

## Important Current Affairs - Monthly PDF August 2018

**August 1 - August 31, 2018**

### Asian Games 2018 - Important Highlights:

<b>Asian Games 2018 Also known as</b>	<b>Jakarta Palembang 2018</b>
<b>Edition</b>	<b>18th</b>
<b>Host Country</b>	<b>Indonesia</b>
<b>Motto</b>	<b>“Energy of Asia”</b>
<b>Opening ceremony</b>	<b>18 August</b>
<b>Closing ceremony</b>	<b>2 September</b>
<b>Nations participating</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Mascots</b>	<b>1) Bhin Bhin - a greater bird-of-paradise,</b> <b>2) Atung - a Bawean deer, and</b> <b>3) Kaka - a Javan rhinoceros</b>
<b>First Asian Games held in</b>	<b>1951 in New Delhi, India</b>

- Young javelin-thrower **Neeraj Chopra** carried India's flag at the Asian Games 2018 opening ceremony.
- **Rani Rampal** was named as the flag bearer for the closing ceremony.

- India brought home a total of **69 medals** – 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze from the Asian Games 2018 in Indonesia.
- On Day 1, **Bajrang Punia** clinched the 1st **Gold** medal at Asian Games 2018 by outstanding performance in **Wrestling** in Men's Freestyle **65 kg**.
- India secured a bronze medal in the Men's Team **Regu** event which was the country's first medal in **sepak takraw** since the debut of the sport in the 1990 Asian Games.
- **Tejinderpal Singh** won India's 1st **Athletics** gold medal at Asiad 2018.
- PV Sindhu won India's first Asian Games silver medal in Badminton.
- **Neeraj Chopra** won India's first **javelin throw gold medal** in Asian Games history.
- Swapna Barman becomes **first Indian** to win Asian Games gold medal in the women's **Heptathlon** event, which consists of seven events including 100m race, high jump, shot put, 200m race, long jump, javelin throw and 800m race.
- The 27-year-old **Jinson Johnson** bagged India's 1st men's **1500m** gold at Asiad in 56 years.
- In the 25 meter rapid fire pistol event, **Rahi Sarnobat** became the first Indian woman to clinch the gold medal in a shooting event of Asian Games.
- **Vinesh Phogat**, who won gold in the women's freestyle 50 kg category, became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games.

### India's Gold Medal Winners at the Asian Games 2018:

GOLD MEDAL WINNERS	Sport	Event
Bajrang Punia	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 65 kg
Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling	Women's freestyle 50 kg
Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting	Men's 10 metre air pistol
Rahi Sarnobat	Shooting	Women's 25 metre pistol
Sawarn Singh, Dattu Baban Bhokanal, Om Prakash, Sukhmeet Singh	Rowing	Men's Quadruple sculls
Rohan Bopanna, Divij Sharan	Lawn Tennis	Men's Doubles
Tajinder Pal Singh Toor	Athletics	Men's shot put
Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	Men's javelin throw
Manjit Singh	Athletics	Men's 800 metres
Arpinder Singh	Athletics	Men's triple jump
Swapna Barman	Athletics	Women's heptathlon
Jinson Johnson	Athletics	Men's 1500 metres
M. R. Poovamma, Saritaben Gaikwad, Hima Das, Vismaya.	Athletics	Women's 4 x 400 m relay
Amit Panghal	Boxing	Light flyweight (49 kg)
Pranab Bardhan, Shibhnath Sarkar	Bridge	Men's pair (Card Game)

## Forbes released its 2018 top 10 lists of World's highest paid Actors, Sportswomen and Actresses:

### World's Top 10 Highest Paid Actors 2018:

- **Akshay Kumar** has emerged as the **seventh** highest-paid actor in the world by earning **USD 40.5 million** in 2018.
- **Salman Khan** ranked **ninth** place with **USD 38.5 million**.
- Hollywood star **George Clooney** **tops** the list of 'World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018' with \$239 Million.

Rank	Actor
1	George Clooney
2	Dwayne Johnson
3	Robert Downey Jr
4	Chris Hemsworth
5	Jackie Chan
6	Will Smith
7	<b>Akshay Kumar</b>
8	Adam Sandler
9	<b>Salman Khan</b>
10	Chris Evans

### World's Top 10 Highest Paid Sportswomen:

- With earnings of **\$8.5 million (nearly ₹60 crore)**, Rio Olympic silver medallist **PV Sindhu** is the only Indian to feature in Forbes' list of top 10 highest-paid female athletes of 2018.
- Placed **seventh**, Sindhu is the only badminton player in the list, which features eight tennis players and one race car driver- Danica Patrick.
- Twenty-three-time Grand Slam champion **Serena Williams** tops the list, with \$18.1-million total earnings.

Rank	Sportswomen
1	Serena Williams
2	Caroline Wozniacki
3	Sloane Stephens
4	Garbine Muguruza
5	Maria Sharapova
6	Venus Williams
7	P.V. Sindhu
8	Simona Halep
9	Danica Patrick
10	Angelique Kerber

### World's Top 10 Highest Paid Actresses:

- Scarlett Johansson's role as Marvel superhero **Black Widow** catapulted her to the top of **Forbes'** annual list of the world's highest-paid actresses, with **\$40.5 million**.
- With \$28 million, **Angelina Jolie** ranked **second** and is followed by Jennifer Aniston.
- Indian actress Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra are also renowned names in the west.

Rank	Actress
1	Scarlett Johansson
2	Angelina Jolie
3	Jennifer Aniston
4	Jennifer Lawrence
5	Reese Witherspoon
6	Mila Kunis
7	Julia Roberts
8	Cate Blanchett
9	Melissa McCarthy
10	Gal Gadot

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

### Scott Morrison elected as New Prime Minister Of Australia:

- Scott Morrison was sworn in as Australia's **seventh** prime minister in 11 years after a stunning party revolt against **Malcolm Turnbull**.

### Imran Khan elected as 22nd Prime Minister Of Pakistan, took oath on 18th August:

- Former cricketer and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief **Imran Khan** was administered the oath by President **Mamnoon Hussain**.
- Pakistan's 15th National Assembly election was held on July 25, in which Imran Khan's PTI emerged as the largest party securing **116** seats.
- However, Khan did not have the majority to form the government as a total of **172 votes** were **needed** for that in the 342-member lower house of Parliament.
- On August 17, of the total National Assembly members, **176** voted in favour of Khan, while his opponent, Shahbaz received 96 votes. Hence, making the way clear for Imran Khan to become the new PM.
- Imran Khan established the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party on April 25, **1996** and contested general elections and elected as Member of Parliament in October, 2002.
- Imran Khan invited Indians Aamir Khan, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Navjot Singh Sidhu to Oath Ceremony.

### UN E-Government Index: India ranked 96th Denmark tops the list:

- **India** jumped 22 places to **96th** rank in the top 100 of the United Nations E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018.
- **Denmark**, with an index value of 0.9150, **topped** the 2018 E-Government Development Survey.
- The E-Government survey is released by the United Nations in every two years.
- The 2018 edition was titled as 'Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'.

Rank	Country	EGDI Index Value
1	Denmark	0.9150
2	Australia	0.9053
3	Republic of Korea	0.9010
4	The United Kingdom	0.8999
5	Sweden	0.8882
6	Finland	0.8815

### Apple becomes First \$1 Trillion Company in History:

- **Apple Inc.** became the **first** U.S.-based company with a market value of **\$1 trillion**, four decades after it was co-founded by **Steve Jobs** in a Silicon Valley garage and later revolutionized the worlds of computing, music and mobile communications.
- The iMac desktop computer, the iPod, iPhone, and iPad were smash hits.
- Apple CEO - **Tim Cook**.



## **Emmerson Mnangagwa again won Presidential election in Zimbabwe:**

- Current Zimbabwe President, **Emmerson Mnangagwa** won 50.8 percent of total votes.
- Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa of Movement for Democratic Change party (MDC) party secured 44.3 percent votes.
- Emmerson Mnangagwa has been sworn in as Zimbabwe's president on November 2017, just days after Robert Mugabe resigned.

## **NASA selects Indian origin Sunita Williams among 9 astronauts for human spaceflight:**

- Williams has been named for the **Boeing** programme to the ISS (International Space Station), the first test flight scheduled to take place in the middle of 2019.
- The eight active NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronauts and one former astronaut-turned-corporate crew member will launch on **Boeing CST-100 Starliner** and **SpaceX Dragon Capsule** to the International Space Station beginning in 2019.
- The Eight other astronauts are:
  - Victor Glover,
  - Robert Behnken,
  - Michael Hopkins,
  - Douglas Hurley,
  - Eric Boe,
  - Christopher Ferguson,
  - Josh Cassada, and
  - Nicole Mann.

### **Japan overtakes China as World's 2nd biggest stock market:**

- As a result of China's trade war with the US and its campaign to cut debt, the value of China's stock market fell to **\$6.09 trillion**, losing its position as the World's second biggest stock market to **Japan (\$6.17 trillion)**.
- The **U.S.** has the world's largest stock market at just over **\$31 trillion**.
- China's stock market overtook Japan's in **2014** and soared to an all-time high of over \$10 trillion in 2015.

### **Japan commemorates 73rd Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombings:**

- On **August 6, 1945** at 8:15 a.m., the US B-29 bomber **Enola Gay** dropped the 20 kiloton atomic bomb "**Little Boy**," on **Hiroshima**, which devastated most of the city, killing 80,000 people instantly, leaving 12,000 missing and 40,000 wounded.
- On **August 9, 1945**, at 11:01 a.m., another US bomber dropped the 21 kiloton atomic bomb "**Fat Man**" on another Japanese city - **Nagasaki** - killing about 40,000 people and leaving 60,000 injured.
- **About Japan:**
  - Capital - Tokyo.
  - Currency - Japanese Yen.
  - Prime Minister - Shinzo Abe (Since 2012)

### **Oscar Academy is adding a New Category for Popular Films:**

- The new Oscar will be awarded for "Outstanding Achievement in **Popular Film**" and will be introduced this coming year, at the **91st** Oscars.

- The **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**, which awards the Oscars, has added a new category after 17 years to recognise popular films.
- The last category to be added was '**Best Animated** Feature Film'.
- President of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences - **John Bailey**.

### **Macau set to overtake Qatar as world's richest place by 2020:**

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Macau in China would overtake oil-rich Qatar with the highest per-capita gross domestic product of any country or jurisdiction on earth, by 2020.
- Macau is the only place in **China** where **casinos** are **legal** and its gross domestic product has more than tripled from about \$34,500 per capita in 2001, the IMF data shows.
- Three European countries -- Luxembourg, Ireland, and Norway -- made the top 10 places expected to be the world's wealthiest by 2020, while the US came in at No.12.

### **BBC's 'Women Who Changed The World List': Marie Curie Topped:**

- BBC History magazine compiled a list of “100 women who changed the world”, in which, Polish-born **Marie Curie**, who undertook pioneering research into **radioactivity** in the early 20th century, was voted number one. She was the first person to win **two Nobel prizes**.
- **Top 10 in the BBC History Magazine list:**
  1. Marie Curie
  2. Rosa Parks
  3. Emmeline Pankhurst

4. Ada Lovelace
5. Rosalind Franklin
6. Margaret Thatcher
7. Angela Burdett-Coutts
8. Mary Wollstonecraft
9. Florence Nightingale
10. Marie Stopes

### **Vienna named world's most liveable city, Melbourne at 2nd:**

- For the first time, Austria's capital **Vienna** has topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index for 2018, beating Australian city **Melbourne**, which had topped the list for the past seven years.
- **Osaka** in Japan came **third** followed by Calgary in Canada while Sydney is fifth.
- Syrian city **Damascus** was placed at the **bottom** of the list.

### **Asad Qaiser has been elected as the Speaker of Pakistan parliament:**

- Asad Qaiser of **Pakistan Tehreek-e Insaf (PTI)** party has been elected as the Speaker of Pakistan's parliament.
- He secured **176** votes and defeated **Khursheed Shah**.
- He was sworn in as the Speaker of the National Assembly, Parliament's lower house on 15th August.

### **Mario Abdo Benitez sworn in as the 50th President of Paraguay:**

- Benitez clinched the top spot after defeating his closest rival, **Efrain Alegre** from the liberal opposition alliance, by four percentage points in the nation's elections.

- 46-year-old Benitez replaces **Horacio Cartes**. Both are from the conservative Colorado Party.
- **About Mario Abdo Benítez:**
  - ◆ Got involved in politics in 2004.
  - ◆ Founded a political faction with the grandson of Paraguay's former dictator Alfredo Stroessner.
  - ◆ Opposes same-sex marriage and the legalisation of abortion.

