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INTERNATIONAL

1. Tourism Minister K J Alphons Attends Program And Budget Committee Meeting of UNWTO

- Tourism minister KJ Alphons along with a delegation of senior officials attended the 109th session of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Executive Council in Manama, Bahrain.

2. 1st WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health Held in Geneva

3. India Pavilion Inaugurated At Videocittà 2018 In Rome Film Festival

- Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of I&B Shri Ashok Kumar Parmar inaugurated the India Pavilion at Videocittà, 2018 in Rome Film Festival. India was partner country at Videocittà 2018, an event focussing on Virtual Reality, Video gaming, Animation, Film Making, etc. was organized along with Rome Film Festival and the International Audio Visual Market.

4. Vice President Inaugurates Indian War Memorial in France (at Villers Guislain)

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu is on a three-day visit to France. He inaugurated Indian War Memorial Earlier the Vice President attended the Indian community reception in Paris.

5. 33rd ASEAN Summit Begins In Singapore

- Prime Minister of Singapore **Lee Hsien Loong is the Chairman** of the Summit, which will continue till 15th November along with other related summits like East Asia Summit (EAS), Regional Comprehensive Economic Summit, (RCEP) and ASEAN plus summits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and IMF, Managing Director Christine Lagarde will also address the audience.

6. Palau Becomes 1st Country In World To Ban Reef-Killing Sunscreen

- Palau has become the first country to ban **reef toxic sunscreen** by 2020 in an attempt to protect its coral reefs after the president of the country signed a bill into law.

7. World's First AI News Anchor Debuts In China

- Xinhua, China's state-run press agency, recently unveiled virtual newsreaders that combine the images and voices of human anchors with artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Xinhua unveiled two AI newsreaders, one that speaks in English and one in Chinese. Xinhua developed the robot anchor with Chinese search engine Sogou.com.

8. 17th AEC Council Meeting Held in Singapore

- The 17th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting was held in Singapore as part of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summit Meetings.

9. 7th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting Concludes in Singapore

- The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, led the Indian delegation to the 7th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting in Singapore.

10. PM Modi Addresses World's Largest Financial Technology Festival Fintech In Singapore

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the world's largest financial technology festival Fintech in Singapore. Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister stated Fintech is a celebration of belief in the spirit of innovation and power of technology.

- Mr Modi is the first Head of Government to deliver his address at Singapore in the event. About 30 thousand people attended the keynote address of Mr. Modi at this Festival.

11. 2-Day Annual Meeting of WEF Global Future Councils Held in Dubai

- The two-day annual meeting of World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Future Councils was held in Dubai, the UAE.

12. UNSC Lifts Sanctions Against Eritrea After 9 Years

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously agreed to lift sanctions against Eritrea after nine years. An arms embargo, asset freeze, and travel ban were imposed in 2009 amid claims that Eritrea supported al-Shabab militants in Somalia.
- Eritrea agreed on a peace deal with Ethiopia following two decades of animosity, while the leader of Eritrea and the UN-backed government in Somalia recently signed a joint cooperation agreement.

13. PM Modi Attends 13th East Asia Summit in Singapore

-The summit is a regional forum held annually by leaders of 18 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian regions, including Russia and the United States. He presented awards to winners of first India-Singapore Hackathon. Mr. Modi attended the second Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit with 16 member states.

14. World Tolerance Summit Inaugurated in Dubai

15. India-Taiwan SME Development Forum Beings in Taipei

16. Morocco Unveils Africa's First Ever High Speed Train Line

- French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa. The \$2 billion project was launched in September 2011 by the king and Nicolas Sarkozy, then president of France.

17. APEC Summit 2018 Held In Papua New Guinea

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held in **Port Moresby**, Papua New Guinean capital.
- This is the first time Papua New Guinea (PNG), the poorest of the 21 countries in APEC, has hosted the summit.

18. Maldives Cabinet Approves To Rejoin Commonwealth

- The Maldives cabinet has approved to rejoin the Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation grouping. The announcement was made by New President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Now, the proposal will be sent to Parliament for ratification. The country left the Commonwealth during former President Abdulla Yameen's administration in October 2016, amid mounting pressure over corruption and deteriorating human rights.

19. World's Standard Definition of Kilogram, Second & Metre Redefined

- The 26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) was held at Versailles(Paris), France. The members have voted for the redefinition of 130 years old "Le grand K – the SI unit of kg" in terms of the fundamental Planck's constant(h). The new definitions will come into force on 20 May 2019.
- The definition of the kilogram has been changed from being the mass of prototype sanctioned by the 1st CGPM held in Paris in 1889 and deposited at the BIPM to the Planck constant which is a physical constant. Likewise, the definition of meter has been changed to link it to the speed of light. There is a change in the definition of time also.

The CGPM is the highest international body of the world for accurate and precise measurements.

World Metrology Day - 20 May.

The CGPM meets in Paris, usually once every four years.

20. Saudi, UAE Announce USD 500 million in Aid to Yemen

- Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which lead a military coalition against the Huthi rebels in Yemen, announced USD 500 million in aid to the country on the brink of famine. Saudi Arabia and the UAE will each give USD 250 million in response to the food crisis to support more than 10 million people.
- Saudi Arabia and the UAE intervened in the Yemen war in 2015 to bolster Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi after the Huthis took over the capital Sanaa.

21. ConMac 2018 Starts in Kathmandu- The Embassy of India in Nepal and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized an exhibition of construction equipment and technology-ConMac 2018 in Bhaktapur near Kathmandu, Nepal.

22. 12th World Congress on Mountain Medicine Held Kathmandu

-The theme of the 4-day congress is “*Mountain Medicine in the Heart of the Himalayas*”.

23. India-UAE Strategic Conclave To Be Held in Abu Dhabi

24. Sushma Swaraj Co-Chairs 9th Meeting of India-Lao PDR Joint Commission

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the 9th Meeting of India-Lao PDR Joint Commission on Bilateral Co-operation with her counterpart Saleumxay Kommasith in Vientiane, Capital of Laos.

25: Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu In India

- Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu is on an official visit to India. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held delegation-level talks with her Romanian counterpart in New Delhi.

26: Ukraine Declares Martial Law After Russian Naval Attack

- Ukraine's parliament has imposed martial law in the country to fight what its president called "growing aggression" from Moscow after a weekend naval confrontation off the disputed Crimean Peninsula in which Russia fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels amid renewed tensions between the neighbors.

- Russia and Ukraine blamed each other in the dispute that further ratcheted up tensions ever since Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko asked lawmakers in Kiev to institute martial law.

27:Admiral Sunil Lanba On A Visit To Russia

- Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Indian Navy is on a visit to Russia. The visit aims to consolidate bilateral defence relations with Russia, as also to explore new avenues for defence cooperation.

28: Maldivian Foreign Minister Reaches India on 4-day Visit

- Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid has arrived in New Delhi on a 4-day visit to India. This is the first high-level visit from Male after the new government took office.

29: EU (European Union) Aims to Be First Carbon Neutral Economy By 2050

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Malayalam Film Olu To Be Opening Film At 49th IFFI

-Malayalam film **Olu** will be the opening film at the 49th International Film Festival of India, IFFI 2018. This was decided by the jury for the Indian Panorama. The IFFI held in **Goa** (at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium) in November 2018.

