



www.ranaacademyshimla.com
contact no. 9805332278, 7018596250

COACHING OF VARIOUS CENTRAL &
STATE LEVEL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER-2018

(HPAS / ALLIED SERVICES / NAIB TEHSILDAR /
BANKING / SSC AND ALL OTHER GOVT EXAMS)

-JOIN COACHING CLASSES FOR :

- **UPSC/ HAS/HPAS**
- **Allied and subordinate exams**
- **clerical posts in HP secretariat.**
- Morning and evening batches are also available .
- Free demo class.
- Affordable fee.

RANA ACADEMY , KHALINI, SHIMLA.

9805332278, 7018596250.

WWW.RANAACADEMYSHIMLA.COM

INDEX

-WORLD NEWS

-NATIONAL NEWS

-ECONOMY / FINANCE

-APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

-AWARDS AND HONOURS

-SPORTS/ GAMES

-DEATHS / OBITUARIES

-IMPORTANT DAYS

-BOOKS AND AUTHORS

-RANKING

-SCIENCE AND TECH

-DEFENCE

WORLD / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Sushma Swaraj Participates In 17th CHG Meeting Of SCO In Tajikistan

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj participated in the 17th Council of Heads of Government, CHG, meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- Last year, CHG meeting was held in Sochi, Russia and was also attended by EAM. **The SCO CHG meeting is a forum that enables India to engage with SCO member countries and Observer states of Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.**

2. India Elected To UNHRC Securing Maximum Votes

- India has been elected to the United Nations' Human Rights Council with the highest vote among all candidates. It secured 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category for a **period of three years beginning January 1, 2019**. India's win with the highest number of votes reflects the country's standing in the international comity.
- The 18 new members were elected by the absolute majority through a secret ballot. India got the highest number of votes among all 18 countries in the five regional categories. In the Asia Pacific category, India got 188 votes followed by Fiji with 187 and Bangladesh 178 votes.
- (- India had previously been elected to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council for the 2011-2014 and 2014-2017.**
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin).**

3. 6th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting Held In Singapore

- The Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution C. R. Chaudhary, attended the 6th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting (IMM) in Singapore.
- The Ministers from 16 RCEP countries met in Singapore to discuss a modern, comprehensive and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among ASEAN and ASEAN's FTA partners. Next round meeting of Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) is scheduled to be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

4. Canada Becomes 2nd Country To Legalize Recreational Cannabis

- Canada has become the second country after Uruguay to legalize possession and use of recreational cannabis.

5. 12th Asia Europe Meeting Summit Begins in Brussels, Belgium.

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian delegation. The theme of this year's ASEM Summit is "*Global Partners for Global Challenges*".

6. Malaysian Government Abolishes Capital Punishment

- Capital punishment in Malaysia is currently mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes.

7. Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa To Form New Government in Bhutan

- The Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) will form new government in Bhutan. The party has won 30 seats in 47 member National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament. The Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) has got remaining 17 seats.
- According to the commission, 71.46% polling was recorded in the third general election. This is the first time in Bhutan's decade old parliamentary democracy that a **new party** has been chosen to form the government.

8. World's Longest Sea-Crossing Bridge Opened in China

- China has opened the longest sea-crossing bridge ever built, nine years after construction began. The **Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge** connects Hong Kong and Macau to the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai. The **\$20-billion** bridge spans **55 kilometers**.
- The bridge, designed to withstand earthquakes and typhoons, has been built using 400,000 tonnes of steel, enough to build 60 Eiffel Towers.

- 9. 1st Trilateral Meeting Among India, Afghanistan And Iran Held in Tehran** - The first trilateral meeting among India, Afghanistan and Iran of the Coordination Council of the Chabahar Agreement took place in Tehran, Iran. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (Economic Relations) TS Tirumurti.

10. NATO's Biggest Military Maneuvers Begins in Norway

- Russia is angered by the exercise as it shares border with Norway.
NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

11. Russia Successfully Launched 1st Soyuz -2.1B rocket Since Failed Space Launch

- This was the first launch of a rocket from the Soyuz family since the October 11 accident.
The Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (Roscosmos) is a state corporation responsible for the space flight and cosmonautics program for the Russian Federation.

12. 2nd International Conference On Primary Health Care Held in Kazakhstan

- J P Nadda, represented India.

13. 20th Edition Of WETEX 2018 Held In Dubai

- The 20th Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition (WETEX) 2018 was held at Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

14. 13th India-Japan Summit Held in Tokyo

- The 13th Annual Summit between India and Japan was held in presence of PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Japan. Issues of mutual interest, including forging ties in newer areas were discussed during the talks.

15. India Donated 3 lakh Dollars For Peacekeeping Initiative At UN India's Permanent Representative at the UN: Syed Akbaruddin.

16. Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA) submitting the instrument of ratification.

- As of now, there are 70 countries that have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and 47 countries that have ratified it. Japan will be the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA FA.

17. World's Largest Airport 'Under One Roof' Opened In Istanbul

- The world's largest airport terminal "under one roof" with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers has been officially opened on October 29 in Istanbul, which marks the Republic Day of Turkey.

18. Seychelles Launches World's 1st Sovereign Blue Bond

- The Republic of Seychelles launched the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond, a financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects. The bond raised USD 15 million from international investors. The bond demonstrates the potential for countries to harness capital markets for financing the sustainable use of marine resources.

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Assam, 1st State To Launch Wage Compensation Scheme For Pregnant Women In Tea Gardens

- Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 12,000 will be given to the pregnant women so that they can take care of themselves and the unborn baby. The compensation of wages to pregnant women will be given in 4 instalments - Rs 2,000 in the first trimester, Rs 4,000 in the second trimester, Rs 3,000 for institutional delivery and Rs 3,000 for registration of the child's birth.

2. Government Constitutes Competition Law Review Committee

- The Committee will be headed by **Injeti Srinivas**, Secretary of the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The Competition Act was passed in the year 2002 and the Competition Commission of India was set up in pursuance of the same.

3. Sushil Modi-Led GoM To Examine Modalities For 'Calamity Tax' Under GST

- The Government constituted a seven-member ministerial panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters.

4. Kolkata Gets India's 1st Comprehensive City-Level Flood Forecasting and Warning System

- Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

5. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates 3-Day Kalahandi Dialogue

- Using the platform the Chief Minister launched several projects for the district of Kalahandi.
- **The dialogue aimed to involve youth in development activities.**

6. Petroleum Minister launches SATAT Initiative

- SATAT -Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation.
- This initiative would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs. It has been launched with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels.

7. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Arrives India On 4-Day Visit

- he took part in Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations as well as the 4th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission. He also attended the joint inaugural ceremony of the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance, 2nd RE-INVEST Conference and Energy Ministers Meet of Indian Ocean Rim Association of States member countries.

8. BCCI Brought Under RTI Act by Central Information Commission

- The Central Information Commission (CIC) brought the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the RTI (Right to Information) Act.
- The commission, which is the top appellate body in RTI matters, went through the laws and orders of the Supreme (**BCCI President: Vinod Rai, Headquarters in: Mumbai**).

9. PM Inaugurates 1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance in New Delhi.

- The same event also marked the inauguration of the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, and the 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo). The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, was present on the occasion.

(The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the first day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015).

10. Haryana's Maharshi Dayanand University Declared Cleanest Government University By HRD Ministry

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the "Swachh Campus rankings" under various categories. The rankings were decided on the basis of a survey under the 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' campaign.

11. Cabinet Hikes MSP of Rabi Crops

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA, has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all Rabi crops for the current financial year which will be marketed in 2019-20 season. The MSP of wheat has been raised by 105 rupees per quintal, Masur by 225 per quintal, and Gram by 220 per quintal.

12. National Khadi Festival 2018 Held in Mumbai

- The National Khadi Festival 2018 is being organised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to promote Khadi products.
- The festival was inaugurated by Union Minister for Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Giriraj Singh in Mumbai on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti 2018. The main objective of the festival is to promote the products of cottage industry and create awareness regarding the art of states.

13. First Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' in Shimla

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs is organising the First ever Regional Conference at Shimla on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh.
- The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Acharya Devvrat, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. Expected Outcome of the Conference will be to help in ensuring better implementation of Prison Reform and Rehabilitation Program in order to improve the conditions of Women Inmates and their Access to Justice.