### **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita re-elected as Mali president:**

- Keita won with **67 percent** of the vote in a runoff against opposition candidate **Soumaila Cisse**.
- Keita, who is 73, will take office on September 4. His immediate challenges include strengthening a 2015 peace accord between the government, its allies, and former Tuareg rebels.
- **About Mali:**
  - Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa.
  - Population - 18 million
  - Capital - Bamako
  - Official language - French
  - Currency - West African CFA franc

### **Greece exits eurozone bailout programme after 8 years:**

- Greece emerged from the eurozone bailout programme after eight years, successfully completing its **third bailout programme** worth **€61.9 billion**.
- The European Union, European Central Bank and IMF had loaned Greece **€289 billion** under the three bailout deals, in support of macroeconomic adjustment and bank recapitalization.

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), only four countries have shrunk economically more than Greece in the past decade: Yemen, Libya, Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea.

### **Scotland 1st country in the World to give students free sanitary products:**

- **Scotland** has become the world's first country to provide **free** sanitary products to all students in a bid to tackle "period poverty".
- Scottish government approved a £5.2 million (**\$6.7 million**) initiative that will make sanitary products free at all schools, colleges and universities. Nearly 4 lakh pupils and students are expected to benefit from the Scottish government's scheme.
- One UNESCO report estimates that one in 10 girls in sub-Saharan Africa miss 20 percent of the school year because of their period.

### **Germany offers Rs 990 crore loan for Clean Ganga Mission:**

- In an effort to clean the river Ganga, **Germany** is providing a **soft loan of euro 120 million** (approx. Rs 990 crore) to India to strengthen sewage water treatment infrastructure in **Uttarakhand**.
- The purpose of the project 'Clean Ganga Mission' is to reduce the inflow of untreated wastewater in River Ganga and, thus, to improve the water quality of the river.
- The initiative also includes construction of 13 sewage pumping stations.

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

### Assam NRC Final Draft List released:

- In a bid to identify the **illegal Bangladeshi migrants**, the government released the final draft of **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** list with names of 28,983,677 citizens in Assam.
- However, around 40 lakh people have been left out of the list.
- **What is NRC?**
  - National Register of Citizens is a record of all legal citizens of a state. The first list of NRC was created way back in 1951.
  - The NRC was prepared under the purview of the **Foreigners Act of 1946**.
  - **Assam** is the only state in India that has an NRC.

### Mallya tops the List of India's 28 Fugitive Economic Offenders:

- **Vijay Mallya** (promoter of defunct Kingfisher Airlines) allegedly defrauded banks of about **Rs 7,500 crore**, according to the list the Finance Ministry submitted in the Lok Sabha.
- **Mehul Choksi**, promoter of Gitanjali Jewels (₹7,080 crore) and his nephew **Nirav Modi** (₹6,498 crore) took the second and third spots.
- The list also includes Sterling Biotech promoters **Chetan Sandesara**, Nitin Sandesara and Diptiben Sandesara, who allegedly defrauded banks of ₹5,383 crore.



### India became 3rd Asian nation to get STA 1 status from US:

- India has become the third Asian nation after **Japan and South Korea**, **37th** overall, and **first south Asian** nation to get the **Strategic Trade Authorization-1** (STA - 1) status from the US.
- This status paves way for high-technology product **sales** to New Delhi, particularly in civil space and defence sectors.
- The US made an exception for India, which is yet to become a member of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- India so far was listed in **STA-2 category** along with Albania, Hong Kong, Israel, Malta, Singapore, South Africa and Taiwan.

### India's Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve enters UNESCO list:

- The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (**KBR**) of Sikkim, the highest biosphere reserve in India that includes the third highest mountain peak in the world, **Kanchenjunga** (8,586 m), has been included in the UNESCO's **World Network of Biosphere Reserve** (WHBR).
- India has **18** biospheres reserves, of which 11 have been included in the WNBR.
- The last biosphere reserve to be included was the **Agasthyamalai** Biosphere Reserve in Kerala in 2016.
- The **Nilgiri** Biosphere Reserve was the first reserve from India to be included in the WNBR.

### In Assam, Gujarat, Giant National Flags Unfurled On 72nd Independence Day:

- An **1100 feet-long**, 9 feet-wide tricolour flag was unfurled with thousands of people taking part in a 5km-long '**Shaan-e-Tiranga**'



rally, organised by the Agrawal Vikas Trust. This was the biggest 'Tiranga Yatra' organised in **Gujarat** so far.

- A **3.5 kilometre** long Tricolour was made in **Assam's Uparkhuti** village by a local club for Independence Day.
- The large flag was made to arouse national pride among the youngsters and honour the **Assam Athlete Hima Das**, who is the first Indian to win a gold medal in a track event at the World Junior Athletics Championship in Finland this year.

### **India now world's 6th largest economy, says PM Modi on Independence day:**

- Addressing the nation on the **72nd** Independence Day, PM Narendra Modi said, 'India has registered its name as the **sixth largest economy** in the world.'
- In 2013, India used to be counted as part of the 'Fragile Five' in the world. But today, India is seen as a destination for multi-billion dollar investments.
- This was the Prime Minister Modi's **fifth** and the last Independence Day speech before the 2019 general elections.

### **President Ram Nath Kovind granted 131 Gallantry Awards including one Kirti Chakra:**

- On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind has presented **131** Gallantry Awards to members of Armed Forces personnel and Paramilitary Forces, which include one **Kirti Chakra**, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), three **Vayu Sena** Medals (Gallantry), 11 **Nao Sena** Medals (Gallantry), 20 **Shaurya Chakras** and 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry).

- Braveheart hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, **Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh** has been shortlisted for the **Kirti Chakra** award posthumously.
- Rifleman **Aurangzeb** was also conferred with the **third** highest gallantry award.

### **PM Narendra Modi announced immediate relief of Rs 500 crore to flood hit Kerala:**

- Kerala is facing its worst flood in 100 years with 80 dams opened and all rivers in spate.
- Modi also announced an ex-gratia of **Rs 2 lakh per person** to the next of kin of the deceased and **Rs 50,000** to those seriously injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (**PMNRF**).
- North and central Kerala have been worst-hit by the floods with at least 3,10,000 people displaced.
- At least 324 lives have been lost in Kerala's worst floods since **1924**.
- **Qatar** announced Financial aid of **Rs.34.89 crore** for flood hit Kerala.
- The **European Union** announced an offer of **€190,000** (Rs.1.53 crore) in aid funding to the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), for flood hit Kerala.
- The **UAE** government extended its hand to offer **Rs.700 crore** to assist Kerala in its distress.

### **Santali becomes 1st Indian tribal language to get own Wikipedia edition:**

- The Santhali Wikipedia got approval from the language committee of the Wikimedia Foundation on June 28 and went live on August 2.
- It presently has content of about 70,000 words.
- Santali is written in **Ol Chiki script** and spoken by **6.4 million people**, according to the 2001 census, in India alone and its speakers live mostly in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam. It is also spoken in Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Several hundred students wrote their Class 10 board examinations under the **West Bengal** Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) in the Ol Chiki script for the **first time** this year.
- Wikipedia is available in nearly **300 languages** globally as of August 2018.

### **Lok Sabha passed the National Sports University Bill, 2018:**

- The Bill is to establish a **National Sports University** in **Manipur**, at the cost Rs.524 crore.
- It aimed at enhancing the country's standing in sports.
- The National Sports University Bill, 2018, will replace an Ordinance promulgated by the President Ram Nath Kovind on May 31 2018.
- The legislation was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 2017 by Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore**.

### **Delhi tops in State Investment potential index:**

- The index prepared by economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), showed that **Delhi** topped

the rankings on **infrastructure and economic conditions** of the state.

- **Tamil Nadu** was in **second** place and topped the rankings in labour and governance.
- These two states are followed by Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and West Bengal.
- The ranking of 20 states and one Union Territory of Delhi was based on six pillars -
  1. Land,
  2. Labour,
  3. Infrastructure,
  4. Economic climate,
  5. Governance and political stability and
  6. Business perceptions.

### **Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2018:**

- The Bill gives statutory powers to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
- The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha with more than a two-thirds majority on 2nd August 2018.
- It was recommended that the government should make public the caste census findings, based on which the reservation policy should be formulated.
- The demand for having a **woman member in the NCBC** would be considered and the other demand that one member in the five-member body must be from the minority community was dropped.

### **Rajya Sabha passed the SC and ST (PoA) Amendment Bill 2018:**

- **Rajya Sabha** passed the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018**.
- The Bill will reverse the Supreme Court order that provides the provision for the immediate arrest of the accused booked under the SC/ST law.
- Now the Bill rules out any provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of atrocities against people from SC and ST communities.
- The Bill inserts **three sections** 18A (1) (a), 18A (1) (b) and 18A (2) in the 1989 Act.
- **Section 18A (1) (a)** of the Bill says Preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of an FIR against any person.
- **Section 18A (1) (b)** of the Bill says the investigating officer shall not require approval for the arrest, if necessary, of any person against whom an accusation of having committed an offence under this Act has been made and no procedure, other than that provided under this Act or the Code, shall apply.
- **Section 18A (2)** of the Bill says the provision of section 438 of the Code shall not apply to a case under this Act, notwithstanding any judgment or order or direction of any Court.

### **Rajasthan is the first State to implement Biofuel Policy:**

- **Rajasthan** become the first State in the country to implement the **national policy on biofuels** unveiled by the Central government.
- This policy on biofuels seeks to help **farmers** dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce the country's oil import dependence.

### Government introduced four GST amendment Bills:

- The government introduced four Bills to amend the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** laws in order to make the return forms simpler and raise the turnover threshold for availing composition scheme to Rs.1.5 crore.
- The four amendment Bills are
  - Central GST (Amendment) Bill,
  - Integrated GST (Amendment) Bill,
  - GST (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill and
  - Union Territory GST (Amendment) Bill.

### Kolkata man tops IQ world list with the score of 148:

- **Amit Sahai**, a 43-year-old senior professional from Kolkata has topped the prestigious **Intelligence Quotient (IQ) World list** along with two other Americans with a score of **148**.
- He has a background in international sales of **software**, IT, ITes services and high end audio and engineering products.
- He is also a member of the International High IQ Society.

### GST council announced Cashback For Digital Transactions:

- Finance Minister **Piyush Goyal** announces **20% Cashback** upto Rs 100 for the Digital Transactions done via BHIM, Rupay or USSD mode.
- The main aim of the meeting on the concerns and suggestions of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- **About GST:**
  - Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect tax (or consumption tax) levied in India on the supply of goods and service.



- The GST was launched at midnight on 1st July 2017 by the Former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, and the Government of India.

### **Entry Fee To Taj Mahal and Other Historical Monuments Increased:**

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) raised the entry fee to visit **Taj Mahal** from ₹1000 to **₹1100** for **foreign** tourists and from ₹40 to **₹50** for **domestic** tourists.
- Apart from this, visitors from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries will now pay **Rs.540**, including Rs. 500 as toll tax to visit the monument.
- Earlier, the Archaeological Survey of India increased the entry fee for its protected monuments in 2016.

### **Three northeastern States emerge as new HIV hotspots:**

- According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, **Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura** have emerged as the new hotspots for HIV.
- In terms of persons living with HIV (PLHIV) who are on Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART), **Maharashtra** has the highest number (with 2.03 lakh persons) followed by A.P.(1.78 lakh ) and Karnataka (1.58 lakh persons).

### **President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 'One District One Product' Summit in UP:**

- One District One Product (**ODOP**) scheme will help each district of Uttar Pradesh to manufacture one product.

- Under this ODOP scheme, the state government has set a goal of providing **employment to 25 lakh people** in five years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 crores.
- During the summit, with a tagline of '**Nayi Udaan, Nayi Pehchan**', the President distributed loan sanction papers amounting to Rs 1,006.94 crore to 4,085 artisans from 75 districts.
- Uttar Pradesh is uniquely famous for product-specific traditional industrial hubs across 75 districts, including
  - ◆ Varanasi (Banarasi silk sari),
  - ◆ Bhadohi (carpet),
  - ◆ Lucknow (chikan),
  - ◆ Kanpur (leather goods),
  - ◆ Agra (leather footwear),
  - ◆ Aligarh (locks),
  - ◆ Moradabad (brassware),
  - ◆ Meerut (sports goods) and
  - ◆ Saharanpur (wooden products).

### **India ranked 177 on the Environmental Performance Index 2018:**

- According to the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** ranking, India has been placed **177th rank** out of 180 countries on the **Environmental Performance Index 2018**.
- India slipped 36 points from 141 in the 2016 report, prepared by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the WEF.

### **Indian Railways to stop free travel insurance from September 1:**

- Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has decided to **stop free travel insurance** starting September 1 and "free insurance will be optional".



- The insurance provided by the IRCTC had a maximum cover of **Rs. 10 lakh** in case of a person's death during a train journey, Rs. 7.5 lakh if a person is disabled due to an accident, Rs. 2 lakh if injured and Rs. 10,000 for transportation of mortal remains.

