
A S Rajeev	MD & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra
Atul Kumar Goel	MD & CEO, UCO Bank
S Harisnagar	MD & CEO, Punjab & Sind Bank
Ashok Kumar Pradhan	MD & CEO, United Bank of India
Bimal Jalan	Panel head, CEA Selection
Ibrahim Mohamed Solih	President, Maldives
N. Ravi	Chairman, Press Trust of India (PTI)
Rajni Kant Mishra	Director-General, BSF

## Ranks & Reports

### News: Most Important

**1. Tribal sex ratio higher than average, but ratio among kids on decline**

According to the first ever report on health of tribals , the sex ratio of the tribal population in the country is higher than the national average at 990 females per 1,000 males, but the child sex ratio has declined from 972 in 2001 to 957 in 2011.

**2. Andhra Pradesh: Best Performing State in Ease of Living Index**

Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of "Ease of Living Index". It was followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. The Ease of Living Index seeks to assist cities in undertaking a 360-degree assessment.

**3. Kolkata tops in India on 4G front, ahead of Singapore, Hong Kong**

According to latest data collated by UK mobile analytics company and speeds tester, OpenSignal ,Kolkata with an LTE availability score of over 90% has the highest 4G services availability across India's 22 telecom circles, ahead of Hong Kong, Singapore & Taipei.

**4. India ranks 130 in the latest Human Development Index**

India ranks a low **130** out of 189 countries in the human development Index (HDI) 2018 released by the United Nations Development Programme. With an HDI value of 0.64, India is categorized as a medium human development and its rank rose one spot compared to the 2017 HDI.

**5. IIP for July 2018 higher by 6.6% as compared to last year**

**Index of Industrial Production** (IIP) for the month of July 2018 was 6.6 percent higher than compared to the same period last year. As per Use-based classification, the growth rates in July 2018 over July 2017 are 6.9 percent in Primary goods and 8.4 percent in Construction Goods.

## News: Others

### 1. *Delhi's IGI airport could overtake London's Heathrow in traffic volume by 2020*

In its latest report, the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) has said that, the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) could overtake London's Heathrow by 2020 financial year. IGI handled 65.7 million passengers in the 2017-18 fiscal.

### 2. *UP, Kerala top list of gay sex cases registered under IPC Section 377*

Uttar Pradesh, followed by Kerala, topped the list of states where the maximum number of cases was registered for gay sex under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) altogether, 4,690 cases were registered between 2014 & 2016.

### 3. *Sex offenders' registry launched*

The first-of-its-kind national sex offenders' registry was launched which contains names and details of some 4.4 lakh people convicted for various sexual offences across the country. The database is for those convicted for sexual offences 2005 onwards.

## **Important days**

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Teachers' Day 2018: PM Lauds National Teachers' Awards Winners*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the recipients of National Teachers' Awards on the occasion of Teachers day (5<sup>th</sup> of September) and exhorted them to work towards bringing out the inherent strength of students, especially those with rural background.

#### 2. *International Literacy Day observed worldwide*

International Literacy Day was celebrated on **8<sup>th</sup> of September** around the world with the theme '**Literacy and skills development**'. It highlights despite progress made, literacy challenges persist, and at the same time the demands for skills required for work, evolve rapidly.

**3. *Hindi Divas celebrated across country***

Hindi Divas is being celebrated on **14<sup>th</sup> September**. It was on this day in 1949 that the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari as the official language of the country. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented Rajbhasha Awards on the occasion.

**4. *Engineer's Day: M. Visvesvaraya remembered On His 158<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary***

National Engineers Day is observed annually on **September 15** in India as a tribute to the great Engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, who was born on this day in 1861. He is called the "precursor of economic planning in India" by the Institution of Engineers India (IEI).

**5. *World Ozone day observed Worldwide***

The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer ,2018 was observed on **16<sup>th</sup> of September** worldwide. It is a motivational day which urge us to carry on with the exemplary work of protecting the ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol.

This year theme was '**Keep Cool and Carry On**'.

**6. *GoI Celebrates 'International Day of Sign Languages'***

On **23<sup>rd</sup> of September** ,International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The theme of the day is "**With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!**"

**7. *Antyodaya Divas organized across the country***

25<sup>th</sup> of September is observed as Antyodaya Diwas every year to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (DDU). Swachhata Hi Sewa is implemented as a part of Swachh Bharat Mission across the nation on occasion of Antyodaya Diwas.

**8. *World Tourism Day observed worldwide***

World Tourism Day,2018 was observed worldwide on 27<sup>th</sup>of September ,it is a unique opportunity to raise awareness on the potential contribution of digital technologies to sustainable tourism development. "**Tourism and the Digital Transformation**" was the theme of this year's World Tourism Day (WTD).

**9. *U.N. declared 2019-2028 as the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace".***

A statue of Nelson Mandela has been unveiled at the United Nations to honor the late South African leader's birth. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mandela's birth, and the U.N. declared 2019-2028 the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace."

