

CURRENT AFFAIRS - CAPSULE

DECEMBER

BANKING

- ☞ RBI moves to ease liquidity for non-banking finance firms.
- ☞ **20-character LEI code** mandatory for market participants regulated by the Central Bank: RBI.
- ☞ Interest subsidy for MSME sector exporters increased to 5 per cent: RBI
- ☞ Net stable funding ratio (NSFR) norms for banks to be operational from April, 2020: RBI
- ☞ **Mauritius' SBM Gets RBI Approval to Merge Operations** With Its Indian Subsidiary.
- ☞ European Central Bank (ECB) launched a **new pan-European smartphone payment system** called **TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS)** in Rome. The World Bank unveiled **USD 200 billion in climate action investment for 2021-25**, adding this amounts to a doubling of its current five-year funding.
- ☞ RBI released its **5th Bi-monthly monetary policy** produced by the Monetary Policy Committee chaired by RBI Governor Dr. Urjit Patel. Borrowers with **working capital limit of Rs 150 crore and above** will need to have at least **40% of it in working capital loans**: RBI.
- ☞ **'Ombudsman scheme'** to provide cost-free mechanism to redress grievances of customers related to digital transactions: RBI.
- ☞ **ADB enters an arrangement with World Bank** for co-financed projects.
- ☞ **Exim Bank extends USD 500 million loan to Tanzania** for water supply projects.
- ☞ NABARD signs USD 100 mn agreement with **Green Climate Fund** to boost solar power.
- ☞ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may introduce **new modes of electronic verification of customers for financial institutions** .
- ☞ RBI imposed a **fine of Rs 1 crore** on **Indian Bank** for violating cyber security norms.
- ☞ **Jana Small Finance Bank** Launched **Jana Bankable Debit Card**.
- ☞ RBI grants **40 branch licenses to Bandhan Bank**.
- ☞ **Digital payment company Obopay** has partnered with **Federal Bank** and **Mastercard** to launch a prepaid payment solution for corporate clients to manage their disbursement and payment solutions.
- ☞ **India Post** launched **Internet banking facility** for its savings account customers.
- ☞ **Aadhaar No Longer Mandatory** for Phones, Banking.
- ☞ **Capital First** merges with **IDFC Bank** to create **IDFC First Bank**.
- ☞ **Karnataka Bank** ties up with **Paisabazaar.com** for Home Loans.
- ☞ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it has decided to scale up the amount of liquidity infusion by **Rs. 10,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore** in December 2018.
- ☞ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a cap for funds raised via **external commercial borrowing (ECB)** at 6.5% of the country's GDP.
- ☞ The proposed amalgamation of Bank of Baroda (BoB), Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank has moved a step forward with the **Alternative Mechanism (AM)** headed by Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley.
- ☞ The Reserve Bank of India has shortlisted six major IT companies, **including TCS, Wipro and IBM India, to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR)** to capture details of all borrowers and willful defaulters.

- ☞ **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** in collaboration with **Uttar Pradesh government** launched a special card called **PNB Rupay card**, for KumbhMela 2019.
- ☞ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will **capture payment habits of individuals in six cities, including four metropolitan towns.**
- ☞ The Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India has set up a 6-member committee headed by **Former RBI Chief BimalJalan** to review the economic capital framework of the central bank.
- ☞ India's institutional framework to support microfinance would get a boost with Reserve Bank of India clearing a proposal to dig in an existing **Rs 1000-crore corpus** for funding micro lenders.
- ☞ According to Reserve Bank of India, between 2015 and 2017, **private lender ICICI Bank penalized the highest number of employees** for defrauding bank assets in the last three year out of 60 scheduled commercial banks operating in India.
- ☞ **United Bank of India** to get Rs. 2159 crores fund infusion.
- ☞ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed restrictions placed on the Mumbai-based the City Co-operative Bank by allowing the depositors to withdraw Rs. 5,000.
- ☞ **ESAF Small Finance Bank Ltd** has received the RBI's approval for inclusion in the second schedule of the **RBI Act, 1934**, within two years of its commencement of operations.
- ☞ The **Reserve Bank of India** has extended the relaxation offered to banks for offering liquidity support to NBFCs up to March 31, 2019.
- ☞ **Gross NPAs** jump to 11.2% or Rs 10.39 tln in FY18: RBI Report.
- ☞ **Banks recover Rs 40,400 crore from defaulters:** RBI report.
- ☞ Government to infuse **Rs 10,086 crore** in **Bank of India.**
- ☞ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is looking at a mobile phone-based solution to help the visually impaired easily identify Indian currency notes.
- ☞ **Provision coverage ratio of PSU banks** on the rise, **crosses 66%.**

ECONOMY

- ☞ A double taxation avoidance agreement came into effect between **India** and the **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)** of People's Republic of China.
- ☞ The Defence Acquisition Committee (DAC) approved procurements of about **Rs 3000 crores** including **BrahMos Missiles** for two Indian Navy ships, and **Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs)** for Indian Army's Main Battle Tank **Arjun.**
- ☞ The World Bank unveiled **USD 200 billion** in climate action investment for 2021-25, adding this amounts to a doubling of its current five-year funding. The move coincides with a **UN climate summit in Katowice (Poland).**
- ☞ The **Government of India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$85 million** loan to improve the skill development eco-system in **Odisha** and establish an advanced skill training center, the World Skill Center (WSC), in the state capital **Bhubaneswar.**
- ☞ FMCG major **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** board has approved the merger with **GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (GSKCH India)** through an-all equity deal, valuing the total business of the latter at Rs. 31,700 crore
- ☞ **Paisabazaar.com**, India's largest online marketplace for financial products has launched an industry-first feature that will help loan applicants choose their most-suited lender on its platform.
- ☞ The country's largest public broadcasters **All India Radio (AIR)** and **Doordarshan (DD)** are set to improve their infrastructure, expand their coverage and strengthen their content by investing **Rs 850 crore** for the purpose.
- ☞ **Export-Import Bank of India** (Exim Bank) has extended a credit facility of **USD 500million** to **Tanzania** for water supply projects in the country.
- ☞ Noida-based IT major **HCL Technologies** will acquire seven IBM products by mid-2019 for **\$1.8 billion** (over Rs 12,700 crore) in its biggest ever acquisition so far.
- ☞ **Germany** has announced a massive aid package to support climate-resilient rebuilding of Kerala's flood-shattered public infrastructure, which includes a nominal interest loan of **Rs. 720 crore** (€90 million).
- ☞ **India** will retainS its position as the world's top recipient of remittances this year with its diaspora sending a whopping **USD 80 billion** back home.

- ☞ **Route Mobile Limited (Route Mobile)**, a cloud-communication platform service provider and a member of **Oracle Partner Network (OPN)** announced the collaboration with Oracle Marketing Cloud, part of Oracle Customer Experience (CX) Cloud Suite, which empowers organizations to take a smarter approach to customer experience management and business transformation initiatives.
- ☞ The **World Bank** released a report named **Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE) 2018**. The report was released on the sidelines of the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24).
- ☞ The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of India signed a **\$60 Million** Loan Agreement in **New Delhi** to continue financing riverbank protection works, renovation of flood embankments, and community-based flood risk management activities in critically flood-prone areas along the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
- ☞ **The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** has not revised its forecast for global economic growth, and it remains at **3.7** per cent for 2018 (unchanged) and **3.5%** for 2019.
- ☞ **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows to South and South-West Asia decreased by 6 per cent in 2017 due to a drop in foreign funding flow to countries like India and Turkey.
- ☞ The **International Monetary Fund** has announced that that global debt has reached an all-time high of **184 trillion US dollars** with the United States, China and Japan accounting for more than half of it.
- ☞ **Amazon India** partnered with the Federation of Indian **Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME)** to empower micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to leverage growth opportunities in the e-commerce sector.
- ☞ The government included two currencies **Korean Won** and **Turkish Lira** in the list of currencies for which it notifies the exchange rate for assessing the value of imports and exports.
- ☞ Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** relaxed guidelines pertaining to setting up cyber security operations centre for small market intermediaries as they lack knowledge in cyber security.
- ☞ The **United Arab Emirates** will deposit \$3 billion in the central bank of Pakistan to help "enhance liquidity" as the country struggles with a balance of payments crisis.
- ☞ Earlier this year, **Facebook** announced the formation of a special team, lead by former PayPal president **David Marcus** that would explore the usage of Blockchain-based technologies.
- ☞ **India** and **Japan** have signed Exchange of Notes and Loan Agreements on Japan's Official Development Assistance Loan to India.
- ☞ In a relief to the common man, the **GST** Council cut rates on 23 commonly used goods and services, including TV screens, movie tickets and power banks.
- ☞ **Government** moved proposal in **Parliament** for **enhanced bank recapitalization** outlay from **Rs. 65,000 crore to Rs. 1,06,000 crore** in the **current financial year to propel economic growth**, cementing **India's position** as the fastest growing economy of the world.
- ☞ RBI will soon introduce **a new Rs 20 currency note** with additional features.
- ☞ According to a senior official of the **Arunachal Pradesh** government, the government has remarkably succeeded in increasing the state revenue generation in the past two years with the record revenue collection of **Rs 1598.49 crore** during the year 2017-18 which is a new high in the last 30 years.
- ☞ **Pakistan** Cabinet approved the issuance of Pakistan's one-of-its-kind Panda Bonds.