### **Pune ranked first in Ease of Living Index 2018; Delhi at 65:**

- Of total 111 cities ranked under the 'Ease of Living Index 2018' which was released by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, **Pune** has been ranked **first** while **Navi Mumbai** has surfaced as the **second** preferred spot in terms of 'liveability'.
- **Top 10 cities in 'Ease of Living Index' 2018 list are:**
  - ◆ 1- Pune;
  - ◆ 2- Navi Mumbai;
  - ◆ 3- Greater Mumbai;
  - ◆ 4- Tirupati;
  - ◆ 5- Chandigarh;
  - ◆ 6- Thane;
  - ◆ 7- Raipur;
  - ◆ 8- Indore;
  - ◆ 9- Vijayawada;
  - ◆ 10- Bhopal.

### **Rajasthan's Jodhpur railway station ranked as India's cleanest:**

- In a cleanliness report released by the Ministry of Railways, **Jodhpur and Jaipur** of North Western Railway in Rajasthan captured the first two spots in the **A1** Category stations.
- **Tirupati**, an important site for religious tourism and in South Central Railway, ranked **third**.

- Rajasthan's **Marwar** topped among the A Category railway stations, followed by Phulera and Warangal.
- There are over **8,000** stations on the Indian Railway network and they are classified into seven categories: A-1, A, B, C, D, E and F based on their annual passenger revenue.

### **India's first genetic bank for wildlife conservation inaugurated in Hyderabad:**

- National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in **Hyderabad**, Telangana.
- The Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank at LaCONES can store **17,000** vials worth of samples.
- Currently genetic material, including DNA, cells and tissues besides semen and eggs of 23 wildlife species are stored.

### **Haryana inaugurated its first licensed Hisar Airport:**

- The airport was inaugurated on August 15 by Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar.
- The team informed that the airport selected by the Ministry of Civil Aviation under the **RCS-UDAN Scheme** in which one airline namely M/s Pinnacle Airways Limited have bid for two routes namely Delhi-Hisar and Hisar-Chandigarh.

### **Indian Navy launched 'Operation Madad' in flood hit Kerala:**

- The Southern Naval Command (SNC) launched '**Operation Madad**' for assisting the Kerala administration and undertaking

disaster relief operations due to the unprecedented flooding experienced in many parts of Kerala.

- All the five gates of the **Idukki (Cheruthoni) Dam** in Kerala have been opened for the first time in **26 years**, due to heavy rain and flooding.
- The Idukki Dam system is constructed across the **river Periyar**.

### Godrej's Smita Crishna tops list of India's wealthiest women:

- **Smitha V. Crishna**, a third-generation heir of the **Godrej** family, ranks first in the Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading **Wealthy Women 2018** list with an estimated wealth of ₹ 37,570 crore.
- **Roshni Nadar**, CEO and executive director at **HCL**, ranks **second** in the list with an estimated wealth of ₹30,200 crore.
- **Indu Jain**, the chairperson of the Times Group, ranks **third** in the list with an estimated wealth of ₹26,240 crore.

Rank	Name	Wealth (Rs Crore)	Company	Residence
1	Smitha V Crishna	37,570	Godrej	Mumbai
2	Roshni Nadar	30,200	HCL	New Delhi
3	Indu Jain	26,240	Bennett Coleman	New Delhi
4	Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	24,790	Biocon	Bengaluru
5	Kiran Nadar	20,120	HCL	New Delhi
6	Leena Gandhi Tewari	10,730	USV	Mumbai
7	Sangita Jindal	10,450	JSW Steel	Mumbai
8	Jayshree Ullal	9,490	Arista Networks	San Francisco
9	Anu Aga	8,550	Thermax	Pune
10	Shradha Agarwal	8,200	Outcome Health	Chicago

Source: Hurun Research Institute

### Delhi vehicles to get blue sticker for petrol and orange for diesel:

- For better tackling of air pollution related issues in the Delhi, Supreme Court has approved the central government's proposal to

use hologram-based colour-coded stickers for vehicles in Delhi based on the fuel used.

- The vehicles that run on **petrol** and **CNG** will have light **blue** stickers, while the **diesel** vehicles will have **orange** stickers.
- The scheme is based on a model used in **Paris**.

### **FSSAI launched RUCO initiative to collect, convert used cooking oil into biofuel:**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched **RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil)**, an initiative that will enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to **biodiesel**.
- The regulator believes India has the potential to recover **220 crore litres** of used cooking oil for the production of biodiesel by **2022** through a co-ordinated action.
- According to FSSAI regulations, the maximum permissible limits for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) have been set at **25 per cent**, beyond which the cooking oil is **unsafe** for consumption.
- Current Chairperson for FSSAI - **Ashish Bahuguna**
- Current Chief Executive Officer for FSSAI - Pawan Kumar Agarwal

### **Karnataka Governor opens his official residence, Raj Bhavan to public for 15 days:**

- Karnataka Governor **Vajubhai Vala** has opened his official residence, **Raj Bhavan**, for public viewing from August 16 to August 31.
- For the first time, citizens will get to explore the Raj Bhavan between 4pm and 6.30 pm.

- Raj Bhavan, formerly known during British India as the **Bangalore Residency**, was built by **Sir Mark Cubbon**, who was the commissioner of Mysuru territory of the British empire between 1840 and 1842.
- The 19 bedrooms in the Bhavan were named after famous Indian rivers and mountains.

### **Chhattisgarh renamed 'Naya Raipur' as 'Atal Nagar':**

- **Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister Raman Singh announced the renaming of some other institutions and projects after the demise of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The **Bilaspur University** will be known as Atal Bihari Vajpayee University.
- Renowned **Rajnandgaon Medical College** will also be renamed after Vajpayee.

### **NOTA Option Not Applicable For Rajya Sabha Elections: Supreme Court:**

- The ruling of '**None of The Above**' (NOTA) option was made by a bench of Justices comprising CJI **Dipak Misra** and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud.
- The NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not for the polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.

### **Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport is now the World's second fastest growing airport:**

- As per the RoutesOnline company report, Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru is next to **Tokyo's Haneda Airport** which is the world's fastest growing airport, in terms of actual growth in number of passengers.
- KIA opened in May **2008** was initially named **Bangalore International Airport**.
- The Government of India has granted Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) to operate KIA airport for 30 years.

### **President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated International Buddhist Conclave in New Delhi:**

- The theme of the conclave is **Buddha Path - The Living Heritage**.
- **Main aim:-** To showcase Buddhist Heritage in India and boost tourism to the Buddhist sites in the country.
- This year **Japan** is the partnering country for the Buddhist conclave.

### **Government to set up Cyclone Warning Centre in Kerala:**

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed to set up a Cyclone Warning Centre (CWC) in **Thiruvananthapuram** following unprecedented flooding in Kerala.
- The Ministry is also planning to set up another **C-Band Doppler Weather Radar** at **Mangalore** by end of **2019**, which will cover the northern parts of Kerala.



- At present, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has cyclone warning centres only at Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

### **Government unveiled draft UDAN scheme for international route:**

- The objective of the UDAN International scheme is to enhance international air connectivity between Indian states and select international destinations through the provision of financial support to airlines.
- Under the scheme, the **state governments** will be responsible for **funding** the financial benefits.
- The **Assam** government has committed to fund the subsidy amount of **Rs 100 crore** per annum for three years.
- **Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik** (UDAN) scheme was launched in **2016** to provide affordable air travel at **Rs 2,500 per hour** of flight for people through subsidised ticket rates and to provide air connectivity to smaller towns.

### **International Water Colour Festival in Ranchi:**

- Five-day long 'International water colour festival' is held in **Ranchi** at Audrey House, to promote the rich art and culture of **Jharkhand**.
- This is the first time in the country that international artists will paint together.
- In this program 24 countries of the world, 25 states of India and 24 districts of the state are participating.

- On this occasion, the artist **Victoria** from Ukraine and artist **Uttam Karmakar** from Italy did the live painting and presented it to the Chief Minister **Raghubar Das**.

### **Government approves commercial flying of drones in India from Dec 1:**

- The government announced that industries including real estate, power and agriculture will be able to legally fly **remotely piloted aircraft or drones** in the country for **commercial purposes** from **December 1**, when the '**Digital Sky**' platform will become operative.
- The Digital Sky platform will be a first national unmanned traffic management platform that implements '**no permission, no takeoff**' for remotely piloted aircraft.
- Initially, drones will be allowed only along visual line-of-sight during day-time with a maximum altitude of **400 feet**.
- The usage of drones for delivering goods and food items has been restricted.

### **Kolkata, Bhopal Top Among Indian Cities In Clean Transport: CSE Survey-**

- **Kolkata** emits least among six megacities due to high usage of public transport and walking.
- The analysis titled 'The Urban Commute' was released in Kolkata.
- **The Top 3 in Overall emissions and energy consumption:**
  - 1: Bhopal
  - 2. Vijayawada
  - 3. Chandigarh.



- **The Top 3 in Pre-travel trip emissions and energy consumption:**
  - 1. Kolkata
  - 2. Mumbai
  - 3. Bhopal.

### **India's first Biofuel-Powered Flight Lands in New Delhi:**

- The biofuel is developed by **Indian Institute of Petroleum**.
- The flight test was successfully completed by **SpiceJet**.
- The flight was powered with a blend of 75% air turbine fuel (ATF) and 25% biojet fuel.
- Bio-fuel made from **Jatropha** crop, has been developed by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun.

### **India's first interstate connected wind power project commissioned in Bhuj:**

- **126 MW** wind power capacity, part of country's first **Inter State Transmission System (ISTS)** auction, is commissioned in Bhuj, Gujarat.
- The energy generated from this project is being purchased by Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- This was a 1,000 MW bid for projects to be connected on ISTS (inter-state transmission system) wherein **power** generated from one state (renewable resource rich state) could be **transmitted** to other renewable deficient states.

### **Tamil Nadu CM inaugurated India's tallest Film Studio:**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Edappadi K. Palaniswami** has inaugurated India's tallest Film Studio named '**MGR Centenary Film Studio**'.
- The 56 feet tall, 110 metres long and 100 feet wide studio was constructed using funds collected by the Federation of Film Employees Union of South India (FEFSI), at **Paiyanur**.
- The studio is named after former Chief Minister **M.G. Ramachandran**.

### **Indian Railway, Shipping ministries sign pact for Rs 9,000 crore Indore-Manmad rail project:**

- The shipping and railway ministries along with **Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra** governments entered into a pact to implement around Rs 9,000 crore Indore-Manmad rail project.
- The project passes through the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor nodes Igatpuri, Nashik and Sinnar, Pune and Khed, and Dhule and Nardana.
- The project is estimated to result in cumulative net economic **benefits of Rs 15,000 crore** in the first 10 years of operations.

### **Mahabaleshwar beats Cherrapunji to become India's wettest place this year:**

- **Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar** has become the wettest place in India this year, leaving behind Meghalaya's **Cherrapunji**.
- India Meteorological Department (IMD) data revealed that the hill station in the state of Maharashtra received a staggering 5661.6 mm rainfall this season till now, much more than Cherrapunji's 4735 mm.

- Cherrapunji holds two Guinness world records for receiving the maximum amount of rainfall in a single year, 26,471mm (1,042.2 in) of rainfall between August 1860 and July 1861 and the maximum amount of rainfall in a single month (9,300mm) in July 1861.

### **Arunachal Cabinet passed Bill for creation of 3 new districts:**

- The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed a Bill for the creation of three new districts, namely
  - Pakke-Kesang,
  - Lepa Rada and
  - Shi Yomi, in the State.
- Arunachal Pradesh as of now has 22 districts.
- The Pakke-Kessang district will be carved out of East Kameng district with five administrative units.
- The Lepa Rada district would be created by bifurcating the Lower Siang district with headquarters at Basar and four administrative units.
- The Shi-Yomi district would be created by bifurcating the West Siang district with its headquarters at Tato and four administrative units.

### **Union Government Constitutes New “Science And Technology Council” to advise Prime Minister:**

- The council will be headed by **K Vijay Raghavan**, the principal scientific adviser to the Union Government.
- The council has been named as **Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Committee (PM-STIAC)**.

### **Third Edition Of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model 'Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2019' launched:**

- SIH 2019 aims to provide students with platform to **solve** some of **pressing problems** faced by people in their daily lives.
- It also seeks to inculcate culture of product innovation and mindset of problem-solving among young children.

### **HRD Ministry introduced 'Atal ranking' for higher education institutions:**

- The Human Resource Development Ministry launched the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements' (ARIIA) to promote innovation and research in higher education.
- Named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, ARIIA will rank educational institutions for innovation output based on all major indicators and parameters used globally.

