

IBPS Clerk Current Affairs Capsule – 2018

Part – 1 (Covers From July to Oct 2018)




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Important Days

JULY

Date	Day	Theme/Purpose
July 1	International Joke Day	
	World Doctor's Day	Zero tolerance to violence against doctors and clinical establishment'
July 6	World Zoonoses Day	
July 7	World Chocolate Day	
	International Day of Cooperatives (IDC)	Sustainable consumption and production
July 11	World Population Day	'Family Planning is a Human Right'
July 12	International Malala Day	
July 18	International Nelson Mandela Day	
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas or Kargil Memorial Day or Kargil Victory Day	
July 28	World Nature Conservation Day	
	World Hepatitis Day	Test. Treat. Hepatitis
July 29	International Tiger Day	
July 30	World Ranger Day	
	World Day against Trafficking in Persons	'Responding to the trafficking of children and young people'
1st Saturday of July	International Day of Cooperatives	

AUGUST

Date	Day	Theme/Purpose
First Sunday in August	International Friendship Day	
August 6	Hiroshima Day, Anti Nuclear Day	
August 7	International Lighthouse day	
August 8	World Senior Citizen Day	
	World Cat Day	
August 9	Nagasaki Day,	
	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	"Indigenous peoples' migration and movement"
	Quit India Day	
August 10	Bio Fuel Day	
August 12	International Youth Day	Safe Spaces for Youth
	World Elephant Day	
August 13	International Left Handers Day	
August 14	Pakistan's Independence Day	
August 15	India's Independence Day	
	International Mourning Day	
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	#NotATarget
	World Photography Day	
August 20	National Sadbhavna Divas or Birthday of Rajiv Gandhi, ,	
	World Mosquito Day	

	Indain Akshay Urja Diwas or day	
August 21	National Senior Citizen Day	
	International Day of Remembrance and tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition	
August 24	Women's Equality Day	
August 29	National Sports Day or Dhyanchand's Birthday	
August 30	International day of the victims of enforced Disappearances	
August 1 to 7	World Breastfeeding Week	Breastfeeding: Foundation of Life.

SEPTEMBER

Date	Day	Theme/Purpose
September 2	Coconut Day	
	National teachers day	—
	Sanskrit Day	—
September 5	International Day of Charity	
September 7	Forgiveness Day	—
September 8	International Literacy Day	Literacy and skill development
September 14	National Hindi day	
	World First Aid Day	
September 15	Engineers' Day	—
September 16	World Ozone Day	Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol
	World Alzheimer's day	
September 21	International Day of Peace	The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70
	World Car Free Day	
September 22	World Rhino Day	
	International Day of Sign Languages	With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!
September 23	Indian Army commemorates Haifa Day	
September 25	Social Justice Day	
September 26	World Contraception Day	
	World Tourism Day	Tourism and the Digital Transformation
September 27	World Maritime Day	Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future
September 29	World Heart Day	My Heart, Your Heart
September 30	International Translation Day	Translation: Promoting Cultural Heritage in Changing Times
last Sunday of September	World Deaf Day	
2 nd week of September	World First Aid Day	
September 1 to 7	National Nutrition week	Go Further with Food' and in 2017 was 'Optimal Infant &

		Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health'.
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OCTOBER

Date	Day	Theme
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	
	World Vegetarian Day	
	International Coffee Day	Women in Coffee
October 2	Gandhi Jayanti, International Day of Non-Violence	
	World Farm Animals Day	
October 4 th to 10 th	World Space Week	
October 5	World Teachers Day	The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher
October 8	Indian Air Force Day	
October 9	World Post Day	
October 9 th to 14 th	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week	
October 10	World Mental Health Day	
	National Post Day	
October 10 th to 14 th	India water Week-2017	
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	With Her: A Skilled Girl Force
	World Obesity Day	It's time to End Weight Stigma!
October 12	World Arthritis Day	'It's in your hands, take action'.
October 13	International Day for Disaster Reduction	
October 14	International Standards Day	
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	
	Global Hand Washing Day	
	World Students' Day	
	World Maths Day	
October 16	World Food Day	Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	
	World Statistics Day	
October 24	United Nations Day	Traditions of Peace and Non-violence
	World Polio Day	
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	
	International Animation Day	
October 28	National Ayurveda Day	
October 29	World Stroke Day	
	International Internet Day	
October 31	World Cities Day	
	World Savings Day	
	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas(National Unity Day)	
First Monday of October	World Architecture Day	Architecture for a Better World
	World Habitat Day	Municipal Solid Waste Management

First Friday of October	World Smile Day	
Second Thursday of October	World Sight Day	Eye Care Everywhere
October 2 to 8	Wildlife Week	
second Friday in October	World Egg Day	Protein for Life
The week in which birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October) falls.	Vigilance Awareness Week	Eradicate Corruption-Build a New India

Important Banking News

RBI

Fourth Bi monthly monetary policy Report of the FY 2018-19

- RBI Projects retail inflation to rise to 3.8-4.5 pc in October-March

Policy Repo Rate	6.50%	Unchanged
Reverse Repo Rate	6.25%	Unchanged
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.75%	Unchanged
Bank Rate	6.75%	Unchanged
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.00%	Unchanged
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.50%	Unchanged

RBI issued license to Bank of China to operate in India

- The decision was based on the commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Chinese President XiJinping, during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Qingdao, China.

Reserve Bank makes it compulsory to incorporate purchaser's name on the face of payment instrumentalities to prevent money laundering

- In order to address the concerns arising out of the anonymity and to prevent money laundering, the Reserve Bank has now made it compulsory to incorporate the purchaser's name on the face of demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques and other instruments.
- The RBI issued a notification in Mumbai yesterday to this effect to the banks. This directive will come into effect from 15th of September this year.

RBI gets global praise for communication strategy

- The RBI has come in for effusive praise by the global banking authority, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), for its effective communications strategy.

Reserve Bank of India considers Cryptocurrency dealings as illegal transactions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said to the Supreme Court (SC) that dealings in cryptocurrency like Bitcoins would encourage illegal transactions. RBI has already issued a circular prohibiting the use of these virtual currencies. Earlier RBI has instructed banks and other financial institutions to freeze the bank accounts of those individuals and companies dealing in the illegal trade of virtual currencies.

Revised guidelines for closure of CPSEs

- Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has revised the guidelines on time bound closure of sick and loss making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

RSS thinker S Gurusurthy, Satish Marathe appointed as directors on RBI board

- The government appointed Swaminathan Gurusurthy and Satish Kashinath Marathe as part-time non-official directors on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board, for a period of four years.

UAE top source of inward remittances in 2016-17

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the top source of inward remittances, while Kerala has received the maximum funds sent from abroad, according to the Reserve Bank of India's survey of inward remittances for 2016-17.

99.3 percent of demonetised currency returned: RBI in its Annual Report 2017-18

- Over 99 percent of the demonetised currency was returned, as per the Annual Report 2017-18 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The report was released on August 29, 2018.
- In November 2016, the Union Government withdrew Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes from the circulation with effect from November 9, 2016. The demonetisation was hailed as a step that would curb black money, corruption and check counterfeit currency.

India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4 % in current financial year

- The Reserve Bank expects India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4% in the current financial year on pick up in industrial activity and good monsoon.

Mauritius remains top source of FDI into India in 2017-18

- According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Mauritius was top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18 followed by Singapore. The total FDI in FY 18 stood at \$37.36 billion in financial year which was marginal rise over \$36.31 billion recorded in the previous fiscal 2016-17.

RBI buys gold for the first time in 9 years

- Taking a cue from global uncertainties, market volatility, and rising interest rates in the US, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has added 8.46 tonnes of gold during the financial year 2017-18, taking the level of gold reserves to 566.23 tonnes as on June 30, 2018. RBI last purchased 200 tonnes of gold from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in November 2009.

Banks with Over 10 Branches To Have Internal Ombudsman

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all scheduled commercial banks with more than 10 branches to appoint an Internal Ombudsman (IO). The apex bank has, however, excluded regional rural banks (RRBs) from appointing IOs.

RBI Tweaks Norms for Defective Note Change

- The RBI tweaked norms for exchange of mutilated notes following the introduction of Rs. 2,000, Rs.200 and other lower denomination currencies. Post demonetisation in November 2016, the Reserve Bank introduced Rs.200 and Rs.2,000 notes. Besides, it came out with notes of Rs.10, Rs.20, Rs.50, Rs.100 and Rs.500.
- Public can exchange mutilated or defective notes at RBI offices and designated bank branches across the country for either full or half value, depending upon the condition of the currency.
- Making amendments to the Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 2009, the central bank said this has been done to enable the public to exchange mutilated notes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) series, which are smaller compared to the earlier series. These rules have come into force with immediate effect.
- RBI further inform that there is a change in the minimum area of the single largest undivided piece of the note required for payment of full value for notes of rupees fifty and above denominations.

India's Q1 current account deficit (CAD) at 2.4% of GDP

- The country's current account deficit (CAD) as a percentage of GDP declined marginally to 2.4% in the April-June quarter of fiscal 2019 against 2.5% in the year ago period, RBI data showed. The rupee is declining against the US dollar due to global factors as well as concerns of higher trade deficit on account of sustained high crude oil prices.

Government appoints four members to local boards of Reserve Bank of India

- Rakesh Jain and Sachin Chaturvedi appointed as a member in Southern local board and Eastern local board of RBI. Revathy Iyer and Raghvendra Narayan Dubey appointed as a member in the Northern local board of RBI.

RBI shortlisted 5 IT firms for implementation of Centralized information and Management System (CIMS)

- Reserve Bank shortlisted five IT firms for implementation of a centralized information and management system (CIMS) for data collection. The 5 IT firms are: Infosys, TCS, Capgemini, IBM, Larsen & Turbo Infotech.

RBI told banks to share a maximum 80% credit risk for priority sector loans jointly with NBFC

- RBI told banks to share a maximum 80% credit risk when they originate priority sector loans jointly with non-banking finance companies. The regulator also said the lenders will charge a single interest rate to borrowers.

RBI relaxes ECB norms to prop up rupee

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) liberalized some aspects of the external commercial borrowings (ECBs) policy including those related to rupee-denominated bonds to help check rupee depreciation. Till date, ECB up to \$50 million or its equivalent could be raised by eligible borrowers with minimum average maturity period of three years. The decision to revise the minimum average maturity period of three years to one year.

RBI to ease SLR norms from October to induce liquidity

- The Reserve Bank of India will ease the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) norms from October to induce liquidity into the financial system, amid concerns of a credit crunch. The increase in 'Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio' (FALLCR), will effect from October 1, 2018, from the existing 11 per cent to 13 per cent will take the carve out from SLR available to banks to 15 per cent of their NDTL (Net Demand and Time Liabilities)".

India's external debt declines 2.8 per cent \$514.4 billion at end-June

- India's external debt declined 2.8 per cent to USD 514.4 billion at June-end over the previous quarter on account of a decrease in commercial borrowings, short-term debt and non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits. At end-June 2018, the external debt was placed at USD 514.4 billion, recording a decrease of USD 14.9 billion over its level at end-March 2018.

RBI to inject Rs. 36,000 cr into system through purchase of government bonds

- The Reserve Bank of India announced that it will inject Rs 36,000 crore liquidity into the system through purchase of government bonds in October to meet the festival season demand for funds. The auctions to purchase government bonds as part of the Open Market Operations (OMO) to manage liquidity in the system will be conducted in the second, third and fourth week of October.

