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NATIONAL NEWS

➤ India to get its 1st police museum in Delhi

- Union Government has decided to start India's first national police museum in Lutyens' Delhi.
- The museum will depict history of central and state police forces and it will come up as an underground facility in premises of National Police Memorial in Chanakyapuri area of national capital.
- It will be inaugurated on Police Commemoration Day on October 21 by either Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

➤ NITI Aayog to release Composite Water Management Index

- Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister for Water Resources) will release Composite Water Management Index as a useful tool to assess and improve performance in efficient management of water resources in New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog has come up with this Index in view of limitations on availability of water resources and rising demand for water. This index can be utilized to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.
- This index is an attempt to inspire states and UTs towards efficient and optimal utilization of water.

➤ President to launch Solar Charkha Mission on 27th June

- President Ram Nath Kovind will launch Solar Charkha Mission on 27 June in New Delhi to give subsidy of Rs 550 crore to 400 to 2000 artisans in 50 groups covered under this Mission.
- Giriraj Singh (Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)) said that 15 new state-of-the-art technology centers are set up all over country, of which 10 centers will become operational by March 2019.
- These centers will provide technological support to small industries.
- The Minister also informed that work being done by Ministry has promoted Ease-of-Doing-Business with these four portals: 'MSME Sambandh', MSME Samadhaan, Udyog Aadhaar and Udyam Sakhi.

➤ Cabinet approved NEC (North Eastern Council) Repositioning

- Union Cabinet (chaired by PM Narendra Modi) has approved repositioning of North Eastern Council (NEC) making Union Home Minister as ex-officio chairman of council and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) minister.
- The Cabinet has also approved that Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER would serve as Vice Chairman of the Council.
- North Eastern Council (NEC) is a statutory body with governors and chief ministers of all eight north eastern states as its member. It was set up under North Eastern Council Act, 1971 as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with states.

➤ Cabinet approved 3-year Action Plan of Agricultural Education Division & ICAR Institutes

- Union Cabinet (chaired by PM Narendra Modi) approved continuation of Three Year Action Plan (2017-2020) of scheme for Agricultural Education Division and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes with investment of Rs.2225.46 crore for strengthening and developing higher agricultural education in India.

- This scheme has allotted Rs 2,050.00 crore for strengthening and development of higher agricultural education in India, Rs. 24.25 crore for ICAR- National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) and Rs. 151.21 crore for ICAR - Central Institute of Women in Agriculture (CIWA) including All India Coordinated Research Project on Home Science.
- The main purpose of this scheme is to generate quality human resources from institutions.

➤ **IIM-Ahmedabad launched Bharat Inclusive Initiative**

- Centre for Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) of IIM-Ahmedabad has launched a Bharat Inclusion Initiative to build knowledge and promote innovation and entrepreneurial activity across areas such as financial inclusion, education and health.
- The major aim of this initiative is to channelize approximately \$25 million over coming 3-4 years towards backing game-changing start-ups influencing ongoing digital transformation in India.
- CIIE at IIM Ahmedabad helps entrepreneurs turn ideas into viable businesses.

➤ **Reliance investing in first carbon fibre unit of India**

- Reliance Industries Ltd. is investing in setting up India's first carbon fibre manufacturing unit to fulfill aerospace and defence needs.
- It will make low-cost and high-volume composite products like modular toilets, homes and composites for windmill blades and rotor blades. Reliance has developed capabilities for 3D printing of wide-range of plastic and metals products.
- Carbon fibre is made by heating lengths of rayon to extremely high temperatures in oxygen-deprived oven.

➤ **National Tribal Museum to be built at Delhi**

- National Tribal Museum along with National Level Tribal Research Institute is proposed to be set up at Delhi by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The Museum will showcase rich tribal culture and heritage using state-of-the-art technologies.
- The proposal to set up this Museum has already been sent to Niti Ayog. The Centre is sanctioning Rs 16 crore for the purpose.

➤ **New Incredible India website launched by Tourism Ministry**

- Shri K.J. Alphons (Minister of State for Tourism) launched new Incredible India website to project India as a "must-visit" destination.
- The website showcases India as a holistic destination revolving around major experiences such as spirituality, heritage, adventure, culture, yoga, wellness and more. The website is aesthetically designed to enable easy dissemination of a large amount of information.
- The website has many useful features to make it more interactive and to provide a deeper engagement to travelers visiting website.

➤ **PM Narendra Modi to chair 4th meeting of NITI Aayog**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to chair 4th meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog in New Delhi to discuss various issues including measures taken to double farmers' income and progress of flagship schemes.
- The main purpose of this meeting is to double farmers' income and progress of flagship scheme such as Ayushman Bharat, National Nutrition Mission and Mission Indradhanush and celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- It planned for a 3 year action plan to develop new agenda for "New India 2022".

➤ **Union Human Resource Development Minister launched National Digital Library of India**

- Shri Prakash Javadekar (Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister) launched 'National Digital Library of India' on occasion of National Reading Day in New Delhi.
- National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a project of HRD Ministry under sponsorship of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).
- The digital library at present hosts 17 million-plus items (books, audio books, images, etc) in 200-plus languages from more than 170 institutions. It has been built by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur.

➤ **7th India Minerals and Metals forum inaugurated**

- 7th India Minerals and Metals forum has been inaugurated in New Delhi. The forum seeks to come up with solutions to leverage in sector with changing global scenario.
- The representatives took knowledge on the need to consolidate small players for strengthening of overall health of industry.
- The concerns on metal recycling were also looked upon.

➤ **Initiatives for Online Professional Development launched by HRD Ministry Using SWAYAM**

- Human Resource Development Ministry (HRD) launched a major initiative of online professional development using open online courses platform SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active- Learning for Young Aspiring Minds).
- In the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centers have been identified which are tasked to prepare online training material with focus on Latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.
- This is a unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty.

➤ **Skill India organized 'Ajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Mela' in Bhubaneswar**

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), joined hands to expand the "Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan" which is promoting social harmony and awareness around the initiatives of the government.
- Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched more than 29 state of art multi-skill 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras' across the country.
- MSDE organized a Kaushal and Rojgar Mela at New Women's College in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

➤ **15th finance commission constituted an advisory council**

- 15th Finance Commission has constituted an advisory council to advise and help the commission.
- Arvind Virmani (President of Forum for Strategic Initiatives) will head this six-member council.
- The role and functions of this council is to advise commission on any issue or subject related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission.

➤ **Centre approved establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Bhopal**

- Union Cabinet approved establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) at Bhopal as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under charge of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the meeting. The approvals were announced by Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 179.54 crore in first three years which includes the non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 128.54 crore and recurring expenditure of Rs. 51 crore.
- The main purpose of this project is to provide rehabilitation services to the persons with mental illness, policy framing and advanced research in mental health rehabilitation.

➤ **Indore- India's cleanest city In Swachh Survekshan 2018**

- According to the Swachh Survekshan 2018 results, Indore has been emerged as cleanliest city in India. Bhopal ranked 2nd and Chandigarh 3rd in this survey at national level.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri made this announcement in New Delhi.
- Swachh Survekshan 2018 was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the Swachh Bharat Mission and determines 4203 urban local bodies.
- Besides, Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh is India's cleanest big city with a population of over 10 lakh.

➤ **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved Development of Infra Components for 'Freight Village'**

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the development of trunk infrastructure components for integrated multi-modal logistics hub as 'Freight Village' at Nangal Chaudhary in Haryana under Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project.
- The development of the Freight Village in Haryana will be on 886 acres of land plot which will be implemented by project Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in two phases.
- These components include roads and services, building complex, water, sewage and common effluent treatment plant.
- A freight village is a defined area within which all the activities related with transport, logistics & distribution of goods are carried out by different operators.

➤ **Intellectual Property Mascot 'IP Nani' launched by Suresh Prabhu**

- Suresh Prabhu (Union Minister of Commerce and Industry) has launched Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani' at a conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.
- The main purpose of this policy is to increase the awareness on IPR for school children to raise creativity and ability to innovate from a very young age.
- The first and foremost objective of this policy is - "IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion".

➤ **PM Modi to lay foundation stone of Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of Zojila tunnel (Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel) on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Leh, Jammu and Kashmir.
- He will also lay the foundation stones for ring road projects in Srinagar and Jammu costing nearly Rs 3,884 crore.
- The 14-km long Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel and will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.
- PM Modi also dedicated a 330 MW Kishenganga hydroelectric project from Srinagar. There are total 7 functional National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) projects in J&K. The project has been built at a cost of Rs 5200cr.

➤ **26th PRAGATI Interaction chaired by PM Narendra Modi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired 26th interaction through PRAGATI.
- In this interaction PM reviewed progress of handling and damage compensation related to post offices and railways.
- He also reviewed nine infrastructure projects in Railways, Road, Petroleum and Power sectors.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also discussed number of other issues besides financial matters.

➤ **Union Cabinet approved to set up 1st national sports university in Manipur**

- Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance to set up country's 1st national sports university in Manipur. The Manipur government has already allocated land for the university.
- The university will be spread over 325 acres in Imphal West district with cost of Rs 524 crore.
- PM Modi announced this proposal to set up national sports university in Manipur while Rs 100 crore funds for it were allocated in the 2014-15 budgets.

➤ **15th Finance Commission constitutes a HLG (High Level Group)**

- 15th Finance Commission has constituted a HLG (high level group) consisting of renowned experts from across the country in Health Sector.
- The main purpose of this High Level Group on Health Sector is to assess the existing regulatory framework in Health sector and examine its strength and weaknesses for authorizing a balanced yet faster expansion of this sector.
- Dr. Randeep Guleria (Director of AIIMS, New Delhi) will be its convener.

➤ **15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**

- According to Indian Embassy's Minister of Community Affairs Anurag Kumar, 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in the holy city of Varanasi in January 2019.
- PM Narendra Modi along with his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth will inaugurate 2019 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- The theme of 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India".
- The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was held in New Delhi.

➤ **Kerala to host Asia's largest startup conclave**

- Asia's largest startup ecosystem conclave "Huddle Kerala" is all set to be held at Kovalam.
- CM of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate this conclave organized by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) in association with Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

➤ **Khadi Store Locator App launched**

- The Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Giriraj Singh has launched a mobile application for locating 4000 Khadi stores in India.
- This was informed by Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman KVIC in the the 9th National Board of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) held in New Delhi.
- There are more than 8000 khadi stores in India. The location of rest of the stores will also be available on this app by the end of April.

➤ **1st Van Dhan Vikas Kendra launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

- Union Ministry of Tribal affairs has launched "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.
- It has been established for providing skill improvement and capacity building training and value addition facility.
- This Kendra will have processing facility for making of Tamarind brick, storage facility of Mahua flower and cleaning and packaging of Chironji (*Buchanania lanzan*).

➤ **Prime Minister launched DefExpo 2018 in Chennai**

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of Defence Expo, held in Chennai at Tiruvudanthur, in Kancheepuram district.
- The tag line of DefExpo this year is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' to reveal India's capability in export of defence systems.
- MSME sector had a fair representation this time around 15%.
- Indian participation includes Tata, L&T, Kalyani, Bharat Forge, Mahindra and many others.

➤ **PM is all set to inaugurate Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial in Delhi**

- On the birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at Alipur Road in Delhi.
- At this place Dr. Ambedkar achieved Mahaparinirvana on 6th December 1956.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of this memorial on March 21, 2016.

➤ **2nd India Mobile Congress (INC) to be held in New Delhi**

- Union Communications Minister Manoj Sinha declared that second edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) will be held in New Delhi.
- The department of telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) will host the 2nd edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) in October 2018.
- The event will serve as a platform for policy makers to engage in meaningful deliberations on contemporary issues of the sector.
- Around 200000 professionals from the telecom industry, representatives from US, Canada, European Union, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries will attend this event.
- First edition of IMC was held in September 2017 in New Delhi.

➤ **7th Edition of Home Expo India 2018 inaugurated by Smriti Irani**

- The 7th edition of Home Expo India 2018 was inaugurated at India Expo Centre & Mart in Greater Noida by Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani.
- It was organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
- Minister of State for Textiles Ajay Tamta was the guest of honour.
- Home Expo India 2018 is expected to generate business deals for direct import.

➤ **Minister of Communications launches DARPAN-PLI App**

- Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha launched DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India)-PLI (Postal Life Insurance) app that will help in collection of premium for Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) policies at Branch Post Offices with online updation.
- With the help of this, indexing of maturity claims in respect of PLI and RPLI policies can be done at Branch Post Office.
- The purpose of launch of this app is to connect all 1.29 lakh rural branch post offices in the country to enable them to do online Postal and Financial Transactions.

➤ **India's 1st e-Commerce Think Tank meet**

- The commerce and industry minister, Suresh Prabhu held 1st e-Commerce think tank meeting in New Delhi.
- This meeting aims at framing a national policy on e-commerce.
- The setting up of this e-commerce think tank by the ministry may be interpreted as the government to understand the growth potential of the e-commerce industry in India.

➤ **Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 29th Road Safety Week**

- Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the 29th Road Safety Week at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- He released "Have a Safe Journey" book.
- Central government has increased number of National Highways due to traffic density.
- Mr Gadkari has announced that India will sign an agreement with South Korea for enhancing road safety measures.



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➤ **Madras HC, 1st Court in South India to introduce e-Court Fee Payment Facility**

- Madras High Court became the 1st court in south India and overall 8th in the country to introduce e-Court fee payment facility.
- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee launched this facility.
- The new system will enable opponent who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to the government through e-stamps which can be purchased both online and offline.

➤ **NITI Aayog launched Atal New India Challenge**

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of the NITI Aayog launched the Atal New India Challenge with an aim to introduce innovations and technologies related to people.
- Atal Innovation Mission has partnered with Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Agriculture and Family Welfare, and Drinking Water & Sanitation for this new initiative.
- It will focus on efforts towards solving problems in central areas which would have direct effect on improving lives of citizens.

➤ **1st edition of cancer screening mela organized in Mizoram**

- The Health Department of Mizoram along with Public Foundation of India and National Health Mission organized Cancer Screening Mela in Mizoram under the action of Swasth Uttar Purv.
- Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) funded the Cancer Screening Mela at Diakkawn YMA Hall, Kolasib District in Mizoram.

STATE NEWS

➤ **Andhra Pradesh gets new state bird and state flower**

- Andhra Pradesh government has declared new state symbols to replace ones held by Telangana after it was created.
- The Rose-ringed parrot popularly known as 'Rama Chiluka' has been chosen as state bird.
- The neem is official tree of Andhra Pradesh. The blackbuck is state animal whereas Jasmine is state flower. Palapitta is now state bird of Telangana, Odisha and Karnataka.

➤ **Maharashtra Government unveils 'sandbox' to aid startups**

- Maharashtra Government has announced opening up of a 'sandbox' to aid start-ups to develop financial capital into a Fintech hub.
- Maharashtra is first state to have a dedicated fintech policy and it is also planning to have a dedicated 'Fintech Officer' in Department of Information Technology.
- Sandbox is seen as a safe zone to test financial innovation which sees limited rollout of new products to select customers. Reserve Bank panel had recommended introducing a "regulatory sandbox" to foster financial technology innovation.

➤ **Andhra Pradesh government launches scale-out scheme for natural farming**

- Andhra Pradesh government launched a Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF) scale-out scheme, aimed at benefitting around six million farmers by 2024. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu made this announcement.
- The state agriculture department also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard with Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF).
- The main purpose of this agreement is to scale up ZBNF against investment worth Rs. 16,134 crores over next six years. Andhra Pradesh government here aims to bring all farmers in state under scheme by 2024.

➤ **Odisha govt launches health insurance scheme for journalists**

- Odisha government launched a health insurance scheme “Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana” for working journalists. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the scheme.
- In first stage, around 3,233 working journalists will get health insurance coverage up to Rs 2 lakh a year. At least five members of journalist’s family will be covered under this scheme.
- The scribes will get their health insurance card from District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO) in their respective districts.

➤ **Punjab government launched ‘Business First Portal’ to ease out trade in Punjab**

- Punjab Government launched a ‘Business First Portal’ to give a big push towards ease of doing business. Sunder Sham Arora (state’s Industry Minister) unveiled this portal in Jalandhar, Punjab.
- Addressing industrialists present at launch, Minister stated that online portal would enable the industrialists for regulatory clearances and fiscal approvals on a common platform.
- He also said that jobs under Ghar Ghar Naukri flagship program of state government could be accomplished only if industry was developed.

➤ **President declares ‘Queen Pineapple’ as Tripura’s State Fruit**

- President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit.
- Kovind said that state holds good potential in world trade; hence Export of pineapple to foreign countries is a major step in connecting with world trade.
- He also inaugurated National Highway from Matabari to Sabroom in Udaipur, Tripura and visited Matabari Temple complex in Udaipur.

➤ **HP Government to scrap semester system in UG courses**

- Himachal Pradesh government decided to do away with semester system in under-graduate courses and return to annual examination system.
- Suresh Bharadwaj (Education Minister) said that decision has been taken on recommendation made by an investigation committee headed by former vice chancellor to review RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan). RUSA was introduced in state in 2013.
- Asserting that thrust of government was on qualitative improvement in education, a decision has also been taken to start nursery classes in 3,000 schools from this year.

➤ **Landfill site turns into tree museum in Vadodara**

- Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) of Gujarat has converted a garbage dumping ground located at Vadsar into a museum of trees.
- Under this project, 12,663 saplings were planted on area of 50,000 square meters.
- Gardening on site, which is worth 250 crore, began in 2016 after locals complained of bad smell emanating from landfill.
- Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated the project.

➤ **Punjab to install dust collectors in grain markets**

- Punjab is all set to counter dust pollution in grain markets across state with installation of dust collectors on nearly 50,000 grain cleaning machines, providing relief to 3,00,000 directly-affected workers.
- Pollution is main reason of respiratory and lung diseases among labourers, farmers and commission agents as well as those living in area of grain markets.
- Under this project, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has developed certain types of machines that collect dust particles which pollute the air during the crops' cleaning process.
- There are 50,000 mechanical grain cleaners in Punjab and 6 workers work on a single machine making at least 300,000 workers directly affected by dust pollution. This machine's test in Asia's largest grain market in Khanna town was successful.

➤ **Odisha CM announced health care assistance**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that state government would launch health assurance scheme "Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana" on August 15 that will benefit around 3.5 crore people from over 70 lakh families in state.
- Under this programme, a family would get up to Rs 5 lakh per annum to meet healthcare expenditure at all government-run hospitals and entire cost would be borne by state government.

➤ **Tripura launched 24x7 Mobile Policing Service**

- Tripura government has launched GPS (Global Positioning System) and wireless-based 24x7 'mobile policing' service to restrict crime especially against women.
- With launch of this service, people won't need to go to police and police would go to spot within a few minutes to deal with situation.
- It would save time and physical involvement.

➤ **"School Chale Hum Abhiyan 2018" launched in Bhopal**

- Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister) inaugurated 'School Chale Hum Abhiyan 2018' in Bhopal.
- The main purpose of this scheme is that no child should be deprived of schooling. Vijay Shah (Cabinet Minister for School Education), who was also present at event, urged every person to send one underprivileged poor kid to school.
- The CM also rewarded students of various schools with cash prizes at a function.

➤ **i-Hariyali app launched by Punjab government**

- Punjab government launched a Smartphone application named "i-Hariyali" under 'Mission Tandarust' to offer free saplings for users and to increase state's green cover.
- The users can book a sapling of their choice, a maximum of 25 per person, from a nearby government nursery.
- The main purpose of this app is to inspire people to plant more saplings to save environment from pollution. It will ensure clean, green, healthy and robust Punjab with active participation of people.

➤ **Rajasthan ranked 1st in water conservation**

- Rajasthan has been ranked 1st by NITI Aayog among all states after it registered a significant rise in groundwater level due to water conservation structures built under Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan.
- The state also witnessed an increase of 81% in irrigation capacity.
- As many as 4 lakh structures were built in Rajasthan in last 3 years.

➤ **World record of Yoga session created in Kota**

- Guinness world record was created by conducting largest yoga session to mark the International Yoga Day at Kota, Rajasthan where over one lakh people together performed yogic exercises.
- Yoga guru Ramdev conducted this yoga session attended by CM Vasundhara Raje, ministers, officers and local people at RAC ground.
- Previous record was of 55,524 people performing yoga in Mysore in 2017.

➤ **Haryana government gives star ranking to panchayats**

- Haryana government has become 1st state in India to give star rankings to its panchayats on basis of seven social parameters (such as sex ratio, good education, hygiene or serenity, environment preservation, good governance and social participation) under state's 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme launched by Chief Minister Manohar Lal.
- Total 1,120 villages of Haryana have achieved star rankings and will be awarded Rs.1 lakh for achieving each parameter.
- Ambala topped star ranking with 407 stars followed by Gurugram with 199 stars & Karnal with 75 stars.

➤ **Gujarat government launches wind-solar hybrid power policy**

- Gujarat government has announced its wind-solar hybrid power policy - 2018 to promote setting up of wind as well as solar power projects at one location to ensure optimal use of land and transmission infrastructure. 'Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018' will remain in force for five years.
- The main purpose of this policy is to make optimum utilization of land and grid lines. A power project could also be set up on a land being used for wind farms.
- Under the policy, developers can set up wind energy units on land currently in use for solar power units.
- At present, Gujarat produces approximately 7,100 MW of non-conventional energy including 5,500 MW of wind power and 1,600 MW of solar power.

➤ **Andhra Pradesh's new project 'Bhu Seva'**

- Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister KE Krishnamurthy started Andhra Pradesh government's 'Bhu Seva' (land hub) project. This project aims at offering integrated services related with land.
- CH Vijayamohan is the Mission Director of Bhu Seva Mission.
- According to this project, each land parcel will be given a Bhudhar Number (an 11 digit unique number).
- A pilot project of this scheme was launched in Jaggaiah Peta Mandal and Vuyyur Nagar Panchayat of Krishna district.

➤ **'Go to Village' mission launched in Manipur**

- Manipur CM N. Biren Singh launched 'Go to Village' mission throughout the state of Manipur.
- This mission was launched in 60 villages of all the 60 Assembly constituencies.
- The main purpose of this mission is to identify the eligible and deserving beneficiaries in every corner of the state.

➤ **1st dolphin count begin in Punjab**

- Punjab government along with World Wide Fund (WWF)-India is organizing the 1st count of Indus dolphins (one of the world's rarest mammals).
- Found only in India and Pakistan, the Indus dolphins are restricted to only 185 km stretch between Talwara and Harike Barrage in India's Beas River in Punjab.
- Indus river dolphin is the national mammal of Pakistan.

➤ **'Star Khel Mahakumbh' launched at Himachal Pradesh**

- BJP Member of Parliament Anurag Thakur and great cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has launched 'Star Khel Mahakumbh' at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.
- This action has been designed to attract participation of at least one lakh youth from across 5000 villages and 800 panchayats.
- The athletes will compete in volleyball, basketball, cricket, football, kabaddi and athletics.

➤ **Andhra Pradesh CM launches NCBN app to implement effective governance**

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu launched the official 'NCBN' (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App in a conference held at Amravati.
- The main purpose of this app is to implement effective governance in Andhra Pradesh.
- It will be a direct platform for the common people to interact with the government.

➤ **Madhya Pradesh launched 1st integrated smart cities control centre**

- Madhya Pradesh has launched India's 1st Integrated Control & Command Centre for all the 7 smart cities of the state in Bhopal.
- This centre will enable authorities to observe the status of various smart civic amenities in real-time through the sensors connected to it.
- The main purpose of this mission is to develop 100 smart cities across the country.

➤ **Himachal Pradesh launched Riverfront Cleaning Campaign**

- The Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) in support with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change has launched Riverfront Cleaning Campaign.
- The campaign will cover three districts — Mandi, Kullu and Bilaspur.
- The campaign involves over 1,000 schoolchildren of eco clubs under National Green Corps Programme and World Wide Entertainment (WWE) former champion as the brand ambassador.

➤ **Shivraj Singh Chauhan launches 'My MP Rojgar Portal'**

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'My MP Rojgar Portal' in 'Ham Chhu Lenge Asman' Mukhyamantri Career Counselling programme 'Pahal' in Model School of Bhopal.
- The main aim of this portal is to provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills and interest and to ensure availability of able candidates to employers according to need of their business.
- Madhya Pradesh Skill Development and Employment Generation Board under youth empowerment mission prepared this portal.

➤ **Multi Modal Logistic Park inaugurated at Goa**

- Multi Modal Logistic Park inaugurated at Balli station near Madgaon in Goa on Konkan Railway Route.
- This logistic park will be able to handle both domestic and exim container traffic.
- The park was set up between Konkan Railway and CONCOR (Container Corporation of India Limited) with an investment of 43 cr.

➤ **Jammu set up its first tulip garden at Sanasar**

- Jammu's first tulip garden has been set up at Sanasar in Ramban district developed by Floriculture Department.
- This garden has been set up on half an acre of land near the Sanasar Lake.
- Red, yellow and white tulips have been grown in this garden.

➤ **Assam Spring Festival organised at Manas National Park**

- The two-day Assam Spring Festival was held at the Manas National Park where visitors will experience the state's local food, music, handloom and handicrafts.
- The aim of the festival is to promote the local food and culture.

Why IBT?

100+

Centers Across India

8000+

Selection in last year

13500+

**Selections in SSC
FCI/LIC & State Level**

3500+

**Selections in SSC
CGL Examination**

2000+

**Final Selections in
IBPS CLERK-2016**

500+

**Final Selections in
IBPS PO-2016**

- The Festival was organized by Indian Weavers' Association and the Swankar Mithinga Onsai Afat (association of reformed poachers who are now involved in wildlife conservation in Manas)
 - The Manas National park is also a tiger and rhino reserve. It covers five districts of Assam: Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang, Udalguri and Barpeta.
- **Odisha's second longest river bridge opened**
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a 2.5-km-long bridge 'Ib Setu', built over the Ib River in Sambalpur district.
 - This is Odisha's second longest bridge, built at a cost of Rs. 117.50 crore.
 - The bridge has enabled direct road connectivity between Sambalpur and Brajarajnagar in Jharsuguda district and the distance has been reduced to 50 km.
- **Diu becomes 1st city to run on 100% renewable energy during daytime**
- Diu Smart City has become the 1st city in India that runs on 100% renewable energy during daytime setting a new pattern for other cities to become clean and green.
 - This city had been importing 73% of its power from Gujarat until 2017.
 - To further raise its solar capacity, Diu offers its residents a subsidy of Rs10, 000-50,000 for installing 1-5KW rooftop solar panels.
 - Diu is saving about 13,000 tons of carbon emissions every year.
- **Shirui Lily festival concluded in Manipur**
- Shirui Lily Festival 2018 of Manipur was concluded at Ukhrul district.
 - The department of tourism sponsored the festival to spread awareness about preservation of the endangered Shirui Lily and promote the district of Ukhrul as a tourist destination.
 - The festival aims to promote afforestation and sustainable tourism efforts in Manipur.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Cuba and US to resume direct postal service**
- Cuba and United States have agreed to permanently restore direct postal service between two countries which had been suspended for decades.
 - The restoration of this service allows postal delivery of mail, parcels, and express courier deliveries on direct flights between Cuba and US, and through post offices in both countries.
 - The direct postal service between two neighboring nations was suspended by Havana in 1968.
- **7th OPEC international Seminar 2018**
- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is going to host 7th OPEC International Seminar at Imperial Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria.
 - The theme of this year's seminar is "Petroleum – cooperation for a sustainable future".
 - The Seminar will feature presentations by officials from energy and oil ministries, executives from oil companies and financial firms and other representatives from international organizations and research institutions.
- **World's 1st International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics launched**
- World's 1st International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics (ICHF) has been launched at Gandhinagar-based Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU). (GFSU) will have centre of excellence in field of humanitarian forensics for SAARC countries.
 - The main purpose of Centre would be to provide service to nation and to entire world when need arises.
 - The decision was taken at 2nd South Asia Conference on Management of the Dead organized by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at Kathmandu, Nepal.

➤ **3rd edition of UNPCAP inaugurated in New Delhi**

- The 3rd edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) has been inaugurated at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. The 1st and 2nd editions of this course were held in New Delhi in 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India (CUNPK) organized this course in partnership with the United States to enhance the capacity of African Troop Contributing Countries to the UN and to further train the trainers from these countries.
- Ruchi Ghanashyam (Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs) chaired this inaugural session.

➤ **UNDP to organize skill development centre in Hyderabad**

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is all set to organize a skill development centre at 'Bharosa' (an integrated support centre for distressed women and children) in Hyderabad. Bharosa is a state-of-the-art centre set up by Hyderabad City Police to support women and children who are victims of violence.
- The main purpose of this centre is to empower unsafe and marginalized women by providing skills training.
- Since its establishment in 2016, around 3,560 victims have approached this centre with a range of problems.

➤ **India-China informal summit**

- The 1st Informal Summit between PM Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping was held in Wuhan.
- The purpose of this meeting is to discuss issues of bilateral and global importance.
- Both leaders agreed about the simultaneous emergence of India and China as two large economies.

