

October 2018

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Table of Contents

Banking	3
Economy	5
State	7
National	9
International	11
India & world	13
Appointments & Resignations	15
Ranks & Reports	19
Important days	21
Sports	24
Awards	26
Obituaries	28
Schemes	30
Person in News	31
Summit & Conference	33
Defence	36
Agreements	37
Books & Authors	40
Science & Technology	41
Environment	42
Apps & Portals	43
Acquisitions & Mergers	44

Banking

News: Most Important

1. *SIDBI launches Udyam Abhilasha campaign launched*

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign--**Udyam Abhilasha**, in 115 aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States which will reach to around 15,000 youth.

2. *RBI allows state-owned oil companies to borrow long term working capital*

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed state-owned oil companies to borrow long term working capital from overseas. It eventually relaxed the policy on borrowing up to 10 billion US dollar from the overseas by the state-owned fuel retailers.

3. *NHB increases the Refinance Limit from Rs. 24,000 cr to Rs.30,000 cr*

National Housing Bank (NHB) has decided to increase the Refinance limit to Rs.**30,000 cr** from the earlier set limit of Rs. 24,000 cr. This refinancing is a credit flow to Housing Finance Companies & other Institutions.

4. *SEBI eases promoter stake lock-in norm for Bandhan Bank*

Bandhan Bank Ltd stated the Securities and Exchange Board of India has exempted it from the one-year promoter shareholding lock-in rule. It will allow its promoters to bring down it's holding from the current 82.28% to **40%** to comply with RBI norms.

5. *SBI signs MoU with Nepal's National Banking Institute for human resource development*

State Bank of India has signed a three-year MoU with **Kathmandu**-based National Banking Institute to establish a mutually beneficial strategic alliance for the development of NBI's human resources by imparting education, training, and research.

6. *IFC launches \$1 billion masala bond programme to aid India investments*

International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group has launched a **\$1 billion** masala bond programme to fund its investment activities in India. The first tranche of \$100 million under the programme, was sold to a range of investors, in the US and Europe.

7. *India gets its first cryptocurrency ATM in Bengaluru*

Unocoin, the oldest crypto exchange and blockchain company in India, officially launched its first cryptocurrency ATM in **Bengaluru's** Kemp Fort Mall. It does not require any banking partnerships & are stand-alone machines that can accept & dispense cash.

8. *Fino Payments Bank can open new accounts as RBI lifts ban*

RBI lifted its ban on adding new customers for Fino Payments Bank. The ban had been placed by RBI in May due to the non-compliance of operational guidelines, mainly certain accounts having deposits more than the allowed amount (Max limit is ₹ 100000).

9. *Reliance Health Insurance gets final nod from IRDAI*

Reliance Health Insurance received the final go-ahead from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to begin operations. Reliance Health will commence business by the December quarter.

10. *SBI launches its first "Wealth Hub" in Mangalore*

SBI is set to introduce comprehensive wealth business services for its clients. The bank has re-branded its wealth business as "**SBI Wealth**" offering best-in-class personalized banking and investment services to its elite High Net worth Individual.

11. *RBI accords sanction to set up Kerala Bank*

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accorded in principle approval to the Kerala government to set up Kerala Bank by merging district co-operative banks with state co-operative banks.

It is expected to become a reality by August 16 next year.

News: Others

1. *RBI imposes a penalty on Federal Bank*

Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of **five crore** rupees on Federal Bank for non-compliance of certain RBI directions among other deficiencies. Federal Bank had failed to report large borrower exposure for assessment under risk-based supervision

2. *RBI issues guidelines to allow payments among mobile wallets*

According to the recent RBI guidelines, interoperability of all KYC compliant PPI was enabled in 3 phases – issuance of PPIs in the form of wallets via UPI and in the form of cards via card networks and interoperability between wallets & bank accounts via UPI.

3. *RBI gives banks more room to lend to NBFCs*

The RBI permitted banks to use government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFC's, over and above their outstanding credit to them to be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements.

4. TCS displaces Accenture as largest IT firm servicing banks

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)'s quarterly earnings from the financial sector have edged past that of Accenture Plc. It became the world's largest pure-play information technology (IT) and consulting firm servicing mega banks and insurers.

5. RBI to inject Rs. 36,000 crores

RBI is set to inject 36,000 crore rupees into the system through the purchase of government bonds in October to meet the festival season demand. The auction is a part of Open Market Operations (OMOs).

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 Foreign Trade: September 2018

India's overall exports in April-Sep 2018-19 is estimated to be USD 265.39 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of **17.38 percent** over the same period last year. The overall trade deficit for April-Sep 2018-19 is estimated at the US \$ 56.01 Billion.

2. India's Merchandise Trade: September 2018

Merchandise Trade deficit during April-September 2018 is USD 94.32 Billion. Imports during April-September 2018 exhibited a positive growth of **16.16 percent** in US\$ terms. merchandise exports exhibited a positive growth of **19.93 percent** in Rupee terms.

3. *Manufacturing PMI rises*

In the month of September Factory production improved eventually raising Purchasing Manager Index (PMI) to 52.2 percent. This is the 14th consecutive month of expansion. Sales rose from both domestic and foreign clients, whilst manufacturers raised their buying activity.

4. *Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018 -19*

Govt. of India in consultation with RBI, will issue Sovereign Gold Bonds-2018-19. It will be issued every month from **Oct 2018** to **Feb 2019**. The maximum limit will be **4 Kg** for individual/HUF and **20 Kg** for trusts. Tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years.

5. *CA Institute's nine-member group to study issues at IL&FS*

CA Institute formed a 9-member High Power Group to study the systemic issues at debt-laden IL&FS Group. It will have **Shivaji B Zaware** as its convenor, and comprise, among others, two past presidents of the CA Institute – Ved Jain and Nilesh S Vikamsey.

6. *India has second highest insurance gap of \$27 bn after China*

According to a Lloyd's of London's report ,India has the second largest insurance gap in the world i.e. of **\$27 billion** after China, where the underinsurance or insurance gap is over \$76 billion. In 2018, the global underinsurance stood at \$162.5 billion.

7. *Forex reserves plunge by \$5.14 bn on decline in foreign currency assets*

The continuing fall of the rupee has had its impact on foreign exchange reserves, which plunged by \$5.143 billion to \$394.465 billion during the week on account of decline in foreign currency assets.

8. *IMF projects India's growth at 7.3% in 2018, 7.4% in 2019*

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasted a growth rate of **7.3%** for India in the current year of 2018 and that of **7.4%** in 2019. In 2017, India clocked a 6.7% growth rate. China was fastest growing economy in 2017, ahead of India by 0.2% points.

9. *Moody's sees India's FY19 GDP growth at 7.3 per cent and 7.5 per cent in FY20*

Moody's sees India's FY19 GDP growth at **7.3** per cent and 7.5 per cent in FY20. Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India in its fourth bi-monthly policy review retained GDP forecast for 2018-19 at **7.4** per cent based on an overall assessment.

News:Others

1. *GST collection crosses Rs 94,000 crore in September*

This year, GST Revenue collection has gone up last month & shows an upward trend as compared to August. Total gross GST revenue collected in September was Rs. **94,442 crores**. Sixty-seven lakh GSTR 3B Returns have been filed for the month of August so far.

2. *Gross direct tax collection grows*

Gross direct tax collection has increased by **16.7** percent higher at 5.47 lakh crore rupees compared to previous year. Net collections increased by 14 percent to 4.44 lakh crore rupees. An amount of 2.10 lakh crore has been collected as Advance Tax.

3. *Hurun India to unveil luxury CPI*

Hurun India is set to introduce its luxury consumer price index in the country. The index tracks prices of luxury goods marketed to high net worth individuals from a basket of goods. The baskets of the list will include 20 luxury products and services.

4. *IRDAI in favour of 100% FDI for entire insurance intermediary sector*

IRDAI is in the favour of allowing **100%** Foreign Direct Investment in insurance intermediaries including insurance brokers, aggregator, and third-party administrators. The Current limit of FDI in insurance sector restricted to 49%.

5. *LIC seeks IRDAI nod to hold on to Tata Sons' NCDs worth Rs 5K cr*

Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) has sought IRDAI's permission to allow it to continue holding an estimated **Rs 5,000 crore** of Tata Sons debt. IRDAI rules don't allow insurers to subscribe to the financial instruments of private companies.

Quick revision

Organization/Committee	Projected GDP Rate
IMF	7.3 %
Moody's	7.3 %
RBI	7.4 %

State

News: Most Important

1. *Assam Assembly passes the amendment in the GST Act*

The Assam state assembly passed an amendment in the GST Act by exempting GST registration for companies having up to **20 lakh rupees** turnover per annum. It also broadened the ambit of composition from present 75 lakh rupees to 1.5 crore rupees.