### **Mumbai airport renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji 'Maharaj' International Airport:**

- Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport was renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji '**Maharaj**' International Airport.
- The request was initially made by BJP MP Sambhaji Raje Chhatrapati, who is also the 13th descendant of the Maratha warrior king.
- Mumbai's airport was formerly known as **Sahar International Airport**. It was renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in 1999.

- Notably in 2016, the BJP government in Haryana renamed **Gurgaon**, which became **Gurugram**, and changed the name of Mewat to Nuh.

### **Akshay Kumar's 'Gold' becomes first Bollywood film released in Saudi Arabia**

- After Marvel's Black Panther (first film) and Rajinikanth's **Kaala** (first Indian film), Akshay Kumar's '**Gold**' has become the **first Hindi film** released in Saudi Arabia.
- Gold is a sports drama about a fictitious Indian hockey teams first gold medal win at the Olympics in **1948**.

## **SCHEMES:**

### **Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana was launched in Bihar:**

- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** launched 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana', a scheme for the **girl child**.
- The scheme will provide **Rs.54,100** for a girl child from her birth until she graduates.
- The Chief Minister also said that the amount under the '**Bicycle Yojna**' will be increased from **Rs.2,500 to Rs.3,000**.

### **Goa becomes first state by starting its own app based taxi service called "GoaMiles":**

- Goa CM **Manohar Parrikar** and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajpgaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service called "**GoaMiles**".

- A taxi owner did not have to pay anything and GTDC's charges would be recovered from the consumer. GTDC will charge the consumer around **Rs 20-80** as service fee.
- Customers will get honest service and will get to know the fare before the journey starts.
- There is a **panic-cumemergency button** available on the app.

### **Cabinet extended PMGSY beyond the 12th five year plan period:**

- The government approved that the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** can be continued even beyond the **12th five year plan period**.
- **About PMGSY:**
- PMGSY was launched on December 25, 2000. The aim is to provide All-Weather road connectivity to the eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas of the Country.

### **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan will be launched on 25th September:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan (PMJAA)** or Ayushman Bharat scheme will be launched on **25th September**.
- The scheme aims to provide a healthcare cover of **Rs.5 lakh** per family per annum. The scheme is expected to benefit more than **10 crore poor families**.
- **Ayushman Bharat:**
  - Ayushman Bharat is a government-sponsored healthcare scheme to provide **healthcare** cover of **Rs 5 lakh** to 10 crore **poor families** every year for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation

- The scheme will be applicable only to the poor who are from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) database
- The benefits of the scheme are portable across the country
- The scheme also allows the poor people to benefit from cashless healthcare services from a public/private hospital
- Around 1 lakh 'Ayushman Mitras' will be set at the hospitals as part of the scheme to assist patients enrolled under the scheme.

### **West Bengal Government removed family income ceiling for Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme:**

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** lifted the ceiling on annual family income for the beneficiaries of her government's flagship women welfare scheme '**Kanyashree**' that aims to ensure girls stay in school and delay their marriages till at least the age of 18.
- Kanyashree was launched on October 1, **2013** to prevent early marriage of girl children of socio-economically disadvantaged families whose annual income is **Rs 1,20,000** or less.
- This Scheme received the **United Nations Public Service Award** last year.

### **India's First project of Swadesh Darshan launched in Manipur:**

- The Manipur Governor, Dr. **Najma A. Heptulla** inaugurated the project '**Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom**' implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.



- The project which covers two sites – **Kangla Fort** in Imphal and Khongjom was taken up at an estimated cost of **Rs. 72,22,82607** under the Union Ministry of Tourism.
- **About 'Swadesh Darshan':**
  - 'Swadesh Darshan' (**tour of country**) is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tourism for the development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.
  - The scheme was launched in **2014-15** and the ministry has so far sanctioned 70 projects at a cost of **Rs 5,708.88 crore**.

### **Central Government Signed MoU With 6 States For Lakhwar Yamuna Basin Project worth Rs 3,966.51 crore:**

- Around 90 percent of the project will be funded by the Centre while the remaining amount will be paid by the six states - Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi.
- Out of the total amount, 1,388.28 crore rupees will be borne totally by the Uttarakhand government.
- The main aim is to solve the water crisis.

### **Cabinet approved Rs.1,623 crore to set up more disaster warning systems - under O-SMART:**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs cleared at an outlay of **Rs.1,623 crore** to get more disaster warning systems and desalination plants along Indian coasts.
- The system will be functioning under the programme called **O-SMART** (Ocean Services, Technology, Observations,



Resources Modelling and Science) which is monitored by the Union earth sciences ministry.

## **BANKING & FINANCE NEWS:**

### **DBS named World's Best Bank in nod to its Digital Innovation:**

- DBS (Development Bank of Singapore) is the first Asian bank to receive the accolade from the New York-based publication ie, **Global Finance magazine**.
- **Headquarters:** Marina Bay, Singapore
- DBS chief executive officer - Piyush Gupta.

### **As per RBI's annual report 2017-18, 99.3 percent of demonetised currency returned:**

- The Reserve Bank of India's annual report for 2017-2018 indicates that demonetisation **didn't curb black money**, as it shows that over **99.3 percent** of the old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes were returned.
- Demonetised notes worth **Rs 15.31 lakh crore**, out of a total of Rs 15.41 lakh crore, were returned.

### **RBI approved to transfer 50,000 crore surplus to government:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transfer ₹50,000 crore of its surplus money to the government, for the year ended **June 30, 2018**.
- The RBI follows July-June accounting year.
- The RBI had transferred a surplus of ₹30,659 crore to the government for the fiscal ended June 2017.

- During the tenure of former governor Raghuram Rajan, RBI transferred over **₹65,800** crore to the government for two consecutive years.

### **RBI increased the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.5%:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the repo rate by 25 basis points to **6.5%** and the **reverse repo rate** to **6.25%**.
- This is the third bi-monthly policy review of the 2018-2019 financial year.
- The marginal standing facility rate and the **bank rate** have been adjusted to **6.75%**.
- This decision was made by the Monetary Policy Committee headed by **RBI Governor Urjit Patel**.
- **For Bank Exams**:-- Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks in the event of a shortfall of funds.

### **No ATM to be refilled with cash after 9 pm from February 2019:**

- To reduce attacks on cash vaults and ATM frauds, the Home Ministry has issued a directive stating that no ATM will be refilled with cash after **9 pm in cities**, **6 pm in rural areas** and **4 pm in Naxal-affected areas** from **February 8, 2019**.
- Every cash van will carry not more than **Rs 5 crore** per trip.
- This move comes just a week after an estimated amount of **Rs 94 crores** was siphoned off from **Cosmos bank** in Pune.

### **World Bank to issue world's first blockchain bond:**

- The World Bank has mandated the **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** (CBA) to issue the world's first blockchain-based bond.

- The **Kangaroo bond**, referring to foreign bonds issued in Australia in the local currency, has been named **bond-i**, an acronym standing for **Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument**. (It's also a reference to Bondi Beach, an iconic spot in Sydney).

### **India and ADB Sign \$375 Million Loan To Improve Irrigation Efficiency In Madhya Pradesh:**

- The Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project will develop 125,000 hectares of new, highly efficient and climate resilient irrigation networks.
- It will improve water use efficiency in more than 400 villages, benefiting over 800,000 people in Madhya Pradesh.
- **About Asian Development Bank**
  - Asian Development Bank is a regional development Bank established in 1966.
  - Headquarters of ADB is in Manila, Philippines.
  - Takehiko Nakao is Present President of the Asian Development Bank.

### **State Bank of India ranked as India's Most Patriotic Brand:**

- According to the survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov, Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is considered to be the most patriotic brand, followed by
  - Tata Motors,
  - Patanjali,
  - Reliance Jio and
  - BSNL.

- In terms of food brands, **Amul** grabbed the **top** slot with one-third Indians considering it, followed by Patanjali.

### **SBI changes names, IFSC codes of nearly 1,300 branches across India, post merger with associates:**

- Names and IFSC codes of a total of **1,295 SBI branches** have been changed across the country.
- The merger of six associate banks and Bhartiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with State Bank of India (SBI) came to effect from April 1, 2017 resulting into increase in size and valuation of the bank.
- SBI had 22,428 branches across India by the end of the first quarter of the current fiscal.

### **HDFC awarded best performing bank in CLSS schemes:**

- HDFC has been awarded the best performing primary lending institution in **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)** for the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) and **LIG** (Low Income Group) category.
- The award was given by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- CLSS was introduced in June **2015** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** ( PMAY) for home loans to customers from the EWS as well as LIG.

### **NHAI inks MoU with SBI for Rs 25,000 Crore loan:**

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** is getting an unsecured loan of **Rs 25,000 crore** from State Bank of India (SBI) for 10 years with 3 years of moratorium on repayments.
- This is SBI's highest long-term unsecured loan to any entity and also the largest ever loan sanctioned to NHAI.

- The total sanctioned amount is to be disbursed to NHAI within March 31, 2019.

### **RBI bars Fino Payments Bank from enrolling new customers:**

- Reserve Bank of India observed that a few Fino Payments Bank accounts had deposits in excess of the stipulated amount of **₹1 lakh**.
- According to RBI's operating guidelines for payments banks, a customer can make deposits of **up to ₹1 lakh per account** in a year. Such banks cannot accept deposits beyond this limit.
- RBI has imposed similar restrictions on **Paytm Payments Bank** (on June 20) and **Airtel Payments Bank** (in January) which are also not able to on-board new customers.
- Other payments banks that have started operations are:-
  - ◆ India Post Payments Bank Ltd,
  - ◆ Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank and
  - ◆ Jio Payments Bank.

### **SBI launched unified payment terminal MOPAD:**

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched its latest customer-friendly digital initiative **Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device (MOPAD)** at a shopping mall, in **Visakhapatnam**.
- The new device titled MOPAD is a Point of Sale (PoS) terminal that would along with cards accept payments through UPI, Bharat QR, and SBI Buddy wallet which till now required different tools to receive payments.
- So customers won't have to carry cards for shopping, MOPAD can just **scan the QR code** to make the payment.

- A charge-slip as a proof of payment, will be available for customers who pay through MOPAD.

### **HAL becomes first public sector enterprise to transact on TReDS:**

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has become the first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the "**TReDS platform**", which is an **online electronic institutional mechanism** for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) through multiple financiers.
- TReDS refers to **Trade Receivables Discounting System**.
- During October 2017, the central government mandated all major PSUs to join TReDS platform to facilitate payments to MSME vendors.
- **RXIL (Receivables Exchange of India)** is **India's first** TReDS platform operating since January 2017 and is promoted by the National Stock Exchange, Small Industries Development Bank of India, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and Yes Bank.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch India Post Payments Bank on September 1:**

- The launch of **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** was recently rescheduled in the wake of seven-day national mourning declared after the demise of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- IPPB has permission to link around 17-crore **postal savings bank (PSB) accounts** with its account.

### **Govt ranks PNB as best state-run bank for digital transactions:**



- Department of Financial Services report has rated **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) as number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions, with a score of 71.
- Nirav Modi scam-hit PNB bank is also rated as the **sixth** overall amongst all banks in India for digital performance.
- The bank is fully committed to Digital India initiative.

## BUSINESS NEWS:

### Vodafone-Idea merger completed, becomes India's biggest telco:

- **Idea Cellular and Vodafone** have merged their operations and have officially become operational as a single entity under the name '**Vodafone Idea Limited**'.
- After National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cleared the merger on August 31, Vodafone Idea topples Bharti Airtel as the **largest telecom service** provider in India with a subscriber base of over 408 million.
- The Board has appointed **Balesh Sharma** as the **CEO** of Vodafone-Idea.

### Ambani's Reliance Jio tops Fortune's 'Change the World' list:

- Mukesh Ambani-led telecom company **Reliance Jio** secured the **top** spot in Fortune's global 'Change the World' list released on August 20.
- American pharma company **Merck** ranked **second** while **Bank of America** ranked **third** on the list.
- Chinese group **Alibaba** is ranked **5th** on the list.



### **Reliance becomes 1st Indian company to hit Rs. 8 trillion market cap:**

- Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries (RIL)** became the first Indian company to hit ₹8 trillion or **₹8 lakh crore** in market capitalisation.
- This comes after Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) data showed that Reliance Jio continued to add more subscribers. RJio added 9.71 million users in June, taking its subscriber base above 215 million.
- The Market capitalisation (m-cap) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) stood at **₹7.79-lakh crore**.

### **Nokia signed world's first big 5G deal worth \$3.5 billion:**

- Finland's Nokia will supply **T-Mobile**, the third biggest U.S. mobile carrier, with **\$3.5 billion** in next-generation **5G** network gear, marking the world's biggest 5G deal so far.
- In February, T-Mobile was working both with Nokia and rival network vendor **Ericsson** of Sweden to build out 5G networks in **30 U.S. cities** during 2018.