**10. *World Maritime Day observed worldwide***

The World Maritime Day was observed on 27<sup>th</sup> of September, theme for the year was "**IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future**". It provides the opportunity to take stock and look back, but also to look forward, addressing current and future challenges for maritime transport to maintain a continued and strengthened contribution towards sustainable growth for all.

**News: Others**

**1. *World Alzheimer's Day observed worldwide***

World Alzheimer's Day was observed on **21<sup>st</sup> of September**. It was launched at the opening of ADI's annual conference in Edinburgh on 21 September 1994 to celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It provides an opportunity for Alzheimer associations around the world to gain recognition and credibility for the work they do.

**2. *Nepal celebrated its Constitution Day, also known as the National Day***

Nepal observed the third Constitution Day on **19<sup>th</sup> of September** also known as the National Day, marking the anniversary of the promulgation of the landmark constitution. The new constitution of Nepal was promulgated in 2015. Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari addressed the nation.

**3. *World Rabies Day observed world wide***

World Rabies Day was observed on September 28 ,it is annually observed to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this disease. This year the theme for the day was '**Rabies: Share the message. Save a life**'.

**4. *UGC directs universities to celebrate 'Surgical Strike Day'***

The University Grants Commission (UGC) wrote to the Vice-Chancellors of all universities to celebrate Surgical Strike Day on **September 29** to mark the event along the Line of Control that day in 2016.

### 5. *World Heart Day observed worldwide*

World Heart Day takes place on 29 September every year and is a chance for people across the globe to take part in the world's biggest intervention against cardiovascular disease (CVD). The theme for World Heart Day 2018 was "**My Heart, Your Heart**".

#### Quick revision

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observed Day</b>	<b>Theme/Campaign</b>
September 5	National Teachers' Day	NA
September 8	International Literacy Day	Literacy and skills development
September 14	Hindi Diwas	NA
September 15	National Engineers Day	NA
September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	Keep Cool and Carry On
September 19	Constitution Day(Nepal)	NA
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	NA
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages'	With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	NA
September 27	World Tourism Day	Tourism and the Digital Transformation
September 27	World Maritime Day	IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future
September 28	World Rabies Day	Rabies: Share the message. Save a life
September 29	Surgical Strike Day	NA
September 29	World Heart Day	My Heart, Your Heart



## Sports

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Asian Games: Bardhan, Sarkar win gold in the bridge*

In bridge competition, 60-year-old Bardhan and his 56-year old partner finished the men's pair event with a score of 384 as they edged out China's Lixin Yang and Gang Chen, who finished with 378 points after five rounds of competition.

#### 2. *Om Mitharval clinches gold at ISSF World Championships*

Indian shooter Om Prakash Mitharval,23 bagged the gold medal in the 50m pistol event at the ongoing 52<sup>nd</sup> ISSF Shooting World Championship. He managed to score a total of 564 points to become the World Champion in the 50m pistol event.

#### 3. *ISSF World Championships: Saurabh Chaudhary Tops Junior 10m Air Pistol*

At 52<sup>nd</sup> ISSF World Championships, India's Saurabh Chaudhary hunted down yet another gold medal as he won the men's junior 10m air pistol title, even his teammate Arjun Singh Cheema took a bronze medal.

#### 4. *Serena loses in controversial US Open final*

Naomi Osaka defeated Serena Williams in straight sets and won the women's final of the United States Open. She became the first Japan-born woman to win a Grand Slam final.

#### 5. *US Open final: Novak Djokovic beats Juan Martin del Potro*

Novak Djokovic ,31 clinched the US Open, 2018 men title by beating Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 to win the US Open for the third time. He took his career tally of Grand Slam titles to 14 ,equalling Pete Sampras' career total.

#### 6. *World Shooting Championship: Twin brothers Udhyaveer & Vijayveer Sidhu win double joy*

At the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) Championships in **Changwon, Korea**, India added two more gold medals. Udhayveer and Vijayveer Sidhu from Mansa, Punjab, won individual and team junior men's 25m pistol event gold medals.

**7. *Maldives wins SAFF Cup 2018***

Maldives beat India 2-1 to become the new SAFF champions. The SAFF Cup 2018 tournament was held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh. India national football team is captained by Sunil Chhetri.

**8. *MC Mary Kom clinches her 3<sup>rd</sup> gold medal***

In the 48kg weight group MC Mary Kom won her third gold medal of the year at Silesian Open boxing in **Poland**. She was up against Kazakhstan's Aigerim Kassanayeva and prevailed 5-0 with a fine tactical performance.

**9. *China Open: Indonesia's Sinisuka win Men's singles title***

In Badminton, Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting beat Japan's Kento Momota to take the Men's singles China Open title in Changzhou. The 2018 China Open was the seventeenth tournament which has been held since 1986.

**10. *Arpinder Singh wins historic bronze medal at IAAF Continental Cup***

In the triple jump event at the IAAF Continental Cup held in Ostrava, Czech Republic, Arpinder Singh created history by becoming the first Indian to win a medal. The IAAF Continental Cup is being competed in 37 events in men and women sections.