(The Supreme Court has constituted a three-member committee headed by its former judge Justice Amitava Roy to look into the aspect of jail reforms).

14. NMCG Partnered with TSAF to Launch "Mission Gange"

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has partnered with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) to launch a month-long rafting expedition of a team of 40 members which will be led by the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest Ms. **Bachendri Pal**.

15. Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 Held in New Delhi

- Theme- 'Connecting Farmers to Market'.

16. Government Constitutes GoM To Look Into Sexual Harassment At Workplace

- The Union Government constituted a four-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine and strengthen the existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace. The Group of Ministers will be headed by Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh**.

- The other members of the group will include Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi.

17. No Sale of BS-IV Vehicles Across Country From April 1, 2020: SC

- The Supreme Court ruled that no Bharat Stage-IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020. The Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norm would come into force from April 1, 2020 across the country.

- The ruling was made by a three-judge bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur. The bench clarified that only BS-VI compliant vehicle will be sold in India from April 1, 2020.

Bharat Stage emission standards were introduced in 2000 in line with recommendations made by RA Mashelkar Committee. The Bharat stage emission standards were instituted by the Government to regulate the output of air pollutants from motor vehicles. The BS-IV norms were in force across the country since April 2017.

18. HRD Minister Launches Web Portal of SPARC in New Delhi

- The Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal (www.sparc.iitkgp.ac.in) of the Scheme "Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)" in New Delhi.

- SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

19. Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave in New Delhi

- theme: 'Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy'.

20. President of India Inaugurates International Arya Mahasammelan-2018 in Delhi.

- Mahasammelan discussed on the issues such as prevention of superstition, modernization, women empowerment, tribal welfare, and management of natural calamities.

21. PM Modi Inaugurated Krishi Kumbha in Lucknow

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a farmers' conclave 'Krishi Kumbh 2018' in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing. The Kumbh witnessed two of the world's top economies, Israel and Japan, as official partners while Haryana and Jharkhand as partner states.

22. India, Bangladesh Sign Agreements For Enhancing Inland And Coastal Waterways Connectivity

- The two countries have signed an agreement to use **Chattogram** and **Mongla** Ports in Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India.

- An addendum to 'Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between the two countries' has also been signed for the inclusion of Dhubri in India and Pangaon in Bangladesh as the new Ports.

23. India To Become World's 3rd Largest Aviation Market surpassing the UK Around 2024: IATA

- According to the IATA, China would displace the United States as the world's largest aviation market in the mid-2020s.

IATA Headquarters: Montreal, Canada, Founded: 19 April 1945.

24. Maneka Gandhi Inaugurates 5th Edition of 'Women of India National Organic Festival', at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.

25. 22nd National Level Meeting Held Between India And Myanmar in New Delhi.

-During the meeting, both sides agreed to take action against insurgent groups operating within their territories and providing of security cooperation along with international border and facilitating movement of people and trade across the international border.

26. 5th National Summit on Public Health Care held at Kaziranga in Assam

27. Foundation Of India's Largest Dry Dock Laid at Cochin Shipyard

- The Dry Dock will give an impetus to "Make in India" initiative under Sagarmala and raise India's share in global shipbuilding to 2%. India currently occupies 0.66 % share in global shipbuilding market.

28. 3-day India Mobile Congress Held In New Delhi

- The expedition will start from Haridwar on October 5th 2018 traversing a distance of around 1500 km encompassing 8 major towns. It will conclude in Patna in Bihar.

29. Parliamentary Panel To Examine Functioning Of EPFO / Employees Provident Fund Organisation

- The panel will be headed by BJP MP **Kirit Somaiya**.

- The panel has selected a wide range of subjects related to labourers, including the International Labour Organisation conventions binding on India and the measures taken by the government to implement them.

30. 4 Himalayan Peaks Named After Late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee

-Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier of Uttarkashi district have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Located near Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley, the peaks have been named Atal-1, 2, 3 and 4.

(Sabarmati Ghat, Gujrat has been renamed as 'Atal Ghat'.

The new capital of Chhattisgarh, Naya Raipur, has been renamed as 'Atal Nagar').

31. Environment Ministry Launches 'Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali' Campaign

- This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein a large number of school children participated and took a pledge to minimize bursting of crackers. The Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali campaign is now merged with "Green Good Deed" movement that has been initiated as a social mobilization for conservation and protection of the environment.

32. Gwalior Hosts 4-Day International Dance Festival

- Uzbekistan Ambassador to India Farhod Arziev inaugurated a four-day international dance festival titled "Udbhav Utsav" in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Dance troupes from Bulgaria, Turkey and Sri Lanka, apart from 25 teams from India, participated in the event.

33. 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference Starts In Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The FEC 2018 aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy.

(The IAEA or INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY was created in 1957).

34. PM Modi Launches 'Main Nahi Hum' Portal In New Delhi

-The portal which works on the theme "Self for Society" will enable IT professionals and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and service to society, on one platform.

35. Russian President Vladimir Putin In India On 2-Day Visit

- Russian President Vladimir Putin reached New Delhi to attend the **19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit in New Delhi**.

36. India, Russia Seal \$5 Billion S-400 Missile Air Defence Deal

-India and Russia signed the \$5 billion S-400 air defence system deal during the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin **at Hyderabad House**.

- India wants to procure the long-range missile systems to tighten its air defence mechanism, particularly along the nearly 4,000-km-long Sino-India border. The S-400 is an upgraded version of the S-300 systems. The missile system, manufactured by Almaz-Antey, has been in service in Russia since 2007.

37. India Chem 2018 Conference Begins in Mumbai

India Chem 2018, the 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference began in Mumbai. The largest event of Chemicals and Petrochemical Industry in India is a two-day event.

38. India's First Domestic Cruise 'Angriya' Flagged Off From Mumbai

- Angriya, India's first luxury cruise ship, has been inaugurated at Mumbai. Union minister for shipping Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis flagged-off the cruise which will operate between Mumbai and Goa. Named after the first Maratha Navy Admiral **Kanhoji Angre** and the **Angria bank coral reef** near Vijaydurg, the luxury ship has 104 rooms, divided into eight different categories.

39. 4th Edition of NITI Lecture Series Held In New Delhi

- The theme for this year is "*AI for ALL: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth*".

40. PM Narendra Modi Dedicated National Police Memorial To The Nation in New Delhi

- It has been built in recognition of the supreme sacrifice made by police personnel since independence.
- The memorial has been erected on 6.12 acres of land in **Chanakyapuri**, at the northern end of Shanti Path.

41. GI Tag for Alphonso Mango From Konkan

- Alphonso Mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and other adjoining areas in Maharashtra, finally gets a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. A Geographical Indication or a GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- The king of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets not only for its taste but also for pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour.
(**The first product to get a GI tag in India was the Darjeeling tea in 2004. There are a total of 325 products from India that carry this indication**).

42. 21 IORA Countries Adopt Delhi Declaration On Renewable Energy

-As many as 21 countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, IORA, adopted the Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in the Indian Ocean Region. These nations adopted the Delhi Declaration after the second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held in Greater Noida.
- As per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the Delhi Declaration calls for collaboration among IORA member states in meeting the growing demand for renewable energy in the Indian Ocean littorals.

43. India's Highest Tricolour Unfurled At Haj House in Mumbai

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in Mumbai. The national flag measured 20x30 feet and stood 350 feet above the ground level.
- The flag atop a 20-metre high mast on top of the iconic building is near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai. The tricolour is made of non-fading polyester and manufactured by The Flag Company.

44. Atal Innovation Mission & SIRIUS Sign MoU

- To promote innovative cooperation between students of India and Russia, an MoU was exchanged between India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Russian Federation's SIRIUS Educational Foundation in the presence of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin, in New Delhi.

45. Karnataka Unveils 'Unnati Scheme' to Help Entrepreneurs From SC/ST Communities

- The Karnataka government, under the Unnati scheme, will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create end-to-end support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.

46. Indian Railways signed Agreements with Government of Russian Federation

- A MoU was signed between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Transport of Russian Federation for development of **cooperation in transport education**. The MoU aims at providing organizational and methodological support to higher educational institutions implementing joint projects in the field of transport education of both countries.