2. *India's First Global Skills Park in State of Madhya Pradesh*

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India signed a \$150 million loan agreement to establish a Global Skills Park (GSP) in **Madhya Pradesh** i.e. first Multi-Skills Park in India, to enhance the quality of technical and vocational education.

3. *India's first methanol cooking fuel debuts in Assam*

India's first methanol cooking fuel by the Namrup-based Assam Petrochemicals Limited (APL) i.e. first public sector producer of methanol and formalin from natural gas as feedstock made a debut. The project has been promoted by **NITI Aayog**.

4. *BPCL to set up country's first biofuel plant at Bargarh district of Odisha*

State-run oil company Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is planning to commission its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Odisha's Bargarh district by December 2020. The project will see an investment of Rs 10 billion.

5. *Guwahati airport to be directly connected to seven countries*

The Civil Aviation Ministry has cleared an International Air Connectivity scheme, which will connect Guwahati airport with **Singapore, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Malaysia & Vietnam**. GOI will be funding the operations by providing ₹ 100 Cr for 3 years.

6. *UP cabinet decides to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj*

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet adopted a proposal to rename the historic city of Allahabad as **Prayagraj** with an immediate effect. The name of the city was Prayagraj 500 years ago, as it is at the 'Triveni Sangam' (a confluence of three rivers).

7. *Hyderabad gets Panchatantra Park & country's first-ever Dog Park*

Two unique theme parks conceptualized and developed with a focus on interaction between humans, animals and nature inaugurated in Hyderabad. While one was dedicated to pets & their owners, the other one was based on teaching tales of Panchatantra with fun.

8. *Maharashtra govt. approves Rs 1,610 cr for Tarli irrigation project*

The Maharashtra govt gave administrative approval of **Rs 1,610 crore** for the Tarli Irrigation Project in the state's Satara district. The project comprises eight lift irrigation schemes on the Tarli River, a tributary of River Krishna.

News: Others

1. *Odisha emerges top manufacturing destination in Q2*

Acc. to a survey by Projects Today magazine - Odisha has topped in manufacturing destination by contributing 11.68% of the fresh projects in the July-Sep period of FY19, followed by Andhra Pradesh (10.13%), Karnataka (8.02%), Maharashtra (7.45%) & Gujarat (5.54%).

2. *Maharashtra launches solar pump programme*

Maharashtra government launched the Solar Pump Programme to provide power to the farmers during daylight hours & enhance the irrigation coverage of farmland. 1 Lakh pumps will be installed at an investment of about ₹ 3435 Cr within the next 3 years.

3. *Famous Shahi litchi gets GI Tag*

The famous Shahi litchi of **North Bihar** has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It is the fourth product from the state after Jardalu mango, Katarni rice and Magahi paan to have got the GI tag. GI Tag certifies identical products of geographical location.

4. *Sub-quota in recruitments for sportspersons*

Tamil Nadu government announced three percent sub-quota in recruitments for sportspersons which will be extended for recruitments in Government Departments and public sector undertakings.

National

News : Important

1. *Good Samaritan bill gets President's nod*

President has given his assent to the Karnataka's Good Samaritan bill, 2016. Law protects Good Samaritans & ensure immediate medical assistance for road accident victims within the 'golden hour' and encourage people to offer first aid to victims.

2. *Govt permits the graphite electrode industry to import pet coke*

The government has permitted imports of pet coke, used for fuel purpose, by graphite electrode industry. Import of pet coke for fuel purpose is prohibited. However, the import was allowed to only some industries so far.

3. *Cabinet approves the redevelopment of Railway Stations*

Union Cabinet approved the redevelopment of Railway Stations by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency and main Project Development Agency.

4. *Cabinet hikes MSP of Rabi crops*

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs(CCEA), has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all Rabi crops for the current financial year which will be marketed in 2019-20 season. MSP of wheat increased by **Rs.105** per quintal.

5. *Government sets up key panel under NSA to assist National Security Council*

Govt has set up a panel, headed by (National Security Advisor) NSA **Ajit Doval**, to assist the National Security Council on national security and strategic interests. The Strategic Policy Group (SPG) will undertake a long-term strategic review of country's security affairs.

6. *Govt hikes GPF interest rate to 8% for Oct-Dec quarter*

The government has increased the rate of interest for the General Provident Fund and other related schemes to **8%** from 7.6% for the Oct-Dec quarter. The interest rate would apply on Provident Funds of central government employees, railways & defence forces.

7. *Cabinet approved implementation of Bhopal Metro Rail Project & Indore Metro Rail Project.*

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the implementation of Metro Rail projects in Indore and Bhopal. The length of two projects is **31.55 & 27.87 Km** , respectively. It will provide Eco-friendly and sustainable public transport to residents, commuters, workers etc.

8. *NCLT approves the takeover of IL&FS board by government nominees*

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the takeover of IL&FS board by government nominees, saying mismanagement at the crisis-ridden financier makes it a fit case of supersession of the board under **Article 241** of the Companies Act.

9. *Panel to review CSR framework*

The government has set up a high-level committee headed by corporate affairs secretary **Injeti Srinivas** to review the framework for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities and suggest a roadmap for better implementation.

10. *India's first domestic cruise 'Angriya' flagged off from Mumbai*

India's first domestic cruise, '**Angriya**' has been flagged off from Mumbai to Goa. The domestic cruise sector will provide employment opportunities to 2.5 Lakhs youth in next 5 years. It will cater to nearly 30 Lakhs passengers from Mumbai in the next 10 years.

11. *Country's first engine-less train*

India's first engine-less semi-high-speed train "**Train 18**" was rolled out by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and will eventually replace the Shatabdi Express for inter-city travel.

News: Others

1. *Centre finalizes European CCS charging protocol*

Ambiguity overcharging protocol is likely to subside with government accepting the Europe-based combined charging system (CCS) for electric vehicles. CCS uses a single connector for both Alternate Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC).

2. *Govt hikes import duty on certain communication items up to 20%*

The government has hiked import duty on certain communication items, including base stations up to **20%** from 10%. The import duty has also been hiked on certain inputs used in the communication industry like Printer Circuit Board Assembly.

3. *Cabinet approves new railway line between Bahraich and Khalilabad in UP*

The Cabinet approved a new railway line between Bahraich and Khalilabad in Uttar Pradesh. The new line serves 5 districts of Uttar Pradesh including 4 aspirational districts - Bahraich, Balrampur, Shravasti & Siddharth Nagar & Sant Kabirnagar.

4. *Museum on Prime Ministers of India*

A Museum on Prime Ministers of India is to be set up in **Delhi**. It will depict Modern India through collections relating to each of the Prime Ministers of India, their lives, works and significant contributions made towards nation building.

5. *Centre constitutes GoM to look into sexual harassment of women at workplace*

Centre has constituted a GoM headed by **Rajnath Singh** to examine the present legal & official frameworks for dealing the sexual harassment of women at the workplace. It will examine the present provisions for the safety of women & recommend further measures.

International

News: Most Important

1. *Canada, US reach deal to save NAFTA*

The United States & Canada reached a deal to salvage **NAFTA**. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is an agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the US, creating a trilateral trade bloc in North America. more market access to the USA was allowed.

2. *World's first full-sized Hyperloop capsule unveiled in Spain*

The World's first full-sized Hyperloop passenger capsule has been unveiled in Spain. California based company Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (Hyperloop TT) revealed the slimline capsule, which can reach speeds of 1,220 kilometres per hour.

3. *First SpaceX Mission With NASA Astronauts Set For 2019 Launch*

NASA has announced the first crewed flight by a SpaceX rocket to the International Space Station (ISS) is expected to take place in June 2019. SpaceX will carry out an uncrewed test in January 2019, and Boeing in March 2019.

4. *Japan overtakes Singapore to claim world's most powerful passport*

According to the 2018 Henley Passport Index, **Japan** has the most powerful passport in the world overtaking Singapore in terms of travel freedom. Japanese citizens can enter without a visa on arrival in 190 countries. The UK & USA slid down into the 5th spot.

5. *NASA's Chandra telescope*

Chandra telescope mission of NASA has suffered a glitch possibly due to the failure of the gyroscope. A similar incident happened to NASA's Hubble telescope week earlier. Chandra X-Ray Observatory has entered a protective safe mode.

6. *ASEAN defence chiefs ink world's first multilateral air code*

ASEAN defence chiefs have inked the world's **first multilateral air guidelines** aimed at keeping the increasingly congested skies safe for military aircraft and preventing skirmishes over the high seas.

7. *NATO's biggest military maneuvers begin in Norway*

NATO's biggest military maneuvers since the Cold War began in **Norway** in a hypothetical scenario that involves restoring the Scandinavian country's sovereignty after an attack by a "fictitious aggressor".