**News: Others**

**1. *Hriday Hazarika claims junior 10m air rifle gold at ISSF World Championships***

Indian shooter Hriday Hazarika notched up a gold medal in the 10m air rifle junior men's event of the ISSF World Championships. The women's 10m air rifle team of Elavenil Valarivan, Shreya Agarwal & Manini Kaushik also clinched a gold with a world record.

**2. *Sakshi Malik settles for a Silver medal at Medved Intl Wrestling***

Rio Olympics Bronze medallist Sakshi Malik settled for a Silver medal at the Medved International Wrestling tournament at Minsk, Belarus. In the final of the 62 kg category, Sakshi lost to Hungary's Marianna Sastin.

**3. *India Blue thrashes India Red to win Duleep Trophy, 2018***

India Blue thrashed defending champion India Red by an innings and 187 runs in the final Friday to win the Duleep Trophy at NPR College ground.

#### 4. *India sweep Serbia Junior and Cadet Open*

In Table Tennis, India has swept the team titles in the girls and cadet boys' category at the 2018 Serbia Junior and Cadet Open in Belgrade. Delhi's Payas Jain won the singles crown. The junior girls also captured the team title.

## Awards

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Satrughna Pandav bags Sarala Puraskar*

Noted Odia poet Satrughna Pandav bagged the 39<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sarala Puraskar for his work "Misra Dhrupad". Pandeet Umesh Chandra Kar award Ila Panda Sangeet Samman and Binod Moharana received Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman. It carries cash award of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation.

#### 2. *National Sports Awards-2018 announced*

National Sports Awards-2018 announced, this year Mirabai Chanu and Virat Kohli won Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award. Mirabai Chanu is Weightlifting champion while Virat Kohli is associated with cricket.

#### 3. *Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy awarded to Guru Nanak Dev University*

Overall top performing university in Inter-university tournaments is given Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy. For the year 2017-18 MAKA Trophy was awarded to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

#### 4. *Croatian footballer Luka Modric wins FIFA's best player award*

Croatian footballer **Luka Modric** was named the world's best male player at the Best FIFA Football Awards in London. Modric won his third Champions League title in a row in May and guided Croatia to their first World Cup final in July.

## News: Others

### **1. *Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan won top honours at the first international music festival***

Indian voice Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan won top honour at Uzbek Maqom Festival, in the ancient Uzbek city of Shakhrisabz. Maqom is an oriental system of music that is enhanced by string and percussion instruments across Asia.

### **2. *First ever awards to secondary Steel Sector***

For the first time, the Ministry of Steel will be giving awards to the secondary steel sector to encourage it. The National Steel Policy 2017 has set a target of 300 million tonnes per annum of production capacity by 2030.

### **3. *Infosys Mysuru campus gets U.S. certification***

The Mysuru campus of India's second largest software exporter, Infosys, has been awarded the LEED EBOM (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - Existing Building Operation & Maintenance) Platinum certification by the United States.

## Quick revision

<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Top honour at Uzbek Maqom Festival	Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan
FIFA's best player	Luka Modric
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy	Guru Nanak Dev University
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award	Mirabai Chanu & Virat Kohli
Sarala Puraskar	Saturghna Pandav

## Obituaries

### News: Most Important

#### **1. Jain monk Tarun Sagar passed away**

Jain monk Tarun Sagar passed away after a prolonged illness, he was 51. He was known for his 'Kadve Parvachan' which spread the message of peace and non-violence in the society.

#### **2. Iconic actor Burt Reynolds passed away at 82**

Iconic actor Burt Reynolds passes away, he was 82. He was one of the top movie actors of the 1970s, showing his dramatic & comedic range in movies, his acting career, forged from classes he took at Palm Beach Junior College, began in TV in the late 1950s.

#### **3. Former secretary of J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages passed away**

Former secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Dr Rita Jitendra, 81 passed away at Doordarshan Kendra in Srinagar while speaking during the live broadcast of DD Kashmir's "Good Morning J&K" programme.

#### **4. Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang passed away at 61**

Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang, a former police chief known as a tough politician and committed communist with little tolerance for dissent, died after a serious illness at a military hospital in Hanoi. He was 61.

#### **5. Independent India's first woman IAS officer Anna Malhotra passed away**

India's first woman IAS officer post-Independence Anna Rajam Malhotra passed away. She is also known for her contribution in setting up the country's modern port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai.

## News: Others

### 1. *Former Odisha minister Dolagobinda Pradhan passed away at 93*

Veteran freedom fighter and former Odisha Minister Dolagobinda Pradhan passed away, He was elected to the state Assembly twice from Cuttack Sadar constituency in 1980 and 1990, was a minister from 1989 to 1990.

### 2. *Jasdev Yamla Jatt is no more*

Punjab Folk musician Jasdev Yamla Jatt passed away. The 'Jatt Yamla' family of Ludhiana is known for preserving dying art of playing 'tumbi' i.e. a single string plucking instrument in Punjabi folk music.

