

Fresherslive Current Affairs

Monthly Edition - December 2018

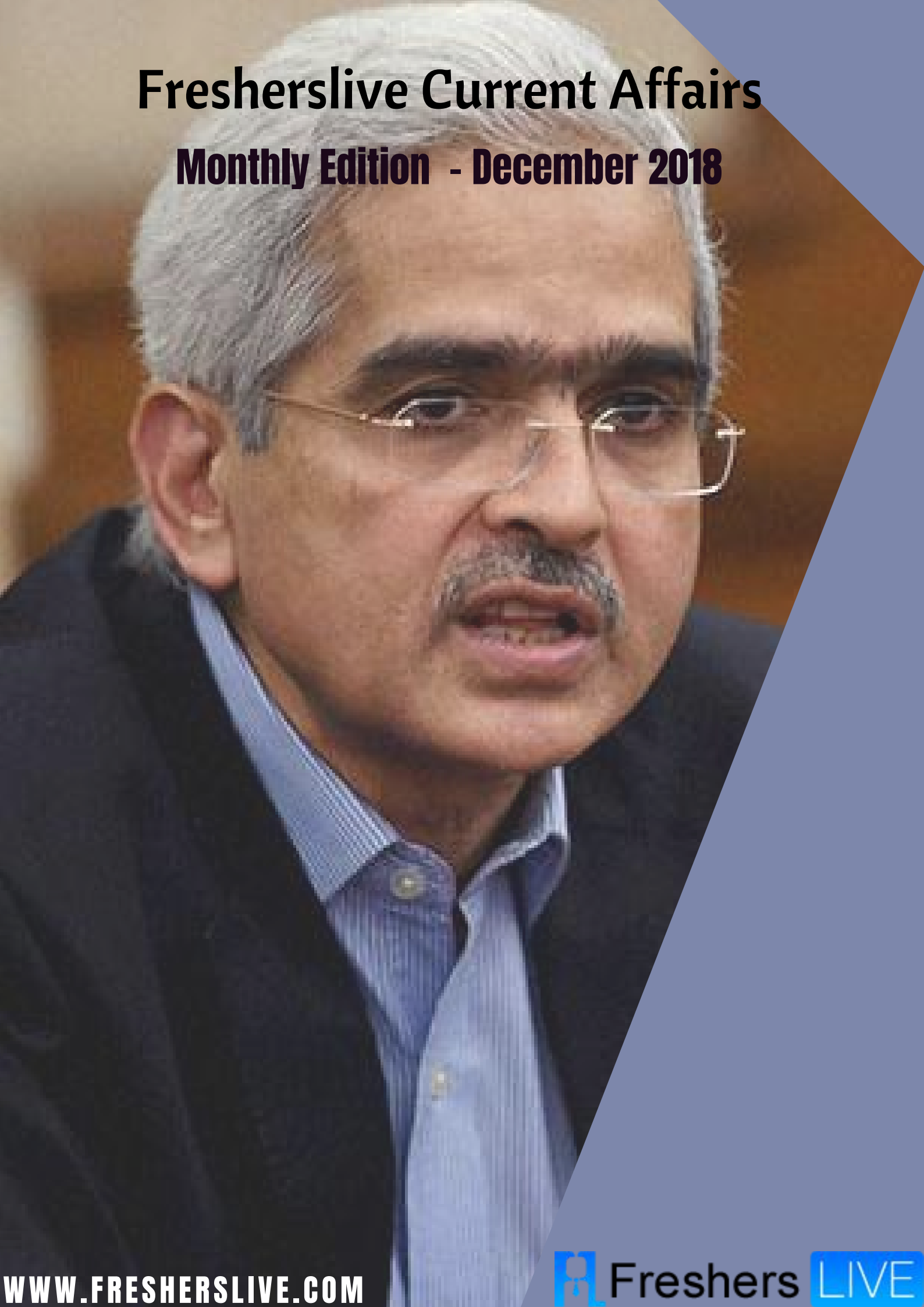


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5 STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULT 2018

- The Election Commission of India announced single phase assembly elections in **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana** and **Mizoram** and two-phase polls for **Chhattisgarh**
- Vote Counting for 5 states was held on December 11
- **Telangana Assembly election - TRS won the 119-member assembly for second straight term**
 - **Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)** has won **60 seats** in Telangana, while Congress is in second position with 13 seats
 - TRS chief **K Chandrashekar Rao** won from his constituency **Gajwel** by 58,290 votes
 - Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) won **seven** of the eight seats it contested in the Telangana assembly polls
- **Rajasthan Assembly Election 2018 - Congress won with 99 seats**
 - BJP has secured **73 seats** in the 200-member state assembly as compared to 163 in 2013 state Assembly elections
 - The Bahujan Samaj Party won 6 seats, CPI(M) 2, Independents 13 and other parties got 6

- Rajasthan Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** submitted her resignation to Governor Kalyan Singh on December 11
- **Chhattisgarh Assembly elections - Congress beats BJP after 15 years**
 - **Congress** has secured the required majority in the **90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly** and will form the government in the state for the first time in 15 years
 - It has secured **47 seats** so far, while the BJP, which has been in power in the state since 2003, has won 10 seats
 - BJP chief minister **Raman Singh**, who governed Chhattisgarh for 15 years, resigned
- **Madhya Pradesh Assembly Election 2018 - Congress emerged as the single largest party by securing 114 seats**
 - As per the final results of Madhya Pradesh Assembly election 2018 (**230-seat** Assembly) declared by the Election Commission after 24 hours of counting, the **Congress** won **114 seats** while the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (**BJP**) won **109 seats**
 - The Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has won two seats and the Samajwadi Party (SP) has won one seat
- **Mizoram Election Results 2018 - Mizo National Front (MNF) returned to power**

- In the state's 40-member assembly, Zoramthanga-led **MNF** bagged **26**, securing absolute majority on its own. **Congress**, which had been in power since 2008, came third with just **5 seats**
- **Newly Elected Chief Ministers of 5 states after 2018 Assembly Election:**

State	Government before	Government after	Elected Chief Minister
Chhattisgarh	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Bhupesh Baghel (INC)
Madhya Pradesh	Bharatiya Janata Party	Indian National Congress	Kamal Nath (INC)
Mizoram	Indian National Congress	Mizo National Front	Zoramthanga (MNF)
Rajasthan	Bharatiya Janata Party	Indian National Congress	Ashok Gehlot (INC)
Telangana	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	K. Chandrashekar Rao (TRS)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Vanessa Ponce de Leon crowned as Miss World

- **Miss Mexico Vanessa Ponce de Leon**, 26, a Mexican model and volunteer, has been crowned **Miss World** at a glitzy event on the tropical Chinese island of Hainan. She holds a degree in international business, volunteers for “**Migrantes en el Camino**” and is on the board of directors of a rehab centre for girls
- She was crowned as the **68th Miss World** by last year’s winner, Manushi Chhillar of India, in the coastal city of Sanya
- First runner-up was Thailand’s **Nicolene Pichapa Limsnukan**, a 20-year-old studying business administration. Miss Belarus Maria Vasilevich, Miss Jamaica Kadijah Robinson and Miss Uganda Quin Abenakyo were among the final five
- It is the eighth time the Miss World final has been held in Sanya, which first hosted the pageant in 2003

World's 100 Most Powerful Women List 2018 by Forbes

- Four Indian women namely
 - HCL Tech Vice Chairperson **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** (ranked 51st)
 - Biocon Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** (ranked 60)



- HT Media MD **Shobhana Bhartia** (ranked 88th)
- Actress **Priyanka Chopra** (placed at 94)

have been named in Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list 2018

- The list, which featured four Indians, has been **topped** by German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** for the **eighth** consecutive year
- Others in the list include Serena Williams and Melinda Gates

As many as 164 countries adopted first-ever global migration agreement in Morocco

- The UN's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration aims to enhance international cooperation on **migration issues**
- The **US, Australia, Austria, Chile, Hungary and Poland** are among the nations that have pulled out from the non-binding pact
- It comprises **23 objectives** for better management of migration at local, national, regional and global levels

US, Mexico and Canada sign new trade deal to replace NAFTA

- US President **Donald Trump**, Mexican President **Enrique Peña Nieto** and Canadian PM **Justin Trudeau** signed the new **US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)** which will replace the 24-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (**NAFTA**)