News: Others

1. *EU backs treaty to produce disabled-friendly books*

European Union ratified the **Marrakesh accord** to ease access to reading material for people who are print-disabled. The coverage of the 2013 United Nations treaty now expands to 70 countries across the globe. It will help eye-disabled globally.

2. *European Parliament backs ban on single-use plastics*

The European Parliament backed a wide-ranging ban on single-use plastics to counter pollution in seas, fields, and waterways. The ban would affect a range of products for which valid alternatives are available from plastic straws to earbuds and plates.

3. *Putin & his Egyptian counterpart sign strategic co-operation treaty*

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi have signed a strategic co-operation treaty. The treaty, designed to increase trade, military, and other ties, was signed by the two leaders in Sochi.

4. *Climate fund approves 1 billion for projects in poor countries*

An UN-backed fund approved more than **\$1 billion** to help poor countries to tackle climate change. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved 19 new projects, including a program to protect freshwater resources in Bahrain.

India & world

News: Most Important

1. *India signs S-400 deal with Russia sidestepping US opposition*

India-Russia ties have received a boost with a **\$5bn** deal to buy an S-400 air defence system i.e. Long-Range Surface to Air Missile System from Moscow despite looming threat of US sanctions. They also committed to fight against terrorism and drug trafficking.

2. *First India-Israel Innovation Centre opens in Bengaluru*

The first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC) was launched in **Bengaluru**. It is a noteworthy step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India and aims to forge local partnerships & joint ventures b/w companies from the two countries.

3. *President Kovind three-day visit to Tajikistan*

President Ram Nath Kovind embarked on a three-day visit to **Tajikistan**. He will meet Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon, Speaker of Parliament Shukurjon Zuhurov, and Speaker of the Lower House- Majlisi Namoyandagon.

4. *Israel signs USD 777 million missile defence deal with India*

Israel has signed a **\$ 777 mn** contract with India for the supply of **Barak 8** long-range surface-to-air defence missiles & missile defence systems for seven ships of the Indian Navy. Bharat Electronics Ltd will be the main manufacturer for the project.

5. *Coast Guards of India and Vietnam hold joint naval exercise at Chennai*

A Vietnam Coast Guard ship undertook joint exercises with the Indian Coast Guard at Chennai, namely '**Sahyog HOP TAC-2018**'. The exercise was aimed at acquainting the coast guards of the two countries with each other's capabilities.

6. *India and Sri Lanka sign two MoU for construction of 1200 houses*

India & Sri Lanka signed two MoU for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 Cr Sri Lankan rupees. A cash grant of 5 Lakhs Sri Lankan rupees will be provided to low income landless and homeless beneficiaries.

7. *PM Modi reaches Tokyo to attend Annual India-Japan Bilateral Summit*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a 3-day tour to Japan to attend the 13th Annual India-Japan Bilateral Summit. He is also scheduled to visit the automation and robotic firm FANUC in the industrial city facing Mount Fuji.

8. *Vice-President in a visit to three South African countries*

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu embarked on a seven-day visit to three South African countries. He will visit Botswana followed by Zimbabwe and Malawi. He will also inaugurate the Jaipur Foot Camp to mark the 150th Anniversary of Gandhi.

News: Others

1. *India, China launch joint programme to train Afghan diplomats*

India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats. 10 Afghan Diplomats will be given necessary training in India under the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China, and Afghanistan.

2. *Govt. of India and ADB signed an agreement*

The government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 110-million-dollar loan agreement for the upgradation of 2,800 km all-weather rural roads in Madhya Pradesh. The loan is part of the Rural Connectivity Investment Program.

3. *Nepal to invite PM of India for 'Bibaha Panchami'*

Nepal has decided to invite Prime Minister of India on the occasion of 'Bibaha Panchami'- the wedding procession of Lord Rama from Ayodhya to Janakpur in Nepal. Janakpur is known as the birthplace of Sita.

Quick revision : Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State /Govt.	Currency
Russia	Moscow	Vladimir Putin	Ruble
Nepal	Kathmandu	Khadga Prasad Oli	Nepalese Rupee
Tajikistan	Dushanbe	Kokhir Rasulzoda	Tajikistan Somoni
Israel	Jerusalem	Reuven Rivlin	New shekel
Vietnam	Hanoi	Tran Dai Quang	Dong
China	Beijing	Xi Jinping	Renminbi
Sri Lanka	Colombo	Mahinda Rajapaksa	Sri Lankan rupee
Japan	Tokyo	Shinzo Abe	Yen
Botswana	Gaborone	Mokgweetsi Masisi	Pula
Zimbabwe	Harare	Emmerson Mnangagwa	Dollar
Malawi	Lilongwe	Peter Mutharika	Malawi Kwacha

Appointments & Resignations

News: Important

1. *Gita Gopinath appointed as IMF Chief Economist*

Gita Gopinath, a professor at Harvard University, has been appointed chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She will be IMF's first woman chief economist.

2. *Sudhir Garg appointed as NSIC Chairman*

Sudhir Garg has assumed charge as interim CMD of **National Small Industries Corporation** (NSIC) after the Public Enterprises Selection Board did not find any suitable candidate for the post. He has been given additional charge of the post from October 1.

3. *Sandeep Bakhshi named new MD & CEO Of ICICI Bank*

Sandeep Bakhshi, the former head of ICICI's life insurance arm, has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of **ICICI Bank** after Chanda Kochhar, who was mired in allegations of quid pro quo and conflict of interest, resigned from the top post of the bank.

4. *Unitech appoints Hemangi Dhir as non-executive independent director*

Unitech has appointed Hemangi Dhir as an additional non-executive independent director. Now it is complying with the mandatory provisions of SEBI Regulations, 2015 regarding combination of directors with at least one-woman director.

5. *R N Ravi Redesignated As Deputy National Security Advisor*

R N Ravi, the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, has been redesignated as the Deputy National Security Advisor. He is also the government's interlocutor for the ongoing talks with Naga insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

6. *Govt appoints Rakesh Sharma as IDBI chief*

The government appointed senior banker Rakesh Sharma as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of **IDBI Bank** for six months or until further orders. He is a former MD and CEO of Canara Bank.

7. *Arundhati Bhattacharya joins Reliance Industries board as additional director*

Former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya joined the board of Reliance Industries (RIL) as independent additional director. She has been appointed to the RIL board for a period of five years.

8. *Bank of Baroda's MD and CEO P S Jayakumar gets one-year extension*

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved an extension in tenure of the MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda P S Jayakumar for a period of **one year** till October 12, 2019. He was the co-founder and CEO of VBHC Value Budget Housing (VBHC).

9. *HDFC Bank appoints Vinay Razdan as Chief Human Resources Officer*

HDFC Bank has appointed Vinay Razdan as its chief human resources officer (CHRO), responsible for the entire human resource function in the Bank. He was earlier with Idea Cellular. He is an HR veteran of 30 years.

10. *Sanjay Verma appointed India's Ambassador to Spain*

According to Ministry of External Affairs Senior diplomat Sanjay Verma has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Spain. He is a 1990 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is presently Additional Secretary in the ministry of external affairs.

11. *Paytm Payments Bank appoints new CEO*

Paytm Payments Bank has appointed **Satish Kumar Gupta** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the digital bank. He is the third CEO appointed by Paytm Payments Bank in the last two years after Shinjini Kumar left Paytm in May 2017.

12. *Sanjay Kumar Mishra appointed interim director of Enforcement Directorate*

The Central Government has appointed Indian Revenue Service officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra as interim director of the Enforcement Directorate for three months. He replaced Karnal Singh. He is a 1986 batch IRS Officer of the Income Tax cadre.

13. *Former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya joins ChrysCapital as advisor*

Private equity firm ChrysCapital Advisors LLP has hired former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya as an advisor. She will advise on firm's strategy and investments. ChrysCapital manages approximately \$3 billion worth assets across different funds.

14. *CRISIL Ltd appoints Arundhati Bhattacharya as Additional Director*

The Board of Directors of CRISIL Ltd at their meeting approved the appointment of Arundhati Bhattacharya as Additional Director (Independent) of the Company. She has expertise in banking spanning the domains of credit, forex, treasury, retail operations etc.

15. *RBI clears re-appointment of Aditya Puri as HDFC Bank CEO for 2 years*

RBI had approved the re-appointment of **Aditya Puri** as managing director of the bank for another two years. He has been with HDFC Bank since 1994, making him the longest-serving head of any private bank in the country.

16. *Justice Ranjan Gogoi sworn-in as 46th Chief Justice of India*

Justice Ranjan Gogoi has been sworn-in as the **46th** Chief Justice of India. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan. He has succeeded Justice Dipak Misra & has a tenure of a 13 months.