### 3. *Noted Gujarati author, journalist and poet Bhagwati Kumar Sharma passed away*

Noted Gujarati author, journalist and poet Bhagwati Kumar Sharma passed away in Surat. He was 84. Born in 1934 in Surat, he received Sahitya Academy award for his Gujarati novel Ashuryalok.

## Quick revision

<b>Obituary(Name)</b>	<b>Related Field</b>
Dolagobinda Pradhan	Minister, Odisha
Tarun Sagar	Monk
Tran Dai Quang	Vietnam President
Jasdev Yamla Jatt	Folk Musician
Burt Reynolds	Actor
Dr Rita Jitendra	Secretary, J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages
Bhagwati Kumar Sharma	Author, Journalist , Poet
Anna Rajam Malhotra	India's first woman IAS officer

## Schemes

### News: Most Important

#### **1. *PMFBY : Pilot studies to rationalise CCEs***

Crop insurance programme, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), has rolled out nine pilot studies on optimisation of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE) using modern technologies. It is aimed at resolving various challenges faced by the scheme.

#### **2. *PM gives a clarion call to everyone to become a part of Swachhata Hi Seva Movement***

PM Modi has called upon to become a part of 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement'. On 2<sup>nd</sup> October when we mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement' commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

#### **3. *Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna Rolled Out***

Considering the change in employment pattern from a long-term employment to fixed short term engagement in the form of contract and temping, the ESI Corporation has approved a Scheme named "Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna".

#### **4. *PM launched Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY at Ranchi***

P.M. Narendra Modi launched the health assurance scheme: Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)- at Ranchi, Jharkhand. PMJAY envisions health assurance of 5 lakh rupees per family per year, will benefit over 50 crore people.



## News: Others

### 1. *₹1,168.63 crore disbursed under PMMVY*

₹1,168.63 crore disbursed to States under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana PMMVY aimed at reducing malnutrition. It offers pregnant women and lactating mothers ₹5,000 as assistance for the first birth in the family.

### 2. *New procurement policy announced*

GoI has announced New procurement policy to ensure farmers get MSP for Oilseeds as promised. Under the umbrella scheme of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), credit guarantee of 15,053 crores is allocated for 2-year time span.

## **Person in News**

### News: Most Important

### 1. *Sanjay Dutt to be Uttarakhand's anti-drug brand ambassador*

Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand's anti-drug campaign. It is a part of a massive campaign to create awareness among youngsters about the ill-effects of drug abuse.

### 2. *Alastair Cook retires from international cricket*

Former England captain Alastair Cook, 33 country's highest run-getter in Test cricket, has decided to retire from international cricket, he thanked former England captain Graham Gooch for his role in shaping up his career.

### 3. *Rikako Ikee named Most Valuable Player (MVP) of Asian Games*

18-year-old Japanese swimmer **Rikako Ikee** was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the 2018 Asian Games, she clinched six gold and two silver medals in Jakarta, Indonesia. She is the fourth Japanese athlete to be named since its inception in 1998.

### 4. *Former India pacer RP Singh announced retirement*

Former Indian cricketer RP Singh, 32 announced his retirement from all forms of the game. His international career spanned six years and the pacer played 82 matches across all three formats and picked up over 100 wickets.

**5. *Assam makes Hima Das brand ambassador for sport***

Assam government has decided to make Hima Das state's brand ambassador for sports. Hima Das won India's first ever track gold at a global event. She won Gold in 400 metre final at the World U20 Championships in Tampere, Finland.

**6. *VP Venkaiah Naidu invited to address Serbian Parliament***

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was extended the rare honour of addressing a special session of the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia. Earlier Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the world leaders here -while launching the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM).

**7. *Eliud Kipchoge sets world record in Berlin marathon win***

Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge, smashed the marathon world record, winning the Berlin race in 2 hours, 1 minute, 39 seconds. He broke the previous world record set in Berlin by fellow Kenyan Dennis Kimetto in 2014 by 1 minute and 18 seconds.

**8. *BSNL signs Indian boxer MC Mary Kom as brand ambassador***

State-run telecom firm BSNL has roped in Indian boxer MC Mary Kom as its brand ambassador for two years. BSNL will run television commercials, print advertisements and tariff plan endorsement with her.

**9. *Former Indian captain Sardar Singh announces retirement from international hockey***

Sardar Singh has announced his retirement from international hockey, he made the decision after a disappointing Asian Games. He received the Arjuna Award in 2012 and Padma Shri in 2015.

**10. *Varun Dhawan & Anushka Sharma- ambassadors of Skill India Campaign***

Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma, have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission. The duo, through their film 'Sui Dhaaga - Made in India', is saluting India's entrepreneurs and skilled workforce.

## News: Others

### **1. *Lewis Hamilton earns thrilling Italian Grand Prix win***

Lewis Hamilton overcame both Ferrari drivers Kimi Raikkonen & Sebastian Vettel to clinch his sixth win of the 2018 Formula One season and extend his championship lead over Sebastian Vettel. The Ferrari drivers finished 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.