47. Odisha Government Launches 'Nirman Kusuma' Scheme

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched '*Nirman Kusuma*' programme for providing financial assistance to the **children of the construction workers** for their technical education in the state.

48. Country's biggest skill competition 'India Skills 2018' concludes

- The country's biggest skill competition, India Skills 2018 (2nd edition) has concluded in **New Delhi**. The 164 winners were awarded by Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Anant Kumar Hegde.

49. Muzaffarpur's Shahi Litchi Gets GI Tag

- After huge efforts for a year, now **Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur, Bihar** has got official recognition as it receives the geographical indication (GI) tag. The sweet, pulpy and juicy Litchi of Bihar is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur, and adjoining areas including East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur, and Begusarai districts. The GI registration was done in the name of Litchi Growers Association of Bihar, who had applied for the tag.

50. Government Reconstitutes supreme Court-empowered Pollution Control Panel to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region. Former secretary Bhure Lal continues to be the chairman, while the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) DG Sunita Narain is one of the members.

51. UNICEF, NASSCOM Sign MoU To Strengthen Child Rights

- UNICEF and NASSCOM Foundation have signed an agreement to strengthen child rights through "meaningful business interventions.

(UNICEF stands for United Nations Children's Fund, Headquarters in New York, USA.

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) was established in 1988).

52. Government Launches 'Swastha Bharat Yatra' Campaign

- The government launched a national campaign 'Swastha Bharat Yatra' on the World Food Day (16th October) under which a pan-India cycle rally is being organized to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is leading this campaign.

53. Jharkhand To Become Partner State At Goa International Film Festival (to be held in nov 2018) .

54. Cabinet Approves Merger of NCVT And NSDA To Establish NCVET

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

- NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term and establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities.

55. Severe Cyclonic Storm 'TITLI' Hits West-Central Bay of Bengal

- The Severe Cyclonic Storm '**TITLI**' over the west-central Bay of Bengal moved northwards with a speed of about 14 kmph over West central Bay of Bengal near latitude 16.5°N and longitude 85.8°E, about 320 km south-southeast of Gopalpur (Odisha) and 270 km southeast of Kalingapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

56. President Kovind Inaugurates 13th Annual Convention of CIC (Central Information Commission) in New Delhi.

57. NITI Aayog's AIM & IBM India Design Industry-Tailored Student Internship Programme

- NITI Aayog and IBM announced a first-of-its-kind internship programme for students selected by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). The internship will see 38 students receive a two-week paid internship, and 14 teachers from Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) across the length and breadth of the country including from states such as Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar and others, to come together and ideate, collaborate and innovate.

(NITI- National Institution for Transforming India.

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman- Rajiv Kumar, CEO- Amitabh Kant).

58. Delhi, Moscow Sign Twin-City Agreement - Delhi government signed a twin-city agreement with the government of Moscow for cooperation in various fields like environment, culture and education, for the next 3 years.

59. 6th Meeting of UAE-India High-Level Joint Task Force Held in Mumbai

60. PM Modi Inaugurates Silver Jubilee Celebrations of NHRC (National Human Rights Commission)

(The NHRC was set up on the 12th October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act, passed by Parliament. **NHRC Chairman: Justice HL Dattu**).

61. Union Government Releases Analytical Report of National Health Profile 2018

- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has released 12th edition of *Analytical Report of the National Health Profile 2018*. The report was prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), under the aegis of the Directorate General of Health Services. CBHI has been publishing National Health Profile every year since 2005.

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

- India and Sri Lanka have signed two MoU for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 crore Sri Lankan rupees.

63. India International Silk Fair-2018 Begins In New Delhi

-India is the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world after China.

64. Government Announces Rs 100 Crore Award For States Completing Household Electrification Early

- The government has announced 100 crore rupee award for states that would complete the household electrification early under the **Saubhagaya scheme**. Apart from discoms, employees would also collectively get 50 lakh rupees award for completing the task of electrifying households under the scheme which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2017.

- The states which have already achieved almost 99 percent of household electrification work would be kept out of the award scheme. These states are Gujarat, Punjab, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and HP.

65. Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Approves Renaming of Allahabad to Prayagraj

- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet led by CM Yogi Adityanath has approved the proposal to rename Allahabad, which will be called Prayagraj with immediate effect.

66. Government Laid Foundation Stone for Prime Ministers' Museum In New Delhi

- The new museum will incorporate the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) at the Teen Murti Estate, the official residence of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The constructed cost will be Rs. 271 crore.

67. PM Modi Unveils World's Tallest Statue Measuring 600 feet In Gujarat

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's memorial on the leader's 143rd birth anniversary in Gujarat's Narmada district. Called the Statue of Unity, the bronze sculpture is the world's tallest statue measuring 600 feet (182m) and overshadows China's Spring Temple Buddha (153m) and USA's Statue of Liberty (93m). The memorial was constructed in 33 months at Rs2,989 crore.

68. All You Need To Know About 'Train 18'- India's 1st Engineless Train

- India's first engine-less train, "Train 18", developed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and seen as a successor to the prestigious Shatabdi Express, was unveiled by Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani. The Rs. 100-crore train is the first long-distance train, **without a separate locomotive (engine)**. It was flagged off at the ICF premises by Mr Lohani and would undergo trials.

- According to ICF, the train is capable of running at a speed of up to **160 kmph** and comes with technical features for enhanced quick acceleration.

- The swanky 16-coach train will cut journey time by 15% compared to the 30-year old Shatabdi.

ECONOMY / FINANCE

1. SIDBI Launched National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign 'Udyam Abhilasha'

- On the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), had launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, *Udyam Abhilasha* in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth.

(SIDBI was set up on 2nd April 1990 under an Act of Indian Parliament. SIDBI Headquarters in Lucknow. Mohammad Mustafa is the present CMD of SIDBI).

2. RBI Allows State-Owned Oil Companies To Borrow Long Term Working Capital

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed state-owned oil companies to borrow long-term working capital from overseas. RBI relaxed the policy on borrowing up to 10 billion US dollar from the overseas by the state-owned fuel retailers. Till now oil marketing companies including Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd, were not allowed to raise External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) for working capital needs on a long-term basis. Now, the RBI has allowed them to raise ECB of minimum maturity of 3 or 5 years.

3. Reliance Health Insurance Gets Final Approval From IRDAI

- Reliance Health Insurance, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Capital, has received final approval from IRDAI for its new health insurance business.
- Reliance Capital has designated **Ravi Viswanath** as CEO of the new health insurance company.

4. Apple Displaced Google To Become The Top Brand In The World

- Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018 while Facebook, mired in data breach controversies, fell to ninth place in the top 100 brands globally. According to global brand consultancy Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" report, Amazon achieved a 56% growth to become the third top brand globally.

5. IMF Projects India's Growth At 7.3% In 2018 and 7.4% In 2019

6. Google To Shut Down Google+ For Consumers Over The Security Lapse

- Google will shut down **Google+** for consumer use over the next 10 months after a bug exposed the personal data of up to 5 lakh users. Google stated that it discovered and immediately patched the bug in March 2018 but found "no evidence" that any data was actually misused.
- According to Google, Google+ currently has "low usage and engagement" and that 90% of Google+ user sessions last less than 5 seconds. Still, the company plans to keep the service alive for enterprise customers who use it to facilitate conversation among co-workers.

(**Google CEO-Sundar Pichai, Parent company- Alphabet Inc.**).

7. Centre Decides To Start Issuing Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19 From October

- The Centre in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19. The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued every month from October to February 2019. The Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.

8. GPF Interest Rate Hiked To 8% For October-December Quarter

- The government has increased the rate of interest for General Provident Fund (GPF) and other related schemes by 0.4% points to 8% for the October-December quarter. The rate is in line with that for Public Provident Fund (PPF). The interest rate on GPF was 7.6% for the July-September quarter of 2018-19.

9. RIL Announces 'Strategic' Partnership With Hathway And Den

- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries made it official that it is entering a strategic investment partnership with Den Networks Limited and Hathway Cable and Datacom Limited, which will be a 'win-win' outcome for customers, local cable operators, content producers, and the companies.

10. TCS Displaces Accenture As Largest IT Firm Servicing Banks

- (**N. Chandrasekaran is the present Chairman of TCS**).