17. *Barham Salih elected as new president of Iraq*

Iraqi lawmakers have elected Barham Salih as the new president of Iraq after a protracted political wrangling, marking a crucial step in forming the government in the next four years. The president-elect needs to gather at least two-thirds of the votes.

18. *Mahinda Rajapaksa was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka*

Mahinda Rajapaksa has been sworn in as the new PM of Sri Lanka at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo. He took the oath in front of President Maithripala Sirisena shortly after the Sirisena-led UPFA withdrew from the national coalition government.

19. *Shekhar Mande is new CSIR DG*

The Government has appointed Shekhar C Mande, the director of the Pune-based National Centre for Cell Science as the Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR).

News: Others

1. *Bangladesh appoints first female major general*

Bangladesh appointed a female officer- "Dr. Susane Giti" as a major general for the first time in the country's 47-year history. She joined the medical wing of the Bangladesh armed forces in 1986 as a captain.

2. *Tushar Mehta appointed as Solicitor General (SG) of India*

Tushar Mehta has been appointed as SG of India till June 2020. He was appointed as Additional SG after the NDA government took over in 2014. He was the main legal advisor for the BJP president Amit Shah during encounter cases in Gujarat.

3. *Nimesh Chandan appointed as head of investment-equity*

Canara Robeco Mutual Fund has appointed Nimesh Chandan as the Head – Investment, Equity. Canara Robeco Mutual Fund manages assets worth Rs 14,045 crore. It is a joint venture between Canara Bank and Robeco of the Netherlands.

4. *Sajjan Jindal elected as Treasurer of World Steel Association*

JSW Steel CMD Sajjan Jindal has been elected as treasurer of World Steel Association (WSA). He was appointed for a one-year period (2018/2019) by Board of Directors of WSA at World steel General Assembly held in Tokyo, Japan.

- 5. *Pankaj Sharma appointed India's ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament***
Pankaj Sharma has been appointed as the ambassador and India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He is currently the joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- 6. *'ICICI Prudential MF's Nimesh Shah new AMFI chairman***
The MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential AMC Nimesh Shah has been elected as the chairperson of the Association of Mutual Funds in India. He has replaced A. Balasubramanian, CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life MF, who took over as AMFI chairman in 2016.
- 7. *Mahesh Reddy takes over as PHDCCI Secretary-General***
Mahesh Y Reddy has taken over as PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Secretary General with immediate effect. He holds 28 years of experience in national level trade, infrastructure and industry bodies in various capacities.
- 8. *Srinivasan Swamy appointed new IAA chairman***
Srinivasan K. Swamy has taken charge as the chairman and world president of International Advertising Association (IAA) for a period of two years. He is the first Indian to hold this post in the 80-year-old history of the institution.

Quick revision

Appointment	Post
Gita Gopinath	IMF Chief Economist
Sudhir Garg	Chairman, NSC
Sandeep Bakshi	MD & CEO Of ICICI Bank
Hemangi Dhir	Non-executive independent director, UNITECH
R N Ravi	Deputy NSA
Rakesh Sharma	MD & CEO ,IDBI
Mahesh Y Reddy	Secretary-General, PHDCCI
Nimesh Shah	Chairman, AMFI
Arundhati Bhattacharya	Additional Director, CRISIL Ltd.
Sanjay Kumar Mishra	Interim Director ,Enforcement Directorate
Pankaj Sharma	Ambassador ,UN Conference on Disarmament
Sajjan Jindal	Treasurer ,World Steel Association.
Arundhati Bhattacharya	Advisor, Chryscapital
Nimesh Chandan	Head of Investment , Canara Robeco MF
Tushar Mehta	Solicitor General of India
Shekhar Mande	Director General, CSIR
Mahinda Rajapaksa	PM , Sri Lanka
Arundhati Bhattacharya	Additional Director ,Reliance Industries
Barham Salih	President, Iraq
Susane Giti	First female major general, Bangladesh
Ranjan Gogoi	46 th Chief Justice of India
Aditya Puri	CEO, HDFC Bank
P S Jayakumar	MD & CEO, Bank of Baroda
Satish Kumar Gupta	MD & CEO , Paytm payments bank
Vinay Rajdan	Chief Human Resources Officer, HDFC Bank
Sanjay Verma	India's Ambassador to Spain
Srinivasan Swamy	Chairman, IAA

Ranks & Reports

News: Most Important

1. *India improved ranking in govt e-payment adoption*

As per survey conducted by Economist Intelligence Unit of Visa cards, India ranked **28** on the government's adoption of e-payments up from 36th in 2011. Norway ranked 1st among 73-country ranking, followed by France & Denmark.

2. *India ranked 5th in pictorial warning on tobacco products*

India has been ranked **5th** in the listing of countries that have a pictorial health warning on tobacco products. The Cigarette awareness International Status Report was released by the Canadian Cancer Society. East Timor is ranked first, Nepal follows it.

3. *India ranks 115 in World Bank's Human Capital Index*

World Bank ranked India **115th** with a score of 0.44 out of 1.0 among 157 countries in the Human Capital Index. GOI dismissed HCI to undertake the Human Capital Development. Singapore topped in the index followed by Japan, Hong Kong, and Finland.

4. *India ranks among the bottom 15 of Oxfam world inequality index*

UK-based charity Oxfam International's 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index' ranked India **147th** among 157 countries. India is in bottom 11 countries on the commitment of different nations to reduce inequalities in their populations. The index is topped by **Denmark**, and by Japan in Asian countries.

5. *India ranked 58th most competitive economy in World Economic Forum's index*

India has been ranked as the 58th most competitive economy with a score of 62.0 on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index for 2018, which was topped by the US. It is a composite indicator that determines an economy's level of productivity.

6. *IFFCO biggest cooperative in the world: Report*

IFFCO has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world based on the ratio of turnover over GDP per capita by 'World Cooperative Monitor' report 2018. IFFCO has nearly 36000-member co-operatives & a turnover of nearly \$ 3 bn (FY 2017-18).

7. *India ranks 100th on global hunger index, trails Bangladesh*

According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) report, India ranks **100th** out of 119 countries on the global hunger index behind Bangladesh & Iraq. It is driven by high child malnutrition and underlines need for stronger commitment to the social sector, said in its report.

News: Others

1. *India 9th most valuable nation brand in the world*

India ranked **9th** most valuable nation brand in the world with a brand value of \$2,159 bn. Brand Finance's annual Nation Brands report measures nations' brands based on the country's image & economy. The US topped in the list followed by China, Germany, UK.

2. *Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' annual report on road accidents*

As per Ministry of Road Transport and Highways'- Pedestrians and cyclists suffered the biggest spike in fatalities in road accidents. Tamil Nadu topped in a number of accidents, while U.P. had the most fatalities. A total number of accidents dropped 3.3%.

3. *India leads in low-cost carrier growth*

As per Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) Report, India has emerged as the fastest growing low-cost carrier (LCC) market in the world by recording the largest increase (an additional 15.6 million) in departure seats in the first 9 months of this year.

4. *India to become world's 3rd largest aviation market around 2024: IATA*

International Air Transport Association's 20-year Air Passenger Forecast stated that India will become the world's third largest aviation market around 2024 surpassing the UK as it projected total air passenger numbers to touch 8.2 billion in 2037.

Important days

News: Most Important

1. *International Day of Older Persons*

Every year, 1st of October is observed as International Day of Older Persons. This year theme is, '**Celebrating Older Human Rights champions**'. According to the UN, almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60 with Asia having the largest share.

2. *The World Habitat Day observed worldwide*

World Habitat Day observed worldwide on October 1st. The day is intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. It was established in 1985.

2018 Theme- **Municipal Solid Waste Management**

3. *International Coffee Day 2018 celebrated around the world*

International Coffee Day was celebrated all over the world on 1st of October. This year's theme focused on growing importance of women across the coffee value chain and to promote the empowerment of women to achieve gender equality and to increase productivity, supply and sustainable consumption

2018 Theme- **Women in coffee.**

4. *86th Indian Air Force Day 2018*

Indian Air Force celebrates 8th October as Air Force Day every year to mark the day the IAF was officially established in 1932. 86th Air Force Day Parade 2018, took place at Air Force Station, Hindon, in Ghaziabad.

5. *World Mental Health Day observed worldwide*

World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October with an aim of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.

Young people and mental health in a changing world was this year's theme.

6. *International Day of the Girl Child*

Every year October 11 is marked as the International Day of the Girl child, which highlights the needs and challenges girls face while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. This day is celebrated since 2012. 2018 theme - **With Her: A Skilled Girl Force.**

7. *International Day for Disaster Reduction*

International Day for Disaster Reduction is celebrated on 13th October. It is aimed to spread awareness about natural disaster and various ways to manage the crises. The natural disasters include typhoons, earthquake, cyclones, avalanche, and tsunami.