### **2. *World champion Kevin Mayer sets a new world record in Decathlon***

World champion Kevin Mayer set a new world record in the decathlon with 9,126 points at the Decastar event in France. He surpassed the previous holder American Ashton Eaton's record. He is just the third decathlete to surpass the mythical 9,000-point barrier.

## **Summit & Conference**

### News: Most Important

### **1. *6<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit & 15<sup>th</sup> India-ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting held in Singapore***

The 6th East-Asia Economic Ministers' Meeting was chaired by Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore, and was attended by Economic Ministers from 10 ASEAN countries and their eight dialogue partners.

### **2. *PM Modi inaugurated India's first Global Mobility Summit***

PM Modi inaugurated MOVE: India's 1<sup>st</sup> ever Global Mobility Summit organized by NITI Aayog at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It was focused at raising awareness about various aspects of Mobility & bringing together stakeholders involved in enhancing mobility.

### **3. *Global sanitation convention to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Gandhiji***

Union Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation will organize a global sanitation convention to mark the beginning of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, also coinciding with the 4th anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission.

- 4. *Vice President Naidu participates in 2<sup>nd</sup> World Hindu Congress in Chicago***  
M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India addressed the 2nd World Hindu Congress (WHC) being held in Chicago, on the occasion of 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Historic Speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893. This year's theme: Sumantrite Suvikrante.
- 5. *6<sup>th</sup> International Geriatric Orthopaedic Conference inaugurated***  
Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 6<sup>th</sup> International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference at AIIMS ,New Delhi, It has been set up on the theme **"Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility"**.
- 6. *4<sup>th</sup> World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) inaugurated***  
Prakash Javadekar inaugurated 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) at New Delhi. It is a biennial Summit organised by National Board of Accreditation-NBA. Theme - "Challenges And Opportunities In Outcome Based Accreditation".
- 7. *Jaipur Literature Festival begins in Houston***  
Jaipur Literature Festival began in Houston at the Asia Society of Texas. The annual festival is touted as the world's largest free literary gathering. It showcased a range of voices from India and abroad. It began in 2006 and is held annually in Jaipur.
- 8. *The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of MahaBiz 2018 to be held in Dubai***  
3<sup>rd</sup> International Business Conference 'MahaBiz 2018' will be held in Dubai. MahaBiz is a bridge for business opportunities between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. GCC is a political and economic alliance of 6 middle eastern countries.
- 9. *The International Aviation Summit held in New Delhi***  
The International Aviation Summit in Delhi was organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the Airports Authority India (AAI) and International Air Transport Association. It was attended by more than 700 delegates and leaders from global aviation fraternity.

## **10. *Social Justice and Empowerment Minister in Seoul for 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEM Conference***

Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment(SJE) Thaawarchand Gehlot is in Seoul to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons'. It is organized by Republic of Korea & National Human Rights Commission of Korea.

### **News: Others**

#### **1. *Source India business pavilion to be launched at 87<sup>th</sup> Izmir International Fair***

In the 87<sup>th</sup> Izmir International tradeshow, India launched a mega business pavilion 'Source India' hosting 75 Indian companies with the aim of tie-ups in order to increase India's exports to Turkey and other neighbouring countries.

#### **2. *Six Hundred Global Buyers to Participate Indusfood- II 2019***

Dhaka Headquartered ,India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (IBCCI) will participate with a strong contingent of F&B buyers in Indusfood-II 2019 to source their food and beverage requirements from India. Under it, Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) is working to attract maximum buyers from the SAARC countries.

#### **3. *PM laid the foundation stone of world class convention centre***

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) i.e. 100% government-funded company set up by DIPP in New Delhi. It is planned to be the biggest indoor exhibition space in India.

#### **4. *UAE to host Interfaith Alliance Forum***

UAE will host the Interfaith Alliance Forum in the Abu Dhabi on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. The forum aims to address and discuss social challenges and to strengthen efforts by religious leaders to formulate cohesive ideas to protect youth from crime.

**5. G20 Education Ministers' and Joint Ministerial Meeting held in Mendoza, Argentina**

The Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr. Satya Pal Singh attended a G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting held at **Mendoza, Argentina**. It was the first-ever meeting of Education Ministers in the history of G-20.