### **Reliance Beats TCS and became India's Most Valued Company:**

- India's richest person Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** beat **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to become the most valued company in India.
- RIL's market capitalisation during the day was Rs 7.44 trillion as compared to TCS' Rs 7.39 trillion.
- RIL had recently reported its highest ever quarterly net profit of Rs 9,459 crore, for the April-June quarter.

### Seven Indian firms named in Fortune 500 list, IOC remains top ranked Indian company:

- Seven Indian companies feature in the **US magazine Fortune 500** list of the **world's largest firms**, with state-run Indian Oil Corp (IOC) remaining the top-ranked Indian company and **137th** position in World Level in the **2018** rankings.
- American retail giant **Walmart tops** the latest Fortune listing.
- **Reliance Industries** Ltd was the most profitable Indian firm on the list. On the globally most profitable list, it secured the 99th position. This list was topped by Apple.
- **Other Indian companies feature in the Fortune 500 list are:**
  - 1) Reliance Industries Ltd - 148th rank;
  - 2) Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) - 197th rank;
  - 3) State Bank of India (SBI) - 216th rank;
  - 4) Tata Motors - 232nd rank;
  - 5) Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) - 314th position;
  - 6) Rajesh Exports - 405th rank.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

### NASA launched Parker Solar Probe to touch Sun:

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** launched off a \$1.5 billion spacecraft toward the Sun to protect the Earth by unveiling the mysteries of dangerous solar storms.
- The probe is designed to plunge into the Sun's mysterious atmosphere, known as the **corona**.
- It is the first major mission under NASA's Living With a Star program with 1.5 billions.

- It is also the first NASA mission to be named after a living person - a scientist called **Eugene Parker**. In 1958, he published a paper about the existence of solar wind, which this mission will be investigating.

### Google officially launches Android 9.0 named 'Pie':

- Google announced 'Pie' as the name for the latest version of the Android operating system, succeeding Android Oreo.
- The Android P or 'Pie' version has begun rolling out to **Pixel phones** and will be available to other devices later this year.
- **Other Important Highlights:**
- Since Android 1.5, Google has named each version of its mobile operating system after a sweet food - moving sequentially through the letters of the alphabet.
  - ◆ Android 1.5 Cupcake (April 2009)
  - ◆ Android 1.6 Donut (September 2009)
  - ◆ Android 2.0/2.1 Éclair (October 2009, January 2010)
  - ◆ Android 2.2 Froyo (May 2010)
  - ◆ Android 2.3 Gingerbread (December 2010)
  - ◆ Android 3.0/3.1/3.2 Honeycomb (February 2011, May 2011, July 2011)
  - ◆ Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich (October 2011)
  - ◆ Android 4.1/4.2/4.3 Jelly Bean (July 2012, November 2012, July 2013)
  - ◆ Android 4.4 KitKat (October 2013)
  - ◆ Android 5.0/5.1 Lollipop (November 2014, March 2015)
  - ◆ Android 6.0 Marshmallow (October 2015)
  - ◆ Android 7.0/7.1 Nougat (August 2016, December 2016)
  - ◆ Android 8.0/8.1 Oreo (August 2017, December 2017)

### **Chandrayaan-I data confirms presence of ice on Moon:**

- Using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, Scientists have found frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions.
- **M3**, aboard the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, launched in **2008** by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was uniquely equipped to confirm the presence of solid ice on the Moon.

### **NASA introduced two apps to take space selfies:**

- **NASA** has introduced two virtual reality apps which will allow users to take selfies in front of gorgeous cosmic locations.
- The two apps, **the Selfies app and Exoplanet Excursions virtual reality app**, were released to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the launch of NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope.
- The app will let you take snapshots of yourself in a virtual spacesuit, posing in front of gorgeous cosmic locations, like the Orion Nebula or the centre of the Milky Way galaxy. It also provides information about the science behind these stunning images.

### **NASA set to launch Ice, Cloud Land Elevation satellite to track earth's melting ice:**

- The Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2) will measure the average annual elevation change of land ice covering Greenland and Antarctica to within the width of a pencil, capturing 60,000 measurements every second.

- ICESat-2 which is scheduled to be launched on September 12 represents a major technological leap in our ability to measure changes in ice height.
- Its Advanced Topographic Laser Altimeter System (ATLAS) measures height by timing how long it takes individual light photons to travel from the spacecraft to Earth and back.

### **World's 1st Hindi-Speaking Robot Rashmi:**

- Ranchi-based software developer **Ranjit Srivastava** is developing the world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot called **Rashmi**.
- The robot will speak Bhojpuri, Marathi, and English, and is equipped with facial expressions and recognition systems.

### **Govt launched e-Aksharayan Software in 7 Indian languages:**

- **E-Aksharayan** is free, desktop software for converting **scanned printed** Indian Language documents into a fully **editable** text format in Unicode encoding.
- The software supports editing in **seven** Indian languages - Hindi, Bangla, Malayalam, Gurmukhi, Tamil, Kannada & Assamese.

### **India's moon mission Chandrayaan 2 launch delayed for 2nd time:**

- The launch of India's **second Moon mission Chandrayaan-2** has been delayed for the second time from October to **January** next year.
- Chandrayaan-2 will be ISRO's **first time attempt** to land a **rover** on the Moon.
- The launch was first planned in April and was pushed to October.
- **Reason for Delay in Launch:-**

- ISRO faced two setbacks this year, losing communication with **GSAT-6A** satellite and failing **PSLV-C39** mission.

### **ISRO to launch its heaviest satellite GSAT-11 on November 30:**

- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) heaviest satellite so far - the **GSAT-11** (weighing over 5.7 tonnes i.e., **5,700-kg**)- which the space agency had cleared for launch in June, will take off a spaceport in **French Guiana** on 30 November.
- GSAT-11 carries **40 transponders** in the Ku-band and the Ka-band frequencies, and is capable of providing high bandwidth connectivity with up to **14 GB per second data transfer speed**.
- GSAT full form - Geosynchronous SATellites.
- ISRO chairman - **K Sivan**.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced manned space mission taking Indian astronauts to space on board 'Gaganyaan' by 2022:**

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will have two unmanned missions and spacecraft will be launched using **GSLV Mark-III**.
- **GSLV Mark III** launch vehicle will be fully equipped with crew module and life support system for a manned mission in the next two years.
- If successful, India would be **fourth** nation to achieve that feat.

### **Former President Pranab Mukherjee Launches NETA App To Rate MPs And MLAs:**

- **NETA National Electoral Transformation (NETA)** Leaders Report Card App, the brainchild of 27-year-old entrepreneur



**Pratham Mittal** is a platform where voters can review and rate their elected representatives and hold them accountable as well.

### Google launches 'Navlekha' for Indian language publishers:

- At the fourth 'Google for India' event, Google has unveiled Project **Navlekhā** to help Indian language publishers take their **content online**.
- Navlekhā is a word derived from Sanskrit meaning '**a new way to write**.'
- The new platform will allow 1.35 lakh Indian publishers to digitise their offline content by creating instant web pages using scanned documents or PDFs.

## DEFENCE NEWS:

### Maitree 2018 Joint Military Exercise between India and Thailand held in Thailand:

- Exercise 'Maitree' is a joint military exercise between **Indian Army** and Royal Thai Army and is running on in Thailand from 6 to 19 August 2018.
- Maitree 2018 was platoon level exercise that comprises of infantry component.
- **Aim:-** To develop mutual understanding and bonhomie between the two armies in order to counter terrorism.

### Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet named 'Kowsar':

- The aircraft is nicknamed '**Kowsar**', which in Islam is a **river in paradise** and also the title of a chapter in the Koran.



- This defence programme was motivated by repeated threats from Israel and the US.
- Iran celebrates National Defence Industry Day on August 22.
- Iran President - **Hassan Rouhani**

### **Vostok-2018 military exercise to held in September:**

- **Russia** will be conducting **Vostok-2018** (East-2018) military exercise in central and eastern Russian military districts from September 11 to 15, 2018.
- China and Mongolia will also participate in Vostok 2018.
- It is expected that it will be the **biggest war games** ever conducted by Russia since **Zapad-81** (West-81) exercise. Zapad-81 was conducted by erstwhile Soviet Union in 1981 which had seen involvement about 100,000 to 150,000 troops.

### **India successfully tested Anti-Tank Missile "HELINA" in Pokhran:**

- Indigenously-developed guided bombs- **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAAW)** were successfully flight tested from IAF aircraft at Chandan range in Jaisalmer, **Rajasthan**.
- Anti-tank guided missile Helina was test fired at Pokhran in Rajasthan.

### **Indo-Israel missile defence system Barak 8 to be procured by Israeli Navy:**

- The multi-purpose Barak 8 missile defence system, jointly developed by **India and Israel**, will be procured by the Israeli Navy to protect its economic zones and strategic facilities from diversified threats and the sales for it have exceeded **USD 5 billion**.

- Barak-8 is an operational **air and missile** defense system used by the Israeli Navy as well as by the Indian Navy and air forces.
- Barak 8 has been jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), India's DRDO, Israel's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure, Elta Systems, Rafael and some other Indian defence companies.

### **Indian Army to climb world's fifth highest peak Mt Makalu:**

- To achieve greater heights in the field of mountaineering, **Indian Army** is planning to attempt fifth highest mountain peak in the world - **Mt Makalu**(8,485 metres) in 2019.
- Under the protection of Army Adventure Wing, an expedition to **Mount Kamet** (7756 meters), Joshimath (district Chamoli, Uttarakhand), is also being conducted from August to September.
- Mount Kamet is the **third highest peak of India** after Kanchanjunga and Nanda Devi and the only highest peak available to climb within the country.

### **India sent INS Sahyadri to Fiji to boost ties:**

- INS Sahyadri ship celebrated the 72nd Independence Day of India in the Port of Suva, Fiji on August 15.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Sahyadri** (F49) is the third and latest ship among the **Shivalik Class** of indigenously built stealth frigates and forms a part of the Eastern Fleet of Indian Navy.
- INS Sahyadri draws its name from the beautiful, age-defying **Western Ghats** (also known as Sahyadri ranges) stretching across 1,600 km along India's western coast.

### **India is building AMCA, a new fifth generation fighter jet:**

- **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, India's only fifth-generation fighter aircraft, will make its first flight in **2032**.
- The AMCA will fly with two GE-414 engines.
- It is being designed in a way that it can deflect away maximum radar waves and thus minimize its radar cross-section. It can also absorb the radio waves thereby reducing the radar footprint.
- This aircraft programme is after the decision by IAF not to go ahead with the fifth-generation project with Russia.

### **INS Vikramaditya to have marine hydraulic systems for the first time:**

- For the first time, India's only aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya** will be fitted with a marine hydraulic system to boost the air operations of the ship.
- **Technodinamika**, a subsidiary of Russia's Rostec State Corporation, will install the system in the Indian Navy ship by May **2019**.
- The INS Vikramaditya worth \$2.3 billion, came to India from **Russia** in January **2014**.
- INS Vikramaditya is 284 metres long and 60 metres high -- that's about as high as a 20-storey building. The ship weighs **40,000 tonnes** and is the **biggest and heaviest ship** in the Indian Navy.

## **SPORTS NEWS:**

### **Virat Kohli reclaims no.1 Test ranking 10 days after losing it:**

- India Captain Virat Kohli, who had become the top-ranked Test batsman for the first time on **August 5**, reclaimed the spot after scoring 200 runs in the third (Trent Bridge) Test against England.

- Kohli also reached a personal best of **937** rating points, which is the 11th best ever in terms of rating points.
- **Cheteshwar Pujara** remains the second highest ranked India batsman in the list, in **sixth** position.

### **MRF Tyres ICC Test Player Rankings (as on 23 August, following the Trent Bridge Test):-**

Rank	Player	Team	Points	Avg	Highest rating
1	Virat Kohli	Ind	937!	54.49	937 v Eng at Trent Bridge 2018
2	Steve Smith	Aus	929	61.37	947 v SA at Durban 2018
3	Kane Williamson	NZ	847	50.35	893 v Aus at Perth 2015
4	David Warner	Aus	820	48.2	880 v NZ at Perth 2015
5	Joe Root	Eng	818	51.27	917 v Aus at Trent Bridge 2015

### **Kho-Kho gets recognition from Olympic Council of Asia (OCA):**

- **Kho-Kho** will be included as an exhibition game in Asian Indoor Games by this decision.
- Also, it has the possibility to be included as a discipline in the next Asian Games.
- Secretary General of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) - Rajeev Mehta
- Union Sports Minister - Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.

### **Pacer Jhulan Goswami announced her retirement from Women's T20 Internationals:**

- Goswami is currently the leading **wicket-taker** in the women's ODI format and also the **first woman** to pick up **200** ODI wickets.
- She played 68 T20 Internationals and took 56 wickets at an economy rate of 5.45.