11. RBI Announces Steps To Increase Credit Flow To NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India announced more measures to increase liquidity flows to the non-banking financial companies. The RBI permitted banks to use government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs, over and above their outstanding credit to them as on October 19, to be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements.
- The move will help provide liquidity to housing finance companies (HFCs) and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) which have come under pressure following series of default by IL&FS group companies.

12. IFC Launches \$1 Billion Masala Bond Programme In The US and Europe

- IFC, International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's lending arm, has launched its \$1 billion masala bond programme in the US and Europe. These bonds are aimed at funding the rapidly expanding investment activities of IFC in India.
- Masala bonds are rupee-denominated borrowings issued overseas. IFC uses them to raise rupee funds overseas and brings the proceeds to India for investments.

13. TCS Only Indian Firm Among Top 10 To Get Foreign Labour Certification

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018, according to data from the US Department of Labour. The H-1B visas are the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals.

14. Paytm Launches 'PayPay' Mobile Wallet in Japan

15. RBI Lifts The Ban On Fino Payments Bank To Open New Accounts

- Fino Payments Bank, one of India's first payments banks, has been allowed to open new accounts by RBI after it submitted a compliance report. It had been barred by the central bank from adding new customers since the end of May. An RBI audit revealed that some Fino accounts had deposits in excess of the stipulated amount of INR 1 lakh. Airtel Payments Bank were also barred from onboarding new customers earlier. In July, the RBI had lifted the ban on Airtel Payments Bank.

(Currently, there are five payment banks operating in the country - Paytm, Airtel, Fino, and Aditya Birla-Idea Payments Bank and India Post Payments Bank).

16. PNB Metlife Launches AI-Powered Customer Service App 'Khushi'

- Life insurer PNB Metlife has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app 'Khushi'.
- The app is designed to be a one-stop shop providing insurance-related information, anytime, anywhere, such as policy features, premium due details besides providing fund value and portfolio details.

17. IBM Acquired Red Hat For \$34 Billion In Its Biggest Purchase

- America's IBM has acquired software company Red Hat in a \$34 billion cash and debt deal, marking its biggest ever acquisition till date. Founded 25 years ago, Red Hat was valued at about \$20.5 billion at the end of trading.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1. Rangachari Sridharan Appointed Chairperson of NFRA

- The Centre has appointed former IAS officer Rangachari Sridharan as chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), an entity which will function as an independent regulator for the auditing profession.

2. India-born Professor Gita Gopinath Named IMF Chief Economist

- India-born Harvard University professor Gita Gopinath has been appointed as the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by IMF's Managing Director Christine Lagarde. The 46-year-old is also Economic Adviser to Kerala CM.

(Managing Director of IMF- Christine Lagarde, Headquarters in- Washington DC, USA).

3. Justice Ranjan Gogoi Sworn-in As 46th Chief Justice of India

- President Ram Nath Kovind administered him the oath of office at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- . He will have a tenure of a little over 13 months and will retire on November 17, 2019.

4. Barham Salih Elected As The New President of Iraq

- . He has named Adel Abdul Mahdi as Prime Minister of the country.

5. WFE Appoints Vikram Limaye As Chairman of Working Committee

- The National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye has been appointed the chairman of the working committee and director on the board by the international industry body—**World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).**

6. Sanjay Verma Appointed India's Ambassador to Spain

7. Pankaj Sharma Appointed India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) in Geneva, Switzerland.

8. Rakesh Sharma Takes Charge As MD & CEO Of IDBI Bank
(IDBI Bank was established in 1964. IDBI Bank Headquarters in Mumbai).

9. Mahesh Reddy Takes Over As Secretary-General of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).

10. Pravin Srivastava Appointed India's 3rd Chief Statistician

- The government has appointed 58-year-old Pravin Srivastava, a senior officer with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), as the Chief Statistician of India (CSI).

11. Tushar Mehta Appointed Solicitor General of India

- Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has been appointed as the new Solicitor General of India.
- The post had been lying vacant since October 2017 when the then Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar had resigned. Solicitor General is the second highest ranking law officer of the government after the Attorney General.
(KK Venugopal is the present Attorney General of India).

12. Nimesh Shah Elected As AMFI Chairman

- Nimesh Shah, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, has been elected as Chairman of trade body, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
- Shah has replaced A Balasubramanian, CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund.

13. Priyank Kanoongo Appointed Chairperson of NCPCR (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights)
(NCPCR has been constituted by the Government of India, under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act,2005).

14. Union Minister MJ Akbar Resigns

- Former editor MJ Akbar has resigned from his post of Minister of State for External Affairs amid sexual harassment allegations against him by over sixteen female journalists.

15. Sajjan Jindal Elected As Treasurer Of World Steel Association

16. Centre Sends CBI Director Alok Verma On Leave, Appoints M Nageshwar Rao As Interim Director

- The Union Government has sent CBI Director Alok Verma on leave. Verma was appointed as CBI Director in 2016 for two years and his tenure ends in December 2018. The decision was taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

- The committee also issued an order appointing M Nageshwar Rao as Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Rao is presently working as Joint Director at the CBI. Rao will take over the duties and functions of CBI Director with immediate effect.

17. Paytm Payments Bank Appoints Satish K Gupta As MD & CEO

- Paytm Payments Bank has appointed veteran banker Satish Kumar Gupta as its new MD and CEO. The post was lying vacant after Renu Satti stepped down in July 2018. Satti now heads the company's new retail business.

18. Chanda Kochhar Quits As CEO of ICICI Bank

- The private lender has appointed **Sandeep Bakhshi** as managing director and chief executive officer for five years, subject to regulatory approval. In June, a panel was set up under retired Supreme Court judge Justice Srikrishna to probe allegations against Chanda Kochhar.

19. Nikki Haley Resigns as US Ambassador to United Nations

- Indian-American Nikki Haley has resigned as the US Ambassador to the United Nations. Haley was appointed to the UN post in November 2016. Before she was named by Trump to her UN post, Haley was governor of South Carolina, the first woman to hold the post. She was re-elected in 2014.

20. Michael D Higgins Re-elected As The President of Ireland

- Mr. Higgins, who has served as the country's head of state since 2011, will now keep the top job for another seven years.

21. Jair Bolsonaro Wins Presidential Election In Brazil

22. Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel announced To Step Down As German Chancellor in 2021 She belongs to Christian Democratic Union(CDU).

23. Mahinda Rajapaksa Sworn In As Sri Lanka's New PM

-Former President Mahinda Rajapakse was sworn in as the new Prime minister of Sri Lanka. He has replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe. Mr. Rajapaksa was administered oath by the President Maithripala Sirisena at his office in Colombo.

24. Ethiopia Appoints Sahle-Work Zewde As 1st Female President.

25. Anupam Kher Resigns As FTII Chairman

- Actor Anupam Kher has resigned as the chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India citing commitments to an international TV show for which he has to be stationed in the U.S.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

1. NOBEL PRIZE 2018

S. No.	Field	Winner	Description
1.	Physiology or Medicine	James P Allison (USA) and Tasaku Honjo (Japan)	"for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation"
2.	Physics	Arthur Ashkin (USA), Gerard Mourou (France) and Donna Strickland (Canada)	"for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics"
3.	Chemistry	(a) one half to Frances H. Arnold (USA) (b) other half jointly to George P. Smith (USA) and Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK)	(a) "for the directed evolution of enzymes" (b) "for the phage display of peptides and antibodies"
4.	Peace	Denis Mukwege (Congo) and Nadia Murad (Iraq)	"for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict"
5.	Economic Sciences	(a) William D. Nordhaus (USA) (b) Paul M. Romer (USA)	(a) "for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis" (b) "for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis."

-This is for the first time that no Literature Prize was given in 70 years because of a #MeToo scandal.

IMP. FACTS : the nobel prizes are given under the will of Alfred Bernard Nobel, who died in 1896. He was a noted Swedish chemist and engineer, who discovered nitroglycerine and its use in the manufacture of dynamite.

-nobel prize is given in 6 fields. Except economics , all remaining 5 prizes were started in 1901. The nobel prize in economics was started in 1967.

- The Nobel Prize in Physics and chemistry is awarded by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.**
- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is awarded by the **Nobel Assembly at Karolinska chirurgical Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.**
- The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the **Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.**
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by a committee of five persons who are chosen by the **Norwegian Storting (Parliament of Norway).**
- The Prize in Economic Sciences (**The Sveriges Riksbank Prize**) is awarded by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.**
- it can be awarded to maximum 3 persons in the same field.
- the awards are presented in Stockholm on 10th December , the anniversary of Nobel's death.