GROWTH FORECAST OF INDIAN ECONOMY

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION	FORECAST (%)	PERIOD/REASON/IMPORTANCE
CRISIL	7.4	current fiscalweakening global GDP and trade growth
NCEAR	7-7.4	current fiscal
Central Statistics Office (CSO)	7.1	July-September
ICICI Bank	7.2	FY2019due to slow consumption
	7.4	2019-20
Moody's	7.2	in the year ending March 2019
	7.4	in the following year
ADB	7.3	FY19 IN Asian Development Outlook (2018)
	7.6	FY20 IN Asian Development Outlook (2018)
Fitch Ratings	7.2	Current fiscal
	7.8	Septemberciting higher financing cost and reduced credit availability

INTERNATIONAL

- ☞ Australia has become the first country in the world to recognize '**orphanage trafficking**' as a form of modern slavery.
- ☞ S President Donald Trump, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau signed the new **US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)** which will replace the **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**.
- ☞ EU sets goal to be '**climate neutral**' by 2050 which can be achieved by using Solar and Wind Energy for electricity generation.
- ☞ India's chairmanship of Kimberley Process, from **January 2019**, announced in the **15th KPCS 2018** plenary session held in **Brussels, Belgium**
- ☞ The UK government has confirmed an amendment to a new weapons bill which would not impact the right of the British Sikh community to possess and supply kirpans, or religious words.
- ☞ Sri Lankan court issues order blocking Rajapaksa from acting as PM
- ☞ Iranian President **Hassan Rouhani** inaugurated **Chabahar port** .The **\$340-million** project opens up a new strategic transit route to Afghanistan and Central Asia for India through Iran, bypassing Pakistan.
- ☞ US re-established Permanent Diplomatic Mission in Somalia for first time in **27 years**.
- ☞ Pakistan will soon impose a '**sin tax**' on cigarettes and sugary
- ☞ **India, Peru** signed agreement for co-operation and mutual assistance in Customs Matters
- ☞ **UNO** launched new framework to strengthen fight against terrorism
- ☞ Second Largest **Ebola** Outbreak Spreads In **Congo**
- ☞ Dubai Crown Prince **Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum** launches world's largest Arabic audio library in **Dubai**
- ☞ Legislation allowing foreign **blue-collar** workers to ease labor shortage from **April 2019** approved by **Japanese** Parliament
- ☞ Air Force Chief **Birender Singh Dhanoa** left on a five-day goodwill visit to **Japan**
- ☞ President **Ram NathKovind** and first lady **SavitaKovind** left for a 4-day visit to Myanmar.

- ☞ **Israel** becomes a member of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**
- ☞ **India** signs ascension pact to the **30-member** Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN) at Italian Naval Headquarters in **Rome, Italy**.
- ☞ Indian president **Ram Nath Kovind** launched mobile app for farmers in **Myanmar**
- ☞ **Japan** chooses Chinese character for **'disaster'** to define year **2018**
- ☞ Defense Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** concluded her 5-day visit to the United States at the invitation of the US Secretary of Defence, James **N Mattis**.
- ☞ Bilateral Annual Haj **2019** Agreement between **India** and **Saudi Arabia** Signed at **Jeddah**
- ☞ New Indian note of **Rs 2,000, Rs 500** and **Rs 200** denominations were banned as the **Nepal** government has not yet legalized them in the market
- ☞ **Australia** recognized **West Jerusalem** as capital of **Israel**
- ☞ **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** President **H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan** has declared 2019 to be the **'Year of Tolerance'** to highlight UAE as the Global Capital of Tolerance
- ☞ New Zealand to phase out **plastic shopping bags** from **July 1, 2019**
- ☞ **Nevada** become the first state in the US With an overall female majority in its legislature
- ☞ India fifth-most deadliest place to be a journalist, Afghanistan worst **Reporters without Borders (RSF)**
- ☞ The Russian government announced USA's withdrawal from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.
- ☞ **Pakistan** rejected **Punjab's** land swap demand to make Kartarpur as a part of India.
- ☞ **NABCB** Accreditation Secured Recognition in Asia- Pacific Region. NABCB is the **third** accreditation body in the **Asia Pacific Region** to become internationally equivalent in the region
- ☞ **Italy's** Mount Etna erupts, closing Sicily's **Catania Airport**.
- ☞ **Japan** announced **International Whaling Commission (IWC)** withdrawal to resume commercial whaling.
- ☞ **Thailand** moved to legalize medical **marijuana** and another drug. **Thailand** also became the first country in **Southeast Asia** to take such action, which is also under consideration in neighboring **Malaysia**.
- ☞ **North Korea, South Korea** hold groundbreaking ceremony for **railway project**
- ☞ **Saudi Arabia** to lift travel ban on **Lebanon** after government formation
- ☞ **Uzbekistan** promotes **2019** as year of investment in backdrop of wider business with India. Uzbekistan has invited India for making **large scale** investments across sectors in Uzbekistan taking advantage of economic reforms and **SEZs**.
- ☞ **Israel's** parliament approved a law to permit exports of medical marijuana, this made Israel the **3rd country** after the **Netherlands** and **Canada**, to take its medical cannabis global.

NATIONAL

- ☞ The National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of **Rs 5 crore on West Bengal government** to be deposited with **Central Pollution Control Board**, which fails to comply with the 2 years old directive to improve the **air quality in Kolkata and Howrah**.
- ☞ South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** will be the Chief Guest at the **2019 Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi**.
- ☞ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) has launched media campaign **"Heart Attack Rewind"** for the elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in the food supply.
- ☞ Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has put imports of **gold dore in restricted category**.

