

Mini

January 2019

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Table of Contents

Banking	3
Economy	6
State	8
National	10
International	12
India & world	13
Appointments & Resignations	14
Ranks & Reports	17
Important days	18
Sports	19
Awards	21
Obituaries	22
Schemes	23
Person in News	25
Summits & Conference	25
Defence	26
Agreements	27
Books & Authors	28
Science & Technology	28
Environment	30
Apps & Portals	30
Acquisitions & Mergers	31

Banking

1. RBI to set up compliance portal to track cyber fraud

RBI would set up a compliance and tracking system portal to tackle proliferation of cyber-fraud and seeks to establish a better redressal mechanism for consumers. With this, customer-protection measures will promote and improve confidence.

2. RBI offers relief to MSMEs; allows restructuring of debt up to Rs 25 crore

RBI has allowed a one-time restructuring of debt up to ₹ 25 Cr for the companies which have defaulted on payment, but the loans have classified as standard assets. It will help MSMEs which are facing cash crunch due to demonetisation & GST implementation.

3. Allahabad Bank, SBI Life join hand for bancassurance partnership

Allahabad Bank and SBI Life Insurance came together and signed a bancassurance pact, to offer a holistic financial planning solution to consumers. This will empower the consumer to address their complete financial needs under one roof.

4. Paytm Payments Bank resumes KYC for bank, wallet customers after RBI nod

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd has resumed Know Your Customer process as well as onboarding new customers after receiving a formal nod from the Reserve Bank of India. PPBL aims to acquire 100 million additional customers by the end of 2019.

5. RBI sets up MSME panel

The 8-member committee under UK Sinha will examine the factors affecting the timely & adequate availability of finance to MSME sector. The panel will submit its report by June 2019. RBI allowed one-time restructuring of existing debt up to ₹25 Cr for MSME.

6. RBL Bank appoints Pankaj Sharma as its chief operations officer

RBL Bank has appointed Pankaj Sharma as its chief operations officer to overlook the corporate services function & bank's overall operations. He was heading retail operations in Axis Bank. He also worked with GE Countrywide, ICICI Bank & ICICI Prudential.

7. Syndicate Bank and SBI Life Insurance sign a bancassurance pact

Syndicate Bank & SBI Life Insurance signed a bancassurance pact to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers. Increasing life insurance penetration is a strategy focus of Syndicate bank & they start pilot project in 3 districts.

8. *Bharti AXA Life uses WhatsApp to deliver policy, renewal premium*

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has started delivering policies and renewal premium receipt to customers via instant messaging platform WhatsApp. It is a part of its alternative service option to the policy holders.

9. *RBI extends customer protection to PPI deals*

RBI has extended customer protection to users of authorized PPIs. Users of PPIs will not be liable for losses incurred due to fraud/discrepancy. In third-party interference, there is no customer liability if the matter is brought to notice within 3 days.

10. *Government amalgamates three regional rural banks*

The govt has amalgamated 3 RRBs named Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank & Sutlej Gramin Bank into a single RRB. Sponsor banks of RRBs are NABARD, Govt of Punjab & Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India & Punjab and Sind Bank.

11. *UBI, Srei Equipment Finance enter pact for MSME sector finance*

United Bank of India & Srei Equipment Finance have entered into an agreement for financing the MSME and agriculture sectors. UBI would leverage its low-cost loans with Srei to enable the purchase of equipment and vehicles in a seamless manner.

12. *Nepal writes to RBI to declare new Indian currency notes legal*

Nepal Rastra Bank has asked the Reserve Bank of India to declare newly circulated Indian currency notes of denominations higher than Rs 100 legal tender in the country under the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

13. *Govt allows Iranian bank (Pasargad Bank) to open Mumbai branch: Gadkari*

Govt of India has given permission to Iran to open a bank branch in Mumbai. It will open a branch within 3 months. India can provide steel rails to Iran and the Persian Gulf nation can provide urea to India. From the Indian side UCO bank will facilitate the transactions.

14. *Nandan Nilekani to lead RBI panel on Digital Payments.*

RBI has formed a 5-member panel to investigate ways of improving Digital Payments, Identify the current gaps in the ecosystem and suggest ways to bridge them to be chaired by **Nandan Nilekani**.

15. *ICICI Bank, Small Business Fin Credit join hands to provide loans to MSMEs*

ICICI Bank & Small Business Fin Credit signed a MoU to provide credit to small & medium enterprises. The loans of up to ₹ 1 Cr is for a tenure of 15 years per customer. ICICI Bank will co-originate loan against property with SBFC at a mutually agreed ratio.

16. *Sri Lanka Central Bank & RBI ink \$400 mn deal*

Sri Lanka's Central Bank and the Reserve Bank of India have agreed to a \$400 million deal under a swap arrangement to boost the island nation's reserves. This facility is to be made available under the SAARC SWAP facility.

17. *Banking Ombudsman complaints surge*

According to the RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, number of complaints registered at banking ombudsman offices has increased to 25% owing to increased awareness and poor internal redressal mechanisms of banks.

18. *RBI launches survey to capture retail payment habits in 6 cities - SRPHi launched by RBI*

RBI has launched a 'Survey on Retail Payment Habits of Individuals (SRPHi) to capture payment habits in six cities. It will cover a sample of 6000 individuals from various socio-economic backgrounds across Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Guwahati.

19. *NABARD's venture capital entity*

NABVENTURES Ltd, the venture capital entity incorporated by NABARD under the Companies Act, will launch its maiden early stage capital fund offer to agriculture and rural enterprises.

This would support the agriculture and rural enterprises and fill the gap of adequate institutional support to them.

20. *RBI slaps Rs 3 crore penalty on Citibank India*

Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of ₹ 3 crore on Citibank India for not complying with directions regarding the 'fit-and-proper criteria' for directors of the bank. the action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

Quick revision

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

Economy

1. World Bank pegs India's growth at 7.3%

Attributing it to an upswing in consumption and investment, World Bank estimates India's GDP growth at 7.3% in fiscal 2018-19, making it fastest growing economy in the world.