RBI leaves repo rate unchanged in MPC Report

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its fourth bi-monthly meet today left the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent while the reverse repo rate remains at 6.25 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy stance has changed to 'calibrated tightening' from neutral. The RBI stated that headline inflation is estimated to accelerate to 4.5% by March 2019 quarter with upside risks.

RBI holds repo rate, but changes stance to 'calibrated tightening'

- Reserve Bank has maintained status quo on all key policy rates in the fourth bi-monthly monetary policy review. The six member monetary policy committee, MPC headed by Governor Urjit Patel decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent and the reverse repo rate at 6.25 percent. The RBI has changed its stance to calibrated tightening of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for headline inflation of 4 percent while supporting growth.

RBI proposes Voluntary Retention Route to attract long-term investment

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed new norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to attract long-term and stable FPI investments into debt markets while allowing them operational flexibility. The central bank, in consultation with the government and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has proposed a special route called Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) to encourage FPIs willing to make long-term investments in debt.
- According to the proposal, foreign portfolio investors will be exempt from regulatory provisions, but will have to voluntarily commit to retain in India a minimum required percentage of their investments for a period of their choice. The minimum retention period shall be three years, or as decided by RBI for each auction. A foreign portfolio investor will be required to invest a minimum of 67% of the committed portfolio size (CPS) within the one-month period.

RBI approved formation of 'Kerala Bank' having Rs 650 bn in deposits

- RBI approved the proposal of Kerala government for the formation of Kerala Bank. RBI approved formation of 'Kerala Bank' having Rs 650 bn in deposits. The decision was taken by special task force headed by Chairman M S Sriram.

Government appoints former Canara Bank MD Rakesh Sharma as IDBI MD

- The government appointed former Canara Bank managing director Rakesh Sharma as head of IDBI Bank for a period of six months. This comes after the tenure of B Sriram who was appointed as the chief executive of IDBI Bank for three months ended in September 2018.

Electronic Trading Platforms Directions, 2018 Released By RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines for operating Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) to transact in eligible instruments. Trading on electronic platforms is being encouraged across the world as it enhances pricing transparency, processing efficiency and risk control. As per the norms issued by the central bank ETPs will mean any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments. ETP Operator' shall mean an entity authorised by the Reserve Bank to operate an ETP under these Directions.

RBI to inject Rs 12000 crore into system on Oct 11 to manage liquidity

- The Reserve Bank announced it will inject Rs 12,000 crore liquidity into the system through purchase of government bonds on October 11 to meet the festival season demand for funds. The government will purchase bonds with maturity ranging between 2020 to 2030. The auction to purchase government bonds is a part of the Open Market Operations (OMO) to manage liquidity in the system which seems to be facing liquidity tightness.

Minting of Rs 10 coins cut by half due to non-availability of raw material

- A delay in procurement of raw material for coins has forced Reserve Bank of India to cut its demand for Rs 10 coins by half, raising the specter of shortage in circulation. RBI, which manages the supply, adjusted the entire coin indent plan for FY19 by raising the demand for smaller denomination of coins in lieu of Rs 10 coins, following India Government Mints' failure to procure Rs 10 coin blocks on time, according to official documents.

RBI issues guidelines for facilitating money transfer among e-wallets

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for interoperability among prepaid instruments (PPI) such as e-wallets. Inter-operability is technical compatibility that enables payment system to be used in conjunction with other payment systems.

RBI approved NBFC license for Kreditech

- RBI approved the license for Kreditech, the Germany-based company to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence for digital lending business and app-based financing. The approval is with the first-of-its-kind. Kreditech's product suite for India will offer individualised direct-to-consumer loans as well as its Lending-as-a-Service Solution for vendors, which allows partners to offer customised credit products to their customers.

RBI eases liquidity norms for banks

- The Reserve Bank of India increased lenders' single borrower exposure limit for Non-Banking Finance Companies which do not finance infrastructure, from 10% to 15% of capital funds, until December 31, 2018. The RBI also eased liquidity norms for banks, allowing them to calculate government securities held by them up to an amount equal to their incremental outstanding credit to Non-Banking Finance Companies, or NBFCs, and Housing Finance Companies.

RBI enhanced the FALLCR from the existing 11 % to 13 %

- Reserve Bank of India enhanced the "Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FALLCR)" from the existing 11 per cent to 13 per cent of their deposits. Its objective is to overcome any possible liquidity constraints by the banks. This will be effective from October 1. This will enable the banks to forge out up to 15 per cent of holdings under the statutory liquidity reserves (SLR) during liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements as compared to 13 per cent now. As of September 26, banks had availed of Rs.1.88 trillion through term repos from the Reserve Bank

RBI to inject Rs 40000 cr liquidity into system in November:

- The Reserve Bank of India will inject Rs 40,000 crore in the banking system next month, a move that will help ease cash shortage in the system and stabilise debt market rates. RBI has decided to conduct purchase of government securities under open market operations for an aggregate amount of \$400 billion in the month of November 2018.

SBI**MoU on Defence Salary Package Signed Between Indian Army and SBI**

- An MoU was signed between the Indian Army and State Bank of India on the Defence Salary Package. The signing-in ceremony was chaired by the Director-General (MP&PS), Lt Gen SK Saini in Mumbai.

SBI and Nabard tie-up for credit in Telangana

- State Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has joined hands to provide collateral-free credit through Joint Liability Groups in Telangana.

SBI will organise 'kisan melas' across Karnataka on July 18

- State Bank of India (SBI) will organise 'kisan melas' at 875 rural and semi-urban branches spread across Karnataka on July 18.

Rajya Sabha passes the State Banks Repeal & Amendment Bill, 2017

- The Rajya Sabha has passed the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017. The House adopted the amendment moved by the government regarding the bill. The Bill seeks to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956 and further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955.
- Under it, the five associates' banks that were merged are State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore. The merger of these banks has already been effective from 1st April, 2017.

Reliance Jio partnered with SBI for digital services

- RIL's telecom subsidiary Reliance Jio partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) to extend the next generation of digital banking and payments services to customers. MyJio platform will enable SBI YONO's digital banking features and solutions for a seamless, integrated and superior customer experience.

State Bank of India ranked as Indias Most Patriotic Brand

- According to a survey conducted by UK-based online market research data, companies followed by Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL.

SBI suggested its customers to switch to EVM cards

- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has asked its customers to replace their ATM cards for Europay, MasterCard, Visa (EMV) chip based ATM-cum-debit cards with magnetic stripe before December 31. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had asked banks to issue only chip-based and Personal Identification Number (PIN) enabled debit and credit cards to protect customers from frauds. EMV chip card protects against counterfeit skimming (card fraud). EMV chip card and PIN protects against both counterfeit skimming and lost and stolen card fraud.

SBI expects Q1 GDP growth at 7.7 pc

- The country's GDP is expected to grow by 7.7% in the April-June quarter on the back of a pick-up in leading indicators like cement production, sale of vehicles and bank credit, SBI said in a report. SBI has based its assessment on its Composite Leading Indicator (CLI). "The CLI is signalling that the economic activity for Q1 FY19 has picked up substantially and the GVA growth would be 7.6%," it said.

MOPAD: a unified payment terminal POS machine launched by SBI

- State Bank of India launched a payments machine called MOPAD. The full form of MOPAD is Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device. It is a Point of Sale (PoS) terminal that will allow facilitating transactions from cards to QR code based payments. It would accept payments through UPI, Bharat QR, and SBI Buddy wallet which till now required different tools to receive payments.

SBI opens e-facilitation facility for army veterans in Bengal

- Major General A.K. Sanyal, General Officer Commanding, Bengal Sub-area, inaugurated State Bank of India (SBI)'s e-facilitation and e-corner facility for Indian army veterans at the Army Complex near Fort William, Kolkata.

SBI appointed Anshula Kant as Managing Director

- Anshula Kant is at present the Deputy Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of SBI. SBI's MD post fell vacant after resignation of B Sriram, who took over as the MD and CEO of IDBI Bank. With this appointment SBI now has four MDs, the other 3 MDs are PK Gupta, DK Khara and Arijit Basu.

State Bank of India vows to become plastic free organisation in one year:

- State Bank of India (SBI) on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary pledged to become a plastic-free organisation in the next 12 months as part of its sustainability commitment. The initiative is in sync with the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the national commitment to abolish single use plastic by 2022. "In the next 12 months, SBI will be undertaking phase-wise steps to become plastic free.

SBI signs MoU with Nepal's National Banking Institute for human resource development

- SBI signed the three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NBI to establish a mutually beneficial strategic alliance for development of NBI's human resources by imparting education, training and research, SBI said in a statement. Under the MoU, the strategic training unit of SBI will impart education, training and development to facilitate transformation of NBI's HR department. An apex banking academy of Nepal, National Banking Institute is already in tie ups with leading institutions in India including IIMs, MDI, ISB

SBI to block internet banking on accounts if mobile number not registered

- SBI account holders have to register their mobile numbers with the bank by 1 December 2018, failing which the bank will block access to their net banking accounts.

SBI launches its first "Wealth Hub" in Mangaluru

- The nation's largest bank, State Bank of India launched its wealth business services by opening "SBI Wealth Hub" at the Lalbagh branch in Mangaluru. The wealth hub was inaugurated by SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar.

SBI to issue and encash electoral bonds soon

- The GoI has notified the sale of electoral bond by SBI through its 29 authorized branches from 1.11.2018 to 10.11.2018. These SBI branches are in cities like New Delhi, Gandhinagar, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Mumbai, Jaipur, Lucknow, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati. The concept of electoral bond was initiated in Union Budget 2017. Later on Electoral bond scheme 2018 was introduced.

SBI, Hitachi Payments from JV for digital payment platform

- Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) and payments solution provider Hitachi Payment Services India entered into an agreement to form a joint venture for establishing a card acceptance and digital payment platform.

Asian Development Bank

ADB to \$245 million provide loan for safe, sustainable drinking water service in West Bengal

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved financing package of \$245 million to implement project for providing safe, sustainable drinking water service to million people in three districts of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity. The project will provide continuous potable water through metered connections to about 390,000 individual households in three districts of North 24 Parganas, Bankura and Purba Medinipur.

ADB to provide US \$375 million loan for Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project

- Union Government has signed \$375 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project. The project will contribute to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.

ADB approved \$346 mn loan for road improvement in Karnataka

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has approved USD 346 million loan to finance road improvement across a dozen districts in Karnataka.

ADB unveils new tool 'Trade Finance Scorecard' to boost access to trade finance

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched its first Trade Finance Scorecard, a new tool to address market gaps stemming from the unintended consequences of global measures to fight money-laundering and terrorism. "Preventing criminals and terrorists from exploiting the global financial system is critically important," said ADB's Head of Trade and Supply Chain Finance, Steven Beck.

ADB approves \$500 mn for Tamil Nadu water supply, sewerage, drainage infra

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a USD 500 million loan to build climate resilient infrastructure in several cities of Tamil Nadu. The ADB programme will provide direct assistance in these areas as part of its support to the state's Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 to provide universal access to water and sanitation and to develop world-class cities in high-performing industrial corridors.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India sign \$150 Million Loan to Improve Regional Connectivity

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has approved a USD 150 million loan to finance road infrastructure and international trade corridor in West Bengal and north-eastern states. This is the second tranche loan agreement for the USD 500 million South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Investment Programme.

India signs pact with ADB for safe drinking water in Bengal

- India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$240 million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three districts of West Bengal.

2018 Flagship Statistical Report for Asia and the Pacific is released by ADB

- Asian Development Bank released its 2018 Flagship Statistical Report for Asia and the Pacific. This report provides the latest available economic, financial, social, SDG indicators and environmental statistics for the 48 regional members of ADB. This year's report is focusing on: Technological Innovation for Agricultural Statistics.