➤ **International Buddhist meet started in Lumbini**

- International Buddhist Conference has been started in Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha.
- The purpose of this conference is to spread teachings of Buddha to the international community.
- Delegates from 16 countries including U.S., Japan, India, China, Indonesia and Sri Lanka will attend this conference.

➤ **International Children's theatre festival in Kolkata**

- Children of various theatre groups from eight countries will participate in International Children's Theatre Festival in Kolkata.
- These eight countries are France, Slovenia, Swaziland, Mexico, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- 'Kolkata Eso Natak Shikhi' organized this festival. The theme of this festival is "Safe Drive Save Life, Save Kids' Life".

➤ **WHO launches 'REPLACE' to remove Trans fat in food by 2023**

- World Health Organization (WHO) launched a plan to remove artificial Trans fat from the food supply by 2023.
- WHO demanded governments to use 'REPLACE' action package to remove industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from food supply.
- Removal of Trans fats is the key to protecting the health and saving lives. The global health body estimated that every year Trans fat intake leads to over 5, 00,000 deaths worldwide due to cardiovascular diseases.

➤ **India's 'Green Good Deeds' gets global recognition**

- Green Good Deeds has found acceptance by the global community. Union Minister for Environment, Dr Harsh Vardhan launched this societal movement.
- The main purpose of this movement is to protect the environment and promote good living in the country.
- BRICS Ministerial on Environment in South Africa has decided to include "Green Good Deeds" in its official agenda in next Ministerial in Brazil.

➤ **India- 6th wealthiest country with total wealth of \$8,230 billion**

- India is the 6th wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of \$8,230 billion while US is richest nation globally.
- According to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, the US is wealthiest country in the world with total wealth of \$62,584 billion followed by China with \$24,803 billion at second place and Japan at the third place with \$19,522 billion.
- “Total wealth” refers to private wealth held by all individuals living in each country. It includes all their assets i.e. property, cash, business interests etc.
- Globally, total private wealth held worldwide amounts to around \$215 trillion.

➤ **71st World Health Assembly held in Geneva**

- 71st World Health Assembly has been held in Geneva, Switzerland. This event was joined by 194 members of the WHO along with top officials of the Ministry of Health and other permanent missions in Geneva.
- Mr J P Nadda (Union Health Minister of India) led this assembly at World Health Assembly.
- The theme of this event is "Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage".
- Mr Nadda also inaugurated ‘Walk the Talk’ event and gave a call ‘Health for all, Yoga for all’.

➤ **World’s largest bird sculpture ‘Jatayu’ to be inaugurated in Kerala**

- Kerala is all set to inaugurate world’s largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth’s Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The model of bird ‘Jatayu’ (a character in the Ramayana) is 200ft long, 150ft broad and 70ft tall and has 15,000 square feet of floor area. It is positioned right at the top of a rock situated 1000 feet above sea level. It is claimed to be the biggest functional sculpture in Asia.
- The rock ‘Jatayupara’ where the structure is based is the place where Jatayu fell after its wings were cut by Ravana.

➤ **Nepal becomes 1st country in South- East Asia to eliminate Trachoma**

- Nepal has become the 1st country in south-east Asia to eliminate trachoma. Trachoma is a kind of Chlamydial infection that happens due to unclean water supply & lack of hygiene and spreads through contact with nose throat or eye of infected person.
- Nepal government took some important measures like providing incentives to districts & local communities to build latrines in order to improve sanitation.
- Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in the Himalayan nation in the 1980s.

➤ **India to host ASEAN India Film Festival**

- India is all set to host ASEAN India Film Festival. Rajyavardhan Rathore (Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting) will inaugurate the ASEAN India Film Festival in Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi.
- The festival celebrates the excellence of cinema by showcasing films from various ASEAN countries.
- The Film Festival will be a platform for people of the film industry of member countries to explore areas of cooperation in domain of cinema & cultural cooperation.
- The tagline of this Festival is - ‘Friendship through Films’.

➤ **Russia launches world’s 1st floating nuclear power station**

- Russia launched the world’s 1st floating nuclear power station in the port of the city of Murmansk to meet growing electricity demands. The plant is owned by the state-run nuclear energy corporation Rosatom.
- The ship contains two 35MW nuclear reactors which can produce sufficient electricity to power a town of 200,000 inhabitants.
- This station will be used to power oil supplies as Russia pushes further north into the Arctic to work out for oil and gas and needs electricity in far-flung locations.

- **India becomes world's second largest producer in mobile phones**
 - According to information shared by Indian Cellular Association (ICA), India is now second largest producer of mobile phones in world following China.
 - With 11 million units produced in 2017, India replaced Vietnam.
 - The top three mobile producing countries are China, India and Vietnam.
- **India becomes world's second largest producer of crude steel**
 - According to Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI), India has become 2nd largest producer of crude steel in world.
 - India has overtaken Japan to become 2nd largest producer.
 - China is the current largest producer of crude steel in the world that contributes more than 50% of steel production in the world
- **World's largest solar park to set up in Gujarat**
 - Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced that Gujarat is all set to build India's largest 5,000MW solar park in Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR).
 - It will be established on 11,000 hectares of land along the Gulf of Khambhat in DSIR.
 - The establishment of this solar park will attract investment of Rs 25,000 crore
 - It will also provide employment for more than 20,000 people.
- **'Road Safety Trust Fund' launched by United Nations**
 - United Nations' Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed launched the 'UN Road Safety Trust Fund' for improvement of road safety.
 - This will help in stimulating the action that can save lives and prevent injuries and sufferings related with road accidents.
 - The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is appointed as the Secretariat for the Trust Fund.
- **IIIDEM organized Consultative Workshop for the delegation from CEC of Kazakhstan**
 - India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) organized a 2-day Consultative Workshop for Delegation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Kazakhstan at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi.
 - The six-member delegation includes of the Vice-Chairman of CEC, Kazakhstan and other Senior Officers.
 - Aim of this workshop is to hold interactive discussions on the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) & Role of IT.
 - IIIDEM was established by Election Commission of India in June 2011 to advance its professional competence in election management.
- **Swaziland King changed country's name to 'Kingdom of eSwatini'**
 - Africa's last absolute monarch, Swaziland's King Mswati III, officially changed country's name to the 'Kingdom of eSwatini'.
 - This announcement was made during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the King's 50th birthday as well as the 50th anniversary of Swazi's independence from British colonial rule.
- **8th South Asian Judo Championship began in Nepal**
 - 8th South Asian Judo Championship has begun in Lalitpur district of Nepal. Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will also take part in this 3-day championship.
 - Total 102 players including 13 from India will compete for 7 gold, 7 silver and 14 bronze medals each in men's and women's categories. India won all 7 Gold Medals in women's section.

➤ Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) – 2018

- The 6th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was hosted by Iran at Tehran. The Chief of the Naval Staff is leading a 4-member Indian delegation for the event. The IONS was conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008.
- The inaugural edition of IONS was held in February 2008 at New Delhi with Indian Navy as the Chair for two years.
- This was followed by UAE from 2010 - 2012, South Africa from 2012 - 2014, Australia from 2014 - 2016 and Bangladesh from 2016 - 2018.

➤ Business beyond Borders: International SME Convention – 2018 begins in New Delhi

- Representatives from 37 countries will participate in the 1st ever International SME Convention held in New Delhi.
- Some of the participating countries are Australia, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Sri Lanka, South Africa and UAE.

➤ Canada and European Union to Host World's 1st Female Foreign Ministers Meeting

- Canada and the European Union are all set to host world's first female foreign ministers meeting in Canada.
- Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland made this announcement.
- Female Foreign ministers from around 30 countries will be invited to this assembly, which aims at deepening global discussion on women's empowerment.

➤ ADB will give an aid of Rs1, 700 crore to Uttarakhand

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in principle to give Rs 1,700 crore aid to Uttarakhand for development of infrastructure and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
- Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced this agreement by the country director of ADB's India Region Mission Kenichi Yokoyama at a meeting in Dehradun.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES**➤ World Bank approved funding for Atal Bhujal Yojana**

- World Bank has approved Indian government's scheme "Atal Bhujal Yojana" worth Rs 6,000 crore to recharge and maintain groundwater level in some areas which are facing a severe water crisis in coming years.
- The scheme will be implemented over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 with cooperation from World Bank. Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit over 8,000 villages in over 70 districts in various states.
- The main purpose of this scheme is to improve groundwater management in priority areas through community participation.

➤ Environment Ministry launched Green Skill Development Programme

- Union Environment Ministry launched its full-fledged Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP). The major aim of this programme is to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in country through 30 courses by 2021.
- Environment minister Harsh Vardhan also launched a related mobile app called GSDP-ENVIS.
- GSDP was launched last year as a pilot project in 10 districts of the country.

➤ GOBAR-DHAN Scheme launched by Swachh Bharat Mission

- GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) - DHAN scheme has been launched by Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Uma Bharti at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Auditorium, Karnal, Haryana. This scheme was launched in the presence of the CM of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar.

- The purpose of this scheme is to create rural livelihood opportunities and increase income for farmers and other rural people.
 - The Swachh Bharat Mission includes two main components for creating clean villages – creating open defecation free (ODF) villages and managing solid and liquid waste in villages.
- **Cabinet approves Doubling of Investment Limit for Senior Citizens**
- Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY).
 - This will provide a larger social security cover to the Senior citizens. It will enable up to Rs.10000 Pension per month for Senior Citizens.
 - The time limit for subscription has also been extended from 4th May 2018 to 31st March, 2020.
- **Coal Ministry launches UTTAM APP for quality monitoring**
- Union Minister for Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM app for quality monitoring.
 - UTTAM stands for Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal.
 - The app has been developed by Union Minister of coal and Coal India Limited (CIL).
 - UTTAM app provides coverage of Third Party Sampling that includes information on production and quantity sample of coal and will help all citizens and coal consumers across CIL subsidiaries.
- **e-FRRO scheme launched by Union Home Ministry**
- Rajnath Singh, the Union Home Minister launched a web-based application, e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office (e-FRRO) Scheme.
 - This scheme aims to provide fast and efficient services to foreigners who visit India so that they can have a pleasant stay.
 - Through this application, foreigners will be able to get 27 Visa and Immigration related services in India.
 - e-FRRO Scheme has been implemented as a pilot project in four Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs) in Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai.
- **Central Government extends Phase-1 of FAME-India scheme by 6 months**
- Central Government has announced the extension of phase 1 of the FAME-India scheme by 6 months till end of September 2018.
 - Union Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises announced this scheme.
 - Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME)–India is a part of National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020.

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➤ **Venkaiah Naidu launched health insurance scheme ‘Atal Amrit Abhiyan’ scheme**

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the health insurance scheme ‘Atal Amrit Abhiyan’ in Guwahati in the presence of Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal as well as Finance, Health and Education minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- Atal Amrit Abhiyan is a health scheme that provides free medical care of up to Rs 2 lakh for every person Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.
- Assam government has allocated Rs 400 Crore for this scheme in financial year of 2018-19. This scheme has been named after the name of former Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

➤ **CCEA approved restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Scheme**

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
- This scheme will be executed during the period from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2022 at total cost of Rs 7255.50 crore (the Central share will be Rs 4500 crore and the State share will be Rs 2755.50 crore).
- The scheme will be now extended to all the states, union territories (UTs) and in all the institutions of rural local government where Panchayats do not exist.
- The scheme will have both Central Component and State Component.

➤ **2nd edition of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan launched**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched the 2nd edition of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan under which students from 750 higher educational institutions will visit villages to get familiarize with lifestyle of people there.
- The minister suggests the students to involve local village people at every stage of problem identification and solving issues related to health, cleanliness, waste management, financial inclusion, women and child development.

➤ **1st Van Dhan Vikas Kendra launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

- Union Ministry of Tribal affairs has launched “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.
- It has been established for providing skill improvement and capacity building training and value addition facility.
- This Kendra will have processing facility for making of Tamarind brick, storage facility of Mahua flower and cleaning and packaging of Chironji (*Buchanania lanzan*).

➤ **POSHAN Abhiyaan- 1st Meeting of National Council on India’s Nutrition Challenges**

- The 1st meeting of National Council on India’s Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan was held in New Delhi.
- This meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Dr Rajiv Kumar. Dr VK Paul (Member of Health & Nutrition, NITI Aayog), Amitabh Kant (CEO of NITI Aayog) and other representatives of several ministries of the Central and State Governments also participated in this meeting.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan set up a council which is the apex body that formulate overall policies, guide and monitor all nutrition based schemes.
- The POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce the level of under-nutrition and other related problems by various nutrition related schemes.

STATE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES**➤ Rythu Bandhu scheme launched by Telangana Government**

- Telangana Government launched “Rythu Bandhu Scheme” (Farmers’ investment support scheme) at Karimnagar district.
- The government will provide 4000 per acre per season to support farm investment. It will be provided for Rabi and Kharif seasons.
- This is the first such scheme in India.

➤ Haryana Government to launch ‘Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojna’

- Haryana Government is all set to launch ‘Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojna’ to secure safety of girls students.
- State government has opened women police stations in districts for facilitating women.
- Earlier, women constituted 6% of police force which has now been raised to 9% by present government.

➤ HRD ministry launches ‘Samagra Shiksha’ scheme

- Shri Prakash Javadekar (Union Minister for Human Resource Development) launched ‘Samagra Shiksha’ for school education in New Delhi.
- This scheme focuses on improving quality of education, increasing learning outcomes and using technology to empower children and teachers.
- Samagra Shiksha is a program that combines learning from pre-school to class 12 levels and contain elements of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamk Shiksha Abhiyan and teacher education.
- Under Samagra Shiksha, every school will get sports equipment at cost of Rs. 5000 for Primary, Rs. 10,000 for Upper Primary & up to Rs. 25,000 for SSC & HSC schools to emphasize relevance of sports to realize the dream of “Khelega India Khilega India”.

➤ Rupashree Scheme launched by West Bengal government for the marriage of poor girls

- The Finance Minister of West Bengal, Amit Mitra has launched Rupashree scheme to ensure safe future of young girls.
- The scheme will benefit about six lac women with budgetary grant of rs 1500 cr.

➤ Ganga Hariteema Yojna launched by UP government

- Uttar Pradesh government has launched Ganga Hariteema Yojna (Ganga Greenery Scheme) in 27 districts of the state located on the bank of river Ganga.
- The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Allahabad on the bank of Sangam (the confluence of rivers of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati).
- The purpose of the scheme is to control the land erosion and enhance green cover in the catchment areas of the river Ganga.
- Uttar Pradesh’s Department of Forest has been nominated as nodal department for this scheme. The scheme will be carried out till September 16, 2018.

➤ Pocket Cop Project launched by Gujarat Government

- The Gujarat police launched the Pocket Cop project which will enable quicker verification of passport applicants and search of accused persons among others.
- Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated this project in Gandhinagar.
- Under this project, smartphones with data connectivity will be given to 4900 police personnel including every police station in-charge, investigating officer, and those involved in passport verification.

➤ Smriti Irani launches GNFC's Neem project in UP

- Union Cabinet Minister Smriti Irani launched Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC's) Neem Project in Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Under this project, GNFC expects to collect 8,000 to 10,000 MT Neem seeds from Uttar Pradesh which will provide additional income of Rs 12-15 crore for over one lakh rural woman from 2,500 villages in the State.
- GNFC has been operating Neem Project since 2015 in over 60 districts of five states including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.
- It signed MoU with IFFCO to expand this project in 15 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

➤ Pravasi Pension Scheme

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched Pravasi pension scheme.
- This scheme offers a pension of Rs 2,000 per month for people hailing from Kerala but living outside the state or the country. People aged over 60 years are eligible for this scheme.
- To avail this scheme a person has to pay Rs 100 per month.

BILATERAL RELATIONS**➤ PM Modi launched International Rupay Card, Bhim App and UPI in Singapore**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three Indian mobile payment apps- RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI at 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' in Singapore. India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS).
- RuPay users will be able to make payments at all of NETS acceptance points across Singapore. Whereas, holders of Singapore NETS will be able to make online purchase on any National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) using 2.8 million RuPay point of sale terminals in India.
- A new app-based rupee remittance mode of SBI's Singapore branch, United Payment Interface (UPI) was launched at event to expand remittance offering.
- Singapore branch of SBI is first to launch this new mode of remittance in collaboration with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).

➤ India, Belgium gears up to celebrate International Yoga Day

- India, Belgium and European Union are jointly organizing events in Belgian capital and across country to celebrate 4th International Yoga Day.
- At European Parliament, a special yoga session will be held on 21 June 2018 from 1200-1330 hrs at Yehudi Menuhin Space.
- The event will be graced by Antonio Tajani (President of the European Parliament) and Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs Minister of India).
- The yoga and meditation session will be led by renowned Indian spiritual leader and Yoga Guru, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

➤ India- 2nd highest sender of foreign students in US

- India is second highest sender of foreign students to the US, next only to China with 1, 86,000 Indian students studying in United States.
- Craig Hall (US consul general in Kolkata) stated that US is top destination for foreign students worldwide and number of Indian students in US has more than doubled in last 10 years.

➤ **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated BEL's office in Vietnam**

- Nirmala Sitharaman (Defence Minister) inaugurated 1st Representative Office of Navratna Defence Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Hanoi, Vietnam in presence of senior Indian and Vietnamese officials. She also held bilateral talks with her Vietnamese counterpart General Ngo Xuan.
- She handed over symbolic key of Representative Office of BEL to Mr Gowtama MV (Chairman and Managing Director, BEL) during Vietnam-India Defence Industry Business Meeting.
- The main purpose is to promote BEL's exports in areas such as Weapon Systems, Radar Systems, Naval Systems, Military Communication Systems, Electronic Warfare Systems, Combat Management System and Coastal Surveillance System.

➤ **India provided grant of NRs 18.07 crore to Nepal for river training**

- India has released grant of Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 18.07 crore for river training and construction of embankments along the Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Nepal.
- This river training aims at flood control and water resources management which benefit several million people inhabiting in watershed of these rivers in India and Nepal.
- Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri gave cheque of grant to Dr Sanjay Sharma, Secretary Ministry of Energy, Irrigation & Water Resources, Kathmandu in Nepal.

➤ **India and Nepal to Have Four New Air Gateways**

- India has agreed to open four new air entry points to Nepal in eastern and western parts of country facilitate movement of international traffic.
- The four routes that India agreed to make bidirectional are Kathmandu-Biratnagar-Dhaka, Kathmandu-Janakpur-Kolkata, Kathmandu-Janakpur-Patna and Kathmandu-Mahendranagar-Delhi.
- This move is aimed at facilitating plan of Buddha Air and other Nepali private carriers to connect New Delhi, India from Nepalgunj.

➤ **1st oil cargo vessel supplied to India by ADNOC**

- Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has sent 1st cargo vessel with 2 million barrels of crude oil to India for strategic petroleum reserve of the country.
- ADNOC will use some part of crude oil to supply its customers whereas the rest will remain as strategic storage for India's government to be released in case of an emergency.
- This will be the 1st such investment by any foreign company in an Indian SPR facility.

➤ **1st India-Dedicated Investment Fund of China launched by ICBC**

- Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) has launched country's 1st India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund.
- The fund is named as the ICBC Credit Suisse India Market Fund. It is China's first publicly offered fund for investing in India.
- The fund will track the distribution of the industrial structure across the Indian market.

➤ **The 114th PIC meeting between India and Pakistan held in New Delhi**

- The 114th Permanent Indus Commission held in New Delhi between India and Pakistan to discuss Indus Water Treaty (IWT) dispute and resolution of outstanding issues.
- IWT Commissioner PK Saxena and Ministry of External Affairs were part of Indian delegation, while Pakistani delegation was led by Syed Mohammad Mehar Ali Shah.
- Last PIC meeting was held in Islamabad, Pakistan in March 2017.

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➤ **1st India-Bangladesh container train flagged off**

- The trial run of the first container train was flagged off from Kolkata to Dhaka.
- The container train will take around eight hours to reach Bangladesh and can carry 60 containers with a maximum net weight of 12.247 kg of de-oiled cake, used as a raw material for animal feed.
- The train is also likely to resolve the capacity constraints of sea and land routes.

➤ **Bangladesh-India sign 129.5km oil pipeline deal**

- India and Bangladesh signed an agreement to set up a 129.5 km oil pipeline to pump oil from India to Bangladesh with a capacity of 1 million metric tons per year.
- This 129.5km long oil pipeline will be built from the Siliguri Marketing Terminal of the Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in India to the Parbaripur depot of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
- The deal is part of the six MoUs which Dhaka and Delhi signed during a bilateral meeting between foreign secretaries of Bangladesh and India at State Guesthouse Padma in capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

➤ **Sushma Swaraj attended meeting of India-Mongolia Joint Committee**

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the 6th round of India-Mongolia Joint Committee meeting with her Mongolian mate Damdin Tsogtbaatar in Ulaanbaatar.
- The meeting discussed about the trade, economic, cultural and scientific co-operation.
- Mrs Swaraj became the 1st Indian External Affairs Minister to visit the nation in 42 years.

➤ **India-Nepal IGC meeting begins**

- India-Nepal Inter Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on trade and cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade has been started in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Commerce Secretary Rita Teaotia led the Indian side.
- The purpose of this meeting will be on strengthening trade and investment between both the countries.
- This meeting provides regular platform to review implementation of past trade agreements to facilitate bilateral trade and investment.

BANKING NEWS

➤ **HDFC Bank raises lending rate by 10 bps**

- HDFC Bank, second largest private sector lender of the country, has raised marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across various loan tenures. As a result, its one-year MCLR is now at 8.4%.
- HDFC bank will charge 8.05% for one month as well as overnight loans. For six months, private bank will charge 8.25%.
- This move comes after all major banks including State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank raised MCLR by equal amount.

➤ **Mobile Banking Rank by SBI's Annual Report: Axis tops value, Paytm volumes**

- At 17.2%, Axis Bank commands largest value share of mobile banking transactions but Paytm tops volumes with 22%.
- According to State Bank of India's (SBI) annual report for 2017-18, Paytm's value share is a meager 0.25%.
- ICICI Bank has a 17.1% share of transactions by value and 9.7% by volume. SBI's volume share has slipped by over 5 percentage points from nearly 25% at end of March 2017 to 19.5% in January 2018.

➤ **Karnataka Bank unveiled 'Deposit Only Card'**

- Karnataka Bank Ltd has launched a novel card variant 'KBL-Deposit Only Card' that allow hassle-free cash deposit transactions at bank's 24X7 e-lobby services.
- This card is specially meant for Bank's Current/Overdraft customers. By using this card customers can perform card based cash deposit transactions even with higher deposit limit at Bank's Bunch Note Acceptor (BNA) / Cash Recycler kiosks.
- The limit for cash deposit a day is Rs 10 lakh.

➤ **Oriental Bank of Commerce awarded for Atal Pension Yojana**

- Oriental Bank of Commerce has been awarded as best public sector bank for Atal Pension Yojana for year 2017-18.
- Shiv Pratap Shukla (MoS for Finance) presented the award to Mukesh Kumar Jain (MD and CEO of OBC bank).
- Oriental Bank of Commerce is one of the banks in India that offers this Atal Pension Yojana to people of unorganized sector. Under this scheme, monthly benefits of fixed pension ranging between INR 1000 to INR 5000 are guaranteed.

➤ **NABARD sanctions Solar street lighting system in Arunachal Pradesh**

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned LED Solar Street Lighting system for Arunachal Pradesh under its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund with total grant of Rs 87.83 lakh.
- The project will be executed in four districts of the state- Tirap, Longding, Namsai and Tawang.
- CM Pema Khandu launched this scheme in presence of NABARD Chairman Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.

➤ **Paytm Payments Bank launches AshaKiran to educate women**

- Paytm Payments Bank has launched Paytm AshaKiran to educate rural women about financial services and create new employment opportunities in small towns and cities in India's formal banking systems.
- Paytm has partnered with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under its Disha project to mobilize self-help groups and organize workshops. Disha project is supported by the IKEA Foundation and women-related organizations like SHEROS.
- This plan is to mobilize self-help groups and organize workshops in smaller cities and towns across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

➤ **HDFC bank to offer digital loans against mutual funds**

- India's most valuable leader HDFC Bank has launched its Digital Loans against Mutual Funds in partnership with transfer agent CAMS (Computer Age Management Services).
- Customers will be able to purchase their mutual fund portfolio to avail funds for any emergencies without liquidating their investments.
- The ticket size of the loans will range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore at an interest rate of 10.5 -11%.

➤ **RBI switches back from GVA model to measure economic activity**

- The Reserve Bank of India switched back to the gross domestic product (GDP) from the gross value added (GVA) methodology to conform to international standards and global best practices.
- The government had started examining growth estimates using GVA methodology from January 2015.
- GVA gives a picture of the state of economic activity from the producers' side or supply side while GDP gives the picture from the consumers' side or demand perspective.

➤ **State Bank of India to invest a sum of Rs 80 billion in Nepal's 900 MW hydro-electric project**

- State Bank of India (SBI) is all set to invest Rs 80 billion in Nepal's Arun-III hydropower project. The move will support the Nepal-based firm to produce 900 megawatts (MW) electricity.
- The SJVN, which has been awarded the construction of the mega power project of Nepal, has made an informal agreement with the SBI to receive the investment as loan and soon will make the formal agreement.
- With the completion of the project, Nepal will get 21.9 percent of the total electricity produced in a year i.e., 197 MW electricity with 86 crore unit for free in a year.

➤ **Kotak Mahindra becomes second-most-valued bank**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank replaced SBI to become India's second-most-valued lender after HDFC Bank in terms of market capitalisation.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has a market capitalisation of 2,22,970.4 crore rupees. This bank is now among the top 10 most-valued companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- HDFC Bank remained the country's most-valuable bank with a market capitalisation of 5.04 lakh crore rupees.

➤ **Yes Bank launched overdraft facility for MSMEs**

- Yes Bank launched 'YES GST', an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- Through this, an MSME can avail OD up to Rs. 1 crore based on their annual turnover backed by GST returns.
- MSME can avail this OD facility against contract of residential or commercial property.

➤ **Indian army signs MoU with HDFC Bank**

- Indian army signed a Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with HDFC bank on the defence salary package.
- The first MoU between the Indian Army and HDFC Bank was signed in 2011 and was renewed on 13 March 2015. The new MoU is tailor-made to suit the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.
- The ceremony was chaired by the Director-General (MP&PS), Lt Gen SK Saini.
- This MoU will benefit a large number of serving and retired Army persons who are having their accounts with HDFC bank, and will also provide an opportunity to access modern banking facilities.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS, SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

➤ **Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates 1st biannual IAF Commanders Conference**

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated 1st biannual Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference at Air Headquarters in New Delhi.
- Minister of State for Defence Dr Subhash Bhamre, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa were present at conference.
- Exercise 'Gagan Shakti' was mentioned as a landmark exercise for Indian Air Force. The conference discussed operational, maintenance and administrative takeaways identified during Exercise and way ahead.

➤ **Nepal hosts Asia-Pacific regional conference on Early Childhood Development**

- Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli (Prime Minister of Nepal) inaugurated 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Early Childhood Development (ECD) Conference and 3rd Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).
- The event was hosted by Government of Nepal (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology) including participation from around 700 high level policy makers, government officials, development professionals as well as researchers from organizations working in early childhood development.

➤ **44th G7 summit 2018 held in Canada**

- 44th G7 summit was in La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada. This was 6th time since 1981 that Canada has hosted this summit.
- This summit received notable attention due to significant decline of relations of members with United States.
- Due to this, summit was dubbed "G6+1" by France and some members of media.
- The G7 is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States.

➤ **Mauritius to host 11th World Hindi Conference**

- 11th World Hindi Conference (WHC) is being organized from 18-20 August 2018 to increase popularity of Hindi globally in Mauritius by Government of India in association with Government of Mauritius.
- The World Hindi Conference is a major event organized every three years by External Affairs Ministry. World Hindi Secretariat (WHS) will be organizing authority of this year's event.
- This conference will cover both classical and modern elements of Hindi and will see participation of representatives and scholars of Hindi from all over the world. The special focus of this year's event will be on Bollywood and global reach of Hindi through movies.
- The decision to organize 11th edition of Conference in Mauritius was taken at 10th World Hindi Conference held in Bhopal, India in September 2015.

➤ **India will host first BIMSTEC war games in September**

- India will host first military exercise of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focusing on counter-terrorism in September.
- The main purpose of this exercise is to promote strategic alignment among member-states and to share best practices in area of counter-terrorism.
- The exercise is scheduled to be held in Pune in second week of September.
- BIMSTEC was set up in 1997 and includes India, Bangladesh, Bhutan Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

➤ **3rd Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Annual Meeting 2018**

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 3rd annual meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The meeting was hosted by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Government of India at Mumbai, India.
- The theme for this year's meeting is "Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration".
- The main purpose of this meeting is to share ideas and experiences for creating sustainable future through sound infrastructure investment.