- While in the Non-Feature film category **Marathi film Kharvas** will be the opening film.

- While **Israel** is the focus country, **Jharkhand is the focus state** this year. Ten Israeli films including The Other Story will be screened at the IFFI. Veteran Israeli filmmaker **Dan Wolman** will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award this year.

2. Cabinet Approves Renaming Of Jharsuguda Airport, Odisha As “Veer Surendra Sai Airport, Jharsuguda”

- Veer Surendra Sai is a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha. .

3. India Signs \$950 Million Contract With Russia To Buy Two Stealth Frigates

- India has signed a \$950 million contract with Russia for two upgraded **Krivak III-class stealth frigates**. The **4,000-ton Krivak III vessels** will also accommodate two multirole helicopters and will be used for anti-submarine and airborne early warning missions.

4. 'Soura Jalanidhi' Scheme Launched by Odisha Govt

-it that aims to increase use of solar energy for helping farmers in irrigating their land.
- 'Soura Jalanidhi', is a dug well based solar pump irrigation system in convergence mode. Under the scheme, 5,000 solar pumps will be given to Odisha farmers at a subsidy of 90% to irrigate 2,500 acres of land.

5. 4th NITI Aayog- DRC Dialogue Held in Mumbai

- The Fourth Dialogue of the NITI Aayog – Development Research Centre (DRC) of the State Council, Peoples' Republic of China was held in Mumbai.

6. First-ever India-US Dialogue On Intellectual Property Begins in Delhi

- It will be convened annually, alternating between New Delhi and Washington, DC.

7. PM Launched Historic Support And Outreach Initiative For MSME Sector

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a historic support and outreach programme for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. As part of this programme, the Prime Minister unveiled 12 key initiatives which will help the growth, expansion and facilitation of MSMEs across the country.

- There are five key aspects for facilitating the MSME sector. These include 1. access to credit, 2. access to market, 3. technology upgradation, 4. ease of doing business, and 5. a sense of security for employees.

Key Highlights:

PM unveils 12 key initiatives

59 minute loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs

Mandatory 25 percent procurement from MSMEs by CPSEs

Ordinance for simplifying procedures for minor offences under Companies Act.

8. Railway Ministry Launched 'UTS on Mobile' Facility

-The Ministry of Railways launched the '**Unreserved Mobile Ticketing**' facility (UTS on Mobile) to enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets all over Indian Railways, wiping out the need for passengers to wait in queues for purchasing the tickets.

- With this, the booking of unreserved tickets on all non-suburban sections across all Zonal Railways will now be made available on mobile. This move aims to promote **three C**'s:

1. Cashless transactions.
2. Contactless ticketing (no need to physically visit the point of sale).
3. Customer convenience and experience.

9. 18th Indian Ocean Rim Association Council of Ministers Meeting Held in Durban

- This meeting took place during the on-going celebrations of the 150th year of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997. IORA Headquarters in Ebene, Mauritius.

10. Delhi CM Inaugurates Signature Bridge

-Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated Delhi's Signature Bridge, the **first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge in India**.

- The bridge was constructed by the Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC) at an expenditure of Rs 1,518.37 crore. The 675-metre bridge aims to reduce travel time and traffic congestion between the north-eastern and northern parts of Delhi.

11. India re-elected as member of ITU council till 2022

- India has been elected as a member of the International Telecommunications Union-ITUCouncil for **another four-year term** from 2019 to 2022. The elections to the Council were held during the ongoing ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai.

-The ITU has 193 member states who elect representatives to the Council.

12. Lucknow Stadium Renamed After Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- The newly-built **Ekana International Stadium** of Lucknow was renamed after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The stadium will now be known as '**Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium**'.

- The stadium was renamed just ahead of the first-ever international cricket match - the T20 International between India and West Indies.

13. Odisha Government Launched 'Mo Bus' Services

- Odisha government has launched a new initiative named 'Mo Bus' services in the Bhubaneswar ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup.

14. India's Unemployment Rate Jumps to 2-Year High of 6.9%: Report

- Unemployment rate in the country rose to 6.9% in October, the highest in two years, according to a report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

15. Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018 Enters Guinness Book of World Records

- Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018, an event organised to mark Diwali celebrations in Ayodhya town - has entered Guinness Book of World Records. A Guinness certificate was issued to UP government's tourism department and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Avadh University, Faizabad, when **over three lakh clay lamps were illuminated at Ram Ki Paidi on Chhoti Diwali** as part of Deepotsava.

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had also announced that **Faizabad district will now be known as Ayodhya**.

16. Tamil Nadu Gets SEBI Approval To Launch State Shelter Fund

-Tamil Nadu has received the nod from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its State Shelter Fund for attracting investments in the affordable housing segment.

17. Power Minister inaugurates INSPIRE 2018 In New Delhi

- Mr R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy inaugurated the **International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2018) in New Delhi**. This is the second edition of INSPIRE and is being organised by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and the World Bank.

- The three-day symposium will focus on enhancing grid management, e-Mobility, financial instruments and technologies for energy efficiency in India.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) works under the administration of Ministry of Power, Government of India.

18. Satyarup Siddhanta Became 1st Indian To Climb Mt Giluwe

- Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the **first Indian** to climb Mt Giluwe, the second highest mountain in **Papua New Guinea**. Satyarup reached the summit of the mountain which is at an elevation of **4,367 metres**. Satya now has scaled 5 of the 7 volcanic summits.

19. 38th India International Trade Fair Begins in New Delhi (Pragati Maidan)

- This year the theme of the fair is '*Rural Enterprises in India*'.

- Afghanistan is the Partner Country, while Nepal will be the Focus Country. Jharkhand is participating as a Partner State in the event.

20. Government Sets Up State Of-The-Art National Data Repository

- The Government has set up a state of -the- art National Data Repository.

- At the DG Carbons Roadshow programme in Abu Dhabi Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan stated that it is a database of all the geo-scientific data of hydrocarbon resources in the country.

21. UP Cabinet Approves Renaming Of Faizabad As Ayodhya & Allahabad As Prayagraj

-The Uttar Pradesh government has approved renaming of Faizabad and Allahabad divisions as Ayodhya and Prayagraj respectively. Earlier, the government renamed the Mughalsarai Railway station, another historic spot, as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction.

22. Kochi signs MoU with Vilnius

- As part of the European Union (EU) project 'International Urban Cooperation', Kochi Corporation and Vilnius, Lithuania, have signed an MoU. The primary focus of cooperation would be urban planning, corporate planning, transport, solid water management and water management.

23. Government To Issue Rs 75 Coin To Mark 75th Anniversary of Tricolour Hoisting

- The government will release a Rs 75 coin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** hoisting the Tricolour for the first time at Port Blair.

- On December 30, 1943, Bose raised the Indian National Army (INA) to fight against the British, had hoisted the Tricolour for the first time at Cellular Jail, Port Blair.

- Salient features of the coin:

1. Weight: 35 grams.
2. Composition: 50% silver, 40% copper, and 5% each of nickel and zinc.
3. Portrait of 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose' saluting the flag on the background of Cellular Jail in Port Blair.