HDFC

HDFC Bank most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China

- There are four lenders from India that now rank among the world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by its housing finance cousin Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India.

HDFC securities launched MF transactions on Facebook messenger through Arya

- HDFC securities announced launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant, Arya.

NTPC signs Rs. 1,500 crore loan agreement with HDFC Bank

- The loan has a door-to-door tenure of 15 years and will be utilized to partly finance capital expenditure of NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited), which is India's biggest power producer.

HDFC awarded best performing lending institution in CLSS schemes

- Leading mortgage lender HDFC has been awarded the best performing primary lending institution in credit linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) for the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) and LIG (Low Income Group) category. The award was given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the company said in a press release.

PayPal and HDFC Bank Partner to Offer Seamless Payment Experiences

- To initiate incremental digital spend, the HDFC cards will be presented as a payment option during enrollment and subsequent payments with the ability for consumers to easily open PayPal accounts and set it as their preferred payment method. This partnership will create a number of joint growth opportunities that will advance PayPal and HDFC Bank's shared vision of offering consumers greater choice and flexibility.

RBI clears re-appointment of Aditya Puri as HDFC Bank CEO for 2 years

- HDFC Bank said the RBI had approved the re-appointment of Aditya Puri as managing director of the bank for another two years.

YES BANK**Yes Bank gets SEBI nod for custodian of securities business**

- Yes Bank has received approval from market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for acting as custodian of securities. Custodian of securities is a licence granted by Sebi to eligible entities allowing them to offer custodial services to financial market participants including foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

YES Bank ties up with Kerala Start-up Mission

- The Kerala Start-up Mission and YES Bank are joining hands to provide a host of corporate and commercial banking services focused on start-ups in the state. The Start-up Mission is the nodal agency of the Kerala government, aimed at development of entrepreneurship and incubation activities in the state.

YES Bank gets SEBI nod to launch mutual fund business:

- Private lender YES Bank said that it has received final regulatory approval from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to start mutual fund business.

Yes Bank names TS Vijayan & OP Bhatt as external members for MD selection panel

- He is the former IRDA chief and LIC chairman TS Vijayan and former SBI chief OP Bhatt as an external member to a 5 member committee panel. YES Bank constituted a 5 member committee to select the upcoming MD after the current MD Mr. Rana Kapoor leaves office after January 31st 2019.

Yes Bank hires headhunter Korn Ferry to assist search panel for new CEO

- Rana Kapoor, the founder and promoter of the bank, has been asked by the Reserve Bank to step down after January 2019. Yes Bank appointed US-based headhunter Korn Ferry to assist an expert panel searching for his successor.

YES BANK integrates mPower BOT with RupeeBoss.com

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has partnered with online financial services company RupeeBoss.com for the integration of the bank's chat bot based platform to support instant loan eligibilities for its several loan products. The p integration will be done across digital platforms and shall be available for use across platforms like the online portal RupeeBoss.com for the customers.

WORLD BANK**World Bank Launches World's 1st Blockchain Bond 'bond-i'**

- The World Bank launched 'bond-i', the world's first bond to be created, allocated, transferred and managed by using distributed ledger technology. This two-year bond successfully raised 110 million Australian dollars (USD 80.48 million).

Government inks \$300 million agreement with World Bank to scale-up Energy Efficiency Program

- Union Government (Finance Ministry) has inked \$220 million Loan Agreement with World Bank to scale-up India's Energy Efficiency Program. It also signed \$80 million guarantee agreement with World Bank.
- The loan will be provided to EESL by World Bank through its lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

Government inks \$250 million loan agreement World Bank for Electricity Distribution Sector Reforms in Rajasthan

- Central Government along with Government of Rajasthan has signed \$250 million Development Policy Loan (DPL) agreement with World Bank for Electricity Distribution Sector Reforms in Rajasthan. The loan will be provided by World Bank's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). It has maturity of 21 years and 3-year grace period.

World Bank approves Rs 929.89 crore for Shimlas water supply project

- World Bank approves Rs 929.89 crore for Shimla's water supply project. The World Bank has approved in principle a financial assistance of Rs 929.89 crore for a water supply and sewerage project for the state capital Himachal Pradesh.

World Bank Board has endorsed an ambitious five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India

- World Bank Board has endorsed an ambitious five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India, which aligns with New Delhi's objectives of high, sustainable and inclusive growth. The framework is expected to bring between 25 and 30 billion US Dollars in financial support to India.

World Bank: East Asia-Pacific to grow 6.3% in 2018

- Developing countries of the East Asia and Pacific region will grow at 6.3 per cent in 2018, the World Bank has said. The outlook for the region remained positive despite a lower growth prospect than in 2017 owing to a moderation in China's growth.

Environment Ministry and World Bank released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country

- "Strengthening Forest Fire Management in India", jointly prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the World Bank. The report was released by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon. Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. The report states that forest fires are the leading cause of forest degradation in India. About 95 percent of all forest plots inventoried show some signs of degradation.

NABARD**Nabard award for Repeco Micro Finance**

- Repeco Micro Finance Ltd, a non-banking finance company promoted by Repeco Bank, received Nabard 2018 award for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18.

NABARD has sanctioned Rs 335 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to West Bengal.

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 335 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to West Bengal. It will be used for 158 minor irrigation projects and 23 flood protection projects.

NABARD approves Rs 65,634.93 crore loan for 93 irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- Around 18 projects have been completed. About Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) It is a national mission to improve farm productivity and ensure better utilization of the resources in the country.

PAYMENT BANK**RBI lifts ban on Airtel Payments Bank to enrol new customers:**

- Sunil Bharti Mittal-owned Airtel Payments Bank stated it has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for enrolling new customers.

Paytm Payments Bank CEO Renu Satti steps down

- CEO and Managing Director of Paytm Payments Bank, Renu Satti has resigned from her position to lead the new retail initiative for the company. She will now be the new Chief Operating Officer of 'New Retail' which essentially will help consumers discover groceries, pharmacies and shops for instant deliveries. Now as she moves on to a new role the position of the head of the bank lies vacant.

RBI tells Paytm Payments Bank to stop adding new customers with immediate effect

- Paytm Payments Bank has stopped enrolment of new customers on its platform following observations made by the Reserve Bank of India, four people with knowledge of the matter said.

India Post Payments Bank to start operations with 650 branches in September 1, 2018

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is expected to go live with 650 branches in addition to 3,250 access points co-located at post offices in September 1, 2018 following final clearance from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start. RBI has given approval to IPPB after testing its entire system.

RBI bars Fino Payments Bank from enrolling new customers

- Reserve Bank of India observed that a few Fino Payments Bank accounts had deposits in excess of the stipulated amount of Rs.1 lakh.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) raised its capital from Rs 800 crore to Rs 1435 crore

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for revision of the project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) from Rs 800 crore to Rs 1435 crore. The additional sum of Rs 635 crore in the revised cost estimates is on account of Rs 400 crore for Technology Costs and Rs 235 crore for Human Resource Costs.

Airtel Payment Bank announced that users can withdraw cash from ATMs, without the need for a physical debit card

- Airtel Payment Bank announced that users can withdraw cash from ATMs, without the need for a physical debit card. For this Airtel has partnered with Empays to enable Instant Money Transfer (IMT) for its account holders. 20,000 ATMs have been enabled with Empays IMT card-less cash technology which will expand to over 100,000 ATMs by the end of 2018. This new service is available to both smartphone and feature phone users through USSD (*400#) and MyAirtel app.

IPPB ties up with Financial Software and Systems (FSS)

- India Post Payments Bank has tied up with Financial Software and Systems (FSS), a leading payments technology and transaction processing systems, to offer a wide range of banking solutions to financially underserved customer segments—especially rural households, small and medium enterprises and women.

Bharti Axa ties up with Airtel Payments Bank to offer Jeevan Jyoti Bima

- Bharti Axa Life Insurance and Airtel Payments Bank entered into an alliance to offer the 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' (PMJJBY), a government-backed life insurance scheme.
- The product (PMJJBY) provided by Bharti Axa Life Insurance offers Rs 2 lakh life insurance cover for a nominal premium of Rs 330 per annum and can be purchased by all existing or new Airtel Payments Bank savings bank account holders between the ages of 18-50.

India Post Payments Bank, Bajaj Allianz tie up for insurance products sale

- India Post Payments Bank and Bajaj Allianz announced a five-year partnership to sell life insurance products on a revenue share basis. Under the partnership, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will facilitate customers to pay for Bajaj Allianz life insurance products through their accounts.

RBI Lifts the Ban on Fino Payments Bank To Open New Accounts

- After almost five months of being barred from adding new customers, Fino Payments Bank, one of India's first payments banks has been allowed to open new accounts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after it submitted the compliance report to the central bank.

Paytm Payments Bank has appointed Satish Kumar Gupta as MD and CEO

- Paytm Payments Bank has appointed Satish Kumar Gupta as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the digital bank. Gupta is the third CEO appointed by Paytm Payments Bank

NSDL starts payments bank operations

- National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) Payments Bank has commenced operations as a payments bank. In November 2014, the RBI had granted 'in-principle' approval to 11 applicants, including National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) to set up payments banks.

SMALL FINANCE BANK**Oxygen Announces a Strategic Partnership with Fincare Small Finance Bank**

- At an event, Oxygen and Fincare Small Finance Bank signed an agreement to roll out the Branchless Banking services, using Oxygen's flagship Point of Sale device called the Oxygen Micro ATM Super PoS. The event graced by Brand Ambassador Grand Master Viswanathan Anand.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank offers overdraft for micro, small firms

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, a subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd., has announced the nationwide rollout of overdraft (OD) facility for micro and small enterprise (MSE) customers. An add-on product to the bank's existing MSE

term loans, the facility aims to assist businesses having a turnover of Rs.50 lakh or more with funding to meet their long-term and short-term financing requirements.

Other Banking News

Banks Board Bureau recommends MDs from SBI for appointment as CEOs in other PSBs

- The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) on Saturday recommended managing directors from State Bank of India (SBI) for appointment as managing directors and CEOs in other public sector banks (PSBs).

IIFL is India's No. 1 investment bank for Fiscal Year 2017 to 2018

- As per Prime Database Investment Bankers League table for FY 2017-18, IIFL is India's top investment bank for equity issuances by private sector companies.

ICICI Bank's Mortgage Portfolio Crosses Rs1.5-Trillion

- ICICI Bank has announced that its mortgage loan portfolio crossed the Rs 1.5-trillion milestone, making it the largest private player in the segment, and the lender is targeting to grow it to Rs 2 trillion by FY20.

Government taps RBI to track all financial transactions:

- In a move aimed at widening the crackdown on black money and following the money trail flowing in and out of thousands of shell companies, the Centre is planning to set up an information technology (IT)-based mechanism to keep a tab on all non-cash, financial transactions in the country.

RBI cancels licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the licence of Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank in Alwar, Rajasthan has been cancelled as it is not in a position to pay its depositors in full as and when their claims accrue, among other reasons.

India joins European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

- India on Wednesday formally joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), becoming the London-based multilateral lender's 69th member. The membership will help Indian companies undertake joint investments in regions in which the EBRD operates. EBRD, whose core operations pertain to the private sector, has worked with Indian companies including Tata group and Jindal group.

T Latha appointed New MD & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank

- Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited has appointed T Latha as the Managing Director & CEO. She has taken over from G Sreeram, who has retired from the office on completion of his tenure.