- Malala Yousafza (age 17) is the Youngest Nobel Laureate ever.
- 41 years was the age of the youngest Literature Laureate ever, **Rudyard Kipling**, best known for The Jungle Book.
- **Frederick Sanger**, has been awarded the nobel prize in Chemistry twice, in 1958 and in 1980.
- John Bareteen** got Nobelprize in Physics twice- 1956 (transistor) , 1972 (superconductivity).
- Linus Pauling** got Nobel prize twice – chemistry (1954), peace (1962).
- Polish scientist **Marie Curie**, awarded nobel prize twice , first **in** Physics(1903) and, later, **in** Chemistry(1911).
- International committee on Red cross were awarded Nobel peace prize thrice- 1917, 1944, 1963.
- United Nations High commissioner for refugees got Nobel peace prize twice- 1954 , 1981.

2017 (LAST YEAR) NOBLE PRIZE WINNERS :

1. Jeffrey C. Hall (USA), Michael Rosbash (USA) and Michael W. Young (USA): **Physiology or Medicine.**
2. Rainer Weiss (Germany), Barry C. Barish (USA) and Kip S. Thorne (USA): **Physics.**
3. Jacques Dubochet (Switzerland), Joachim Frank (Germany) and Richard Henderson (Scotland): **Chemistry.**
4. Kazuo Ishiguro (Japan): **Literature.**
5. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (**ICAN**) (founded in Australia): **Peace.**
6. Richard H. Thaler (USA): **Economic Sciences.**

2. PM Modi And French President Received UNEP Champions Of The Earth Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with United Nations' highest environmental award- **UNEP Champions of the Earth**, along with French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi. The award was presented by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The award was announced on the sidelines of 73rd UN General Assembly in New York.

(The UNEP Champions of the Earth award is awarded to outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment).

3. Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018 Announced

- Prime - Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.

4. Veena Sendre Crowned India's 1st Miss Trans Queen

- Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'.

5. Indus Towers Wins Deming Prize For 2018

- Indus Towers, world's largest telecom tower company (outside China), won the Deming Prize for 2018, being the first Indian company in the service sector and the fifth in the world to achieve this. Indus Towers is only the 29th Indian company to win this coveted award.

The Deming Prize for 2018 was announced by JUSE - Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers.

6. Sikkim Wins FAO's Future Policy Award 2018

- The North-eastern state Sikkim won the **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018** for being the **world's first 100% organic state**. The Gold Prize of the Future Policy Award 2018 are also known as **"Oscar for Best Policies"**.

(UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarters in Italy, Rome).

7. Prema Gopalan Honoured As India Social Entrepreneur Of The Year 2018

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

8. Anna Burns Wins 2018 Man Booker Prize For Her Novel 'Milkman'

- Northern Irish author Anna Burns has won the *2018 Man Booker Prize* for her novel '**Milkman**', which is her third full-length novel.

- The book is about an 18-year-old girl, known as "middle sister", who is sexually harassed by an older paramilitary figure, called the "milkman". Anna Burns has become the **first Northern Irish author to win the Man Booker prize**.

(The Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as the Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK).

9. H M Pernal Gets Vishwa Konkani Book Award

- 'Beeg Ani Beegath', a collection of short stories in Konkani by the well-known writer, journalist, and critic H M Pernal bagged the prestigious 'Vimala V Pai Vishwa' Konkani best book award for the year 2018. H M Pernal is the pen name of Henry M Mendonca.

10. Suheil Tandon Wins International Olympic Committee Award

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

- Worth USD 25,000 each, these grants are awarded to grassroots organisations running effective sport for all programmes in different regions across the world.

11. Khayyam Named for Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement

- National Award winning music director Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, famous as 'Khayyam', has been named for this year's Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement.

12. Wildlife Photographer Of The Year 2018 Bagged By Marsel van Oosten

- The powerful image of a pair of golden snub-nosed monkeys seated in contemplation amid iridescent foliage has been awarded one of the most prestigious prizes in photography, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2018.

- The image, called "The Golden Couple," was captured by Dutch photographer Marsel van Oosten in the Qinling Mountains of southwestern China – the endangered monkeys' only habitat.

13. Arshdeep Singh Wins Top Wildlife Photo Award in Junior Category

- Arshdeep Singh, a 10-year-old boy from Punjab, has won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in 10 Years and Under category given by UK's Natural History Museum.

- He won the award for the picture titled 'Pipe Owls', which showed two spotted owlets sitting inside an old waste-pipe in Punjab's Kapurthala. Arshdeep has been taking photographs since he was six.

14. Piyush Goyal To Receive Carnot Prize For Rural Electrification Effort

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal will receive the prestigious *Carnot Prize* from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania in recognition of his work for rural electrification while he held the power and renewable energy portfolios.

- **The Carnot Prize is given "for distinguished contributions to energy policy".**

15. Indian-Origin Woman Wins Top US Honour For Combatting Sex Slavery

-Minal Patel Davis won the US' Presidential Medal for her work against sex slavery and labor exploitation at a White House ceremony attended by President Donald Trump. Davis is Special Adviser on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor.

16. PM Announces Award in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Name

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an annual award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose **for police and paramilitary forces** for commendable **contributions in disaster relief operations**.

17. Invest India wins UN Investment Promotion Award

- The 'Invest India' initiative of the Union Government won the top United Nations Investment Promotion Award in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in the renewable energy sector in India.

18. Narendra Modi Conferred With Seoul Peace Prize

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth. The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul.

19. Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 Announced

- The Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 is being conferred on the doyen of Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (For 2014); Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh, for 2015) and on one of India's greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar (for 2016).

- The chairman of the Jury was Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the jury comprised of the Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

(Chhayanaut was established in 1961.

The annual award was instituted by the Government of India during the commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

The first Tagore Award was conferred on Pt. Ravi Shankar, the Indian Sitar Maestro in 2012).

20. ESIC Wins 'ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & The Pacific 2018'

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the '*ISSA Good Practice Award*' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The ISSA (International Social Security Association) is the principal international organization for Social Security Organizations, Govts. and Departments of Social Security. The ISSA was founded in 1927 under the auspices of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva.

21. Richie Benaud Named Sport Australia Hall of Fame Legend

- Sport Australia Hall of Fame has announced cricketering great Richie Benaud (who died in April, 2015), will become the 40th Legend of Australian Sport.

- He is only the third cricketer behind Sir Donald Bradman and Keith Miller to be given Legend status. Benaud is generally rated second to Bradman in terms of influential figures in the Australian game.

(ICC Headquarters in Dubai, the UAE. ICC CEO: Dave Richardson).

22. India Wins CAPAM Award 2018

- India has won the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Award, 2018.

23. Prof Ashis Mukherjee, a senior faculty member of the prestigious Tezpur University was awarded the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018).

24. Pak Lawyer Asma Jahangir Wins UN Human Rights Prize Posthumously

- Pakistan's human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir has been posthumously awarded the UN Prize along with three other winners. Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer **Joenia Wapichana** and Ireland's human rights organisation **Front Line Defenders** are the other winners of the prize.

- The award ceremony will take place on December 10 on World Human Rights Day in New York, USA.

Before Jahangir three Pakistani women, Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, Benazir Bhutto and Malala Yousufzai have been accorded the honour.

The United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights is an honorary award given for outstanding achievement in human rights.

25. Roopam Sharma Wins World Health Summit Startup Award in Berlin

- Roopam Sharma, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the World Health Summit Startup award, 2018 for his invention, Manovue – the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.

- Sharma was awarded at an annual event of the health summit in Berlin recently. **He is the youngest person to be recognized as one of the top innovators under 35 by the MIT Tech Review in 2016.**

26. Prof. M S Swaminathan Received 1st World Agriculture Prize

- Prof. MS Swaminathan, chief architect of India's Green Revolution was awarded the World Agriculture Prize for 2018.

27. Simona Halep Becomes 1st Recipient Of Chris Evert WTA World No.1 Trophy

- World number one Simona Halep has become the first recipient of the Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy, named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.