- USMCA will govern over a trillion dollars worth of trade between the three countries
- The new agreement requires that **40% of cars** eventually be made in countries that pay auto workers at least \$16 an hour – that is, the US and Canada and not Mexico – to qualify for duty-free treatment under the trade pact

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador became first leftist president of Mexico

- He became as President and signed an agreement with three Central American counterparts to create a plan to stem the flow of migrants seeking asylum in the USA
- **About Mexico:-**
 - **Capital:** Mexico City
 - **National language:** Spanish
 - **Currency:** Peso (MXN)

Australia Become first Country To Recognise Orphanage Trafficking As Slavery

- **Australia** becomes the first country in the world to recognize ‘orphanage trafficking’ as a form of modern slavery

- Children from smaller countries are recruited in orphanages in the West for the purpose of profit through foreign aid

UAE passport tops the Global Passport Power Rank 2018

- As per the ratings released by **Passport Index**, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has **topped** the Global Passport Power Rank 2018, emerging as the country with the most powerful passport in world
- UAE passport holders can now fly to **113 countries** without a visa, and 54 others with a visa-on-arrival
- **Singapore** and **Germany** ranks **second** with 166 countries
- **India** ranked **66th** in Global Passport Power Rank 2018

Qatar to pull out from OPEC

- **Qatar** is to **leave** the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** in **January 2019** in order to focus on gas production
- Qatar has been a member of OPEC **since 1961**, and the decision to pull out after all these decades comes at a turbulent time in Gulf politics, with Doha under a boycott by former neighboring allies, including Saudi Arabia, for 18 months
- Qatar is the world's biggest supplier of **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**, producing almost 30 percent of the world total

- The decision to **increase the supply of natural gas** is to develop a future strategy based on growth and expansion, both in its activities at home and abroad

Luxembourg to become first country to make all public transport free

- **Luxembourg** is set to become the first country in the world to make all **public transport free**, implementing the move in 2020
- The move is aimed at addressing environmental issues and the problem of traffic congestion
- Earlier this year, Luxembourg introduced free transport for all people under the age of 20.

Japan chose Disaster as symbol for 2018

- Japan selected the Chinese character for ‘**disaster**’ as its ‘**defining symbol**’ for 2018. The country selected it as it was hit by deadly floods, earthquakes, and storms. The event was organized by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation
- Japanese TV stations broadcast the annual announcement live, with Seihan Mori, master of the ancient Kiyomizu temple in Kyoto, writing the character on a huge white panel with an ink-soaked calligraphy brush

First International Conference on Sustainable Water Management Held in Mohali

- The first International Conference on ‘Sustainable Water Management’ was held at **Indian School of Business (ISB)** in Mohali, Punjab
- The theme of the international conference is ‘**Sustainable Water Management**’

Climate Change Performance Index: Sweden tops in the Ranking, India at 11th position

- U.S. dropped from **56th to 59th** place due to high emissions and poor ratings for the federal government’s policies
- The bottom 5 consisted of: Saudi Arabia (60), US (59), Iran (58), Korea (57), Chinese Taipei (56)

Philippines' Catriona Gray crowned Miss Universe 2018

- Catriona Elisa Gray became the **fourth** woman from the country to win the title
- **Tamaryn Green** from South Africa was named the first **runner-up** while Miss Venezuela **Sthefany Gutiérrez** stood **third** at the pageant which was held in Bangkok, Thailand
- India was represented by 22-year-old **Nehal Chudasama**, who couldn't qualify for top 20

Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn in as PM of Sri Lanka after resignation of Mahinda Rajapaksa

- Sri Lanka's ousted Prime Minister **Ranil Wickremesinghe** was sworn into office two months after being removed by President Maithripala Sirisena, thus bringing an end to the weeks-long political crisis in the country
- Mr. **Wickremesinghe** was removed as Prime minister on **October 26** and was replaced by Mahinda Rajapaksa who resigned on 15th December after failing to garner a majority in Parliament
- Mr. Wickremesinghe has been sworn in as Prime minister for the 5th time, creating a record in Sri Lanka

United Arab Emirates President declares 2019 as Year of Tolerance

- **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has declared 2019 to be the “**Year of Tolerance.**” to highlight UAE as the Global Capital of Tolerance, instilling the values of co-existence and peace in local, regional and international communities
- The Year of Tolerance will focus on “Five Pillars”

- First one aims to deepen the values of tolerance and co-existence among cultures and peoples by concentrating on teaching the youth on the values of tolerance
- The second pillar will focus on solidifying the UAE as the global capital for tolerance, via a series of projects with dialogue between various cultures and civilizations
- The third will enact multiple cultural programmes and contributions to build tolerant communities
- The fourth pillar will see legislative and policy-oriented objectives that contribute mandating cultural and religious tolerance
- The fifth pillar will promote tolerance and co-existence through media initiatives

India announced \$1.4 billion Package for Maldives, Agreements Signed

- **India** announced a \$1.4 billion package for the Maldives to meet its immediate budgetary as well as some medium-term requirements
- The Maldives is weighed down by some \$3 billion in debt to China and the country is looking to India and Saudi Arabia, besides others, for help. In November 2018, New Delhi had offered an immediate loan of \$25 million to the Maldives during a visit by its new foreign minister Abdullah Shahid

- Here are 4 agreements that were signed during the state visit of Maldives President Ibrahim Solih:
 - 1. Agreement on the Facilitation of Visa Arrangements
 - 2. MoU on Cultural Cooperation
 - 3. MoU for Establishing Mutual Cooperation to Improve the Ecosystem for Agribusiness
 - 4. Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Information & Communications Technology and Electronics.

Indian Film ‘Period : End of Sentence’ Made It To Oscars Shortlist

- **‘Period. End of Sentence’** made it to the Oscar shortlist in the Documentary Short Subject category
- This is a film about women in India fighting against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation and delving upon the work of real-life ‘Pad Man’ Arunachalam Muruganantham
- A total of 104 films had originally qualified in the category

Global Gender Gap Report 2018: Iceland tops; India ranks 108th

- This year, the Gender Gap Index as released by World Economic Forum (WEF), was topped by **Iceland** with a score of **0.858**, holding the top spot in the index for the **10th consecutive** year
- Norway ranked at 2nd, Sweden at 3rd, and Finland at 4th
- **India** was ranked **108th** in the Global Gender Gap Index 2018, same as it was ranked in **2017**
- Among other South Asian countries, India fetched fourth place with top 3 being Bangladesh (48th), Sri Lanka (100th) and Nepal (105th).

Merriam-Webster selects 'Justice' as its 2018 Word of the Year

- Merriam Webster chooses its word of the year based on an increase in traffic and overall volume of traffic.
- They report “**justice**” saw a **74 percent increase** year over year, taking it higher than other words that might have been “trendy” or “buzzed about.”
- The word follows "**toxic**," picked by Oxford Dictionaries, and "**misinformation**," plucked by Dictionary.com.

India, China hold first People-to-People Exchanges meeting

- External Affairs Minister Sushma and her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi will co-chair the first-ever meeting of India-China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges in New Delhi.
- India and China decided to set up people to people mechanism during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in China.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Salman Khan tops Forbes richest Indian celebrity list for third time

- **Salman Khan** has been named the **highest-earning** celebrity in India for the third time in a row by Forbes, with earnings of **Rs.253.25 crore**
- The second spot was captured by Indian cricket team skipper **Virat Kohli**, with Rs.228.09 crore to his name, to become the **first sportsperson** to reach the position
- **Akshay Kumar** came **third** on the Forbes India Celebrity 100 2018 with Rs.185 crore, followed by Deepika
- The fifth spot went to former Indian cricket team captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** who earned Rs.101.77 crore during 2018

Deepika Padukone becomes first woman to rank among the Forbes top five richest celebrities in India

- The 32-year-old Indian actress was placed fourth in the Forbes India Celebrity 100 list with her earnings reaching **Rs 112.80 crore** during 2018
- Other women to feature on the Forbes India Celebrity 100 include:

- Actresses Alia Bhatt (Rank 12, Rs 58.83 crore)
- Anushka Sharma (Rank 16, Rs 45.83 crore)
- Katrina Kaif (Rank 21, Rs 33.67 crore)
- Priyanka Chopra (Rank 49, Rs 18 crore)
- Shuttlers PV Sindhu (Rank 20, Rs 36.50 crore)
- Saina Nehwal (Rank 58, Rs 16.54 crore)
- Comedian Bharti Singh (Rank 74, Rs 13.95 crore)

Kohli India's top-paid sportsperson of 2018 at 228 crore: Forbes

- Team India captain **Virat Kohli** has featured as the **highest-earning sportsperson** in the **2018** Forbes India Celebrity 100 list with **₹228.09-crore** earnings
- Kohli was also the top-paid sportsperson in 2016 and 2017 with ₹134.44 crore and ₹100.72 crore earnings respectively
- Former captain **MS Dhoni** follows Kohli as the **second** highest-paid sportsperson in the 2018 list with ₹101.77-crore earnings.