2. Export Promotion Council Established for MSME Sector

Ministry of MSME has established an Export Promotion Cell with an aim to create a sustainable ecosystem for entire MSME development. It will be chaired by Secretary, M/o MSME. Council has set target of USD 100 billion of exports from India by 2020.

3. Government Extends Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for MIG scheme till 31st march, 2020

The CLSS for Middle Income Group Scheme has been extended by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs by another 12 months (till 31.03.2020). Scheme is designed to provide interest concession to borrowers looking to secure a home loan under PMAY.

4. Settled GST, credit flows among 7 reforms to aid India grow 7.5% in 2019: CII

According to the Growth Outlook for 2019 of CII, a settled GST, improving credit availability and capacity expansion from increasing investment in infrastructure are among seven key drivers that will help Indian economy grow 7.5% in 2019.

5. Government approves ₹ 600 crore subsidy sops to merchant exporters

Govt decided to offer 3% interest subsidy to merchant exporters, entailing an expenditure of ₹ 600 Cr to enhance liquidity with a view to boosting outbound shipment. Agriculture, textiles, leather, handicraft & machinery would be benefitted in this scheme.

6. *FSSAI notifies new packaging norms, to come into effect from July 1*

FSSAI notified new packaging regulations which prohibit the use of newspaper or recycled plastics including carrying bags for packing, wrapping, storing, transporting or dispensing articles of food products. It will come into force from July 1.

7. *SEBI comes out with rules for single regime for FPI, NRI fund flows*

SEBI has come out with rules for a merger of FPI & NRI routes to bring in a single regime for & regulate fund inflow. If single & aggregate NRI/OCI/RI holdings in assets are below 25% & 50% respectively then they will be allowed to be constituents of FPI.

8. *1-year post office time deposits interest hiked to 7%*

The interest rate on 1-year post office time deposits has been increased by 10 basis points to 7% for Jan-Mar 2019 quarter. The interest rate on 3-year POTD has been reduced by 20 bps to 7%. Interest rates of PPF (8%) & SSY (8.5%) have been kept unchanged.

9. *Vijay Mallya becomes 1st person to be declared a 'fugitive economic offender'*

A special court in Mumbai declared Vijay Mallya a fugitive economic offender on a plea of the Enforcement Directorate under the provisions of the new Fugitive Economic Offenders Act which came into existence in August last year.

10. *Indian economy expects to grow at 7.2% in 2018-19: CSO*

Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.2% in 2018-19 against 6.7% in the previous fiscal due to improvement in the performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors. The per capita net national income in 2018-19 shows a rise of 11.1%.

11. *Hardware Exports poised to grow at 7-8%*

In harmony with India's Economic growth, Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council official says Hardware exports are poised to reverse the declining trend of the past few years with a 7-8% growth this fiscal over last year's \$6 billion.

12. *Ease of GST burden for small businesses*

The GST Council raised the annual turnover limit under which companies would be exempt from GST to ₹40 lakh for most States and ₹20 lakh for the North Eastern and hill states, from the earlier limit of ₹20 lakh and ₹10 lakh, respectively.

13. *Sushil Modi to head GoM on GST revenue shortfall faced by states*

Sushil Modi will head the seven-member committee to investigate revenue shortfall being faced by the states after the GST roll-out and suggest steps for augmenting collections. Among the union territories, Puducherry is facing a maximum shortfall of 43%.

14. *Research Advisory Committee by SEBI*

To help and analyse the new methods of policy making for the development of capital market SEBI has constituted a committee under the leadership of **Sankar De.**

Quick revision

Organization/Parameters	Rate
Moody's	7.4% (2018), 7.3% (2019)
Fitch	7.8% (2018-19)
Central Statistics Office	7.2%
1-year post office time deposits	7%
World Bank	7.3%

State

1. *Entire Nagaland declared 'disturbed' for six more months under AFSPA*

The entire state of Nagaland has been declared "disturbed area" for 6 more months, till June-end, under the controversial AFSPA, which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior notice.

2. *AP High Court CJ, judges sworn in; HC starts functioning in Vijayawada*

Andhra Pradesh got a separate High Court and the court is being temporarily housed in the Chief Minister's camp office, Vijayawada. Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

3. *Andhra tops ACI's Ease of Doing Business index*

Andhra Pradesh emerged on top of Asia Competitiveness Institute, Singapore's 2018 Ease of Doing Business Index ABC rankings for economies of 21 states of India, while Maharashtra and Delhi came in second and third place, respectively.

4. *BHEL commissions 800 MW thermal power plant in 46 months in Telangana*

BHEL commissioned an 800 MW thermal unit at Kothagudem Thermal Power Station within a record time of 46 months in Telangana. BHEL has executed this project on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis.

5. *Patnaik announces interest-free loans for women self-help groups*

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced interest-free loans of up to ₹3 lakh for women self-help groups (WSHG) in the state. Also, he launched a scheme to distribute ₹15,000 seed money per group to three Lakh new SHGs.

6. *Govt notifies High-Level Committee for implementation of Clause VI of Assam Accord*

Govt has notified a High-Level Committee headed by MP Bezbarauah for execution of Clause 6 of Assam Accord. Appropriate safeguards should be provided to protect, preserve & promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity & heritage of the people of Assam

7. *9-day long International Kite Festival kicks off in Ahmedabad*

The nine-day long international kite festival kicked off at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The festival is also planned at Vadodara, Kevadiya, Dwaraka, Surat, Rajkot, Jetpur, Songadh, Saputara and Dhordo in the coming days.

8. *Veer Savarkar International Airport declared as an authorized Immigration Check post*

Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair has been declared as an authorized Immigration Check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers. Direct international flight & immigration facilities will be opened.

9. *Dharmendra Pradhan launched Ujjwala sanitary napkin initiative in Odisha*

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin initiative in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The objective of the initiative is to provide access to hygiene products and employment to opportunities in every district of the state.

10. *ITC's e-Choupal to turn aggregator*

E-Choupal, initiative from ITC aimed to web-enable farmers to overcome challenges related to information access and procurement, plans to launch a mobile version of the programme by middle of 2019.