**Quick revision**

<b>Summit /Conference</b>	<b>Venue</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit and 15 <sup>th</sup> India-ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting	Singapore
International Aviation Summit	New Delhi
Interfaith Alliance Forum	UAE
MahaBiz 2018	Dubai
India International Convention and Expo Centre	New Delhi
Jaipur Literature Festival	Houston
4 <sup>th</sup> World Summit on Accreditation	New Delhi
2 <sup>nd</sup> World Hindu Congress	Chicago
Global Mobility Summit	Vigyan Bhawan , New Delhi
3 <sup>rd</sup> ASEM Conference	Seoul
G20 Education Ministers' and Joint Ministerial Meeting	Mendoza, Argentina
6 <sup>th</sup> International Geriatric Orthopaedic Conference	AIIMS, New Delhi



## Defence

### News: Most Important

- 1. *Sitharaman becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Defence Minister to visit Balbir Forward Post***  
Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Army Chief General Bipin Rawat, visited the Balbir Forward Post in J&K and met troops of the 28th Infantry Division. She became the first Defence Minister ever to visit the post.
- 2. *Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Exercise KAZIND 2018***  
The 3rd Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Army Exercise '**KAZIND**' will be conducted between the Indian and Kazakhstan Army from 10 to 23 Sep 2018 in Otar region, Kazakhstan. Aimed at building and promoting bilateral Army relations and exchanging skills and experiences.
- 3. *Indian Navy Ships and Aircraft in Sri Lanka for joint exercise SLINEX-2018***  
The Six-day Joint exercise **SLINEX**-2018, between India & Sri Lanka, started in Trincomalee. It will involve conduct of joint training, professional lectures, exchange of expertise, helicopter and maritime patrol aircraft operations, weapon drills etc.
- 4. *Military Field training exercise for BIMSTEC Inaugurated***  
The Inaugural Military Field Training Exercise for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) nations named MILEX-18, started with a Grand Opening Ceremony on 10 September, 18 at Aundh Military Station.
- 5. *Indo-Mongolia Joint Exercise Kicks Off In Ulaanbaatar***  
Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, started at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, it is a 12 days long joint exercise. The Indian contingent is represented by a contingent of 17 PUNJAB Regiment.
- 6. *INDO-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 set to kick off***  
INDO-US joint military training Exercise **Yudh Abhyas**, 18 is scheduled to be held in the foothills of Himalayas at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand from 16 Sep. to 29 Sep. 2018. Both nations worked together in counter insurgency & counter terrorism environment.

### 7. *India's first missile tracking ship*

India's first missile tracking ship -a force multiplier and cruise, places the country into a global elite club. Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is gearing up to undertake sea trials of India's first missile tracking ship. The project will cost ₹750 crore.

### 8. *Exercise Avia Indra-18 Commences in Lipetsk, Russia*

Exercise **Avia Indra** an Air Force level exercise between India and the Russian Federation. First Avia Indra was conducted in 2014 and has been planned as a bi-annual exercise.

## News: Others

### 1. *BNS Somudra Joy arrive Visakhapatnam on a goodwill visit*

Bangladesh Naval Ship Somudra Joy arrived Visakhapatnam on a four-day visit to the Eastern Naval Command .It was accorded a warm welcome by officials from ENC and the Eastern Fleet with Naval Band in attendance on arrival.

### 2. *Air Force carries out first ever mid-air refuelling of Tejas light combat jet*

The IAF successfully carried out the first ever mid-air refuelling of the indigenously developed Tejas light combat aircraft, a major milestone in its development cycle. A Russian -built IL-78 MKI tanker transferred fuel to a Tejas MK I aircraft.

### 3. *ISRO to launch two U.K. satellites*

**PSLV-C42** of ISRO will launch NovaSAR and S1-4, earth observation satellites of the United Kingdom to space. It will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

### 4. *Maiden Flight Test of MPATGM Successful*

DRDO successfully flight tested a low weight, Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) from Ahmednagar range. The MPATGM is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) with a range of about 2.5 kilometres.

### 5. *DAC Approves Procurement of Equipment Worth Rs 9,100 Crores*

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Union Defence Minister approved procurement of equipment, valued at over Rs 9100 crore, for the defence forces. It includes Akash Missile Systems and Individual Underwater Breathing Apparatus (IUWBA).

## Agreements

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *IPPB ties up with FSS to create payments network for unorganized retail*

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with **Financial Software and Systems** (FSS), a payments technology company to ensure that micro-merchants are able to accept payments over any channel – online, UPI , QR codes, Aadhaar and IPPB accounts.

#### 2. *NITI Aayog, Intel and TIFR to set up a model International centre for transformative AI*

NITI Aayog, Intel, & Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) will set up a model International Centre for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.

#### 3. *BSE, PTC, ICICI to set up power exchange*

BSE, PTC India Ltd & ICICI Bank have come together to form India's 3<sup>rd</sup> electricity exchange. A power exchange functions on the lines of commodity exchanges and provides a platform for buyers, sellers and traders of electricity to enter into spot contracts.

#### 4. *UberEats ties up with Tata AIG to offer insurance to delivery fleet*

Food-delivery firm UberEats has partnered with general insurance provider Tata AIG to offer comprehensive insurance covers for its delivery executives in India. The programme ensures for up to **Rs 5 lakh** against accident.

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

State-run telecom firm BSNL has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India. BSNL will look at collaborating with Softbank for its satellite constellation.

#### 6. *Cisco signed agreements with NITI, BSNL*

Cisco, a U.S.-based firm that makes networking telecommunications equipment, has signed two agreements with the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to speed up Digital Acceleration programme.