India is the third-highest contributor of CO2

- Researchers at the **University of East Anglia (UEA)** and the **Global Carbon Project** said that Global carbon emissions are set to hit an all-time high of **37.1 billion tonnes** of CO₂ in 2018
- India has projected to see emissions rise by 6.3% from 2017

- Limiting global warming to the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of keeping the global temperature increase this century to well below 2°C, would need carbon dioxide emissions to decline by 50% by 2030 and reach net zero by about 2050

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland

- Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the 10-day-long **Hornbill Festival of Nagaland at Naga Heritage Village Kisama** on 1st December 2018. More than **60,000** people have visited the Hornbill Festival
- The assistant director of Tourism department (Statistics) T. Khakihe Sumi said that altogether **63,032** visitors with **780 foreigners** have visited the picturesque venue. The inaugural day had 19,953 visitors. The count increased up to 43,079 on the second day of the festival
- The visitors were treated with cultural performances from across the country including Odisha, Assam, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir

Punjab cabinet approves international airport near Ludhiana

- The Punjab Cabinet approved the setting up of a new **international** civil terminal at Indian Air Force (IAF) Station, **Halwara** 32 kms from Ludhiana

- The terminal will be jointly developed by the state government and Airports Authority of India (AAI). While AAI would have majority stake of **51 per cent**, the Punjab Government, through the Greater Ludhiana Development Authority (**GLADA**), will have **49 per cent** stake in the project
- The state already has two international airports at Mohali and Amritsar

Kerala gets its 4th international airport in Kannur

- Kerala's fourth international airport at Kannur (north Kerala) was inaugurated jointly by Union **Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu** and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by flagging off the maiden Air India Express flight to **Abu Dhabi**
- International flights to the **UAE, Oman and Qatar** will be operated from Kannur airport. For regional connectivity, flights to Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai will be available
- Kerala already has three international airports, at Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode
- **Kochi**, also built under PPP model, is one of the fastest growing airports of the country

India's first underwater museum to open off Puducherry coast in INS Cuddalore

- **Indian Navy** agreed to gift **INS Cuddalore**, a decommissioned Pondicherry-class vessel, to the Union territory of Puducherry for the creation of country's **first underwater museum**
- The 60 m long and 12 m wide vessel was decommissioned in March 2018 after sailing 13000 nautical miles
- It would be sent to the seabed at a depth of 26 m and 7 km off the Pondicherry coast to act as an underwater marine museum for scuba diving and snorkeling activities
- This would enhance tourism in the UT

Shi Yomi becomes 23rd district of Arunachal Pradesh

- The number of districts in **Arunachal Pradesh** increased to 23 with the formal inauguration of **Shi Yomi district** by Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** in presence of Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju
- Two more districts would be formally inaugurated in the state within this week taking the total to **25**
- The state Assembly on August 29 this year passed a bill for the creation of three new districts, **Pakke-Kesang, Lepa Rada and Shi Yomi**, in the state

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Krishna Poonia becomes an MLA in Rajasthan

- Discus thrower **Krishna Poonia**, the 2010 CWG gold medallist and **Congress** candidate, won the **Sadulpur** assembly seat in Rajasthan, defeating sitting BSP MLA Manoj Nyangali
- It was Poonia's **second attempt** to get entry in the state legislature, having suffered defeat in the previous elections

India's first private UAV factory inaugurated in Hyderabad

- India's first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) was inaugurated by Telangana Home Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad, Telangana.

BANKING & FINANCE

State Bank of Mauritius gets RBI approval for subsidiary

- Mauritius based SBM group granted a license by Reserve Bank of India to operate SBM Bank (India) Limited through Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) mode under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with effect from December 1, 2018
- Now at present SBM operate its branches in Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Ramachandrapuram since 1994
- It plans to open six new branches in Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Jaipur by next year

World Bank unveils USD 200 billion in climate action investment for 2021-25

- World Bank unveiled USD **200 billion** in climate action investment for 2021-25, adding this amounts to a doubling of its current five-year funding
- The move coincides with a UN climate summit in Katowice (Poland)
- The breakdown of 200 billion dollars would comprise approximately 100 billion in direct finance from the World Bank. Around one-third of the remaining funding will come from two World Bank Group agencies with the rest private capital mobilized by the World Bank Group

India and UAE signed 3,500 crore currency swap agreement

- This agreement will boost investment and enable direct trade without using dollars or other international currencies
- The agreement was signed after the 12th India-UAE joint commission meeting co-chaired by External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and the UAE's Foreign Minister **Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan** in Abu Dhabi
- In 2015, **China's** central bank extended a currency swap agreement with the UAE Central bank worth \$5.54 billion

Exim Bank Extends USD 500 mn Loan To Tanzania

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) extended a credit facility of USD 500 million to Tanzania for water supply projects in the country
- Exim Bank signed an agreement in May 2018, with the Tanzania government for making available a Government of India-supported line of credit of USD 500 million for the purpose of financing water supply schemes

India to retain top position in remittances with USD 80 billion: World Bank

- The World Bank has said **India** will retain its position as the world's **top recipient of remittances** this year with **\$80 billion**



- India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt, according to World Bank's Migration and Development Brief
- A foreign remittance is money transferred from a foreign worker to their family or other individuals in their home countries

Reserve Bank of India grants 40 branch licenses to Bandhan Bank

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bandhan Bank to open as many as 40 new branches, by the end of December releasing the restriction that RBI has put on the Bandhan bank's branch opening spree three months back
- The RBI barred the bank from opening new branches in September after the private-sector lender failed to bring down main shareholders stake to below 40 % as mandated in the licensing norms for universal banks
- Bandhan Financial Services (BFSL) the promoter of Bandhan Bank, currently holds 82.28 % stake in the bank

Nepal government banned all Indian currency notes above Rs 100

- The Nepal government has banned the validity of Indian currency notes of **Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200** denominations in the country
- India is currently Nepal's **largest trade partner**, and their decision to ban all Indian currencies above Rs 100 denomination would also **affect** Nepalese people and business for their transactions
- The Indian government had introduced new currency notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 after the demonetisation of old notes in **2016**
- However, the citizens of Nepal have been using the new Indian currency in their country for nearly two years now

Rs 1.10 lakh crore lost to bank frauds since 2015: RBI data

- According to a data released by the RBI, over **₹1.10 lakh crore** has been lost due to **bank frauds** since **2015**
- The number of such frauds has gone up from 4,693 to 5,917 between 2015-16 and 2017-18

Four public sector banks may come out of PCA

- **Four public sector banks** that were under the **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)** framework of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), may come out of the restrictions following an improved performance. The 4 banks are Bank of Maharashtra, Corporation Bank, Allahabad Bank and Bank of India
- This follows a review of the performance of all **11 banks that are under the PCA framework**, as decided during the November board meeting of the RBI. The board of financial supervision of the RBI has reviewed the banks' half-yearly performance
- RBI may provide **some relaxations to the risk thresholds** in order to help the banks come out of the PCA. With 11 out of 21 public sector banks under the PCA framework, credit flow to the productive sectors of the economy has been impacted. Estimates suggest that these 11 banks have **17% share** in the loan market

Capital First merges with IDFC Bank to create IDFC First Bank

- Private sector **IDFC Bank** and Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) **Capital First** have announced completion of their merger to create **IDFC First Bank**
- Capital First Founder and Chairman **V Vaidyanathan** has been appointed Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the merged entity

- IDFC Bank Founder, MD and CEO **Rajiv Lall** will serve as Part-Time Chairman of IDFC First Bank
- It will serve 7.2 million customers through its 203 bank branches, 129 ATMs, 454 rural business correspondent centres across the country's urban and rural geographies.