11. *Gujarat becomes 1st state to implement 10% quota in jobs, education to EWS of general category*

Gujarat Government has announced that the benefits of 10% quota for Economically Weaker sections of the general category in educational institutions. The new quota will be applicable only for which the announcement for jobs.

12. *India's largest start-up ecosystem, measuring 1.8 lakh sq. ft, inaugurated in Kerala*

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched country's largest start-up ecosystem, integrated start-up complex under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), at the Technology Innovation Zone (TIZ), in Kochi, Kerala.

13. *Puducherry to Ban Single-Use Plastic from March 1st*

The government of Puducherry has decided to ban the production, sale and use of single use plastic from March 1st, 2019.

National

1. *Cabinet approves 10% quota for EWS in general category*

The Union Cabinet has given its nod for a Constitutional amendment Bill providing 10% more reservation for economically weaker sections in direct recruitment (in Government jobs) and for admission in higher educational institutions.

2. *100% houses in 25 states electrified under Saubhagya Yojana*

25 states achieved 100% household electrification under PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya). Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya & Chhattisgarh are left to be electrified. The Scheme aims to achieve universal household electrification by 31 March 2019.

3. *Guwahati likely to be first city to get international flights under UDAN scheme*

Guwahati is likely to be the 1st city to be connected internationally under UDAN scheme. Under the scheme, Assam is likely to provide a subsidy of ₹ 2370 & ₹ 4400 for certain no. of seats on the flights operating on Guwahati-Dhaka & Guwahati-Bangkok routes.

4. *Andaman to be first Island to operate seaplanes under UDAN-3*

Four different islands from Andaman and one island from Nicobar have been selected to fly seaplanes with the government giving approval to 13 water aerodromes under UDAN-3.

5. *Panel suggests not to allow new Engineering colleges from 2020*

A government appointed panel headed by IIT- Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy has suggested to the All India Council for Technical Education to stop setting up new engineering colleges from 2020 and review the creation of new capacity every two years.

6. *NHA restructuring*

Union cabinet has given the nod to restructure the National Health Agency (NHA). It will now be called as National Health Authority (NHA). This is done in order to have better decision making and will be chaired by the Union Health minister.

7. *Cabinet nod for establishment of 3 new AIIMS*

Union Cabinet approved 2 new AIIMS to be set up in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba and Pulwama district & the 3rd AIIMS to be set up at Rajkot in Gujarat.

8. *3-day seminar on topic of 'Women of India Organic Festival' at Chandigarh*

Ministry of Women and Child Development organised a 3-day seminar on 'Women of India Organic Festival' in Chandigarh, to celebrate and promote women farmers and entrepreneurs in the organic sector from the remotest parts of India.

9. *National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 begins*

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rathore (Retd) launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 to provide a chance to the youth to brainstorm about new India and to find ways and chalk out plans to realize our resolves before 2022.

10. *Centre for National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development opens at Mohali*

Smt. Maneka Gandhi inaugurated the 5th Regional Centre of National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) at Sahibzada Ajith Singh Nagar (Mohali), Punjab.

11. *1st Ekalavya Model Residential Schools Sports Meet 2019 at Hyderabad*

Shri Jaswantsingh Bhabhor, MoS for Tribal Affairs inaugurated the "1st Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) Sports Meet 2019" at Gachibowli stadium in Hyderabad. The National Sports Meet was held from 14th to 16th January 2019.

12. *Longest single lane steel cable suspension bridge*

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated India's longest 300-meter single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over Siang River in Upper Siang district of state bordering China. It is also known as Byorong Bridge. It will reduce the distance from Yingkiong to Tuting town by almost 40 km. The earlier road length was 192 km.

International

1. *Bangladesh Elections: Awami League registers landslide victory*

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League has registered a landslide victory in Parliamentary elections. The ruling Awami League-led coalition won more than 260 seats in the 300-member House. Sheikh Hasina is the Prime Minister since 2009.

2. *Asia Reassurance Initiative Act*

President of United States of America (USA), Donald J. Trump signed the "Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)" into law. The act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region.

3. *US and Israel exit UNESCO, claiming bias*

US & Israel officially quit UN's educational, scientific & cultural agency. UNESCO has been denounced by its critics as a crucible for anti-Israel bias. The withdrawals will not impact UNESCO financially, it has been dealing with funding slash since 2011.

4. *Jair Bolsonaro is sworn in as the 42nd president of Brazil*

Jair Bolsonaro has been sworn in as the 42nd president of Brazil. He was elected president in the October 2018 elections, defeating Fernando Haddad. He addressed Brazil's liberation from socialism, inverted values, bloated state & political correctness.

5. *Malaysia's King Muhammad V steps down*

Malaysia's King Muhammad V resigned which is the first time a monarch has stepped down from the throne before completing their five-year tenure. Malaysia has nine royal households, who typically take turns to sit on the throne.

6. *Google wins US approval for radar-based hand motion sensor*

Google unit won approval from the FCC to deploy a radar-based motion sensing device known as Project Soli. Now Google can operate the Soli sensors at higher power levels than currently allowed. And the sensors can also be operated aboard aircraft.

7. *France introduced GAFA tax on global internet, technology firms*

France introduced a new "GAFA tax" named after the large internet and technology companies Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes on their massive businesses in Europe.

8. *Macedonia renamed as the Republic of Northern Macedonia*

Macedonia's parliament passed an amendment to the constitution to rename the country as Republic of North Macedonia, on a mutual agreement with Greece. The language of the country would be referred to as Macedonian and its people known as Macedonians.

India & world

1. *India, Norway to collaborate for Counter-terrorism, trade and Sustainable development*

India & Norway discussed extensively to collaborate for development of Ocean Economy, achieving Sustainable Development and to Counter Terrorism.

2. *Sushma Swaraj, Japanese FM hold strategic dialogue*

Sushma Swaraj held a strategic dialogue with her Japanese counterpart Taro Kono at the 10th India-Japan Foreign Minister-level Strategic Dialogue during which they reviewed the progress in ties and exchanged views on regional and global issues.