28. Malala Yousafzai To Be Honoured Gleitsman Award by Harvard University

- Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai will be honored by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education. Harvard's Kennedy School stated that Yousafzai will be conferred with the 2018 Gleitsman Award at a ceremony on 6th December.

- Yousafzai is a student at Oxford University in England. The Gleitsman Award provides 125,000 US dollars for activism that has improved quality of life around the world.

SPORTS / GAMES

1. Yuvraj Wadhvani lifts 25th Asian Junior Squash championship title.

- He defeated Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan in the final in Chennai. Yuvraj has become the second Indian to win the Under-13 title after Veer Chotrani, who had won the title in 2014 in Iran.

2. Australia's midfielder Mile Jedinak and Russia's goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev Retires From International Football

3. 18-Year-Old Prithvi Shaw Youngest Indian (aged 18 years and 329 days) To Score Century On Test Debut

- He scored it against West Indies in Rajkot, Gujarat. Shaw broke the 59-year-old record set by Abbas Ali Baig (20 years and 126 days).

- Shaw is only the second Indian after Sachin Tendulkar to score a Test ton before turning 19. Prithvi Shaw captained India Under-19 World Cup victory in February 2018.

4. 36th National Games To Be Held Next Year In Goa

- The 36th National Games in Goa will be held from March 30 to April 14 next year.

- Shooting and cycling events will be held in New Delhi as Goa does not have facilities for these two sports. Rugby, Wushu, Modern Pentathlon, Lawn Bowl, and Billiards and Snooker will be added to the Games programme. (The 35th National Games of India, 2015, was held in Kerala).

5. Former England Batsman Nick Compton Retires From Cricket

6. India's Keerthana Pandian Wins Girls' Title in IBSF World U-16 Snooker Championships

7. India Beat Sri Lanka To Win U-19 Asia Cup Title (7th edition)

- Indian under-19 cricket team has defeated Sri Lanka by 144 runs in final of the 2018 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The victory gave India their sixth title in the continental tournament.

- Indian batsman **Yashasvi Jaiswal** was named the Player of the Series. **The cricket tournament was held in Bangladesh.**

8. IOC declared Senegal As 1st African Host For Youth Olympics

- The International Olympics Committee (IOC) formally awarded the 2022 Youth Games to Senegal.

9. Pakistan Left-Arm Spinner Abdur Rehman Retires From International Cricket

10. Great Britain Beats India To Win Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey played in Johor Bahru, Malaysia

11. Leander Paes Lifts Santo Domingo Open Trophy

- Indian tennis legend Leander Paes has won his second Challenger-level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela (Mexican player).

12. Canelo Alvarez Signs Richest Contract in Sports History, Worth \$365 million

- Professional Boxer Canelo Alvarez has signed the largest contract in the history of sports, agreeing a five-year, 11-fight deal worth at least \$365 million with streaming service DAZN.

13. World Wrestling Championships-2018 held at Budapest, Hungary.

- Wrestler **Bajrang Punia** won the **silver medal** after he went down against **Japan's Takuto Otoguro** in the **65kg final**..

- In the process, Otoguro became Japan's youngest World Champion at the age of 19. **Bajrang had won a bronze in 2013 edition.**

(Sushil Kumar, country's greatest ever wrestler, is the only Indian to win a gold medal at the Worlds, achieving the feat in 2010 in Moscow in the 66kg category).

14. Mumbai Beat Delhi to Lift Vijay Hazare Trophy Title For 3rd Time

- Mumbai has defeated Delhi by four wickets to win their third Vijay Hazare Trophy title at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

- Mumbai last won the trophy way back in 2006-07 when they defeated Rajasthan. **Aditya Tare** struck a fluent half-century. He was rewarded with Player of the match award.

15. Praveen Kumar Retires From All Forms Of Cricket

- He made his ODI debut for India in 2007 against Pakistan, while his Test debut came four years later against West Indies in Jamaica.

16. Kohli Becomes Fastest to Reach 10,000 Runs in History of ODI Cricket

-India captain Virat Kohli has become the fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in the history of ODI cricket, achieving the feat in his **205th** innings, against West Indies. - The 29-year-old Kohli overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached 10,000 ODI runs in his 259th innings, against Australia in 2001.

17. Dwayne Bravo (West Indies all rounder) Retires From International Cricket

18. Pooja Dhanda Wins Bronze Medal in World Wrestling Championships in the women's freestyle 57kg weight class in Budapest, Hungary. Dhanda defeated Grace Bullen of Norway 10-7.

- Before Pooja, only three Indian women grapplers (Alka Tomar, Geeta Phogat and Babita Phogat) had won a bronze medal each at the Worlds Championships.

19. Sourav Kothari Clinches World Billiards Championship

- India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.

20. Ayhika Mukherjee Wins Silver Medal at Under-21 Belgium Open

- Indian table tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee has won a silver medal in the under-21 women's singles category of the ITTF Challenge Belgium Open.

21. Indian Golfer Khalin Joshi Clinches Panasonic Open India Title at the Delhi Golf Club.

22. In Men's Hockey, India & Pakistan Declared Joint Winners of Asian Champions Trophy in Oman

- In Men's Hockey, India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy at Muscat in Oman. The tournament director declared both teams as winners after the summit clash was called off due to heavy rain.

2018- SUMMER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES (YOG)

It is international multi-sport event organized by International Olympic Committee (IOC). The age limitation of the athletes participating in it is 14 to 18. The games are held every four years in staggered summer and winter events consistent with current senior level Olympic Games format. The first summer version was held in Singapore from 14 to 26 August 2010 while first winter version was held in Innsbruck, Austria from 13 to 22 January 2012. India had won just two medals, silver and bronze in the last Youth Olympics in 2014 held in Nanjing, China.

India participated at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in **Buenos Aires, Argentina** from 6 October to 18 October 2018.

-Official Mascot of 3rd Youth Olympic Games- Pandi.

-participating nations- 206

-The 2018 Summer Youth Olympics featured **239 events** in **32 sports**.

-Russia ranked first with 29 gold medals, china 2nd with 18 gold and Japan 3rd with 15 medals.

-46 athletes of India participated in 13 sports. Total contingents (including staff and athletes) from India includes 68 members. This was India's largest ever contingent at the youth Olympics.

India managed their best ever medal haul (13) of the Youth Olympics in this edition, **India ranked 17th on the medals tally.**

-**Manu Bhaker** was the flag bearer for India in opening ceremony.

-**Jeremy Lalrinnunga** was the flag bearer for India in closing ceremony.

-**Jeremy Lalrinnunga** won India's first ever Youth Olympics gold medal-62 kg weightlifting category.

-**Tababi Devi** won the first ever Youth Olympics medal for India in Judo and later also won a silver in the mixed team event .

-**Manu Bhaker** became the first Indian girl to win a Youth Olympics gold medal- girls 10 meter air pistol.

Both Boys' and Girls' Hockey 5s teams won silver medals in their debut.

India secured total 13 medals- 3 Gold, 9 Silver and 1 Bronze.

Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Gold	Jeremy Lalrinnunga	Weightlifting	Boys' 62 kg
Gold	Manu Bhaker	Shooting	Girls' 10 metre air pistol
Gold	Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting	Boys' 10m air pistol
Gold	Lakshya Sen	Badminton	Mixed team
Silver	Akash Malik	Archery	Boys' recurve
Silver	Tushar Mane	Shooting	Boys' 10m air rifle
Silver	Tababi Devi	Judo	Girls' 44 kg
Silver	Mehuli Ghosh	Shooting	Girls' 10m air rifle
Silver	Tababi Devi	Judo	Mixed team
Silver	Manu Bhaker	Shooting	Mixed 10m air pistol
Silver	Lakshya Sen	Badminton	Boys' singles
Silver	Simran	Wrestling	Girls' 10m 43kg freestyle
Silver	India	Hockey	Men's Team Event
Silver	India	Hockey	Women's Team Event
Silver	Suraj Panwar	Athletics	5000m walk
Bronze	Praveen	Athletics	Triple jump

If you notice carefully, in the table above, India had won total 16 medal (4 gold,11 silver and 1 bronze but the medals won in 3 mixed events (1 gold and 2 silver) are not counted because mixed team includes the players from 2 nations and not only from India.

- The International Olympics Committee (IOC) has picked its first African host of any Olympics, formally awarding the 2022 Youth Games to Senegal.