RBI plans to issue new Rs. 100 notes in Lavender colour

- RBI will issue new Rs.100 notes in a smaller size than previous version and with Lavender colour as the base. This note will reportedly feature the picture of Rani-Ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell), which is in Gujarat's Patan, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Rs 11,336 cr capital infusion in 5 PSU Banks approved by Finance Ministry

- The Finance Ministry has approved capital infusion of Rs 11,336 crore in 5 public sector banks Punjab National Bank (PNB), Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Allahabad Bank.

Bank name	Infusion (in Cr. Rs.)
Punjab National Bank	2816
Corporation Bank	2555
Indian Overseas Bank	2157
Andhra Bank	2019
Allahabad Bank	1790

Federal Bank gets RBI nod to enter Bahrain, Kuwait, Singapore

- Federal Bank has obtained the regulatory nod from RBI (Reserve Bank of India) to open offices in Bahrain, Kuwait and Singapore.
- Federal Bank does not have any plans to increase its presence in India. It will focus on the digital alternatives to reach out to more customers.
- Federal bank will focus more on the unsecured lending segment, where it stands at Rs 380 crore currently.

Government slashes minimum yearly deposit for Sukanya Samriddhi account to Rs 250

- Under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, the government has cut the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts to Rs 250 from Rs 1,000 earlier. It will enable more number of people to take advantage of the girl child savings scheme.

Lok Sabha passes Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017

- Lok Sabha has passed Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to reduce the number of cheque dishonour cases pending in courts. The bill amends Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 to primarily address issues of dishonor of cheques and deal with unnecessary delay in disposal of such cases.
- **Interim compensation:** The Bill inserts new Section 143 A in parent Act to allow court trying offence related to cheque bouncing to direct drawer (person who writes cheque) to pay interim compensation to complainant. This compensation may be paid under certain circumstances, including where drawer pleads not guilty of accusation. It will not exceed 20% of cheque amount and will be paid by drawer within 60 days of trial court's order to pay such compensation.
- **Deposit in case of appeal:** The Bill inserts another new Section 148-A in the parent act specifying that if drawer convicted in cheque bouncing case files appeal, appellate court may direct him to deposit minimum of 20% of fine or compensation awarded by trial court during conviction. This amount will be in addition to any interim compensation paid by drawer during earlier trial proceedings.
- **Returning interim compensation:** In case drawer is acquitted during trial or by appellate court, then court will direct complainant to return interim compensation (or deposit in case of an appeal case), along with interest. This amount will be repaid within 60 days of court's order.

Union Government extends deadline for ITR filing to August 31 for certain category of taxpayers

- The union government has extended the due date for filing income tax returns for certain taxpayers by one month till 31st August 2018. Earlier the date for filing income tax returns for the assessment Year 2018-19, was 31st of August. The decision will provide a relief to those taxpayers who are yet to file their income tax returns.

Swelect introduced a technique to produce pure drinking water using sunlight and air

- Swelect Energy Systems Ltd. has partnered with the U.S. based Zero Mass Water for the project 'Source', a hydro (solar) panel. It aims at providing pure drinking water using sunlight and air. The cost of one panel is Rs.2 lakh. It can generate up to 5 litres of water/day depending on humidity and sunlight.

HSBC appointed Surendra Rosha as India CEO

- The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has appointed Surendra Rosha as the CEO for HSBC India. He succeeds Jayant Rikhye, who is taking leave of absence for medical reasons.

Canara Bank to hire social media agency for customer outreach

- Canara Bank plans to hire a social media agency as part of its brand promotion and to reach customers in a better way.

Vikas Bonanza 456: a new deposit scheme launched by Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) launched a new deposit scheme called Vikas Bonanza 456. The scheme is of a tenure of 456 days with interest rate of 7.10 per cent for public and 7.60 per cent for senior citizens. It also offers annualized return of 7.35% for the general public and 7.89% for senior citizens. A minimum of Rs.10,000 and maximum of Rs.1 crore can be deposited under this scheme.

President gives assent to various Bills, 2018

- **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018**

The new law defines fugitive economic offender (FEO) as any individual against whom warrants for arrest is issued for his involvement in select economic offences involving amount of at least Rs 100 crore or more and has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution. It allows designated special court to declare person as fugitive economic offender and to confiscate his property, including benami ones. It vests all rights and title in confiscated property from date of the confiscation order in central government and it will be free from all encumbrances. Enforcement Directorate (under Ministry of Finance) will be investigative agency under the Act.

- **State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Act, 2018**

President also gave assent to State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Act is to repeal two other laws State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956. It further amends the State Bank of India Act of 1955.

Axis Bank introduces iris authentication for Aadhaar-based transactions

- Axis Bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets. This service, which requires a customer to scan their iris on a tablet, will boost the bank's financial inclusion efforts by making Aadhaar authentication process hassle-free and offering easier access to digital banking for consumers especially in the rural parts of the country.

HSBC Launched Online Platform 'MyDeal' To Raise Funds Via Capital Markets

- Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has launched a new digital platform ‘MyDeal’ to simplify capital raising process through capital markets by providing real-time access to information such as investors’ feedback, profiles, client orders and deal pricing.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Vijaya Bank entered into Bancassurance Deal

- This corporate agreement will enable distribution of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance products through the bank’s network of 2,129 branches across the country. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will offer personal lines of insurance products such as health, personal accident, home, motor and travel along with a commercial line of insurance products.

Blockchain: Exim Bank signs MoU with BRICS New Development Banks

- Exim Bank of India has signed a multilateral cooperation agreement with member development banks of BRICS to undertake “collaborative research” in distributed ledger/blockchain technology.
- The BRICS grouping comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Under this umbrella agreement, the signatories have agreed to constitute a joint research working group which will formulate the research agenda and targeted outcome.

Government dismisses Usha Ananthasubramanian as Allahabad Bank MD & CEO

- The Centre dismissed Usha Ananthasubramanian as MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank, saying it was needed to secure the interest of this public sector bank that she had led from May 2017. She was to retire on Monday, but was been dismissed ahead of that.

ICRA downgrades Syndicate Bank’s tier-II bonds

- ICRA downgraded Syndicate Bank’s long-term rating for the Rs 3,250-crore Basel-III compliant tier-II bonds to AA (hyb) from AA+ (hyb).

Home Ministry notifies new SoPS for refilling of ATMs from 8 February 2019

- Union Home Ministry has issued new Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for cash refilling of automated teller machines (ATMs) after certain time period. It comes in view of rising incidents of attacks on cash vans, cash vaults, ATM frauds and other internal frauds leading to increased sense of insecurity. It will come into effect from 8 February 2019. No automated teller machines (ATMs) will be replenished with cash after 9pm in cities and 6pm in rural areas

Egon to help BBB in PSB leadership programmes

- The Indian Banks’ Association has appointed Egon Zehnder International (Headquarters – Zürich, Switzerland) as a ‘Knowledge Partner’ to the Banks Board Bureau to design, implement and institutionalise a flagship leadership development strategy for public sector banks in India.
- In addition, Hay Consultants India Private Limited (part of the Korn Ferry Group) will assist the bureau in assessing leadership competencies and potential capabilities of candidates appearing in the process for appointment as whole time directors of public sector banks.

REC inks pact with German bank for 200 mn euro loan

- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has inked a loan agreement with German bank KfW for EUR 200 million. The fund will be used to finance clean energy projects in India. This is REC’s fourth line of credit under Indo-German development cooperation which REC will utilise to finance renewable energy projects in India.

Chairmen of Canara Bank, Bank of India get extension

- T.N. Manoharan will continue to be non-executive chairman of Canara Bank for a period of 2 years and G. Padmanabhan will continue at Bank of India for a similar period.

ILO report flags wage inequality in India

- The ILO has called for stronger implementation of minimum wage laws and strengthening of the frameworks for collective bargaining by workers. This is essential to combat persistent low pay in some sectors and to bridge the wage gaps between rural and urban, male and female, and regular and casual workers.

Finance Ministry ranks PNB as best PSU bank for digital transactions

- A central government report has ranked Punjab National Bank (PNB) as the best PSU bank in the overall digital transactions category in India.

DBS named world’s best bank for its digital innovation: Global Finance magazine

- Global Finance magazine named DBS Bank as the world’s best bank for digital innovation while still maintaining stable operations for its customers.

Sunil Mehta elected as new Chairman of Indian Bank's Association for 2018-19

- Punjab National Bank (PNB's) managing director and chief executive, Sunil Mehta was elected as new chairman of Indian Banks Association (IBA) for year 2018-19.

License of Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank cancelled by RBI

- The RBI has cancelled the license of Rajasthan-based Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. The RBI said it has cancelled the license of the bank with effect from the close of business on August 31, 2018.

The Canara bank opened a portal to claim education loan interest subsidy for the financial year 2017-18.

- The Canara bank opened a portal to claim education loan interest subsidy for the financial year 2017-18. The Portal will be opened till September 28, 2018. This is under the Central sector interest subsidy (CSIS) scheme implemented by the Union Ministry of HRD which was started in 2009.

RBI slaps Rs 1 cr penalty each on Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India, Union Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore each on three public sector banks for non-compliance with its directions on "Fraud – Classification and Reporting". According to the RBI, the penalty was imposed individually on all the three banks – Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India, Union Bank of India – on August 30, 2018.

Axis CEO & MD Shikha Sharma's tenure to end in December; Amitabh Chaudhary to take over

- Lending major Axis Bank's long serving Chief Executive and Managing Director Shikha Sharma's reign will come to an end on December 31, 2018 and she will be succeeded by Amitabh Chaudhary.

ICICI Bank launches overdraft facility for MSMEs based on GST returns

- Micro, small and medium enterprises will now be able to get quick overdraft of up to Rs 1 crore for working capital requirements, based on their goods and services tax (GST) returns. ICICI Bank announced the facility known as 'GST Business Loan' and said it would be available to any such business, including non-customers of the bank.

SEBI panel relaxing foreign fund rules for NRIs

- In a relief to foreign investors worried over new know your customer (KYC) and beneficiary ownership norms, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) initiated a public consultation process for finalizing the new guidelines, after a high-powered panel suggested changes on several contentious proposals and more time for compliance. The report was submitted by a panel headed by HR Khan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- NRIs will be allowed to invest as FPIs if the single holding is under 25% and group holding under 50% in a fund, according to the panel.

Federal Bank inks MOU with Infopark Kakkanad in Kerala

- Federal Bank, which is in the process of formation of a wholly owned subsidiary company, has executed MOU with Infopark Kakkanad for leasing space in their campus. The Bank has already obtained in principle approval of the Reserve Bank of India for the creation of a subsidiary company. The proposed company will integrate and handle all the back-end operations of the Bank.