3. *India takes over operations of part of Chabahar Port*

India has taken over operations of the strategic Chabahar port. This is the 1st time India will be operating a port outside its territory. The physical take-over of the terminal area, cargo handling equipment & Office building was completed.

4. *Innovation initiative at Raisina Dialogue, 2019*

The Global Innovation Policy Center of United States Chamber of Commerce launched an innovation strategy at Raisina Dialogue, 2019 in New Delhi. The Initiative is titled as "Fair Value for Innovation". India is the first market where GIPC is launching this new innovation initiative.

5. *Norwegian PM arrives in New Delhi*

PM of Norway Erna Solberg has arrived in New Delhi on a 3-day visit to India. The visit will provide an opportunity to review the progress in cooperation b/w 2 countries & discuss ways to expand the multifaceted partnership in areas of common interest.

6. *Sushma Swaraj discusses enhancing bilateral cooperation with Turkmenistan counterpart*

External Affairs Minister met Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Rasit Meredow on the sidelines of the India-Central Asia Dialogue which focussed on a plethora of regional issues and they discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation across sectors.

7. UAE, Saudi Arabia to invest in Indian agriculture sector

UAE & Saudi Arabia have shown interest in investing in India's agricultural sector as both the countries want to make India a base for ensuring their food security. Government is working on bilateral trade to push export trade and make WTO more efficient.

Quick Revision: Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State / Govt.	Currency
Norway	Oslo	Erna Solberg	Norwegian krone
Japan	Tokyo	Shinzo Abe	Yen
Iran	Teheran	Hassan Rouhani	Rial
Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow	Turkmen New Manat
UAE	Abu Dhabi	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan	UAE Dirham
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud	Saudi Riyal

Appointments & Resignations

1. World Bank president to resign effective Feb. 1

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim has planned to leave the bank on Feb 1 to join a firm focused on infrastructure investments. He first became president of the WB in 2012. Kristalina Georgieva will assume the role of interim president from February 1, 2019.

2. Sudhir Bhargava named new Chief Information Commissioner

The government has appointed Sudhir Bhargava as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC). After recent retirements of Chief Information Commissioner R.K Mathur post was vacant. CIC the sanctioned strength of 11, including the Chief Information Commissioner.

3. Hemant Bhargava appointed LIC's Acting Chairman

The government has appointed Hemant Bhargava as the Acting Chairman of LIC. Presently, He is the Managing Director of LIC and he replaced V K Sharma. He set up a new joint venture in collaboration with the banking industry & founded LIC Cards Services Ltd.

4. Thyssenkrupp names Vivek Bhatia as MD, CEO of ThyssenKrupp Industries India

Thyssenkrupp announced the appointment of Vivek Bhatia as the MD and CEO of ThyssenKrupp Industries India effective from January 1, 2019. ThyssenKrupp Industries India is one of the leading service providers in the fields of sugar plants & Machinery.

5. *P K Singh appointed Competition Commission of India secretary*

The CCI has appointed Pramod Kumar Singh as its secretary. He was adviser (law) to the competition watchdog. He would act as the nodal officer for the Commission for making or receiving all statutory information and entering the any formal relationships.

6. *Subramanian resigns from Bandhan Bank following appointment as CEA*

Krishnamurthy V Subramanian has resigned as independent director from its board following his appointment as the chief economic advisor to the government. He has been appointed as the CEA for a period of three years.

7. *Rudratej Singh quits as Royal Enfield president*

Rudratej Singh had joined Royal Enfield in January 2015 to lead the bikemaker's commercial operations as president. He quit the company with immediate effect.

8. *Harendra Singh dismissed as coach of Indian Men's Team*

Considering disappointing results from Indian Men's Hockey team in recent times, Harendra Singh was relieved from the position and offered the task of helming the junior squad by the national federation.

9. *N. Ram of The Hindu Group is new AFMF President*

N. Ram, chairman, The Hindu Group, has been appointed President of the Alliance for Media Freedom (AFMF), a cross-media advocacy and action group of media organisations, promoters and journalists.

10. *New Chairman of the Railway Board*

VK Yadav appointed new chairman of Railway Board after Ashwani Lohani. Prior to this appointment, he was the General Manager of South-Central Railway (SCR).

11. *Axis Bank MD & CEO Shikha Sharma retires*

Axis Bank Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shikha Sharma retired from the services of the bank and Amitabh Chaudhry will be the new MD and CEO of the Axis bank from 1st January 2019.

12. *Executive Chairman of NALSA*

President Ram Nath Kovind nominated Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

13. *Pentagon chief of staff resigned*

Kevin Sweeney, the chief of staff of the US Department of Defence, resigned from his position. He held his post for two years from January 2017.

14. *Birendra Prasad named as Chef de Mission for Tokyo Olympics*

Birendra Prasad Baishya, has been named Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. He is currently the President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) & also one of the Indian Olympic Association Vice Presidents

15. *Daniel Callahan appointed as independent director of TCS*

Tata Consultancy Services appointed Daniel Callahan, as additional and independent director for a period of 5 years, based on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, and subject to approval of shareholders.

16. *Ashok Chawla steps down as TERI Chairman*

Former finance secretary, Ashok Chawla, got down as Chairman of The Energy Resources Institute (Teri) following the recent ongoing legal developments.

17. *Brahm Dutt new Yes Bank chairman*

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Brahm Dutt as part-time, non-executive chairman of Yes Bank. Mr. Dutt has been on the Board of the bank since July 2013.

18. *Axis appoints HDFC Bank veteran as CCO*

Retired HDFC Bank executive and former Federal Bank board member Deepak Maheshwari has taken charge as chief credit officer (CCO) at Axis Bank. He had taken over as CCO to oversee corporate credit appraisal and disbursement.

19. *Ananth Narayanan quits as Myntra-Jabong CEO*

Amar Nagaram to replace Ananth Narayanan as the new Head of Myntra-Jabong following a recent re-jig at of parent company flipkart.