### **Carolina Marin won gold in BWF World Championships 2018, P.V. Sindhu won Silver:**

- Spanish badminton ace Carolina Marin won gold in **Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2018**, in Nanjing.
- She created history by becoming the **first woman** to win three badminton World titles with an emphatic victory.
- She beat **P.V.Sindhu** of India by 21-19, 21-10.
- Here is the complete list of the winners of World Badminton Championship 2018:
  - **Men's Singles** - Kento Momota (Japan)
  - **Women's Singles** - Carolina Marin (Spain)
  - **Men's Doubles** - Li Junhui (China) and Liu Yuchen (China)
  - **Women's Doubles** - Mayu Matsumoto (Japan) and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)
  - **Mixed Doubles** - Zheng Siwei (China) and Huang Yaqiong (China)

### **Karman becomes 6th Indian woman to enter top 200 Tennis rankings in Singles:**

- Karman Kaur Thandi, 20-year-old Delhi girl, jumped 32 places and now ranked **200th** in the WTA (Women's Tennis Association) list.
- In April, India's top singles player **Ankita** had broken into the top-200 and is now ranked **195** (-4).
- Earlier, Sania Mirza, Nirupama Vaidyanathan, Shikha Uberoi and Sunitha Rao had made it to the top-200.
- In the men's singles, **Yuki Bhambri** was unchanged at **86** while Ramkumar Ramanathan climbed four places to a career-best 111.

### **Rafael Nadal Maintains Top Spot in ATP world Rankings:**

- Spain's **Rafael Nadal** maintained his lead in the men's **Association of Tennis Professionals** (ATP) world **singles** rankings, with 9,310 average points, ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer.
- The current top 10 ATP rankings and point scores are as follows:
  - 1. Rafael Nadal (Spain) 9,310 Points;
  - 2. Roger Federer (Switzerland) 7,080;
  - 3. Alexander Zverev (Germany) 5,665;
  - 4. Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina) 5,455;
  - 5. Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) 4,610;
  - 6. Kevin Anderson (South Africa) 4,355;
  - 7. Marin Cilic (Croatia) 3,905;
  - 8. Dominic Thiem (Austria) 3,665;
  - 9. John Isner (USA) 3,490;
  - 10. Novak Djokovic (Serbia) 3,355.

### **Germany's Mario Gomez retires from International Football:**



- Veteran German striker **Mario Gomez** (33-year-old), who made his debut for Germany in 2007, scored 31 goals in **78** international appearances.
- He represented his country at the FIFA World Cup in 2010 and 2018 and the Euro Cup in 2008 and 2012.
- He is now looking to pay his full attention to the domestic football league, **Bundesliga**.

### **PV Sindhu remained at 3rd spot and Srikanth at 8th spot in BWF 2018 ranking:**

- In the latest **Badminton World Federation** (BWF) singles rankings, **P V Sindhu** remained static at the **third** spot, Saina Nehwal lost a place to be ranked **11th** now. **Kidambi Srikanth** slipped two places to **eighth**.
- Viktor Axelsen from Denmark and Tai Tzu Ying from Chinese Taipei ranked first in BWF Men's Singles and Women's Singles, respectively.

### **Ramesh Powar named as Head Coach Of Women's National Cricket Team:**

- This decision was informed by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Amitabh Choudhary.
- He was appointed interim coach of the team after the resignation of **Tushar Arothe**.
- Powar's term will include a tour to **Sri Lanka**, a bilateral series in the West Indies in October followed by the **ICC Women's World T20** in West Indies in November.

### **India improved to World No: 96 in FIFA rankings:**



The Top five positions in the latest **Fédération Internationale de Football Association** (FIFA) rankings are:

Rank	Country
1	France
2	Belgium
3	Brazil
4	Croatia
5	Uruguay

### **UAE to host Asia Cup 2018:**

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India** (BCCI) and the **Emirates Cricket Board** (ECB) declared that the **United Arab Emirates** (UAE) will be hosting the **Asia Cup 2018** cricket match.
- The tournament will be held from September 15 to 28 in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will be participating in the tournament.
- The opening game of the tournament will be played by Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

### **Vaishali R becomes India's latest Woman Grandmaster:**

- The sister of R Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali R (17-year-old), became India's latest Woman Grandmaster (**WGM**) after earning her third and final WGM norm at Riga Technical University Open at Latvia.
- She is the highest ranked chess player in India in her age category.

- Recently, Praggnanandhaa became the world's **second youngest** Grandmaster of all time.
- **Vijayalakshmi** Subbaraman was **India's first** WGM, a title she achieved in 2001.

### **Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson announces retirement from all forms of Cricket:**

- 36-year-old Johnson announced his retirement from **international cricket** during the Test series against New Zealand in Perth in November **2015**, but remained a useful bowler in Twenty20 competitions, including for Perth Scorchers in the Australian 'Big Bash' tournament.
- He struggled with a back injury while playing for **Kolkata Knight Riders** in this year's Indian Premier League (IPL).
- He claimed 239 wickets in 153 one-day internationals, and 38 wickets in 30 T20 internationals for Australia.

### **Rishabh Pant becomes 4th Indian wicketkeeper to take five catches on debut Test:**

- Twenty-year-old Rishabh Pant took five catches on his debut Test match at **Trent Bridge** where India are playing **England** in five-match Test series.
- He is also the **first Asian** wicket-keeper and **third** in the **world** to take five catches in an innings on Test debut.
- Pant became the **first Indian batsman** to open his Test account with a **six**.
- Pant, who replaced an injured Dinesh Karthik, is the 291st Test player for India.
- **Five catches on debut Test for an Indian wicketkeeper:**

- Tamhane v Pak, Dhaka, 1955;
- Kiran More v Eng, Lord's, 1986;
- Naman Ojha v SL, Colombo SSC, 2015;
- Pant v Eng, Trent Bridge, 2018.

## APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS:

### **Indian economist Satya Tripathi appointed as UNEP Assistant Secretary General and Head of New York Office:**

- UN Secretary General **António Guterres** has appointed veteran Indian development economist and UN official **Satya S Tripathi** as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the **New York Office** of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- He will succeed Elliott Harris of Trinidad and Tobago.

### **Indra Nooyi resigned her position as CEO of PepsiCo:**

- **Indra Krishnamurthy Nooyi**, 62, resigned her position as **CEO of PepsiCo**.
- She has been leading the company since 2006. She studied at the Madras Christian College. She went to the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, before leaving for the U.S. in 1980 for a second master's degree at the Yale School of Management.
- **Ramon Laguarta**, 54, will succeed Ms.Nooyi as CEO. Her office will resume from **October 3**.
- Ms.Nooyi will remain Chairman until early 2019 to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

### **Former Chile president Bachelet named new UN human rights chief:**

- UN (United Nations) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has chosen former two time Chilean President **Michelle Bachelet** to be new UN high commissioner for human rights.
- She would replace Jordan's **Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein**.
- Bachelet who ranks among the world's most powerful women in politics, also served in 2010 as the first director of UN Women, the UN agency promoting gender equality worldwide.

### **Ivan Duque sworn in as Colombia's Next President:**

- He became 60th president of Colombia.
- About Colombia
  - Capital: Bogota
  - Currency: Colombian peso.

### **Ruchi Ghanashyam appointed India's next High Commissioner to United Kingdom:**

- Ruchi Ghanashyam is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer of the 1982 batch. She is at present Secretary at Headquarters.

### **Centre approved the appointment of 3 judges to Supreme Court:**

- Uttarakhand Chief Justice **KM Joseph**,
- Madras HC Chief Justice **Indira Banerjee** and
- Orissa HC Chief Justice **Vineet Saran**  
are elevated as Supreme Court judges.

### **President Ram Nath Kovind appointed New Governors for 7 states:**

Newly Appointed Governors	Respective State	Previous Governors
Satya Pal Malik	Jammu & Kashmir	NN Vohra
Tathagata Roy	Meghalaya	Ganga Prasad
Lalji Tandon	Bihar	Satya Pal Malik
Ganga Prasad	Sikkim	Shriniwas Patil
Kaptan Singh Solanki	Tripura	Tathagata Roy
Satyadev Narayan Arya	Haryana	Kaptan Singh Solanki
Baby Rani Maurya	Uttarakhand	K K Paul

### **Arun Jaitley resumed charge as Finance Minister three months after kidney transplant:**

- The 65-year-old BJP leader, **Arun Jaitley** has resumed charge as the **Finance Minister and Minister of Corporate Affairs** after taking a break for three months to undergo a kidney transplant.
- In Jaitley's absence, Railways Minister **Piyush Goyal** held additional charges of his ministry.

### **NDA candidate Harivansh Singh elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman:**

- The BJP-led NDA candidate **Harivansh Narayan Singh** was elected the Rajya Sabha's **Deputy Chairman** post, which fell vacant after the retirement of Congress' PJ **Kurien** on July 1.

- Harivansh got 125 votes, while Congress-led UPA's candidate BK **Hariprasad** got 105 votes.
- Harivansh Singh is a member of the **Janata Dal** (United), the BJP's ally in **Bihar**.

### **G. Satheesh Reddy appointed as New DRDO Chairman:**

- The Centre appointed renowned aerospace scientist, Dr G **Satheesh Reddy**, as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for a period of **two years** and will succeed **S Christopher**, who retired in June.
- He is also appointed as Secretary in the Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D).

### **U K Varma appointed as Assocham Secretary General:**

- He succeeds DS Rawat who held the position for nearly 14 years.
- The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** is one of the apex trade associations of India.
- The organization represents the interests of trade and commerce in India and acts as an interface between issues and initiatives.

### **Chief Justice Gita Mittal is appointed as new Chief Justice of J&K HC:**

- She is the acting Chief Justice of Delhi HC.
- She is the **first woman** Chief Justice of J&K HC.
- Justice B.D. Ahmed, the State's last Chief Justice, was retired on March 15, 2018.
- Patna High Court Chief Justice Rajendra Menon has been appointed as the Chief Justice Delhi HC.

### **RS Sharma re-appointed as TRAI Chairman till September 2020:**

- The government reappointed **Ram Sewak Sharma** as Chairman of **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** till September 2020 when he turns 65.
- He was named the TRAI chief in July 2015 for a three-year period.
- Sharma, who recently shared his Aadhaar number on Twitter, also served as UIDAI's Director General between 2009-2013 and even wrote the **first software** for **UIDAI** for enrolment.

### **Film Actor Akshay Kumar Becomes Brand Ambassador For Road Safety Campaigns:**

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari launched three short films for generating public awareness towards road safety.
- **Akshay Kumar** featured in these films, which are directed by Shri R.Balki.

### **Rekha Sharma appointed as chairperson of National Commission for Women:**

- Sharma, 54, was earlier a member of the Commission and was holding the additional charge of chairperson after **Lalitha Kumaramangalam** demitted office in September last year. She belongs to Haryana.
- The National Commission for Women (NCW) was set up as statutory body in January **1992** under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

### **Government dismissed Usha Ananthasubramanian from service:**



- Usha Ananthasubramanian was, three months back, divested of all her powers as **MD of Allahabad Bank**, after being named in a CBI charge-sheet in the **Rs 14,000 crore** (Rs 140 billion) Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case but had continued to be an employee of the bank.

### **Infosys CFO Ranganath stepped down from his position:**

- **M.D.Ranganath** has resigned his position as the **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** and a key managerial personnel from **Infosys**.
- He has been working at Infosys for a span of 18 years and as CFO in the last 3 three years.

### **Actor Raveena Tandon becomes brand ambassador of SGNP:**

- The **Maharashtra** government has appointed Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon as the brand ambassador of the city-based **Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP)**.

## **AWARDS:**

### **Gopalkrishna Gandhi awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 2018:**

- He is the Former West Bengal Governor.
- The award was presented on 20th August 2018 on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

### **Five MPs conferred Outstanding Parliamentarian award:**

- President Ram Nath Kovind granted “Outstanding Parliamentarian” award

- for the year **2013** to Dr **Najma A. Heptulla** (Manipur's Governor and five time Rajya Sabha member ).
- for the year **2014** to **Hukumdev Narayan Yadav** (Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Lok Sabha member)
- for the year **2015** to Congress leader **Ghulam Nabi Azad**,
- for the year **2016** to **Dinesh Trivedi** (Trinamool Congress)
- for the year **2017** to **Bhartruhari Mahatab** (Biju Janata Dal [BJD] Member of Parliament [MP] from Odisha's Cuttack).
- The Outstanding Parliamentarian Award was established in **1995**.

### **Indian Origin Mathematician Akshay Venkatesh won Prestigious Fields Medal:**

- **Akshay Venkatesh**, a renowned Indian-Australian mathematician, is one of four winners of mathematics' prestigious "**Fields medal**", which is known as the Nobel prize for math.
- Each winner receives a 15,000 Canadian-dollar cash prize.
- The other three winners are
  - **Caucher Birkar**, a Cambridge University professor of Iranian Kurdish origin;
  - Germany's **Peter Scholze**, who teaches at the University of Bonn and
  - **Alessio Figalli**, an Italian mathematician at ETH Zurich.