8. *Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas - October 15*

Since 2016 Ministry of Agriculture observes 15th of October as Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas. It is celebrated to increase the active participation of women in agriculture. An awareness campaign is launched on a national scale.

9. *World Food Day observed globally*

FAO celebrates World Food Day each year on 16th of October to commemorate the founding of the Organization in 1945. It is a chance to show our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 – to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

2018 Theme- "**Our actions are our future. A #ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible**"

10. *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed worldwide*

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed worldwide on 17th of October it aims to ensure that the active participation of people living in extreme poverty and those furthest behind is a driving force in all efforts made to overcome poverty.

2018 Theme: "**Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity**"

11. *Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel celebrated*

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, celebrated on 31st of October. Several events were held across the country. People all over the country took a pledge to protect the unity and integrity of India and participated in the Run for Unity programme.

News: Others

1. *World Teachers' Day (WTD) 2018 celebrated across the world*

World Teachers' Day (WTD) 2018 was celebrated on October 5th. The day recommends & sets forth the rights and responsibilities of teachers as well as international standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions.

2018 theme-**The Right to Education Means the Right to Qualified Teacher.**

2. *World Post Day celebrated worldwide*

Every year World Post Day celebrated on 9th October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.

2018 Theme-**"Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?"**

3. *World Day for Audio-visual Heritage – October 27*

The World Day for Audio-visual Heritage is celebrated every year on October 27 to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures & to acknowledge the importance of audio-visual documents. The theme of the Day is **Your Story is Moving.**

Quick revision

Date	Observed Day	Theme/Campaign
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	Celebrating Older Human Rights champions
October 1	World Habitat Day	Municipal Solid Waste Management
October 1	International Coffee Day	Women in Coffee
October 5	World Teachers' Day	The Right to Education Means the Right to Qualified Teacher
October 8	Indian Air Force Day	NA
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Young people and mental health in a changing world
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	With Her: A Skilled Girl Force
October 13	International Day for Disaster Reduction	NA
October 15	Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas	NA
October 16	World Food Day	Our actions are our future. A #ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity
October 27	World Day for Audio-visual Heritage	Your Story is Moving
October 31	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas	NA
October 9	World Post Day	Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?

Sports

News: Most Important

1. *Nishioka clinches Shenzhen Open*

Japanese **Yoshihito Nishioka** clinched the first title of his career at the Shenzhen Open. He is now the 11th first-time winner on the ATP tour this year & also the first Asian player and a first left-handed player to win a title in Shenzhen.

2. *Lewis Hamilton wins Japanese GP & closes on fifth world title*

Lewis Hamilton won the Japanese Grand Prix in a Mercedes one-two, to take a 67-point lead in the Formula One championship and stand on the edge of a fifth title. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, the Briton's closest rival, finished sixth.

3. *Indian Keerthana Pandian clinches girls' IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships title*

India's Keerthana Pandian won the girls' title in the International Billiards & Snooker Federation (IBSF) World Under-16 Snooker Championships, her maiden international crown. She won the title by outclassing Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk.

4. *UK beat India to lift Sultan of Johor Cup 2018*

India suffered a heart-breaking **2-3** loss to Great Britain to settle for the silver medal at the eighth Sultan of Johor Cup U-18 hockey tournament in Malaysia .The silver, however, enabled India to better its last year's bronze medal finish.

5. *Novak Djokovic beats Borna Coric to win fourth Shanghai Masters title*

Novak Djokovic continued his run of form as he breezed past Croatian Borna Coric 6-3 6-4 to win the Shanghai Masters title for the fourth time The 14-times Grand Slam champion extended his winning streak to 18 matches.

News: Others

1. *India clinches three medals at Archery world cup*

India won three medals at the Archery World Cup in Samsun, Turkey.

Deepika Kumari won a bronze medal; Abhishek Verma also clinched bronze in men's compound event; He also won a silver in the mixed team event.

2. *Asian Para Games 2018: India bags 72 medals to end campaign*

India recorded its best-ever showing in the Asian Para Games by bagging 72 medals, including 15 gold, with the shuttler adding two yellow metals and three bronze on the concluding day of competitions. China finished on top with 172 gold, 88 silver, and 59 bronze.

3. *Youth Olympics: Suraj Panwar wins silver medal in 5,000m race walk*

Suraj Panwar won India's first athletics medal at the 3rd Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires taking the medal count to 11. Praveen Chitravel too won the bronze medal in triple jump at the Youth Olympics 2018.

Awards

News: Most Important

1. *Nobel Prize in Physics*

Scientist Arthur Ashkin, French engineer Gerard rou, and Canadian professor Donna Strickland have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work in the field of **laser physics**. Dr. Strickland is the 3rd woman to win the Nobel Prize in physics.

2. *Nobel Prize in Chemistry-2018*

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2018 to Frances H. Arnold "for the directed evolution of enzymes" and George P. Smith and Sir Gregory P. Winter" for the phage display of peptides and antibodies."

3. *Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad win Nobel Peace Prize*

The 2018 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Denis Mukwege & Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war & armed conflict. Both of them has helped to give greater visibility to wartime sexual violence.

4. *US duo William Nordhaus and Paul Romer win Nobel Economics Prize*

William Nordhaus & Paul Romer won the 2018 Nobel Economics Prize for integrating climate change & technological innovation into macroeconomic analysis. The economics prize was established in **1968** & was not part of the original group of five Nobel awards.

5. *Indus Towers Wins Deming Prize for 2018*

Indus Towers becomes the **1st Indian company** in the service sector and 5th globally to win the Deming Prize for 2018 for the performance improvements through the application of Total Quality Management. It is the 29th Indian company to win this award.

6. *Anna Burns wins Man Booker prize for 'incredibly original' Milkman*

Anna Burns has become the 1st Northern Irish author to win the Man Booker prize, for **Milkman** which is about an 18-year-old woman known as middle sister, being sexually harassed by a powerful man. According to the chair of judges, it is incredibly original.

7. *Piyush Goyal to receive US university award for rural electrification effort*

Union Minister for Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs Piyush Goyal is set to receive the prestigious **Carnot prize** for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions. He will be awarded at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design.

8. *Narendra Modi awarded the Seoul Peace Prize*

PM Modi conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize, 2018 for his contribution to high economic growth in India and the world through 'Modinomics', world peace, improving human development & furthering democracy in India. He became 14th recipient of the award.

9. *Swaminathan gets 1st World Agriculture Prize*

Renowned agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan was awarded the first World Agriculture Prize for his contributions to Indian agriculture. An award carries prize money of \$100000 instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture.

10. *James P. Allison & Tasuku Honjo jointly awarded Nobel Prize in Medicine*

The 2018 Nobel Prize in Medicine awarded to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo for their discovery of '**Immune checkpoint therapy**,' a cancer treatment. The discovered treatment takes advantage of the immune system's ability to attack cancer cells.

11. *Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony*

The Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 is being conferred by PM to Rajkumar Singhajit Singh(Manipuri Dance) – 2014, Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) -2015, Ram Vanji Sutar (India's greatest sculptor)- 2016.

12. *ESIC wins 'ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & the Pacific 2018'*

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific". It recognizes ESIC for extension of coverage-SPREE i.e.

Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers & Employees.

News:Others

1. *Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018*

Commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, National Swachh Survekshan Grameen award, 2018 conferred. **Haryana** was ranked as the best State while **Satara** District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district.

2. *UN-backed award for 'fully organic' Sikkim*

India's first fully organic State Sikkim won the top prize in an UN-backed award. It was declared organic in 2016 after phasing out chemical fertilizers, pesticides & substituting them with sustainable alternatives.

3. *Indian-American awarded at White House for combating human trafficking*

An Indian-American woman **Minal Patel Davis** has been honoured with a Presidential award by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for her extraordinary contribution towards combating human trafficking in Houston.

4. *PM Modi announces the national award for disaster relief workers*

A national award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose will be given every year to police personnel who do excellent work in rescue and relief operations during any kind of disaster. The award will be announced on Netaji's birthday **January 23**.

Quick revision

Award	Winner
Nobel Prize, Physics	Arthur Ashkin, Gerard Rou & Donna Strickland
Nobel Prize, Chemistry	Frances H. Arnold, George P. Smith, Gregory P. Winter
Nobel Prize, Economics	William Nordhaus & Paul Romer
Nobel Prize, Medicine	James P. Allison & Tasuku Honjo
Nobel Prize, Peace	Denis Mukwege & Nadia Murad
Tagore Award	Rajkumar Singhajit Singh- 2014 Chhayanaut- 2015 Ram Vanji Sutar- 2016
ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & the Pacific 2018	ESIC
Presidential award , U.S.	Minal Patel Davis
World Agriculture Prize	M S Swaminathan
Seoul Peace Prize	Narendra Modi
Carnot prize	Piyush Goyal
Man Booker prize	Anna Burns
UN-backed award	Sikkim
Deming Prize	Indus Towers
Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018	Haryana (State), Satara (District) of Maharashtra

Obituaries

News: Most Important

1. *Nagaland's Gandhi, Natwar Thakkar passes away*

Padam Shri Natwar Thakkar, popularly known as Nagaland's Gandhi passed away at 86. He founded the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram at Chuchuyimlang village in Mokokchung district of Nagaland. He was originally from Maharashtra.