Karnataka Bank partnered with Paisabazaar.com to offer home loans to customers

- Paisabazaar.com, online marketplace for financial products and Karnataka Bank entered into a partnership to offer the bank's home loan product to customers on the Paisabazaar platform.
- Paisabazaar.com works with 30 partners for its home loan product, which includes the country's biggest private and public banks and housing finance companies (HFCs).

RBI shortlists TCS, Wipro, IBM, 3 others for setting up Public Credit Registry

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has shortlisted **six IT majors** including TCS, Wipro and IBM India to set up Public Credit Registry (PCR) for **capturing details** of borrowers and wilful defaulters
- The other shortlisted companies are:

- Capgemini Technology Services India,
- Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India, and
- Mindtree.

UAE to give Pakistan USD 3 billion amid financial crisis

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) will deposit **\$3 billion** in Pakistan's central bank to support its financial and monetary policy
- The UAE's support comes amid the current financial crisis in Pakistan
- The transfer of **11 billion dirhams** (USD 3 billion) by the government-owned **Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD)** to **State Bank of Pakistan** is expected to be carried out in the 'coming days'

India's Forex Reserves declined by USD 613.9 million to USD 393.12 billion

- India's foreign exchange reserves declined in this week by **USD 613.9 million** reaching **USD 393.12 billion**
- This decline attributed to the fall
- The Forex reserves increased by USD 16.6 million to reach USD 393.734 million in the previous week.

RBI to soon introduce new Rs. 20 banknotes

- Despite the new notes coming into circulation, the old ₹20 notes will not be withdrawn
- According to the RBI data bank, there were **4.92 billion** pieces of Rs. 20 note in circulation as on March 31, 2016. The number more than doubled to about 10 billion pieces by March 2018
- The central bank has already issued new look currency notes in the denominations of **Rs. 10, Rs. 50, Rs. 100, and Rs. 500**. It had also introduced the **Rs. 200 and Rs. 2,000** bank notes
- The new look notes are being introduced since November 2016 under Mahatma Gandhi (New) series.

HDFC Group pipped Tata Group as India's largest business house worth Rs. 10.40 lakh crore

- According to Bloomberg data, Deepak Parekh-led HDFC group overtook Tata Group become the country's largest conglomerate in terms of market capitalization.
- The total market capitalization (MACP) of the group's five listed companies is currently valued at Rs 10.40 lakh crore, which is Rs 1,185 crore more than that of Tata Group.

- HDFC Bank, a part of the group, is only the third company in Indian corporate history to cross the Rs 5-lakh crore market capitalization threshold, after TCS (Rs 7.16 trillion) and RIL (Rs 7.09 trillion).

ICICI topped list of banks penalising staff for fraud in 2015-2017: RBI data

- According to data furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, between 2015 and 2017, private lender ICICI Bank penalized the highest number of employees for defrauding bank assets in the last three year out of 60 scheduled commercial banks operating in India.
- It is followed by State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank.

Government to infuse Rs.28,615 crore into 7 PSBs

- The government plans to infuse Rs.28,615 crore into seven public sector banks (PSBs) through recapitalisation bonds by the end of December 2018. The amount infused will help the banks meet the regulatory capital requirement, and its disbursement might take place before December 31.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that recapitalisation would enhance the lending capacity of PSBs and help them exit the RBI's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.
- Earlier the government had announced an infusion of Rs.65,000 crore in PSBs in 2018-19, of which Rs.23,000 crore has already been disbursed, while Rs.42,000 crore is remaining.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

GlaxoSmithKline merges with HUL

- **GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Ltd.** is to merge with **Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL)**, India's biggest consumer goods company, in a deal worth **Rs.31,70 0 crore**
- Because of this transaction HUL's parent, **Unilever will gain** control of popular health drink brand Horlicks while other brands from GSK CH, such as Boost, Maltova, and Viva, will be a part of the merged entity in India
- GSK CH had acquired Maltova and Boost from Jagatjit Industries in 2000
- On the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, HUL shares gained 4.12%, or Rs.72.30, to close at Rs.1,825.90. Shares of GSK CH closed the day at Rs. 7,542.85, rising 3.75% or Rs.272.90

AWARDS

Ada Hegerberg won the first ever women's Ballon d'Or

- Olympique Lyonnais striker **Ada Hegerberg** became the first woman to be awarded a Ballon d'Or at a grand ceremony in Paris
- The 23-year-old was announced the first ever winner of the Women's Ballon d'Or by former **France international player David Ginola** before she gave an inspiring speech encouraging more girls to play **football**
- She has won four league and three Champions League titles with Lyon

Shyam Sundar Besra conferred with Sahitya Akademi Award 2018

- **Shyam Sundar Besra**, Chief Inspector of Ticket, working in Asansol Division of Eastern Railway of Indian Railways has been conferred with the Sahitya Akademi Award 2018 for his novel '**Marom**'
- Written in Santali language, "Marom" is primarily based upon natural, social, economic and political conditions of **Santhal Pargana**, one of the divisions of **Jharkhand** headquartered at Dumka
- Sahitya Akademi announced its annual Awards in 24 languages on December 5, 2018. Seven books of poetry, six novels, six short stories,

three literary criticism and two essays have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018

● **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018 Winners List:**

● **Poetry Section:**

- Samanta Tanti (Assamese)
- Paresh Narendra Kamat (Konkani)
- S Ramesan Nair (Malayalam)
- Dr Mohanjit (Punjabi)
- Dr Rakesh Kumar Vyas (Rajasthani)
- Dr Rama Kant Shukla (Sanskrit)
- Khiman U Mulani (Sindhi)

● **Novels Section:**

- Inderjeet Kesar (Dogri)
- Anees Salim (English)
- Chitra Mudgal (Hindi)
- Shyam Besra (Santali)
- S Ramakrishnan (Tamil)
- Rahman Abbas (Urdu)

● **Short stories Section:**

- Sanjib Chattopadhyay (Bengali)
- Rituraj Basumatary (Bodo)
- Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq (Kashmiri)
- Prof. Bina Thakur (Maithili)

- Bidhichandra Heisnamba (Manipuri)
- Lok Nath Upadhyay Chapagain (Nepali)
- **Literary Criticism Section:**
 - K. G. Nagarajappa (Kannada)
 - Ma. Su. Patil (Marathi)
 - Dasarathi Das (Odia)
- **Essays Section:**
 - Sharifa Vijliwala (Gujarati)
 - Dr. Kolakaluri Enoch (Telugu)

Kipchoge and Ibarguen won 'IAAF Athletes of the Year' awards

- World marathon record holder Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya and 2018 triple and long jump Diamond League champion Caterine Ibarguen of Colombia are the 2018 IAAF Male and Female Athletes of the Year
- Both are first-time winners of the award. Kipchoge is just the second Kenyan ever to win the award after David Rudisha in 2010

Slain Journalist Khashoggi named Time Magazine's Person of the Year

- Saudi journalist **Jamal Khashoggi**, who was murdered in October 2018 at his country's Istanbul consulate, has been named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" alongside several other journalists

- The magazine also honored Philippine journalist Maria Ressa, Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, currently imprisoned in Myanmar and the staff of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, including five members killed in a June shooting

Manika Batra was awarded ITTF Breakthrough Star Award 2018

- **Manika Batra**, India's star paddler, was awarded the International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) **Breakthrough Star Award 2018** during a ceremony at the Grand Hyatt Hotel
- In the Commonwealth Games 2018 at Gold Coast, Manika won four medals including a historic women's singles gold, team gold, women's doubles silver (with Mouma Das) and mixed doubles bronze (with G.Sathiyam)
- She had also bagged the bronze in mixed doubles (with A. Sharath Kamal) at the 2018 Asian Games

Eight parliamentarians were honoured by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu

- NCP chief and Rajya Sabha MP **Sharad Pawar** and veteran BJP leader **Murli Manohar Joshi** were presented the **Lifetime Achievement** award

- Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha **Ghulam Nabi Azad** and BJP MP **Nishikant Dubey** were selected for the **Best Parliamentarians** award
- Four women MPs from both Houses were also be awarded for their contribution
- While actor-turned-politician **Hema Malini** was awarded for her outstanding work inside and outside Parliament as a first-time MP, Lok Sabha MP **Rama Devi** was selected as the **Best Woman Parliamentarian**
- DMK leader **Kanimozhi** was presented the award for the Best Woman Parliamentarian in the Rajya Sabha
- The Best **Debut** Woman Parliamentarian award was be presented to **Chhaya Verma**. The Lokmat Parliamentary Awards is the brainchild of Lokmat Media group chairman Vijay Darda

Ashok Amritraj was honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit

- Producer Ashok Amritraj was honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit
- French Minister of Europe and Foreign Minister, Mr. Jean Yves Le Drian presided over the occasion

- Mr. Amritraj has been the producer of Hollywood films such as Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance with Nicholas Cage and 99 Homes starring Andrew Garfield
- The former CEO of National Geographic Films and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador was lauded for his contribution to the world of cinema and Indo-French film industry

Sonam Kapoor named India's Person of the Year by PETA

- Actress Sonam Kapoor has been named India's Person of the Year for 2018, by animal rights organisation **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** for her animal advocacy efforts
- Kapoor was named PETA India's Hottest Vegetarian Celebrity in **2016**
- Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year Award include Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, Shashi Tharoor, Kapil Sharma, Hema Malini, R. Madhavan and Jacqueline Fernandez

Deepika Padukone named top Indian star of 2018 by IMDb

- The '2018 Top 10 Stars of Indian Cinema' list, based on global film and TV website **Internet Movie Database's (IMDb) 'StarMeter'** stats and page views, was released
- **Shah Rukh Khan** was **second** on the list, followed by Aamir Khan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Pakistani activist Asma Jahangir wins UN Human Rights Prize for 2018

- Late **Pakistan lawyer** and human rights activist **Asma Jahangir** was announced as one of the four winners of the UN Human Rights Prize for 2018. Her daughter **Munizae Jahangir** received the prestigious award on behalf of her mother
- Other winners included:
 - Women's rights activist in Tanzania - **Rebeca Gyumi**;
 - Activist for the rights of indigenous Brazilian communities - **Joenia Wapichana** and
 - Ireland's human rights organisation **Front Line Defenders**.
- United Nations Human Rights Prize, an award given every **five years** since 1968.
- President of the UN General Assembly - **María Fernanda Espinosa**.

Mamata Banerjee awarded the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year 2018 Award

- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** has been chosen as the **best chief minister** of the country by the Skoch Group

- The chief minister of Bangla was given the award on the basis of the State's performance as measured on five parameters – governance, culture, finance, urban development and rural development
- The state's **Kanyashree scheme** for the girl child has earned Banerjee much acclaim and the highest public service honour from the **United Nations**
- In the field of agriculture, West Bengal has won five consecutive **Krishi Karman** awards and bagged the IPPAI Award for rural electrification in the state
- Besides Banerjee the Skoch Group, has also awarded Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** with the '**SKOCH Sprinter of the Year**' and Commerce and Industry and civil aviation minister **Suresh Prabhu** as the '**Steady Reformer**'

Indian Railways Bags 17 Awards For Energy Conservation

- Indian Railways **bagged 17 awards** at the 'National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2018' held in New Delhi
- Under 'transport' category, Indian Railways obtained 10 awards for the subsector railway station. Vidisha railway station in Madhya Pradesh won the first prize

- Under ‘building‘ category, Indian Railways got three awards for subsector Railway hospitals. Railway hospitals of Izzatnagar division won the first prize

Madhya Pradesh’s Divya Patidar Joshi crowned Mrs. India 2018 title in New Delhi

- Divya Patidar Joshi from Madhya Pradesh was crowned with Mrs. India 2018 title at the Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018 finale held in New Delhi.
- She defeated 24 promising contestants and won all the rounds of Beauty with Brain contest along with Best Catwalk title.

APPOINTMENTS

Advocate Madhavi Divan appointed Additional Solicitor General in Supreme Court

- With her appointment, Divan becomes only the **third woman** to become an ASG (Additional Solicitor General) in the Supreme Court
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment and Divan will hold office till **June 30, 2020**
- Senior advocate **Indira Jaising** was the first woman to be appointed as the ASG, while the second one was **Pinky Anand**, who still holds the post

Star India chairman Uday Shankar elected Vice President of FICCI

- Uday Shankar is the first ever Indian media and entertainment executive to assume the leadership position in a national industry chamber - The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**
- Shankar entered media as a political journalist with **The Times of India** and rose to become the CEO and editor of 'Star News'. He spearheaded the launch of 24-hour Hindi news channel 'Aaj Tak' in

2000, and 'Headlines Today' in English in 2003, as editor and news director of 'TV Today' Group

Pranab K Das is new Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Chairman

- Senior bureaucrat **Pranab Kumar Das** has been appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (**CBIC**), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes
- He will succeed **S. Ramesh**, who superannuates on December
- The CBIC is headed by the Chairman and consists of six members, who overlook various areas such as customs, central excise, service tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST), administration and budget, among other

Belgium Prime Minister Charles Michel resigns

- He has resigned amid pressure on his government over his **support** for the **UN global pact on migration**
- Michel, 42, took office in **October 2014** after forming a right-wing coalition, becoming at 38 the country's youngest prime minister since 1841

Infosys appoints Airtel's Nilanjan Roy as new CFO

- Infosys Ltd has appointed Bharti Airtel Ltd's global CFO Nilanjan Roy as chief financial officer, effective 1 March 2019.
- He replaces interim CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka, who will resume his responsibilities as deputy CFO.
- Roy spent 13 years with Airtel, before which he worked for 15 years with Unilever across their global operations.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed new Indian Ambassador to US

- Shringla, a 1984-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) diplomat will succeed Navtej Sarna.
- At present, Shringla is serving as Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh.
- Senior diplomat Riva Ganguly Das, presently Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, has been appointed as new High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

Chagari Praveen Kumar appointed as Chief Justice of new Andhra HC

- He will become acting Chief Justice of AP High Court, with effect from Jan 1, 2019.
- Earlier, the Union Law Ministry issued an order signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, which said Andhra Pradesh will have its own High Court at its capital Amaravati and the Hyderabad High Court shall become High Court for Telangana.

Rajesh Subramaniam is appointed as CEO of FedEx Express

- FedEx Express, a U.S. multinational courier delivery giant, has named Rajesh Subramaniam, an Indian-American, as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the firm. He will assume his new role on January 1, 2019.
- He replaces David L Cunningham. Mr. Subramaniam currently holds the executive vice- president, chief marketing and communications officer position of FedEx Corporation.
- He is an IIT-Bombay graduate from Thiruvananthapuram and has been with FedEx for more than 27 years.
- He has held various executive-level positions in the company.
- He began his career in Memphis and subsequently moved to Hong Kong where he oversaw marketing and customer service for the Asia-Pacific region.

P V Bharathi appointed Corporation Bank MD & CEO

- She will take over the charge on or after February 1, 2019 and remain in the post till March 31, **2020**. Prior to this elevation, Bharathi was an Executive Director at Canara Bank
- Meanwhile, the Centre has also approved the appointment of **K Ramachandran** as Executive Director of **Allahabad Bank**
- **Balakrishna Alse** has now been appointed as Executive Director of **Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC)**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

First manned Soyuz mission to ISS was launched successfully

- After the October launch failure, a **Soyuz rocket** carrying Russian, American and Canadian astronauts took off from Kazakhstan and reached orbit on **3rd December** in the **first manned mission**
- Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko, Anne McClain of NASA and David Saint-Jacques of the Canadian Space Agency were launched off for a six-and-a-half month mission on the **International Space Station(ISS)**.

ISRO's heaviest satellite GSAT-11 launched, will increase internet speed

- France-based **Arianespace** successfully launched **GSAT-11**, the **heaviest** satellite built by ISRO from its port in French Guiana
- Weighing **5,854 kg**, the GSAT-11 will boost broadband speeds and provide high bandwidth connectivity with up to **14 gigabit per second (GBPS)** data transfer speed. The satellite's designed lifetime is more than **15 years**

India successfully test-fired nuclear-capable Agni-5 missile from Odisha coast

- Indigenously-developed **surface-to-surface** missile **Agni-5** has a strike range of **5,000 km**. Agni-5 is a three-stage missile and is 17 metre tall and 2 metre wide. It is capable of carrying **1.5 tonne** of nuclear warheads
- The Agni-5 is the latest and most advanced variant in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine
- India has in its armoury the Agni missile series: Agni-1 with a range of 700 km, Agni-2 with a range of 2,000 km, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to more than 3,500 km range.