➤ **'Vibrant North East 2018' held in Guwahati**

- 'Vibrant North East 2018' was held in Guwahati, Assam. Delhi-based NGO, Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD), organized this event. The event is supported by North- Eastern Council, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and All India Farmers Alliance.
- The main aim of this event is to spread information about the schemes, grants and projects of the Central Government.
- Contestants from the agriculture, food processing, consumer affairs, civil supply, drinking water and sanitation sectors participated in this event.

➤ **'1st Apex Conference for CEOs of Smart Cities' inaugurated in Bhopal**

- Mr Hardeep Puri (Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs) started the 1st Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The conference will enable the CEOs to learn from the experiences of all city leaders to understand successes and failures in greater details.
- It was launched in June 2015. The Smart Cities Mission (SCM) is one of the most transformational urban missions.
- This conference is organized for providing a platform for cross-learning and knowledge sharing among the Smart City CEOs.

➤ **President Ram Nath Kovind to inaugurate Global Exhibition on Services-2018**

- President Ram Nath Kovind is all set to inaugurate the Global Exhibition on Services-2018 in Mumbai.
- 25 Indian states and around 100 countries will participate in Global Exhibition on Services 2018, with 625 exhibitors and 500 overseas representatives.
- This event will feature roundtables and seminars, state investment summits, Business-to-business meetings, cultural activities, country and international pavilions, among others.
- President will also visit Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, where he will attend an exhibition on Department of Atomic Energy technologies and inaugurate DAE facilities in Trombay, Mumbai.

➤ **Meeting of stakeholders on ‘Samarth Scheme’ held**

- A meeting of stakeholders on ‘Samarth- Scheme for capacity building in textile sector’ under Skill India Mission was held in New Delhi.
- The main purpose of this scheme is to train the youth for profitable and sustainable employment in textile sector covering the whole value chain of textiles excluding spinning and weaving.
- The meeting was chaired by Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani. This scheme targets to train 10 lakh persons.

➤ **Venture Capital Symposium 2018 begins**

- NITI Aayog, in association with Vision India Foundation, organized Venture Capital Symposium 2018 to raise economic relationships between France and India.
- The main purpose of this event is to support the Start-up India programme that was launched by PM Modi in 2015.
- Venture Capital Symposium 2018 is an event where French investors interacted with 100 early to mid-stage Indian start-ups.

➤ **Regional Conference on “Clean and Renewable Energy” held in Bhopal**

- Shri Narayan Singh Kushwah (Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh) inaugurated Regional Conference in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The theme of this conference is - “New and Renewable Energy”.
- This is 6th such Regional Conference which is being hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with AIIB, Government of Maharashtra, RIS and CII among others in Mumbai on 25th and 26th June, 2018.
- This seminar in Bhopal was also organized by Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI).

➤ **2nd World Hindu Congress (WHC) is to be held in Chicago**

- 2nd edition of World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Chicago, US in September, 2018.
- The theme for this year’s World Hindu Congress is “Sumantrite Suvikrante” –“think collectively, achieve valiantly”.
- World Hindu Foundation organized WHC to recognize 125 years of Swami Vivekananda historic speech in Chicago addressed on September 11, 1893.

➤ **India- South Africa Business Summit**

- Suresh Prabhu (Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation) attended India- South Africa business summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The Minister highlighted the relations between India and South Africa and decided to take the economic partnership forward.
- The summit started with a series of bilateral meetings. Mr Prabhu began a multi-sectoral exhibition at Johannesburg.

➤ **12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers held in Manila**

- 12th informal meeting of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Corporation) Finance Ministers was held in Manila, Philippines on the recreation of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The meeting was chaired by Finance Minister of Nepal Yuba Raj Khatriwada. The Finance ministers of groups from SAARC member states attended the meeting. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss current status of economic progress achieved by their countries.

➤ **World Robot Conference to be held in Beijing**

- 2018 World Robot Conference will be held in Beijing.
- This event will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from more than 10 countries and regions.

➤ **United Nation Chief announced climate summit for 2019**

- UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has announced that a climate summit will take place in September 2019 in New York to review Paris Agreement commitments.
- This announcement was made at opening ceremony of 37th session of UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Guterres appointed former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as Special Envoy for Climate Action.
- In 2017, US removed itself from Paris Agreement.

➤ **6th US-India Aviation Summit**

- Suresh Prabhu (Union Minister for Civil Aviation) inaugurated 6th US-India Aviation Summit in Mumbai.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation and US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) organized this Biennial Summit.
- This summit is a technical and commercial forum by the Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation and the US Trade and Development Agency.

➤ **India to Host 15th Asia Media Summit**

- India will host the 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi.
- The theme of this summit is “Telling our Stories Asia and More”.
- The main purpose of the summit is to provide chance to the broadcasters in Asia to share their thoughts on broadcasting and information.
- Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) will organize this annual summit in corporation with its partners and international organizations.

➤ **Nepal to hold BIMSTEC 2018**

- Prime Minister of Nepal PM, KP Oli will host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.
- The main aim of BIMSTEC is to enhance technological & economic cooperation among South & South East Asian countries.
- BIMSTEC is an international organization of 7 nations of South & South East Asia including Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan & Nepal.



➤ **1st meeting of SAWEN held in India**

- 1st meeting of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement agency, was held in India.
- Its member countries are India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, Pakistan & Maldives.
- SAWEN was launched in Bhutan in 2011.

➤ **26th BASIC Ministerial meeting of Environment Ministers held in Durban**

- 26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers was held in Durban, South Africa to protect the climate for present and future generations.
- The BASIC grouping is a bloc of four countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China – formed by an agreement on November 28, 2009.
- The main purpose of this meeting is to preserve the integrity of the historic 2015 Paris Agreement, including principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and equity.

➤ **Global Logistics Summit held in New Delhi**

- Two days Global Logistics Summit was held in New Delhi.
- It was organized by Department of Commerce along with FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and the World Bank Group.
- According to Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu, 56 new airports will become functional in coming years.

➤ **Happy Cities Summit 2018' launched by Andhra CM Naidu in Amaravati**

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu and Founder of Isha Foundation Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev has launched three-day long 'Happy Cities Summit 2018' at Mangalagiri town in Amaravati.
- Around 1,000 representatives from India and abroad will take part in this Summit.
- This is the first of its kind program in India.

➤ **Logo and Website of 11th World Hindi Conference has been released**

- Education Minister of Mauritius, Leela Devi Dookhun Luchoomun released the logo and website of 11th World Hindi Conference in New Delhi.
- The conference is scheduled to be held in Mauritius in August.
- World Hindi Conference is based on Hindi language, which brings together Hindi scholars and writers from different parts of the world.
- 1st World Hindi Conference was held in January 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

➤ **POSHAN Abhiyaan- 1st Meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges**

- The 1st meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan was held in New Delhi.
- This meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Dr Rajiv Kumar. Dr VK Paul (Member of Health & Nutrition, NITI Aayog), Amitabh Kant (CEO of NITI Aayog) and other representatives of several ministries of the Central and State Governments also participated in this meeting.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan set up a council which is the apex body that formulate overall policies, guide and monitor all nutrition based schemes.
- The POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce the level of under-nutrition and other related problems by various nutrition related schemes.

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➤ **Rajnath Singh chaired 23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council**

- 23rd meeting of the Western Zonal Council was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- CM of Maharashtra and Gujarat, Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Administrator of the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and senior officers from Central and State Governments attended this meeting.
- The Zonal Councils were established under the States Reorganization Act, 1956 with the purpose to develop habit of cooperative working among States.

➤ **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to attend Moscow Conference**

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to attend VII-Moscow Conference in international conference in Russia.
- During her Russia tour, she will meet her Russian counterpart Army General Sergei Shoigu and other senior leaders.

➤ **Sushma Swaraj attended NAM ministerial in Azerbaijan**

- Union External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj has been attended Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial conference held in capital of Azerbaijan, Baku.
- The theme of the conference was – Promoting International Peace and Security for Sustainable Development.
- This conference was the first bilateral visit of an Indian External Affairs Minister to Azerbaijan.
- Ms. Swaraj also visited Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva.

➤ **International Conference on Human Rights inaugurated by Nepal President in South Asia**

- President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari started an International Conference on Human Rights in South Asia in Kathmandu.
- This conference is organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.
- The theme of the conference is "Identifying Challenges, Assessing Progress and Moving Forward: Addressing Impunity and Realizing Human Rights in South Asia".
- 20 countries including India participated in this 3-day event.

➤ **India hosts 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting**

- The 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting was held in New Delhi.
- The ministerial was attended by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Along with Energy Ministers from all over the world, the event also brought together industry leaders and heads of key international organizations to discuss the future of global energy.
- The meeting was hosted by India and co-hosted by China and South Korea.

➤ **India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 held in New Delhi**

- The Ministry of External Affairs organized the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 with the Government of Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in New-Delhi.
- The title of India-Wiesbaden Conference is 'Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540'.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) was the industry partner for this event.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH**➤ India's first indigenous Lithium-Ion Battery project signed**

- An agreement on 1st transfer of technology for lithium-ion batteries has been signed between Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI) and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd. According to Science and Technology Ministry, this MoU is first of its kind for country.
- A group at CSIR-CECRI (headed by Dr Gopu Kumar) has developed an indigenous technology of Lithium-ion cells in collaboration with CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) New Delhi, CSIR- Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI) Kolkata and Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-ICT) Hyderabad.
- The indigenous technology of lithium-ion cells has been developed by a group of scientists at Council for Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR)'s CECRI in Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu.

➤ Frozen Semen Station being set up in Maranga, Purnea

- Shri Radha Mohan Singh (Purnea Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare) laid the foundation stone of the frozen semen station in Maranga. This is set up at a cost of Rs 64 crore under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission with 100% contribution from the Central Government.
- This frozen semen station in Purnea will be the 1st state-of-the-art semen production center of the country.
- The Rashtriya Gokul Mission was initiated in December 2014 with an aim to conserve and develop indigenous breeds.

➤ China launched a satellite "Gaofen-5" to Monitor Air Pollution

- China has launched a hyper spectral imaging satellite called 'Gaofen-5' for observation of atmosphere including air pollution which is the major problem. Gaofen-5 is the first China-developed satellite that can monitor air pollution.
- Gaofen-5 satellite was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. It was 274th flight mission by Long March carrier rocket. This project was started in 2010.
- It can reflect the state of air pollution in China through the monitoring of air pollutants and greenhouse gases.

➤ India-Netherlands-Sweden to collaborate for research programme on HIV/AIDS

- Governments of India and The Netherlands have launched a collaborative research programme on HIV/AIDS between India, The Netherlands & Sweden.
- The main purpose of this programme is to harness research strengths & diverse expertise across 3 nations to bring the development of better tools to understand HIV epidemic.
- It will enable a multitude of cross-learning opportunities in HIV/AIDS research to address unmet needs & emerging challenges.
- Bruno Bruins (Minister for Medical Care, Government of the Netherlands) and Dr Renu Swarup, (Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India) will announce this programme.

➤ Delhi becomes 1st Indian city to roll-out Euro VI fuel

- In order to reduce the rising levels of air pollution, the Delhi-NCR region began ultra-clean Bharat Stage (BS)-VI grade fuel, both petrol and diesel.
- Delhi has become the 1st city in the country to switch from BS-IV fuels to BS-VI.
- BS-VI fuels will arouse in rest of the country by April 2020.
- The major difference between BS-IV fuels and BS-VI fuels is the presence of sulphur.

➤ **NASA set to launch Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite**

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is all set to launch Transit Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), which is designed to detect more exoplanets (Earth-like worlds around stars beyond our solar system).
- TESS will be launched aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Florida, US.
- Like Kepler space telescope, TESS will use a detection method called transit photometry.

➤ **India records 22% reduction in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)**

- According to Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin released by Office of the Registrar General, India recorded 22% reduction in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) since 2013. According to SRS bulletin, Maternal Mortality Ratio in India declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016.
- MMR is defined as the proportion of maternal deaths per 1, 00,000 live births. The reduction in ratio was most significant in Empowered Action Group (EAG) states from 246 to 188.
- Amongst states, Uttar Pradesh with 30% reduction has topped chart in maternal deaths reduction.

➤ **Health Minister JP Nadda launches National Health Resource Repository**

- JP Nadda (Union Health Minister) has launched National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) -- country's first-ever national healthcare registry of authentic, standardized and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments.
- The objective of NHRR project is to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizen by creating a robust, standardized and secured IT-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.
- NHRR is ultimate platform for comprehensive information of both private and public healthcare establishments including Railways, ESIC, Defence and Petroleum health establishments.

➤ **Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala**

- National Virology Institute in Pune has confirmed that the deceased in Kerala were infected with Nipah virus (NiV).
- Nipah virus (NiV) infection is a disease which can be transmitted to humans from animals that causes severe disease in both animals and humans. The natural host of the virus is fruit bats of the Pteropodidae Family.
- NiV was 1st identified during an outbreak of disease that took place in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia in 1998. Pigs were the intermediate hosts at that time.

➤ **Rajasthan launches 'Nidaan' software for disease monitoring**

- New software 'Nidaan' has been launched in Rajasthan for tentative diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as trends of ailments found in some specific areas.
- 'Nidaan' will promote online entries of diseases and healthcare services available for their treatment in different institutions.

➤ **Cabinet approves corporation between India and Afghanistan in food safety**

- Union Cabinet has approved corporation arrangement between Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) and Ministry of Agricultural, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) of Afghanistan.
- The corporation areas include technical exchange on import procedures, quality control operations, sampling, testing, packaging and labelling.

➤ **FSSAI launches 'Project Dhoop' to address Vitamin D deficiency**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched 'Project Dhoop', an action aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students by natural sunlight.
- The project was launched at National Bal Bhavan in new Delhi.
- McCannHealth approached the initiative and was supported by Kwaliti (Ltd).

DEFENCE**➤ Indian Navy Ships arrive in Guam for Malabar 2018**

- Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri, Shakti and Kamorta of Eastern Fleet arrived at Guam participate in 22nd edition of Exercise Malabar to be held off coast of Guam in Philippine Sea from June 7 to June 16. These ships are under command of Rear Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Flag Officer Commanding of Eastern Fleet.
- Exercise Malabar was started as a bilateral exercise between US Navy and Indian Navy in 1992. This exercise has evolved over years with participation of Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) from 2007.
- Malabar 17 was held in July last year on Eastern Sea Board of India, off Chennai and Visakhapatnam.

➤ Indian Army observed 2018 as 'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty'

- Indian Army is observing year 2018 as 'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty' to honour soldiers who have been disabled in line of duty while serving the nation.
- The main purpose of this observance is to ease sufferings of soldiers, who have done their duty with utmost dedication to nation and have been disabled for life.
- Union Government is considering proposal of a major grant to establish a separate fund that can be further enhanced by contributions from individuals and corporate sector thus facilitating meaningful initiatives for disabled soldiers.

➤ India- China militaries to set up hotline

- Militaries of India & China have agreed to set up a hotline between their headquarters after friendly summit between PM of India Narendra Modi & President of China Xi in Wuhan.
- Hotline is considered as a major confidence-building as it would enable the militaries of both countries to increase communication with each other to prevent border tensions.
- India has a hotline with Pakistan that was first used in 1991.

➤ India-Pakistan to participate in SCO Counter-Terror Exercise

- Under the organization of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), India and Pakistan will participate in multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia.
- The purpose of this exercise is to enhance counter-terror cooperation among eight SCO member countries.
- The military training will be held in the Ural Mountains of Russia and all SCO member countries (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and new members India and Pakistan) will be part of it.

➤ LCA Tejas successfully fired BVR Missile

- Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has successfully fired an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile.
- The test firing of the missile from Tejas jet was carried from Goa coast.
- State-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Defence Research and
- Development Organization (DRDO) developed the Final Operational Clearance to the aircraft.

➤ India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran-XIII' to be held in Uttarakhand

- Joint Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran-XIII' between India and Nepal will be conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- This exercise will involve nearly 300 soldiers from both Indian and Nepal Army who would be sharing their experiences achieved during conduct of counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations. This exercise is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India.
- The main purpose of this exercise is to conduct battalion level joint training with emphasis on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.

➤ **Navy conducts “Prasthan” exercise**

- Indian Navy has conducted ‘Prasthan’ exercise in Western Offshore Development Offshore area in Mumbai.
- The main purpose of this exercise is to integrate maritime stakeholders including Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, ONGC, and Customs & Port Trust.
- This exercise is held every 6 months. The exercise focused on things like fire on an oil platform, Oil spill, search and rescue for crashed helicopters and more.

➤ **Indian Air Force conducts biggest combat exercise GaganShakti**

- India Air Force (IAF) is all set to conduct its biggest combat exercise ‘GaganShakti’ along Pakistan-China borders to check its preparation for dealing with security challenges from China and Pakistan.
- The first stage of this exercise will focus on Northern borders whereas second stage will focus on Western borders.
- Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas as well as Indian Navy Maritime Combat Exercise MiG 29s will be taking part in this exercise.

➤ **Sagar Kavach- Coastal security exercise held in Kerala**

- Coastal security exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’ has been held in Kerala to strengthen and assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism along Kerala shores.
- The exercise involves participation of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Indian Navy, Coastal Police and Marine Enforcement wing and other security stakeholders.
- It saw participation of 3 ships of India Navy, 10 of Indian Coast Guard, 4 fishing boats, besides 20 coastal police stations from Vizhinjam to Kasaragod.

➤ **Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018**

- A joint training exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI (as part of ongoing Indo-Malaysian defence cooperation) will be held in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia.
- This exercise aims at strengthening coordination between armed forces of both the nations and to share skills of both groups in conduct of counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain.

➤ **Indian Air Force conducts biggest combat exercise GaganShakti**

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- Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas as well as Indian Navy Maritime Combat Exercise MiG 29s will be taking part in this exercise.

➤ **India test-fired BrahMos under life extension program along Odisha Coast**

- India test-fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile under the life extension program from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur along the Odisha coast. Defence Research and Development Programme (DRDO) confirmed the test-fire of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.
- BrahMos is the 1st Indian missile whose life has extended from 10 to 15 years.
- This successful test will result in savings of replacement cost of missiles held in inventory of Indian Armed Forces.

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➤ Pakistan test fired enhanced version of Babur cruise missile

- Pakistan successfully test fired an enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile 'Babur Weapon System-1 (B)',
- This version of Babur can deliver conventional and non-conventional weapons.
- It is prepared with advanced aerodynamics and avionics (Terrain Contour Matching (TERCOM) & all time Digital Scene Matching and Area Co-relation (DSMAC) technologies) which enables it to strike targets both at land and sea with high accuracy.

IMPORTANT INDEX**➤ India ranks 137th on Global Peace Index 2018**

- According to a report by Australian think tank, India has moved up four places to 137th rank among 163 countries on 2018 Global Peace Index, due to reduction in level of violent crime driven by increased law enforcement.
- Iceland remains most peaceful country in world since 2008. New Zealand, Austria, Portugal and Denmark also sit in top five most peaceful rankings.
- Syria remains least peaceful country in world, a position it has held for the past five years. Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq and Somalia comprise remaining least peaceful countries.
- India has improved by four positions in overall ranking from 141st to 137th.

➤ India ranked 177 in Global Environment Performance Index 2018

- India is among bottom five countries on Global Environmental Performance Index 2018. India ranked 177 out of 180 countries and scored 5.75 out of 100 in air quality. In 2016, the country had ranked 141 out of 180 countries.
- The report was released on sidelines of ongoing World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.
- The top 5 countries on list are Switzerland, France, Denmark, Malta and Sweden.

➤ India ranked 6th on Business Optimism Index 2018

- India ranked 6th in first quarter of 2018 Business Optimism Index released as part of Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR).
- This report was prepared based on the results of a survey of 2500 businesses in 37 economies.
- The top 5 nations on the list are Austria, Finland, Indonesia, Netherlands and US.

➤ India ranked 6th in list of doping violations in WADA Report

- According to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report, India ranked 6th in the list of doping violations with 69 cases for samples collected in 2016.
- India ranked third for three consecutive years from 2013 to 2015.
- Italy topped the rankings of drug cases in 2016.

➤ India ranked 11th in A.T Kearney FDI Confidence Index 2018

- Global consultant A.T Kearney released Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index 2018. India ranked 11th in this index.
- FDI is an annual survey which tracks effect of political, economic and regulatory changes on FDI selection of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of the country.
- US topped the index followed by Canada at 2nd and Germany at 3rd place. In year 2017, India ranked 8th in this index.
- The top 5 Countries in the list are United States, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom and China.

➤ India ranks 44th in Competitive Rankings

- India ranked 44th in global competitive rankings out of 63 countries ranked by IMD World Competitiveness Center. India started from 40th position in 2013 and dropped to 44th rank in 2014.
- India's rank remained at 44 in 2015, 41 in 2016, 45 in 2017 and 44 in 2018.
- USA ranked 1st followed by Hong Kong, Singapore, The Netherlands and Switzerland. China bagged 13th rank this year as compared to 18th rank in 2016.

➤ India ranks 37th in global startup ecosystem: Startupblink Report

- According to Startupblink Report, India ranked 37th out of 125 countries in the global startup ecosystem.
- The list was topped by the United States followed by the United Kingdom.
- India ranked below Mexico and Chile.

➤ India ranks 3rd most vulnerable country to cyber threats

- According to Internet Security Threat report, India has been ranked the 3rd most vulnerable country with 5.09% of global threats.
- USA has been ranked on top most vulnerable country in cyber attacks, followed by China.

➤ India ranked 130th in Economic Freedom Index 2018

- The Heritage Foundation, an American think-tank published Index of Economic in which India jumped 13 places to achieve the 130th spot.
- As per the latest edition, India moved up to the 130th spot up from 143 in 2017.
- India's economic freedom score was 54.5.
- Hong Kong topped the Economic Freedom Index followed by Singapore and New Zealand.

➤ India ranks 138th in World Press Freedom Index Report

- According to 2018 World Press Freedom Index report, India ranked 138th (falling 2 positions down from 136th in 2017) in the list.
- World Press Freedom Index measures the level of media freedom in 180 countries including the level of pluralism, media independence, legal framework and quality of the infrastructure.
- The list has been topped by Norway while North Korea found itself at the bottom.

MOUS AND AGREEMENTS

➤ Government of India and World Bank signs \$500 Million Additional Financing Project for PMGSY

- Government of India and World Bank has signed a \$500 million loan agreement to grant additional financing for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project which will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads out of which 3,500 km will be created using green technologies.
- The World Bank has supported PMGSY since its inception in 2004. It has built and improved about 35,000 km of rural roads and benefited about eight million people with access to all-weather roads.
- This agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare (Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Ministry of Finance) on behalf of Government of India and Junaid Ahmad (Country Director, World Bank India) on behalf of World Bank.

➤ Andhra Pradesh signed agreement with Singapore for Amaravati development

- Andhra Pradesh government and Singapore has signed several agreements for development of a start-up area in new capital, Amaravati, to transform it into a world-class city.
- The pact was signed by senior officials of state government and Singapore in presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Singapore Trade Minister S. Iswaran.
- Under the agreement, land would be handed over in three phases- 660 acres in first phase- to Singapore companies for infrastructure development and other promotional activities.

- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Oman on Cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space**
 - Union Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India represented by ISRO and Oman represented by Ministry of Transport and Communications.
 - MoU on Cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space was signed at Muscat.
 - The MoU would enable various areas of cooperation such as space science, technology and applications including remote sensing of earth; satellite based navigation and application of space technology.
- **MoU between the ICMR and INSERM, France**
 - Union Cabinet (chaired by PM Narendra Modi) has been apprised of a MoU which was signed in March, 2018 between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and INSERM (only public research organization in France entirely dedicated to human health), France.
 - This MoU aims at cooperation in areas of common interest within medical, life sciences and health research fields.
 - The scientific excellence on two sides will help to successfully work on health research in specified areas.
- **Indian Government collaborates with Google for flood forecasting**
 - Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) has expressed that collaboration of Union government with Google will help in effective flood management in India.
 - India's apex technical organization in field of Water Resources, Central Water Commission (CWC) signed a Collaboration Agreement with Google for flood forecasting.
 - The agreement involves dissemination of flood related information to people using dissemination platforms developed by Google. The information would be disseminated with a lead time of up to 3 days.
- **Maharashtra government and Quebec signed pact**
 - Maharashtra government and Canada's Quebec province signed an agreement to raise economic cooperation especially in areas like information technology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and welfare of tribal community.
 - Devendra Fadnavis (Chief Minister of Maharashtra) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Philippe Couillard (Prime Minister of Quebec province of Canada).
 - CM also met Pierre Beaudoin, chairman of Board Corporate office of Bombardier Inc, a multinational aerospace and Transportation Company.
- **PHDCCI signed MoU with Indian Yoga Association**
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Indian Yoga Association (IYA).
 - The purpose of this memorandum is to promote yoga, health and spiritual tourism in Krishna Circuit in Uttar Pradesh. The MoU was signed between D.K. Aggarwal (Vice president of PHDCCI) and Kamlesh Barwal (Secretary General of IYA).
- **Central Board of Direct Taxes approved amendment of India-Kuwait Tax Agreement**
 - Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) approved the amendment of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait.
 - This agreement improved the provisions in the DTAA for the exchange of information.
 - The agreement enables sharing of information received from Kuwait for tax purposes with other law enforcement agencies of Kuwait and vice versa.
- **Maharashtra signs MoU with Centre's GRIHA council**
 - Maharashtra government has signed MoU with Centre's Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state PWD (Public Work Department) officials to rate government buildings.
 - Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to sign such agreement.
 - According to this agreement, the GRIHA Council will train civil & electrical engineers & architects of PWD to rate government buildings as per its parameters.

➤ **Punjab signed MoU with UK for setting up bio-gas and bio CNG plants**

- Punjab government has signed an agreement with UK for setting up of bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in the state.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal and Andrew Ayre (deputy high commissioner, British High Commission).
- Punjab Infrastructure Development Board (PIDB) will promote regulatory clearances and incentives by the state government.

➤ **4 states signed MoUs with Centre on Health Protection Mission**

- The states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttarakhand signed an agreement to implement the national health protection mission.
- Union Health Minister J P Nadda directed the MoU signing ceremony at a regional workshop for northern states in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- The major aim of this mission is to provide an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family.

➤ **NPCIL signed MoU with NSDC to spur Centre's Skill India mission**

- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to provide skill training to 500 youth and women at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.
- This project will be executed by NSDC through its approved training partners near Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP).
- This is the largest nuclear power station in India situated in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

➤ **SJVN signed MoU with Ministry of Power**

- Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Secretary (Power) and Shri Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director of SJVN (Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam) Limited has signed MoU with Ministry of Power for the year 2018-19.
- As per the targets set in the MOU, SJVN seek to achieve 9200 Million Units generation during the year under 'Excellent' category.
- SJVN will have Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) target of Rs. 900 crore and Turnover target of Rs. 2175 crore under the Excellent category.

➤ **Dalmia Bharat Limited signed MoU to maintain heritage sites**

- Dalmia Bharat Limited has signed MoU with Tourism Ministry to take up Red Fort (in Delhi) and Gandikota Fort (Andhra Pradesh) under a project called 'Adopt a Heritage'.
- Dalmia Bharat will look after these heritage sites for the next five years.

➤ **MoU signed between the GIFAS (France) and the SIDM (India)**

- MoU was signed between the Groupement des Industries Françaises Aeronautiques et Spatiales (GIFAS), France and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), India for promotion of sustainable framework for present and future partnerships as well as cooperative actions between the French aerospace industry and the Indian defence industry.
- Pierre Bourlot, managing director of GIFAS and Lt Gen Subrata Saha, director general of SIDM signed the MoU.
- This agreement will help in expanding trade through better economic and industrial cooperation between France and India.



➤ Indian army signs MoU with HDFC Bank

- Indian army signed a Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with HDFC bank on the defence salary package.
- The first MoU between the Indian Army and HDFC Bank was signed in 2011 and was renewed on 13 March 2015. The new MoU is tailor-made to suit the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.
- The ceremony was chaired by the Director-General (MP&PS), Lt Gen SK Saini.
- This MoU will benefit a large number of serving and retired Army persons who are having their accounts with HDFC bank, and will also provide an opportunity to access modern banking facilities.

➤ IOB signed Information Utility Pact with NeSL

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) signed an agreement for information utility services with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).
- With this contract, the IOB branches will be able to provide high-quality, verified information about debts and defaults that will have more transparency in maintaining list of borrowers, debtors, creditors and loan defaulters.

➤ NITI Aayog signed an agreement with ABB India

- NITI Aayog and ABB India signed an agreement to help the country obtain benefits of latest technologies including robotics and artificial intelligence. T
- This Statement of Intent (SoI) to work together to realise ambitious make in India vision of government was signed in the presence of CEO of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant.
- This initiative also covers the fast-growing segment of electric mobility.