24. Cyclone 'Gaja' Hits Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

25. NITI Aayog Constitutes Himalayan State Regional Council

- NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region. The Himalayan State Regional Council will be chaired by the Dr. VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog.

26. Delhi Police Launches E-Learning Portal 'NIPUN'

- Through the website, Delhi Police will be using advanced technology in imparting in-service training to its personnel.

27. The third edition of India International Cherry Blossom Festival Held in Shillong Meghalaya

28. Kerala Introduces New Open Online Learning Programme: 'KOOL'

- The platform can be used to train teachers, students and the general public.

29. Indo-Japan Business Council's Business Festival Held In Pune

- The festival was aimed to boost investment, promote businesses and cultural exchange between India and Japan.

30. India's First Elephant Hospital Opens In Mathura (Churmura village)

31. 14th edition of JashneBachpan Children's Theatre Festival Held In New Delhi

- it witnessed performances from Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Indonesia along with their Indian counterparts in New Delhi.

-

32. West Bengal Passes Bill To Give Land Rights To Enclave Dwellers

- The West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed a Bill to give land rights to enclave dwellers in north Bengal, ending an era of uncertain future for the people residing in those enclaves.

- Bangladesh and India had exchanged a total of 162 enclaves on Aug 1, 2015, ending one of the world's most-complex border disputes that had lingered for seven decades since Independence.

33. Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Bhudaar' Portal

- Andhra Pradesh has launched a web portal which makes land records available to people with unique identification numbers.

- The "Bhudaar" is an 11-digit unique identification code assigned to each agriculture land holding and rural and urban properties in the state. Two types of Bhudaar cards are available including e-Bhudaar and M-Bhudaar.

34. 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change Held in New Delhi

- The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India.
- The meeting has urged the advanced countries to enhance their support to the developing nations in effectively implementing the Paris Agreement to combat climate change.

35. India's First Justice City To Set Up In Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh is building a world-class and India's first 'Justice City' within its new capital Amaravati with the vision to provide a state-of-the-art ecosystem built on latest technology for supporting the judicial system in the state.
- Justice City will provide the necessary infrastructure to provide speedy justice for litigants, easy and better access to justice for the masses and reduce pending cases.

36. Himachal Pradesh Approves Sashakt Mahila Yojna with a vision to empower rural women by providing them an interface for organization and socio-economic development. The scheme not only envisages to link rural women with sustainable livelihood opportunities but also to improve their skill by imparting training.

37. 7th International Tourism Mart Inaugurated in Agartala

- The International Tourism Marts are organized every year in the North Eastern States on rotation basis.

38. India (Hyderabad) To Host 50th Union World Conference On Lung Health In 2019

39: UN Selects Noida, Greater Noida to Participate In Global Sustainable Cities 2025 Initiative

- The United Nations has selected Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida to participate in its Global Sustainable Cities 2025 initiative. According to UN, the twin-cities in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, adjoining the national capital, have been selected in the "University City" category ahead of Mumbai and Bengaluru as the only invitee from India.

40: India To Lay Foundation Stone For Kartarpur Corridor Route

- Vice President M Venkiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the Dera Baba Nanak Kartarpur Sahib corridor for Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. The groundbreaking ceremony was held at **village Mann** of district **Gurdaspur** near Indo Pak border. Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore was the guest of honour.

41: 4th edition of annual “Aadi Mahotsav” Organized By Tribal Affairs Ministry in Delhi

42: ‘HAUSLA-2018’ Inaugurated In New Delhi

- The National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- “Hausla 2018” of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) was inaugurated by the Secretary, Shri Rakesh Srivastava, in New Delhi.
- The inter-Child Care Institution festival is witnessing participation of more than 600 Children drawn from CCIs from 18 states in the various events like painting competition, athletics meet, football, chess competition and speech writing as part of the Festival.

43: Dehradun Airport To Be Renamed After Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- The proposal to rename the Jolly Grant airport after Atal Bihari Vajpayee was approved by the state cabinet at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.

44: CSIR To Establish A High-End Skill Development Centre In Chandigarh

- India’s premier National Research Laboratory CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) announced a new partnership with Merck, a leading German science and technology company, to establish a ‘High End Skill Development Centre’ in CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh.
- This ‘High End Skill Development Centre’ will enrich skills by conducting workshops, trainings and seminar series on cutting edges life science processes, tools and techniques.

45: Himachal Pradesh First State To Launch Single Emergency Number '112'

- Himachal Pradesh has become **first Indian state** to launch a **single emergency number "112"**. This will connect to **police, fire, health and other helplines** through an Emergency Response Centre in the state.
- Under this project, an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) has been established in **Shimla** along with 12 district command centres (DCCs), covering the entire state. Union Home Ministry statement stated that Ensuring safety of women, **'SHOUT'** feature has been introduced in '112 India' mobile app to seek immediate assistance from registered volunteers.

46: Government To Sell 100% Stake In Air India's Ground Handling Subsidiary

- The government has approved 100 percent stake sale in state-owned airline Air India's ground-handling company Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL). The approval comes at a time when the government is working on ways to revive the fortunes of Air India — estimated to have the debt burden of more than Rs 500 billion, including the sale of non-core assets.
- **AIATSL is Air India's only profitable subsidiary.**

BUSINESS/ECONOMY NEWS **(mainly for banking exams)**

1. Ease of Doing Business Index 2019: India Ranks 77th, New Zealand Tops

- India jumped 23 positions in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2019 and is now ranked **77 out of 190 countries** in 2018, a development that could help the country attract more foreign investments.
- According to the Doing Business Report (DBR, 2019), **New Zealand topped the list, followed by Singapore, Denmark, and Hong Kong.** India has become the top-ranked country in South Asia for the first time and third among the BRICS.

2. NIIF Acquires IDFC Infrastructure Finance

- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has acquired IDFC Infrastructure Finance (IDFC-IFL), an infrastructure debt fund.

3. 6th Tranche Of Electoral Bonds Sale Kicked Off

- The finance ministry has announced that the sixth tranche of electoral bonds sale has been started and will continue for 10 days. Electoral bonds are being pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

As per provisions of the scheme, electoral bonds may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or entities incorporated or established in India. SBI is the only authorised bank to issue such bonds.

4. Atul Goel Takes Over As MD And CEO Of UCO Bank

5. Kirloskar Group Gets RBI Nod For NBFC Biz

- The Kirloskar group had announced that it has received licence from the Reserve Bank to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC), **Kirloskar Capital**, which will be headed by industry veteran Vimal Bhandari.

6. Reliance receives India's 1st LC Payment via Blockchain

- In a first for India, HSBC Holdings Plc has executed a trade finance transaction using blockchain for an export by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) to **US-based Tricon Energy**. The blockchain-enabled letter of credit (LC) transaction substantially reduced the time taken for such deals. The use of blockchain offers significant potential to reduce the timelines involved in the exchange of export documentation from the existing 7-10 days to less than a day.

7. RBI Initiates Process To Set Up Digital Public Credit Registry

- The Reserve Bank of India has initiated the process to set up a **digital Public Credit Registry (PCR)** to capture all the details of borrowers, including wilful defaulters and also the pending legal suits in order to check financial delinquencies.