2. *Malayalam poet M N Paloor passes away*

Malayalam poet M N Paloor passed away at Kovoov in Kozhikode. He was 86. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his autobiography 'Kathayillathavante Katha' in 2013. He won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983 for 'Kalikalam'.

3. *Hindustani classical musician Annapurna Devi passes away*

Legendary musician Annapurna Devi died because of age-related issues at Breach Candy hospital in Mumbai. She was 91 years old and was an Indian surbahar player of Hindustani classical music. She was married to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar.

4. *Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen dead at 65*

Paul Allen, who founded **Microsoft** with Bill Gates died due to cancer. He was 65. He also founded Stratolaunch Systems, which built the world's largest plane designed as a colossal rocket-launching aircraft touted as the future of space travel.

5. *N.D. Tiwari, former Uttarakhand chief minister, dies at 93*

Congress veteran Narayan Dutt Tiwari, who had the unique distinction of having served as the chief minister of two states, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, passed away. He was even a strong contender for prime ministership in 1991.

6. *Clean Ganga activist GD Agarwal dies after fasting for 111 days*

Environmental activist and rationalist GD Agarwal, 86, a former Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) professor popularly known as Swami Gyanswarup Sanand, passed away. He demanded law to save the Ganga, scrapping of hydropower projects on the river, and free flow of its waters.

News: Others

1. *Senior composer & lyricist Yashwant Dev passed away*

Senior composer and lyricist Yashwant Dev passed away in Mumbai. He had composed and written many popular Marathi songs & was honoured with many awards including Gan-samradni Lata Mangeshkar Award and Gadima puraskar.

2. *Renowned harmonium player Pandit Tulsidas Borkar passed away*

Legendary harmonium exponent Pandit Tulsidas Borkar passed away. He was 83.

He was honoured with the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademic Award, 2005, among many other national and international honours.

3. *Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura passes away*

Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry passed away recently. He was 90. He along with 2 American scientists shared 2008 Nobel prize for the discovery & development of a jellyfish protein that later contributed to cancer studies.

Quick revision

Obituary(Name)	Related Field
Yashwant Dev	Composer & Lyricist
Natwar Thakkar	Eminent Gandhian
M N Paloor	Poet
Annapurna Devi	Classical Musician
Pandit Tulsidas Borkar	Harmonium player
Paul Allen	Microsoft co-founder
N.D Tiwari	Politics
Osamu Shimomura	Nobel Laureate
GD Agarwal	Environmental activist

Schemes

News: Most Important

1. *Wage compensation scheme for pregnant women*

Assam government launched Wage Compensation scheme for Pregnant Women in tea gardens of the state. An amount of 12 thousand rupees will be given to the pregnant woman so that she could take care of herself and baby. The scheme is likely to reduce MMR.

2. *Naveen Patnaik Launches Scheme To Help Kids Of Construction Workers*

Odisha govt launched '**Nirman Kusuma**' programme for providing financial assistance to the children of the construction workers for their technical education in the state. A total of 1,878 students will get benefit from the programme.

3. *Food Security Scheme - Khadya Sathi by West Bengal*

The West Bengal government has ensured food security to more than 8.5 crore people of the state under the '**Khadya Sathi**' scheme. The scheme will provide rice to 8.5 crore people at Rs. 2 per kg. Digital ration card has been a special feature of the scheme.

4. *Government to procure 44 lakh tonnes of oilseeds and pulses under the PM-AAASHA scheme*

Food Corporation of India & NAFED will procure 44 Lakhs tonne of oilseeds & pulses under the scheme PM- AAASHA aimed at ensuring assured & better returns to farmers. For the procurement, the Cabinet has already sanctioned an additional guarantee of ₹ 15500 Cr.

5. *Civil aviation Ministry releases the policy of Digi Yatra*

The Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu released the policy on the biometric-based digital processing of passengers at airports called "Digi Yatra". It is a Facial recognition-based passenger processing system which will reduce paperwork.

News: Others

1. *Odisha government launches a food security scheme*

Odisha government today launched the State's own food security scheme. As per the provisions of the scheme, 25 lakh poor people left out from the benefits of the National Food Security Act, will get rice of 5 kg per month for one rupee.

2. *Road Show for Phase II of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves launched*

Phase-II SPR program is planned to create additional storage capacity for unforeseen event of supply disruption. India is 3rd largest consumer of energy & 3rd largest importer of crude oil in world. Crude prices have gone up 50% in \$ terms & 70% in ₹ terms.

3. *Govt launches 'Swastha Bharat Yatra' campaign to create awareness about safe food*

Govt launched a national campaign '**Swasth Bharat Yatra**' on World Food Day with a pan-India cycle rally organised to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is leading this campaign.

Person in News

News: Most Important

1. *Veena Sendre crowned India's first Miss Trans Queen*

Veena Sendre from **Chhattisgarh** has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'. She defeated Namita Ammu of Tamil Nadu to claim the title at the national-level beauty contest organised in Mumbai.

2. *Lakshya Sen settles for silver medal in Badminton*

Former Junior world No. 1 Lakshya Sen had to settle for the silver medal in Youth Olympics 2018 held in Buenos Aires. He suffered a 15-21, 19-21 defeat against China's Shi Feng Li in Men's Singles Badminton Final at the Youth Olympics 2018.

3. *Suheil Tandon wins International Olympic committee award*

Suheil F. Tandon has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development. He is the Founder of Pro Sport Development (PSD) and ED of Martha Farrell Foundation.

4. *India's first ever gold medal at the Youth Olympic Games*

Jeremy Lalrinnunga scripted history by winning India's first ever gold medal at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires. Jeremy Lalrinnunga lifted a total of 274kg to finish on top in the 62-kg category. India also picked up three silver and four bronze medals on day 5 of the tournament.

5. *Prema Gopalan wins social entrepreneurship award*

Prema Gopalan, founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), was awarded the 8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2018, for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship at the grassroots and ensuring rural livelihood.

6. *Pooja Dhanda, first Indian woman wrestler in 6 years to win a World Championship medal*

Pooja Dhanda became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a bronze medal for India at the Wrestling World Championships after 6 years. India have had three women who have won a medal at Worlds namely Alka Tomar, Geeta Phogat & Babita Phogat (2012).

7. *Sourav Kothari wins World Billiards Championship title*

India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore to clinch the 2018 World Billiards Championship title. The former national & Asian Billiards champion was defeated for the coveted World Billiards crown on 2 occasions in the last 2 years.

8. *Richie Benaud named Sport Australia Hall of Fame Legend*

Richie Benaud will be posthumously honoured as 'Legend' by Sport Australia Hall of Fame. He is a former Australia captain who became one of the most loved voices of cricket, he will be the third cricketer to be bestowed the prestigious honour. **Don Bradman** (1993) & **Keith Miller** (2004) are the other two.

News:Others

1. *Motor racing-Calderon sets a female F1 first for Latin America*

Colombian **Tatiana Calderon** became the first Latin American woman to drive a Formula One car in an official capacity when she took part in a promotional event for the Sauber team in Mexico. Formula One has not had a woman driver start a Grand Prix in 1976.

2. *Sergio Perez extends F1 contract with Force India for 2019*

Force India has announced a one-year extension for 2019 for Mexican driver Sergio Perez ahead of the US Grand Prix and next weekend's return to Mexico City. He has been with Force India since 2014. Currently, he is seventh in the 2018 championship standings.

3. *Archer Harvinder Singh clinches gold for India in Asian Para-Games*

Harvinder Singh defeated China's Zhao Lixue to clinch India's maiden archery gold in the 2018 Asian Para Games in the men's individual recurve event. I

4. *Virat Kohli becomes fastest batsman to reach 10,000 ODI runs*

Indian skipper Virat Kohli broke Tendulkar's record as the fastest batsman to score 10000 one-day international runs. He reached the mark in 205 innings, beating Tendulkar who reached in 259 innings. He has become the 5th Indian to reach the mark in ODIs.

Summit & Conference

News: Most Important

1. *2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products*

J P Nadda inaugurated "2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030" in New Delhi. Universal health coverage is key to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 agenda. India commits to access to medical products to all.