- ☞ India's first locomotive-less train, known as **Train 18**, has breached the **180 kilometers** per hour speed limit during a test run at **Kota-SawaiMadhopur section in Rajasthan**.
- ☞ A 6-member committee to oversee the sale of **149 oil and gas fields of state-owned ONGC**, Oil India and other explorers constituted.
- ☞ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the **Bogibeel Bridge**. It is **India's longest rail-road bridge**, connecting the north and south banks of the **Brahmaputra**.
- ☞ Delhi government announced the launch of a common mobility card called '**One**', with a tagline of '**One Delhi One Ride**', for easy commute on public transport.
- ☞ **Kolkata-Patna** is India's new **Inland Water Transport (IWT)** origin-destination pair for containerised cargo movement on the National Waterway-1.
- ☞ **Ministry of Shipping** approves the development of **freight village in Varanasi**
- ☞ SC approved the draft of India's **First Witness Protection Scheme 2018** to ensure security to the witness.
- ☞ The **2nd edition of Military Literature Festival (MLF) 2018** was held in **Chandigarh** with an aim to offer an opportunity for the younger generation to get acquainted with **India's glorious military heritage**.
- ☞ The SC bench headed by Justice **Madan B Lokur** directed that names and identities of victims of rape and sexual assault should not be disclosed or revealed.
- ☞ The Delhi High Court ordered a **ban on the sale of online medicines by e-pharmacists** across the country.
- ☞ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the Year End review of the policies to envision the creation of a '**Vision of New India**' which would propel the India to become a **USD 5 trillion economy before 2025**.
- ☞ '**Kala Utsav (Festival of Arts)** at BalBhavan, New Delhi inaugurated.
- ☞ EU has established India's **first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence(CoE)** at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) **in New Delhi**.
- ☞ **FM ArunJaitley** headed GoM to vet the recommendations of a **high-level panel on stressed power projects constituted**.
- ☞ Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources **Arjun Ram Meghwal** introduced the **Dam Safety Bill 2018** in Lok Sabha.
- ☞ **Ministry of Railways** has decided to give **25% discount** in haulage rate on transport of **empty containers and empty flat wagons**
- ☞ **Foreign Affairs Minister of Denmark Anders Samuelsen** on a two-day official visit to India.
- ☞ Government notified rules for in-flight calls, internet access through mobile phones known as **Flight and Maritime Connectivity Rules, 2018**,
- ☞ **Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France** on an official visit to India.
- ☞ The **first AC local train in north India** will hit the tracks next year for passengers travelling short distances from Delhi
- ☞ A commemorative **postage stamp (worth Rs 5)** on freedom fighter **Raj Kumar Shukla** in New Delhi released.
- ☞ **NITI Aayog** unveiled its comprehensive national Strategy for New India titled '**Strategy for New India @75**', which defines clear objectives for **2022-23**.
- ☞ The Union Ministry of Rural Development (**MoRD**) signed a MoU with **Maruti Suzuki India Ltd** for training rural youth for skill development under the flagship **DeenDayalUpadhyayaGrameenKaushalyaYojana (DDU-GKY)**
- ☞ The "**Asiatic Lion Conservation Project**" to protect and conserve the **population of Asiatic Lion and its associated ecosystem** launched.
- ☞ **Conrad K Sangma** launched **Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme(MHIS-IV)** merging it with **Ayushman Bharat scheme**.

- ☞ **Sustainable Development Goal, (SDG) India Index: Baseline Report 2018** released by the **NITI Aayog** in New Delhi.
- ☞ **National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation(NBCFDC)**, an autonomous corporation under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment signed a MoU with **BSE Institute Ltd.** for **facilitating Skill Development Training to the target group of NBCFDC.**
- ☞ PM Modi releases **Rs 100** commemorative coin in **memory of AtalBihari Vajpayee.**
- ☞ PM Modi launched the **website for the Cyber Coordination Centre** in the **3-Day Conference of Director Generals of Police**, which was organized at **Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat.**
- ☞ An **India-China Film festival** during the first India-China High Level Mechanism on Cultural and **People-to-People Exchanges** organised in **New Delhi**
- ☞ **International Gita Mahotsav, 2018** concluded in **Kurukshetra, Haryana.**
- ☞ The **Unique Identification Authority of India** has asserted that schools **cannot make the 12-digit biometric identifier a pre-condition for student admission.**
- ☞ **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** released List of **Top 10 Performing Police Stations Across India in Gujarat**
- ☞ **Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** announced draft rules of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2018.**
- ☞ **The use of smart prepaid electricity meters** in the country beginning **April 2019** mandated.
- ☞ A MoU under the '**Adopt a Heritage**' project to **M/s Resbird Technologies** for development of a mobile **Audio Guide App for five iconic sites** signed.
- ☞ The **Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF)** for its involvement in several killings, bombings, and other terror activities during its violent campaign for "**secession of Punjab**" banned.
- ☞ India has signed an agreement with Iran to pay for crude oil imports from the **Persian Gulf nation in rupees.**
- ☞ **India Signs Ascension Pact to 30-Member Trans Regional Maritime Network.** The pact will give it an access to the information on ships passing through the **Indian Ocean Region.**
- ☞ India announced a **\$1.4 billion package for the Maldives** to meet its immediate budgetary as well as some medium-term requirements.
- ☞ Eleven projects for **Yamuna Rejuvenation under the NamamiGangeProgramme** in New Delhi launched.
- ☞ The **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989** to mandate fitting of **high security registration plates (HSRP)** for all vehicles from **April 1,2019.**
- ☞ A single-member **Hooda panel**, set up by the **Defence Ministry and the National SecurityAdvisory Board (NSAB)** has recommended creation of new specialized units for information warfare in areas where the counter-insurgency operations are being conducted
- ☞ The Railways enhanced the **combined reservation quota of lower berths for senior citizens, female passengers of age 45 or above and pregnant women passengers in mail, express, Rajdhani and Duronto trains**
- ☞ Indian Railways plans to built **India's first lift bridge to reconnect Rameswaram in Arabian Sea** with mainland India in the next 4 years
- ☞ **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** launched a toll-free number **14433** and a facility to file complaints through **Common Service Center (CSC)**
- ☞ **PM NarendraModi** renames **3 islands of Andaman Nicobar**
- ☞ Ross renamed as **NetajiSubhas Chandra Bose Dweep**
- ☞ Neil renamed as **ShaheedDweep**
- ☞ Havelock renamed as **SwarajDweep**
- ☞ **Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dr. LotayTshering** on a 3-day visit to India

- ☞ The Indian Railways has decided to grant **40% concession in passenger fares to transgender senior citizens (60 years or above).**

CABINET APPROVALS

- ☞ Amendment of the **JallianwalaBagh National Memorial Act, 1951.**
- ☞ **Shahpurkandi Dam (National Project)** on river **Ravi in Punjab** with central assistance of **Rs.485.38 crore**
- ☞ **India and Japan** in the field of **Environmental Cooperation and Cooperation in the Postal field.**
- ☞ **India and Zimbabwe** for cooperation in the field of **geology, mining and mineral resources**
- ☞ Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre (**SCord**) under the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** to tackle Smuggling
- ☞ launching of National Mission on Interdisciplinary **CyberPhysical Systems (NM-ICPS).**
- ☞ the project for construction of **5.634 km long new 4 Lane Bridge** parallel to the existing **MG Setu on NH-19, Patna**
- ☞ a new broad gauge railway line connecting **Rameshwaram with Dhanushkodi**, which is believed to be the starting point of Ram Sethu and a major pilgrim destination
- ☞ Indian **Human Spaceflight Initiative: Gaganyaan Programme**; first phase to **cost Rs. 9023 crores**
- ☞ in the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**
- ☞ **India and Sao Tome & Principe** for Cooperation in the **Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes**
- ☞ **Ministry of Women and Child Development** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has approved the proposals of **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh** for implementation of Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme (MPVs)
- ☞ the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016** which is aimed at prohibiting commercial surrogacy and unethical practices relating to it.
- ☞ **New child protection policy** drafted by **Women and Child Development ministry**
- ☞ **Consumer Protection Bill, 2018** that seeks to **replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.**
- ☞ **10 monuments** adopted under the **'Adopt A Heritage' project: Ministry of Culture**
- ☞ to set up an expert **committee to look into all the taxation issues** being faced by startups and angel investors
- ☞ the **Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2018** to amend the **Companies Act, 2013** to further improve the ease of doing business, ease burden of the special courts and modify punishments.
- ☞ **The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2018.**

STATES

- ☞ Nagaland celebrates **55th formation Day.** Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated **19th 'Hornbill Festival'** in the state.
- ☞ Tamil Nadu govt announces hike of health insurance coverage from existing **Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh** year under **Ayushman Bharat scheme.**
- ☞ **Indian Owl Festival** was held at Pingori village in Purandartaluka of Pune, Maharashtra.
- ☞ Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik has launched the **"Ayushman Bharat-PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojana (AB-PMJAY)" scheme** at Teacher's Bhawan, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.
- ☞ Nagaland government signed a 5 year MoU with **e-Governance Academy of Estonia** to provide advisory and technical knowledge for setting up of e-Governance Academy of Nagaland (e-GAN).