8. RBI Relaxes ECB Norms for Infrastructure Companies

- The Reserve Bank has liberalised the norms governing foreign borrowings for infrastructure creation “in consultation with the Government”. As per the notification, the minimum average maturity requirement for ECBs (external commercial borrowings) in the infrastructure space raised by eligible borrowers has been **reduced to three years from earlier five years**.
- Additionally, the average maturity requirement for mandatory hedging has been reduced to five years from earlier ten years.

9. UN World Food Programme, Alibaba Group Form Strategic Partnership To Eliminate Hunger

- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group have formed a strategic partnership to support efforts **eliminate hunger globally by 2030**.

10. RBI Cancels Registration of 31 NBFCs

- The RBI canceled the certificate of registrations of as many as 31 NBFCs for unspecified reasons.

11. Sunil Mehta Panel Incorporates 'Sashakt India AMC' for Large NPAs

- Sunil Mehta, the chairman of a bankers' panel working on the faster resolution of stressed assets in public sector banks, had announced that an asset management company (AMC) for resolving large bad loans has been formed and will be called as **Sashakt India Asset Management**. The panel is now working towards identifying potential investors for an alternate investment fund (AIF) which will fund the AMC.

The government in July 2018 has proposed a five-pronged strategy under Project Sashakt to tackle stress in the banking sector, and had formed a panel led by Sunil Mehta.

Under the project, the committee had to float an AMC and an AIF to resolve non-performing assets (NPAs) over Rs 500 crore.

12. Myntra, Jabong To Merge; A Narayanan Will Continue As CEO

- Online fashion retailer Myntra will integrate its sister firm Jabong with itself and the integrated firm will continue to be led by Myntra CEO Ananth Narayanan. The two will, however, continue to operate as separate brands.

- Flipkart had acquired Myntra in 2014 and Myntra had acquired Jabong in 2016. The company said since Myntra's purchase of Jabong, the two brands have been steadily integrating key business functions and streamlining processes.

13. NSE Launches NSE goBID For Retail Investors To Buy G-sec

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched a **mobile application and web-based platform** for **retail investors** to buy government securities. The new app - **NSE goBID**, was launched by Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi.

- The platform will allow retail investors to invest in treasury bills (T-Bills) of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days and various government bonds from one year to almost 40 years.

14. Paytm Partners With LIC For Insurance Premium Payments

- Paytm has partnered with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to offer online insurance premium payments on its platform. Softbank-backed Paytm will provide premium payment solutions from over 30 insurance companies including LIC, ICICI Prudential Life, Reliance Life, and Max Life Insurance among others.

15: Govt To Infuse INR 42,000 Crore In PSU Banks By March

- The government will infuse INR 42,000 crore in the state-owned banks by March-end and the next tranche would be released as early as December 2018, according to a senior finance ministry official.

- The government earlier pumped INR 11,336 crore in five PSBs — PNB, Allahabad Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Andhra Bank, and Corporation Bank — to improve their financial health. The government had announced the INR 2.11-lakh crore capital infusion programme in October 2017.

16: RBI Eases Hedging Norms For ECBs To 70% From Current 100%

- The Reserve Bank has relaxed norms for External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) by reducing the mandatory hedging provision to 70% from the current 100%. The relaxed norms will apply to the ECBs with a maturity period between 3 and 5 years.
- On a further review of the extant provisions, it has been decided, in consultation with the government of India, to reduce the mandatory hedge coverage from 100% to 70% for ECBs raised under Track-I of the ECB framework.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATION

1. RBI Clears Re-Appointment of Aditya Puri as HDFC Bank CEO

- Puri has been with HDFC Bank since 1994, making him the longest-serving head of any private bank in the country.

2. Gafur Rakhimov Elected President of AIBA (International Boxing Association)

- Uzbekistan's businessman Gafur Rakhimov was elected president of the (AIBA) despite fears

3. S. S. Deswal Appointed DG of ITBP

4. Ashok Kumar Gupta Appointed New Chairperson of CCI (Competition Commission of India) Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been established by the Central Government with effect from 14th October 2003.

5. BIS Names Siddharth Tiwari as Chief Representative for Asia

- The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced a new addition to its team, with Siddharth Tiwari joining as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

6. Government Appoints Sanjay Mishra As New Enforcement Directorate Chief

- Indian Revenue Service officer Sanjay Mishra was appointed as the new Enforcement Directorate Director (ED) in an additional capacity for three months.

7. UNICEF Appoints Athlete Hima Das As India's 1st Ever Youth Ambassador

- The United Nations Children's Fund-India (UNICEF) has appointed Asian Games gold-medalist sprinter Hima Das as India's first ever Youth Ambassador. Recently, Hima clinched a Gold medal in Women's 4x400 metre relay event at the 2018 Asian Games at Jakarta, Indonesian. She also won Silver in the Women's 400m Race event with a clock timing of 50.59 seconds.

UNICEF headquarters in New York, the USA.

Hima Das, nicknamed the 'Dhing Express', is an Indian sprint runner from the state of Assam.

8. Jalaj Srivastava Appointed New Chairman of IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) Srivastava is also the writer of a crime thriller novel titled 'The Perfect Suicide.'

9. UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey Appointed New Revenue Secretary

- He will succeed current Finance and Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia.

10. Oracle Veteran Thomas Kurian To Head Google Cloud

- Oracle's ex-product chief Thomas Kurian will head Google's cloud division. He will replace Diane Greene.

11. South Korean Kim Jong Yang Named New Interpol President

- Interpol's 94 member states chose Kim at a meeting of their annual congress in Dubai. He will serve until 2020.

Interpol Headquarters: Lyon, France, Motto: "Connecting police for a safer world".

12. Millie Bobby Brown Named Youngest-Ever UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador

- The United Nations children's agency UNICEF appointed Millie Bobby Brown, the star of hit Netflix series "Stranger Things", as its youngest ever goodwill ambassador on Tuesday and the **14-year-old** had a message for world leaders: "Listen to us."

13. Voreqe Bainimarama Sworn in As Fiji's Prime Minister

14. Abhijit Bose Appointed WhatsApp India Head

- Facebook Inc.-owned messaging service WhatsApp has appointed Abhijit Bose as head of WhatsApp India, the local entity that is expected to begin operations next year amid calls to check the spread of fake messages.

15. Tanzania's Joyce Msuya Appointed Acting Executive Director of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)

16. UNICEF Appoints Singer Nahid Afrin As First 'Youth Advocate' of Northeastern Region to fight for child rights.

17: WhatsApp Business Head Neeraj Arora Resigns

18: Sunil Arora Appointed New Chief Election Commissioner of India

- Sunil Arora has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner of India. He **succeeds Om Prakash Rawat**. He will take over the top job on December 2. A former bureaucrat, Arora was appointed as Election Commissioner in August 2017.

-Ashok Lavasa is the second election commissioner.

19: OYO Appoints Rohit Kapoor As CEO Of Real Estate Business

20: Arvind Saxena Appointed As UPSC Chairman

21. Binny Bansal Resigns As CEO of Flipkart Group

- Co-founder Binny Bansal has resigned as CEO of Flipkart Group. This was announced by Walmart, the new owner of the flipkart.