UBI Bank quit its Antwerp diamond hub in Belgium

- Union Bank of India, a State-owned bank, said that it has decided to quit the Antwerp diamond hub in Belgium as the branch did not generate expected business. UBI bank has already filed for the closure of the branch and the process related to shutting the office is being followed

Government Appoints New MD & CEOs At 10 PSBs:

- The government of India cleared the appointment of Chief Executive Officers and Managing Directors (CEOs and MDs) at 10 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

Sl.No	Banks	Headquarters	Chief Executive Officers and Managing Directors	Tagline
1	Andhra Bank	Hyderabad	Packirisamy	Where India Banks
2	Allahabad Bank	Kolkata	SS Mallikarajuna Rao	A Tradition of Trust
3	Bank of Maharashtra	Pune	AS Rajeev	One family one bank
4	Central Bank of India	Mumbai	Pallav Mohapatra	"Central To you Since 1911"
5	Dena Bank	Mumbai	Karnam Shekhar	Trusted Family Bank
6	Indian Bank	Chennai	Padmaja Chandru	Your Tech- Friendly Bank
7	Punjab & Sind Bank	New Delhi	S Harisankar	Where service is a way of

				life
8	Syndicate Bank	Manipal	Mrutyunjay Mahapatra	Faithful. Friendly Or Faithful and Friendly
9	United Bank of India	Kolkata	Ashok Kumar Pradhan	The Bank that begins with “U”
10	UCO Bank	Kolkata	Atul Kumar Goel	Honours Your Trust

ICICI Prudential Life and Saraswat Bank partnered up for Bancassurance

- ICICI Prudential Life inked a pact with Saraswat Bank to offer insurance products. This includes 280 branches of Saraswat Bank in Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. ICICI Pru iProtect Smart, ICICI Pru Heart / Cancer Protect, ICICI Pru Future Perfect, ICICI Pru Savings Suraksha and ICICI Pru Cash Advantage.

Corporation Bank has signed an information utility (IU) agreement with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL)

- Corporation Bank has signed an information utility (IU) agreement with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL), the first IU registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), to share financial and security information under IBBI (IU) Regulation 2017. They serve the needs of the banking system by providing data to insolvency professionals, adjudicating authority and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India on the proof of borrowing, proof of default and security interest data in respect of NCLT cases while adhering to prescribed standards of information security.

PNB board Okays Rs 5,431-cr capital infusion from government

- State-run Punjab National Bank (PNB)'s board approved a proposal for capital infusion of Rs 5,431 crore from the Central government by way of preferential issue of equity shares.

RBI bars Bandhan Bank from opening branches

- The RBI has barred the bank from opening new branches and put a freeze on the remuneration of Bandhan Bank MD and CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh. The bank can open branches with the prior approval of the RBI. The RBI pulled up Bandhan Bank for its failure to bring down the promoter holding to 40 per cent, as mandated in the licensing norms for universal banks.

RBI slaps Rs 5 crore penalty on Karur Vysya Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Karur Vysya Bank for non-compliance of its directives. According to a RBI statement, the penalty was imposed for non-compliance with its directions on "Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, reporting of frauds, and on the need for discipline at the time of opening of current accounts".

IDBI Bank approves issuance of preferential equity shares in favour of LIC

- IDBI Bank board approved a proposal for issuance of preferential shares in favour of LIC with a view to increase the share of insurer in the bank up to 51 per cent. The government has already approved the proposal of LIC to increase the stake in IDBI Bank.

ICICI Bank's Chanda Kochhar quits, Sandeep Bakhshi appointed as new CEO:

- ICICI Bank has appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer with immediate effect and accepted Chanda Kochhar's request for early retirement.

SIDBI Launched National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign 'Udyam Abhilasha'

- SIDBI has launched a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign 'Udyam Abhilasha', in 115 aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States reaching to around 15,000 youth.

Bank of Maharashtra closes 51 branches to cut costs

- The Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has announced the closure of 51 branches across the country as part of cost-cutting measures being implemented in the banking industry.

NHB decides to increase the Refinance Limit to Rs.30,000 crore for the Current Year

- Keeping in view the current scenario, National Housing Bank (NHB) which is owned by RBI, has decided to increase the Refinance limit to Rs.30,000 crore. Now, eligible Housing Finance Companies & Other entities will have increased availability of funds. National Housing Bank had set an initial limit to sanction Rs. 24,000 crore this year (July 2018-June 2019) towards refinancing eligible institutions.

Bank of Baroda MD & CEO Jayakumar gets one-year extension

- The government has granted an year's extension to Bank of Baroda's Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, PS Jayakumar, with effect from October 12. This extension comes in the backdrop of the amalgamation between Bank of Baroda (BoB), Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to form India's second largest public sector bank being set in motion.

Mahindra Rural Bharat and Consumption Yojana: a new rural fund launched by Mahindra Mutual Fund

- Mahindra Mutual Fund, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL), launched new open ended equity scheme called 'Mahindra Rural Bharat and Consumption Yojana'. This will provide investors an opportunity to participate in India growth story predominantly in Rural India.

India's first Cryptocurrency ATM opens in Bengaluru

- Despite the government and Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) crackdown on cryptocurrency in India, virtual currency exchange Unocoin has installed a currency deposit and dispensing ATM at Kemp Fort Mall in Bengaluru. The kiosk, installed by Unocoin, allows its customers to deposit and withdraw minimum amount of Rs 1000 from the platform.

Centre is reportedly planning the amalgamation of next set of bank

- After deciding to merge Bank of Baroda (BoB), Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank, Centre is reportedly planning the amalgamation of Punjab National Bank (PNB), Andhra Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC). The government has been battling for years to clean up its banks, which have the highest bad-loan ratio after Italy among the world's 10 largest economies. Then Allahabad Bank, Uco Bank and United Bank of India

Rs 728 crore capital infusion to Syndicate Bank from government

- Public sector Syndicate Bank announced capital infusion of Rs 728 crore from the government in lieu of preferential allotment of shares. The government in its October 17th order issued that it would infuse Rs 728 crore to Syndicate Bank against preferential allotment of equity shares during 2018-19.

IDFC Bank to be renamed as IDFC First Bank

- IDFC Bank on proposed to change its name to 'IDFC First Bank Ltd' in the wake of its amalgamation with the non-banking financial company Capital First. The decision was taken during the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDFC Bank.

NPCI reduces the number of transfers via UPI that a person can make to another per day to 10 from 20 earlier

- The National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI) has reduced the number of transfers that a person can make to another person/s in a 24-hour period to 10, from the limit of 20 earlier on the UPI network

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

CCEA approves capital infusion of Rs. 2000 crore in ECGC:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the capital infusion of Rs. 2000 crore for strengthening of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) to enhance insurance coverage to micro, small medium enterprises (MSMEs) exports.

HEFA to allot Rs.1lakh crores for education:

- The Union Cabinet has permitted the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) to mobilize Rs.1 lakh crore to fund research and academic infrastructure in higher educational institutions by 2022.

IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited has announced its tie-up with Oxigen

- IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited has announced its tie-up with Oxigen Services India Pvt. Ltd.

NPCI launches UPI 2.0 with overdraft facility

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) 2.0, which among others allows customers to link their overdraft account to UPI, creation of one-time mandates and pre-authorisation of transactions for payment at a later date, and checking the invoice sent by merchant prior to making payment

Digital payments market in India set to touch one trillion dollar by 2023: Niti Aayog

- The Niti Aayog confirms the digital payments market in India is set to become a trillion-dollar industry in the next five years. It will be led by growth in mobile payments which are slated to rise to 190 billion dollars by 2023 from 10 billion dollars in 2017-18.

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

- As a result of China's trade war with the US and its campaign to cut debt, the value of China's stock market fell to \$6.09 trillion, losing its position as the World's second biggest stock market to Japan (\$6.17 trillion).

- The U.S. has the world's largest stock market at just over \$31 trillion. China's stock market overtook Japan's in 2014 and soared to an all-time high of over \$10 trillion in 2015.

PayU, Reliance Money Announced Strategic Partnership for Instant Loan

- PayU India announced entering into a strategic partnership with Reliance Money, leading NBFC brands in India, to offer instant app-based personal loans, via LazyPay. It is an attempt to reach out to the underserved consumers in India.
- The loan amount will start from as low as Rs. 100 and will extend up to Rs. 1,00,000 with a duration varying from 15 days to 24 months. The loan amount will start from as low as Rs. 100 and will extend up to Rs. 1,00,000 with a duration varying from 15 days to 24 months.

NSE unveils new brand identity (logo)

- Former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, with Union Minister for Roads and Infrastructure, Nitin Gadkari, at the silver jubilee celebrations and unveiling of NSE's brand identity in New Delhi. Age-old brown patch in its logo replaced with dashes of marigold, yellow, red and blue

Modi government raises import duties on 328 textile products by up to 20%

- The government raised import duties on 328 textile products by up to 20 per cent in the fourth such instance of higher tariffs being placed on inbound goods in 2018.

Paytm acquires Bengaluru's savings management startup Balance Technology

- Digital payments major Paytm acquired Bengaluru-based savings management start-up, Balance Technology for an undisclosed amount.
- The acquisition will help One97 Communications, which operates the Paytm brand, in further enhancing its user and merchant interfaces

Investment in P-notes hits 9-year low at Rs 80,341 crore

- Investments through participatory notes (P-notes) into Indian capital markets- equity, debt, and derivatives have plunged to over nine-year low of Rs 80,341 crore till July 2018-end.

India's CAD to widen to 2.8 pc of GDP this fiscal: Nomura report

- India's current account deficit (CAD) is expected to widen to 2.8 percent of the GDP in this financial year, says a Nomura report.
- With rising oil prices, depreciating rupee and outflow of portfolio investments, there are concerns that CAD might rise in the current fiscal.

FDI in Country Rises 23% to About 13 Billion Dollars In 1st Singapore

- According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion data, Foreign Direct Investment, FDI in India rose 23% to 12.8 billion dollars during the April to June quarter of this fiscal. Singapore was the largest source of FDI during April to June quarter with 6.52 billion dollars.

Union Cabinet has approved Additional Dearness Allowance (DA) for Government employees and pensioners

- The Union Cabinet has approved to release an additional 2 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA) to the Central Government employees from July 1, 2018. This will benefit about 48.41 lakh Central Government employees.
- The Union Cabinet has approved to release an additional 2 per cent Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners with effect from July 1, 2018. This will benefit about 62.03 lakh pensioners. This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission. At present It is 7% for both sectors

Axis Securities became the first bank subsidiary to enter the commodity broking business

- Axis Securities launched commodity broking services with MCX and became the first bank subsidiary to enter the commodity broking business. Axis Securities launched commodity broking services with MCX and became the first bank subsidiary to enter the commodity broking business. These cover: industrial metals, energy and agricultural segments.

Paytm Money launched new app for Google android and Apple IO's

- Paytm Money Limited introduced an app on Google's Android platform and Apple's mobile operating system iOS. The aim is to double the mutual fund investor base in India with 50 million in the next five years. For this, Paytm has partnered with 25 asset management companies. The focus of Paytm, the wholly-owned subsidiary of One97 Communications Ltd, would be on building investments and wealth management products and services.

S&P BSE Private Banks Index: Asia Index Pvt Ltd launches index to measure the performance of private banks

- Asia Index Pvt Ltd has launched S&P BSE Private Banks Index to measure the performance of private banks. Asia Index Pvt Ltd is a joint venture between S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE Ltd

HDFC ERGO makes Cyber Insurance Personal with Launch of E @ Secure

- The main aim of the insurance Policy is to provide comprehensive protection to individuals and their families against any cyber-attacks, cyber frauds or digital threats that could lead to a financial loss and or reputational loss. About HDFC ERGO HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between HDFC Ltd and ERGO International AG, a Germany-based company that is part of the Munich Re Group.

IRDAI is working on the guidelines for ‘Sandbox’ method which will allow insurers to test products

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) are working on the guidelines for ‘Sandbox’ method which will allow insurers to test products in a particular geography or among a set of few policyholders before they are available in the market. The regulator has also asked insurance firms to come out with long-term health insurance policies, which are currently only available in two wheeler and four wheeler insurance.

Indian insurance to be \$280 bn industry by 2019-20: Assocham

- The Indian insurance industry is expected to grow to USD 280 billion by 2019-20 aided by the government’s flagship Ayushman Bharat and increasing awareness about need for protection, according to an Assocham-APAS study. Insurance penetration in the country reached 3.7 per cent in 2017 from 2.71 per cent in 2001.