- ☞ The **Telangana government and British Council** have signed a MoU to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation of Telangana.
- ☞ Bahrain and Maharashtra Government Signs MoU on Fintech
- ☞ Bihar state's cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has fixed **Rs. 100 as the charge for people to get their property registered after the division of family's immovable assets.**
- ☞ **India's first international indigenous film festival** will take place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- ☞ Maharashtra launched a unique initiative called "**SMART**" (**State of Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation**) to transform rural Maharashtra.
- ☞ Odisha launched a new programme for transparency and awareness on various government schemes, called- **the Peoples Empowerment Enabling Transparency and Accountability or PEETHA.**
- ☞ The **23rd International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK)** 2018 inaugurated at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ☞ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the **Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana'** which offers free travel packages for senior citizens from Delhi to five religious circuits.
- ☞ The first ever SwadeshDarshan Project in Nagaland named -"**Development of Tribal Circuit: Peren-Kohima-Wokha Project**" launched.
- ☞ The Cooperative department of Punjab has decided to merge **20 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) with the Punjab State Cooperative Bank (PSCB).**
- ☞ Tamil Nadu education body offers **videos of classes on YouTube**
- ☞ Tamil Nadu Government launched a 24-hour **toll free helpline number 181 for women** facing domestic violence and sexual harassment to get assistance ranging from police help, legal aid or medical services including ambulance.
- ☞ Madhya Pradesh, The Heart of Incredible India is thrilled to host '**Adventure Next**' for the first time. Theme of the event is '**Pulse of Tomorrow**'
- ☞ Maharashtra was recently imposed with **a penalty of Rs.1 lakh for not coming up with a new building for the district and sessions court.**
- ☞ Karnataka's Kaiga Power Station-1 has created a **world record for the longest uninterrupted operation for 941 days**, thereby breaking the earlier record of 940 days by the United Kingdom.
- ☞ The state assembly of Jammu and Kashmir has passed law to **ban sexual extortion of woman in offices** and became **the first state in the country to amend law on Sextortion.**
- ☞ 4th Edition of India's largest contemporary art exhibition **Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB)** featuring a dynamic range of multi-media artworks held in Kochi
- ☞ Foundation Stone of **Institute of High-Altitude Medicinal Plants (IHAMP)** laid in J&K
- ☞ **SilaoKhaja**, the traditional delicacy of Nalanda district of Bihar was granted GI tag by **Geographical Indications Registry.**
- ☞ **President's rule imposed in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- ☞ **The World Herbal Forest Project**, a collaboration of Patanjali and Haryana Government, at Morni Hill, near Chandigarh inaugurated.
- ☞ Prime Minister NarendraModi inaugurated several projects worth over Rs 14,500 cr during a day-long visit to Odisha.
- ☞ The Manipur Assembly has passed a bill which **recommends life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence if it results in the death of a person.**
- ☞ Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were **the top three performing states under the maternity benefit programme PradhanMantriMatruVandanaYojana (PMMVY).**

- ☞ Marking the 94th birth anniversary celebrations of the late Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee, the **'Bharat RatnaAtal Bihar Vajpayee International Schools'** for students in mofussil areas launched.
 - ☞ A **25-foot high statue of former prime minister AtalBihari Vajpayee** will be installed in LokBhawan, the Uttar Pradesh government secretariat here
 - ☞ The tribal **Baduga community in the Nilgiris district** of Tamil Nadu celebrated their annual **Heddaiyamman** festival
 - ☞ **12-day 3rd 'Dwijing Festival'** celebrations commenced on the banks of the Aye river in Chirang district of **Assam**.
 - ☞ **Eight day 11th Bangalore International Film Festival** to commence in **February 2019**
 - ☞ Rosogolla fest kicks off in Kolkata with the launch of **postal stamp of the inventor Mr. Nabin Chandra Das**.
 - ☞ Delhi Police becomes **first police force in country to digitise all malkhanas** across every police station in the state under the e-malkhana project
 - ☞ Centre approves Rs 1,146.12 cr cyclone 'Gaja' assistance for Tamil Nadu
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
- ☞ **A Chinese internet technology firm LinkSure Network** is planning to launch a constellation of **272 satellites by 2026** with an aim to provide free Wi-Fi service worldwide and rival global tech giants like **Google and SpaceX**.
 - ☞ **Civil Aviation Ministry** announced it has started the registration process for **drone operators in the country**, to be done through a portal called **'Digital Sky'**.
 - ☞ **Indian Railways unveiled 'eDrishti'** software that will help Union Railway Minister to keep track of punctuality of trains as well as freight and passenger earnings and much more from anywhere in the country.
 - ☞ **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** announces a **pan India single mobile app "112 India"** which is connected to the **Emergency Response support system (ERSS)** exclusively for women in emergency in Nagaland. **A'SHOUT'** feature has been made available exclusively for women in the '112 India' app.
 - ☞ **Elon Musk-led SpaceX launches India's first privately built satellite, Exseed Sat-1**
 - ☞ The first manned **Soyuzspacecraft** since the failure of 11th October launch which carries **Russian, American and Canadian astronauts** arrived at the International Space Station (ISS).
 - ☞ **Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO)heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite GSAT-11** was successfully launched from the **Spaceport in French Guiana**.
 - ☞ **German firm BigRep and NOWlab** produced the **world's first fully functioning e-motorbike NERA using a 3D printer**.
 - ☞ **NASA's spacecraft OSIRIS-REx** finds water on asteroid Benu
 - ☞ **China launched the first-ever spacecraft, Chang'e 4**, that will attempt landing on the **far side of the Moon**
 - ☞ **Government has notified commonly used medical devices nebulizers, blood pressure monitors, digital thermometers and glucometers** as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. It will enable the government to ensure their quality and performance.
 - ☞ Indigenously developed **surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-5** has been successfully test-fired from **Dr Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast and 2nd test in six months**.
 - ☞ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **ShriRadha Mohan Singh** launched a portal **ENSURE-** National Livestock Mission-EDEG developed by **NABARD** and operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.
 - ☞ **NASA's Voyager 2** has become the **second human-made object** in history to

reach the edge of our solar system, after the spacecraft exited the protective bubble of particles and magnetic fields created by the Sun.