➤ India signed \$200 million loan deal with World Bank for National Nutrition Mission

- India has signed \$200 million loan deal with World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyan).
- This loan would help India in attaining its goal of reducing stunting (a rare disease that stops growth) in children of age 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022.
- A large section of POSHAN Abhiyan involves gradual increase of the interventions supported by World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) to all districts in the country.

IMPORTANT DAYS**➤ June 3- World Bicycle Day**

- United Nations has declared June 3rd as International World Bicycle Day. It was approved on 12 April 2018 at 72nd Regular Session of UN General Assembly and was adopted by 193 member states.
- This day is recognized as an official day of awareness about multiple societal benefits of using bicycle for transport and leisure.
- Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Bicycle Rally and Smart Cycle Station for Public Bike Sharing in New Delhi.

➤ June 8- World Ocean Day

- World Oceans Day is observed across world on June 8 to highlight major role of oceans in everyday life.
- The action focus for World Oceans Day 2018 was 'preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean'. The agenda also coincided with theme of World Environment Day 2018 – 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
- Plastic pollution is causing tremendous harm to the marine resources. Around 80% of all pollution in ocean comes from people on land. The Plastic pollution costs lives of 1 million seabirds and 100000 marine mammals per year.

➤ **June 12- World Day against Child Labour**

- The World Day against Child Labour is observed globally on June 12 to raise awareness against child labour.
- The theme of World Day against Child Labour 2018 is- Generation Safe & Healthy.
- The main purpose of this day is to shine a spotlight on global need to improve safety and health of young workers and end child labour.

➤ **June 14- World Blood Donor Day**

- 14 June is globally celebrated as World Blood Donor Day. This event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.
- The main aim of this day is to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure quality, safety and availability of blood and blood products for patients in need.
- The theme of World Blood Donor Day 2018 is- “Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life”.

➤ **June 17- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**

- World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) is observed every year on 17 June to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
- The Day was declared by United Nations General Assembly in 1994. Many countries, groups and individuals celebrate and observe WDCD by organizing a variety of outreach activities and awareness raising events.
- The theme of World Day to Combat Desertification 2018 is- “Land has true value – invest in”.

➤ **June 20- World Refugee Day**

- United Nations' World Refugee Day is observed on June 20 each year event to honor the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence.
- The theme for World Refugee Day 2018 is ‘Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees’.
- This day was established by United Nations on December 4, 2000.

➤ **June 21- International Yoga Day**

- International Yoga Day is celebrated annually across the globe on June 21 since its inception in 2015. This day was declared unanimously by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to raise awareness about benefits of practicing yoga.
- PM Narendra Modi led thousands of people in performing yoga asanas in main event organized at Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The theme for International Yoga Day 2018 is "Yoga for Harmony and Peace".

➤ **June 21- World Music Day**

- 21 June is celebrated as World Music Day.
- On this day the citizens of a city or country are urged to play music outside in their neighborhoods or in public spaces and parks.
- 1st all-day musical celebration was originated by France.

➤ **May 1- International Labour Day**

- May 01 is observed as International Labour Day also known as International Worker's Day or Labour Day or May Day.
- The purpose of this day is to promote and encourage international labour union.
- The theme of this year's International Labour Day- “Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement”.

➤ **May 2- World Asthma Day**

- Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) organized World Asthma Day to improve asthma awareness and care around the world.
- The 1st World Asthma Day was held in 1998.
- The theme for the year 2018 is “Never too early, never too late. It's always the right time to address airways disease”.

➤ May 3- World Press Freedom Day

- World Press Freedom Day is observed worldwide on May 3 to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, protect the media from attacks and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while being on duty.
- The theme of 2018 World Press Freedom Day is 'keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law'.
- This day was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.
- This year UNESCO will lead the 25th celebration of World Press Freedom Day. The main event, organized by UNESCO and Government of the Republic of Ghana, will take place in Accra, Ghana.

➤ May 8 - World Red Cross Day

- May 8 is celebrated worldwide as World Red Cross Day.
- This day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He was the most famous person and became the recipient of 1st Nobel Peace Prize.
- The day was first celebrated in 1948 when it was officially named as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.
- This year's theme for World Red Cross Day is "Memorable Smiles from Around the World".

➤ May 11- National Technology Day

- National Technology Day is celebrated across India on May 11 to remember the anniversary of Shakti, the Pokhran nuclear test held on 11 May 1998.
- The National Technology Day 2018 theme is "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future". The first nuclear test Pokhran was carried out in May, 1974 with a code named as 'Smiling Buddha'.
- Pokhran II or Operation Shakti was begun on May 11 1998 with the explosion of two fission bombs and one fusion bomb.

➤ May 12- World Migratory Bird Day

- World Migratory Bird Day is a two-day programme celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and in October to focus on the urgency to protect migratory birds and their habitats. It will also be observed on 13th October 2018.
- The theme of the World Migratory Bird Day 2018 is 'Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation'.
- India observes over 200 species of birds migrate to the country during winters from Asian and European regions.

➤ May 17- International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

- May 17 is observed as International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.
- The theme of International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia 2018 is 'Alliances for Solidarity'.
- The main aim of this day is to coordinate international events that increase awareness of LGBT rights violations and to stimulate interest in LGBT rights work worldwide.

➤ May 22- International Day for Biological Diversity

- May 22 is observed worldwide as International Day for Biological Diversity to mark the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The main purpose of this day is increase raise awareness about the conservation of biodiversity.
- The theme of International Day for Biological Diversity 2018 is - Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity.

➤ **May 21- Anti Terrorism Day**

- May 21 is observed as the Anti Terrorism Day every year in India to make people aware of anti-social act of terrorism and effect impact on human suffering and lives.
- The official declaration of National Anti Terrorism Day was made after killing of India's 7th PM Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May 1991.
- Under V.P. Singh government, the centre has decided to mark 21 May as Anti Terrorism Day.

➤ **April-5: National Maritime Day**

- SS Loyalty, 1st ship of Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd started from Mumbai to United Kingdom on this day in 1919.
- The theme for National Maritime Day 2018 is "Indian Shipping- An ocean of Opportunity."
- Varuna' award is given to outstanding contributors of Indian maritime sector on this day.

➤ **7th April – World Health Day**

- Under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7 April.
- The first-ever World Health Day was observed in 1948 by the WHO, with an aim to spread awareness about health.
- The slogan of this day is "Health for all".

➤ **April 10- World Homoeopathy Day**

- This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann.
- Ministry of AYUSH organised a two-day scientific convention in New Delhi on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day.
- Vice President Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu will be the chief guest at the function.
- The theme of this occasion is "Innovate: Evolve: Progress: Exploring Science since 40 years".

➤ **April 17- World Hemophilia Day**

- World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase the awareness of haemophilia and other bleeding disorders on every April 17.
- The theme of World Haemophilia Day 2018 is 'Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger'.
- World Haemophilia Day was started in 1989 by World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) which chose to bring the community together in glory of WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday.

➤ **April 18- World Heritage Day**

- April 18 is celebrated worldwide as World Heritage Day to create awareness about Heritage among communities.
- The theme of this year is 'Heritage for Generations'. This theme highlights inter-generational transfer of knowledge.
- In India, this day will be celebrated at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.
- UNESCO designated total 36 world heritage sites in India and established 18 April as International Day for Monuments and Sites in 1983.

➤ **April 21- Civil Services Day**

- The Government of India celebrates April 21 every year as Civil Services day as a ceremony for the civil servants to renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work.
- The first such function was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, in 2006.
- The date is chosen to celebrate the day when 1st Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi. He referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.

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➤ April 22- World Earth Day

- World Earth Day is celebrated on 22nd April every year to spread awareness of the need for conservation as well as to take action to protect the environment.
- This day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970.
- The theme for World Earth Day 2018 is 'End Plastic Pollution'.

➤ April 24- National Panchayati Raj Day

- National Panchayati Raj Day is the national day of India celebrated by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 24 April annually.
- Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh inaugurated the first National Panchayati Raj Day in 2010.

➤ April 25- World Malaria Day

- World Malaria Day is observed on April 25 every year to recall the global effort to control malaria and to spread awareness around the world. Malaria is caused by Plasmodium parasites which are transmitted in humans through the bite of an infected female Anopheles mosquito.
- This year's theme for Malaria Day is 'Ready to beat Malaria'.
- This theme highlights the collective energy and commitment of the global malaria community to control the disease.

SPORTS

➤ Mithali Raj becomes first Indian cricketer to score 2,000 runs in T20 Internationals

- One of India's most talented cricketers Mithali Raj became the first Indian cricketer to score 2,000 runs in T20 Internationals. The Indian ODI captain's record was made during Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur.
- Mithali now has 2,015 runs in 75 matches. Indian men's team captain Virat Kohli with 1,983 runs is the next on the list followed by Rohit Sharma and Suresh Raina.
- She became 7th woman cricketer and the only Indian to achieve the T20I feat.

➤ India beat Kenya to win Intercontinental Cup

- 33-year-old Indian captain Sunil Chhetri has scored a brace to put himself on par with Lionel Messi and lead to Intercontinental Cup title triumph with 2-0 win over Kenya in summit clash.
- Playing in his 102nd international match, Chhetri struck in 8th and 29th minutes to hand a dominant India the trophy.
- Chhetri is now on par with Argentine superstar Messi with 64 strikes for the country to be the joint second highest international goal scorer among active players.

- **Women's hockey Spain beat Indian Women's Hockey Team by 3-0 in opening game**
 - Indian Women's Hockey team lost in opening match of five-match series against Spain by 0-3 at Consejo Superior de Deportes Hockey Stadium in Madrid.
 - Lola Riera scored a brace to seal the game for hosts and give them 1-0 lead in series.
 - The tournament is a part of Rani Rampal-led Indian team's preparations for World Cup which will be played in London from July 21.
- **3-day National Yoga Olympiad -2018 begins**
 - Mr. Eric Falt (Director and UNESCO Representative of the New Delhi Cluster Office for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka) inaugurated a 3-day National Yoga Olympiad at National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in CIET in New Delhi.
 - This is 3rd consecutive year of National Yoga Olympiad of NCERT and this year about 500 students from 26 States are participating in Olympiad as compared to participation of students from 25 States/UTs last year.
 - Two books – Joy of Theatre and Sangeet training packages were released on this occasion.
- **India won South Asian U-12 Tennis Championship**
 - India won the South Asian Under-12 Qualifying Tennis Tournament by defeating Nepal in the finals in Kathmandu.
 - Indian team defeated their Nepali opponents in the final by 2-0.
 - Now Indian Team will participate in ITF Asian 12 in Kazakhstan.
- **Rafael Nadal wins 11th Barcelona Open title**
 - Rafael Nadal won 11th Barcelona Open title. He defeated Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas by 6-2 6-1.
 - He was the first Greek to make it to an ATP final since Nicholas Kalogeropoulos in 1973. Tsitsipas was the youngest finalist in Barcelona since 2005.
 - Nadal also won his 11th Monte Carlos Masters title.
- **56th Belgrade International Boxing Tournament**
 - 56th edition of Belgrade International Boxing Championship was held at Belgrade, Serbia.
 - Sumit Sangwan won the gold in finals by defeating Castillo Torres of Ecuador in 91 kg category.
 - Indian woman boxer Nikhat Zareen won the Gold medal in 51 kg by defeating Koutsouergopoulou Aikaterini of Greece in finals.
 - Himanshu Sharma (49 kg) too won Gold medal by defeating Algeria's Mohammed Touareg in the finals.
- **Prajnesh won maiden singles title**
 - 28-year-old Prajnesh Gunneswaran from Chennai won his 1st singles tennis title on the ATP Challenger circuit.
 - It was his second final at the Challenger level; he lost the Pune summit clash Sadio Doumbia in October 2016.
- **Shahzar Rizvi claimed No.1 spot pistol rankings**
 - Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi grabbed the No.1 spot in 10m air pistol rankings by ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation).
 - He won the silver medal in the World Cup in Changwon, Korea.
 - Rizvi also won a gold medal with world record score at the World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico.
 - The other Indians in the top 10 are Jitu Rai (6th spot) and Om Prakash Mitharval (12th spot).
- **Bhavani Devi won Silver at Satellite Fencing Championship**
 - India's CA Bhavani Devi claimed silver medal in sabre event of Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship held in Reykjavik, Iceland.
 - Bhavani Devi became the 1st Indian to do so in an international fencing event by winning a gold medal at Reykjavik tournament in 2017.

- **India topped in 3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships**
 - South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo, Sri Lanka.rdIndia ranked first in 3
 - India won 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals (Total 50 Medals).
 - Sri Lanka won rest of the 12 gold medals along with 10 silver and 19 bronze.
 - Pakistan won one silver and a bronze to settle for the third place.
- **Neeraj Chopra break own record, finishes 4th at IAAF Diamond League in Doha**
 - Indian javelin thrower and Commonwealth games gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has shattered his own national record at the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) of Diamond League, held in Doha.
 - Chopra had recently won the gold medal in 21st Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast with a throw of 86.47m.
- **Ramit Tandon won Abu Dhabi Open squash title**
 - Ramit Tandon of India has won the Abu Dhabi Open squash title.
 - Ramit defeated Omar Abdel Meguid of Egypt.
 - This is Ramit's 3rd title on Professional Squash Association (PSA) tour.
 - In world rankings, the Indian holds the 65th position, while the Egyptian is placed higher at the 41st spot.
- **Heena Sidhu won gold medal at International Shooting Competition**
 - Indian Shooter Heena Sidhu won gold medal in women's 10m air pistol at International Shooting Competitions 2018 in Hannover, Germany.
 - She was tied with Mathilde Lamolle of France on 239.8 points. She won the tie to win the gold ahead of Mathilde.
 - The finish marks a strong build-up to ISSF World Cup in Munich.
- **South Korea wins 5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2018**
 - South Korea won 5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2018 by 0-1 in the summit clash at Donghae City, South Korea. A goal by Youngsil Lee clinched Korean team as winner of Champions Trophy.
 - South Korea has won the title for 3rd time after having won it in 2010 and 2011.
 - Indian striker Vandana Katariya was declared as the player of tournament while youngster Lalremsiami was declared as the upcoming player of tournament.
- **Lionel Messi wins 5th European Golden Shoe**
 - Barcelona striker Lionel Messi has won the European Golden Shoe for 5th time.
 - Argentina international won the prize with 34 goals for a total of 68 points in La Liga this season, helping his club to 25th league triumph.
 - Messi also won the award last year, as well as in 2010, 2012 and 2013 and is the only player to do so.
- **Iraq to host 1st international football tournament**
 - Iraq will host a West Asia Football Federation championship in Southern city of Basra between 12 Arab countries in November 2018, 1st international tournament to be organized in the country since 1990s.
 - For years, Iraq has been busily building and upgrading stadiums and campaigning for its return to the international fold. Iraq has not played competitive internationals on home turf since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.
 - In March 2018, FIFA decided to lift 30-year-old ban from Iraq on hosting the international football.
- **1st Para-National Games to be held under Khelo India Scheme**
 - 1st Para-National Games for disabled athletes will be held under Khelo India scheme in Bengaluru. This multi-sports event will be supervised under Paralympics Committee of India.
 - Age group of 16 to 40 (men and women) are invited to take part in Para-athletics, Badminton, Chess, Blind judo, Para power lifting, Shooting Para-sport, Para-swimming, Table tennis, Wheelchair basketball and Wheelchair fencing.
 - The games will be considered as selection trial of Para Asian Games which are going to be held in Indonesia in October 2018.

➤ **Mithali Raj declared as 'sportsperson of the year'**

- Mithali Raj was honoured as the 'sportsperson of the year' award while Kidambi Srikanth and PV Sindhu were declared as best senior male and female athletes at Telangana Sports Journalists Association Annual Award in 2017, in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The award was conferred by BV Papa Rao.

➤ **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won India's First Gold Medal in Commonwealth Games**

- Weightlifter and current World Champion Saikhom Mirabi Chanu has become the 1st Indian woman to win gold medal in CWG.
- She delivered a power-packed performance in the women's 48-kg category
- After finishing with best lift of 86 kg in snatch round, she made total score of 196 points.

➤ **Deepak Lather becomes Youngest Weightlifter to Win Medal in CWG 2018**

- Deepak Lather, 18 year old from Haryana, became the youngest Indian weightlifter to claim a bronze in the men's 69kg category.
- He lifted a total of 295kg (136kg+159kg).

➤ **Weightlifter Satish Sivalingam wins third gold in CWG 2018**

- Weightlifter Satish Sivalingam won India's third gold medal in Gold Coast, Australia.
- The 25-year-old also retained the title he won in the event at the 2014 Games in Glasgow, Scotland with a total lift of 317 kg.

➤ **Manu Bhaker Claimed 10m Pistol Gold in CWG 2018**

- India's 16-year-old Manu Bhaker won the gold in women's 10 air pistol in 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.
- She shot 240.9 to break the Commonwealth Games record.
- The bronze medal went to Australia's Elena Galiabovitch who ended with 214.9.

➤ **Indian Women's TT Team Wins Gold in CWG 2018**

- Indian women's Table Tennis team won their first ever Gold Medal in 21st Commonwealth Games defeating Singapore.
- Manika Batra led Table tennis team's victory.
- Australia tops the medal tally with 67 medals, including 23 Gold, 20 Silver and 24 Bronze.

➤ **Indian Men's TT Team Wins Gold in CWG 2018**

- India clinched gold and defeated Nigeri in the men's table tennis team event at the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 2006.
- With this, India joined England to achieve second-most table tennis gold medals at CWG.
- This is the first time that India have won both men's and women's TT team events at a CWG.

➤ **Heena Sidhu wins gold in 25m Pistol Event in CWG 2018**

- Indian shooter Heena Sidhu set record in Commonwealth Games to win gold in women's 25m pistol shooting event. This is her second medal at CWG 2018, after winning silver in women's 10m air pistol.
- Another Indian shooter Annu Singh came sixth in the same event.
- With this result, India has won three gold and eight medals in shooting.

➤ **CWG 2018: India Win Badminton Team Gold for 1st Time in CWG History**

- India clinched their first-ever badminton mixed team event gold in CWG history after defeating Malaysia 3-1 in the final at Gold Coast.
- Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth represented India in singles' matches of the five-member team event.

➤ **Shooter Shreyasi Singh won 12th Gold in CWG 2018**

- Indian shooter Shreyasi Singh has won gold medal in women's double trap gold in shoot-off after scoring 96 points at the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018.
- This is her second CWG medal after having claimed silver at the 2014 Glasgow Games.
- Another Indian shooter Varsha Varman scored 86 points.

➤ **Om Mitharval won Bronze in Shooting in CWG 2018**

- Indian shooter Om Prakash Mitharval won bronze medal in the men's 50m pistol event at the 21st Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, Australia.
- Mitharval has also won a bronze in the 10m air pistol event shot 201.1 to finish third in the eight-man finals at Belmont Shooting Centre.
- Host nation Australia's Daniel Repacholi won gold medal in this event with a Games record 227.2 while Shakil Ahmed of Bangladesh won the silver.

➤ **Sushil Kumar won Gold medal in Wrestling CWG 2018**

- Indian wrestler and Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar won his third straight CWG gold medal after winning the men's Freestyle 74 kg event.
- The 34 years old wrestler won the final 10-0, having dominated all previous opponents with scorelines of 11-0, 10-0, and 4-0.
- He has won silver and bronze in Olympics and was crowned world champion in 2010.

➤ **Rahul Aware won India's 1st Wrestling Gold in CWG 2018**

- Rahul Aware won India's first wrestling gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018.
- He defeated Canada's Steven Takahashi in the final of men's Freestyle 57 kg event while Pakistan's Muhammad Bilal in the semi-final with 12-8.

➤ **Anish Bhanwala Becomes India's Youngest at CWG Gold Medalist in CWG 2018**

- Fifteen-year-old shooter Anish Bhanwala became India's youngest gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games by winning the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Finals with a record score at Gold Coast, Australia.
- He has also won gold at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney 2017.
- India's Neeraj Kumar stood fifth at this event.

➤ **Tejaswini Sawant won India's 5th Shooting Gold at CWG 2018**

- 37-year-old Tejaswini Sawant won India's fifth shooting gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games by winning women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Finals in Gold Coast, Australia.
- This was her second medal at the 2018 edition after winning silver at the women's 50m Rifle Prone.
- India's Anjum Moudgil won silver at this event.

➤ **Naman Tanwar won India's 1st Boxing Medal at CWG 2018**

- 19-year-old Naman Tanwar won first boxing medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games by winning a bronze in the men's 91 kg category.

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- He lost out to Australia's Jason Whateley in the semifinal of the event to secure the bronze.
- India has won a total of 35 medals, including 16 golds, 8 silver and 11 bronze medals so far.

➤ **Sanjeev Rajput won Gold in Shooting at CWG 2018**

- Shooter Sanjeev Rajput won the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions with a Games record at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- This medal was his third successive medal at the CWG, after having bagged silver and bronze in the 2014 and 2010 editions respectively.
- India's Chain Singh stood fifth in the same event.

➤ **Neeraj Chopra won Gold in Javelin Throw at CWG 2018**

- Neeraj Chopra, 1st Indian javelin thrower won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, with a season's best effort of 86.47m in the final.
- The 20-year-old junior world champion, Neeraj was favourite for gold after his 85.94m throw in March 2018 at Patiala during the Federation Cup National Championships.

➤ **Mary Kom, 1st Indian Woman won CWG Boxing Gold at CWG 2018**

- MC Mary Kom has become the first Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.
- She is five-time world champion and Olympic bronze medallist
- Mary Kom defeated Northern Ireland's Kristina O'Hara in the 45-48kg category final at Gold Coast, Australia.

➤ **Saina Nehwal won 2nd CWG Gold in CWG 2018**

- Shuttlers Saina Nehwal defeated PV Sindhu in the first-ever all-Indian women's singles final at the Commonwealth Games.
- Nehwal won her second Commonwealth Games singles gold medal after having won it at the 2010 Delhi Games.
- She is the only Indian female badminton player to win singles gold in Commonwealth Games history.

➤ **Kidambi Srikanth won his 1st CWG Silver in CWG 2018**

- 25-year-old Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth won his career's first Commonwealth Games singles Silver medal.
- In finals, he lost to Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei.
- Only three Indian shuttlers have won CWG men's singles title– Prakash Padukone (1978), Syed Modi (1982) and Parupalli Kashyap (2014).

➤ **Daniel Ricciardo won Chinese Grand Prix**

- Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull won Chinese Grand Prix to claim the sixth victory of his Formula One career.
- Bottas finished second and Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari was third.
- Sebastian Vettel leads the season standings with 54 points in three races.
- Lewis Hamilton finished fifth and improved his season points total to 43.
- Bottas has 40 points in third place heading into the next race in Azerbaijan.

➤ **Kochi to host India Skills Kerala 2018**

- Kerala will host the India Skills Kerala 2018 in Kochi, as part of the World Skills India 2018.
- The main purpose of this event is to identify and train talents to get medals at the World Skills Competition Kazan 2019.
- The activities for the event will be headed by Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE), the State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) and Industrial Training Department under the Department of Labour and Skills.
- India Skills Kerala 2018 is an avenue provided to the youngsters in the State to reveal their vocational skills. It also aims at creating awareness and generating interest among the public.

➤ **Rafael Nadal to win Monte Carlo Masters**

- Rafael Nadal won 31st Masters Title after beating Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-2 in the Monte Carlo Masters final.
- He also became the first man in the Open era to win the Monte Carlo title 11 times.

➤ **India wins 8th South Asian Judo Championship**

- India has clinched the title of team champion in the 8th series of South Asian Judo Championship held in Kathmandu.
- In the men's team category, India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 3-2 in the finals to win the title. Under the women's team category, India beat Nepal by 5-0 to seal the title.
- India ended their campaign in the tournament with total of 12 Gold medals and 3 Bronze medals.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

➤ **Indian Cartoonist Thomas Antony wins International Award**

- Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony has won an international award in best caricature category.
- Antony, currently working as Executive Artist of Malayalam daily "Metro Vaartha", is among the nine winners at the 13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards instituted by an organization based in Lisbon, Portugal.
- The awards are given to the best works published in 2017 in newspapers and magazines from around the world. According to World Press Cartoon website, the winners are from eight countries in three continents-- Europe, Asia and South America. Antony is the lone winner cartoonist selected from Asia.

➤ **Yuvraj Singh honoured with 'Most Inspiring Icon for Social Welfare'**

- Indian star cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been awarded the 'Most Inspiring Icon for Social Welfare' award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his contribution in field of social welfare.
- He has been the member of Indian cricket team since October 2000 and has also received an appreciation letter from Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.
- DPIFF Venture was launched with a basic motive "Appreciation to the creation" which aims to broaden youth's perspective in their respective field.

➤ **Kamila Shamsie's "Home Fire" wins 2018 Women's Prize for Fiction**

- Famous British Pakistani author Kamila Shamsie's book "Home Fire" has won Women's Prize for Fiction, 2018.
- The book, also long listed for last year's Man Booker Prize, is a contemporary reimagination of Sophocles' "Antigone".

➤ **Bindeshwar Pathak honoured with Nikkei Asia Prize**

- 75-year-old Bindeshwar Pathak (Renowned Social reformer and founder of Sulabh International) has been honoured with Japan's prestigious 'Nikkei Asia Prize for Culture and Community' for his significant work in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination.
- Launched in 1996, this award honours people in Asia who have made significant contributions in regional growth, science, technology and innovation, and culture and community.
- Manmohan Singh (Former Prime Minister) and Narayan Murthy (Infosys Chairman) are among the few Indians who have won this prize.

➤ **Dr Bindeshwar Pathak awarded Nikkei Asia Prize**

- The founder of Sulabh International Dr Bindeshwar Pathak has been awarded for Japan's most prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize for his contribution to Asia's development.
- Nikkei Inc. is one of the largest media corporations in Japan. This corporation has been presenting the awards since 1996.

➤ **Surat to receive ‘City Award’ under India Smart Cities Award 2018**

- Surat has been selected for ‘City Award’ for showing ‘great momentum’ in execution of projects under ‘India Smart Cities Award’ 2018 in categories of urban environment, transport and mobility and sustainable integrated development, according to Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry.
- Bhopal and Ahmedabad were selected in ‘Innovative Idea’ category for their "transformative approach towards sustainable integrated development". The joint winners in category include Bhopal for its Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) and Ahmedabad for its Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project.
- Overall, nine awards have been announced under the India Smart Cities Awards.
- The award is given to most innovative and successful projects in seven categories that have been completed by April 1, 2018.

➤ **Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 presented to INSV Tarini Team**

- Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi (Minister for Women and Child Development) presented prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 to the members of INSV Tarini team in New Delhi.
- The Six-member all-women team comprising of Lt Commander Vartika Joshi, Lt Commander Pratibha Jamwal, Lt Commander Swathi Patarpalli, Lt Aishwarya Bodapatti, Lt SH Vijaya Devi and Lt Payal Gupta received this award from the Minister.
- The crew of Indian Navy Sailing Vessel 'Tarini' is a part of Indian Navy's unique project 'Navika SagarParikrama', an all-women team promoting ocean sailing activities in Navy and depicting Government of India's commitment towards women empowerment.

➤ **Sitanshu Yashaschandra's "Vakhar" chosen for Saraswati Samman 2017**

- K.K. Birla Foundation has announced that Eminent Gujarati poet and playwright Sitanshu Yashaschandra's poetry collection "Vakhar" has been chosen for the Saraswati Samman. This is the 27th edition of the award.
- Born in 1941 in Bhuj, Yashaschandra is one of the most eminent representatives of contemporary Gujarati literature.
- He is also a recipient of the Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi Award.

➤ **Singer Asha Bhosle honoured with PC Chandra Puraskar**

- Renowned singer Asha Bhosle has been honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskar.
- Sharmila Tagore presented the reputable award to Asha Bhosle. She was the chairperson of the event also.
- Asha Bhosle made her singing debut in 1943 and she has sung in a great variety of musical categories.

➤ **Hockey India recommends Manpreet Singh for Arjuna Award**

- Hockey India has announced the recommended players for the Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award and Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement 2018 Experienced midfielder Dharamvir Singh, Manpreet Singh and Indian women's team ace goalkeeper Savita Punia have been recommended for the Arjuna Award.
- Coach BS Chauhan has been recommended for the Dronacharya Award.
- Sanggai Ibemhal Chanu and former India men's captain Bharat Chetri have been recommended for the Dhyan Chand Award.

➤ **M.T Vasudevan Nair won ONV Literary Prize**

- Jnanpith laureate M.T Vasudevan Nair has won ONV Literary Prize, initiated in memory of iconic poet late Ottapakkal Neelakandan Velu (ONV) Kurup, for his contributions to Malayalam literature.
- ONV Cultural Academy instituted the award, comprising a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh and citation.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan would present the award.