- Kalyan Krishnamurthy will continue to be CEO of Flipkart, which will now include Myntra and Jabong, continuing to operate as separate platforms within the Flipkart business.

US-based Walmart had completed its \$16-billion acquisition of India's largest e-commerce firm Flipkart.

22. Yes Bank Chairman Ashok Chawla Resigns

- Ashok Chawla, chairman of Yes Bank Ltd, resigned with immediate effect from the lender's board after being named in a corruption charge sheet by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Yes Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, CEO: Rana Kapoor.

23. UN Environment Chief Erik Solheim Resigns following severe criticism of his global travels and internal rule-breaking which led some nations to withhold their funding. The former environment minister of Norway had been at the helm of the Nairobi-based UN Environment since June 2016. Solheim's resignation comes ahead of crucial talks opening in Poland on December 2 on implementing the Paris climate deal.

24. Yes Bank Director R. Chandrashekhar Resigns

AWARDS

1. Anupam Kher Gets 'Distinguished Fellow' Award by IndiaGlobal - a leading US think-tank that works on issues concerning non-resident Indians.

2. Arunima Sinha Gets Honorary Doctorate In The UK

- Arunima Sinha, the Indian mountaineer who became the world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by a prestigious UK university (University of Strathclyde) for her inspirational achievements.

3. Jawahar Lal Sarin Conferred With France's Highest Civilian Honour

- Jawahar Lal Sarin, president of the governing body of Alliance Francaise, was conferred with France's highest civilian honor by French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler at an event. France's highest civilian honor '**Knight of the Legion of Honour**' was bestowed on Sarin in recognition of his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.

4. Swati Chaturvedi Won Press Freedom Award For Courage In UK

- An Indian freelance journalist, famous for her investigative reports, has bagged the 2018 London Press Freedom Award for Courage. Swati Chaturvedi, author of the book '**I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army**', got this for her work in exposing the "IT cell" within the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for keeping an army of angry trolls.

5. Dr Debabhuson Borah Gets Munin Barkotoki Literary Award

- The prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'.

- The Munin Barkotoki Memorial Trust announced the annual Award instituted to encourage young and promising writers in Assamese. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with a citation and a plaque.

6. Dr. Martha Farrell Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

- Late Dr. Martha Farrell has been honoured with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi. Dr. Farrell was recognized for her lifelong work towards gender equality, women's empowerment and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace. She was among 14 people killed in a terrorist attack on a guest house in Kabul, Afghanistan.

7. Messi Won La Liga Player Of The Year Award For 6th Time

- Barcelona star Lionel Messi was named La Liga Player of the Year for 6th time, adding one more title to his abundant collection of soccer's great honours. Messi lifted the prestigious award at FIFA's gala ceremony in Zurich.

8. Veteran Journalist N Ram Received Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award

9. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan Presented Lifetime Achievement Award In Delhi

- One of India's greatest sarod masters, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, was presented the '*Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement*' at the Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi, for his "immense contribution to the enrichment and promotion of the Indian classical music". Khan was born in 1945 in Gwalior. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan (in 2001) and is among the tallest Indian classical musicians.

10. Chennai Airport Awarded for 100% Grievance Redressal

11. Young golfer Shubhankar Sharma, 1st Indian to Win European Tour 'Rookie of the Year' Award

- Young golfer

12. MAHE Wins International Green Apple Silver Award

- Manipal Academy of Higher Education won silver in the International Green Apple Award for Environmental best practice 2018.

13. CSE Wins Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has won this year's Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, an award conferred by Indira Gandhi Trust each year on the late Prime Minister's birth anniversary.

-CSE was established in 1980 under the leadership of the late Anil Agarwal and is presently headed by Sunita Narain.

14: Azim Premji Conferred Highest French Civilian Honour

- IT czar and philanthropist Azim Premji was bestowed with the highest French civilian distinction **Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour)**. Premji, who is the chairman of Bengaluru-headquartered IT major Wipro, received the distinction from the Ambassador of France to India Alexandre Ziegler in Bengaluru.

15: IFFI 2018: Donbass Wins The Golden Peacock

- Donbass directed by Sergei Loznitsa has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 49th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which concluded in Goa on November 28, 2018. The Golden Peacock Award carries a cash prize of Rs 4 million (Rs 40 lakhs) to be shared equally between the Producer and the Director, Trophy and the citation.

16. Amitabh Bachchan Receives Sayaji Ratna Award

- Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan was awarded the third Sayaji Ratna Award, established in the memory of erstwhile Baroda ruler Sayajirao Gaekwad III. Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and noted industrialist Ratan Tata have been given the award earlier.

17. Prof SP Ganguly Awarded Mexican Order of Aztec Eagle

- JNU's Hispanic Studies professor Shyama Prasad Ganguly has won Mexico's highest civilian honor "**Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca**" (**Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle**) accorded to foreign nationals.

- He was awarded for disseminating Spanish language and Mexican culture to strengthen Mexico-India cultural relations. He is the first Indian Academician to get this award.

18. India gets UN Environment Award For Combating Transboundary Environmental Crime

- United Nation Environment has awarded Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India with Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 for excellent work done by the Bureau in combating transboundary environmental crime.

19. Azim Premji Conferred Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018

- Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro, has won Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018, Lifetime Achievement. Wipro is India's fourth-biggest software services company by revenue and Ajim Premji is the second richest Indian.

20: Asia Pacific Screen Awards: Nawazuddin And Nandita Das Received Awards

- Asia Pacific Screen Award (APSA) 2018 for Best Performance by an Actor (Male) went to Nawazuddin Siddiqui for Manto. Nandita Das, director of the movie herself received the prestigious International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award for achievement in film in the Asia Pacific region.

- The 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) were given out at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) in Brisbane, Australia. The awards ceremony was hosted by Australian actress Sofie Formica and New Zealand actor Cliff Curtis.

SPORTS NEWS

1. Tata Steel Named Official Partner of FIH (international Hockey Federation) Men's Hockey World Cup 2018

- Steel manufacturing giant Tata Steel was announced as an official partner of the men's hockey World Cup 2018 to be staged at the **Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar** from November 28 to December 16.

2. Pankaj Advani Became First Indian To Win Asian Snooker Tour Title

3. Qatar To Host 23rd edition of World Corporate Games in 2019

- This is the first time the World Corporate Games will be held in the Middle East. The sporting event takes place every one to two years and the last edition was held in Houston in the US last year.

4. Azhar Ali Announces Retirement From ODIs

- Senior Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali announced his retirement from limited overs (T20 and ODI) cricket in order to concentrate fully on Test cricket.

5. Mary Kom Named Brand Ambassador Of 2018 Women's World Boxing Championships

- Olympic bronze medalist and five-time World Champion, MC Mary Kom has been named as the brand ambassador of the 10th edition of the Women's World Championship in New Delhi.

6. Subhankar Dey Wins SaarLorLux Open Badminton Tournament

- In Badminton, Subhankar Dey has won the SaarLorLux Open at Saarbrücken in Germany.

7. Simone Biles Sets World Record, Wins 13th World Championship Gold

- Simone Biles made history by picking up her record 13th career gold medal at the world gymnastics championships in Doha, Qatar. Simone Biles became the first ever gymnast to win 13 world championship gold medals. She is from USA.