India successfully test-fired Nuclear-Capable Agni-IV Missile

- India on 23rd December successfully test-fired nuclear strategic ballistic missile **Agni-IV** from **Dr Abdul Kalam Island** off the Odisha coast as a part of user trial by the Army
- The surface-to-surface missile has a **4,000-km strike range** and is equipped with advanced avionics, 5th generation on board computer and distributed architecture
- This is the **seventh trial** of Agni-IV missile

China launched first satellite for space-based broadband to rival Google

- The satellite was launched from a **Long March 11** carrier rocket from the **Jiuquan** Satellite Launch Centre in north-western China
- The satellite is the **first** in the **Hongyun project** planned by China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp (CASIC)
- The Hongyun project, started in September **2016**, aims to build a space-based communications network to provide broadband internet connectivity to users around the world, especially those in the underserved regions

Russia successfully tested hypersonic missile ‘Avangard’

- The hypersonic missile could fly at **20 times the speed** of sound and manoeuvre up and down, meaning that it could breach defence systems
- Russia's **Avangard system** would be ready for use from 2019
- The missile was launched from the **Dombrovsky** missile base in the southern Ural Mountains and hit its target on a test site in Kamchatka, about **6,000km** away
- Avangard is designed using new composite materials to withstand temperatures of up to **2,000 degrees Celsius** that come from a flight through the atmosphere at hypersonic speeds

USTAAD: Railways develops AI-powered robot to check for faults in trains

- The mechanical branch of Central Railway Nagpur division developed a new AI-powered robot named **USTAAD (Undergear Surveillance through Artificial Intelligence Assisted Droid)** which examines parts of the coach in real time with an HD camera and transmits them over WiFi.
- The new Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered robot will click photos and record videos of the train, under the gears and then transmits them over WiFi to engineers for maintenance and repair.
- Since USTAAD can watch and examine areas which cannot be seen and approached by humans usually, due to the narrow spaces between under-gear parts, it will reduce chances of human error while examining undergear equipment on Indian Railways trains.
- The special features of the robot include HD (high-definition) camera that can be rotated in any direction as per commands are given by the engineer and can capture video as well as still photographs with zoom in or out facility.

DEFENCE

First India Japan Air Exercise SHINYUU Maitri 2018 began

- A bilateral air exercise ‘**SHINYUU Maitri-18**’, between the **Japanese** Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and **Indian** Air Force (IAF) began on December 3, 2018 at Air Force Station **Agra**. The exercise will end on December 7, 2018
- The theme of the exercise is joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft
- IAF is participating with **An-32 and C-17** aircraft with aircrew & observers

In a first, Indian Air Force conducted Exercise 'CrossBow 18'

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted combined guided weapons firing of **Surface-to-Air Missiles** from the Air Force Station located at **Suryalanka, Andhra Pradesh**
- The first-of-its-kind exercise for the Air Force was code-named '**CROSSBOW-18**'
- CROSSBOW-18 saw the successful firing of four different classes of missiles like **Akash, Spyder, OSA-AK-M and IGLA**

SUMMITS

India to host G20 summit in 2022

- **India** is to host the annual **G20 summit in 2022** as it will be celebrating its **75th anniversary of Independence**. This will be India's first time to host the G20 summit
- The announcement was made by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at the closing ceremony of the **13th G20 summit in the Argentinian** capital on 1st December 2018. The Prime Minister thanked Italy for allowing India to play the host as it was to host the summit in 2022.

OBITUARY

Former US President George HW Bush passed away at 94

- George HW Bush became **41st** president of the United States in **1989** after serving as vice-president under Ronald Reagan
- His son, George W. Bush was also elected president and served two terms between 2001 and 2009
- George HW Bush presided over the **end** of the **Cold War** and routed **Saddam Hussein's** Iraqi army but lost a chance for a second term after breaking a no-new-taxes pledge.

Former Union minister Jai Narain Prasad Nishad passed away at 88

- Nishad was a four-time Lok Sabha member from Muzaffarpur constituency of Bihar, and served as a member of Rajya Sabha between 2004-2008.
- His son Ajay Nishad is an elected Member of Parliament (MP) from Muzaffarpur Lok Sabha constituency itself and belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

SPORTS

Delhi Daredevils renamed as Delhi Capitals ahead of 2019 IPL season

- The change in name comes close on the heels of JSW Sports picking up a 50 percent stake in the franchise
- Ahead of the 2019 IPL auctions, the Delhi Daredevils released former captain **Gautam Gambhir** and a host of international stars which include Jason Roy, Glenn Maxwell and Liam Plunkett, along with Indian paceman Mohammed Shami

Belgium beat Netherlands to win men's Hockey World Cup for 1st time

- **Belgium** defeated **Netherlands** in the final at the Kalinga Stadium in **Bhubaneswar** to clinch the men's Hockey World Cup for the first time
- This is the second consecutive time that Netherlands finished second in the tournament
- **Australia** crushed **England** 8-1 to win **Bronze** medal in Odisha World Cup 2018

PV Sindhu 1st Indian to win gold at BWF World Tour Finals

- **PV Sindhu** defeated world number five **Nozomi Okuhara** of **Japan** to record her **300th** career match victory across categories and clinch the BWF World Tour Finals women's singles title
- Sindhu, who is ranked **sixth** worldwide, won the final with scoreline of 21-19, 21-17
- It was the 23-year-old shuttler's **first title** victory in 2018, after having lost five finals this year

Magnus Carlsen retains World Chess Championship 2018 title

- World number one **Norwegian Magnus Carlsen** has retained his World Chess Championship title, beating **US opponent Fabiano Caruana** in a tie-breaker event.
- Carlsen's peak rating of 2882, achieved in 2014, is the highest in history.
- Carlsen became World Champion in **2013** by defeating Viswanathan Anand.

Ullas Narayana won India's first international medal in ultra running

- **Ullas Narayana** became the first Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra running event by winning bronze in the 2018

International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in Taipei, Taiwan

- Ultra races consisted of running over extremely long distances which are much longer than the traditional races
- They are contested in **2 different types of race modalities**: over a set distance or a set time

India submits official interest to host 2032 Olympics

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has submitted a formal expression of interest to bid for **2032 Olympics**
- **Mumbai** and **Delhi** are the top two options under consideration by Indian Olympic Association (IOA), which has approached the International Olympic Committee
- India is holding on to its dream of hosting the Olympic games for the **first time**
- The bidding process is expected to start in 2022 and a host city will be decided by 2025

Gautam Gambhir announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir represented India in 58 Tests, 147 ODIs and 37 T20Is



- He made his debut in **2003** and last played for India in a Test against England in Rajkot in 2016. He retires with nine Test centuries and 11 ODI centuries to his name
- He played key roles in India's title victories in the **2007 World T20** and the **2011 World Cup**, top-scoring for India with 75 and 97 in the respective finals

International Cricket Council ropes in Royal Stag as official sponsor for next five years

- International Cricket Council (ICC) signed a contract with Pernod Ricard India Pvt Ltd, the makers of whiskey brand Royal Stag for a five-year global partnership as an official sponsor
- The size of Royal Stag's sponsorship deal is estimated to be \$5-6 million per year
- The partnership which will last until 2023 would allow Royal Stag a comprehensive presence across broadcast, digital and on-ground activations of all ICC global tournaments, including the 2019 World Cup, T20 World Cup, World Test Championship and U19 World Cup and Women's World Cup.