- **Nisha Bhalla conferred with ' Women Economic Forum 2018 award**
 - 46-year-old Nisha Bhalla, conferred with Annual Women Economic Forum 2018 Awards. The event was held at Vivanta by Taj, Dwarka in Delhi.
 - Nisha was presented the 'Excellent Woman of Excellence' award for her service at the event. Women Economic Forum is the largest worldwide gathering of women entrepreneurs and leaders.
- **Lata Mangeshkar honoured with Swara Mauli Award**
 - 88 years old Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar has been honoured with Swara Mauli Award at Mumbai.
 - This award was given by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami.
 - Her sisters Asha Bhosle and Usha Mangeshkar and brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar were also present.
- **Dr Bindeshwar Pathak awarded Nikkei Asia Prize**
 - The founder of Sulabh International Dr Bindeshwar Pathak has been awarded for Japan's most prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize for his contribution to Asia's development.
 - Nikkei Inc. is one of the largest media corporations in Japan. This corporation has been presenting the awards since 1996.
- **Anindita Anaam honoured with Jayadev Rashtriya Yuva Puraskar Award**
 - Anindita Anaam (US-based Kathak dancer) was honoured with the famous 'Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018' for her outstanding contribution to the field of art.
 - The award was presented at the 'Jayadev International Dance Festival' in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
 - Odisha's culture department and National Culture Mission organized this festival.
- **Asha Bhosle to be conferred with Banga Bibhushan by West Bengal CM**
 - Asha Bhosle will be conferred with highest civilian award of West Bengal 'Banga Bibhushan' by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a function.
 - She has done playback singing for over a thousand Bollywood movies & has sung in over 20 Indian & foreign languages.
 - Bengal government in 2011 initiated Banga Bibhushan award to appreciate the services of renowned personalities from their respective fields.
- **Poland's Olga Tokarczuk wins Man Booker International Prize**
 - Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk won the eminent Man Booker International Prize for fiction for her novel Flights.
 - Flights beat five other finalists including Iraqi writer Ahmed Saadawi's horror story 'Frankenstein' in Baghdad and South Korean author Han Kang's novel 'The White Book'.
 - This prize is a counterpart to the Man Booker Prize for English novels and is open to books in any language that have been translated into English.
- **BRICS forum posthumously presents award to late actress Sridevi**
 - Late veteran actress Sridevi was conferred with BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema.
 - Reena Marwah (sister of actor-producer Boney Kapoor) received this award.
 - Sridevi was earlier honoured with 'Best Actress' award for her performance in her last movie 'Mom' at 65th National Film Awards held in New Delhi.
- **Sreekumaran Thampi to get 25th JC Daniel Award**
 - Lyricist and director Sreekumaran Thampi has been selected for the 25th J.C Daniel award. This award comprises of Rs. 5 lakh and a citation.
 - Culture Minister A.K. Balan will announce the award at Kerala State Film Award distribution function in Kollam.
 - Sreekumaran Thampi made his debut in 1966 and has written over 1000 odd melodies.

➤ **Anushka Sharma to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Foundation award**

- Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma will be honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award for her successful movies as a producer.
- The award will be given by an organisation called Dadasaheb Phalke Foundation, held annually in New Delhi.
- The reputable Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest cinematic honour.

➤ **Late Veteran Actor Vinod Khanna has been awarded with Dadasaheb Phalke Award**

- Veteran Hindi film actor Shri Vinod Khanna has been awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contribution to Indian Cinema at 65th National Film Awards.
- Some of the other famous winners for this year National Film Awards included Assamese movie 'Village Rockstars' in Best Feature Film category and 'Baahubali - The Conclusion' in the Best Popular Film providing Wholesome Entertainment category.
- Shekhar Kapur headed this film central panel.

➤ **Siddhartha Varadarajan will be honoured with the Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University**

- Siddhartha Varadarajan, the founding editor of 'The Wire', will receive the Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University.
- The award is given annually by Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center and alternates between recipients from the West and Asia.

➤ **Dharmendra to receive Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award**

- Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra will be conferred with the reputable Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award at the 55th Maharashtra State Marathi Film Festival. The famous filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will get Raj Kapoor Special Contribution award in the same event.
- Announcement was made by Maharashtra Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Vinod Tawde.
- The lifetime achievement awards carry a citation and cash reward of five lakh rupees while the special contribution awards carry a citation and three lakh rupees cash prize each.
- "He-Man", "Sholay", "Chupke Chupke", "Yaadon Ki Baaraat", "Satyakam" and "Seeta Aur Geeta" are some of the popular movies in which Dharmendra played the lead role.

➤ **Aditi Rao Hydari to be honored with Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award**

- Aditi Rao Hydari will receive Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award) for her memorable performance in Bhoomi.
- The award ceremony will held at St. Andrews Auditorium in Mumbai.
- The movie was about the protective father who saved his daughter from all the evils around her. The film also starred Sanjay Dutt.

➤ **Kendrick Lamar becomes first rapper to win the Pulitzer Prize**

- Kendrick Lamar won the Pulitzer Prize as the first non-classical or jazz artist for music
- The 30-year-old won the prize for 'DAMN', his raw and powerful Grammy-winning album.
- Previous Pulitzer music winners include jazz musicians Wynton Marsalis and Ornette Coleman.
- He also produced the soundtrack for the 2018 superhero box-office hit film "Black Panther," and performed the lead single "Pray For Me" with The Weeknd.

➤ **Madhya Pradesh conferred most film friendly award**

- Shri Ramesh Sippy (Chairman of the Jury) announced the Most Film Friendly State Award.
- State of Madhya Pradesh conferred the award for the Most Film Friendly State for its efforts towards easing filming in the State by creating a well-structured website and film-friendly infrastructure.
- Total 16 states have participated in this award.
- The President of India will confer this award in May 2018.

➤ **Rakesh Roshan to get lifetime achievement award**

- Veteran filmmaker Rakesh Roshan has been honored with Lifetime Achievement award at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards for his contribution as a producer, director, screenwriter, editor and actor in Hindi films.
- The event will take place at Chitrakoot Ground.
- Rakesh Roshan has produced and directed movies like Kaho Na Pyar hai, Koi Mil Gaya, Krrish and Kaabil.

➤ **Egyptian photojournalist wins 2018 World Press Freedom Prize**

- Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, known as Shawkan, won 2018 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- Abu Zeid is one of the longest-detained journalists in Egypt who has worked for photo agencies such as Demotix and Corbis.
- He was arrested on August 14, 2013, when hundreds were killed as security forces cleared two pro-Morsi protest camps in Cairo.

➤ **CSIR wins National Intellectual Property Award 2018**

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) awarded the National Intellectual Property Award, 2018 for being the top research and development organization for patents and commercialisation.
- Union Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu conferred this award at a function organized by the Indian Intellectual Property Office and Confederation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (CII) in New Delhi to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day.

APPOINTMENTS

➤ **H R Khan appointed chairman of Bandhan Bank**

- Former RBI deputy governor H R Khan has been appointed as the non-executive chairman of Bandhan Bank whereas Harun Rasid Khan is appointed as the non-executive part time chairman of the bank.
- Appointment of Khan will be for a period of three years with effect from June 5, 2018.

➤ **Sharad Kumar appointed as vigilance commissioner in CVC**

- Former NIA chief Sharad Kumar has been appointed as vigilance commissioner in the probity watchdog Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- Mr. Kumar has been appointed vigilance commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission for a term of four years.
- 62-year-old Mr. Kumar is a 1979-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre. He retired in September last year after heading the National Investigation Agency, an anti-terror probe organization, for over four years.

➤ **Lt Gen Sukhdeep takes over as DGAR**

- Lieutenant General Sukhdeep Sangwan has taken over the charge as Director General of Assam Rifles (DGAR).
- He has taken over as 20th Director General of Force which is popularly known as Sentinels of North East.
- Lt Gen Sangwan has also participated in Operation Blue Star, Operation Vijay and Operation Parakram.

➤ **Ivan Duque won election to become Colombia's President**

- Colombia has chosen Youthful right-winger Ivan Duque to be its next president after a long campaign that often centered on a controversial peace process with leftist rebels the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).
- With 98% of votes counted, Mr Duque had 54% of the vote, giving him an unassailable lead over his only rival, former leftwing Gustavo Petro, who had 41.8%.
- Duque will be Colombia's youngest ever President.

➤ **Sandeep Bakhshi appointed as CEO of ICICI Bank**

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO Sandeep Bakhshi has been appointed as whole-time director and chief operating officer (COO) of ICICI bank for a period of five years.
- It is a new top position at India's second largest private bank to direct all its businesses.
- ICICI Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Chanda Kochhar will be on leave till completion of enquiry. However, she will continue to remain CEO and MD of bank.

➤ **Arijit Basu appointed as Managing Director of State Bank of India**

- The government appointed Arijit Basu as managing director of country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI). He will fill the position that fell vacant following elevation of Rajnish Kumar as the chairman of the bank.
- Mr Basu has held several key positions in various circles of SBI including bank's office in Tokyo, Japan.
- Basu started his career with State Bank of India in 1983 as a probationary officer.

➤ **B.V.R Subramanyam appointed as J&K Chief Secretary**

- B.V.R. Subrahmanyam (Senior IAS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre) was appointed as new chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 55-year-old Subrahmanyam, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, has been appointed in place of incumbent B B Vyas.
- He has also served as Private Secretary of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh from 2004-2008.

➤ **Narinder Chauhan appointed as Ambassador of India to Czech Republic**

- Ms. Narinder Chauhan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic.
- Currently she is Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia.
- She is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

➤ **Kavinder Gupta- New deputy CM of Jammu and Kashmir**

- Kavinder Gupta has been appointed as new deputy CM of Jammu and Kashmir by replacing Dr Nirmal Singh.
- Currently he is the speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.
- Kavinder Gupta is a senior BJP leader who represents Gandhi Nagar Assembly constituency of the winter capital city of Jammu.

➤ **Sitanshu Ranjan Kar appointed as DG of Press Information Bureau (PIB)**

- Sitanshu Ranjan Kar has been appointed as the 27th Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau in New Delhi.
- He defeated Mr. Frank Noronha.
- He is 1983 batch officer of Indian Information Service.

➤ **Radhakrishnan Nair appointed as ICICI Bank independent director**

- Former IRDAI member Radhakrishnan Nair has been appointed as an Independent Director to ICICI Bank's board.
- He has around 40 years of experience in the banking industry and in the field of securities and insurance regulation. His appointment will be for a period of five years.

➤ **Subhash Chandra Khuntia has been appointed as new IRDAI chairman**

- Former IAS officer Subhash Chandra Khuntia has been appointed as the new chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Mr.Khuntia to the post of chairperson of the insurance regulator.
- He replaced TS Vijayan.

➤ **Ashok Lahiri appointed as full-time member of 15th Finance Commission**

- Former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri has been appointed as full-time member of the 15th Finance Commission.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Lahiri's appointment as the full-time member.

➤ **Kidambi Srikanth appointed as Deputy Collector in Andhra Pradesh**

- Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth has been appointed as the Deputy Collector of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
- CM Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh had offered Srikanth Group 1 officer post after he won Indonesian and Australian Open titles.
- Recently, Srikanth won his maiden singles' silver medal at Commonwealth Games.

➤ **Google appointed Nitin Bawankule as Head of India Cloud Business**

- Google appointed Nitin Bawankule as the head of Cloud Business in India.
- Bawankule was the head of sales for e-commerce, retail and classifieds and education business and has been working with Google for over 6 years.
- He will report to Rick Harshman, Managing Director of Asia Pacific for Google Cloud.

➤ **Nikol Pashinyan becomes Armenia's Prime Minister**

- Parliament of Armenia's elected Nikol Pashinyan as Prime Minister of the country.
- 42 years old Nikol Pashinyan is the leader of Civil Contract party. He is a former newspaper editor.
- His election comes after Serzh Sargsyan's resignation as Prime minister of Armenia recently.

➤ **Uttam Pacharne appointed as regular chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi**

- Eminent artist and sculptor Uttam Pacharne has been appointed as regular chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi. He is the member of Advisory Committee, Kala Academy of Goa.
- He has been awarded with National Lalit Kala Award 1985, Maharashtra Gaurav Puraska 1985 from Government of Maharashtra, Junior National Award 1986 and Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar 2017 from Prafulla Dahanukar Foundation.
- Mr M.L. Srivastava (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture) was appointed Protem Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi.

➤ **Amit Khare appointed as new I&B Secretary**

- 1985-batch IAS officer Amit Khare has been appointed as the new secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.
- Khare will take over the charge from NK Sinha who will retired on May 31.

➤ **Anil Kumar Jha appointed as CMD of Coal India Ltd (CIL)**

- Anil Kumar Jha has been appointed as Chairman-Cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited.
- Currently, Anil Kumar is the CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
- He replaced acting chairman Suresh Kumar (IAS officer, who has been holding the post of additional secretary at the ministry of coal).
- The headquarters of CIL is in Kolkata.

➤ **Rajinder Singh named as Hockey India (HI) president**

- Rajinder Singh was named president of Hockey India (HI), following resignation of Mariamma Koshy from the post.
- Singh, who is the Senior Vice President of Hockey India, will take charge as President.
- He was earlier the Treasurer of Hockey India and currently assists as the Treasurer of Hockey Jammu & Kashmir.

➤ **Pravin L. Agrawal appointed as BHEL Director**

- An Indian Forest Service officer Pravin L. Agrawal has been appointed as a part-time official director in Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL).
- Agrawal is presently joint secretary in Department of Heavy Industry (DHI), Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- 49 years old Agrawal is a commonwealth scholar and holds post-graduate degrees in sustainable development, public policy and management from different global universities.

➤ **HD Kumaraswamy took oath as new CM of Karnataka**

- JD(S)-Congress coalition government head HD Kumaraswamy has been sworn-in as New Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of office and secrecy to Kumaraswamy whereas Congress Leader G. Parameshwara was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister
- There are total 221 elected members in Legislative Assembly and coalition partners have 117 members (including one BSP and two independents).

➤ **Airtel Payments Bank appoints Anubrata Biswas as new MD and CEO**

- Airtel Payments Bank appointed former ICICI Bank senior executive Anubrata Biswas as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- In his new role, Anubrata Biswas will be responsible for driving Airtel Payments Bank's mission of taking appropriate digital banking services to the doorstep of every Indian.

➤ **Debjani Ghosh appointed as NASSCOM president**

- Former managing director of Intel South Asia, Debjani Ghosh has been appointed as the new president of NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies).
- Ms. Debjani Ghosh is the 1st woman to lead Intel India and MAIT (Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology).

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- **Sanjeev Nautiyal appointed as new MD & CEO of SBI Life Insurance**
 - SBI Life Insurance appoints Sanjeev Nutiyal as its new Managing Director and CEO.
 - He replaced Arijit Basu who has now been posted as Deputy Managing Director of Corporate Accounts Groups.
- **Julius Maada Bio elected as president of Sierra Leone**
 - Julius Maada Bio has been elected as president of Sierra Leone by National Electoral Commission of the country.
 - He won with 51.8 % votes and defeated Samura Kamara.
- **Ban Ki-moon elected as new chairman of Boao Forum**
 - Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been elected as chairman of 'Boao Forum for Asia' (BFA) by replacing former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. His appointment took place at the annual session of the forum called "Asian Davos".
 - The BFA is non-governmental and non-profit international organisations that promotes regional economic integration and bring Asian countries closer to their development goals.
 - Chinese vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong was appointed as secretary-general of BFA whereas former governor of the People's Bank of China Zhou Xiaochuan was appointed as vice-chairman of Boao Forum for Asia.
- **Rishad Premji has been appointed as chairman of Nasscom**
 - Rishad Premji, Board member of Wipro Ltd, has been appointed as Nasscom (National Association of Software and Services Companies) chairman.
 - Premji has been a member of NASSCOM's Executive Council.
 - He replaced Raman Roy, Chairman and Managing Director of Quattrro Global Services.
 - NASSCOM also appointed Keshav Murugesh as the Vice Chairman for 2018-19.
- **Balram Bhargava has been appointed as new DG of ICMR**
 - Balram Bhargava has been appointed as the new Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of the Department of Health Research.
 - At present, Bhargava is a senior consultant cardiologist at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIMS).
 - He will carry out this role until 2021.
 - Renu Swaroop has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology.
 - Mr. Bhargava will succeed Soumya Swaminathan.
- **KR Nautiyal appointed as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard)**
 - Inspector General KR Nautiyal has been appointed as the new Coast Guard Commander.
 - KR Nautiyal took over Headquarters Eastern Seaboard from Inspector General KS Sheoran.
 - He has been promoted to the rank of Additional Director-General.
 - He has been Deputy Director-General (operations and CS) at CGHQ, New Delhi, and Commander CGRHQ (NE) in Kolkata and Commander CGRHQ (W) in Mumbai.
- **IPS Officer Rajesh Ranjan has been appointed as DG of CISF**
 - Senior IPS officer Rajesh Ranjan has been appointed as Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
 - Currently, Mr Ranjan is at Special Director General at Border Security Force (BSF).
 - He has been appointed as the chief of the CISF till 2020.
- **Bhanu Partap Sharma has been appointed as chairman of Bank Board Bureau**
 - Former DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) secretary Bhanu Partap Singh has been appointed as chairman of Bank Board Bureau (BBB) by succeeding Vinod Rai.
 - Vinod Rai has been appointed as 1st chairman of BBB for two years.

- **Sripriya Ranganathan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea**
 - Sripriya Ranganathan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea.
 - Sripriya Ranganathan is 1994 batch Indian Foreign Service Officer (IFS).
 - Currently, she is Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Dilip Chenoy appointed as FICCI Secretary General**
 - Dilip Chenoy has been appointed as the Secretary-General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
 - He replaced Sanjaya Baru.
 - Dilip Chenoy was working as Director General of industry body, FICCI.
- **Miguel Diaz-Canel appointed as Cuba's new president**
 - Miguel Díaz-Canel has been appointed as the new president of Cuba after a secret vote in the country's National Assembly. Miguel is the first leader outside the Castro dynasty to lead the country since the 1959 revolution.
 - 57 years old Diaz-Canel was selected by a vote of 603-1.
 - Miguel Diaz-Canel replaced Raul Castro.
- **Mario Benitez has been elected as Paraguay's president**
 - Conservative former senator Mario Abdo Benítez has been elected as the president of Paraguay.
 - Benitez collected 46.44% of the vote, compared with 42.74% for his main rival Efraín Alegre.
 - He is the son of the late private secretary of Dictator Alfredo Stroessner, who ruled Paraguay for 35 years.
- **Indu Malhotra has been appointed as SC Judge**
 - Senior lawyer Indu Malhotra has been appointed as the judge of the Supreme Court in presence of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind made this appointment.
 - She has now become the 1st woman lawyer to be directly appointed as Supreme Court judge.

PERSON IN NEWS

- **Dr. Kamaljit Bawa becomes 1st Indian to Receive Linnean Medal in Botany**
 - The London-based Linnean Society awarded Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany in recognition of his research on the biodiversity of forests in Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas.
 - He is the president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment.
 - Bawa is the first Indian to receive the medal since the Linnean Society of London instituted it in 1888.
- **Anukreethy Vas crowned Miss India 2018**
 - 19-year-old from Tamil Nadu, Anukreethy Vas was named Miss India at 55th Femina Miss India 2018 by Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar in Mumbai.
 - Meenakshi Chaudhary from Haryana stood second while Shreya Rao Kamavarapu from Andhra Pradesh ranked third.
 - Malaika Arora and Irfan Pathan were among the judges.
- **Kidambi Srikanth wins Sportsperson of the Year award**
 - Commonwealth Games 2018 gold-medal winning Ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth bagged Sportsman of the Year award at inaugural edition of Indian Sports Honours by the Sports Illustrated India magazine.
 - Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu was the Sportswoman of the Year award in the individual sport category.
 - Indian Women's Cricket Team, which ended as runners-up in ICC Women's World Cup, were named as Team of the Year.
 - Tennis player Sania Mirza was awarded Inspirational Honour.

➤ **PM Modi ranked 9th in Forbes list**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked 9th on Forbes 2018 list of world's most powerful people.
- President of China Xi Jinping ranked 1st followed by President of Russia Vladimir Putin at 2nd rank and president of US President Donald Trump at 3rd rank.
- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the only other Indian to feature on this list at rank 32.

➤ **India's longest serving chief minister**

- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling becomes longest serving CM in India and created history by surpassing record of former communist ruler of West Bengal, Jyoti Basu.
- Chamling became the CM of Sikkim on December 12, 1994.
- Chamling joined politics in 1973, and was elected to the Sikkim assembly for the first time in 1985.

➤ **Mohit Chauhan nominated as Green Ambassador of Sikkim**

- Sikkim government has nominated Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan as Green Ambassador of the state.
- The state government had earlier roped in AR Rahman as its ambassador to promote tourism in Sikkim.
- Sikkim is known for its rich biodiversity and abundant natural resources due to environment-friendly policies being followed by state government.

➤ **Karan Johar became 1st Indian Filmmaker in Madame Tussauds Collection**

- Karan Johar became the first-ever Bollywood filmmaker to get a place at the famous Madame Tussauds.
- The process has begun in London and it will take around six months for the wax figurine to be ready.

➤ **The World's 50 Greatest Leaders 2018: Mukesh Ambani Ranks 24th**

- Fortune magazine named Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani (24th Rank) and human rights lawyer Indira Jaising (20th Rank) as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018.
- The Fortune's 2018 ranking of the 50 Greatest Leaders has architect Balkrishna Doshi.
- The Students' of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and other schools of US that witnessed gun violence topped this year's list.
- The list also includes Apple CEO Tim Cook, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and football coach Nick Saban.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

➤ **NABARD released book- 'Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops'**

- Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) released a book named "Water Productivity Mapping of Important Agricultural Crops of India" at an event held in New Delhi.
- The book is based on a study of 10 important crops. The 10 important crops include rice, wheat, maize, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton and potato etc.
- The book is based on the study conducted for NABARD by Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

➤ **Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu receives the Book 'Vedvigyan Alok'**

- M. Venkaiah Naidu (Vice President of India) has received the book "Vedvigyan Alok" (Maharishi Aitareya Mahidas Praneet - Aitareya Brahmina ki Vaigyanik Vyakhya) authored by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik.
- This book is divided into four volumes. The Book Vedvigyan Alok is scriptural verse in Vedas' prose. The Brahman textbooks are placed second in order of preference of Vedic literature.
- These texts were composed only by the Brahmin community; hence their names are called "Brahmins". Their language is Vedic Sanskrit which has been considered extremely complicated. All these are written according to the Vedas that means all the four Vedas get different Brahmins.

➤ Former PM Manmohan Singh launches economist Rao's book

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released a book 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism'.
- This book is authored by former Planning Commission and Finance Commission member CH Hanumantha Rao.
- Mr Rao is presently one of the social activist and most creative thinkers in India.

➤ President of India received the first copy of book 'Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp'

- President Ram Nath Kovind received the first copy of the book 'Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp' from Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, who released it at a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- This book covers the inspiring life of Dr Ambedkar and several dimensions of his ideas and personality.
- It also referenced how Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been inspired by the life and message of Dr Ambedkar.

➤ Nitish Kumar launched 3 Books on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Movement

- Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar released three books based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917.
- Nitish Kumar released the books titled- 'Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary' written by Arvind Mohan, 'Champaran Andolan 1917' edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar and 'Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi' collected and edited by Srikanth.

OBITUARIES**➤ Renowned lyricist Narayan Prasad Singh passed away**

- 86-year-old Odisha's most popular lyricist, Narayan Prasad Singh was popularly known as 'Rasaraj' passed away at his residence at VSS Nagar in Bhubaneswar.
- Born on May 28th, 1933 at Koeli village, he earned his name in Odia music.
- He was the lyricist of several popular melodious songs in Odia cinema. Some of his most popular songs include 'Udi Udi Udi Jaare Udi', 'Ratha Ja Chali Ja Chaka' and 'Sanja Sakale Tuma Chabi Khoje'.

➤ Former Union Minister and Senior Congress leader L.P. Shahi dead at 98

- 98-year-old Congress leader and former Union Minister L.P. Shahi died at All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
- He was first elected to Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1980 and became an MP from Muzaffarpur in Bihar in 1984.
- Mr Shahi hailed from Bihar. He was a freedom fighter and a former CWC member.

➤ Renowned physicist EC George Sudarshan passed away

- 86-year-old famous theoretical physicist Ennackal Chandy (EC) George Sudarshan passed away in Texas, USA.
- EC G Sudarshan, who proved Albert Einstein wrong, was nominated for Nobel Prize nine times but never awarded.
- Sudarshan was born in Kottayam on September 16, 1931.

➤ Veteran journalist Adiraju Venkateswara Rao passed away

- Senior journalist and writer Adiraju Venkateswara Rao passed away in Hyderabad.
- 79-year-old Rao has worked for several Telugu and English news agencies including Andhra Jyothi Udayam Deccan Chronicle, Indian Express, Himachal Times and Hindustan Samachar at Hyderabad and Delhi.
- He played an active role in the separate Telangana agitation in 1969 and state government honoured him during Telangana formation day celebrations.

➤ **Artist-Philosopher Ravinder Sharma passed away**

- 65 years old Ravinder Sharma, also known as Guruji, has died.
- Guruji had been awarded Kala Ratna by the Andhra Pradesh State government in 2014. The Telangana government awarded him the Ugadi Puraskaram in 2015.
- He is the founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram.

➤ **Renowned Marathi singer Arun Date passes away**

- Veteran Marathi singer Arun Date has passed away. He contributed to the Marathi music industry for more than 50 years.
- Arun Date is known for his popular song "Shukratara" and non-film 'bhavgeet' (lyrical poetry) songs.
- He was the 1st recipient of the state government's 'Gajananrav Vatave Puraskar'.

➤ **Renowned Odia lyricist Gurukrushna Goswami passes away**

- Renowned Odia lyricist Gurukrushna Goswami passed away in Odisha.
- Goswami was related with Odia music industry for over six decades. He was a scriptwriter, a lyricist and a music director.
- Goswami received the Best Lyricist award in 1996, Bhakta Kabi Salabeg award and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) Award in the year 2000.

➤ **Renowned storyteller Ankit Chadha passed away**

- Ankit Chadha, a renowned storyteller related with the tradition of Dastangoi, died in an accident near Pune.
- Chadha was known for his unique style of storytelling in Urdu.
- He had performed at various national and international stages, including universities like Harvard, Yale and Toronto.

➤ **Renowned lyricist, poet, politician Balkavi Bairagi passed away**

- 87 years old renowned Hindi film lyricist Nandram Das Bairagi passed away. He is popularly known as Balkavi Bairagi.
- He wrote several Hindi poems, among which, "Jhar Gaye paat, bisar gayi tehni" is considered as a gem by many Hindi poets.
- Bairagi is a former Rajya Sabha MP. He was also a Lok Sabha member between 1984 and 1989.

➤ **Renowned physicist EC George Sudarshan passed away**

- 86-year-old famous theoretical physicist Ennackal Chandy (EC) George Sudarshan passed away in Texas, USA.
- EC G Sudarshan, who proved Albert Einstein wrong, was nominated for the Nobel Prize nine times but never awarded.
- Sudarshan was born in Kottayam on September 16, 1931.

➤ **Renowned Telugu novelist Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani passes away**

- 78 years old veteran novelist Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani who hailed from Kaza village of Krishna district, passed away at California.
- Along with her women counterparts Arikepudi Kousalya Devi and Ranganayakamma, she heralded a new era in Telugu fictional literature since 1950s.
- Some of her famous novels include Murali Krishna, Radha Krishna, Jeevana Tarangalu, Secretary and Aathmeeyulu.