Quick Revision

Appointment/Resignation	Post
Jim Yong Kim	President, World bank
Sudhir Bhargava	Chief Information commissioner
Hemant Bhargava	LIC's Acting Chairman
Vivek Bhatia	MD & CEO, ThyssenKrupp
PK Singh	Secretary, CCI
KV Subramanian	Chief economic advisor
Rudratej Singh	President, Royal Enfield
Harendra Singh	Coach, India's Men Hockey team
N Ram	President, AFMF
Shikha Sharma	MD & CEO, Axis Bank
Arjan Kumar Sikri	Executive Chairman - NALSA
Kevin Sweeney	Chief of staff, US department of defence
Birendra Prasad Baishya	Chef de Mission, Tokyo Olympics
Daniel Callahan	Independent director, TCS
Ashok Chawla	Chairman, TERI
Brahm Dutt	Chairman, Yes Bank
Deepak Maheshwari	CCO, Axis Bank
Amar Nagaram	CEO, Myntra-Jabong

Ranks & Reports

1. *India poised to be 3rd largest consumer market by 2030: WEF*

In a report titled 'Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market – India' by World Economic Forum, India is set to become the world's 3rd largest consumer market behind only USA and China by 2030. The survey was carried out by Bain & Company for this report.

2. *Global Economic Prospects Report 2019*

Released by the World Bank titled "Darkening Skies". As per the report India is expected to grow at 7.3% in the current fiscal 2018-19 and 7.5% in the following two years.

3. *Democracy Index 2019*

It was released by Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU). As per the report only 4.5% of the world's people live in a full democracy. India was at the 41st place in the flawed democracies category. Australia and New Zealand are the only "full democracies" in the entire Asia-Pacific region.

4. *NITI Aayog releases the Atal Tinkering Lab Handbook*

Atal Innovation Mission (Under NITI Aayog) released the “Atal Tinkering Lab Handbook – Naye Dishayen, Naye Nirman, Naya Bharat” on the eve of the National Youth Day, to hail and take forward the spirit of Tinkering and Innovation across the country

5. *India Manufacturing Barometer 2019 Report*

The report was released by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with PwC. About 74% of manufacturers are hopeful of a faster growth rate in their respective sectors over the next 12 months while about 58% expect their sector to grow faster by at least 5% in the next 12 months.

6. *Henley Passport Index*

As per the Henley Passport Index, Japan has retained its position to the top for the consecutive year due to its document access to 190 countries and India has leaped two steps forward to 79th rank from 81st rank.

Important days

1. *DRDO Day – January 1*

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its establishment day, the DRDO day, throughout its laboratories and facilities in the country.

2. *World Braille Day – January 4*

World Braille Day is marked annually on January 4 as a means of realizing fully the human rights of visually-impaired and partially-sighted people and bringing written language to the forefront as a critical prerequisite for promoting fundamental freedoms.

3. *Bharatiya Pravasi Day or Non-Resident Day: 9th January*

This day marks the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India.

On 9th January 2019, Mahatma Gandhi came to India from South Africa and became the greatest Pravasi who led India's freedom Struggle.

4. *World Hindi Day: 10th January*

World Hindi day celebrated is celebrated 10th of January. The focus of the Day is “to promote the language at the global stage” whereas National Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on 14th September, marks the adaption of Hindi, written in Devanagari script as the official language.

5. *National Youth Day – January 12*

The nation celebrated the National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas) to honour the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. The National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 was launched. It will be celebrated from 12th January to 24th February in New Delhi. It is organised on the theme of “Be the Voice of New India” and “Find solutions and contribute to policy”.

6. *Army Day - January 15*

India celebrates Army day on Jan 15th to salute the soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens.

Quick Revision

Date	Observed Day
January 1	DRDO Day
January 4	World Braille day
January 9	Bharatiya Pravasi Day
January 10	World Hindi Day
January 12	National youth Day
January 15	Army Day

Sports

1. *Smriti Mandhana wins ICC 'Women's Cricketer' and 'ODI Player of the year' awards*

Smriti Mandhana was adjudged 'Women's Cricketer of the Year' & the 'Women's ODI Player of the Year' by the ICC. Mandhana became only the second India woman player to win an ICC award after Jhulan Goswami, who was named the ICC player of the year in 2007.

2. *80th National Table Tennis Championship held in Cuttack*

The 80th National Table Tennis Championship began at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. Odisha State Table Tennis Association is hosting the championships after a gap of 18 years.

3. *Maharashtra hosts 2nd edition of Khelo India Youth Games*

Maharashtra is hosting the second edition of Khelo India Youth Games which will officially begin in Pune. More than 9000 players from different states will participate in 18 different games at Khelo India Youth Games.

4. *Top wickets-taker in international cricket in 2018*

25 years old Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah became the highest international wicket-taker of 2018 with 78 wickets after taking 9 wickets in the 3rd Test Match against Australia held in Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australia.

5. *Virat Kohli equals Ganguly's record*

Indian Cricket team captain Virat Kohli equalled Former Indian Captain Sourav Ganguly's record with 11th away test win as a captain after defeating Australia in the 3rd Test Match held in Melbourne, Australia

6. *Youngest goal scorer in the I-league*

16-year-old Indian Footballer Rohit Danu became I-League's youngest ever goal-scorer while scoring a goal on the ongoing match against Aizawl FC at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Aizawl, Mizoram.

7. *USA Cricket announced as ICC's 105th member*

International Cricket Council (ICC) announced USA Cricket as its 105th member. USA Cricket came into existence after USACA was expelled in June 2017 for lack of cooperation in terms of unifying the cricket community in the country.

8. *Hopman Cup*

The Hopman Cup is an annual international eight-team indoor hard-court tennis tournament was held in Perth, Western Australia. This year Switzerland's Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic secured a 2-1 victory over Germany's Angelique Kerber and Alexander Zverev to win the Hopman Cup for the second year in a row.

9. *Mary Kom No. 1 in AIBA rankings*

In the rankings put out by AIBA, Mary Kom is placed top of the charts in the weight division with 1700 points.

10. *Dhoni entered the 10,000 runs club in ODI cricket*

Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the 5th player to score ten thousand runs for India in One-day International Cricket, adding another feather to his illustrious cap.

11. *Khelo India Youth Games: Abhinav Shaw becomes youngest gold medallist in shooting*

10-year old Abhinav Shaw became the youngest gold medallist in the shooting. He teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to help West Bengal win the 10m air rifle mixed team event. Delhi's Devanshi Rana bagged gold in Under-21 girls 25m pistol event.