ASIAN PARA GAMES 2018

The third Asian Para Games took place in Jakarta, Indonesia from 06-13 October 2018. Around 3000 athletes from 43 countries took part in 15 Paralympic and three non-Paralympic sports. The Games took place in the same venues as the 2018 Indonesia Asian Games — the multi-purpose Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in central Jakarta. Total 18 sports were played during the Games. The official mascot of the 2018 Asian Para Games is a Bondol eagle named MOMO, which was chosen to represent motivation and mobility.

-Mariyappan Thangavelu was Indian flag bearer in opening ceremony

-India recorded its best-ever medal haul at the Asian Para Games by ending the 2018 edition with 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, and 33 bronze medals).

-China were at the top of the pecking order with 172 gold.

The Top 3 Countries and the Position of India in the games were as follows:

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	China	172	88	59	319
2.	South Korea	53	45	46	144
3.	Iran	51	42	43	136
9.	India	15	24	33	72

Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Gold	Sandeep Chaudhary	Para Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F42-44/61-64 Final
Gold	Suyash Jadhav	Para Swimming	Men's 50M Butterfly S7 (6-7)
Gold	Raju Rakshita	Para Athletics	Women's 1500M T11
Gold	Ekta Bhyan	Para Athletics	Women's Club Throw F32/51
Gold	Manish Narwal	Para Shooting	P1 - Men's 10M Air Pistol - SH1
Gold	Narayan Thakur	Para Athletics	Men's 100M T35
Gold	Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's Individual Recurve Open - W2/ST
Gold	Sharad Kumar	Para Athletics	Men's High Jump T42/63
Gold	Parul Parmar	Badminton	Women's Singles SL3
Gold	Kishan Gangoli	Chess	Men's Individual Rapid VI - B2/B3
Gold	Jennitha Anto Kanickai	Chess	Women's Individual Rapid P1
Gold	Neeraj Yadav	Para Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F55
Gold	Amit Saroha	Para Athletics	Men's Club Throw F51
Gold	Tarun	Badminton	Men's Singles SL4
Gold	Pramod Bhagat	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3

Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) confirmed that Hangzhou in China will host the fourth edition of Asian Para Games in 2022.

DEATHS / OBITUARIES

1. Veteran Harmonium Player Pandit Tulsidas Borkar Passed Away

- He was conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2016. He was also a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

2. Legendary Chicago blues guitarist- Otis Rush dies at 84

3. 'Nagaland's Gandhi' Natwar Thakkar dies in Assam

- Eminent Gandhian Natwar Thakkar, popularly known as Nagaland's Gandhi, died in a private hospital after a brief illness. He was 86.

Mr. Thakkar, a Padma Shri awardee, had founded the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram at Chuchuyimlang

4. Noted Malayalam Poet MN Paloor Passes Away

5. Legendary Musician Annapurna Devi Passes Away

- Annapurna Devi was an Indian **surbahar player** (bass sitar) of Hindustani classical music and she was the daughter and disciple of Allauddin Khan. She was married to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar.

6. Environmentalist G D Agarwal Passes Away

- Environmentalist G.D. Agarwal, who was on a fast for the last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga, died after a heart attack in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.

- The 86-year old former IIT-Kanpur professor, Agarwal had been on hunger strike for a pollution-free and uninterrupted flow in the Ganga.

7. Microsoft Co-Founder Paul Allen Passes Away

- Paul Allen, who co-founded Microsoft in 1975 passed away aged 65 after battling cancer. Allen was the childhood friend of Microsoft Co-Founder Bill Gates. As on date of his death, he ranked 44th on Forbes' 2018 list of billionaires with an estimated net worth of more than \$20 billion.

8. Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister N.D. Tiwari Passes Away

- Apart from serving as the Ministry of External Affairs in the Rajiv Gandhi Cabinet between 1986-87, Mr Tiwari was thrice elected Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in varied stints between 1976-77, 1984-85, 1988-89 and was for one term the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, between 2002-2007.

9. Japanese Nobel Chemistry Laureate Shimomura Passes Away

- Shimomura and two American scientists shared the 2008 Nobel prize for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that contributed to cancer studies.

10. Former Delhi CM Madan Lal Khurana Passes Away .

- Mr Khurana was the CM of Delhi from 1993 to 1996 and was appointed the governor of Rajasthan in 2004.

11. Urdu Writer Qazi Abdussattar Passes Away

- 1974 Padma Shri Professor Qazi Abdussattar, a noted Urdu writer and former head of Aligarh Muslim University's Urdu department, passed away in Delhi following a protracted illness. He was 85. He was also the first recipient of Ghalib Academy Award in 1978.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Habitat Day 2018: 1 October - Theme : Municipal Solid Waste Management.

2. International Day of Older Persons: 1 October - Theme "Celebrating Older Human Rights champions".

3. World Animal Day: 4 October

4. World Teachers' Day: 5 October

- WTD 2018 mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) that recognizes education as a key fundamental right and establishes an entitlement to free compulsory education, ensuring inclusive and equitable access for all children. The theme for this year's WTD is *"The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher"*.

5. Air Force Day: 8 October

- The Indian Air Force is celebrating its 86th Anniversary on 08 Oct 2018.
(Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire).

6. World Post Day: 9th October

7. World Mental Health Day: 10 October - Theme is 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World'.

8. International Day Of The Girl Child: 11 October - theme - *'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'*.

9. International Day For Disaster Reduction: 13 October -Theme- *'Reducing Disaster Economic Losses'*.
(United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland).

10. International Day of Rural Women: 15 October

Theme- "Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".

11. Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas: 15 October

(National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas/Chaudhary Charan Singh Jayanti)- 23rd December).

12. World Food Day: 16 October - The theme for WFD 2018 is *"Our Actions Are Our Future"*.

13. International Day For The Eradication of Poverty: 17 October

theme - *"Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity"*.

14. United Nations Day: 24 October

-. The Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.
- The theme of this year's concert, which is sponsored by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, is *"Traditions of Peace and Non-violence"*.

15. World Development Information Day: 24 October

16. World Day For Audiovisual Heritage: 27 October - Theme *"Your Story is Moving"*.

17. National Unity Day: 31st October

- National Unity day (also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated every year on 31st of October by the people all through India. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who really unified the country. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was introduced by the Government of India in 2014 with the aim of celebrating this event every year on 31st October.

18. Vigilance Awareness Week Observed To Achieve Corruption Free Society

- The Vigilance Awareness Week will be observed across the country from 29th October to 3 November to promote probity in public life and achieve a corruption-free society. The theme of the week this year is, *'Eradicate Corruption – Build A New India'*.

The week, in which 31st October, the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls, is observed as Vigilance Awareness Week every year.

19. Vigilance Awareness Week Observed To Achieve Corruption Free Society

- The Vigilance Awareness Week will be observed across the country from 29th October to 3 November to promote probity in public life and achieve a corruption-free society. The theme of the week this year is, 'Eradicate Corruption – Build A New India'.

The week, in which 31st October, the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls, is observed as Vigilance Awareness Week every year.

20.. World Day For Audiovisual Heritage: 27 October - Theme "Your Story is Moving".

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. 'Building a Legacy': Vice Prez Releases Biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna, a pioneer in the application of innovative systems and construction techniques in the Indian construction sector.
- it is authored by Chartered Accountant V Pattabhi Ram.

2. 'Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior': A Book Authored By Rima Hooja Released
- The book narrates the life of Maharana Pratap, the great Rajput warrior and also talks about the famous battle of Haldighati.

3. Stephen Hawking's Final Book "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" Launched
- Stephen Hawking's final work "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" was launched.
- It tackles various issues including the existence of God, potential time travel and human intelligence during the next 100 years.

RANKS AND REPORTS

1. World Bank's Human Capital Index: Singapore Tops, India Ranks 115th
-The World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) as part of the **World Development Report 2019**. Broader theme of the World Development Report (WDR) this year is "The Changing Nature of Work". The HCI has been constructed for 157 countries.
- Singapore topped the poll after it was highly rated for its universal health care system, education exams results and life expectancy figures. It is followed by South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland. **India was ranked at the 115th position lower than Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh**

2. Global Hunger Index 2018: Belarus Tops, India Ranks 103rd
- As per the index, India was ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries.
- The Global Hunger Index 2018 report was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely, Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany).