IPL 2019 Auction: 8 teams spend Rs 106.80 crore on 60 players

- A total of **60** players were sold out of the **351**, where 40 were Indians (Capped and Uncapped) and a total of 20 overseas players were sold

- **Kings XI Punjab** spent **₹32.5 crore** and bought the most number of players (13) in the auction, while **Chennai Super Kings** spent **₹5.2 crore** to fill their two available slots
- **IPL 2019 Eight Teams:**
 - 1) Royal Challengers Bangalore
 - 2) Delhi Capitals (Delhi Daredevils)
 - 3) Kolkata Knight Riders
 - 4) Mumbai Indians
 - 5) Kings XI Punjab
 - 6) Rajasthan Royals
 - 7) Chennai Super Kings
 - 8) Sunrisers Hyderabad

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Marathon runner Apoorva Chaudhary sets a national record

- **Apoorva Chaudhary**, the 28-year old ultra runner from Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh, created a **national record by completing 176.8 km** in the women's **24-hour event at the NEB 24 Hour Stadium Run** held at New Delhi under the aegis of **Athletics Federation of India**
- The previous record of 175.4 km was set by Meenal Kotak. Apoorva became the fourth Indian woman to run more than 100 miles (160 km) in 24 hours after Meenal, Hema Saini (172.3 km) and Aparna Choudhary (169.2 km)

- In the men's 24-hour run held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at New Delhi, Pranaya Mohanty from Bengaluru completed 206.8, becoming the third Indian to have crossed the 200 km distance and the first to have achieved it in a stadium race held in India

Kabaddi World Cup Winning Captain Anup Kumar announced retirement

- In his 15-year iconic career, Anup Kumar was part of the national team that won gold medals in 2010 and 2014.
- He won the Arjuna Award in 2012.
- He began his international career in 2006 at the South Asian Games in Sri Lanka and was the captain of the national team in 2014.

WV Raman appointed as the new coach of the India women's cricket team

- Ex-Indian men's cricket team opener WV Raman has been appointed as the coach of the Indian women's cricket team despite India's 2011 men's World Cup-winning coach Gary Kirsten being the first choice.
- Raman, who played 11 Tests and 27 ODIs, is now one of the most qualified coaches in the country.

- Raman is currently a batting consultant at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.
- From his cricketing days, Raman is best remembered for being the first Indian to score a century in South Africa during the 1992-93 tour.

India's Vedangi Kulkarni becomes fastest Asian to cycle the globe

- **Vedangi Kulkarni**, a 20-year-old cyclist from Maharashtra's **Pune**, achieved the feat by completing the 29,000-km distance required to qualify as bicycling across the globe in 159 days
- She reached Kolkata on December 23 after pedalling up to 300 km a day in 14 countries across the 159 days
- British adventurer **Jenny Graham** (38) is the fastest woman to have cycled the globe in **124 days** in **2018**, which was three weeks faster than the previous record

ICC asks BCCI to pay Rs 161 crore compensation or lose rights to host 2023 World Cup

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India has been involved in some legal battles of **late**
- International Cricket Council (ICC) asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to either pay **\$23 million (Rs 161 crore)** by the end of this year as compensation for the tax deductions incurred in

hosting the **2016 World T20** or end up losing the World Cup **2023** rights

- **India** is supposed to host the **2021 Champions Trophy** and the 2023 World Cup, which again would come under jeopardy if BCCI fails to meet ICC's demands

Belgium ends the year as No. 1 in FIFA global rankings

- **Belgium** will end the year as **No. 1** ahead of world champions **France** in the global rankings released by FIFA recently
- Belgium have **1,727** points by FIFA's calculations to 1,726 for France. **Brazil** are **third** on 1,676
- **FIFA rankings 2018:**
 - 1. Belgium,
 - 2. France,
 - 3. Brazil,
 - 4. Croatia,
 - 5. England,
 - 6. Portugal,
 - 7. Uruguay,
 - 8. Switzerland,
 - 9. Spain,
 - 10. Denmark

Mithali, Harmanpreet retained as India captains for New Zealand tour



SUBSCRIBE

TAKE THE QUIZ



- **Mithali Raj** and **Harmanpreet Kaur** were named as Indian **women's ODI** and **T20I** captains respectively for the tour of New Zealand
- India will play three ODIs in New Zealand beginning January 24 as part of the ICC Women's Championship before playing three T20 Internationals

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

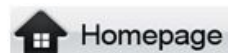
- Former Australia captain **Ricky Ponting** became the 25th Australian cricketer to be officially inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)
- A three-time World Cup winner (including two World Cups as captain in 2003 and 2007), Ponting did a lap of honor as part of his induction during the tea break on Day-1 of the Boxing Day Test between India and Australia at MCG
- In February 2018, he was also inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame
- Ponting is the highest run scorer for Australia in both Tests and ODIs, with 13,378 runs in the longest format and 13,704 runs in the 50-over format

Modric beats Djokovic to win Balkan athlete of the year award



SUBSCRIBE

TAKE THE QUIZ



- Croatia's captain and Spanish club Real Madrid's midfielder Luka Modric was named the Balkan Athlete of the year beating Men's tennis world number one player Novak Djokovic. The poll to name Balkan Athlete of the year was organized by the Bulgarian News Agency (BTA).
- Serbian player Novak Djokovic got the second position whereas women's number one tennis Romania's Simona Halep got the third position in the Balkan's poll.
- Luka Modric leads Croatia to the FIFA World cup final and bagged player of the tournament for the FIFA 2018 organized in Russia.

VISITS

Denmark's Foreign Affairs Minister Anders Samuelsen arrived on two-day visit to India

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and Foreign Affairs Minister of Denmark **Anders Samuelsen** on December 17 co-chaired the 2nd session of Joint Commission Meeting in **New Delhi**
- Both the leaders took stock of the ties and identified cooperation in renewable energy, agriculture, food processing, shipping, Smart Cities, digitization and culture
- Mr Samuelson last visited India in **November 2017** to participate at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit

IMPORTANT DAYS

India celebrates the Indian Navy Day on 4th December

- The **Indian Navy Day** is celebrated on **December 4** every year to commemorate Operation Trident, an attack on the Karachi harbor during the **Indo-Pakistan war in 1971**
- The Indian Navy is the **fifth largest in the world**, employing 67,109 personnel
- The Indian Navy has **three commands**:
 - Eastern Command headquartered in Visakhapatnam
 - Western Command in Mumbai
 - Southern Command in Kochi
- The Navy operates in 66 bases under the Commands
- It operates three classes of submarines: Chakra (under which is the nuclear-powered INS Chakra), Sindhughosh, and Shishumar
- Marine Commandos or MARCOS, part of a special unit of the Navy, are made to undergo an excruciating training which only 10% of the trainees successfully complete

World Soil Day is observed on 5 December

- **World Soil Day** is celebrated annually on the 5th of December at the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, the regional offices and through national and local events
- **#StopSoilPollution** is the objective of this World Soil Day on 5 December and throughout the year

16th International Anti-Corruption Day celebrated on December 9, 2018

- The day has been celebrated since the passage of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 31 October 2003 to raise public awareness for anti-corruption
- UN along with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized a global campaign called “Corruption: An impediment to Sustainable Development Goals” for spreading the awareness on corruption

December 10 celebrated annually as International Day of Human Rights as UDHR turned 70 in 2018

- The theme of the 2018 Human Rights Day is: **#StandUp4HumanRights**

- 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted in 1948 by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights document is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages

International Mountain Day observed on December 11

- The **Theme** for the 2018 edition of the International Mountain Day is: **“#MountainsMatter”**
- It is celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to spread awareness about the contribution of mountains in the biodiversity as it consists of approximately a quarter of the terrestrial biological diversity
- To commemorate the day, there will be an IMD side event on “Mountain adaptation: Vulnerable peaks and people” at **UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice, Poland**

National Energy Conservation Day celebrated on December 14

- The main aim of National Energy Conservation Day is to create awareness among the people about the significance of our energy resources and also to minimize the energy consumption
- In India, Energy Conservation Act was implemented by Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) in 2001

- Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) is a constitutional body which works under Government of India and helps in the development of policies and strategies to reduce use of energy.

QUIZ CORNER

1) Who has featured as the highest-earning sportsperson in the 2018 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list with ₹228.09-crore earnings?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. PV Sindhu
- C. MS Dhoni
- D. Sachin Tendulkar

Answer: A

2) The 'Ex Cope India-18' is a military exercise that is held between Indian Air Force (IAF) and _____.

- A. US
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. UK

Answer: A

3) Sunil Arora, on December 2 took charge as the _____ Chief Election Commissioner of India.

- A. 22nd

B.21st

C.23rd

D.20th

Answer: C

4) Which of the following is the first manned mission to the International Space Station (ISS)?

A.Soyuz mission

B.Apollo 11 mission

C.Shenzhou mission

D.Tiangong-2 mission

Answer: A

5) Which of the following countries announced that it is to quit from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in January 2019?