## News: Others

### 1. *The Ministry of Home Affairs signs MoU with ISRO*

MHA and Indian Space Research Organization signed a MoU for setting up of a state-of-the-art **Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response** (ICR-ER). The ICR-ER will provide to the requirement of Disaster Management and Internal Security.

### 2. *Health Ministry partners with Dell and Tata*

Health Ministry signed the MoUs with Dell & Tata Trusts to provide a technological platform for the program of Non-Communicable Diseases. Dell helps in developing of a platform and Tata Trusts support the quality implementation of the programme in States.

### 3. *CAI, BSE to join hands to develop futures trading platform*

Cotton Association of India signed an agreement with the BSE to develop the futures trading platform for cotton. It is meant to develop a vibrant and user-friendly cotton exchange to cater to the hedging needs of the entire cotton value chain in India.

## **Books & Authors**

### News: Most Important

### 1. *PM releases book on Vice President Venkaiah Naidu's one year in office*

PM Narendra Modi released Book titled " **Moving On, Moving Forward : A Year in Office** " on Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu's one year in office He praised Vice President for his visionary leadership, discipline and exemplary work.

### 2. *Book ,Shades of Truth – A Journey Derailed by Kapil Sibal released*

Former HRD Minister of India, Congress Leader Kapil Sibal authored book, **Shades of Truth – A Journey Derailed** was released. The book seeks to demystify the Modi magic and assess the delivery on the ground based on the promises made by his government.

## News: Others

**1. *Forbes-Nominated Writer Preeti Shenoy Pens New Book, 'The Rule Breakers'.***

Best-selling author Preeti Shenoy announced the launch of her new book "**The Rule Breakers**". The book, which claims to explore complex themes of women's equality, gender and inclusion. Published by Westland Books.

**2. *UM of Agri. releases a profile booklet titled 'NCDC- Assisting Cooperative. Always!'***

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, released a booklet titled '**NCDC-Assisting Cooperatives. Always!**' highlighting the role & activities assisted by National Cooperative Development Corporation.

## Quick Revision

<b>Book</b>	<b>Author/Brought by</b>
Moving On, Moving Forward : A Year in Office	PM Modi
The Rule Breakers	Preeti Shenoy
Shades of Truth – A Journey Derailed	Kapil Sibal
NCDC- Assisting Cooperative. Always!	Radha Mohan Singh

## Science & Technology

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Acoustic panels from PET bottle waste, first time in India*

For the first time in India, TECHNO Ceiling Products has brought an import substitute product made from PET bottles waste to form a unique green product manufactured by using polyester fabric waste materials to convert them into acoustic insulation panels.

#### 2. *Google Launches 'Dataset Search', a new search engine for Scientific Community*

Google launched a new search engine called **Dataset Search** for the scientific community ,to help them make sense of millions of datasets present online. It will work like Google Scholar, the company's popular search engine for academic studies and reports.

#### 3. *Germany launches world's first hydrogen-powered train*

Germany rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train built by French TGV-maker Alstom. It uses fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, leaving behind water and steam.

#### 4. *IIT-Hyderabad to roll out cheaper lithium batteries*

A startup incubated at Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has developed lithium batteries with wide applications in fields of agriculture and aerospace. It is in talks with defence laboratories for applications in tanks, missiles.



## News: Others

### 1. *NASSCOM unveils a mentoring programme for AI start-ups*

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) unveiled the second phase of the 10,000 start-ups initiative that will focus on mentoring deep technology ventures in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML).

### 2. *Medical Cyclotron Facility Cyclone-30 Becomes Operational in Kolkata*

**Cyclone-30**, the biggest cyclotron in India for medical application became operational this month when 30 MeV beam reached the Faraday Cup. Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.

## **Environment**

### News: Most Important

### 1. *India first country in the world to develop a document on Cooling Action Plan*

India became the first country in the world to develop a document on Cooling Action Plan i.e. **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** to address the issue of climate change on occasion of World Ozone day. It lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand, thus helping in reducing emissions.

### 2. *Nepal to be the world's first country to double its tiger population*

Nepal is likely to be the first country in the world to double its tiger population. Nepal announced that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the country, nearly doubling the baseline of around 121 tigers in 2009.

### 3. *UN's Champions of the Earth Award*

Six of the world's most outstanding environmental changemakers recognized with a Champions of the Earth Award, the UN's highest environmental honor. Emmanuel Macron, President of France and Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India were among them.

## News: Others

- 1. *CRISIL's Deficient Rainfall Impact Parameter shows better assessment***  
CRISIL's Deficient Rainfall Impact Parameter, or DRIP Index, provides a better assessment, as it considers the irrigation buffer available for states and crops. The higher the CRISIL DRIP score, the more adverse the impact of deficient rains.
- 2. *Cyclonic storm 'DAYE' hits Odisha coast***  
Cyclonic storm 'DAYE' hits Odisha coast. The cyclonic storm brought heavy to very heavy rainfall in many places. The cyclone system lay centred over south Odisha, about 150-kilometre east-south-east of Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district.