12. *Rohit Sharma 1st Indian To Slam 5 ODI Hundreds in Australia*

Rohit Sharma becomes the first Indian batsman to smash five hundred in ODI cricket in Australia. He achieved this milestone while playing first ODI of the series against Australia in Sydney. He has scored his 22nd century in 194 ODIs.

13. *Youngest Indian to win junior world title – Golf*

Gurgaon's 8-year-old Kartik Singh won the under-8 category Junior world title at the Kids' Golf World Championship organised by US kids Golf in Malaysia to become the youngest Indian to win the title.

14. *Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri received honorary membership of Sydney Cricket Ground*

On January 11, 2019, Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri received honorary membership of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) for their contribution to the sport of cricket. Other cricketers granted are Sachin Tendulkar, India and Brian Lara, West Indies.

Awards

1. *Andhra Pradesh Minister receives award for Polavaram Project*

Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister Devineni Umamaheswar Rao has received the 'Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award' for better planning and construction of Polavaram Irrigation Project in the state.

2. *Three Indian-origin women scientists were awarded by Australian government*

Three Indian-origin women scientists were among the 60 Superstars of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) list awarded by Australian government. The 3 scientists are Onisha Patel, Devika Kamath and Asha Rao.

3. *National Nritya Shiromani Award 2019*

US-based Kathak dancer Anindita Neogy Anaam will be honoured with the National Nritya Shiromani award for promoting the dance form across the world. This award is organised by utkal yuva sanskrutik sanghatan, odisha.

4. *Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award*

Manoj Das, an eminent English and Odia Litterateur received the "Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement" in literature during 53rd Foundation day ceremony organized by the Berhampur University, Odisha.

5. *National Bravery Award by Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW)*

15-year-old student, Wahengbam Lamnganba Singh, of Kumbi area in Manipur, has been selected by the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) for receiving National Bravery Award. The awards are given on every republic day.

6. *Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards*

Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh presented the prestigious 13th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism awards to 29 winners in 18 categories across Print, Broadcast and purely digital to recognize the outstanding contributions of journalists in 2017 in New Delhi.

7. *Jayanta Kumar Ghosh receives National Geospatial Award*

IIT professor Jayanta Kumar Ghosh conferred with lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the geospatial science and applications development. The award was given by Indian Society for Remote sensing (ISRS).

8. *PM Modi receives Philip Kotler Presidential Award*

PM Narendra Modi received the first ever Philip Kotler Presidential Award for his outstanding leadership for the nation. The award focuses on the triple bottom-line of people, profit and planet.

9. *Namita Gokhale receives Sushila Devi Literature Award*

Renowned writer Namita Gokhale was awarded Sushila Devi Literature Award for her work "Things to Leave Behind". She was honoured in the 'Best Book of Fiction Written by a Woman Author' category at the inaugural edition of Bhopal Literature and Art Festival. Contribution to bring up Nepal's long and friendly relationship with India.

Quick Revision

Award	Winner
'Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award	Devineni Umamaheswar Rao
National Nritya Shiromani award	Anindita Neogy Anaam
Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja National Award for Lifetime Achievement	Manoj Das
National Bravery Award	Wahengbam Lamnganba Singh
National Geospatial Award	Jayanta Kumar Ghosh
Philip Kotler Presidential Award	Narendra Modi
Sushila Devi Literature Award	Namita Gokhale

Obituaries

1. *Veteran actor-writer Kader Khan dies at 81*

Veteran Actor-writer Kader Khan has died in Canada due to a prolonged illness. He was 81. He made his acting debut in 1973 with Rajesh Khanna's Daag & he was synonymous with comic roles. He also wrote dialogues for over 250 movies.

2. Cricket coach Ramakant Achrekar passes away

The cricket coach credited for discovering Sachin Tendulkar, Ramakant Achrekar died. He was 87. Besides Tendulkar, he also coached some prominent players in Vinod Kambli, Pravin Amre, Sameer Dighe and Balwinder Singh Sandhu.

3. Bengali writer Dibyendu Palit passes away

Renowned Bengali writer Dibyendu Palit died. He was 79. He was conferred the Sahitya Akademi for his novel 'Anubhab' in 1998. He was awarded the 'Bankim Purashkar' for 'Dheu' in 1990 and 'Ananda Purashkar' in 1984 for 'Sahojoddha'.

4. US Former Defence Secretary Harold Brown dies at 91

Harold Brown has died at age 91. He was a nuclear physicist who led the Pentagon to modernize its defence systems with weapons that included precision-guided cruise missiles, stealth aircraft, advanced satellite surveillance & improved communications.

5. Veteran Kannada actor CH Loknath passed away at 91

His acting career spanned almost six decades and he had acted in about 650 movies and performed in over 1,000 plays. He made his debut in the National award-winning movie 'Samskara' in 1970.

Quick Revision

Obituary (Name)	Related Field
Kader Khan	Actor cum writer
Ramakant Achrekar	Cricket coach
Dibyendu Palit	Bengali writer
Harold Brown	Former US defence secretary
CH Loknath	Kannada Actor

Schemes

1. Google Launchpad to retain focus on AI start-ups in India

Google Launchpad's India accelerator programme would continue to focus on AI start-ups. Agriculture & healthcare technology is emerging themes in India which Google Launchpad is likely to back in the future given their scalability & high impact potential.

2. 10-day Indian Panorama Film Festival begins in New Delhi

The 10-day long Indian Panorama Film Festival began in New Delhi. The films to be shown in Festival reflect the economic progress the country has made & changes that society has undergone. Total of 26 Feature Films & 21 Non-Feature Films will be screened.

3. *ISRO launches Samwad with students to engage them on space science activities*

ISRO has launched Samwad with Students as part of its outreach programme. The Indian Space agency would engage youngsters across the country in activities concerning space science under this programme.

4. *Web Wonder Women Campaign launched by Government*

Maneka Gandhi launched Web Wonder Women Campaign to recognize the fortitude of Indian women stalwarts from across the globe who have used the power of social media to run positive campaigns to steer a change in society.