- ☞ **Port Community System 'PCS 1x'**, a cloud based new generation technology, with user-friendly interface to **increase ease of doing business** was launched by **Indian Ports Association (IPA)**, under the mentorship of Ministry of Shipping in Mumbai.
- ☞ The **Indian Navy** has formally inducted its **first flyaway deep sea submarine rescue system** at the **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai**, in the state of Maharashtra.
- ☞ **Russian** state-run atomic energy corporation **Rosatom** announced commencement of installation of **AkademikLomonosov**, the **world's first "floating"** nuclear power plant (FNPP). It has a capacity of 70MW and is equipped with two reactors of 35MW each.
- ☞ Researchers have discovered a human protein that helps fight the **Ebola virus** and could **one day lead to an effective therapy** against the **deadly disease**.
- ☞ **Rocket Lab's light-class Electron launcher** is set to take off on its **fourth flight from New Zealand**, aiming to deliver 13 CubeSats to orbit on the company's first mission for NASA.
- ☞ **Central Indonesia's Mount Sopurat Volcano** erupted **twice on Sulawesi Island** sending ash about 7.5 km high in the sky. **Mount Soputan** was located on the northern part of Sulawesi island, Indonesia.
- ☞ **World's oldest known plant virus named Zea mays chrysovirus 1 (ZMCV1) discovered**
- ☞ **The Air Force flew its first military flight, an AN-32 transporter aircraft, using blended bio-jet fuel in Bengaluru.**
- ☞ **India's IDRSS to be satellite communication hub in sky**
- ☞ The most-distant object ever observed in our solar system known as 2018 VG18 and nicknamed "**Farout,**" has been discovered by scientists.
- ☞ **An Indian Naval Ship** recovered **illegal arms and ammunition** from a suspicious fishing vessel approximately 20 nautical miles off the **coast of Somalia** in the Horn of Africa. Within a span of two months, this is the third successful operation by **INS Sunayna crew** in this region.
- ☞ **The Indian Armed Forces** inaugurated **TriServices Cycling and Trekking Expedition in Sikkim.**
- ☞ **ISRO** launched its military communication satellite **GSAT-7A** from **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**. The satellite **GSAT-7A** is the 35th Indian communication satellite weighing 2,250 kg.
- ☞ **The Civil aviation ministry** along with the **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** launched an app named '**GAS 2019**'.
- ☞ **The Indian Navy** inducted the **IN LCU L55, the fifth ship of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class**. The ship was commissioned into the Navy by Vice Chief of Naval Staff, **Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar.**
- ☞ **NASA's first flight to the moon Apollo 8** is marking its **50th anniversary. On Dec. 21st, 1968**, three men flew to the moon for the first time in human history.
- ☞ **Japanese scientists** have detected evidence of **water in 17 asteroids** for the **first time using data from the infrared satellite AKARI.**
- ☞ Researchers have discovered a new exotic planet outside our solar system in the constellation **Cassiopeia**. Located 21 light years away from us, this planet, dubbed **HD219134 b**, has a mass almost five times that of Earth, which is considered a so-called "**super-Earth**".
- ☞ **Elon Musk's SpaceX** decided to end the year with the launch of its **first United States Air Force's first Global Positioning System (GPS) III satellite, nicknamed Vespucci .**
- ☞ **NASA's InSight Places First Instrument on Mars**

- ☞ **China launched its first communication satellite, from a Long March 11 carrier rocket**, to provide broadband internet services worldwide to rival Google and other firms.
- ☞ Scientists have created the **world's smallest tic-tac-toeboard** using **dynamic DNA origami tiles** -microscopic organic structures that can be programmed to **transform into predesigned patterns**.
- ☞ **A naval hospital ship, the INHS Sandhani**, has been commissioned at **Naval station Karanja in the Raigad district of Maharashtra** by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Western Naval Command Vice **Admiral GirishLuthra**.
- ☞ **China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)**, touted as a rival to the widely-used **American GPS**, has started providing **global services**.

SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Seminars and Meetings	Place
Indian Social Science Congress	KIIT
12th Annual Indian Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI) conference	Mumbai
National Children's Science Congress	Bhubaneswar
55th SKOCH Summit	New Delhi
1st People to People exchanges meeting	New Delhi
WHO Global Forum	Vizag
39th GCC summit	Riyadh.
18th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation IRIGC-MTC	New Delhi
1st International Conference on Sustainable Water Management	Mohali
80th Session of Policy Commission of World Customs Organization	Mumbai
India Water Impact Summit 2018	New Delhi
Asia-Pacific Summit 2018	Katmandu, Nepal
UN conference on climate change	Poland
G-20 Summit	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Global Agriculture and Food Summit 2018	Jharkhand
South Asia Regional Youth Peace Conference	New Delhi
3rd ASEAN – India Business Summit (AIBS)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
First ever India Indonesia Business forum (IIBF)	Port Blair

PLACES IN NEWS

- ☞ **India's first international indigenous film festival** will take place in February in **Odessa in 2019**.
- ☞ Prime Minister NarendraModi inaugurated a **unique world-class hospital at the SwaminarayanGurukulVidyapeethPratisthanam** in Ahmadabad, Gujarat. The 200-bed hospital is an integration of Yoga, Ayurveda, and Allopathy.
- ☞ **India's First Madame Tussauds Wax Museum** Opened in **New Delhi**
- ☞ **Odessa's KandhamalHaldi (turmeric)** will soon get Geographical Indications (GI) tag.

- ☞ Luxembourg is set to become **the first country in the world to make all public transport free**, implementing the move in 2020.
- ☞ Panama **1st Latin American nation to join Belt and Road Initiative**
- ☞ **India's first underwater museum** to open off Puducherry coast in INS Cuddalore
- ☞ **Kannur International Airport In Kerala** Begun its Operations
- ☞ Arunachal Pradesh gets its 24th district – **LepaRada**, a day after **Shi Yomi** became a new district.
- ☞ Bhubaneswar to host **one of Hockey Series Finals in 2019**
- ☞ India' first private sector unit for manufacturing **unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** opened at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad
- ☞ **India's first and World's third railway university at Vadodara**, dedicated by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal & Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani
- ☞ **National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED -2018)** was Inaugurated at **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) Pune, Maharashtra**
- ☞ **India's largest cancer hospital 'National Cancer Institute (NCI)'** opened in Jhajjar, Haryana
- ☞ **Pakistan rejects Punjab's land swap demand** to make Kartarpur as a part of India
- ☞ A **UNESCO Category 2, International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography**, inaugurated at INCOIS, Hyderabad
- ☞ **India's first music museum** to be set up in Thiruvaiyaru
- ☞ **Centre of Excellence for Genetic Blood Disorders** at Prathima Institute in Karimnagar inaugurated by President of India
- ☞ **Bogibeel Bridge, India's longest rail cum road bridge, inaugurated in Assam** by PM Narendra Modi
- ☞ **Virudhunagar is the best 'aspiration district'** in Tamil Nadu
- ☞ **India's First Vertical-Lift Bridge To Reconnect Rameswaram With Mainland**

EXERCISES

- ☞ **Air forces of India and the US** will begin a 12-day military exercise **The 'Ex Cope India-18'** in **Kalaikunda and Panagarh air bases in West Bengal** with an aim to enhance operational coordination.
- ☞ **The Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) is in India** for a bilateral air exercise **SHINYUU Maitri-18** with Indian Air Force at **A F Station Agra**.
- ☞ **The Indian Coast Guard** has conducted the Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution **Response Exercise** titled **'Clean Sea - 2018'** at **sea off Port Blair**.
- ☞ **The tenth version of INDRA NAVY maritime exercise** amongst **India and Russia** will be performed off **Visakhapatnam coast**, Andhra Pradesh from.
- ☞ A service-specific exercise **'Ex AVIAINDRA'** between **the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF)** will commence at Air Force Station, **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.
- ☞ **In a first-of-its-kind exercise code-named CROSS BOW-18**, the **Indian Air Force** successfully conducted combined guided weapons firing of **Surface-to-Air Missiles** from the Air Force Station at **Suryalanka** in Andhra Pradesh.
- ☞ **7th Sino-India Joint Exercise Hand-in-Hand 2018 held at Chengdu, China**
- ☞ Indian Coast Guard has launched the **'Operation Oliva'** exercise as part of its annual mission to ensure the **safe mid-sea sojourn of breeding Olive Ridley sea turtles**.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- ☞ India's Olympic and world champion shooter **Abhinav Bindra** has been conferred the sport's highest honour **Blue Cross** for his outstanding services as the chairman of the International Shooting Sport Federation's Athletes Committee.
- ☞ **Swachhta Pakhwada of Ministry in Civil Aviation Akademi** awarded the **3 best performing organizations - Pawan Hans Ltd, Airports Authority of India and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi**
- ☞ The Highly prestigious **"Outstanding Case Writer' award"** was presented to **ICFAI (Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India) Business School**
- ☞ Delhi Minister **Imran Hussain** Gets **PETA 'Hero to Animals' Award**
- ☞ **Luka Modric Wins Ballon d'Or 2018**
- ☞ **Vashkar Bhattacharjee** from Bangladesh and **Tencent (Private sector enterprise)** from China to receive **UNESCO/ Emir Jaber al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**