Government doubles monetary limit for filing cases in DRT

- Union Finance Ministry has doubled pecuniary limit to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs.10 lakh for filing loan recovery application in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions. It means that bank or financial institution or consortium of banks or financial institutions cannot approach DRTs if pecuniary limit amount due is less than Rs 20 lakh. This move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in DRTs.

LIC launches group insurance scheme for CDSL Demat account holders

- Life Insurance Corporation of India has signed an agreement with Central Depository Services (India) to provide group insurance coverage to all eligible Demat account holders serviced through depository participants associated with it.

HDFC Life appoints Vibha Padalkar as MD & CEO

- The board of HDFC Standard Life appointed Vibha Padalkar, the executive director and Chief financial officer of HDFC Standard Life, as the Managing director and CEO after the exit of Amitabh Chaudhary, who joined Axis Bank on September 8.

Fitch raises India growth forecast

- Fitch Ratings on Friday upped India’s growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.8% from 7.4% earlier, but flagged rising oil bill and higher interest rates as key concerns.
- Fitch, in its Global Economic Outlook, said it expects inflation to rise to the upper end of the central bank’s target band (4% plus-minus 2%) on relatively high demand-pull pressures and rupee depreciation.

SEBI revises KYC norms for foreign portfolio investors

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced the revised guidelines for know your client (KYC) requirement for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) allowing non-resident Indians (NRIs), resident Indians (RIs) and overseas citizens of India (OCIs) to be part of such FPIs investing in India.
- Such NRIs, OCIs and RIs can be part of a FPI if their aggregate holding in such an overseas fund is less than 50% of the corpus of the fund. Further, the individual share of such entities cannot exceed 25% in an FPI.

Reliance Jio has signed agreement with Star India to make all televised India cricket

- Reliance Jio has signed a five-year partnership agreement with Star India to make all televised India cricket matches available to users of JioTV and Hotstar in India. RIL signed an agreement in this regard with Star India Pvt. Ltd.

PayU India Gets RBI Approval to Operate Its Own NBFC

- PayU India has received Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) approval to operate its own non-banking financial company (NBFC), the digital payments firm owned by South Africa’s Naspers Ltd.

No Withholding Tax On Interest Payment Of Masala Bonds

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) announced that no withholding tax will apply on interest payments made by an Indian company or a business trust to a non-resident in respect of offshore rupee-denominated bonds issued between September 17, 2018 and March 31, 2019.

Government inks US\$ 74 Million loan agreement for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project

- Union Government has inked US\$74 million loan agreement for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Credit for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP).

BSE, NSE get SEBI approval to launch commodity derivatives segment

- The capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed India's top two stock exchanges BSE Ltd and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) to launch commodity derivatives trading from 1 October, 2018.

FDI in Telecom Sector Jumped Five Times in Three Years

- FDI in the telecom sector has jumped nearly five times in the last three years – from USD 1.3 Billion in 2015-16 to USD 6.2 Billion in 2017-18. According to Union Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha, the draft National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 aims to attract investment of USD 100 billion or about Rs.6.5 lakh crore in the Digital Communications Sector. Publication titled "Telecom Sector Growth & FDI: A Way Ahead".

Eight core industries output record 6.6% growth in July 2018

- According to Index of Eight Core Industries released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, eight core sectors have grown by 6.6% in July 2018 pushed by healthy output in coal, refinery products, cement and fertilizer sectors. It had registered growth of 2.9% in July 2017.

Indian economy to grow at 8%: Jaitley

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the new insolvency law, indirect tax regime and demonetization will help drive India's growth rate and sustain it at 8 per cent. He said the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), Goods and Services Tax (GST), demonetization and digital payments had enabled better assessment of financial capacity and risks.

India loses "Asia's best stock market" tag to New Zealand

- India has lost its tag as Asia's best-performing stock market this year to New Zealand. Indian equity benchmark Sensex is up 7.6% since the beginning of this year, compared with the 11% gain in the New Zealand Exchange 50 Gross Index.

Government launches Financial Inclusion Index

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley launched Financial Inclusion Index in New Delhi. It was launched after his Annual Performance Review Meeting with CEOs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs). The index has three measurement dimensions (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality.

ADB keeps growth forecast at 6% in Asia

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced that it will maintain its growth forecast for this year in Asia at 6 percent but warned of the fallout of the ongoing trade tensions between China and the US for the region.

India to be USD 100 bn FDI destination by 2022:

- According to PHD Chamber India is approaching towards USD 100 billion FDI inflow per annum by 2022 as volumes of foreign direct investment are increasing year after year. The annual FDI inflows in the country increased from USD 36 billion in 2013-14 to USD 62 billion in 2017-18.

Interest Rates on PPF, NSC, Other Small Savings Schemes Raised

- The government has raised interest rates on Small Savings Schemes (SSS), including National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF) by up to 0.4% for the October-December quarter, in line with rising deposit rates in the banks. Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified on a quarterly basis.

Sl. No.	Instrument	Rate of interest (01.10.2018 to 31.12.2018)	Compounding frequency
1.	Savings Deposit	4.0	Annually
2.	1 Year Time Deposit	6.9	Quarterly
3.	2 Year Time Deposit	7.0	Quarterly
4.	3 Year Time Deposit	7.2	Quarterly
5.	5 Year Time Deposit	7.8	Quarterly
6.	5 Year Recurring Deposit	7.3	Quarterly
7.	5 Year Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.7	Quarterly and paid
8.	5 Year Monthly Income Account	7.7	Monthly and paid
9.	5 Year National Savings Certificate	8.0	Annually
10.	Public Provident Fund Scheme	8.0	Annually
11.	Kisan Vikas Patra	7.7 (will mature in 112 months)months)	Annually
12.	Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme	8.5	Annually

Government Cuts Gross Borrowing Estimate For Current Fiscal By Rs 70,000 Crore

- The Union Government announced a reduction in gross borrowing estimate for the current fiscal by 70,000 crore rupees and maintained that the government will contain fiscal deficit target at 3.3%.

Paytm tops UPI payments with over 33% market share

- Alibaba and SoftBank-backed Paytm said it registered over 137 million UPI transactions in September, becoming the leading contributor to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments with over **33** per cent of the overall market share. The company also announced the launch of its Spam-proof “SMS Inbox” as part of its “Paytm Inbox”. The “Spam-proof SMS Inbox” uses Machine Learning (ML) algorithms to classify SMS into personal, transactional and promotional categories.

IMF, World Bank and WTO launch Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth Report

- International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization have collectively launched report “Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth”. In this report all three international organisations have sought liberalisation of global service sector, asserting that barriers to these services trade currently is roughly as high as those to trade in goods about a half century ago.

BSE becomes first stock exchange to launch commodity derivative contracts

- India’s leading bourse Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) became first stock exchange in the country to launch commodity derivative contracts. It has launched contracts in popular commodities like gold (1kg) and silver (30kg). This launch comes after unified exchange regime kicked off from 1 October 2018.

Government releases Agriculture census data for 2015-16

- The government released agriculture census for 2015-16 that showed a 1.53 per cent decline in total operated area at 157.14 million hectare as compared to 2010-11 data, but a rise in both operational holdings and female participation. The census is conducted every five years to collect data on structural aspects of operational holdings in the country.

UNCTAD has expected India’s economy to grow 7.0% in 2018

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has expected India’s economy to grow 7.0% in calendar year 2018 compared with 6.2% in 2017. As per the report “Trade and Development”, the effects of demonetization are still evident in private consumption trends within the economy.

IFC extends Rs.1,000-crore loan to Aditya Birla Finance:

- Aditya Birla Finance, the NBFC arm of Aditya Birla Group, has received a ₹1,000-crore term loan for seven years from the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group.
- The IFC green loan is a rupee loan under Track-III of the Reserve Bank of India’s guidelines for external commercial borrowings. ABFL will use the proceeds to finance renewable energy projects and help the country move towards its target to achieve 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022.

Government hikes interest for gratuity funds to 8%

- The Centre has notified a higher interest rate of 8% for the non-government provident, superannuation, and gratuity funds, effective from October 1. The interest rate on these funds has been raised from 7.6%. The move comes on the back of a hike in small savings rates – by up to 40 basis points for some schemes – that were also made effective from October 1.

SEBI allows foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market

- Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market of stock exchanges for hedging their exposures. Prior to this, foreign entities were not permitted to directly participate in Indian commodity derivatives market, even if they imported or exported various commodities from and to India.

WPI Inflation Rises To 5.13% in September

- Inflation-based wholesale prices rose to a two-month high of 5.13 percent in September, mainly due to the hardening of food prices and the rise in the cost of petrol and diesel. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation stood at 4.53 percent in August and 3.14 percent in September last year.

IFC Launches \$1 Billion Masala Bond Programme in The US And Europe

- International Finance Corporation, the World Bank’s lending arm 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.

ORGANISATION	GDP RATE
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	2018	2019
Indian Government	Exceed 7.5%	-
National Council of Applied Economic Research NCAER	7.4%	
IMF	7.3%	7.5%
Fitch	7.8%	7.5%
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	7%	
World Bank	7.3%	7.5%
Morgan Stanley	7.5%	7.5%
India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)	7.2%	
Moody	7.5%	7.5%

Important Business News

Reliance Industries investing in India's first carbon fiber unit:

- Reliance Industries is investing in setting up India's first carbon fiber manufacturing unit to cater to aerospace and defense needs, the company said in its annual report.

Microsoft acquires Social Learning Platform Flipgrid in latest challenge to Google:

- Microsoft has acquired Flipgrid, an education start-up with an app that lets student's record and share videos on specific topics with their classmates. Microsoft is making Flipgrid free of charge. Schools that already have subscriptions will receive prorated refunds.

Microsoft acquires AI startup Bonsai

- Microsoft announced that it has signed an agreement to acquire Bonsai, an artificial intelligence (AI) startup based in San Francisco, to boost its AI and machine learning capabilities. Based in Berkeley, California, Bonsai was founded in 2014 and has around 42 employees.

HCL Tech Acquires German IT Firm H&D

- HCL Technologies has acquired German IT and engineering services provider H&D International Group. Through this deal, HCL Tech will attain significant in-country front office and delivery capabilities, which will further enhance its domain expertise in the global automotive sector.

Bharti Infratel Gets CCI Nod For Merger With Indus Towers

- The Bharti Infratel, a mobile infrastructure company, has got the approval of competition watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) for merging its operations with Indus Towers.

Google aims to add 40 million WiFi users in India by 2019

- Google's public WiFi project aims to capture 40 million new users in India by 2019. According to Google and research firm Analysys Mason's study, this move will result in around \$20 billion rise in India's GDP.

Minimum support price for paddy hiked by Rs.200 a quintal:

- In keeping with the promise made in this year's Budget speech, the Union Cabinet has approved a hike in minimum support prices (MSPs) for kharif crops so that they are 50% higher than the cost of production, not including land costs.

Reliance Industries becomes India's largest taxpayer in the private sector

- Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries limited (RIL) is India's largest payer of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax in the private sector.

Infosys Foundation contributes Rs 200 crore to the Bengaluru Metro:

- For the construction of Konappana Agrahara Metro Station (Electronics City) as well as for laying railway tracks, Infosys Foundation would contribute Rs 200 crore to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

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809 crore French loan for 15 Smart Cities projects

- Four months after Agence française de développement (AFD), the French development bank, signed a €100 million loan agreement for Smart Cities Mission, the Centre has announced a new challenge process to select 15 projects for the funding.