➤ **Veteran film director CV Rajendran passes away**

- Tamil film director CV Rajendran died after long time illness in private hospital of Chennai.
- His career as a director began with the movie Anubhavam Padhumai

- **Former Manipur CM RK Dorendra Singh passes away**
 - Former Manipur CM RK Dorendra Singh passed away at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital.
 - He had been chief minister of the Manipur four times between 1974 to 1993.
 - He was the speaker of Manipur Assembly before becoming CM.
- **Malayalam actor Kollam Ajith passes away**
 - Malayalam actor Kollam Ajith died at a private hospital where he was undergoing treatment of serious stomach ailment.
 - He had also worked in a Hindi film, Virasat, directed by Priyadarshan.
 - Ajith had worked in more than 500 films, mostly as a villain.
- **Veteran journalist S. Nihal Singh passes away**
 - 88 year old veteran journalist S. Nihal Singh passed away at the National Heart Institute.
 - He was the founding editor of The Indian Post in 1987.
 - He has been awarded with the prestigious International Editor of the Year Award in New York by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- **Former US 1st Lady Barbara Bush died**
 - Barbara Bush, the former US first lady and literacy campaigner passed away at the age of 92.
 - She was the matriarchal figure of a political family that included two presidents – her husband George HW Bush and son George W Bush.
 - As the first lady from 1989 to 1993, she founded a foundation for family literacy and embraced the cause of universal literacy.
- **Bhimsain Khurana passes away**
 - 82 years old Indian animation pioneer and multiple National Award winner Bhimsain Khurana passed away.
 - Bhimsain is one of the pioneers of parallel cinema movement in India of the 70s.
 - He is famous for path-breaking feature films "Gharoonda" (1977) & "Dooriyaan" (1979) and many TV series.
- **Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar passed away**
 - 94 years old former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar passed away.
 - Sachar was Chief Justice from August 6, 1985 to December 22, 1985.
 - He has been the chairperson of a committee set up by the previous UPA government to look at the social, economic and educational status of Muslims

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S.No	Countries	Capital	Currency
1	Japan	Tokyo	Japanese Yen
2	Sweden	Stokholm	Swedish Krona
3	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Sri Lankan Rupee
4	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka
5	Somalia	Mogadishu	Shilling
6	Iran	Tehran	Iranian Rial
7	Norway	Oslo	Norwegian Krone
8	South Korea	Seoul	South Korean Won
9	Germany	Berlin	Euro
10	Russia	Moscow	Ruble
11	China	Beijing	Renminbi
12	Indonesia	Jakarta	Indonesian Rupiah
13	Pakistan	Islamabad	Pakistani Rupee
14	Myanmar	Naypyidaw	Burmese kyat
15	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Saudi Riyal
16	Kenya	Nairobi	Kenyan shilling
17	Kazakhstan	Astana	Kazakhstani tenge
18	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	Uzbekistani so'm
19	Australia	Canberra	Australian Dollar
20	Peru	Lima	Sol
21	Iceland	Reykjavik	Icelandic króna
22	Philippines	Manila	Philippine peso
23	Vietnam	Hanoi	Vietnamese dong
24	Indonesia	Jakarta	Indonesian Rupiah
25	Belarus	Minsk	Belarusian ruble
26	Iraq	Baghdad	Iraqi dinar

STATE | CAPITAL | CHIEF MINISTER | GOVERNOR

State	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad (<i>de jure</i>) Amaravati (<i>de facto</i>)	N.Chandrababu Naidu	E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier Dr BD Mishra
Assam	Dispur	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Satya Pal Malik
Chattisgarh	Raipur	Dr. Raman Singh	Balram Dass Tandon
Goa	Panaji	Manohar Parrikar	Mridula Sinha
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Vijay Rupani	Om Prakash Kohli
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Kaptan Singh Solanki
Himachal Pradesh	Simla, Dharamsala (Second Capital in Winter)	Virbhadr Singh	Acharya Dev Vrat
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)	Mehbooba Mufti	Narinder Nath Vohra
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Raghubar Das	Draupadi Murmu
Karnataka	Bangalore	Siddaramaiah	Vajubhai Vala
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	P. Sathasivam
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Om Prakash Kohli
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Devendra Fadnis	Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao
Manipur	Imphal	N. Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Shillong	Dr. Mukul Sangma	Ganga Prasad
Mizoram	Aizawl	Lal Thanhawla	Nirbhay Sharma
Nagaland	Kohima	T. R. Zeliang	Padmanabha Balkrishna Acharya
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	S.C. Jamir
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V. P. Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Vasundhara Raje	Kalyan Singh
Sikkim	Gangtok	Pawan Kumar Chamling	Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	Hyderabad	K Chandrasekhar Rao	E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan
Tripura	Agartala	Manik Sarkar	Tathagata Roy
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Ram Naik
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Krishan Kant Paul
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamta Benerjee	Keshari Nath Tripathi

Now let's have a look at the Union Territories. It is important to note that UT have a different governing structure. They are under direct control of the central government and the President of India appoints an Administrator or Lieutenant-Governor for each UT. Delhi and Puducherry are somewhat different as they get to choose their own elected legislative assemblies and the executive councils of ministers with partially state-like function. (Arvind Kejriwal and V. Narayanaswamy are the current Chief Ministers of Delhi and Puducherry respectively)

Union Territories	Capital	Head	Position
Andaman and Nicobar Island	Port Blair	Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi	Lieutenant Governor
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	V. P. Singh Badnore	Administrator
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Silvassa	Praful Khoda Patel	Administrator
Daman and Diu	Daman	Praful Khoda Patel	Administrator
Delhi	Delhi	Anil Baijal	Lieutenant Governor
Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	Farooq Khan	Administrator
Puducherry	Puducherry	Kiran Bedi	Lieutenant Governor

AWARDS

1. Bharat Ratna – It is the highest civilian award of the India. The award was given for outstanding achievements in the **arts, literature, science and public services** but the government expanded the criteria to include “**any field of human endeavour**”. The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

2. Padma Awards – **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan** and **Padma Shri** awards are for **exceptional and distinguished service in any field** including service rendered by Government servants.

3. Gallantry Awards – **Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Ashok Chakra, Shaurya Chakra** are given for appreciating the **brave and gallant**.

4. Nobel Prize – The Nobel Prize is widely regarded as the most prestigious award available in the fields of **literature, medicine, physics, chemistry, peace, and economics**.

5. Booker Prize – **Literature** It is an annual award for the best original novel, written in the English language, and published in the UK literary award.

6. Vyas Samman – **Literature** Vyas Samman is awarded annually by the K.K. Birla Foundation in recognition of the Hindi literary work published in past 10 years.

7. Moorti Devi Award – **Literature** The Moortidevi Award is an annual literary award in India presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith organization for a work which emphasizes Indian philosophy and culture.

8. Saraswati Samman – **Literature** The award was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation. It is an annual award given for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian languages.

9. Jnanpith award – **Literature** The award was instituted in 1961 and it is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, a trust founded by the Sahu Jain family, the publishers of the newspaper The Times of India. It is an annual award given for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian languages.

10. Bihari Puraskar – **Literature** Bihari Puraskar is a literary award instituted by K. K. Birla Foundation. The award is named after the famous Hindi poet Bihari and is awarded to an outstanding work published in Hindi or Rajasthani by a Rajasthani writer.

11. The Oscar/Academy Awards – **Films** This is an annual American awards ceremony honoring cinematic achievements in the film industry.

12. Dadasaheb Phalke Award – **Cinema/Films** The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

13. Arjuna Award – Outstanding performance from the sports persons in **sports and games**. The Government has modified the format of Arjuna Award very recently and as per the revised schematic guidelines a sports person must have very good consistent performances for the previous 3 years at the international level to be considered as eligible for the Award.

14. Dronacharya Award – **Eminent coaches of any particular sport** The award is named after the very famous archery coach, mentioned in the epic of India known as the Mahabharata. This very award is not related with the sports persons who are still playing in the field; instead this is related to those eminent coaches of any particular sport.

15. Dhyani Chand Award – The award that is given to the veteran sports persons of India for their lifetime achievement in their respective field of sport is named as the Dhyani Chand Award for Life Time Achievement in **Sports and Games**.

16. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award – The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna is the highest honour bestowed to a sports person for his/her achievements in India.

17. Stirling Prize – Architecture The Royal Institute of British Architects Stirling Prize is a British prize for excellence in architecture.

18. Aga Khan Award – Architecture The Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) is an architectural prize established by Aga Khan IV in 1977. It aims to identify and reward architectural concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of Islamic societies in the fields of contemporary design, social housing, community development and improvement.

19. Pritzker Prize – Architecture The Pritzker Architecture Prize is awarded annually “to honor a living architect.

20. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize – Science & Technology The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (SSB) is a science award in India given annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in biology, chemistry, environmental science, engineering, mathematics, medicine and Physics.

21. Kalinga Prize – Science The Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science is an award given by UNESCO for exceptional skill in presenting scientific ideas to lay people.

22. Grammy Award – Music A Grammy Award, or Grammy, is an accolade by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States to recognize outstanding achievement in the music industry.

23. Abel Prize – Mathematics The Abel Prize is an international prize awarded annually by the Government of Norway to one or more outstanding mathematicians.

24. International Gandhi Peace Prize – This award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards **social, economic and political revolution through non-violence and Gandhian philosophy**. The award carries Rs. 10 million in cash.

25. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award – This is for Excellence in **Public Administration, Academics and Management**.

26. Green Star Awards – The Green Star Awards recognize those who have made extraordinary efforts to respond to **environmental disasters** around the world.

27. Magsaysay Award – Public Service, Leadership, Journalism, Literature, creative arts and international understanding.

28. Pulitzer Prize – The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in **newspaper and online journalism, literature, and musical composition** in the United States.

29. Sahitya Akademi Award – Books in Indian Languages and English.

30. Manthan Award – It is an initiative in India to recognize the best practices in **e-Content and Creativity**.

31. FiFi Awards – The FiFi Awards honor the fragrance **industry’s creative achievements**.

32. Sangeet-Natak Akademi Award – Music, dance and Drama.

33. BAFTA Awards – Television, Films, Video Games and Animation.

INDIAN RAILWAYS/ METRO IN INDIA

- As per circular issued by the **railway board**, the passengers in the reserved coaches can only sleep between **10 pm & 6 am** to allow others to sit in the seats for the rest of the time.
- **India** received its **first High Horsepower Locomotive** with the bodyshell of **12000 HP loco from Alstom France at Kolkata port.**
- **DMRC** declared as the world's first green metro after it added a green certification for all its major buildings & installations.
- Indian Railways achieves major landmark in the field of Eco friendly fuel technologies at **Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel (IROAF)** has been awarded the **coveted National level "Golden Peacock Award for the Year 2017 for Eco-Innovation" for substitution of fossil fuels (Diesel)** by environmentfriendly CNG in DEMU passenger train services.
- **Indian Railways** launched its **first 1,600 HP solar powered Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) train** with a unique facility of Battery Bank from Safdarjung station, New Delhi.
- **Indian Railways** launched an integrated **mobile application** to cater to various passenger requirements over & above ticket booking. **The app is called Rail SAARTHI & was launched by Railway Minister.**
- **Central Railway** taken a step towards **women empowerment by appointing an all-female workstaff** at the suburban Matunga station. Matunga station has now become the first such ladies special station.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1.	11 th July	World Population Day	Family Planning- Empowering People, Developing Nations.
2.	15 th July	World Youth Skills Day	Skills for All
3.	28 th July	World Hepatitis Day	Eliminate Hepatitis
4.	29 th July	International Tiger Day	Fresh Ecology for Tiger's Protection
5.	30 th July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons	Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons
6.	7 th August	National Handloom Day	
7.	10 th August	International Biodiesel Day	
8.	12 th August	International Youth Day	Youth Building Peace
9.	19 th August	World Humanitarian Day	#Not a Target
10.	29 th August	International Day Against Nuclear Tests	
11.	29 th August	National Sports Day	
12.	5 th September	National Teacher's day	
13.	14 th September	National Hindi Divas	
14.	16 th September	International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer	Caring for all life under the sun
15.	21 st September	International Day of Peace	Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All
16.	27 th September	World Tourism Day	Sustainable Tourism- A Tool for Development
17.	28 th September	World Rabies Day	Rabies: Zero by 30
18.	28 th September	World Maritime Day	Connecting Ships, Ports and People
19.	30 th September	International Translation Day	
20.	1 st October	International Day of Older Persons	Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in the Society
21.	11 th October	International Day of the Girl Child	Empower Girls: Before, during and after the Conflict

22.	13 th October	International Day for Disaster Reduction	Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement
23.	15 th October	International Day of Rural Women	Challenges and Opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and empowerment of rural women and girls.
24.	16 th October	World Food Day	Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development.
25.	17 th October	International day for Eradication of Poverty	Answering the call of October 17 to end poverty.
26.	21 st October	Police Commemoration Day	
27.	24 th October	World Development Information Day	
28.	24 th October	56 th Raising Day of ITBP	
29.	24 th October	United Nations Day	
30.	24 th October	World Polio Day	
31.	27 th October	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Discover, remember and share
32.	31 st October	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas	
33.	27 th October	Infantry Day	

INDEX/REPORTS

S.No	Report/Index	Organisation
1	World Economic Outlook	IMF (International Monetary Fund)
2	World Happiness Report	Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
3	Ease of Doing Business	IBRD (World Bank)
4	Global Hunger Index report	IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute)
5	Global Innovation Index	Cornell University INSEAD & the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
6	World Intellectual Property Report (WIPR)	WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization)
7	Global Competitiveness Report (GCR)	WEF (World Economic Forum)
8	Global Environment Outlook	UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)
9	Global Corruption Report (GCR)	Transparency International
10	World Employment & Social Outlook	ILO (International Labour Organization)
11	World Development Report	IBRD (World Bank)
12	Asian Development Outlook	ADB (Asian Development bank)
13	Global education monitoring Report	UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization)
14	World Cities Report	UN-Habitat
15	World Energy Outlook (WEO)	International Energy Agency (IEA)

IMPORTANT NATIONAL PARKS IN INDIA

State	National Parks
Assam	Rajiv Gandhi Orange National Park Dibru-Saikhowa National Park Kaziranga National Park Manas National Park Nameri National Park
Arunachal Pradesh	Mouling National Park Namdapha National Park
Andhra Pradesh	Sri venkateshwar National Park
Bihar	Valmiki National Park
Chhattisgarh	Guru Ghasi Das National Park Indravati National Park Kanger Valley National Park
Gujarat	Bansda National Park Blackbuck National Park Gir Forest National Park Marine National Park
Goa	Bhagwan Mahavir National Park
Himachal Pradesh	Pin Valley National Park Great Himalayan National Park Inderkilla National Park Khirganga National Park Simbalbara National Park
Haryana	Sultanpur National Park Kalesar National Park
Jammu & Kashmir	Hemis National Park Kishtwar National Park Salim Ali National Park Dachigam National Park
Jharkhand	Betta National Park
Karnataka	Anshi National Park Bandipur National Park Bannerghatta National Park Kudremukh National Park Nagarhole National Park
Kerala	Eravikulam National Park Anamudi Shola National Park Mathikettan National Park Pampaclum National Park Periyar National Park Silent Valley National Park

Meghalaya	Balphakram National Park Nokrek National Park
Maharashtra	Chandoli National Park Navegaon National Park Tadoba National Park Gugamal national park
Madhya Pradesh	Kanha National Park Madhav National Park Mandla Plant Fossils National Park Panna National Park Pench National Park
Mizoram	Mountain National Park Murlen National Park Phawngpui Blue National Park
Manipur	Keibul Lamjao National Park
Nagaland	Intanki National Park
Odisha	Bhitarkanika National Park Simlipal National Park
Rajasthan	Sariska National Park Ranthambore National Park Darrah National Park Desert National Park Keoladeo National Park
Sikkim	Khangchendzonga National Park
Tamil Nadu	Guindy National Park Indira Gandhi National Park Mukurthi National Park Mudumalai National Park Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
Telangana	Mrugavani National Park
Tripura	Bison (Rajbari) National Park Clouded Leopard National Park
Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa National Park
Uttarakhand	Gangotri National Park Jim Corbett National Park Valley of Flowers National Park
West Bengal	Neora Valley National Park Singalila National Park Buxa National Park Sundarbans National Park

IMPORTANT POWER PLANTS IN INDIA

States	Power Plants
Assam	Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station
Andhra Pradesh	Sri Damodram Sanjeevaian Thermal Power Station Simhadri Solar Power Plant Station
Bihar	Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station Barauni Thermal Power Station
Chattisgarh	Sipat Thermal Power Plant Hasdeo Thermal Power Station Bhilai Expansion Power Plan
Gujarat	Akrimota Thermal Power Station Mundra Thermal Power Station Ukai Thermal Power Station
Himachal Pradesh	Girinagar Hydel Project Binwa Hydel Project Rangtong Hydel Project Baner & Neugal Project
Haryana	Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Station Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Station Gorakhpur Atomic Power Station
Jharkhand	Chandrapura Thermal Power Station Koderma Thermal Power Station Bokaro Thermal Power Station
Kerala	Brahmapuram Power Station Kayamkulam Power Station
Karnataka	Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant Raichur Thermal Power Station Udupi Thermal Power Plant Bellary Thermal Power Station
Maharashtra	Tarapur Atomic Power Station Tirora Thermal Power Station Amravati Thermal Power Plant
Madhya Pradesh	Soran Ultra Mega Power project Amarkantak Thermal Power Station Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station Sant Singaji Thermal Power Plant Satpura Thermal Power Station
Nagaland	Dikhu Hydro Electric Power Plant
Odisha	Talcher Thermal Power Station
Punjab	Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Power Plant
Rajasthan	Chhabra Thermal Power Station Suratgarh Power Station
Sikkim	Ranjit Hydro electric Power Project
Tripura	Palatane Thermal Power Plant

Tamil Nadu	Kundakulam Nuclear Power Plant Neyveli Thermal Plant Tuticorin Thermal Plant
Uttarakhand	Chibro Power Plant Khodri Power Plant Chilla Power Plant
Uttar Pradesh	Narora Atomic Power Station Rihand Thermal Power Station Anpara Thermal Power Station
West Bengal	Mejia Thermal Power Station Farakka Super Thermal Power Station Kolaghat Thermal Power Station Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station

CLASSICAL DANCES OF INDIA

Dance	State
Bharatnatyam	Tamil Nadu & Karnataka
Kathak	North India
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Kathakali	Kerala
Odissi	Orissa
Manipuri	Manipur
Ghoomer	Rajasthan
Gaudiya Nritya	West Bengal
Sallriya	Assam

FOLK DANCES OF INDIA

Dance	State
Chhau	Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal
Bihu	Assam
Dandiya	Gujarat
Garba	Gujarat
Gatka	Punjab
Changu	Odisha and Andhra Pradesh
Gaur	Madhya Pradesh
Karagam	Tamil Nadu
Raas	Gujarat
Dumhar	Kashmir
Gair	Rajasthan

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Organisations	Headquarters
UNO	New York
UNESCO	Paris
UNICEF	New York
ILO	Geneva
UNCTAD	Geneva
WHO	Geneva
IMF	Washington DC
WB	Washington DC
NATO	Brussels
SAARC	Kathmandu
ASEAN	Jakarta
OECD	Paris
ICJ	Hague
APEC	Singapore
World Intellectual Property Organisation	Geneva
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	Vienna
Amnesty International	London
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Dev. Org)	Vienna
International Maritime Organization	London
Transparency International	Berlin
Commonwealth of Nations	London
WMO (World Meteorological Org)	Geneva
Food & Agricultural Organization	

IMPORTANT AIRPORTS IN INDIA

Airport	City	State
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport	Kolkata	West Bengal
Indira Gandhi International Airport	New Delhi	New Delhi
Rajiv Gandhi International Airport	Hyderabad	Telangana
Swami Vivekananda Airport	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport	Nagpur	Maharashtra
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
Biju Patnaik International Airport	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport	Guwahati	Assam
Kempegowda International Airport	Bangalore	Karnataka

Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
Raja Bhoj International Airport	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
Maharana Pratap Airport	Udaipur	Rajasthan
Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport	Amritsar	Punjab
Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Airport	Patna	Bihar
Birsa Munda Airport	Ranchi	Jharkhand
Bagdogra Airport	Bagdogra	West Bengal
Rajahmundry Airport	rajahmundry	Andhra Pradesh
Kandla Airport	Kandla	Gujarat
Tezu Airport	Tezu	Arunachal Pradesh
Lengpui Airport	Aizwal	Mizoram
Veer Savarkar International Airport	Port Blair	Andaman & Nicobar
Silchar Airport	Silchar	Assam
Zaruki International Airport	Shillong	Meghalaya
Sonari Airport	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
Agatti Aerodrome	Agatti	Lakshadweep

NICK NAMES OF IMPORTANT INDIAN PLACES

Nick Name	City Name
City Of Seven Islands	Mumbai
Pink City	Jaipur
Space City	Bengalore
Golden City	Amritsar
Manchester Of India	Ahmedabad
Silicon Valley Of India	Bangalore
Gateway Of India	Mumbai
City Of Festivals	Madurai
Queen Of Arabian Sea	Cochin
Garden City Of India	Bangalore
Electronic City Of India	Bangalore
Deccan Queen	Pune
City Of Buildings	Kolkata
Egg Bowls Of Asia	Andhra Pradesh
Manchester Of The South	Coimbatore
City Of Nawabs	Lucknow
Venice Of The East	Cochin
Queen Of The Mountains	Mussoorie
Hollywood Of India	Mumbai
City Of Weavers	Panipat
Steel City Of India	Jamshedpur

City Of Temples	Varanasi
Boston Of India	Ahmedabad
Switzerland Of India	Kashmir
Pittsburg Of India	Jamshedpur
Abode Of The God	Allahabad
Garden Of Spices Of India	Kerala
Heaven Of India	J&K
City Of Lakes	Srinagar
State Of Five Rivers	Punjab
City Of Castles	Kolkata
Manchester Of The North	Kanpur
Dakshin Ganga	Godavari
Old Ganga	Godavari
Sorrow Of Bengal	Damodar
Sacred River	Ganga
Blue Mountains	Nilgiri
City Of Rallies	New Delhi
Soya Region	Madhya Pradesh
Sorrow Of Bihar	Kosi

TEMPLES IN INDIA

Temple	Place
Badrinath Temple	Chamoli district, Uttarakhand
Golden Temple	Amritsar
The Konark Sun Temple	Puri district of Odisha
Gangotri Temple	Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
Brihadeeswara Temple	Thanjavur city of Tamil Nadu
Siddhivinayak Temple	Prabha Devi, Mumbai
Somnath Temple	Saurashtra (Gujarat)
Vaishno Devi Mandir	J&K, near Katra
Kedarnath Temple)	Garhwal area (Uttarakhand)
Ramanathaswamy Temple	
Sanchi Stupa	Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh
Kashi Vishwanath Temple	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
Meenakshi Temple	Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
Lingaraja Temple	Orissa
Lord Jagannath Temple	Puri (Orissa)
Yamunotri Temple	Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
Tirupati Balaji	Tirumala (Andhra Pradesh)

Khajuraho Temple	Madhya Pradesh
Akshardham Temple	Delhi
Dwarkadhish Temple	Dwarka city (Gujarat)
Shirdi Sai Baba Temple	Shirdi town of Maharashtra
Gomateshwara Temple	Shravanabelagola town of Karnataka

IMPORTANT REVOLUTIONS IN INDIA

Revolution	Field
Green Revolution	Food grains
Blue Revolution	Fish Production
Black Revolution	Petroleum Production
Golden Revolution	Fruits/Overall Horticulture development/Honey Production
Grey Revolution	Fertilizer
Golden Fiber Revolution	Jute Production
Yellow Revolution	Oil Seeds production
Pink Revolution	Onion production/Pharmaceutical (India)/ Prawn production
White Revolution	Milk/Dairy production
Red Revolution	Meat & Tomato Production
Silver Revolution	Egg/Poultry Production
Silver Fiber Revolution	Cotton
Evergreen Revolution	Overall development of Agriculture.

STADIUMS IN INDIA

Stadium	Location
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	New Delhi
Feroz Shah Kotla	New Delhi
Dhyan Chand National Stadium	New Delhi
Brabourne Stadium	Mumbai
Eden Gardens	Kolkata
Green Park	Kanpur
M.Chinnaswamy Stadium	Bangalore
Barabati Stadium	Cuttack
MA Chidambaram Stadium	Chennai
Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Ground	Rajkot
Rajiv Gandhi Port Silver Jubilee Stadium	Visakhapatnam
Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium	Hyderabad
Greenfield International Stadium	Thiruvananthapuram

Barkatullah Khan Stadium	Jodhpur
Barsapara Cricket Stadium	Guwahati
Sardar Vallabhai Patel Motera	Ahmedabad
Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai
Moin-ul-Haq Stadium	Patna
Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Cricket Stadium	Guwahati
Vidarbha CA Ground	Nagpur
Sawai Mansingh Stadium	Jaipur
Indira Gandhi Stadium	Vijayawada

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS RELATED TO CENSUS

Slogan - Our census, Our Future

India's 1st Census - 1872

2011 Census is - 15th Census

Total Population - 1,21,01,93,422

India's Rank in population - 2nd with 17.5% (1st China with 19%)

Most Populous State - Uttar Pradesh

Least Populous State – Sikkim

Most Literate State - Kerala (93.9%)

Least Literate State - Bihar (63.82%)

National Sex Ratio - Female : Male (940 : 1000)

Highest Sex Ratio (State) - Kerala (1084 : 1000)

Lowest Sex Ratio (State) - Haryana

Highest Sex Ratio (UT) - Puducherry

Least Sex Ratio (UT) - Daman & Diu (61 : 1000)

Literacy of Male - 82.14%

Literacy of Female - 65.46%

Population Growth Rate - 17.64%

Highest fertility Rate - Meghalaya

Most literate Union Territory - Lakshadweep (92.2%)

Least literate Union Territory - Dadra Nagar & Haveli

Most Literate District - Serechhip (Mizoram)

Least Literate District - Dadra Naga & Haveli

Highest Density of Population - Bihar (1102 sq.km)

Lowest Density of Population - Arunachal Pradesh (17)

Total number of districts - 640

Highest Populous District - Thane (Mumbai)

100% Literacy District - Palakkad (Kerala)

100% Banking State - Kerala

100% Banking District - Palakkad (Kerala)

Density of Population in India - 382 sq. km

Increase in population (during 2001-2011) - 181 million

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IMPORTANT WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

State	Wildlife Sanctuary
Assam	Amchang WLS Chakrashila WLS Dihing Patkai WLS East Karbi Anglong WLS North Karbi Anglong WLS Nambor WLS
Andhra Pradesh	Coringa WLS Kolleru WLS Nellapattu WLS Pulicat Lake WLS Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarjuna SagarSrisailem) WLS
Bihar	Gautam Budha WLS Kaimur WLS Pant (Rajgir) WLS Valmiki WLS
Chattisgarh	Badalkhol WLS Bhairamgarh WLS Bhoramdev WLS Udanti Wild Buffalo WLS
Gujarat	Jambugodha WLS Jessore WLS Kutch Desert WLS Mitiyala WLS Porbandar Lake WLS Rampara Vidi WLS Ratanmahal WLS Shoolpaneswar (Dhumkhal) WLS Thol Lake WLS Wild Ass WLS
Goa	Bondla WLS Madei WLS Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem) WLS Netravali WLS
Himachal Pradesh	Bandli WLS Daranghati WLS Dalra WLS Dhauladhar WLS Nargu WLS Pong Dam Lake WLS Shilli WLS Talra WLS

Haryana	Bhindawas WLS Kalesar WLS Khaparwas WLS
J&K	Gulmarg WLS Limber WLS Nandini WL
Jharkhand	Lawalong WLS Palkot WLS Parasnath WLS
Karnataka	Arabithittu WLS Attiveri WLS Bhadra WLS Bhimgad WLS Brahmagiri WLS Cauvery WLS Nugu WLS Pushpagiri WLS Ranganathittu Bird WLS Sharavathi Valley WLS Someshwara WLS
Kerala	Aralam WLS Chimmony WLS Idukki WLS Malabar WLS Mangalavanam Bird WLS Neyyar WLS Pariyar WLS Thattekad Bird WLS
Maharashtra	Aner Dam WLS Bhamragarh WLS Bhimashankar WLS Great Indian Bustard WLS Jaikwadi WLS Koyana WLS Nagzira WLS Painganga WLS Radhanagari WLS Sagareswar WLS Tipeswar WLS Tungareswar WLS

Madhya Pradesh	Bori WLS Gandhi Sagar WLS Ghatigaon WLS Ken Gharial WLS Narsighgarh WLS National Chambal WLS Orcha WLS Kuno WLS Sardarpur WLS Son Gharial WLS
Manipur	YangoupokpiLokchao WLS
Mizoram	Dampa WLS (TR) Ngengpui WLS Pualreng WLS Tokalo WLS
Meghalaya	Baghmara Pitcher Plant WLS Nongkhylllem WLS Siju WLS
Nagaland	Fakim WLS Puliebadze WLS Rangapahar WLS
Odisha	Badrama WLS Baisipalli WLS Chilika (Nalaban) WLS Hadgarh WLS Khalasuni WLS Satkosia Gorge WLS
Punjab	Abohar WLS Harike Lake WLS Jhajjar Bacholi WLS
Rajasthan	Bundh Baratha WLS Darrah WLS Jawahar Sagar WLS Kailadevi WLS Mount Abu WLS Ramsagar WLS Sariska WLS Sawai Man Singh WLS Shergarh WLS Sitamata WLS
Sikkim	Fambong Lho WLS Maenam WLS Pangolakha WLS
Telangana	Kawal WLS

Tamil Nadu	Karikili WLS Mudumalai WLS Pulicat Lake WLS Vaduvoor WLS Vedanthangal WLS Vettangudi WLS Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) WLS Kalakad WLS Karaivetti WLS
Tripura	Gumti WLS Rowa WLS Sepahijala WLS Trishna WLS
Uttarakhand	Askot Musk Deer WLS Binsar WLS Govind Pashu Vihar WLS Kedarnath WLS Sonanadi WLS
UP	Hastinapur WLS Ranipur WLS Sohagibarwa WLS Sur Sarovar WLS Chandraprabha WLS National Chambal WLS
West Bengal	Ballavpur WLS Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary Haliday Island WLS Lothian Island WLS Mahananda WLS

12 MAJOR PORTS OF INDIA

Port	State
Paradip	Orissa
Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
Kolkata	West Bengal
Mumbai	Maharashtra
Kandla	Gujarat
Jawahar Lal Nehru	Maharashtra
Cochin	Kerala
New Mangalore	Karnataka
Ennore	Tamil Nadu
Murmugao	Goa
Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu
Chennai	Tamil Nadu

IMPORTANT DAMS IN INDIA

Dam	River	State
Idukki Dam	Periyar	Kerala
Tehri Dam	Bhagirathi	Uttarakhand
Sardar Sarovar Dam	Narmada	Gujarat
Nagarjun Sagar Dam	Krishna	Telangana
Bhakra Dam	Satluj	Himachal Pradesh
Lakhwar Dam	Yamuna	Uttarakhand
Srisailem Dam	Krishna	Telangana
Pakal Dul Dam	Marusudar	J&K
Salal Dam	Chenab	J&K
Madupetty Dam	Palar	Kerala
Indira Sagar Dam	Narmada	Madhya Pradesh
Rihand Dam	Rihand	Uttar Pradesh
Pong Dam	Beas	Himachal Pradesh
Ranjit Sagar Dam	Ravi	Punjab
Baglihar Dam	Chenab	J&K
Supa Dam	Kali Nadi	Karnataka
Koteshwar Dam	Bhagi Rathi Nadi	Uttra Khand
Pillur Dam	Bhavani	Tamil Nadu
Parbati Dam	Parbati	himachal Pradesh
ukai Dam	Tapi Nadi	Gujarat
Chakra Dam	Chakra	Karnataka

IMPORTANT BOUNDARIES

- **Radcliffe Line** - This boundary line is between India and Pakistan drawn by Sir Cyril Radcliffe in 1947.
- **Durand Line** - It is between Pakistan and Afghanistan
- **McMahon Line** - The boundary line between India and China to which China does not approve. It was demarcated by Sir Henry McMahon
- **24th Parallel** - The line which Pakistan claims should be the Demarcation line between India and Pakistan, not accepted by India.
- **Hindenberg Line** - Boundary line between Germany and Poland to which German retreated in 1917 during the First World War.
- **Oder-Neisse Line** - The boundary line between Poland and East Germany.
- **Mannerheim Line** - It is between Russia and Finland.
- **Maginot Line** - The boundary line is between France and Germany.
- **Siegfried Line** - The boundary line is between France and Germany.
- **17th Parallel** - The line which defines the boundary between North Vietnam and South Vietnam before the two were united.
- **38th Parallel** - The boundary line between North Korea and South Korea.
- **49th Parallel** - It is the boundary line between the United States of America and Canada.