2. *First Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and access to Justice'*

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) & Ministry of Home Affairs organised the First ever Regional Conference at Shimla on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh.

3. *13th convention of the Central Information Commission*

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 13th Convention of the Central Information Commission in New Delhi. The Central Information Commission has been constituted with effect from 12-10-2005 under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

4. *Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Kolkata*

The 23rd meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council was held at Kolkata. The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers or minister representative of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha. Meeting aims to foster Inter-State co-operation and co-ordination.

5. *PM inaugurated first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance*

PM inaugurated first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi. He announced plans to launch a National Energy Storage Mission that will look at manufacturing, deployment, technology development, and policy framework.

6. *World Peace monument inaugurated by Vice-president*

Vice-President V. Naidu inaugurated the world's largest dome at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) in Pune. It took nearly 13 years to build which is 160 ft in diameter and 263 ft tall.

7. *India International Science Festival-2018 inaugurated*

4th India International Science Festival-2018 (IISF-2018) ,a mega science expo organized in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It was inaugurated by President of India. The theme of the Festival was "**Science for Transformation**".

8. *Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018*

The Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 organized in New Delhi. The theme of the 2-day summit is, 'Connecting Farmers to Market'. Secretary Agriculture and Co-operation Sanjay Agrawal Inaugurated the summit.

9. *Nuclear Energy Conclave held*

Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi. The theme is- "Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy". Kaiga Atomic Power Station unit sets world record among PHWR for operating uninterrupted for 895 days.

10. *Ministry of AYUSH to organize the first National Summit on Invest in AYUSH*

To encourage various PSUs and private firms to invest in AYUSH, the Centre will organise an all-India meet at Ambedkar International Centre on Nov 4. It also signed an MoU with the Ministry of MSME to develop entrepreneurs in AYUSH sector .

11. *Minister of Textiles Inaugurated exhibition "Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti"*

Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani Inaugurated the exhibition "Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti" at IGNCA, New Delhi. The artworks focussed on Gandhi's idea of nation-building, to create moral and peaceful societies. Featuring ten years of the artist's works on **SWARAJ, KHADI, SALT, INDIGO**.

12. *Defence Pension Adalat*

Defence Pension Adalat conducted at Aundh Military Station, Pune. The aim of the event was to connect with the Veterans of Maharashtra State, identify their problems and resolve them. Defence Pension Adalat conducted by Shivneri Brigade.

13. *"Indian Ocean: Defining our Future" Conference held in Colombo*

The "Indian Ocean: Defining our Future" Conference, which aims to create a platform for Indian Ocean littoral states and major maritime users to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern, held in Colombo on 11-12 October 2018. Conference inaugurated by President Maithripala Sirisena

14. *Financial Stability and Development Council*

The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) held a meeting in New Delhi which was presided over by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. It reviewed the progress in setting up a Computer Emergency Response Team in the financial sector.

News:Others

1. *PM Modi inaugurated the 'Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence*

PM inaugurated the Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence on at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi .This event was organized jointly by UGC, AICTE, ICSSR, IGNC, IGNOU, JNU and SGT University.

2. *2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care*

2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care (PHC) towards UHC & SDGs', was organized at Astana, Kazakhstan. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare spoke on the theme: "The Future of Primary Health Care." The multi-sectoral action was promoted.

3. *Prime Minister chairs 6th meeting of NDMA*

PM reviewed activities of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).It is an agency of Ministry of Home Affairs. NDMA is operationally organized into 5 divisions-Policy & Planning, Mitigation, Operations & Communications, Administration, Capacity Building.

4. *National Khadi Festival 2018 inaugurated by Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)*

A month-long National Khadi Festival 2018 to promote Khadi products was inaugurated, by Union Minister for Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Giriraj Singh. The fest is being organised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at Gramodaya, Mumbai

Quick revision

Summit /Conference	Venue
World Conference on Access to Medical Products	New Delhi
Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence	Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
Women in Detention and access to Justice	Shimla , Himachal Pradesh
International Conference on Primary Health Care	Astana, Kazakhstan
CIC, Convention	New Delhi
National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Meeting	New Delhi
Eastern Zonal Council meeting	Kolkata
International Solar Alliance assembly	New Delhi
India International Science Festival	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
National Khadi Festival 2018	Gramodaya, Mumbai
Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018	New Delhi
Nuclear Energy Conclave	New Delhi
First National Summit on Invest in AYUSH	New Delhi
Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti	IGNCA, New Delhi
Defence Pension Adalat	Aundh Military Station, Pune
"Indian Ocean: Defining our Future" Conference	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Financial Stability and Development Council	New Delhi

Defence

News: Most Important

1. *IBSAMAR-VI held at Simons Town, South Africa*

The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi-National Maritime Exercise between the **Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies**, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa from 01 – 13 Oct 18. The last edition was conducted at Goa, India.

2. *India, Japan begin bilateral maritime exercise JIMEX-18*

JIMEX-18, a bilateral maritime exercise between India & Japan, took off in Visakhapatnam. Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ships Kaga, an Izumo-class helicopter destroyer, and Inazuma, a guided missile destroyer, arrived here for the same.

3. *Night Trial Of Prithvi-II Missile successfully conducted In Odisha*

India's Strategic Forces Command successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile during night time as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Odisha. 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads can be carried by it.

4. *India and Japan set to hold the first ever joint military exercise*

India and Japan are all set to hold the first ever joint military exercise '**Dharma Guardian -2018**' with the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force at Counter Insurgency Warfare School in Vairengte, Mizoram from November 1 to 14, 2018.

5. *Development trials of Astra BVR-AAM Completed Successfully*

A series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVR-AAM) was completed successfully by IAF. DRDO has developed the missile and integrated the weapon on Su-30 and other air platforms. It is expected to be inducted in 2019.

6. *BDL receives Rs 200 cr worth order from DRDO for Medium Range Surface to Air Missile*

Bharat Dynamics Limited received order worth ₹ 200 Cr from Defence Research and Development Organisation for the supply of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MR SAM) rear section. MRSAM is a development project between DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries.

News:Others

1. *Indian Navy acquires deep submarine rescue capabilities*

The Indian Navy has inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) to enhance its operational capabilities. The vessel is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea. DSRV can be mobilized from Naval base at Mumbai.

2. *India, Japan, U.S. plan joint air exercise*

India, Japan, and the U.S. are set to elevate the bilateral '**Cope India**' air exercise to a trilateral format. The three countries already conduct naval war games under the expanded Malabar naval exercise.

3. *US military successfully tests ballistic missile intercept system*

US military shot down a medium-range ballistic missile in a test of a new interceptor system. It is co-developed with Japan & has been dogged by previous failures. The successful operation comes after two failed intercept tests, in June 2017 & Jan 2018.

Agreements

News: Most Important

1. *India and ADB Sign Loan pact for safe drinking water*

The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed **\$240 million** loan for providing safe and sustainable drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three districts of the state of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity.

2. *NSE signs pact with Uttarakhand govt to fuel MSMEs growth in state*

NSE has signed a pact with the Uttarakhand govt to provide access to capital to MSMEs, which will fuel growth of MSMEs in the state, through listing on NSE's SME platform-Emerge. It nurtures SMEs & start-ups to raise capital, SME exchange guidelines etc.

3. *MoU between India & Russia in the Road sector get cabinet approval*

Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India & Russia on bilateral cooperation in the Road Transport and Road Industry. Under it ,Exchange of information about Intelligent Transport System (ITS) & Road safety would be facilitated.

4. *UNICEF, NASSCOM sign MoU to strengthen child rights*

UNICEF & NASSCOM Foundation signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through meaningful business interventions. They will work on key areas like national sensitization on child online protection and encouraging innovations for child rights in India.

5. *Central University of Jammu signs MoU with ISRO to set up Space Applications Centre*

ISRO signed a MoU with the CUJ for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science in the University. CUJ and the Central Scientific Instruments Organization also signed a MoU to create awareness about space research & to motivate youngsters.

6. *EESL inks MoU with DoP for distribution of energy-efficient appliances*

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has signed an agreement with the Department of Posts (DoP) for distribution of energy-efficient appliances under the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) programme.

7. *India, Tanzania sign two MoUs*

India and Tanzania signed two Memorandum of Understandings between the Foreign Service Institute of India & Centre for Foreign Relation, Tanzania & National Research Development Corporation and Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Corporation.

8. *NASSCOM inks MoU to expand Indian SMEs in MENA region*

IT industry body NASSCOM has signed an MoU with a leading technology community Dubai Internet City (DIC) to help small and medium-sized Indian enterprises expand their operations in the Middle East and North Africa region.

9. *OYO partners with payments platform PhonePe*

OYO announced its partnership with payments platform PhonePe. As a part of this tie-up, users will be able to book over 125,000 exclusive rooms, currently part of OYO's chain of hotels across India through the PhonePe app.