### **Indra Nooyi to get Asia Game Changer of the Year award:**

- **PepsiCo's** India-born Chairman and CEO **Indra Nooyi** will be honoured with the 2018 **Asia Game Changer of the Year** award by global cultural organisation **Asia Society**, in recognition of her business achievements, humanitarian record and advocacy for women and girls around the world.

### **S.K. Arora bagged WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award:**

- Delhi government's additional director of health S.K. Arora has been awarded the prestigious WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award for his extraordinary contribution towards **tobacco control**.
- Tobacco prevalence in **Delhi** has come down by 6.5% in the past six years, which is more than the rest of India average figures.

## **OBITUARY:**

### **Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister, passed away on 16th August:**

- Former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, 93 years old, passed away on 16th August due to his prolonged ill health.
- He was one of the greatest leaders of India. The veteran leader was **Prime Minister thrice** in 1996, 1998-1999 and 1999-2004.
- He was born on **December 25, 1924**, in Gwalior.
- He was one of the founding members of the Jan Sangh in 1951 and became its president in 1968.
- He was elected **10 times the Lok Sabha** from four different States. He was twice the member of Rajya Sabha.
- He was also a poet and his poetry collections were compiled in his book **Meri Ekyavan Kavitaen** (My 51 Poems).

### **Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General passed away:**

- **Kofi Annan**, 80 years old, **passed away** due to illness.
- He is the **first black African** secretary-general of the United Nations.

- He served two terms as secretary-general from January 1, 1997, to December 31, 2006.
- Kofi Annan and the UN were jointly awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2001**.

### **Five time Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi passes away:**

- DMK chief, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, passes away at 94. He was made Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the first time in **1969**.
- His five reigns as chief minister spanned from 1969-1971, 1971-1976, 1989-1991, 1996-2001 and 2006-2011.
- He also became a popular **screenwriter** for Tamil films.
- After independence, Periyar's movement split into two. Karunanidhi followed **Annadurai**, establishing the **Davidar Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)** in **1949**. He was the party's first treasurer and was elected to the assembly in 1957.

### **Former PM Indira Gandhi's aide RK Dhawan passes away aged 81:**

- Senior Congress leader and long-time aide of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, **Rajinder Kumar Dhawan** passed away at the age of 81 years in Delhi.
- Dhawan joined Indira Gandhi as a personal assistant in **1962** and worked with her until she breathed her last.
- He was elected to the Rajya Sabha **twice**, from April **1990** to April 1996, and July 2004 to July 2010.
- He was appointed Minister of State (independent charge) Housing and Urban Development (1995-1996).

### **Former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee Passed Away at the age of 89:**

- A **ten-time Lok Sabha** MP, Chatterjee was a central committee member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), which he had joined in 1968.
- He was the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2004 to 2009.
- He won the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in **1996**.

### **Chhattisgarh Governor Balram Das Tandon passes away at 90:**

- He became the governor of Chhattisgarh in **July 2014** and has served on various other posts including the **Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab**.
- Tandon was one of the founding members of the Jan Sangh which later became the BJP.
- In his 65 years of political career, Tandon was **six-time MLA** and state BJP president of Punjab for two years.
- Tandon has served as cabinet minister in 1977-79 and in 1997-2002 in the ministries headed by Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal. He was elected from **Amritsar five times** between 1960 and 1977, and was again elected from Rajpura in 1997.

### **Former Indian skipper Ajit Wadekar passed away:**

- Former Indian Skipper **Ajit Wadekar**, 77 years old, **passed away** on 15th August.
- He played for the Indian national team between 1966 and 1974.
- He was the first Indian captain to achieve overseas wins while touring the West Indies and England in 1971. India won over five

matches in the West Indies in the early 1970s and then defeated England over three.

- He has been awarded the Arjuna Award (1967) and Padma Shri (1972).

## IMPORTANT DAYS:

### **“International Youth Day” and “World Elephant Day” observed on August 12:**

- The theme for International Youth Day (IYD) 2018 is - 'Safe Spaces for Youth'.
- The first International Youth Day was observed on 12 August, 2000.
- Two Canadian filmmakers Michael Clark and Patricia Sims, as well as Sivaporn Dardarananda, the Secretary-General of Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation created the **World Elephant Day** in 2011, and it was held on August 12, 2012.

### **World Photography Day and World Humanitarian Day observed on 19 August:**

- **About World Humanitarian Day:**
  - Objective:- To recognize work of humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives.
  - The campaign theme for this year is: “#NotATarget”.
  - The World Humanitarian Day was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by passing a resolution A/63/L.49 in **2008**.
  - The day marks death of the Special Representative of Secretary-General to Iraq, Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 of



his colleagues who were killed in bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad on August 19, **2003**.

- 19th August is also celebrated as **World Photography Day**. The birth of this day dates back to 1839 in France, but it came in to force in **2009**.

### **August 20: Sadbhavana Diwas:**

- Sadbhavana Diwas or **Harmony Day** is celebrated on August 20 each year all over India to commemorate the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister of India named **Rajiv Gandhi**.
- Sadbhavana meaning - having good feelings for others.
- On this day, Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award is presented to commemorate the contribution made by Rajiv Gandhi for promoting the communal harmony, peace and national integration.
- **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** was declared as the winner of Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award for the year 2018. He is a retired IAS officer and was 22nd **Governor of West Bengal** served from 2004 to 2009.
- This is the 24th edition of Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award.

### **World Mosquito Day observed on 20th August:**

- World Mosquito Day is a commemoration of British doctor **Sir Ronald Ross**'s discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
- Mosquito name comes from Spanish word meaning "little fly".
- Around **6 million deaths** every decade occur owing to **malaria**.

### **National Sports day observed on August 29:**



- The legendary **hockey** player **Dhyan Chand** birthday is commemorated as National Sports day.
- He was famously known as 'The Wizard' for his superb ball control.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS:

### VVS Laxman wrote down his autobiography titled '281 and Beyond':

- The autobiography will be released by the **Westland Publications** on **November 20, 2018**.
- Indian cricketer VVS Laxman who announced his **retirement** from international cricket in **2012**, played 134 Tests, scoring 8,781 runs at an average of 45.97.
- He also played in 86 ODIs for an aggregate of 2338 and average of 30.76 in the shorter format.

### Shane Warne autobiography No Spin to be released in October:

- Australian cricketer Shane Warne's autobiography "**No Spin**" will have a global release on October 4. The memoir is written with cricketer and TV presenter Mark Nicholas.
- Warne played his first Test match in 1992, and took over **1,000** international **wickets** (in Tests and One-Day Internationals).
- He also captained the Rajasthan Royals to victory in the IPL in 2008.
- He officially **retired** from all cricket formats in **2013**.

## VISITS:

### Chinese defence minister Wei Fenghe visited India:

- Chinese Defence Minister Lieutenant General **Wei Fenghe** has landed in **New Delhi** on August 21st for a four-day visit, with an aim to improve bilateral relations, especially on **military ties**.
- He met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- This was the first formal bilateral meeting between the two ministers since the **Doklam standoff** on the Bhutan China border during June to August last year.

### Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera visited India for 2 days from 19 to 20 August 2018:

#### Objective:

- To further strengthen defence and security cooperation under the 'Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership',
- To work on Japan's 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy' with India's 'Act East Policy'

#### Japan:

- ◆ Capital: Tokyo.
- ◆ Currency: Japanese Yen.
- ◆ Prime Minister: Shinzo Abe.

### Rahul Gandhi's two-day trip to Germany - HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Congress chief Rahul Gandhi spoke at the **Bucerius Summer School** in Hamburg on August 22, 2018.
- Then, He addressed the Indian Overseas Congress in **Berlin**.

- He will then visit the **UK**, where he will address an event organised by the Indian Overseas Congress in collaboration with local Indian-origin parliamentarians.
- Gandhi's visits are a part of the Congress' NRI outreach programme ahead of the **2019 Lok Sabha elections**.

### **Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Vietnam capital Hanoi:**

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** who was on a four day two nation tour of South East Asia which includes **Vietnam and Cambodia**, presented **free India-made prosthetic limbs** for **500** Vietnamese beneficiaries.
- Last month, it was announced in Jaipur that about 1,000 differently-abled people in Myanmar and Vietnam would be provided '**Jaipur Foot**'.
- The Jaipur-based **Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti** (BMVSS) has started an artificial limb fitment camp in association with the Central government at Myanmar's Yangon city.

### **Other Important Current Affairs - Headlines:**

- ★ India observed **76th anniversary of Quit India movement** on 8th August 2018. The day is observed as August Kranti Day every year.
- ★ The government has urged all citizens not to use the national flag made of **plastic**.
- ★ **Maharashtra** Government announces special assistance of Rs 500 crore for OBC community.

- ★ Indian-American high school student **Avi Goel** won the world championship at the International Geography Bee's junior varsity division which was held in Berlin.
- ★ Justice **Rajendra Menon** takes charge as Chief Justice of **Delhi** High Court.
- ★ Justice Vijaya Kamlesh **Tahilramani** was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the **Madras** High Court.

## QUIZ CORNER:

1) RBI's monetary policy committee in its third bi-monthly monetary policy review of 2018-19, increased repo rate to

- A. 6.75%
- B. 6.25%
- C. 6.5%
- D. 6.15%

Answer:- C

2) US President Donald Trump granted India the STA-1 trading status equivalent to American allies for procurement of military weapons. What is the full form of STA?

- A. Strategic Trade Authorization
- B. Special Trading Authorization
- C. Strong Trade Authority
- D. Secured Trading Authority

Answer:- A

**3) Which free software has been launched by the Union IT Ministry for converting scanned printed Indian Language documents into a fully editable text format?**

- A. Darshan-Y**
- B. e-Aksharayan**
- C. Imagery**
- D. Saransh**

**Answer:- B**

**4) Which of the following is the only state in India that has an NRC (National Register of Citizens)?**

- A. Punjab**
- B. Bihar**
- C. Assam**
- D. West Bengal**

**Answer:- C**

**5) President Ram Nath Kovind granted 'Outstanding Parliamentarian' award for the year 2017 to**

- A. Najma A. Heptulla**
- B. Dinesh Trivedi**
- C. Ghulam Nabi Azad**
- D. Bhartruhari Mahatab**

**Answer:- D**

**6) Which firm remains the top-ranked Indian company in the US magazine Fortune 500 list of the world's largest firms?**

- A. Tata Motors**
- B. Reliance Industries Ltd**
- C. Indian Oil Corporation**
- D. State Bank of India**

**Answer:- C**

**7) Who won Presidential election in Zimbabwe recently?**

- A. Emmerson Mnangagwa**
- B. Robert Mugabe**
- C. Canaan Banana**
- D. Nelson Mandela**

**Answer:- A**

**8) Which Amendment Bill provides a National Commission for Backward Classes?**

- A. 122nd Constitutional Amendment Bill**
- B. 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill**
- C. 124th Constitutional Amendment Bill**
- D. 125th Constitutional Amendment Bill**

**Answer:- B**

**9) Which country overtakes China as World's 2nd biggest stock market?**

- A. Russia**

- B. Germany**
- C. Unites States**
- D. Japan**

**Answer:- D**

**10) What is the name of the world's first Hindi speaking robot?**

- A. Rashmi**
- B. Sophia**
- C. Rishika**
- D. Vanitha**

**Answer:- A**

**11) Who becomes 6th Indian woman to enter top 200 Tennis rankings in Singles?**

- A. Karman Kaur Thandi**
- B. Ankita Raina**
- C. Rutuja Bhosale**
- D. Pranjala Yadlapalli**

**Answer:- A**

**12) Who won the Women's Singles title at World Badminton Championship ?**

- A. Nozomi Okuhara**
- B. Carolina Marin**
- C. P.V.Sindhu**
- D. Saina Nehwal**



**Answer:- B**

**13) Article 35A gives special status to the State and People of**

- A. Assam**
- B. Telangana**
- C. J&K**
- D. Goa**

**Answer:- C**

**14) ISRO to launch its heaviest satellite so far - GSAT-11 on November 30. GSAT-11 weighing over**

- A. 6,300-kg**
- B. 5,700-kg**
- C. 4,800-kg**
- D. 7,200-kg**

**Answer:- B**

**15) Google officially launched Android 9.0 named**

- A. KitKat**
- B. Froyo**
- C. Pie**
- D. Donut**

**Answer:- C**

**16) Who maintains Top Spot in men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world singles rankings?**

- A. Novak Djokovic**
- B. Rafael Nadal**
- C. Roger Federer**
- D. Grigor Dimitrov**