8. Bajrang Punia Becomes Number 1 In World in 65kg

- Star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia touched a new high in his career by achieving the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category. The 24-year-old Bajrang was placed atop the ranking table with 96 points in the UWW list.

9. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) Won Brazilian Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton won the Brazilian Grand Prix after Red Bull's Max Verstappen lost the lead in a collision with

10. Women's World Boxing Championships Begins in Delhi

- The Women's World Boxing Championships begins in Delhi. This tenth edition of the tournament is set to be the biggest ever as more than 300 boxers from 72 countries are taking part. The championship is being hosted by India for the first time since 2006 when the country had topped the table with four gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

11. Former England Midfielder Joe Cole Announced Retirement

- Former England and Chelsea Football midfielder Joe Cole has retired at the age of 37.

12. Australia's John Hastings Retires From International Cricket

13. Alexander Zverev Won ATP World Tour (Lawn Tennis) Finals in London

- Alexander Zverev has won ATP World Tour finals in London. Alexander Zverev defeated world number one Novak Djokovic in straight sets to claim the season-ending ATP Finals and earn the biggest victory of his career.

14. Lakshya Sen Wins Bronze At World Junior Badminton Championship

- India's top junior shuttler Lakshya Sen (17 years old) won bronze medal at Li Ning BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2018 held at Markham, Canada.

15. Bangladesh Wins 59th Edition of Subroto Cup Football Tournament

- Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) won the 59th edition of the junior boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament beating Amini School, Afghanistan by a solitary goal at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.

16. Wasim Jaffer Becomes 1st To Touch 11,000-Run Milestone in Ranji Trophy

- Veteran first-class cricketer Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian batsman to touch the 11,000-run figure in the Ranji Trophy. The Vidharbha batsman achieved the milestone during the third-round match against Baroda in Nagpur at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

17. Mary Kom Wins Sixth World Championship Title, Creates History

- MC Mary Kom has created history by becoming the first woman to win six boxing world titles by clinching the **48 kg gold** at the 2018 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi. The 35-year-old Indian legend got the better of Ukrainian Hanna Okhota in the summit clash.

18. Former Chelsea Striker Didier Drogba Announces Retirement at 40

19: Monaco To Host 2019 Laureus Awards in February

- The 19th edition of the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards will be held in Monaco on February 2019. Considered the 'Oscars of sports', the Laureus World Sports Awards celebrate global sporting achievements across the calendar year.

- Former India cricket captains Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid, and Sachin Tendulkar are members of the Laureus Academy.

20. Hockey World Cup 2018 Inaugurated In Odisha

- Odisha is hosting the Hockey World Cup 2018. The opening ceremony of Men's Hockey World Cup took place at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. The opening ceremony, which was almost a three-hour long, conveyed a powerful message of "oneness of humanity". India is hosting the FIH Hockey World Cup for the **third time**, earlier Mumbai in 1982 and New Delhi in 2010 have hosted the event. World's top 16 teams will fight for the coveted title in the 14th edition of the tournament.

21: Syed Modi International Championships: Sameer Verma Won Gold, Saina Silver

- Sameer Verma has won the Syed Modi International Badminton Championships, men's singles final against China's Guangzu Lu, to retain the title. However, former champion Saina Nehwal lost to Han Yue of China in women's singles summit clash and won silver.

22: Australia Win Women's World Twenty20 Crown

- Australia clinched Women's World Twenty20 title as they attained an easy **win over England** in the final of the Women's World T20 tournament. This is Australia's 4th title win at Women's World T20 in 6 editions of the tournament.

Player of the Match: Ashleigh Gardner.

Player of the Tournament: Alyssa Healy.

23: National Shooting Championship: Esha Singh Win 3 Gold Medals

- India's 13-year-old shooter **Esha Singh** won the Women's, Youth Women's and Junior Women's 10m Air Pistol competitions at the National Shooting Championship at Thiruvananthapuram.

- She beat Manu Bhaker and Heena Sidhu to win three gold medals in women's air pistol events at the 62nd National Shooting Championships.

OBITUARIES

1. African American Playwright Ntozake Shange Passes Away

- Playwright, poet and author Ntozake Shange, whose most acclaimed theatre piece is the 1975 Tony Award-nominated play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf," had passed away. She was 70.

2. 1971 War Hero M.P. Awati Passes Away- Vice-Admiral M.P. Awati (retd.), who commanded a naval unit of the Eastern Fleet in the 1971 India-Pakistan war and whose actions led to the destruction of an enemy submarine, passed away. He was awarded the Vir Chakra for his leadership and gallantry.

3. Veteran Marathi Actress Lalan Sarang Passes Away

4. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Ananth Kumar Passes Away

- Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and Chemicals and Fertilizers H.N. Ananth Kumar, also a senior BJP leader from the State passed away in Bengaluru. He was 59. He was six-time MP from Bengaluru South Lok Sabha seat, Mr. Kumar was representing it continuously since 1996.

5. Stan Lee, Co-Creator of Spider-Man, Iron Man, Passes Away

- American comic-book writer and Marvel Comics co-creator Stan Lee passed away aged 95.

6. Asia's 1st Woman Neurosurgeon TS Kanaka Passes Away

- She was the third woman neurosurgeon in the whole world.

7. Padma Shri Awardee Saint Narayan Das Maharaj Passes Away

8. Oscar-Winning Screenwriter William Goldman Passes Away

9. Former Indian Hockey Player Sandeep Michael Passes Away

- Former Indian hockey player, Sandeep Michael, who captained the Indian junior team to a gold at the Asia Cup 2003, died at the age of 33 after battling an unspecified neurological problem.

10. Noted Indian Classical Musician Ustad Imrat Khan Passes Away

11: Oscar-Winning Director Bernardo Bertolucci Passes Away

- Italian filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci, who won Oscars with "The Last Emperor" and whose erotic drama "Last Tango in Paris" enthralled and shocked the world, has passed away.

12. Singer Mohammed Aziz Passes Away

- Aziz, who did playback singing in Hindi, Bengali and Odia films, was known for songs like 'My Name is Lakhan', 'Mard Tangewala' and 'Main Teri Mohabbat Mein'.

13. SpongeBob SquarePants Creator Stephen Hillenburg Passes Away

- Stephen Hillenburg, the creator of SpongeBob SquarePants, has passed away at the age of 57.

DAYS AND THEMES

1. National Ayurveda Day: 5 November

- Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). The theme of 2018 Ayurveda Day was: "Ayurveda for Public health".

2. World Science Day for Peace and Development: 10 November

- The theme for 2018 is "Science, a Human Right".

3. World Diabetes Day: 14 November

- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2018 and 2019 is 'The Family and Diabetes'.

4. International Day for Tolerance: 16 November

5. World Toilet Day: 19 November -The theme for WTD 2018 is 'When Nature Calls'.

6. Qaumi Ekta Week Observed Across Country from November 19th-25th to foster and reinforce the spirit of communal harmony and national integration.

7. Africa Industrialization Day: 20 November

- Theme : "Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A pathway for accelerating Africa's structural transformation, industrialization and pharmaceutical production".