Banking and Financial Awareness

BANKING AND FINANCE NEWS

➤ **Banks to provide funds at 7% to Women SHGs under DAY-NRLM: Central bank**

The Reserve Bank of India in its new Guidelines has mentioned to provide funds to Women Self- Help Groups (SHGs) at 7% under the DeendayalAntyodyaYojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). RBI has issued these revised guidelines for 21 public sector banks and 19 private banks.

➤ **Kotak Mahindra launches Paymint:**

Kotak Mahindra Bank in collaboration with financial technology firm Zeta has launched a multi-wallet digital prepaid solution for salaried employees named Paymint. Through Paymint, corporate entities will be able to manage multiple reimbursements and allowances offered to employees including medical reimbursements, travel allowances etc.

➤ **Government permits banks to sell more small saving schemes:**

In order to encourage savings in the country, the Union Finance Ministry has allowed banks, including the top 3 private sector lenders to accept deposits under various small savings schemes. Till now, most of the small saving schemes were sold through the post offices. This decision will result in higher mobilization of money.

➤ **RBI sets up task force for Public Credit Registry:**

The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a high level task force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India. The ten-membered task force will be headed by Y M Deosthalee. Public Credit Registry (PCR) keeps database of credit information which is accessible to all the stakeholders.

➤ **SBI launched 2nd Digital Hackathon:**

The State Bank of India has launched the second edition of its Hackathon named 'Digitize for Bank'. This Hackathon will focus upon four themes- facial recognition, signature recognition, voice based authentication and cheque truncation value enhancers.

➤ **Government announces Bank recapitalization plan for PSB's**

The union Government has announced bank recapitalization plan to provide Rs 2.11 lakh crore capital over the next 2 years in public sector banks. It has also decided to provide financial support for MSME's in 50 clusters.

➤ **AU Small Bank, SIDBI launch Rs 200 crore Fund for MSMEs:**

AU Small Finance Bank has tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to establish Rs 200 crore fund for providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

- With an aim to educate public on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchase, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to launch financial literacy drive on pilot basis in nine states.
- The 9 states will be Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana and Haryana.
- HDFC, the second largest private sector lender of the country has been listed in Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) by the Reserve Bank of India.
- It is the third bank of the country to find a place in the list after SBI and ICICI.
- The five banks of BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) have signed an agreement to establish local currency credit lines and to develop cooperation on credit lines.
- The five banks are: Export-Import Bank of India, China Development Bank, Brazilian Development Bank, Russia's Vnesheconombank and Development Bank of South Africa.
- The Parliament has passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which amended the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for handling the cases of non-performing assets (NPA's).
- The act empowers the Central Government to authorize the Reserve Bank of India to give directions to the banking companies to resolve the issues of NPA's under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The central Bank is about to issue new banknotes of Rs.50 denomination with fluorescent blue as the base colour.
- RBI also clarified that the old series of Rs.50 denomination will continue to remain as legal tender.
- The dimensions will be 66mX135m.
- On the front side It will have Mahatma Gandhi's picture at the centre. Micro letters Bharat in devnagri, INDIA, RBI, 50 and Ashok Pillar Emblem will also be seen on the right side.
- ICICI Bank has announced the launch of Instant Credit Card Service that will enable its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner.
- There is a credit limit of up to Rs 4 lakh based on pre-checked bureau scores.
- IDFC Bank has partnered with digital payments company Zeta, to launch 'IDFC Bank Benefits' announced on 9th August 2017.
- Commodity derivatives bourse Multi Commodity Exchange Ltd (MCX) has received markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval to launch India's first gold options contract.
- RBI sets up Supervisory Colleges for six Scheduled Commercial Banks. These six Scheduled banks are State Bank of India, ICICI Bank Ltd., Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank Ltd. and Punjab National Bank.
- Canara Bank has hit the international debt market with a benchmark dollar bond issue that will have a tenor of 5 years. Through this issue, Canara Bank will raise \$400 million as part of its \$2 billion medium-term note programme.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a new service called "Kotak Remit". This service is an Aadhaar-based integrated outward forex remittance solution for both customers and non-customers.
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Punjab National Bank have signed an agreement for the distribution of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Products through the bank's network of 7,000 branches.
- 36th Foundation Day of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was celebrated at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on July 11, 2017.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India, Country's foreign-exchange reserves rose past \$400 billion for the first time ever.

- SBI launched FTSE SBI Bond Index series in partnership with global index provider FTSE 100, which will give tools to investors from India, the UK & globally to analyse India's government bond market, & drive growth in this market
- Artificial intelligence banking platform Payjo launched an AI-powered chat assistant for SBI to addresses customer enquiries. The chat assistant, known as SBI Intelligent Assistant, or SIA.
- RBI announced that Masala bonds will be treated as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from 3rd October 2017 thereby freeing up more investments by FPIs. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated overseas bonds.
- SBI launched a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative, SBI Gram Seva, which will work in the areas of health, education, environment & rural infrastructure.
- Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has written a book titled 'I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric and Resolve'.
- RBI notified that peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms need to be regulated & treated on par with nonbanking financial companies (NBFCs). Few important P2P lending platforms in India are LenDen Club, Faircent, Qbera, Lendbox, Rupaiya Exchange & Monexo.
- As per Finance Ministry, RBI will introduce 100 rupees coin to mark the birth centenary (100th anniversary) of AIADMK founder Late Dr. M G Ramachandran.
- SBI is India's most trusted & most popular bank according to a survey conducted by Brand Finance, London.
- Nepal SBI Bank, a subsidiary of SBI, launched its fully automatic digital banking services in Kathmandu.
- RBI allowed systematically important NBFCs to sell & market the new pension scheme (NPS).
- Lok Sabha passed a bill to approve the merger of associate banks with the SBI. Lok Sabha passed the bill to repeal the SBI (Subsidiary Banks) Act 1959, State Bank of Hyderabad Act 1956 & to further amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, following the merger of five associates with the parent SBI.
- Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as the new chairman of SBI, for 3-year term. Kumar will succeed Arundhati Bhattacharya.
- Vijaya Bank bagged the first prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2016-17.
- IDBI Bank launched 'Project Nishchay' in partnership with Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to accelerate its turnaround program & improve financial performance.
- Karnataka Bank bagged the 'best bank' award among small banks for the use of technology for financial inclusion at the 13th IDRBT Banking Technology Excellence Awards 2016-17.
- NABARD conferred the 'best performance award' for 2015-16 & 2016-17 to Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) for its work in the field of credit-linking joint liability groups (JLGs).
- On 11th July 2017, Union FM Jaitley inaugurated the 36th NABARD Foundation Day & Silver Jubilee of SHG Bank Linkage Programme, in New Delhi. Self Help Group Bank Linkage Programme (SHG BLP) is a pioneering initiative of Financial Inclusion by NABARD.
- Government made biometric identification Aadhaar mandatory for all post office deposits, PPF, the National Savings Certificate scheme & Kisan Vikas Patra. All depositors will have to provide Aadhaar number and link it with their accounts till December 31, 2017.

- ADB will provide a USD 152 million to Nepal for the implementation & enhancement of its power transmission & distribution. ADB & Nepal's Ministry of Finance signed the loan agreement in Kathmandu.
- Finance Ministry & World Bank signed a grant agreement of \$24.64 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank for ecosystem service improvement project.
- In its 4th Bi-monthly policy review of October 2017, RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6%, reverse repo rate at 5.75%, and the Bank Rate at 6.25%. It also Cuts economic growth forecast to 6.7% from 7.3% for FY'18.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)

RBI is a central bank of India, the only independent apex body of India which regulates all the financial institutions of India and provides important functions such as issuing of currency notes, inflation control, and monetary policy report.

- It was established on April 1, 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1935.
- It was nationalized in 1949

Structure of RBI:

The Central Board shall consist of following directors:

- A Governor and four Deputy Governors to be appointed by Central Government
- Four directors to be nominated by Central Government, one from each of the four Local Boards.
- Ten directors to be nominated by Central Government.
- Two Government Officials to be nominated by Central Government.

Functions of RBI:

- Bankers Bank
- Issue of bank notes
- Banker to Government
- Custodian of cash reserve of commercial banks
- Custodian of country's foreign reserve
- Central clearance and account settlement
- Formation of monetary policy for economic growth and to check inflation
- Controller of credit

Some Important Facts about RBI

- Headquarter :Mumbai(initially it was in Kolkata)
- First Governor :Sir Osborne Smith
- First Indian Governor: C.D. Deshmukh
- Present Governor: Urjit Patel

ALL INDIA TOPPERS FROM IBT

SUBHOJIT CHAKRABORTY SBI-PO - 2016 Roll No: 38407295966  	VIKAN PRITMANI RBI ASSISTANT - 2016 Roll No: 2630701471  	LOVE GUPTA SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No: 2201295176  	AASTHA SIHAG SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No. 2201399971  	VIKAS MEENA DMRC Roll No. 1130709957  
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SCHEMES RELATED TO BANKING AND FINANCE**1) Kisan Vikas Patra**

Kisan Vikas Patra is small saving instrument which was launched in 1988 but closed in 2011. It was re-launched in 2014 through post office and those banks that are authorized to operate PPF scheme. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is regulated by KVP Rules 2014.

Features of Kisan Vikas Patra

- Denomination used in KVP: Rs 1000, Rs5000, Rs 10000 and Rs 50000
- Maturity period: 113 months
- Types of certificates: Category Single, Joint A-Type and Joint B-Type
- Minimum deposit : Rs 1000
- Maximum deposit: No limit
- Rate of interest:7.6%
- Certificate can be encashed after two and half years
- Facility of nomination is available
- Certificate can be transfer from one person to another and from one post office to another
- No tax benefit is available for this scheme

2) Gold Monetization Scheme

It is a scheme that facilitates the depositors of gold to earn interest on their metal accounts. Once the gold deposit in the account, it will start earning interest on it.

Tagline: Earn while you secure

Implemented by: All scheduled/commercial banks excluding RRBs

Deposit limit: Minimum-30 g - Maximum-No limit

Tenure: 1 to 3 years (short term)

5 to 7 years (medium term)

12-15 years (long term)

3) Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

A sovereign Bond is a debt security issued by national government. It can be denominated in a foreign currency or government's own domestic company. It is tradable on stock market and available in physical and demat form.

Tagline: Invest Wisely, Earn Safely

Minimum limit: 2 gm of gold

Maximum limit: 500 gm

Issued by: RBI on behalf of Union Government

Tenure: Maximum 8 years but exit option is from 5th year

4) Indian Gold Coin Scheme

Under this scheme government sell gold from its own trading centre. Ashok Chakra engraved on one side and the face of Mahatma Gandhi on the other side. It is available at MMTC (Metals and Mineral Corporation)

Denomination: 5gm, 10gm and 20gm

5) Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

Sukanya Samriddhi Yozna is a girl prosperity scheme. It was launched by PM Modi as a part of Beti Bachao Beti Parao Campaign.

Objective: To promote the welfare of girl child

Minimum Deposit: Rs1000

Maximum Deposit: Rs150000

Maturity: 14 years from the opening of the account

Interest: 8.6%

Tenure of deposit: 21 years of date of the opening account

Account can be opened at Indian Post Office and Commercial Banks

6) Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yozna was launched by PM Modi in 2015. It is an insurance scheme launched for the welfare of needy people.

Minimum age for entry in scheme: 18years

Maximum age for entry in scheme: 50 years

Maximum Maturity Age: 55 years

Sum assured: Rs 200,000

Annual Premium: Rs330

7) Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a national mission for the financial inclusion to access financial services. Under this scheme a customer can opened with zero balance and if the customer want to get cheque book, the customer have to fulfill minimum balance criteria.

Features of Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana

- There is interest on deposit
- Accidental insurance cover of Rs 1 lac
- It also provide a life cover of Rs 30000
- Overdraft facility up to Rs5000 which is available to only one account per household preferably

8) MUDRA(Micro Units Development and Refinance Company)

Micro Units Development and Refinance Company is a new institution set up by the government of India for the development of micro units and Refinance Company. It is a part of SIDBI (Small Industrial Development Bank of India). It was launched in 2015. Under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, MUDRA has created three products:

1. Shishu: covering up to Rs 50000
2. Kishore: covering up to Rs 50,000 to 500,000
3. Tarun: covering loans above Rs500,000 to 10,00,000

Features of MUDRA scheme

- Its main purpose is to provide funding to non corporate small business sector
- Under the scheme women, SC, ST and OBC are given preference while giving loans

9) Indradanush Scheme

Government has launched a plan Indradanush to boost functioning of Public Sector Banks. This plan basically focuses on the 7 areas that are as follow:

- Appointments- As per the scheme Bank Board Bureau had replaced the existing appointment board
- Distressing-With this focus will be on distressing the banks from Non Performing Assets.
- Capitalization- Under this scheme government planned to infuse Rs 70000 crore in banks for the next four years.

Allocation in four years is as follow:

1. 2015-16 Rs 25000 Crore
 2. 2016-17 Rs 25000 Crore
 3. 2017-18 Rs 10000 Crore
 4. 2018-19 Rs 10000 Crore
- Banking Empowerment-under this government is looking to introduce Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOPs) for the Public Sector Banks.
 - Accountability-The government also provide new framework for the boost efficiency.
 - Governance- A process of governance reforms start from Gyan Sangam- a conclave of PSBs and financial institutions
 - Banking Reforms
 - Objective: To improve credit system and minimizing the political interference

10) Indradanush 2.0

Indradanush 2.0 scheme was launched in 2017. It is a comprehensive plan for the recapitalization of public sector lenders with a view that they remain solvent and fully comply with global adequacy norms. It will be finalized after completion of AQR (Asset Quality Review) by RBI. Asset Quality Review: Every year RBI inspector check bank books as part of its annual financial inspection process (AFI). In 2015, a special inspection was conducted and named as Asset Quality Review (AQR).



MASALA BOND, GREEN BOND & JUNK BOND

A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest.

It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute.

Following are the different types of the bonds

1) **Corporate Bonds** - A corporate bond is a debt security which is issued by a company and sold to the investors.

- Company's assets are may be used as collateral in some cases.
- The backing for the bond is usually depending upon the payment ability of the company.
- The corporate bonds have considered higher risk than governmental bonds.

2) **Convertible Bonds**- A convertible bond is a debt security that can be converted into predetermined amount of underlying company's equity. Convertible bonds are issue to avoid the negative impression of company's actions.

3) **Callable Bonds**- Callable Bonds are also known as "redeemable bonds" as the bonds are redeemed prior to the period of maturity.

4) **Term Bonds**- A term bonds are the bond which mature and come due on single date. A term bond possesses all the features of callable bonds.

5) **Government Bonds**- Government Bonds are those bonds which are issued by the government to support government spending. These bonds are more secure than corporate bonds.

Following are Some Other Important Bonds**1) Masala Bond**

Masala Bonds are the rupee denominated borrowings by Indian entities in overseas market. The word “Masala” is given by the IFC (International Finance Corporation) to represent Indian culture and cuisine. First Masala Bond was issued by the IFC (International Finance Corporation) when it raised Rs 1000 crore bond to fund infrastructure projects in India.

Issuers of Masala Bonds

- RBI has issued guidelines allowing following entities to issue rupee denominated bond overseas.
- Indian Companies (Blue Chip Companies)
- NBFCs (Non Banking Finance Companies)
- Infrastructure Investment Trust
- Real Investment Trust

Benefits to Investor

- By investing in Masala Bonds, the investor gets tax deduction on interest income.
- Capital gains from rupee appreciation are exempted from tax.

Benefits to Indian Companies

- If the issuer, issues bonds in rupees, then he gets rid of risk of currency fluctuation.
- The bonds bring new and diversified set of investors for Indian Companies.

Regulator of Masala Bonds

As the Masala bonds are Indian Rupee denominated bonds, it is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

2) Green Bonds

A Green Bond is a tax-exempt bond which is issued for the investment in the green projects or for the development of Brownfield sites.

Brownfield Sites are the sites which are underutilized, have abandoned buildings or underdeveloped.

Issuers of Green Bonds: Green Bonds are issued by following multilateral agencies:

- World Bank
- Corporation
- Government agencies
- Municipalities

Purpose

Green Bonds are issued to encourage sustainability and development of Brownfield sites. Specifically it finance projects aimed at energy efficiency, pollution prevention, sustainable water management etc.

Regulator of Green Bonds

In India Green Bonds are regulated by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).

3) Junk Bonds

Junk Bonds refer to high yield or non-investment grade bonds. These are named as junk bonds as it involves high rate of risk in relation to investment bonds. It is fixed income instrument that carry a credit rating lower by Moody's investor services. Investor demands high yield bonds as it yields high rate of return which in turn a compensation for their investment.

Regulator of Junk Bonds

In India Junk Bonds are regulated by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).

LIST OF THREE BIG CREDIT RATING AGENCIES

Credit Rating Agencies- Credit Rating Agencies provides objective analysis and independent assessment of companies and countries that issue securities. This assessment helps the investors and institutions whether these securities meet their obligations. There are top 3 credit rating agencies of the world named as Moody's, FITCH and Standard & Poor's

Fitch Inc.

- Fitch Inc. is the smallest of three Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organisation designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Fitch was founded by John Knowles in Newyork City as Fitch Publishing Company
- It published financial statistics for use in the investment industry
- In 1924, Fitch introduced AAA though D rating system throughout the industry
- Later it merged with London based IBCA in 1997
- Headquarter: It is headquartered in Newyork (U.S) and London(U.K)
- President & CEO: Paul Taylor

Moody's

- Moody's is founded by John Moody in 1909 to produce manual published basic statistic and general information about stocks and bonds.
- It provides international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities
- It ranks the creditworthiness of borrowers using a standardized rating scale
- According to Moody's rating system, rates from Aaa to C are assigned. Aaa for highest quality and C s for lowest quality.
- Headquarter: Newyork (U.S)
- Head: Raymond W MC Daniel

Standard & Poor's

- Standard & Poor's is the world's leading Index provider and the foremost source of independent credit ratings. It provides financial market intelligence to decision makers.
- It is founded by Henry Varnum Poor in 1860
- It includes global ratings, global market intelligence, Dow Jones and global platts
- Headquarter: Newyork (U.S)
- CEO: John L Berisford

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LIST OF IMPORTANT COMMITTEES

List of Important Committees		
S.no	Name of committees	Focus Area
1	Ajay Shankar Committee	To review functioning of PPP cell
2	H R Khan Committee	To evaluate unclaimed PPP and post office saving
3	Bimal Jalan	To head the Expenditure Management Commission
4	Justice M B Shah	On black money
5	Deepak Mohanty Committee	Data and information management in the RBI
6	Arvind Mayaram Committee	To clear the definition to the FDI and FII
7	Nachiket Mor Committee	To permit NBFCs to work as business correspondence
8	P J Nayak Committee	Governance of Boards of Bank in India
9	K.V.Kamath Panel	To examine the financial architecture for Micro, small and medium enterprises
10	Tandon Committee	Follow up for bank credit
11	M L Dhantwala Committee	Regional Rural Banks
12	SS Nadkarni Committee	Trading in public sector banks
13	Bhide Committee	Coordination between commercial banks and SFC's
14	AK Bhuchar Committee	Coordination between term lending institutions and commercial banks
15	R. Jilani	Inspection System in Banks
16	James Raj Committee	Functioning of public sector banks
17	Vipin Malik Committee	Consolidated Accounting by banks
18	A Ghosh Committee	Frauds & Malpractices in India
19	A K Khandelwal	HR issues of public sector banks
20	R.H. Khan Committee	Harmonization of role of financial institution in banks
21	Rakesh Mohan	Small Savings
22	N. K Singh Committee	To review the fiscal responsibility and budget management act
23	Amitabh Chaudhry	Analysis the existing framework of IRDA-linked and non-linked insurance product regulations
24	Inter- departmental Tax Force	To monitor and review the functioning of shell companies to prevent their misuse for money laundering and tax evasion
25	Dinesh Sharma Committee	To propose new regulation related to digital currencies or virtual currencies
26	Sudharshan Sen Committee	To study regulatory issues relating to financial technology and digital banking in India
27	Rattan P Watal Committee	To boost digital payment system in India

MONETARY POLICY

Monetary Policy is a process by which central bank of the country manage the supply of money which in turn effects on interest rates, inflation and growth of economy.

- In India RBI act as Central Monetary Authority.
- It formulates monetary policy at annual basis.

TYPES OF MONETARY POLICY

- **EXPANSIONARY POLICY**- It emphasizes on increase the money supplies in economy and expands credit creation.
- **CONTRACTIONARY POLICY**- It emphasizes on decreasing or control the supply of money and credit.

OBJECTIVES

- **PRICE STABILITY**- It refers to increase in general level of prices in economy. It implies avoiding both prolonged inflation and deflation.
- **Economic Growth**- It is increase in capacity of an economy to produce goods and services produced by country over a period of time.

MEASURES AND TOOLS OF MONETARY POLICY

RBI use following two measures to regulate the monetary policy i.e. Quantitative and Qualitative Measures

QUANTITATIVE MEASURES

- **BANK RATE**-It is a rate of interest which a central bank charges on loans and advances to commercial banks without any collateral. It is a long term rate of interest. It implies penalty over banks not complying with RBI rules such as not maintaining CRR and SLR.
- **OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS**-It refers to buying and selling of government securities in open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in banking system.

If securities purchased by RBI - By doing so supply of money will increase in market due to which demand will increase and ultimately there will be rise in prices.

If securities sold by RBI - By doing so supply of money will decrease in market due to which demand will decrease and ultimately prices will fall.

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - It refers to certain percentage of total deposits the commercial banks are required to maintain in form of cash reserve with reserve bank in form of cash only.

If rate of CRR is increased - By increasing CRR the bank needs to deposit more money with RBI. As a result banks left with less money so less money with people which leads to lower demand for goods and services and lower prices.

If rate of CRR is decreased - By decreasing CRR the bank can deposit less money with RBI. As a result bank left with more money so more money with people which lead to higher demand for goods and services and high prices.

Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) - It refers to proportion of deposits the commercial bank is required to maintain with them in form of liquid assets such as gold or RBI approved securities.

If rate of SLR is increased - By doing so the bank needs to maintain more liquid assets with them. As a result bank left with less money so less money with people which lead to lower demand for goods and services and low prices.

If rate of SLR is decreased - By doing so the bank maintain less liquid asset with them. As a result bank left with more money so more money with people which lead to higher demand for goods and services and high prices.

Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) - It allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements. LAF is used to aid banks in adjusting the day to day mismatches in liquidity.

- Bank cannot sell government securities that are under SLR quota.
- Bank can borrow any amount of money.
- Minimum bidding amount is 5cr.
- All clients of RBI are eligible to bid.

LAF (liquidity adjustment facility) can be classified into two:

1) Repo rate (Repurchase Obligation)- It is the rate at which RBI lend money to commercial banks against securities in case commercial bank fall short of funds. It is a short term lending rate which fixed at predetermined rate and time.

If Repo rate is increased - If Repo rate will rise, the interest rate of banks will increased which becomes costlier for people then demand of goods and services will reduce and ultimately prices will fall.

If Repo rate is decreased - If Repo rate will fall, the interest rate of banks will decreased which becomes cheaper for people then demand of goods and services will increase and ultimately prices will rise.

2). Reverse repo rate- It is the reverse of Repo rate i.e. rate RBI pays to bank to park excess funds to RBI

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) - By these mechanism commercial banks can get loans from RBI for their emergency needs.

- Minimum bidding amount in MSF is 1cr.
- Only scheduled commercial banks can bid.
- Banks can sell government security from SLR quota to RBI.
- Bank can borrow up to 2% of NDTL(net demand and time liability)

QUALITATIVE MEASURES

These measures can affect money supply in a specific sector of economy

- 1). **MARGIN REQUIREMENT**- This refers to difference between the securities offered and amount borrowed by bank.
- 2). **RATIONING OF CREDIT**- with this tool RBI can controls the credit granted and allocated by commercial banks.
- 3). **MORAL SUASION**- By this Central Bank may prohibit or dissuade commercial banks to deal in speculative business.
- 4). **DIRECT ACTION**- The Central Bank may take direct action against commercial banks that violate the rules, orders or advice of central bank.

RBI RATES (as per sixth bi-monthly policy statement for the year on October, 2017)

Bank Rate	6.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.5%
Repo Rate (RR)	6.00%
Reverse Repo Rate (RRR)	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	6.25%

BANK ACCOUNTS

The account which is maintained by a financial institution for the customer is known as bank account. In India there are only five kinds of accounts such as Saving Account, Current Account, Recurring Deposit Account, Fixed Deposit Account and BSBDA Account

- 1) **Saving Account-** Saving Accounts are the individual accounts for the personal purpose of saving. Most of the individuals save their investments with this account.
 - The saving account is opened on the name of individuals only.
 - On saving account individual earn some rate of interest; this rate of interest varies from bank to bank.
 - When a person opens a saving account he is provided with a passbook, ATM, and cheque book.
 - In saving account, there is no restriction on the number and amount of deposit but there is certain restriction on the withdrawal.
 - Minimum balance has to be maintained by the customer as mentioned by the bank.
- 2) **Current Account-** Current Accounts are the accounts opened for the business transaction, on the name of firm or company. These are never used for the purpose of saving and investment.
 - There is no limit on the number of transactions and amount in a day such as deposit and withdrawal.
 - There is no interest paid on the amount held in the amount but there are some service charges on such accounts.
 - These accounts have not any fixed maturity as these accounts are on regular basis.
 - No passbook is issued for the current account holders.
 - Minimum amount needed to open a current account varies from bank to bank.
 - Many facilities are provided to current account holder such as overdraft facility, statement of account.
- 3) **Recurring Deposit Account-** This account is opened by those who want to save small amount of money for a certain period of time and earn higher rate of interest.
 - Total amount is repaid along with interest after a fixed period of time.
 - The maximum period of deposit is ten years and minimum period of deposit is six months.
 - No withdrawals are allowed from Recurring Deposit Account.
 - Bank may allow close of account before the maturity period.
 - Interest rates may vary for different plans based on the amount deposit, period of time and also on banks.
 - Accounts can be opened in single or joint account.
- 4) **Fixed Deposit Account-** In this account a fixed amount of money is paid for a specific period of time on which bank pays high rate of interest. It is also known as Term Deposit.
 - In this account deposit and withdrawal can be done only once.
 - Bank pays the rate of interest on the amount according to the period of time.
 - If withdrawal is done before the maturity period, bank can impose penalty on it.
- 5) **BSBDA Account-** The Basic Saving Deposit Account is an account in which customer can open an account with zero balance. This bank is also known as No Frill Account.
 - No penalty is imposed on non-operating of these accounts.