- ☞ **Kohli honoured by Bradman Museum ahead of India-Aus Test**
- ☞ Short-story writer, **Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq**, bagged the **Sahitya Academy Award for his collection of short stories "AAKH"**
- ☞ **Dr. Rajanish Giri** from the Indian Institute of Technology-Mandi (IIT-Mandi), has been awarded the **Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) 2018** for his proposed innovative idea on **Zika virus Capsid Folding and inhibitor discovery**.
- ☞ Forbes List 2018 released by Forbes India
- ☞ **Forbes India rich list 2018: Mukesh Ambani** topped followed by **Azim Premji** and **Lakshmi Mittal**
- ☞ **Forbes India 2018 Celebrity 100: Salman Khan** topped followed by **Virat Kohli** and **Akshay Kumar**. **PV Sidhu** ranked as the **highest paid female sportsperson**
- ☞ iPhone artist and film maker **Charlotte Prodger** won the **2018 Turner Award**
- ☞ **Rattan Lal** was honoured with **Glinka World Soil Prize 2018**
- ☞ Four Indians among **world's 100 most powerful women**, list topped by **German Chancellor Angela Merkel**: Forbes
- ☞ **IT stalwart Roshni Nadar Malhotra** ranking **51st in the list**,
- ☞ **Biotechnology pioneer Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** ranking **60th**,
- ☞ **Media mogul Shobhana Bhartia** at **88th position** and
- ☞ **Actor Priyanka Chopra** at **94th spot**.
- ☞ **Skoch Award for National Significance for installation of 73 GW of renewable energy in New Delhi**
- ☞ Bharti Enterprises chairman **Sunil Bharti Mittal** has received ESCP Europe's highest honour '**Doctor Honoris Causa**' for his innovative entrepreneurship and contribution towards philanthropy in the field of education
- ☞ **DMK MP Kanimozhi** will be awarded as "**Best Woman Parliamentarian - Rajya Sabha**."
- ☞ **Asian Academy Creative Awards** concluded at Singapore's Capitol Theatre, Singapore.
- ☞ **Best entertainment Host/Presenter - Salman Khan** for Bigg Boss season 11
- ☞ **Best direction (fiction) - Anurag Kashyap** for Netflix's original series Sacred Games
- ☞ Manipur Government honored **MC Mary Kom** with the title "**Meethoileima**".
- ☞ **Odisha boy Situ Malik** to receive **National Bravery Award** from PM
- ☞ ITTF Star Awards 2018 released by International Table Tennis Federation in Korea
- ☞ **Manika Batra** - Breakthrough Table Tennis Star award.
- ☞ **Massimo Costantini**- Table Tennis Star Coach award.
- ☞ **Ding Ning** - Female Table Tennis Star award
- ☞ **Fan Zhendong** - Male Table Tennis Star award
- ☞ **Sascha Bajin** has become the first-ever recipient of the **Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award**.
- ☞ UN honours Indian startup '**HelpUsGreen**' which recycles floral waste from temples to clean Ganga through its '**flowercycling**' technology
- ☞ **Delhi Police enters into Limca Book of Records** for training over two lakh women and girls.
- ☞ **8 parliamentarians** honoured with **Lokmat Parliamentary Award**
- ☞ Best debut woman parliamentarian (Lok Sabha): Actor & politician **Hema Malini**
- ☞ Best woman parliamentarian (Lok Sabha): MP **Rama Devi**
- ☞ Lifetime achievement award: Veteran BJP leader **Murli Manohar Joshi**, NCP chief and Rajya Sabha MP **Sharad Pawar**
- ☞ Noted English author **Amitav Ghosh** has been honoured with **54th Jnanpith Award** for 2018, an award for outstanding contribution to literature.
- ☞ **Tata Steel** bags **Prime Minister's Trophy for the 'Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant'** for the year 2016-17
- ☞ Filmmaker **Majid Majidi (Iran)** bagged the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the 23rd International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK).
- ☞ Indian-American **Shree Saini** has been crowned **Miss India Worldwide 2018** at a pageant held in the Fords City of New Jersey.
- ☞ **Philippines' Catriona Gray** has been crowned **Miss Universe 2018**.
- ☞ Hyde Park Entertainment founder and longtime producer **Ashok Amritraj** was awarded **French Knight of the National Order of Merit**.

- ☞ **Indian Film 'Period- End of Sentence' Made It To Oscars Shortlist** in the Documentary Short Subject category.
- ☞ Actor **Sonam Kapoor** named **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** India's person of the year
- ☞ **Pakistan activist Asma Jahangir** honoured with **UN Human rights award for 2018**
- ☞ The Chief Minister of West Bengal **Mamta Banerjee** awarded the **Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award for the year 2018**.
- ☞ Andhra Pradesh CM **N Chandrababu Naidu** was also awarded by the Skoch Group with **'SKOCH Sprinter of the Year' Award** and Commerce, Industry and civil aviation minister **Suresh Prabhu** as the **'Steady Reformer'**
- ☞ **Indian Railways** Bags 17 Awards at the **'National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2018'** held in New Delhi.
- ☞ **Dr Manmohan Singh** received **South Indian Education Society (SIES) Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award**
- ☞ PM Narendra Modi announced the institution of **'Sardar Patel Award for National Integration'** which would be given for **"outstanding efforts to further national integration"**.
- ☞ **Lewis Hamilton** awarded **Drivers' Driver of the Year** after claiming the 5th World Drivers' Championship.
- ☞ **The Mohammed Rafi Award** has been bestowed upon late music composer **Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar** and **playback singer Usha Timothy**.
- ☞ 13 years old **Aadi Sai Vijaykaran** became the first Indian to win the **Junior Debate Championship at the World Scholar's Cup** held at Yale University, USA
- ☞ Croatian football player **Luka Modric** was named **Balkan Athlete of the Year**.
- ☞ 7 minutes long **"Finding Beauty in Garbage"**, film directed by IRS officer in Dibrugarh, Assam received the **Best Short documentary film award in Asia South East International Short Film Festival** at Phnom Penh in Cambodia
- ☞ Telangana's **MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre** entered **Guinness Book of World Records; also received 'High Range Book of World Records' recognition**
- ☞ The **Keonjhar Police, Odisha**, honours **10 Ashok Chakra recipients** with postage stamps each featuring the Ashok Chakra Awardees from Police Department (State Police and Central police) across the country, under the "My Stamp" scheme.
- ☞ The stamps which are of Rs 5.00 denomination have the background picture of Sun Temple, Konark and recognizes the acts of valour by khaki-clad personnel.
- ☞ **Smriti Mandhana** was crowned **women's cricketer of the year** by the sport's world governing body, capping off a prolific run-scoring season for the opener.
- ☞ **Swachh Survekshan 2018** award for Best Capital City in the Solid Waste Management was conferred to **Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)**.
- ☞ **Mexico's Vanessa Ponce de Leon** wins **Miss World 2018** crown at grand event held in China's Sanya.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- ☞ **Myanmar Leader Suu Kyi** To Be Stripped of **Freedom Of Paris Award**.
- ☞ **State Bank of India** ropes in **Swapna Barman** as brand ambassador for **YONO**
- ☞ **Gautam Gambhir** Announces Retirement From All Forms Of Cricket
- ☞ **Tuhin** becomes first Indian to scale **Sahayadri mountain range**
- ☞ Bollywood Actress **Deepika Padukone** is the highest-earning woman celebrity in India.
- ☞ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** emerged as the most popular global leader on social media platform **Instagram** with 14.8 million followers.
- ☞ **Flipkart-owned Myntra's CEO Ananth Narayanan** has resigned.
- ☞ **Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) Chief Upendra Kushwaha** resigned as Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ☞ **Urjit Patel** resigned as the 24th RBI Governor citing personal reasons
- ☞ **Prathamesh Maulingkar** became the first Asian/Indian **Mr Supranational 2018**
- ☞ Slain Journalist **Khashoggi** named **Time Magazine's "Person of the Year"**
- ☞ British Prime Minister **Theresa May** has won a vote of confidence in her leadership of the Conservative Party.
- ☞ **Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel** Announces Resignation Over Crisis Started by Migration Row