The telecommunication ministry approved merging of Idea and Vodafone

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) approved the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular which will create the country's largest mobile services operator.

Airtel Payments Bank Gets RBI Nod To Resume Taking New Customers

- Airtel Payments Bank has received requisite approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to begin taking new customers. Also, Aadhaar-issuing authority UIDAI has allowed it to use the 12-digit unique identification number-based e-KYC.

Google introduced Launchpad Accelerator for AI, ML Startups In India

- "Launchpad Accelerator India" is a new comprehensive mentorship programme tailored exclusively for Indian startups that are using Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to build solutions for the pressing problems in the country. The selected 8-10 startups will get Google's mentorship and \$100K Google Credits.

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Indian computers and hardware devices are vulnerable says Avast CTO

- Mr.Ondrej Vlcek, CTO of Avast, said in order to prevent cyber attacks on the country's massive IT infrastructure, India must go the Japanese way. Japan has brought in a stringent regulatory mechanism to put its IT infrastructure under a protective shield.

Government approved Net Neutrality, new telecom policy

- To ensure open and free Internet in India, the government has approved the principle of net neutrality, which means that telecom and Internet service providers must treat all data on the Internet equally, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, site, platform, or application. They cannot engage in practices such as blocking, slowing down or granting preferential speeds to any content.

Aadhaar enabled DBT savings estimated over Rs 90,000 crore

- After inception of Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), over Rs 90,000 crore has been saved and gained as on March 31 this year. 121 crore residents have so far enrolled for Aadhaar card and on an average over 30 million (3 crore) e-transactions are done using the identification system. Aadhaar data is completely safe and secure and is kept in about 7,000 servers in Bengaluru and Manesar.

Payments firm PhonePe buys Zopper Retail

- PhonePe has been aggressively expanding its offline merchant network as part of a broader goal of establishing itself as the pre-eminent digital payments brand.

BEL Signs MoU with Saab for Surveillance Radar

- Defence public sector undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed an MoU with Saab, Sweden, recently for jointly marketing the L-Band 3D Air Surveillance Radar, RAWL-03, co-developed by BEL and Saab.

Microsoft and WalMart Team Up To use the company's cloud services

- Microsoft and Walmart are teaming up for a strategic partnership that will take on rival Amazon in both technology and retail. Walmart announced at Microsoft's Inspire partner conference, that it's partnering with Microsoft to use the company's cloud services. The five-year agreement will see Walmart use Azure and Microsoft 365 across the company, alongside new projects focused on machine learning, artificial intelligence, and data platforms.

BEL signs agreement with Swedish firm Saab

- State-owned defence electronics company, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) signed an MoU with Swedish firm, Saab for jointly marketing L-Band 3D air surveillance radar (RAWL-03) which is co-developed by the companies.
- RAWL-03 is long range air surveillance radar for early detection and tracking of air and surface targets.

Training of youth on digital skills to be done by Facebook and NSDC jointly

- Facebook and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) took joint responsibility to train youth and entrepreneurs in the country on digital skills.
- Through this partnership Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will make use of Facebook's training on digital marketing skills in its courses.
- Courses will be on: digital marketing, online safety and financial literacy in regional languages.

Amazon is the second company To Hit \$900 Billion Valuation After Apple

- Amazon Company crossed \$900-billion market cap for the first time in its history becoming only the second company after Apple to achieve this milestone.

Google fined \$5 Billion By EU In Android Antitrust Case

- The European Union (EU) regulators slapped Alphabet-owned Google with a record 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) antitrust fine for abusing the dominance of its Android mobile operating system.

WhatsApp Messenger limits forwarding messages to five users

- Whatsapp Messenger decided to tackle the spread of fake news on its platform, instant messaging application and has limited the users can forward messages to only five people at a time.

MoU signed between CSIR-NPL and HPCL

- CSIR- National Physical laboratory (NPL) has signed a MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for indigenous development of petroleum certified reference materials (CRMs) under trade name of Bhartiya Niredeshak Dravyas (BNDTM).

BSEs iconic Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers secured trademark

- Initially known as BSE Towers located at Dalal Street in Mumbai was soon renamed after the late chairman of BSE, Sir Phiroze Jamshedji Jeejeebhoy. The 28-floor building took almost 10 years to build and was finally completed in 1980.

Volkswagen has planned to set up a design centre in Pune

- German auto major Volkswagen (VW) Group has planned to set up a design centre in Chakan near Pune. It is aimed to expand the production capacity of the company.

Indian airports is buying TaxiBots from IAI

- India has planned to buy environmentally friendly TaxiBots, which can be used at the airports, developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). These Pilot-controlled and semi-robots will allow pilots to switch on the plane's engines only when it reaches the starting point of the runway hence reducing carbon emissions.

Maruti Suzuki plans to electrify its small cars

- Maruti Suzuki India Ltd plans to develop electric motors for its small cars over the next few years, chairman R.C. Bhargava, as the country's largest car maker seeks to tap a potentially large market for affordable eco-friendly vehicles

Bharti Infratel, Indus Tower Merger Deal Gets SEBI Nod

- Mobile tower arm of telecom major Bharti Airtel, Infratel announced that it has received clearance from SEBI for its merger with Indus Towers.

HCL Technologies Displaces Wipro as India's Third Largest IT Services Firm

- HCL Technologies Ltd surpassed Wipro Ltd to become India's third-biggest software services firm in the three months, marking the first change in the pecking order of the country's \$167 billion information technology (IT) outsourcing industry in six years. TCS topped the table.

Google bans crypto currency mining apps from its app store

- Google has updated its Play Store policies to ban several more categories of apps, including cryptocurrency mining ones and apps with disruptive ads. However, apps that "remotely manage the mining of cryptocurrency" are still permitted, said Google in a move similar to that of Apple's.

BEML agreed to ally with HEC agree for mining equipment

- BEML Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) Ltd. to manufacture and market heavy engineering and mining equipment. The MoU was signed in the presence of Coal India Ltd. Chairman Anil Kumar Jha.

EIL has launched Electric Vehicle charging and battery swapping infrastructure initiative

- Essel Infraprojects Ltd, (EIL) has launched Electric Vehicle charging and battery swapping infrastructure initiative under Essel Green Mobility Limited in Lucknow.

Reliance Beats TCS to Become India's Most Valued Company

- India's richest person Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) beat Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become the most valued company in India. RIL's market capitalization during the day was Rs7.44 trillion as compared to TCS' Rs7.39 trillion. RIL had recently reported its highest ever quarterly net profit of Rs9,459 crore, for the April-June quarter.

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

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

Facebook to introduce time management tools

- Facebook (and Instagram) has announced that it is to introduce a time management tool which will be like a daily reminder. This tool will help people to manage their time by restricting them in spending time on the platforms.

Apple Becomes 1st US-Based Company With Market Value Of \$1 Trillion

- Apple Inc. became the first US-based company with a market value of \$1 trillion, four decades after it was co-founded by Steve Jobs in a Silicon Valley garage.

AAI to joint venture with Sri Lanka in Mattala airport project

- India's Airport Authority of India (AAI) joint ventures with the Airport & Aviation Services in Sri Lanka to run the loss-making Mattala airport, located in Sri Lanka's Southern Province.

Bharti Airtel plans to provide optical fibre network in Tamil Nadu

- Bharti Airtel plans to provide optical fibre network in Tamil Nadu. Being the telecommunications provider, it aims to improve network connectivity in the State.

MRPL is set up the floating solar power plants

- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) is setting up the floating solar power plants on the three water storage reservoirs on its premises. Floating solar power plants would not only generate around 6 MW of energy but also minimise water evaporation from the reservoirs. The 6 MW of solar power is already being tapped from the rooftop panels.

Facebook launches Digital Literacy Library

- Social networking giant Facebook has launched "Digital Literacy Library" to help young people build skills they need to safely enjoy online technology. The lessons can be found on Facebook's Safety Center as well as on Berkman Klein's Digital Literacy Resource Platform.

Google Launched its mobile operating system – Android 9 P or Android 9 'Pie'

- Google has rolled out the ninth version of its mobile operating system – Android P or Android 'Pie' – and it wants to take care of your "digital wellbeing".

Wipro consumer arm to offer scholarships to girls in Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

- Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting would offer scholarships for higher education to girls from economically weaker families in the three southern state of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

FSSAI has launched the RUCO initiative for cooking oil to biodiesel

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched an initiative “RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil)” that will enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to biodiesel. Under this initiative, 64 companies at 101 locations have been identified to enable collection of used cooking oil.

Airtel partners Zee as battle for content on mobile gathers pace

- Bharti Airtel and Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) have joined hands to drive entertainment content on mobile phones.

Govt Plans to Transfer Air India's Non-Core Assets to Special Purpose Vehicle

- In the current financial year, the airline received an equity infusion of Rs 650 crore up to June. TAP and a Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) were approved for Air India by the previous UPA regime in 2012.

Flipkart acquires AI startup Liv.ai to start the ‘voice’ revolution

- Online retailer Flipkart has acquired AI-led speech recognition Liv.ai, in a bid to target the next 200 million online shoppers.

Facebook Deletes 652 Fake Accounts Targeting World Politics

- Facebook has removed 652 fake accounts for “coordinated inauthentic behaviour” that originated in Iran and Russia and targeted people across multiple Internet services in the Middle East, Latin America, Britain and the US.

Flipkart launches platform 2GUD for refurbished products

- Online retailer Flipkart has launched an independent platform for refurbished products, starting with a mobile site. Called ‘2GUD’, the platform initially offers smartphones, laptops, tablets and electronic accessories, with large appliances to be added soon.

RIL 1st Indian Company To Cross Rs 8 Trillion Market Capital

- The Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross Rs 8 trillion market capitalization after its shares surged nearly 37% in 2018.

Volkswagen to launch an all-electric car sharing service in Berlin

- Volkswagen is to launch an all-electric car sharing service in Berlin. It is to serve a business serving people in big cities who don't own cars. The company planned to expand its "We Share project to big cities" in Europe and North America by 2020.

R.Com sold fibre assets to RJio for Rs.3,000 crore

- Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCom), Anil Ambani-led company, said that it had sold its fibre and related infrastructure assets to the Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio Infocomm (RJio) which is of worth Rs.3,000 crore. The fibre monetisation transaction, 1,78,000 km of fibre stand transferred from RCom to RJio.

Google to display technology in Indian vernacular languages

- Google plans to introduce technology and product experiences which are locally relevant to users in India in vernacular languages. It has been observed, so far, that the majority of Internet users are Indian language users, a number expected to reach 500 million-plus in the next two years.

Freecharge, AbhiBus partner to launch new category of services

- Digital marketplace for financial services Freecharge has announced the launch of a new category of service offering in partnership with AbhiBus.

Call for Code initiative: IBM partners with Indian IT companies to build global solutions for disaster management

- Global IT giant IBM has partnered with Indian IT companies for its ‘Call for Code’ initiative that aims to build global solutions for disaster management. Indian IT companies that will partner with IBM for Call for Code initiative include Persistent Systems, Invest India, Wipro, Capgemini and NASSCOM.

Vodafone Idea Ltd: Idea Cellular and Vodafone completes merger to create India's largest telecom operator

- The merger of Idea Cellular and Vodafone India has been completed after it was cleared by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). This merger has created India's biggest telecom service provider. Kumar Mangalam Birla as its Chairman.