8. Universal Children's Day: 20 November

9: NCC Day: 4th Sunday of November

- National Cadets Corps (NCC) day is celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday in the month of November. The NCC in India was formed by the **National Cadet Corps Act of 1948** on 15th July 1948.
- The first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru presided over the function of raising the first NCC Unit at Delhi on the last Sunday of Nov 1948. The motto for the NCC is "Unity and Discipline".

10: National Milk Day: 26 November

- National Milk Day is celebrated on November 26 to mark the birth anniversary of India's most successful dairy entrepreneur Dr. Varghese Kurien, the founder of dairy firm Amul.
- He served Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) from 1973 to 2006. **India is the largest milk producer** in the world. The per capita milk available pan India is 355 grams per day.

11: Indian Constitution Day: 26 November

- 26 November is celebrated as Indian Constitution Day. On this day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on January 26, 1950.

12: Indian Organ Donation Day: 27 November

13: MoS (Home) Kiren Rijiju Inaugurates 14th Formation Day of NDMA

- The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the 14th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on **27th November 2018** in New Delhi. The theme of this year's Formation Day is 'Early Warning for Disasters'.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. "Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of A.R. Rahman" written By Krishna Trilok Launched

2. Book On Mouth Cancer 'Arivu' Released

- November 7 is observed as National Cancer Awareness Day in India each year.
- Dr Murali Mohan Chuntharu, a Dental Surgeon and also DK Home Guard Commandant has written a book named "Arivu", which explains about Mouth Cancer and prevention of the disease.

3. Mansi Gulati's Book 'Yoga And Mindfulness' Launched

- Famous yoga exponent and author, Mansi Gulati's book, 'Yoga and Mindfulness'.

4. 'Radio Kashmir-In Times of Peace & War'- written By Dr Rajesh Bhat

5.FM Arun Jaitley Released the book "Making of New India" Transformation under Modi Government",

- This book is edited by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Dr. Anirban Ganguly and Shri Kishore Desai and contains 51 essays on themes ranging from economy to diplomacy, education to public health.

RANKS AND REPORTS

1. Bangalore Ranked India's Most Congested City: NBER

- Bangalore tops the index for the most congested city, and Mumbai in the second position, while Pune follows in the seventh place, according to a recent research published under the US-based organization, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

2. India To overtake U.S. As 2nd-Largest Carbon Spewer From Power: IEA Report

- The International Energy Agency in its latest report 'World Energy Outlook' stated that India will overtake the U.S. to become the world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector before 2030.

- Carbon dioxide emissions from India's power sector are expected to rise nearly 80% by 2040 as power use almost triples, driven in part by air conditioning. **China will remain the biggest emitter.**

**International Energy Agency was established in 1974.
It headquarters in Paris, France.**

3. IMD World Talent Ranking: India Ranks 53rd, Switzerland Tops

- Switzerland has topped the list of the IMD World Talent Ranking 2018 for the fifth year in a row, followed by Denmark (2nd) and Norway (3rd).

4. Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen (Indo-American) in Fortune Business Person of The Year list-2018

- Narayen ranks 12th on the list, which has been topped by CEO of insurance company Progressive Tricia Griffith.

5. Malaria Cases Declined By 24% In India: WHO Report

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) in a report stated that India is the only country to have recorded a substantial decline in malaria cases in 2017 out of the 11 highest burden countries worldwide.
- India registered a 24% reduction in cases over 2016, largely due to substantial declines of the disease in the highly malarious state of Odisha, home to approximately 40 percent of all malaria cases in the country. According to the report, India accounted for 4% of global malaria cases in 2017.

6. India Skills Report 2019: Andhra Tops in Employability Rate, Talent Quality

- Andhra Pradesh has topped the list of states with the highest employability followed by Rajasthan and Haryana, as per the India Skills Report 2019.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. NASA InSight Lands On Mars 7 Months After Launch

- NASA's InSight spacecraft landed on Mars after nearly a 7 months, 458-million-kilometre journey, and a 6.5-minute parachuted descent through the Red Planet's atmosphere.
- The 360-kg lander also shared its first photo from Mars, showing an area called Elysium Planitia, where it will dig five meters below the surface. The \$993-million mission will measure the Mars' internal heat and study quakes.

2. UGC To Set Up A Consortium For Approved Journals

- University Grants Commission, UGC has decided to set up a **Consortium of Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)** which will prepare a fresh list of credible quality journals in the non-science disciplines.
- The commission stated that the percentage of research articles published in poor quality journals is reported to be high in India which has adversely affected its image. CARE will be headed by the UGC Vice Chairman.

3. ISRO Launches India's HysIS Satellite With 30 Foreign Satellites

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched **PSLV-C43**. This launch took place from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- Marking the **45th mission** that uses the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) rocket, ISRO launched its **latest Earth-mapping satellite, HysIS**, as part of the mission. The **HysISsatellite** adds a mass of 360kg to the payload, and launched beside 30 other satellites from six nations.

4. Campaign Launched To Spread Pan-India Awareness About Hepatitis Disease

- Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences has launched a campaign to spread a pan-India awareness about hepatitis disease. Empowering People Against Hepatitis: The Empathy Campaign was launched at Metro Bhawan, New Delhi in presence of Managing Director of DMRC. Dr. Mangu Singh, and Director ILBS. Shiv Kumar Sarin.
- The initiative will help generate awareness about Hepatitis B and C. About 60 million people in the country are inflicted with Hepatitis virus infections which are responsible for liver cirrhosis and cancer.

5. Shakti : India's First Indigenous Microprocessor Created By IIT-Madras

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has designed and boot up 'Shakti', which can be used for **wireless and networking systems**, as well as mobile computing. 'Shakti' is **India's first and indigenous microprocessor**. Bluespec, an open-source high-level synthesis language was used in making the chips.
- The concept to design the chip was germinated in 2011 and some preliminary works were carried out. In 2017, the project gained speed with about Rs 11 crore funding from the Indian government.

6. ISRO Launches GSAT-29 Communication Satellite From Andhra Pradesh

- GSAT-29 communication satellite, which is being carried by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-Mk III) was launched into space from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.

- The satellite aims at solving the communication barriers faced by **Village Resource Centres (VRCs)**, which are responsible for providing space-based services to ISRO from rural areas.

ISRO Chairman: K Sivan, Headquarters: Bengaluru, Founder: Vikram Sarabhai, Founded: 15 August 1969.

DEFENCE NEWS

1. Raksha Mantri Launches 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti'

- Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman has formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti', in New Delhi. The event showcased salient inventions and innovations achieved by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factories (OFs) which have resulted in the successful filing of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) applications. As part of the ongoing initiatives to enhance self-reliance in defence, the Department of Defence Production has instituted a new framework titled 'Mission Raksha GyanShakti' which aims to provide a boost to the IPR culture in the indigenous defence industry.

2. India-United Kingdom Exercise KONKAN-18 Held At Goa

- **Naval exercise** between India and the United Kingdom, **KONKAN** held in **Goa** this year. The KONKAN series of exercises commenced in 2004, and since then has grown in scale.