5. *4 new projects under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD schemes of M/o Tourism*

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned four new projects for Rs. 190.46 Crores under the tourism infrastructure development schemes, Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD in the states of Meghalaya, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh recently.

6. *Chamling launches 'One Family One Job' scheme in Sikkim*

Sikkim CM Chamling launched the 'One Family One Job' scheme which entitles one govt job for every family in the state. The appointment letters were awarded only to members of those families which do not have a government job at present in a Rojgar Mela.

7. *Odisha launches free LED bulb distribution scheme*

Odisha launched the 'Ama Ghare LED' scheme, under which about 95 L families in the State will each get 4 LED bulbs free of cost. 9-watt LED bulbs will be distributed to beneficiaries registered under National Food Security Act & State Food Security Scheme.

8. *WB govt announces two initiatives for farmers*

As a part of the 'Krishi Krishak Bondhu' scheme West Bengal government announced two welfare initiatives for farmers. Under the scheme, if a farmer aged between 18 to 60 years dies naturally or unnaturally, the state government will pay his family Rs 2 lakh. And farmers would get Rs 2,500 twice a year for growing a single crop on one acre of land.

9. *Universal Basic Income to be introduced by the Sikkim Government*

Sikkim domestic front (SDF), the ruling party of Sikkim has assured the implementation of the universal basic income (UBI) in Sikkim by 2022. Sikkim would become the first state in the country to do so.

Person in News

1. *Arunima Sinha Becomes World's First Woman Amputee to Scale Antarctica's Mount Vinson*

Arunima Sinha has become the world's first female amputee to climb the Mount Vinson which is the highest peak of Antarctica. Also, she became the world's first woman to climb Mount Everest in 2013.

2. *Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. names Sudhanshu Saraf as CEO of Steel Business*

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd has appointed Sudhanshu Saraf as chief executive officer of its steel business with immediate effect. Saraf succeeds Naushad Akhter Ansari, who was elevated to the post of joint Managing Director effective from January 1, 2019.

3. *PayU India CEO Amrish Rau joins parent company Naspers*

PayU India's CEO Amrish Rau joined as the head of financial technology partnerships and investments for Naspers' fintech business. Naspers is South African parent of PayU.

4. *First Indian to Head Global Solar Council, USA*

The chairman of National Solar Energy Federation of India, Pranav R Mehta, has taken over as the president of Global Solar Council. He is dubbed as the Solar Man of India. He has been conferred with the 'Visionary Disruptor Award' by Solar Future Today, which he received at the sidelines of World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi.

5. *Ajit Mohan joined Facebook India as VP and MD*

He succeeded Umang Bedi who left the post on October 2017. Mohan, a former CEO of Hotstar, was earlier appointed to lead as India's head for the company in September 2018.

Summits & Conference

1. *PM Modi to inaugurate Indian Science Congress in Jalandhar*

PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 106th Indian Science Congress in Jalandhar. The theme of this 5-day mega event is 'Future India: Science and Technology'. This meet brings together leaders in science & technology from the country & abroad every year.

2. *Indus Food Meet 2019*

The Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) and union commerce ministry is going to organize a two-day mega food international event, the Indus Food Meet 2019, at the India Exposition Mart of Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh. Odisha is the 'Partner State'.

3. *India Pharma 2019*

The conference on medical device and pharmaceuticals will be held in Bengaluru from Feb 18-19, 2019. The theme is "Enabling Quality Affordable Healthcare". This is organised by Ministry of chemicals and fertilisers and FICCI.

4. *DIPP organises 25th Partnership Summit in Mumbai*

DIPP organise The Partnership Summit in Mumbai, expected to build new partnerships and explore investment opportunities through high level exchanges & B2B meetings, showcasing India in the present landscape of an emerging "New India".

Quick Revision

Summit /Conference	Venue
Indian Science Congress	Jalandhar
Indus Food Meet	Greater Noida
India Pharma 2019	Bengaluru
25 th Partnership Summit	Mumbai

Defence

1. *DRDO develops quick response mobile facility for nuclear incidents*

DRDO has developed a mobile facility to help provide immediate relief for nuclear incidents. The key equipment includes a whole-body radiation counter, storage system for containment of radioactive waste & provision for preliminary decontamination of the affected areas.

2. *Drone Regulations 1.0 can fetch India major slice of \$100 billion industry*

India's newly-announced Drone Regulation 1.0 is a step to open the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft commonly known as drones for commercial activities. The global market for drones and drone powered solutions is expected to cross \$100 billion by 2023.

3. *Defence industries received Rs 1.21 cr FDI during 2014-18: Commerce Min*

FDI equity inflow of ₹ 1.21 Cr has been reported in the sector namely 'Defence Industries' during the period 2014-2018. In 2013-14, 2014-15 & 2015-16, defence industries had received \$0.82 million, \$0.08 million & \$0.10 million foreign inflows respectively.

4. *The Army Technology Seminar-2019 organised by Indian Army*

Army Technology Seminar-2019 was organised on the theme "Disruptive Impact of Emerging Technologies on Land Warfare" at Maneckshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt, aimed to bring together stakeholders to provide perspective on technological paradigm in warfare.

5. *General Purna Chandra Thapa Conferred the Honorary Rank of General of The Indian Army*

President Kovind conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army on General Purna Chandra Thapa, for his immeasurable contribution to fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India & his commendable military prowess.

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

1. *Oil PSUs sign pact with IIT Bombay to set up centre of excellence*

IIT Bombay & 7 oil PSUs inked a MoU for setting up Centre of Excellence in Oil, Gas and Energy to develop a mechanism to link up our energy industry and academics & academics to address energy requirements with new and innovative, indigenous technology.

2. *Mahindra, Maharashtra govt sign MoU to develop tourism in Murud*

A subsidiary of Mahindra Lifespace Developers, Deep Mangal Developers signed MoU with Maharashtra govt to develop a 1300-acre eco-friendly tourist destination at Murud, Raigad. It will be the largest medical & wellness tourism investment in the state.