BANKING ABBREVIATIONS

- **ADB-** Asian Development Bank
- **ADR-** American Depositary Receipt
- **AIFI-** All India Financial Institutions
- **AIIB-** Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- **AQR-** Asset Quality Review
- **ATM-** Automatic Teller Machine
- **BIRD-** Bankers Institute of Rural Development
- **BIS-** Bank for International Settlement
- **BPLR-** Benchmark Prime Lending Rate
- **BSBDA-** Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account
- **BSE-** Bombay Stock Exchange
- **CAD-** Capital Account Deficit
- **CAMELS-** Capital Adequacy Assets Management Earning Liquidity Sensitivity
- **CAR-** Capital Adequacy Ratio
- **CARE-** Credit Analysis and Research Ltd.
- **CASA-** Current Account and Saving Account
- **CBS-** Core Banking Solution
- **CCEA-** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- **CDR-** Corporate Debt Restructuring
- **CIBIL-** Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd.
- **CRISIL-** Credit Rating and Information Services of India
- **ECS-** Electronic Clearing Service
- **EFT-** Electronic Fund Transfer
- **FEMA-** Foreign Exchange Management Act
- **FERA-** Foreign Exchange Regulatory Act
- **FIIs-** Foreign Institutional Investors
- **HDFC-** Housing Development Finance Corporation
- **IBA-** Indian Bank Association
- **IBRD-** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **ICICI-** Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India
- **ICRA-** Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency
- **ICSID-** International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- **IDA-** International Development Association

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- **IFCI**- Industrial Finance Corporation of India
- **IFSC**- Indian Financial System Code
- **IMF**- International Monetary Fund
- **IMPS**- Immediate Payment Service
- **INVITS**- Infrastructure Investment Trusts
- **IPO**- Initial Public Offerings
- **IRDAI**- Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India
- **KYC**- Know Your Customer
- **LAF**- Liquidity Adjustment Facility
- **LIBOR**- London Interbank Offered Rate
- **MIBID**- Mumbai Interbank Bid Rate
- **MIBOR**- Mumbai Interbank Offered Rate
- **MICR**- Magnetic Ink Character Recognition
- **MIGA**- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- **MUDRA**- Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency
- **NABARD**- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- **NASDAQ**- National Association for Securities Dealers Automated Quotations
- **NAV**- Net Asset Value
- **NBFCs**- Non Banking Finance Companies
- **NDB**- New Development Bank
- **NDTL**- Net Demand and Time Liabilities
- **NECS**- National Electronic Clearing Service
- **NEFT**- National Electronic Fund Transfer
- **NHB**- National Housing Bank
- **NPA**- Non Performing Assets
- **NPCI**- National Payments Corporation of India
- **NSE**- National Stock Exchange
- **PIN**- Personal Identification Number
- **POS**- Point of Sale
- **PSBS**- Public Sector Banks
- **REITS**- Real Estate Investment Trust
- **RTGS**- Real Time Gross Settlement
- **SEBI**- Securities Exchange Board of India
- **SENSEX**- Sensitive Index
- **SWIFT**- Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication
- **SWOT**- Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
- **UPI**- Unified Payment Interface

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

It is a claim against a person or an institution for payment of a sum of money or periodic payment in the form of interest or dividend at a specified future date. Financial Instruments can be classified in two types such as Capital Market Instruments and Money Market Instruments

A) CAPITAL MARKET INSTRUMENTS

Capital Market Instruments consist of long term instruments for the period of more than one year. It includes:

- 1) **Equity Shares-** Equity shares represent the owner's capital in the company. The holders are the real owners of the company.
 - They have a control over the working of the company.
 - Equity shareholders are paid dividend.
 - They provide permanent capital to the company and cannot redeem during life time of the company.
- 2) **Preference Shares –** Preference Shares are shares of company's stock with dividends that are paid out to shareholders before common stock dividends are issued. These shares have their certain preferences as compared to other types of share. These shares are given two preferences such as:
 - Whenever the company has distributable profits, the dividend is first paid on preference shares.
 - Repayment of the capital at the time of liquidation.
- 3) **Debentures-** A debenture is an acknowledgement of a debt. It is a document under company's seal which provide for the payment of principal sum and interest thereon.
 - A debenture holder is a creditor of a company and interest is paid to him.
 - Debentures are to be repaid after a definite period of time.
- 4) **Derivative –** A derivative is a security with a price that is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying assets. Derivative is itself a contract between two parties based upon the asset or assets.
 - The underlying assets include stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies.
 - It can be traded over the counter or an exchange.

Derivative can be classified as follow:

- **Futures Contract-** Futures Contract is an agreement between two parties for the sale of assets at an agreed upon prices.
 - **Forward Contract-** Forward Contract is similar to futures contract but the only difference is this that it is not traded on exchange but only traded on over the counter.
 - **Swaps-** It is a contract between two parties agreeing to trade long terms.
 - **Options-** It is also similar to futures contract but the key difference is that with an option buyer and seller is not obliged to make transaction if he or she decides not to.
- 5) **Bonds-** A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest. It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute.

B) MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS

Money Market Instruments consist of short term instruments for a period of up to one year. It includes:

- 1) **Call Money** - The Call Money Market deals in short term finance repayable on demand.
 - Funds are lent and borrowed without collateral.
 - Maturity period of call loans varies from one day to fortnight.
- 2) **Treasury Bills** - It is a short term debt instrument issued by government of India and is presently issued in three tenures i.e. 91 days, 182days and 364 days.
 - Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest.
 - They are issued at discount and redeemed at face value at maturity.
- 3) **Certificate of Deposit** - Certificate Deposit are used by banks and issued to the depositors for a specified period less than one year- they are tradable and negotiable in the market.
- 4) **Commercial Papers** - It is used by corporate houses of India which should be a listed company. These companies need to obtain a specified credit rating from an agency approved by the RBI such as CRISIL
- 5) **Commercial Bills**
 - Commercial Bills are issued by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFI), Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Scheduled Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks, Co-operative Banks and Mutual Funds.
 - Maturity of these bills is 30 days, 60 days and 90 days.

Banking and Financial terms:

1. **American Deposit Receipt (ADR)** – It is a negotiable certificate issued by a U.S. bank representing a specified number of shares in a foreign stock traded on U.S exchange. ADRs are denominated in U.S. dollars.
2. **Anti Dated Cheque** - If date mentioned on the cheque is earlier than the date it is presented to bank; it is called anti dated cheque. Anti Dated Cheque is valid up to 3 months. Earlier it was 6 months but now it reduced to 3 months.
3. **Arbitrage** - Arbitrage is a process in which simultaneous purchase and sale of securities is done in order to earn profits with the difference in prices.
4. **Balance of Trade** - Balance of Trade is a difference between country's export and import for a given time period. It is the largest component of balance of payments.
5. **Balance of Payments** - A statement that summarizes an economy's transactions with the rest of world for a specified period of time is known as balance of payments.
6. **Bancassurance** - It is the term used to describe the partnership or relationship between a bank and an insurance company whereby the insurance company uses the bank sales channel in order to sell insurance products.
7. **Bank Account** - The account which is maintained by a financial institution for the customer is known as bank account.
8. **Bank Drafts** - It is a negotiable instrument governed by the Negotiable Instrument Act 1881. It is a facility offered by the bank to its account holders only. A bank draft is a payment made by bank on the behalf of bank
9. **Bank Rate** - It is a rate of interest which a central bank charges on loans and advances to commercial banks without any collateral. It is a long term rate of interest. It implies penalty over banks not complying with RBI rules such as not maintaining CRR and SLR.
10. **Banking Ombudsman** - It is an authority to solve any complaints of the customer against the banks. If the customer is not satisfied with the complaint they can forward their complaint to governor of RBI.
11. **Basel Norms** - Basel Norms are the set of recommendations for regulating banking industry in world. Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued Basel Accords

12. **Bearer Cheque** - A cheque which is payable to any person who present it for payment at the bank counter. Such cheques are risky as in case it lost, the finder may collect the payment from the bank.
13. **Bonds** - A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity which borrows a fund for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed rate interest. It is similar to debentures but the key difference is that it is issued by a government institute
14. **Broker**- Broker is a registered member of a Stock Exchange who buys or sells securities on behalf of his client and charges a commission such brokers are also known as commission brokers.
15. **Bull Market** - Bull Market is a market situation where a buyer buys shares in a hope that prices will increase in near future and he will resale in order to earn profits.
16. **Call Money** - The Call Money Market deals in short term finance repayable on demand. In this funds are lent and borrowed without collateral and maturity period of call loans varies from one day to fortnight.
17. **Call Option** - It is an agreement that gives the right to investor to buy bonds or shares at a specified price and within a specified period.
18. **Capital Adequacy** - It refers to the amount of capital the financial institution has to hold as required by its financial regulator. This ensures the protection of depositors and investors and financial soundness of the bank.
19. **Capital Market** - The segment of financial market of an economy from long term capital is raised via instruments such as securities, shares, bonds, debentures, mutual funds is known as securities market or capital market.
20. **Capital Reserves**- Capital Reserves are undistributed reserves which is the part of company's profit which is not paid out as dividends to the shareholders.
21. **Cash Reserve Ratio** - It refers to certain percentage of total deposits the commercial banks are required to maintain in form of cash reserve with reserve bank in form of cash only.
22. **Cheque** - A cheque is a negotiable instrument that is used for payments and settlements in India. It is an agreement between two organizations to make payments
23. **Cheque Truncation** - Cheque Truncation is a system in which physical cheque is converted into electronic form in order to reduce physical movement of cheques.
24. **Certificate of Deposit** - Certificate Deposit are used by banks and issued to the depositors for a specified period less than one year. They are tradable and negotiable in the market
25. **Commercial Paper**- It is used by corporate houses of India which should be a listed company. These companies need to obtain a specified credit rating from an agency approved by the RBI such as CRISIL
26. **Commercial Bills** - Commercial Bills are issued by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFI), Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Scheduled Commercial Banks, Merchant Banks, Co-operative Banks and Mutual Funds. Maturity of these bills is 30 days, 60 days and 90 days.
27. **Commercial Banks**- It is a type of institution that provides services such as accepting deposits, making business loans and offering basic investment product.
28. **Core Banking Solutions**- Core Banking Solution is a system where banks and their branches interconnected for the fast communication.
29. **Credit Rating**- Credit rating is the process in which debtor is given a rate on the basis of paying back of debt in time. This service is basically provided to the large scale borrowers such as companies.
30. **Current Account**- Current Accounts are the accounts opened for the business transaction, on the name of firm or company. These are never used for the purpose of saving and investment.

31. **Debentures-** A debenture is an acknowledgement of a debt. It is a document under company's seal which provide for the payment of principal sum and interest thereon.
32. **Demat Account -** Dematerialized Account is an account where shares and other securities are held in electronic form rather than physical form.
33. **Derivative –** A derivative is a security with a price that is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying assets. Derivative is itself a contract between two parties based upon the asset or assets.
34. **Dishonor of Cheque-** No payment of cheque by the paying banker with a return memo giving reasons for the nonpayment.
35. **Double Financial Repression-** It is the phenomenon when the bank faces financial repression on the both sides of the balance sheet. Repression on the asset side is a byproduct of SLR and on the liability side, continuing increase in inflation.
36. **Drawer-** the person who holds an account in a certain bank and draws a cheque to make payment.
37. **Drawee-** the person to whom the cheque has been drawn.
38. **Escheat-** When government acquires the property of a person having no nominee is termed as Escheat.
39. **Escrow Account -** Escrow Account is held by the third party on the behalf of the other two parties that are in the process of completing transaction.
40. **Equity Shares-** Equity shares represent the owner's capital in the company. The holders are the real owners of the company.
41. **Factoring-** A factor is a financial institution which offers services relating to management and financing of debts arising out of credit sales.
42. **Foreign Banks –**A foreign branch bank is type of that is obliged to follow the regulations of both the home and host countries.
43. **Fixed Deposit Account-** In this account a fixed amount of money is paid for a specific period of time on which bank pays high rate of interest. It is also known as Term Deposit.
44. **Green Bonds-** Green Bonds are the bonds which are exempted from the tax and issued by qualified organizations for the development of Brownfield sites. Brownfield sites are the areas which are underutilized or underdeveloped.
45. **Global Depository Receipt-** Global Depository Receipt is a certificate issued by more than one country for shares in a foreign country. The shares are held by the international branch of foreign bank.
46. **Hedge-** Hedge is an investment to reduce the risk of adverse price movement in an asset.
47. **Indigenous Bankers-** Indigenous Bankers are the individuals and partnership firms performing banking functions. They are local bankers. They can be distinguished as professional money lenders whose primary business is not banking but money lending.
48. **Interest Rate Swaps-** It is the transfer of contractually agreed between two counterparties of their respective interest rate obligation.
49. **Investment Institutions-** It includes the institutions which mobilize savings of public at large through various schemes and invest these into corporate and government securities.
50. **Internet Banking-** Internet banking is also known as online banking, Virtual Banking and web banking. Internet Banking allows its user to execute transactions with the help of internet.

51. **Junk Bonds-** Junk Bonds are kind of bonds which gives high yield at the very high rate of risk. These kinds of bonds are rated lower by credit rating agencies.
52. **Leverage-** it is a technique in which debt is used to finance firm's assets in order to increase profitability of the company. The firm which has more debts than equity is highly leveraged firm and vice versa.
53. **LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) -** It is a benchmark rate which some of the international banks charge for the short term loans.
54. **Liquidity Adjustment Facility-** It allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements. LAF is used to aid banks in adjusting the day to day mismatches in liquidity.
55. **Masala Bonds-** Masala Bonds are rupee denominated bonds i.e. bonds can be borrowed in Indian currency not in any foreign currency. These bonds can be issued by the Indian entities from overseas market.
56. **Merchant Banking-** In this service bank provides consultancy services to its clients for financial, marketing, managerial and legal matters.
57. **MIBOR (Mumbai Interbank Offered Rate)-** It is the rate at which bank can borrow funds from the other banks in Indian Interbank market. It is calculated everyday by the National Stock exchange
58. **Monetary Policy-** Monetary Policy is a process by which central bank of the country manage the supply of money which in turn effects on interest rates, inflation and growth of economy.
59. **Money Lenders-** A money lender is a person or a group who typically offers personal loans at a high rate of interest.
60. **Money Market-** The short term money market is known as Money Market.
61. **Mobile Banking-** Mobile Banking is a system that allows customers to perform a number of financial transactions through a mobile device
62. **Multinational Banking-** Multinational banks are those banks that physically operated in more than one country. It is also known as international bank. Narrow Banking involves mobilizing the larger part of the deposits in risk free assets such as government securities. In India narrow banking is implemented partially.
63. **NPA (Non Performing Assets)-** Non Performing Assets refers to the classification of loans in the books of financial institutions that are in arrears. The debt is considered non- performing when it is not paid for the period of 90 days.
64. **Open Market Operations -** It refers to buying and selling of government securities in open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in banking system.
65. **Open/ Uncrossed Cheque-** The cheque which is not crossed is known as Open Cheque or Uncrossed Cheque. The payment of such cheques can be obtained on the counter of the bank.
66. **Overdraft –** With this facility a customer can withdraws more money from the bank account that has been deposited.
67. **Preference Shares –** Preference Shares are shares of company's stock with dividends that are paid out to shareholders before common stock dividends are issued
68. **Post Dated Cheque-** If the cheque bears the any future date in the cheque that is known as Post Dated Cheque. Post dated cheque can be presented only on the future date which is written on the cheque.
69. **POS (Point of Sale)-** The place where sales are made. On a macro level, a point of sale may be a mall, market or city. On a micro level, retailers consider a point of sale to be area surrounding the counter where customers pay which is also known as "point of Purchase"
70. **Primary Market-** The market in which the instruments of security market are traded directly between the capital raiser and instrument purchaser is known as primary market.

71. **Put Option-** It is an agreement where investor has given a right to sell shares and bonds at a specified price and within a specified period.
72. **Regional Rural Banks-** Regional Rural Banks are local level banking organizations operating in different states of India. RRBs were established in 1975 on the recommendations of Narsimham Committee. It is followed by Regional Rural Banks Act 1976. RRBs are regulated by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) act 1981.
73. **Retail Banking-** Retail Banking refers to banking in which banking institutions execute transactions directly with consumers rather than corporate or other banks.
74. **Recurring Deposit Account-** This account is opened by those who want to save small amount of money for a certain period of time and earn higher rate of interest.
75. **Scheduled banks-** The banks which are included in Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 are schedule banks. RBI includes only those banks under this schedule which fulfill the criteria laid down under section 42(6)(a) of RBI Act 1934.
76. **Saving Account-** Saving Accounts are the individual accounts for the personal purpose of saving. Most of the individuals save their investments with this account.
77. **Secondary Market-** The market where the instruments of security market are traded among the primary instrument holders is known as secondary market.
78. **Self Help Group-** It is a homogeneous group of micro entrepreneurs with affinity among themselves, voluntarily formed to save whatever amount they can conveniently save out of their earnings and mutually agree to contribute to a common fund of the group from which small loans are given to the members of their meeting their productive and emergent credit needs at such rate of interest, period of loan and the other terms as the group may decide.
79. **Stock Broking-** Stock Broking is a function in which broker buys or sells securities on behalf of its client and charge commission on this transaction.
80. **Statutory Liquidity Ratio -** It refers to proportion of deposits the commercial bank is required to maintain with them in form of liquid assets such as gold or RBI approved securities.
81. **Stale Cheque-** If the cheque is presented after the 3 months of the date which is mentioned on the cheque is known as stale cheque. After the expiry of validity payment cannot be made.
82. **Stressed Assets-** Assets of banking company comprises of loans given and investments made by the bank. Quality of the assets indicates how much of the loans taken by the borrowers are repaid in the form of interest and principle. Hence stressed assets = NPA + Restructured Advances + Loan Write off
83. **SWIFT Code-** It is a standard format of the bank identifier code. This code is used particularly in international transfer of money between banks.
84. **Treasury Bills-** It is a short term debt instrument issued by government of India and is presently issued in three tenures i.e. 91 days, 182 days and 364 days. Universal Banking is a combination of commercial banking, investment banking, development banking, insurance and many other financial activities. It is a place where all products are available.
85. **Venture Capital -** The term venture capital represents financial investment in highly risky project with the objective of earning a high rate of return.
86. **Wholesale Banking-** Wholesale Banking refers to conducting banking business with industrial and business entities. This includes corporate, trading houses, multinational companies and domestic companies.
87. **Window Dressing-** It is a strategy used by the mutual fund and other portfolio manager near the year or quarter end to improve the appearance of funds performance before presenting to clients.

DIFFERENTIATED BANKS IN INDIA

Under the recommendations of Dr. Nachiket Mor committee new step for the financial inclusion has been taken in the country. As per the recommendations RBI set up the guidelines for the new categories of banks i.e. Payment Banks and Small Finance Banks.

Payments Banks in India

On the recommendations of Dr. Nachiket Mor committee RBI (Reserve Bank of India) grants license for commencement of banking business under section 22(1) of Banking Regulation Act 1949 and registered as a private company under Companies Act. It is a new model of banks which is conceptualized by the RBI (Reserve Bank of India)

The main objective of setting up of payment banks for the purpose of financial inclusion by providing:

- Small saving account
- Payment services

Features of payment banks

- Non finance company entities and existing non bank prepaid instruments issuer may apply for the payments bank
- Minimum capital required for the payment banks is Rs. 100 crore
- Foreign shareholding is allowed to these banks but as per the regulations of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment)
- Payment Banks cannot provide lending services but allowed to distribute financial product such as mutual funds and insurance products.
- The bank must use the term payment bank in its name to differentiate it from other banks.
- 25% of the bank branches of the payment banks must be in unbanked rural areas.

Services provided by the Payment Banks

- Acceptance of deposits (initially restricted to Rs 100,000)
- Payment Banks can provide services like ATM, net banking, debit cards and net banking
- Current and saving accounts can be operated through this bank.

In 2015, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) grants license to the 11 entities out of 41 entities who applied for the license

Following are the 11 entities which are granted license

1. Aditya Birla Nuvo
2. Airtel M Commerce Services
3. Cholamandalam Distribution Services
4. Department of Post
5. FINO Pay Tech
6. National Securities Depository
7. Reliance Industries
8. Sun Pharmaceuticals
9. Paytm
10. Tech Mahindra
11. Vodafone M Pesa

Out of above three have surrendered their licenses i.e. Cholamandalam Distribution Services, Sun Pharmaceuticals and Tech Mahindra. Airtel becomes the first to launched live payments banks in India



Small Finance Banks in India

Small Finance Banks are the banks which are globally known as niche bank. It is registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act 2013. Small Finance banks are licensed under section 22 of the Banking Regulations 1949. The main aim of setting up of these banks is to provide financial inclusion to those sections of economy not being served by the banks.

Features of Small Finance Banks in India

- Existing NBFCs (Non Banking Finance Companies), Micro-finance Companies and Local Area Banks may apply for the small finance banks in India
- Small Finance Banks are established as public limited company in private sector
- Minimum paid up capital for the small finance banks is Rs 100 crore
- Small Finance Banks are required to establish its 25% branches in unbanked areas
- These entities must add the term small finance bank with its name to differentiate it from other banks
- Foreign Shareholding is allowed as per the FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) policy

Services provided by Small Finance Banks

- Small Finance Banks can provide basic banking activities such as deposit and lending of funds (There is no such restriction on the amount of deposit)
- Small Finance Banks can also undertake non-risk sharing simple financial services such as distribution of mutual funds, insurance products and pension products
- In 2015 RBI grants license to 10 entities through which they have to convert into Small Finance Banks within one year.

Following are the entities

1. Ujjivan
2. Janakakshmi
3. Equita
4. AU Financiers
5. Capital LAB
6. Disha
7. ESAF
8. RGVN
9. Suryoday
10. Utkarsh

CHEQUES

A cheque is a negotiable instrument that is used for payments and settlements in India. It is an agreement between two organizations to make payments. Following are the types of the cheque:

- **Bearer Cheque** - A cheque which is payable to any person who present it for payment at the bank counter. Such cheques are risky as in case it lost, the finder may collect the payment from the bank.
- **Open/ Uncrossed Cheque** - The cheque which is not crossed is known as Open Cheque or Uncrossed Cheque. The payment of such cheques can be obtained on the counter of the bank.
- **Crossed Cheque** - Crossing of cheque means drawing two parallel lines on the face of cheque. It cannot be encashed at the cash counter of the bank but it can only credited to payee's account.
- **Anti Dated Cheque** - If date mentioned on the cheque is earlier than the date it is presented to bank; it is called anti dated cheque. Anti Dated Cheque is valid up to 3 months. Earlier it was 6 months but now it reduced to 3 months.

- **Post Dated Cheque** - If the cheque bears the any future date in the cheque that is known as Post Dated Cheque. Post dated cheque can be presented only on the future date which is written on the cheque.
- **Stale Cheque** - If the cheque is presented after the 3 months of the date which is mentioned on the cheque is known as stale cheque. After the expiry of validity payment cannot be made.

BASEL NORMS

Basel Norms are the set of recommendations for regulating banking industry in world. Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued Basel Accords.

Basel committee is named after the Basel city in Switzerland where Bank for International Settlements headquartered

- Recommendations framed by the Basel Committee but by the National law
- Basel committee consists of representatives of central bank and regulatory authority of ten member countries.

Basel Committee has given three Basel Norms named Basel I, Basel II and Basel III:

1. **Basel I**

Basel I is also known as 1998 Basel Accords. As in 1998 Basel Committee on Banking Supervision published a set of minimum capital requirement of banks with a goal of minimizing capital risk.

The banks which are operated internationally are required to maintain a minimum amount of 8% on risk weighted assets as per the recommendations of Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Basel I basically focused on credit risk and appropriate risk weighting of assets.

India adopted Basel I recommendations in 1991

2. **Basel II**

It is the second international banking regulatory accord. Basel II is the expanded rules for minimum capital requirement established under Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

Basel II accord based on the three pillars: Minimum capital requirement, supervisory review and market discipline.

- **Minimum Capital Requirement:** it is the first pillar of Basel I accord. Under this regulatory capital is maintained which is calculated for the major components of risk that a bank faces. The risk involved is credit risk, operational risk and market risk.
- **Supervisory View:** It is the second pillar of Basel II accord. It provides framework for national regulatory bodies to deal with various types of risk such as systematic risk, liquidity risk and legal risk.
- **Market Discipline:** It provides various disclosure requirement for the bank such as risk exposures, risk assessment process and capital adequacy.

In India Basel II norms are implemented by Reserve Bank of India on 31 March 2009.

3. **Basel III**

In late 2009 the first version of Basel accord is published by Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. It aims to promote a more flexible banking system by focusing on four vital banking parameters viz. capital, leverage, funding and liquidity.

Purpose:

- To improve banking sector's ability to deal with financial stress
- To improve risk management
- To strengthen the bank's transparency

In India Reserve Bank of India has extended the timeline for full implementation of the Basel III capital regulations by the year to 31 March 2019

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OF INDIA**1) Credit Rating Agencies**

Credit rating agency is a company which rates the companies and government on the basis of their ability to pay back the debt in timely manner. There are four credit rating agencies in India:

I. CRISIL (Credit Rating and Information Services of India Ltd.)

- India's first credit rating agency.
- Founded: 1987
- Headquarter: Mumbai

II. ICRA (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency)

- It is an Indian independent and professional investment information agency.
- Founded: 1991
- Headquarter: Gurugram

III. CARE (Credit Analysis & Research Ltd.)

- It is second largest credit rating agency in India.
- Founded: 1993
- Headquarter: Mumbai

IV. Onicra Credit Information Company Ltd

- It is a private sector agency set up by Onida finance.
- Established : 1993
- Headquarter : Gurugram

2) CIBIL (Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd.

- India's first credit information company.
- Founded : 2000
- Headquarter: Mumbai

3) SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India)

- SEBI is a regulator of India's securities market.
- Established: 1992
- Headquarter: Mumbai

4) IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)

It is an autonomous, statutory agency tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.

- Founded : 1999
- Headquarter: Hyderabad

5) MUDRA Bank (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Bank)

It is financial institution which is setup under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna. It is set up to provide loans at low interest rates to micro finance institutions.

- Headquarter: New Delhi
- Founded: 8 April 2015
- MUDRA can be classified into three types:

- Shishu: under this loans up to Rs 50000 will be provided
- Kishore: under this loans up to Rs 5 lakh will be provided
- Tarun: under this loans up to Rs 10 lakh will be provided

6) NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)

It is the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems in India, which aims to allow all Indian citizens to have unrestricted access to e-payment services.

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarter : Mumbai

7) NHB (National Housing Bank)

National Housing Bank is the apex bank in India. It is the wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.

- Founded: 1988
- Headquarter : New Delhi

8) SIDBI (Small Industrial Development Bank of India)

It is the subsidiary of Industrial Development Bank of India. It was set up to promote finance and to develop micro and medium industries of India.

- Established: 1990
- Headquarter: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

BANKS WITH HEADQUARTERS & TAG LINES


Sr. No.	Bank(s)	Headquarter	Tag Line
1	Allahabad Bank	Kolkata	A Tradition of Trust
2	Andhra Bank	Hyderabad	Where India Banks
3	Bank of Baroda	Mumbai	India's International Bank
4	Bank of India	Mumbai	Relationship Beyond Banking
5	Bank of Maharashtra	Pune	One Family One Bank
6	Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd	New Delhi	Empowering Women Empowering India
7	Canara Bank	Bangalore	Together We Can
8	Central Bank of India	Mumbai	Central to you Since 1911
9	Corporation Bank	Mangalore	A Premier Public Sector Bank
10	Dena Bank	Mumbai	Trusted Family Bank
11	IDBI Bank	Mumbai	Banking For All, "Aao Sochein Bada"
12	Indian Bank	Chennai	Your Tech- Friendly Bank
13	Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai	Good People to Grow With
14	Oriental Bank of Commerce	New Delhi	Where Every Individual Is Committed
15	Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	The Name You Can Bank Upon
16	Punjab and Sind Bank	New Delhi	Where Service Is A Way Of Life
17	State Bank of India	Mumbai	Bade Bank ke Bade Faayde

18	Syndicate Bank	Karnataka	Faithful Friendly
19	UCO Bank	Kolkata	Honours Your Trust
20	Union Bank of India	Mumbai	Good People to Bank With
21	United Bank of India	Kolkata	The Bank That Begins With "U"
22	Vijaya Bank	Bangalore	A Friend You Can Bank On
23	Bandhan	Kolkata	Hope for The Poor
24	ECGC Bank	Mumbai	You Focus On Exports We Cover The Risks
25	HDFC	Mumbai	We Understand Your World Indeed
26	Axis Bank	Mumbai	Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi
27	ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Hum Hai Na, Khyal Apka
28	HSBC	London	The World's Local Bank
29	IDFC	Mumbai	-



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