10. *IBM India & NITI Aayog Co-designs First-of-its Kind Internship Program*

IBM and NITI Aayog announced a first-of-its-kind internship program for the top performing under 18 students selected by ATAL Innovation Mission. Over 40 high school students will go through a two-week paid internship at the IBM Bangalore Campus

11. *Flipkart teams up with Bajaj Allianz to offer insurance*

Flipkart has teamed up with Bajaj Allianz to offer customized insurance solutions to power its 'complete mobile protection program.' It will offer both cash pay-out option or free pick up, service and drop convenience to customers.

News:Others

1. *Microsoft India signs pact with NITI for Artificial Intelligence tools in agri, healthcare*

Microsoft signed an agreement with NITI Aayog to deploy AI to address challenges in agriculture, healthcare & promote the adoption of local language computing. Microsoft will promote STEM education in the areas of AI studies & data sciences for young women.

2. *Atal Innovation Mission inks MoU with SIRIUS Educational Foundation*

To promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia, a Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged between India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation's SIRIUS Educational Foundation.

3. *Coal India signs MoU with NLC for 5000 mw power generation*

CIL and NCIL signed a MoU for setting up a 50:50 joint venture company that would set up 5000 mw of power generation capacity of which 3000 mw would be solar powered while the rest 2000 mw would be coal fuelled.

4. *Punjab signs MoUs with Israel for agri research, water management*

Punjab govt has signed 4 MoUs with Israeli institutions to address issues of farmers and depleting groundwater level in the state. It will help boost cooperation between Punjab & Israel in areas such as water conservation & agricultural research, education.

Books & Authors

News: Most Important

1. *Sudha Menon's new book "Feisty at Fifty" released*

Sudha Menon released new book "Feisty at Fifty" at the Pune International Literary Festival. The book is Published by Pan Macmillan India. It is about different phases of a woman's life.

2. *Stephen Hawking's final science study released*

Stephen Hawking's final scientific paper released, and it deals with one of the central topics in the physicist's 56-year-long career. It tackles the question of whether black holes preserve information on the stuff that falls into them.

News: Others

1. *Shashi Tharoor announced his latest book titled 'The Paradoxical Prime Minister'*

Shashi Tharoor announced his latest book that is portrait on the paradoxical figure of PM Narendra Modi. It more than just a 400-page exercise in floccinaucinihilipilification" on Narendra Modi. Floccinaucinihilipilification refers to the action or habit of estimating something as worthless.

2. *Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior book launched*

Historian and archaeologist Rima Hooja launched her book, Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior. The book examines the life of the great Rajput warrior and also revisits the famous battle of Haldighati with the Mughals saying it remained inconclusive and there was no clear winner.

Quick Revision

Book	Author/Brought by
Feisty at Fifty	Sudha Menon
Black holes preserve information	Stephen Hawking
The Paradoxical Prime Minister	Shashi Tharoor
Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior	Rima Hooja

Science & Technology

News: Most Important

1. *IIT scientists develop material that can harvest water from fog*

A team from IIT Mandi has developed a material that can harvest water from fog. The surface patterns on the leaf in nanometre scales were evaluated in relation to the water harvesting properties, and the patterns were replicated on a polymer material.

2. *CSIR develops affordable Water Disinfection System*

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow has developed an innovative technology for "Drinking Water Disinfection System" with Trade name "Oneer". It provides potable water of WHO standard.

3. *World's smallest optical gyroscope developed*

Scientists have developed the world's smallest optical gyroscope - a device that helps vehicles, drones, and handheld electronic devices know their orientation in 3D space. It is developed by Caltech engineers 30 times smaller than currently available

News: Others

1. *Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi*

Air Quality Early Warning System is launched in Delhi by Ministry of Earth Science. It is designed to predict extreme air pollution events and give alerts to take necessary steps as per Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). A system designed by IITM, Pune.

2. *Largest galaxy cluster in early universe found*

The largest & most massive galaxy super cluster, nicknamed Hyperion yet found in the early universe, just over two billion years after the Big Bang has been discovered. It was identified using the VIMOS instrument on European Southern Observatory's (ESO).

Environment

News: Most Important

1. *Earth will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold by 2030, says UN IPCC report*

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Monday said the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2030, precipitating the risk of extreme drought, wildfires, floods and food shortages for hundreds of millions of people.

2. *Earth's wild animal population plummets 60% in 44 years: WWF*

According WWF's "Living Planet" report, From 1970 to 2014, 60% of all animals with a backbone fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals ,were wiped out by human appetites and activity based on a survey of more than 4,000 species spread over 16,700 populations scattered across the globe.

News:Others

1. *Two New Species, and Two Genera, of Lizards Found in the Western Ghats*

In a recently published study, researchers say Calotes – the genus to which garden lizards belong and are found in the Western Ghats – are actually related to three different clades, groups of organisms that share a common ancestor.

2. *Severe Cyclonic Storm, 'LUBAN' over west central Arabian Sea*

Cyclone Luban is stationary over West-Central and adjoining South-West Arabian Sea as it is 800 km East-South-East of Salalah (Oman), 680 km East of Socotra Island (Yemen) and 940 km East-South-East of Al Ghaidah (Yemen).

Apps & Portals

News: Most Important

1. *Project Utkrisht launched*

Indian Railways launched Project 'Utkrisht' aimed at upgrading Mail/Express train rakes. The upgradation involves giving a facelift to both the interior and exterior of the train's rake. 'Swachh Rail Toilet' fitted which are of low water requirements.

2. *'Ask Disha' chatbot launched on IRCTC e-ticketing website*

IRCTC has launched the new artificial intelligence-enabled chatbot Called 'Ask Disha' – Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime to seek queries. Some of the salient features of 'Ask Disha' include 24*7 customer query support, quick response time to queries and multi-tasking.

3. *PM Modi launches 'Main Nahi Hum' portal*

Prime Minister launched the 'Main Nahin Hum' Portal & App which works on the theme 'Self for Society' will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform.

4. *Union HRD Minister launches the web portal of the SPARC*

Union HRD Minister launched the web portal of the Scheme "Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)". The scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by 600 research projects funding.

News: Others

1. *PayPal launches merchant App for business in India*

PayPal, a global technology platform and digital payments leader, announced the launch of its first merchant-focused App in India, PayPal for Business. It will help small/medium merchants and freelancers.

2. *Mobile Health app launched by Indian Air Force*

Indian Air Force has launched a mobile health App named 'MedWatch'. The app is developed by Directorate of Information Technology (DIT) with ZERO financial outlay. 'MedWatch' is the first mobile health app in the three-Armed Services.

3. *Kamal Hasan launched a safety app 'Raudram' to ensure the safety of women*

Kamal Hasan launched the safety app named 'Raudram'. It is the brainchild of Sudha Reddy of Porur. The app allows one to store three contact numbers upon registration. It also enables recording of audio and video footage of the situation and sends it.

Quick revision

App/Portal/Website	Launched by
Project Utkrisht	Indian Railways
'Ask Disha'	IRCTC
Main Nahi Hum	PM Narendra Modi
SPARC	Union HRD Minister
PayPal for Business	PayPal
MedWatch	Indian Air Force
Raudram	Kamal Hasan

Acquisitions & Mergers

News: Most Important

1. *Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank to enter retail banking through the merger of UCB branches.*

The Maharashtra State Co-operative (MSC) Bank, plans to enter the retail banking sector and compete with the private sector. It has proposed a new policy of merging urban cooperative banks (UCBs) as well or only some branches of UCBs in some cases.

2. *MobiKwik enters wealth management with Clearfunds acquisition*

Digital payments company MobiKwik has acquired online mutual fund platform Clearfunds in an all-stock deal. It pivots towards a complete fin-tech company facing tough competition from market-leader Paytm, owned by One97 Communications Ltd.

3. *Competition Commission of India approves IHH Healthcare's acquisition of Fortis*

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved IHH Healthcare's acquisition of Fortis. IHH Healthcare is the world's second largest healthcare group by market capitalization.

4. *NIIF acquires IDFC Infrastructure Finance*

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has acquired IDFC Infrastructure Finance (IDFC-IFL), an infrastructure debt fund. This acquisition is the first investment from NIIF's strategic fund.

News: Others

1. *Merger of the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space*

The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space-National Council for Vocational Training & the National Skill Development Agency into the **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)**.

2. *LIC makes open offer for 26% stake in IDBI*

Life Insurance Corporation of India has come out with an open offer for acquiring **26%** of equity in IDBI Bank at a price of ₹61.73 per share, entailing total pay-out of over ₹12,602 crore. It proposes to acquire more than 204 crore equity shares of ₹10 each.

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