**Answer:- B**

**17) Goa becomes first state by starting its own app based taxi service called**

- A. GoaQuickGo**
- B. GoaTrack**
- C. GoaMiles**
- D. GoaTrip**

**Answer:- C**

**18) Exercise 'Maitree' is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and**

- A. Sri Lanka**
- B. Thailand**
- C. Singapore**
- D. Bangladesh**

**Answer:- B**

**19) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transfer \_\_\_\_\_ crore of its surplus money to the government, for the year ended June 30, 2018.**

- A. ₹65,000 crore**
- B. ₹50,000 crore**

- C. ₹55,000 crore
- D. ₹60,000 crore

**Answer:- B**

**20) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) raised the entry fee to visit Taj Mahal from ₹1000 to \_\_\_\_\_ for foreign tourists and from ₹40 to \_\_\_\_\_ for domestic tourists.**

- A. ₹1100, ₹50
- B. ₹1200, ₹60
- C. ₹1150, ₹55
- D. ₹1250, ₹65

**Answer:- A**

**21) Which of the following category will be introduced this coming year, at the 91st Oscars?**

- A. Makeup and Hairstyling
- B. Film Editing
- C. Foreign Language Film
- D. Popular Film

**Answer:- D**

**22) The National Stock Exchange (NSE) celebrated its silver jubilee by unveiling its new logo. NSE was inaugurated by Manmohan Singh in**

- A. 1996
- B. 1992

**C. 1994**

**D. 1998**

**Answer:- C**

**23) Who has been elected for the Rajya Sabha's new Deputy Chairman post, which fell vacant after the retirement of Congress' PJ Kurien on July 1?**

**A. Sanjay Raut**

**B. Harivansh Narayan Singh**

**C. Hariprasad**

**D. Satish Mishra**

**Answer:- B**

**24) The 1st Indian tribal language to get own Wikipedia edition is**

**A. Santali**

**B. Lamani**

**C. Kotwalia**

**D. Magahi**

**Answer:- A**

**25) Who was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 2018 Asian Games opening ceremony?**

**A. Punam Yadav**

**B. Neeraj Chopra**

**C. Jitu Rai**

**D. Heena Sidhu**

**Answer:- B**

**26) The World Bank has mandated which of the following bank to issue the world's first blockchain-based bond?**

- A. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation**
- B. Bank of America**
- C. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China**
- D. Commonwealth Bank of Australia**

**Answer:- D**

**27) What is the theme for International Youth Day (IYD) 2018?**

- A. Safe Spaces for Youth**
- B. Youth Building Peace**
- C. Youth Civic Engagement**
- D. Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward**

**Answer:- A**

**28) Which city ranked first in 'Ease of Living Index 2018', which was recently released by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri?**

- A. Greater Mumbai**
- B. New Delhi**
- C. Pune**
- D. Tirupati**

**Answer:- C**

**29) Who topped BBC's 'Women Who Changed The World' List ?**

- A. Marie Curie**
- B. Ada Lovelace**
- C. Emmeline Pankhurst**
- D. Mother Teresa**

**Answer:- A**

**30) Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of National Commission for Women?**

- A. Rekha Sharma**
- B. Lalitha Kumaramangalam**
- C. Mamta Sharma**
- D. Sushma Sahu**

**Answer:- A**

**31) India's first genetic bank for wildlife conservation inaugurated in -----.**

- A. Chennai**
- B. Hyderabad**
- C. New Delhi**
- D. Mumbai**

**Answer:- B**

**32) Who tops the list of India's wealthiest women 2018?**

- A. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**
- B. Indu Jain**
- C. Smitha V. Crishna**

**D. Roshni Nadar**

**Answer:- C**

**33) Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador For Road Safety Campaigns?**

**A. Anil Kapoor**

**B. Akshay kumar**

**C. Suresh kumar**

**D. Sonam Kapoor**

**Answer:- B**

**34) On 72nd Independence Day, a 1,100 feet long national flag was unfurled in**

**A. Assam**

**B. Maharashtra**

**C. Uttar Pradesh**

**D. Gujarat**

**Answer:- D**

**35) Balram Das Tandon passes away at 90. Tandon was six-time MLA and became the governor of \_\_\_\_\_ in July 2014.**

**A. Gujarat**

**B. Jharkhand**

**C. Chhattisgarh**

**D. Assam**



**Answer:- C**

**36) Which of the following city has named World's most liveable city for 2018?**

- A. Vienna**
- B. Melbourne**
- C. Osaka**
- D. Sydney**

**Answer:- A**

**37) Who has been appointed as the head coach of Women's National cricket Team?**

- A. Ramesh Powar**
- B. Naresh Iyer**
- C. Suresh Iyer**
- D. Arun Johar**

**Answer:- A**

**38) When will India launch 'Gaganyaan', the manned space mission?**

- A. 2020**
- B. 2022**
- C. 2021**
- D. 2023**

**Answer:- B**

**39) Mario Abdo Benitez sworn in as the 50th President of**

- A. Paraguay**
- B. Guatemala**
- C. Bolivia**
- D. Argentina**

**Answer:- A**

**40) 73-year-old Ibrahim Boubacar Keita re-elected as president of**

- A. Nigeria**
- B. Ghana**
- C. Mali**
- D. Liberia**

**Answer:- C**

**41) Imran Khan elected as \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister Of Pakistan.**

- A. 23rd**
- B. 24th**
- C. 22nd**
- D. 21st**

**Answer:- C**

**42) Who gave India its first gold medal at the 18th edition of the Asian Games 2018?**

- A. Bajrang Punia**
- B. Ravi Kumar**
- C. Apurvi Chandela**
- D. Deepak Kumar**

**Answer:- A**

**43) World Mosquito Day is observed annually on**

- A. 22 August**
- B. 19 August**
- C. 21 August**
- D. 20 August**

**Answer:- D**

**44) Who bagged India's 1st shooting Gold medal at Asiad 2018?**

- A. Lakshay Sheoran**
- B. Deepak Kumar**
- C. Saurabh Chaudhary**
- D. Abhishek Verma**

**Answer:- C**

**45) Who is the first women wrestler ever in India to win gold in Asian games?**

- A. Yuki Irie**
- B. Vinesh Phogat**
- C. Pooja Dhanda**
- D. Sakshi Malik**

**Answer:- B**

**46) Which company secured the top spot in Fortune's global 'Change the World' list?**

- A. Reliance Jio**
- B. Alibaba**
- C. Bank of America**
- D. Merck**

**Answer:- A**

**47) Book titled '281 and Beyond' is the autobiography of**

- A. Kapil Dev**
- B. Sourav Ganguly**
- C. Sachin Tendulkar**
- D. VVS Laxman**

**Answer:- D**

**48) Greece emerged from the eurozone bailout programme after eight years, successfully completing its third and last bailout programme worth**

- A. €61.9 billion**
- B. €51.9 billion**
- C. €41.9 billion**
- D. €71.9 billion**

**Answer:- A**

**49) Who tops the Forbes' list of top 10 highest-paid female athletes of 2018?**

- A. Caroline Wozniacki**
- B. Serena Williams**

**C. Maria Sharapova**

**D. Danica Patrick**

**Answer:- B**

**50) Who is the only Indian to feature in Forbes' list of World's top 10 highest-paid female athletes of 2018?**

**A. Dipika Pallikal**

**B. Mithali Raj**

**C. Saina Nehwal**

**D. PV Sindhu**

**Answer:- D**

**51) Iran recently unveiled its first domestically built fighter jet named**

**A. Saeqeh**

**B. Sukhoi**

**C. Kowsar**

**D. Qaher**

**Answer:- C**

**52) Who set the new world record in 50m backstroke swimming in Asian Games 2018?**

**A. Zhao Jing**

**B. Kliment Kolesnikov**

**C. Daichi Suzuki**

**D. Liu Xiang**

**Answer:- D**

**53) Arun Jaitley has resumed charge as the Finance Minister and Minister of Corporate Affairs after taking a break for three months to undergo a kidney transplant. In his absence, who held additional charges of his ministry?**

- A. Prakash Javadekar**
- B. Piyush Goyal**
- C. Dharmendra Pradhan**
- D. Suresh Prabhu**

**Answer:- B**

**54) Which of the following International Airport in India is now the World's second fastest growing airport?**

- A. Goa International Airport**
- B. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport**
- C. Kempegowda International Airport**
- D. Indira Gandhi International Airport**

**Answer:- C**

**55) Who tops the Forbes list of 'World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018' with \$239 Million?**

- A. George Clooney**
- B. Dwayne Johnson**
- C. Robert Downey**
- D. Jackie Chan**

**Answer:- A**

**56) Who became the brand ambassador of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) ?**

- A. Kangana Ranaut**
- B. Radhika Apte**
- C. Raveena Tandon**
- D. Tapsee Pannu**

**Answer:- C**

**57) Chinese Defence Minister, who visited India recently is**

- A. Ryamizard Ryacudu**
- B. Wei Fenghe**
- C. Itsunori Onodera**
- D. Dasho Tshering Tobgay**

**Answer:- B**

**58) Which pair won Gold medal in Tennis mixed doubles at the Asian Games 2018?**

- A. Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal**
- B. Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna**
- C. Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan**
- D. Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Divij Sharan**

**Answer:- C**



**59) Who has been elected as New Prime Minister of Australia recently?**

- A. Malcolm Turnbull**
- B. Scott Morrison**
- C. Julie Bishop**
- D. Marise Payne**

**Answer:- B**

**60) Who will be honoured with the '2018 Asia Game Changer of the Year' award by global cultural organisation Asia Society?**

- A. Indra Nooyi**
- B. Jack Ma**
- C. Mukesh Ambani**
- D. Sundar Pichai**

**Answer:- A**

**61) Who won India's 1st Athletics gold medal at Asiad 2018?**

- A. Seema Poonia**
- B. Hima Das**
- C. Tejinder Pal Singh Toor**
- D. Neeraj Chopra**

**Answer:- C**

**62) Who is appointed as New Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)?**

- A. G. Satheesh Reddy**

- B. Sandeep Jajodia**
- C. S Christopher**
- D. Uday Kumar Varma**

**Answer:- A**

**63) PV Sindhu won India's first Asian Games silver medal in badminton, after loss to**

- A. Nozomi Okuhara**
- B. Chen Yufei**
- C. Tai Tzu-ying**
- D. Akane Yamaguchi**

**Answer:- C**

**64) Which nation has become the world's first country to provide free sanitary products to all students in a bid to tackle 'period poverty'?**

- A. France**
- B. Italy**
- C. Canada**
- D. Scotland**

**Answer:- D**

**65) Government approves commercial flying of remotely piloted aircraft or drones in India from**

- A. December 1**
- B. October 2**

- C. November 14**
- D. September 30**

**Answer:- A**

**66) Who became the first Indian javelin-thrower to win an Asian Games gold medal as he shattered his own national record by clearing a distance of 88.06m in Jakarta?**

- A. Seema Poonia**
- B. Shivpal Singh**
- C. Neeraj Chopra**
- D. Annu Rani**

**Answer:- C**

**67) External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Jaipur Foot' camp and presented free India-made prosthetic limbs for 500 beneficiaries in**

- A. Indonesia**
- B. Thailand**
- C. Cambodia**
- D. Vietnam**

**Answer:- D**

**68) Which Indian economist has been appointed as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)?**

- A. Satya S Tripathi**

**B. Arvind Panagariya**

**C. Kaushik Basu**

**D. Jayati Ghosh**

**Answer:- A**

**69) ----- bank named as World's Best bank in Digital Innovation.**

**A. Royal Bank of Scotland**

**B. Barclays Bank**

**C. DBS Bank**

**D. Deutsche Bank**

**Answer:- C**

**70) The shipping and railway ministries along with Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra governments entered into a pact to implement Indore-Manmad rail project worth**

**A. Rs 5,000 crore**

**B. Rs 7,000 crore**

**C. Rs 6,000 crore**

**D. Rs 9,000 crore**

**Answer:- D**

**71) Which of the following has become the wettest place in India this year?**

**A. Chinnakallar**

**B. Mahabaleshwar**

**C. Cherrapunji**

**D. Agumbe**

**Answer:- B**

**72) How many new districts is to be created in Arunachal Pradesh?**

**A. 2**

**B. 3**

**C. 4**

**D. 5**

**Answer:- B**

**73) Who is appointed as India's next High Commissioner to United Kingdom ?**

**A. Ruchi Ghanashyam**

**B. Subrata bhattacharjee**

**C. Sandeep Arya**

**D. R. Ravindra**

**Answer:- A**

**74) Who becomes first Indian to win Asian Games gold medal in the women's Heptathlon event?**

**A. Chinta Yadav**

**B. Khushbir Kaur**

**C. Swapna Barman**

**D. Purnima Hembram**

**Answer:- C**

**75) As per RBI's annual report 2017-18, how much percent of demonetised currency (old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes) were returned?**

- A. 89.3 percent**
- B. 74.3 percent**
- C. 86.3 percent**
- D. 99.3 percent**

**Answer D**

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