- ☞ Pune woman **VedangiKulkarni** became the **fastest Asian to cycle the globe**.
- ☞ **Pakistan's Ex-Prime Minister Sharif** Sentenced To 7 Years In Latest Corruption Case centered on his ownership of a steel mill.
- ☞ **American adventurer O'Brady** **First Person to complete solo trek** across Antarctica
- ☞ **Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) secretary Shahbaz Ahmed** resigned over mistreatment of the national sport in the country.
- ☞ **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) revokes suspension of Soumyajit Ghosh** and is eligible to participate in all national and international tournaments, with the Senior Nationals starting at Cuttack from January 4 2018.
- ☞ **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** has appointed Indian-origin **Shamila Batohi** as the country prosecutor.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the organization	Name of the Person
Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)	Sudhir Bhargava
Prime Minister of Bangladesh	Sheikh Hasina
Acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court	Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar
India's chief boxing coach	C A Kuttappa
MD and CEO of Corporation Bank	P.V. Bharathi
President of Archery Association of India	B V P Rao
Defence Head of US	Patrick Shanahan
President of South Asian Fencing Body	Rajeev Mehta
New Ambassador to the United States of America	Harsh Vardhan Shringla
New coach of the Indian women's cricket team	WV Raman
Ambassador of India to Mongolia	Mohinder Pratap Singh
first full-time Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of SEBI	Arti Chhabra Srivastava
the new Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)	Pranab Kumar Das
CBI Additional Director	M Nageswara Rao
Additional Solicitor General In SC	Advocate Madhavi Divan
new President of FICCI	Sandip Somany
Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel
Director of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)	Ramphal Pawar
PM of Sri Lanka	Ranil Wickremesinghe
Mizoram CM	Zoramthanga
Reappointed/ Extended	IB director Rajiv Jain, RAW chief Anil Dhasmana and Shri Anil Srivastava as NITI Aayog's Principal Advisor
Chairman of FTII	Brijendra Pal Singh
Chief Minister of Rajasthan.	Ashok Gehlot
Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)	Bharat Bhushan Vyas
Chief Minister of Telangana	Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhara Reddy
Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.	Kamal Nath
Vice-Chair of UN Panel of Auditors till 2020	Rajiv Mehrishi
Chairman of SWIFT India	Arundhati Bhattacharya

Name of the organization	Name of the Person
25th RBI Governor	Shaktikanta Das
MD of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)	Wasim Khan
President of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies (OPEC) Conference for 1 year	Manuel Salvador Quevedo Fernandez
Chairman of the Coca-Cola Company	James Quincey
Chief Economic Advisor	Krishnamurthy Subramanian
Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of New India Assurance (NIA)	AtulSahai
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) by the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	Preeti Saran
Global Chief Creative Officer Ogilvy	Padma Shri awardee PiyushPandey
Axis Capital joint MD	SalilPitale
new Finance Secretary	Ajay Narayan Jha
IAAF New CEO	Jon Ridgeon
first Indian to be elected in ISSF's judges committee	Pawan Singh
ISSF's vice-president	Raninder Singh
Head of the three-member committee to oversee rejuvenation work of the Ganga River.	Justice U C Dhyani
MD & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra	AS Rajeev
President of Georgia	Salome Zurichishvili
CEO, World Gold Council	David Tait
First leftist president of Mexico	Andrés Manuel LópezObrador

SPECIAL DAYS

DATE	SPECIAL DAY	THEME
December 1 ST	World AIDS Day	Know Your Status
	54th Raising Day	Duty unto Death
December 2 nd	World Computer Literacy Day	
	International Day for Abolition of Slavery	
December 3 rd	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality
December 4 th	Indian Navy Day	
December 5 th	World Soil Day	Stop Soil Pollution
	International Volunteer Day	Volunteers build Resilient Communities'
December 7 th	Armed Forces Flag Day	
	International Civil Aviation Day	Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind.
December 8 th	Indian Navy Submarine Day	
December 9 th	International Anti-Corruption Day	An impediment to Sustainable Development Goals
December 10 th	Human Rights Day	#StandUp4HumanRights
December 11 th	UNICEF Foundation Day	
	International Mountain Day	#Mountains Matter
December 12 th	International Universal Health(UHC Day) Coverage Day	Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the Time for Collective Action
	International Day of Neutrality	
December 14 th	National Energy Conservation Day	
December 15 th	International Tea day	
December 16 th	Vijay Diwas	
December 17 th	International day to end violence against sex workers	
December 18 th	International migration Day	Migration with Dignity
	National Minorities Rights Day	
	World Arabic Language Day	Arabic Language and Youth
December 19 th	Goa 57th Liberation Day	
December 20 th	International Human Solidarity Day	
December 22 nd	National Mathematics day	
December 23 rd	National Farmers Day (KisanDiwas)	
December 24 th	National Consumer Day	Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints
December 25 th	Good Governance Day	
	55th anniversary of SashastraSeemaBal	

SPORTS

- ☞ AIBA set to introduce 'protest system' at 2019 men's world championships.
- ☞ Wrestling Federation of India rolls out contracts system for wrestlers.
- ☞ AIFF to launch a school-level project with FIFA.
- ☞ Minjee Lee becomes first woman to win Australia's Greg Norman Medal.
- ☞ VineshPhogat, Sakshi Malik Win Gold AtWrestling Nationals.
- ☞ Ullas Narayan became the first Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra running event by winning bronze in the 2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU).
- ☞ Tata Open India International Challenge 2018(Badminton) was held in Mumbai.
- ☞ IPL: Delhi Daredevils renamed as Delhi Capitals.
- ☞ Kenyan distance runner EliudKipchoge and Colombian long and triple jumper Caterinelbarguenhave been named male and female world athletes of the year.
- ☞ Italy Wins Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta 2018.
- ☞ Budapest to host 2023 IAAF World Championships.
- ☞ Yasir Shah becomes fastest bowler to take 200 Test wickets after breaking 82 year old Record.
- ☞ ParasDogra hitsrecord - breaking 8th double century in Ranji trophy.
- ☞ India booked their spot in the quarter finals of the Hockey World Cup 2018 after defeating Canada in their last Pool C game of the tournament.
- ☞ RavichandranAshwin makes Shaun Marsh break unwanted 130-year-old record.
- ☞ Sports minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore launches second edition of Khelo India.
- ☞ Shubhankar Sharma Clinches 2018 Asian Tour Order of Merit Title.
- ☞ Anushka Gupta, Chaitanya Gupta emerged champions in under - 7 girls and boys competition respectively at the US Kids Golf India tour.
- ☞ Ajay Rohera scored 267 on his debut match against Hyderabad while playing the Ranji trophy match in Indore.
- ☞ India won the match against Australia by 31 runs in the four match series at the Adelaide.
- ☞ SAIL Hockey Academy wins Aga Khan Gold Cup tournament.
- ☞ Allan Border Medal to be rebranded as Australian Cricket Awards.
- ☞ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Indian whisky brand Royal Stag as an official sponsor in a five-year deal.
- ☞ Bhubaneswar is set to host one of the three Hockey Series Finals to be held from June 6 to 16 in 2019.
- ☞ The 21st USHA National Athletics Championship for the Blind held at Thyagaraj sports complex in New Delhi.
- ☞ PV Sindhu Scripts History,becomes 1st Indian To Win BWF World Tour Finals.
- ☞ Belgiumwon theHockey World Cup 2018.
- ☞ Pakistan to host 2020 Asia Cup.
- ☞ ViratKohli is the second fastest player to score 25 centuries in 127 innings.
- ☞ Novak Djokovic from Serbia and SimonaHalep from Romania have been named ITF world champions for 2018.
- ☞ 37th Senior National Rowing Championship Begins in Pune.
- ☞ Squash star JoshnaChinappaequalledBhuvneshwariKumari's record of 16 national titles, Mahesh Mangaonkar won his maiden crown.
- ☞ A veteran in the sport, kabaddi player Anup Kumar announced his retirement.
- ☞ ICC orders PCB to pay 60% of BCCI's legal cost in failed compensation case.
- ☞ Mithali Raj, HarmanpreetKaurremain as ODI and T20I captains.
- ☞ 90 players from 17 countries will be seen in action at the Premier Badminton League, which begins in Mumbai.
- ☞ Belgium to end the year as No. 1 in FIFA global ranking.
- ☞ Real Madrid beats Al Ain to win Club World Cup.
- ☞ Bala Rafique Shaikh Wins Maharashtra Kesari 2018.
- ☞ National champion Mahesh Mangaonkar of Maharashtra and YashFadte of Goa clinched the men's and under 19 boys titles respectively in the CCI Western India Squash Championship.