A.Saudi Arabia

B.Qatar

C.Iran

D.Iraq

Answer: B



6) Which country has topped the Global Passport Power Rank 2018, emerging as the country with the most powerful passport in world?

- A. United Arab Emirates
- B. Singapore
- C. Germany
- D. France

Answer: A

7) Who has been appointed as new Finance Secretary of India?

- A. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- B. Hasmukh Adhia
- C. Ajay Narayan Jha
- D. Subhash Chandra Garg

Answer: C

8) The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has submitted a formal expression of interest to host _____ Olympics.

- A. 2026
- B. 2028
- C. 2024
- D. 2032

Answer: D

9) Who won the first ever women's Ballon d'Or award?

- A.Pernille Harder
- B.Lucy Bronze
- C.Ada Hegerberg
- D.Fran Kirby

Answer: C

10) Indian-origin woman, who has been recently named as South Africa's 1st female chief prosecutor is _____.

- A.Rashmi Sinha
- B.Anuja Ravindra Dhir
- C.Kamala Harris
- D.Shamila Batohi

Answer: D

11) Recently, India and UAE signed a ₹ _____-crore currency swap agreement.

- A.4,500

B.3,500

C.2,500

D.1,500

Answer: B

12) Who has been named the highest-earning celebrity in India for the third time in a row by Forbes, with earnings of ₹253.25 crore?

A.Salman Khan

B.Akshay Kumar

C.Amitabh Bachchan

D.Shah Rukh Khan

Answer: A

13) Who became first woman to rank among the Forbes' top five richest celebrities in India?

A.Anushka Sharma

B.Priyanka Chopra

C.Alia Bhatt

D.Deepika Padukone

Answer: D

14) For which novel did S.Ramakrishnan win the Sahitya Akademi Award 2018?

- A.Nimitham
- B.Sancharam
- C.Thuyil
- D.Upa Pandavam

Answer: B

15) Who has been elected as the leader of Germany's ruling party-Christian Democratic Union (CDU), to replace Angela Merkel?

- A.Volker Kauder
- B.Jens Spahn
- C.Friedrich Merz
- D.Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer

Answer: D

16) Who topped this year's Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list?

- A.Angela Merkel
- B.Theresa May
- C.Mary Barra

D.Melinda Gates

Answer: A

17) Which Indian women has been named in Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list 2018?

- A.Suneeta Reddy
- B.Chanda Kochhar
- C.Priyanka Chopra
- D.Arundhati Bhattacharya

Answer: C

18) Who is crowned as Miss World 2019?

- A.Manushi Chhillar
- B.Belarus Maria Vasilevich
- C.Vanessa Ponce de Leon
- D.Quiin Abenakyo

Answer: C

19) Arunachal Pradesh got its 23rd district with the formal inauguration of _____ district.

- A. Shi Yomi
- B. Pakke-Kesang
- C. Lepa Rada
- D. Anjaw

Answer: A

20) Indigenously-developed surface-to-surface missile Agni-5 has a strike range of _____ km.

- A. 2,500
- B. 3,000
- C. 5,000
- D. 7,000

Answer: C

21) First International Conference on ‘Sustainable Water Management’ Held in -----?

- A. Mohali
- B. Hyderabad
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

Answer: A

22) Commonwealth Games gold medallist Krishna Poonia becomes an MLA in _____.

A.Madhya Pradesh

B.Chhattisgarh

C.Telangana

D.Rajasthan

Answer: D

23) How many countries adopted first-ever global migration agreement in Morocco?

A.136

B.148

C.164

D.152

Answer: C

24) Congress won Rajasthan Assembly Election 2018 with _____ seats.

A.107

B.84

C.99

D.78

Answer: C

25) With which country EU parliament approved 'world's largest' free trade deal?

A.Japan

B.China

C.Australia

D.Germany

Answer: A

26) The 2,250 kg GSAT-7A is the _____th Indian Communication satellite built by ISRO.

A.38

B.36

C.35

D.34

Answer: C

27) Who becomes 1st Indian to win gold at BWF World Tour Finals title?

- A.HS Prannoy
- B.Kidambi Srikanth
- C.Saina Nehwal
- D.PV Sindhu

Answer D

28) Belgium defeated which team to clinch the men's Hockey World Cup for the first time?

- A.Netherlands
- B.Australia
- C.England
- D.Germany

Answer A

29) Who introduced the Triple Talaq Bill in Lok Sabha on December 17?

- A.Jagat Prakash Nadda
- B.Suresh Prabhu
- C.Ravi Shankar Prasad

D.Prakash Javadekar

Answer C

30) Who has been elected as the Vice President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for 2018-19?

- A. James Murdoch
- B. Sandip Somany
- C. Sangita Reddy
- D. Uday Shankar

Answer D

31) Who becomes only the third woman to become an ASG (Additional Solicitor General) in the Supreme Court?

- A. Indira Jaising
- B. Madhavi Divan
- C. Pinky Anand
- D. Indermeet Kaur

Answer B

32) Which country President declares 2019 as Year of Tolerance?

- A.Pakistan
- B.Iran
- C.Indonesia
- D.United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Answer D

33) Which State has the highest leopard mortality rate in India in 2018?

- A.Uttar Pradesh
- B.Uttarakhand
- C.Rajasthan
- D.Himachal Pradesh

Answer B

34) Union Cabinet recently approved the establishment of two new AIIMS at _____ and _____.

- A.Karnataka and Kerala
- B.Gujarat and Manipur
- C.Tamil Nadu and Telangana
- D.Jharkhand and Meghalaya

Answer C



35) Who has been named the top Indian star of 2018, by the global film and TV website IMDb?

- A. Deepika Padukone
- B. Shah Rukh Khan
- C. Aamir Khan
- D. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Answer A

36) Which state becomes first State To Bring Law Against Sextortion ?

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Karnataka
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer A

37) How many public sector banks are under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- A. 7
- B. 9

C.11

D.15

Answer C

38) Who has been appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)?

A.Pranab Kumar Das

B.S Ramesh

C.Ranjit Sinha

D.Sandip Somany

Answer A

39) Which of the following Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) recently merged with IDFC Bank?

A.IndoStar Capital Finance Limited

B.PNB Gilts Limited

C.HDB Financial Services Limited

D.Capital First Limited

Answer D

40) India's largest Cancer hospital 'National Cancer Institute (NCI)' opened in _____.

- A.Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
- B.Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
- C.Jhajjar, Haryana
- D.Kalyani, West Bengal

Answer C

41) India was ranked _____th in the Global Gender Gap Index 2018, same as it was ranked in 2017.

- A.109
- B.108
- C.104
- D.106

Answer B

42) Who has been chosen as the 2018 best chief minister of the country by the Skoch Group?

- A.K Chandrasekhar Rao
- B.Yogi Adityanath
- C.Mamata Banerjee

D.N Chandrababu Naidu

Answer C

43) Indian Stock Market has overtaken which of the following country to become the seventh largest in the world?

- A. Germany
- B. Japan
- C. France
- D. China

Answer A

44) On how many items, GST was recently reduced from 28% to 18%?

- A. Six
- B. Seven
- C. Five
- D. Eight

Answer B

45) Which country named Gitega as its new capital?

- A.Nairobi
- B.Mauritius
- C.Burundi
- D.Tanzania

Answer C

46) How many Indian IT majors have been recently shortlisted by RBI to set up Public Credit Registry (PCR) for capturing details of borrowers and wilful defaulters?

- A.Six
- B.Five
- C.Nine
- D.Seven

Answer A

47) On 23rd December 2018, India successfully test-fired Nuclear-Capable Agni-IV Missile, which has a strike range of _____ .

- A.2,500-km
- B.3,000-km
- C.4,000-km
- D.3,500-km

Answer C

48) According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which state tops in atrocities by police, between 2014 - 2016?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. New Delhi
- C. West Bengal
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer D

49) On the eve of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 94th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a ₹_____ commemorative coin in the memory of the former premier.

- A. 50
- B. 200
- C. 100
- D. 20

Answer C

50) India's first music museum to be set up in _____.

- A.Karnataka
- B.Tamil Nadu
- C.Maharashtra
- D.Kerala

Answer B

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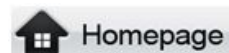
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