3. *NHAI to sign MoU with fuel retailers for issuing FASTags at petrol pump outlets*

National Highways Authority of India will sign agreements with state-owned fuel retailers IOC, BPCL, and HPCL to ensure availability of FASTags (National Electronic Toll Collection Programme) at petrol pump outlets across India.

4. *Cabinet nod for MOU between India and Denmark*

Union cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitating cross-border cooperation and investments in Maritime issues between India and Denmark.

5. *Cabinet approval of MoU between India and Japan*

To promote Ease of Doing Business cabinet approved the MOU between India & Japan on Development of Advanced Model Single Window for business operations, and to develop a structure in which administrative procedures are completed in an expeditious manner.

Books & Authors

1. *Union HRD Minister inaugurates 27th edition of New Delhi World Book Fair*

Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 27th edition of New Delhi World Book Fair. The theme of 2019 is 'Readers with Special Needs'. The theme emphasizes inclusive learning which includes audio, silent tactile & braille books for the specially-abled.

2. *Malala Yousafzai's new book*

Malala Yousufza has come up with the new book, "We Are Displaced" about the Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World. It is considered as the depiction of her inner self, who was devastated from her homeland.

Science & Technology

1. *NHAI to monitor traffic at toll plazas using cloud-based tech*

NHAI is gearing up to monitor traffic using cloud-based system across toll plazas. It will send automatic alerts to concerned parties for immediate solutions. Automatic alerts like SMS, calls/ emails will be sent to authorities to find requisite solutions.

2. *NASA's New Horizons spacecraft Historic Flyby of Ultima Thule*

On 1st January 2019, the American space agency NASA 's New Horizons spacecraft performed the farthest flyby in history as it approached the Kuiper Belt object Ultima Thule.

3. *Paper Sensor to detect freshness of Milk*

scientists at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati have developed a simple paper kit that can test freshness of milk and tell how well it has been pasteurized.

4. *New NIC Command & Control Centre inaugurated*

Union Minister Ravi Shankar inaugurated New Command & Control Centre (CCC) and Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence by NIC, at New Delhi to guide private sector in applying artificial intelligence to improve consumer centric services.

5. *New planet discovered by NASA's probe*

NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) discovered a new world HD 21749b, 53 light years away in the constellation Reticulum.

6. *India's 1st manned mission to space by December 2021: ISRO Chief*

ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan reiterated that human space centre is set up for this mission under Gaganyaan project. In this project India is planning to send 3 astronauts to outer space for 7 days and bring them back.

7. *ISRO developing technology to reuse first & second stages of rocket*

In a bid to cut cost of satellite launchers, ISRO is working on reusable launch technology for using the first & second stages of a rocket multiple times. Advanced version of the reusable launch technology (RLV) test will be conducted in June-July.

8. *Albumin – a better indicator of Diabetes*

Scientists from the National chemical laboratory, Pune indicates that the levels of free albumin and albumin attached to glucose molecules can be a better diagnostic test for diabetes.

9. *ROADEO: robot*

Chennai Traffic Police introduced a road safety robot named ROADEO, to help in traffic management and assist citizens. With this, Chennai became the second city after Mumbai to induct robots in traffic management.

Environment

1. NGT imposes Rs 100 cr fine on Meghalaya govt for failing to curb illegal mining

NGT imposed a fine of whopping ₹ 100 cr on Meghalaya govt for its failure to curb illegal coal mining in the state. The report of 3-member committee headed by BP Kakoti stated that around 24000 mines in Meghalaya & majority of them were operating illegally.

2. National Clean Air Programme launched for to combat Air Pollution

Centre has launched National Clean Air Programme to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024. It is a scheme to provide the States and the Centre with a framework to combat air pollution.

3. Trishna Gas project of ONGC

National wildlife board has given the approval for the project which falls in the trishna wildlife sanctuary, Gomti district, Tripura. ONGC has discovered 10-12 gas bearing wells in the Trishna Wildlife sanctuary.

Apps & Portals

1. Bokaro Steel Plant to launch 'TA Revenue App'

BSL management has to launch online smart bill payment system, a revenue application which enables consumers to make instant payments of their house rent, water & electricity bills. Consumers residing in the BSL township areas can use this facility.

2. Bhoomi Rashi Portal launched

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has launched BhoomiRashi portal to cut short delays & avoid parking of public funds with Competent Authority for Land Acquisition. A BhoomiRashi is web-based portal & automate the entire process of land acquisition.

3. Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App

The app was launched by the North Central Railway division to help the devotees arriving Allahabad for the Kumbh Mela. The app will assist the devotees by providing valuable information regarding the Mela.

4. Jio launches Utility App for upcoming Kumbh mela

Reliance Jio launched Kumbh JioPhone, an app with family locator, lost and found features and other customised services for the world's largest congregation Kumbh Mela to be held between January 15 and March 4, 2019 in Allahabad.

5. *Digital system application for predicting thunderstorms/lightning*

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and IMD have developed a Mobile App called "DAMINI" to give alerts on impending lightning activity over a certain area. The DAMINI App is available from Google Stores.

Quick Revision

App/Platform/Portal	Launched by
TA Revenue App	Bokaro Steel Plant
Bhoomi Rashi Portal	Ministry of road transport & Highways
Rail Kumbh Seva	North Central Railway Division
Utility App	Reliance Jio
DAMINI	IITM & IMD

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. *IDFC Bank re-named IDFC First Bank*

Private sector lender IDFC Bank changed its name to IDFC First Bank Ltd owing to the merger of the bank with Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) Capital First on December 2018.

2. *Bandhan Bank set to acquire Gruh Finance in share swap deal*

Bandhan Bank is set to acquire mortgage lender Gruh Finance via a share swap, which aimed at cutting the bank's promoter holding & expanding its housing finance portfolio. The swap is based on a 6-month weighted average price of the shares of the 2 companies.

3. *SoftBank renames early venture arm with focus on Asia*

SoftBank Ventures Korea, the early-stage investment vehicle of Japanese internet conglomerate SoftBank Group, has renamed itself SoftBank Ventures Asia and will focus on finding artificial intelligence-related start-ups globally, with an emphasis on Asia.

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