- ☞ **Five weightlifters**, including two **Olympic champions**, have been provisionally suspended after reanalysis of urine samples provided during the **2012 London Olympics**.
 - ☞ **American Mikaela Shiffrin** became the youngest woman to win **50 World Cup ski races** with victory in the slalom in the French Alps.
 - ☞ **Golfer Jyoti Randhawa** arrested on charge of poaching in **U.P.'s Bahraich district**.
 - ☞ **Saudi Arabia** Hosts **World Chess Games** for the first time.
 - ☞ India's Pride **Arjun Bhati** Wins **US Kids Junior Golf World Championship 2018**.
 - ☞ Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting inducted into ICC Hall of Fame.
 - ☞ **CA Kuttappa** takes over as **India's chief boxing coach**.
 - ☞ Kohli breaks Dravid's record with MCG knock.
 - ☞ Saurabh Chaudhary sweeps men's 10m air pistol trials in both senior and junior categories.
 - ☞ **Jasprit Bumrah** ends 2018 as **highest wicket-taker** in international cricket, overhauls Kagiso Rabada.
 - ☞ Third edition of **women's national boxing championships** begins in Vijayanagara, Karnataka.
 - ☞ **Sports Ministry embarks Rs 100 Cr** for funding athletes under TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme): DGSAI (Director General of Sports Authority of India).
- SURVEYS**
- ☞ According to a **global nutrition report**, **India** is facing a **major malnutrition crisis** as it holds almost a **third of the world's burden for stunting**.
 - ☞ India has highest number of children and adolescents living with HIV in South Asia: **UNICEF report**
 - ☞ **Arton Capital** launched the **passport index named – Global Passport Power Rank 2018**, in which **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** topped the charts, among 197 nations, as the nation having the most powerful passport.
 - ☞ According to the **UN's (United Nations) World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**, the number of patents granted by India shot up by 50 per cent in 2017.
 - ☞ The **top 10 fastest growing cities in the world from 2019 to 2035** are in India, according to **Oxford Economics report**, **Gujarat's Surat** tops the list followed by **Uttar Pradesh's Agra**.
 - ☞ **India is the fourth highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world**, accounting for **7 per cent of global emissions in 2017**.
 - ☞ **India tops in road deaths with 1.51 lakh road deaths in 2016** and globally the toll of road deaths increased from **1.25 million to 1.35** in a span of three years as per the **Global Status Report on Road Safety**.
 - ☞ **Women are paid the most unequally in India, compared to men**, when it comes to hourly wages for labour. On average, women are paid 34 per cent less than men, a recent report by **the International Labour Organization (ILO)** has found.
 - ☞ Swedish think tank, the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** released its report on the world's 100 biggest armaments groups and reported **Russia** has emerged as the **world's second-largest arms producer after the U.S.**
 - ☞ **The Climate Change Performance Index 2019** was released on the sidelines of **COP24 UN Summit in Katowice, Poland**.
 - ☞ A study, published in the journal **Royal Society Open Science**, scientists found that the **Dracula ant** possesses the **fastest animal movement** on record.
 - ☞ **Delhi** has been placed at **7th place** in terms of **most expensive premium office** locations in the world. The report was released by **JLL India**, a real estate services firm.
 - ☞ **The US regulator Federation of Aviation Administration (FAA)** retained the highest **aviation safety ranking for India**. According to FAA, **India's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA)** rating remains **'Category 1'**.
 - ☞ Gujarat has emerged as **the best-performing state in the Startup Ranking 2018**. **The National Report on States' Startup Ranking** was unveiled by **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in New Delhi.

- ☞ **The NITI Aayog released the Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index**, which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets.
- ☞ **Indian Oil Corporation, ONGC and NTPC** emerged as the top **three most profitable** PSUs in 2017-18, while **BSNL, Air India and MTNL** incurred the **highest losses for the second consecutive year: Public Enterprises Survey 2017-18**
- ☞ **India's total greenhouse gas emissions** grew by **more than 22 per cent** between **2010 and 2014**, reaching a level of **2.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide** equivalent in 2014, according to official data put out by government.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

BOOK	AUTHOR	SPEAKS ABOUT
Architecture of Justice: A Pictorial Walk-through of the Supreme Courts and High Courts of India	Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi	Never before seen photographic rendition of the Supreme Court of India, the 24 High Courts and its 12 benches.
A Handbook for Students on Cyber Safety	Ministry of Home Affairs	to create awareness among teenagers about online Crimes and Threats
The Republican Ethic and Loktantrake Swar	Published by the Publication Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting,	A collection of President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind's selected speeches made by him in the first year of assuming the office.
God of Sin: The Cult, The Clout and Downfall of Asaram Bapu	Ushinor Majumdar	About Asaram's journey to spiritual godhood, his fall from grace and the long and arduous road to bring him to justice
Timeless Laxman	Usha Srinivas Laxman	Based on the life and times of legendary cartoonist, the late R.K. Laxman
Changing India	Manmohan Singh	Congress leader narrated his journey from an economist to a politician and shared anecdotes from his life.
A Rural Manifesto – Realising India's Future through her Villages	Varun Gandhi	The book focuses on challenges faced by farmers, labourers, student and teachers in villages across the country.
Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From	Tony Joseph	Talks about the migration of the First Indians also known as 'Aryans' who arrived here 65,000 years ago.
Blue Waters Ahoy	Vice Admiral Anup Singh	Chronicle the history of Indian Navy from 2001-2010.

- ☞ Merriam-Webster Selects 'Justice' as Its 2018 Word of the Year.

OBITUARIES

NAME	PLACE	IMPORTANCE
Stan Lee	America	Spider-Man, Iron Man co-creator
George HW Bush	US	Former 41st US President
Jayaraman	Tamilnadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Famous agriculturist written books including Nellathikaram and Mamarunthagum ParampariyaNel. also launched "Save Our Rice" campaign and organised paddy festival
Arun Kumar Shaw	West Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven time National Champion and first swimmer to win Arjuna Award from Bengal won the Arjuna Award in 1967.
Mohammad AsrarulHaque	India	Senior Congress MP and Noted Islamic Scholar
Lyudmila Alexeyeva	Russia	Leading Russian rights activist and former Soviet dissident
Nebankur Gupta		Veteran Marketing Industry Expert served at companies including Raymond, Videocon Industries and Philips
CN Balakrishnan	Kerala	Senior Congress leader and former Kerala minister
Nancy Wilson	California	three times Grammy award winner jazz singer who called herself a "song-stylist"
Sondra Locke	America	Oscar-nominated Hollywood Actress
ThoppilAjayan	Kerala	National award winning Malayalam film director
Tulsi Ramsay		Filmmaker known for making Horror films
PanditArunBhaduri	West Bengal	legendary classical singer
TulsiGiri	Nepal	Former Prime Minister of Nepal
Prabhanjan	Tamilnadu	Noted Tamil writer and SahityaAkademi award winner
DipaliBorthakur	Assam	Nightingale of Assam' singer and Padma Shri recipient
Nana Chudasama	Mumbai	Former Mumbai Mayor and Padma Shri
NirupamSen	West Bengal	Veteran CPI (M) leader
SulagittiNarasamma	Bengaluru	Social worker and Padma Shri awardee
NirendranathChakraborty	West Bengal	Famous Bengali poet and SahityaAkademi awardee
ShehuShagari	Nigeria	Former Nigerian President
MrinalSen	West Bengal	Contemporary of Satyajit Ray, legendary filmmaker, Padmabhushan and Phalke awardee