3. IAF, US Air Force To Conduct Joint Exercise 'Cope India 2019'

- Air forces of the United States and India are set to participate in a 12-day joint exercise 'Cope India 2019' at two air force stations in **West Bengal**. The exercise will be held from December 3 to 14, at Air Station Kalaikunda and Air Station Arjan Singh (Panagarh). The exercise showcases efforts and commitment of the two nations to a free and open Indo-Pacific region, a communique from the US Consulate said. The Cope India exercise is being held after a gap of eight years, with the **last one having taken place in 2010**.

4. India, China To Hold Joint Military Exercises 'Hand in Hand'

- The militaries of China and India, set to hold a joint 14-day drill 'Hand in Hand' in **southwest China's Chengdu city** to improve their capabilities in fighting terrorism and promote mutual understanding. It would be 7th edition.

5. India-Japan Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' Kick Starts In Mizoram

- Armies of India and Japan began their first-ever joint military exercise '*Dharma Guardian- 2018*' at a jungle warfare school in Mizoram's Vairengte with a focus on strengthening counter-terror cooperation.

6. INS Viraat To Become A Floating Museum

- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the conversion of decommissioned carrier INS Viraat into a floating museum. As per primary estimates, the project worth 852 crore rupees will be implemented through public-private-partnership (PPP).

- The decision has been taken to elicit interest among the school and college students in the marine sector. Besides, it will make the new generation familiar with the glorious history of INS Viraat (Aircraft carrier).

7. INS Arihant Completes 1st Deterrence Patrol

- INS Arihant, **India's first nuclear ballistic missile submarine**, has completed its first "deterrence patrol".
- The 6,000-tonne INS Arihant, under development for three decades under a highly classified programme, comes under the direct control of the **Nuclear Command Authority headed by PM Modi**.

8. K9 Vajra And M777 Howitzer Guns Inducted Into Indian Army

- Indian Army inducted new artillery guns and equipment, including K9 Vajra and M777 howitzers, at Deolali artillery centre in Nashik, Maharashtra. The induction ceremony took place in the presence of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Army chief General Bipin Rawat. Besides, M777 American Ultra Light Howitzers and the K-9 Vajra, the third gun system inducted is the '**Composite Gun Towing Vehicle**' for towing some of the existing guns in service with the country. The guns have a range of 30 km.

9. 25th Edition of SIMBEX Begins in Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal

- India and Singapore have started the 25th edition of SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. According to the Defence Ministry, SIMBEX 2018 will be the "**largest since 1994** in terms of scale and complexity".

10. INDO-Russian Joint Exercise INDRA 2018 Held in Jhansi

- The joint military exercise between India and Russia **EXERCISE INDRA 2018** on **combating insurgency** under the aegis of United Nations (UN) was conducted at Babina Military Station in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct to enhance interoperability of the two Armies in the peacekeeping/enforcement environment under the aegis of the UN. This is the tenth series of Exercise INDRA.

11. Indo-US Joint Military Exercise 'Vajra Prahar' Commences In Jaipur

- The 12-day long joint military exercise between India and the United States known as 'Vajra Prahar' commenced in Jaipur.
- A contingent of the United States Pacific Commander arrived at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges for undertaking Joint training with the Indian Special Forces.

12. India, Russia Finalize USD 500 million Deal for Construction of 2 Warships

- India and Russia sealed a USD 500 million deal for construction of **two missile frigates in Goa for the Indian Navy**, sending a clear signal of continuing with high-level defence collaborations notwithstanding the US warnings of sanctions.
- The agreement for **manufacturing of the two Talvar-class warships** was signed between defence PSU Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Russia's state-run defence major Rosoboron export under the government-to-government framework for defence cooperation.

AGREEMENTS

1. India, Malawi Sign MoUs in Extradition Treaty, Atomic Energy and VISA Waiver

- The MoU was signed during Vice President Venkaiah Naidu visit in Malawi. India will also extend a new Line of credit of 215 million US dollars to Malawi for 18 water projects.

2. ICC Team Up With Google

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced its partnership with Google to offer the fans a great viewing experience of the upcoming semi-finals and final of the ICC Women's World T20 to be held in West Indies.
- The collaboration includes enabling the casting of video content from the ICC mobile app on cast-
ICC Chairperson: Shashank Manohar, Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates, CEO: Dave Richardson.

3. Airports Authority of India Signed Pact With USTDA

- State-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) has inked an agreement with the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) to develop a roadmap for modernization of its air traffic services.

4. India-China Amends Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty

- India and China have signed a protocol to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

5. India, China Ink Protocol On Hygiene & Inspection Requirements For Exports

- The move would enable India to commence export of fish meal and fish oil to China. The neighbouring country has so far not allowed these exports by India.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

1. PM Modi To Attend G-20 Summit In Argentina

- G-20 Summit 2018 to be held at Buenos Aires, Argentina. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the summit.

Venue of next G20- 2019: Osaka, Japan.

2. India To Chair Kimberley Process From January 2019

- The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) Plenary 2018, **was held in Brussels, Belgium**, in November 2018. EU handed over the Chairmanship of KPCS to India from 1st January 2019. This year was the fifteenth anniversary of KPCS.

- The next Intersessional session is slated to be held in India as Chair. Botswana and the Russian Federation will serve as Vice-Chair during the period of 2019-2020.

3. President Of India Inaugurates The 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 2nd International Ambedkar Conclave in **New Delhi** as part of the commemoration of Constitution Day. The Conclave is being organized by the Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians and the Dr. Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce.

4. NITI Aayog Organise Dialogue On Health System For New India

- NITI Aayog has begun a series of Development Dialogues to engage experts, thought leaders and government stakeholders across key avenues of long-term social and economic development. The first event was a conference on "Health Systems for A New India: Building Blocks".

- The conference featured senior government functionaries and eminent national and international experts in the healthcare space.

SCHEMES AND COMMITTEES

1. Government Launches Bhasha Sangam

- The government has launched a unique initiative called Bhasha Sangam **to introduce school students to 22 Indian languages**. The initiative, under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**, was active for the period between 22nd November - 21st December.

- Bhasha Sangam is a programme for schools and educational institutions to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian languages. Another objective of Bhasha Sangam is to enhance linguistic tolerance and respect and promote national integration.

2. Health Ministry Launches Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

- Ms. Preeti Sudan, Union Health Secretary did soft-launch of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in **seven states**.

- The path-breaking initiative will provide near-real-time data to policymakers for detecting outbreaks, reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in the populations and better health systems.

3. 8 More States Achieve 100% Household Electrification Under Saubhagya Scheme

- 8 more States have achieved hundred percent household electrification under "**Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana- Saubhagya**". The states are Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana, and West Bengal. **15 States now have 100 percent household**

electrification, according to Power Minister RK Singh. The government is hopeful of achieving the same for every household across the country by December-end.

4. Agriculture Ministry Launches NCDC's 'Yuva Sahakar Scheme'

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh launched the 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

- **The schemes aims for attracting youth to cooperative business ventures.** The scheme will be linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the NCDC. The funding for the project will be up to 80% of the project cost for these special categories against 70% for others.

5. HRD Ministry Launches LEAP and ARPIT Programmes For Higher Education faculty

- Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, launched two new initiatives, namely, the Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) and the Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT) for higher education faculty.

- LEAP is a three weeks flagship leadership development training programme for the second level academic functionaries in higher education institutions and ARPIT is a unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty.

RANA ACADEMY