3. Japanese Passport Named World's Most Powerful, India 81st
- Japan's passport has been named the most powerful in the world, overtaking Singapore, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018.
- The Indian passport has secured the **81st rank with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 60 destinations**.
- Top 3 on Henley Passport Index Power Ranking 2018:
1. Japan 2. Singapore 3. Germany, France, South Korea.

4. Mukesh Ambani Richest Indian For 11th Consecutive Year: Forbes India Rich List 2018'
- Wipro Chairman Azim Premji has retained the second spot; while Arcelor Mittal Chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal moved a place ahead to the third slot with a net worth of USD 18.3 billion.
(Forbes- American Business Magazine, Founded in- 1917. Headquarters- New York City, USA).

5. Oxfam World Inequality Index 2018: India Ranks 147th, Denmark Tops

6. Global Competitiveness Report 2018: India Ranks 58th, US Tops

- The **World Economic Forum** released the **Global Competitiveness Report 2018**. According to the report, India has jumped five spots to become the 58th most competitive economy on the Global Competitiveness Index 2018 (GCI 4.0).
- The United States ranked number one again with a score of 85.6. India ranked highest among South Asian countries with a score of 62.0.
- As for the BRICS nations, China topped the list at 28th position with a score of 72.6 followed by Russian Federation, India, South Africa and Brazil respectively.
- The Top 3 countries on the Index are: 1. US, 2. Singapore, 3. Germany,

7. L&T Ranks 22 In Forbes' Best Global Employer List, Alphabet Tops

- Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro is the only domestic firm to be featured among the top 25 companies in the *Forbes' global 2000 best employers list* that is led by Google parent Alphabet.
- The Top 3 companies in the List are:

1. Alphabet 2. Microsoft 3. Apple.

(Larsen & Toubro was founded by Henning Holck-Larsen and Soren Kristian Toubro in 1938 and is headquartered in Mumbai, India).

8. India Moves Up To 28th Rank In Government e-Payment Adoption, Norway Tops

- According to an international survey, India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28th in 2018, from 36th in 2011.
- Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking, followed by France and Denmark.

9. ADB Report : India Has Most Outward Migrants In 2017 followed by China and Bangladesh

- India had the most outward migrants in 2017 (17 million), followed by China (10 million) and Bangladesh (7.5 million).

10. India Becomes Second Largest Solar Market

- India installed 4.9 GW of solar power, consolidating its position as the second largest solar market in the world, after China. **Adani remained the largest project developer** in terms of total cumulative installations and top installer in terms of capacity installed through the end of the first half.

11. IFFCO Biggest Cooperative In the World: Report

- Fertiliser major IFFCO announced that it has been ranked as the biggest cooperative in the world by 'World Cooperative Monitor' report 2018.
- The report was based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. IFFCO has nearly 36,000 member co-operatives and a turnover of nearly USD 3 billion (FY 2017-18). It has retained this position from 2016.

IFFCO Stands for Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative.

IFFCO Headquarters: New Delhi, Chairman: Mr. B. S. Nakai.

SCIENCE AND TECH

1. Europe, Japan Send Spacecraft On 7-year Journey To Mercury

- European and Japanese space agencies stated that an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit for a joint mission to Mercury, the closest planet to the sun.
- The unmanned **BepiColombo** spacecraft successfully separated and was sent into orbit from French Guiana as planned to begin a seven-year journey to Mercury.

2. China successfully Tests 'World's Largest' Cargo Drone

- A Chinese company has tested the 'world's largest' cargo drone **Feihong-98 (FH-98)** which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes (1,500kg). The FH-98 has a maximum takeoff weight of 5.25 tonnes (5,250 kg) and maximum range of 1,200 km. Further, it is capable of reaching a flying altitude of 4.5 km and a cruising speed of 180 kmph.

3. Indian International Science Festival Begins In Lucknow

- President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated the festival. IISF-2018 with its focal theme "*Science for Transformation*".
(IISF 2017 was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu).

4. India's 1st 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program' Launched in Assam

- In a historic day for India, Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals, a state-owned company launched Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program.

5. BPCL To Set Up Country's 1st Biofuel Plant at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020.

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will complete commissioning of its second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020.
-This is the first biofuel plant in the country where ethanol will be produced from rice straw.

6. First India-Israel Innovation Centre Opens in Bengaluru

- The country's first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru. The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India and aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from the two countries.

7. India's 1st Cryptocurrency ATM Installed In Bengaluru by virtual currency exchange Unocoin

- Users can deposit money to buy currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum using an OTP received on their registered numbers. In order to withdraw money, a request has to be first made on the Unocoin website.

8. IRCTC Gets New AI (artificial intelligence)-based Assistant 'Disha' To Help Resolve Problems

- IRCTC has launched a new AI-based assistant, 'Ask Disha' for its website. This new assistant will be prompt in answering generic queries about most frequently asked questions on the ticket booking platform.
- The AI chatbot called Disha is powered by CoRover, a Bengaluru-based startup that owns the platform which is built on artificial intelligence and machine learning.

9. Netherland To Be Partner Country for 25th DST-CII Technology Summit 2019

- The Kingdom of Netherlands will be the Partner Country 25th DST – CII Technology Summit to be organized in 2019.

DEFENCE NEWS

1. Joint Military Exercise 'Druzhba-III' Starts Between Pakistan and Russia in Pakistan.

- This will be the third joint military drill between Russia and Pakistan as they have been holding the "Friendship" drills **since 2016**.

2. Multi-National Maritime Exercise 'IBSAMAR-VI' Starts In South Africa

- The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi-National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa. **The last edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR V) was conducted off Goa, from 19 – 26 Feb 16.**

3. Coast Guards of India and Vietnam Hold Joint Exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018' at Chennai.

4. Clear Sky 2018: Ukraine Launches Air Exercises With NATO Countries

- Ukraine began a series of large-scale air force exercises with the United States and other NATO countries. The "Clear Sky 2018" war games are being held in **western Ukraine**.

5. Maritime Exercise Between Japan and India 'JIMEX 18' Begins In Visakhapatnam (The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in Dec 2013 off Chennai).

1. Indo-Japan Joint Exercise exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018' To Be Held in Mizoram
- The Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 GORKHA RIFLES while the Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force.

6. Cope India 2018: India, Japan, US Plan Joint Air Exercise

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

- The U.S. had proposed a trilateral air exercise between India, Japan and the U.S. The next edition is scheduled to be held in December 2018 for which the Final Planning Conference to finalise the modalities of the exercise is scheduled in Kalaikunda, West Bengal.

7. 1st Indigenously Overhauled (repaired) Su-30MKI Handed Over to IAF

- The 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) of the Indian Air Force in Maharashtra's Nashik district handed over its first indigenously overhauled Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet to the IAF at a ceremony held at the Air Force Station Ojhar.
- **The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twin-jet multi-role air superiority aircraft developed by Russia's Sukhoi and built under licence by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).**

8. Reliance-Built Coast Guard Training Ship ICGS Varuna Launched

- ICGS Varuna, an indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited for the Indian Coast Guard, was launched in Pipavav.

Port Pipavav, India's first port in the private sector, located in rajula Saurashtra, Gujarat,

9. India Signs \$777 Million Deal For Israeli Missile Defence Systems

-State-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has won an additional \$777 million contract to supply **LRSAM air and missile defence systems** to **seven ships** in the Indian navy. The contract is with the Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), which is the main contractor in the project.

- The LRSAM, part of the Barak 8 family, is an air and missile defence system used by Israel's navy as well as India's navy, air and land forces. With this deal, sales of the Barak 8 over the past few years total over \$6 billion.

LRSAM- LONG RANGE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE

10.India And Kazakhstan Agree To Boost Defence and Military-Technical Cooperation

- Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman was on a three-day visit to Astana, Kazakhstan.

- India and Kazakhstan Defence Cooperation include military-technical cooperation, military education and training, joint military exercises, bilateral exchange of visits and cadet youth exchange programs. Both countries are Strategic Partners since 2009.

(India and Kazakhstan successfully conducted a company level joint military exercise 'KAZIND-2018' in South Kazakhstan).

11.Mobile Health App 'MedWatch' Launched by Indian Air Force

-On the occasion of 86th anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named '*MedWatch*'.