## **Apps & Portals**

### News: Most Important

- 1. *Suresh Prabhu launches mobile apps for coffee growers***  
Suresh Prabhu launched two mobile apps for coffee sector which would help farmers increase production and improve quality. The two apps are **India coffee field force** app and **Coffee KrishiTharanga** - digital mobile extension services for coffee stakeholders.
- 2. *Piyush Goyal launches web portal 'Rail Sahyog'***  
Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched a web portal 'Rail Sahyog', a platform for the corporates and PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) to contribute to the creation of amenities at Railway stations through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.
- 3. *Piyush Goyal launches "AAPOORTI" mobile app of 'Indian Railways e-procurement system'***  
Piyush Goyal launched "AAPOORTI" mobile app of 'Indian Railways e-procurement system' This App provides information and data related to e-tendering and e-auction related activities of Indian Railways.

**4. *Union Home Minister launches two portals CCPWC & NDSO to strengthen Women Safety***

Union HM launched two portals ,The first portal cybercrime.gov.in will receive complaints on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse etc. National Database on Sexual Offenders will assist in tracking and investigating cases of sexual offences.

**5. *Union Home Secretary launches 'e-Sahaj' portal for grant of Security Clearance***

The Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba launched an online 'e-Sahaj' portal which will facilitate an applicant to submit an application online. MHA is the nodal Ministry for security clearances in certain sensitive sectors before the issue of license/permit.

**6. *Mobile app 'DigiVaarta' launched***

Ministry of Information Technology launched a mobile-based app DigiVaarta (Vehicle to Accelerate Access and Reach to Transformational Action). It is a platform designed to enable Financial and Social Inclusion by educating citizens on various schemes.

**7. *Incredible India mobile app launched***

The Incredible India Mobile App, showcasing India as a holistic destination, revolving around major experiences was launched by Ministry of Tourism. The app will assist the traveller in each phase of their journey. The app has been developed by **Tech Mahindra**.

**News: Others**

**1. *Paytm Money app for mutual funds launched***

Paytm has launched its mutual funds app, which enables customers to buy & sell mutual funds and manage their portfolio from a mobile phone. It expects the no. of mutual fund investors in India to more than double from the current 20 million to 50 million by 2023.

**2. *National Scholarship Portal Mobile App launched***

Ministry of Minority Affairs launched India's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile App. Portal will ensure a smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students belonging to poor and weaker sections.

## Quick revision

App/Portal/Website	Launched by
Paytm Money	Paytm
India coffee field force & Coffee KrishiTharanga	Suresh Prabhu
AAPOORTI	Piyush Goyal
National Scholarship Portal Mobile	Ministry of Minority Affairs
CCPWC and NDSO	Union Home Minister
Rail Sahyog	Piyush Goyal
e-Sahaj	Rajiv Gauba
DigiVaarta	Ministry of Information Technology
The Incredible India	Ministry of Tourism

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *MRPL to merge with HPCL*

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) plans to merge its subsidiary Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) with itself. HPCL is owned by ONGC. It owns 17% stake in MRPL while its parent ONGC holds a majority 71.63% stake in the company.

#### 2. *Tata Sons set to raise stake in AirAsia JV to 51%*

Tata Sons may become the controlling stakeholder (51%) in AirAsia India, as it looks to buy stakes held by airline's chairman S Ramadorai & non-executive director R Venkataraman. Tata Sons acquisition of shares is part of a clean-up & consolidation act.

#### 3. *Apollo Global buys JP Morgan's India realty platform*

**New York Headquartered** Apollo Global Management has acquired global financial services major JP Morgan's real estate fund management platform in India. The platform comprises two funds of vintage 2007 and 2014 with aggregate assets under management of about \$300 million.

#### **4. *Pipeline Infrastructure-India Infrastructure Trust deal gets CCI nod***

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Reliance Industries Holding's subsidiary Pipeline Infrastructure by India Infrastructure Trust. The Trust is proposed to be registered as an infrastructure investment trust (InvIT).

### **News: Others**

#### **1. *LKP Finance gets RBI nod to sell up to 62% to Essel group***

NBFC- LKP Finance has received RBI's approval to sell up to 62% of its equity to Essel group's Dakshin Mercantile Pvt Ltd. Dakshin Mercantile would now make an open offer to acquire a min. 26% equity shares from public shareholders in accordance with SEBI.

#### **2. *Infosys to acquire Fluido***

Infosys has reached an agreement to acquire Nordic region's salesforce advisor firm Fluido for around euro 65 million (\$76 million). It is the second acquisition for Infosys this year after WongDoody Holding Company.

#### **3. *Samara Capital buys Aditya Birla Retail***

Kumar Mangalam Birla-led \$45-billion Aditya Birla Group has sold its entire stake in retail to mid-market private equity firm Samara Capital. Aditya Birla Retail Limited (ABRL) was operating food and grocery retail under the 'More' brand.

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