India to house Uber elevate in 2020

- Uber plans to launch ‘Uber Elevate’, an air taxi service, in 2020. Uber chose Dallas and Los Angeles as its first two launch cities in the U.S. for introducing its aerial taxi service. Uber is considering to include India in this service. Uber will be operating demonstrator flights starting 2020 and beginning commercial operations in 2023 in the three cities.

ITI Limited partners with start-ups to boost manufacturing of ICT, IoT and Defence Technology

- State-owned ITI Limited has signed agreements with leading startups and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) covering manufacturing of wide range of ICT-IOT (Information and communications technology- Internet of Things) based solutions. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the first edition of ITI's two-day 'ICT & IoT Startup Tech Expo' in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Wipro signed a USD 1.6 billion with Illinois based Alight Solutions LLC

- Wipro signed a \$1.6 billion 10-year contract with Illinois-based Alight Solutions LLC. This is the largest deal to date. The contract is to provide digital solutions to the company.

Harvard and Google joint hands and developed an Artificial Intelligence system to analyze and predict earthquake

- Google and Harvard have joined hands and developed an Artificial Intelligence system in which the researchers at the university used algorithms to analyze a database of earthquakes worldwide to predict where aftershocks might happen.

Internet Society & ISPAI sign pact to secure Internet infrastructure in India

- Internet Society (ISOC) partnered with Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) to promote and secure internet infrastructure. They signed an agreement to promote 'Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS) which will improve security infrastructure.

Lockheed Martin, Tata JV collaborate to make F-16 jet wings in India by TASL

- It entered into an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) for the production of the wings. About Tata JV Tata Global Beverages Limited (formerly Tata Tea Limited) is an Indian multinational non-alcoholic beverages company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal, India and a subsidiary of the Tata Group.

NIIF inks \$400 mn agreement with Singapore's Temasek

- Singapore government's Temasek Holdings has agreed to invest \$400 million in the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) in another bet on India's infrastructure asset management space.

SpiceJet launched air cargo services

- SpiceJet launched air cargo services and it also inducted its first freighter aircraft. The services will be offered under the brand name SpiceXpress. It will be set up as a separate business unit under the monitor of SpiceJet Limited. The cargo flight services would commence from September 18.

BSNL and Unlimit Ink Partnership for IoT M2M Services in India

- Unlimit, the only end-to-end IoT service provider in India, part of Reliance ADA Group, announced its partnership with State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The partnership provides comprehensive Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and services to the enterprise customers across India.

NITI Aayog, Intel and TIFR collaborate for Model International Center for Transformative AI in Bangalore

- NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) announced that they are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects.

Iraq replaces Saudi as top oil supplier to India in August

- Ahead of US sanctions on Iranian oil, Iraq has replaced Saudi Arabia as India's largest oil supplier in August. Iran remained the third biggest oil supplier to India in August.

Mahindra & Mahindra to become a carbon neutral company by 2040

- Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) announced that it aims to become a carbon neutral company by 2040 with focus on energy efficiency and usage of renewable power. This decision was stated by Chairman Anand Mahindra at the Global Climate Action Summit at San Francisco.

Reliance Infrastructure sold its Mumbai city power distribution business to ATL

- Reliance Infrastructure has sold its Mumbai city power distribution business to Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) for Rs.18, 800 crore.

WEF reports revealed machines will take over human work by 2025

- A report by the World Economic Forum (WEF) said that in less than seven years, by 2025, machines will take over 52% of human works in 12 key industry sectors. Globally, it is expected that automation will cut their full-time workforce in the next four years.

Brookfield to buy Ambani's Reliance gas pipeline for Rs 14,000 crore

- Canada based Brookfield Asset Management is set to buy loss-making East West Pipeline Ltd (EWPL), earlier known as Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure, for an enterprise valuation of Rs 14,000 crore (\$2 billion). In a separate report, Grocery startups BigBasket and Grofers have revived talks for a merger.

Iconic Time Magazine Sold for \$190 Million in Cash

- Time Magazine is being sold by Meredith Corp. to Marc Benioff, a co-founder of Sales force, and his wife. Meredith announced that it was selling Time magazine for \$190 million in cash to Benioff, one of four co-founders of Salesforce.

Infosys Acquires Finnish Company 'Fluido' For Rs 545 Crore

- Infosys has acquired Finnish company Fluido, a top consulting partner of Salesforce, for 65 million euros (about Rs 545 crore). This is Infosys's second acquisition under CEO Salil Parekh.

Cisco Signs Agreements with NITI Aayog And BSNL

- Cisco, a U.S.-based firm, that makes networking telecommunications equipment, has signed two agreements with the NITI Aayog and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to speed up its Country Digital Acceleration programme in India.

Infosys plans tech hub in Arizona

- Infosys will open a Technology and Innovation Hub in Arizona and hire 1,000 American workers in the State by 2023. The Bengaluru-based company has hired 5,874 American workers so far as per its May 2017 commitment to open hubs in the U.S. and hire 10,000 local staff, according to a statement.

Health Ministry partners with Dell and Tata Trusts to provide technology solution for healthcare program

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has recently exchanged MoUs with Tata Trusts and Dell to provide technological platform for nationwide prevention, control, screening and management program of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

BSNL signed MOU with Softbank, NTT to roll out 5G, IoT service

- BSNL has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things technology in India.

Mobiles to Drive \$985 Bn Financial Services Sales In India By 2022

- By influencing purchases of credit cards, insurance and loans, mobiles will create \$985 billion sales opportunity for financial services brands in India by 2022, says a new Facebook-KPMG report titled "Eliminating friction in financial services path to purchase".

Global IoT cellular connections to hit 5-bn mark by 2025: Report

- Global Internet of Things (IoT) cellular connections will cross five billion mark by 2025 and China will continue to lead by contributing almost two-thirds of such connections.

Government launches Rail heritage digitisation project in collaboration with Google

- Union Railway Ministry has launched Rail Heritage Digitization Project in collaboration with Google Arts and Culture Association. It can be accessed at "https://artsandculture.google.com/project/indian-railways". It is first-of-its-kind project that aims to showcase India's rail heritage to the national and international audience in an online story-telling platform.

Airtel Acquires Bengaluru-Based AI Start-Up AuthMe

- Bharti Airtel has acquired technology of artificial intelligence (AI) service provider AuthMe ID Services. The latest move will augment Airtel's initiatives to serve customers with new digital products.

WhatsApp, Jio campaign for responsible app use

- Facebook-owned WhatsApp and Reliance Jio started a campaign to train people about using the mobile messaging platform responsibly on their JioPhones. Starting October 9, WhatsApp and Jio would visit 10 cities in different states including Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan for street plays and engage users to guide them on meaningful and positive ways of WhatsApp use.

Reliance Health Insurance gets R3 licence from IRDAI

- Reliance Capital Ltd. said its wholly owned Reliance Health Insurance has got the R3 approval from Insurance Regulatory Authority of India (IRDAI). Reliance Capital said the health insurance company would start operations by the December quarter of 2018.

Flipkart Forays into Insurance with Bajaj Allianz

- E-commerce major Flipkart has partnered Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer customised insurance solutions to power its mobile phone protection programme for all leading mobile phone brands that are sold on its platform.

Google to Shut Down Google+ For Consumers over the Security Lapse

- 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.

WhatsApp builds payments data system for local storage

- Ahead of the October 15 deadline to comply with RBI's data localisation norms, Facebook-owned WhatsApp said it had built a system in India to store payments related data locally.

OYO partners with payments platform PhonePe

- OYO users can easily book a room through the PhonePe app. Through PhonePe app users can book more than 125,000 exclusive rooms that are part of OYO's chain of hotels in India.

Nokia partners BSNL to implement industrial automation

- Finnish telecom gear maker Nokia said that it is working with BSNL to implement the next level of industrial automation, leveraging 4G LTE technology to enable greater operational efficiency at Nokia's Chennai plant.

TCS Displaces Accenture as Largest IT Firm Servicing Banks

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Ltd's quarterly earnings from the financial sector have edged past that of Accenture Plc, which are nearly double its size, making company the world's largest pure-play information technology (IT) and consulting firm servicing megabanks and insurers.

45 Indian companies participating in Expo Cihac in Mexico City

- Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) is leading a contingent of 45 exhibitors, representing various sectors of the construction industry like building materials, construction equipment, interior furnishing, manufacturing and marketing of ceramic vitrified tiles to Expo Cihacin Mexico City.

Nokia partners BSNL to implement industrial automation solutions

- BSNL and Nokia are demonstrating the ability to leverage automation across industries, showing how it can be replicated in other sectors such as automobile, oil and gas, mining, public safety, and disaster management.

Tejas wins RS111 crore Indian Navy order

- Tejas Networks, a maker of networking product, has received an Rs.111 crore purchase order from Sterlite Technologies to implement Indian Navy's country-wide next-generation digital communications network.

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.

Green Climate Fund approves \$1 billion to assist poor countries to tackle climate change

- Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved more than \$1 billion new investments for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change. The decision was taken during four-day meeting of GCF in Manama, Bahrain.

Infosys, Finnish firm in AI alliance

- Finnish firm Pöyry and Infosys has announced the release of a new data-driven framework "Krti 4.0" for Artificial Intelligence that overcomes complex and expensive life cycle management challenges faced by industry, utilities and infrastructure organisations across operational technology systems.

Mphasis, BAE in pact for fraud detection

- Mphasis, a Bengaluru-based provider of cloud and cognitive services, announced a partnership with BAE Systems to set up a centre of excellence for fraud detection and prevention solution.

TCS among top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for H-1B visas

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among the top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018 by receiving over 20,000 such certifications, according to official data in which Ernst & Young was ranked No 1.

Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNEL) launched a 3,000-tonne training ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNEL) launched a 3,000-tonne training ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The state-of-the-art training vessel will be delivered to the ICG in May next year. The 105-metre long training vessel, the largest ship ever built for the ICG.

Microsoft completes \$7.5 billion acquisition of GitHub

- Microsoft has closed its \$7.5 billion acquisition of GitHub, a leading software development platform which brings more than 31 million developers to create, collaborate, share and build on each other's work. Microsoft announced in June that it has reached an agreement to acquire GitHub.

Information Commissioner Office fines Rs.5,00,000 over data breach

- The Information Commissioner Office (ICO) found that between 2007 and 2014, Facebook processed the personal information of users unfairly by giving app developers access to their information without informed consent.

Microsoft overtakes Amazon as second most valuable U.S. company

- Microsoft overtook Amazon to become the second most valuable tech company in the United States. The change in rankings was the result of a drop in Amazon's stock value after a weaker-than-expected quarterly report from the online retailer wiped out \$65 billion worth of market capitalization.

IBM to acquire Red Hat for \$34 bn

- Tech major IBM has announced to acquire Open Source Solutions leader Red Hat for a massive \$34 billion. The acquisition, IBM's biggest so far, will provide open approach to Cloud, featuring unprecedented security and portability across multiple clouds.

Important State Wise National News

Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Hyderabad Amaravati; CM – N. Chandrababu Naidu; Governor – E S L Narasimhan

Andhra mulls issuing bonds for Rs.42, 000 crore to fund construction of Amravati:

- Realizing that the chances of securing assistance from the Centre are remote at this point, the Andhra Pradesh government is examining the possibility of issuing bonds worth Rs.42,000 crore for the construction of its capital city, Amravati.

AAI to set up Civil Aviation Research Organization at Hyderabad

- State-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) will set up Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.

Tata Power to Connect Two 50 MW Solar Power Projects at Andhra Pradesh

- Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL), a subsidiary of Tata Power, has announced the successful commissioning of two solar projects of 50 MW each in Ananthapuramu Solar Park, located in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

AAI is prepared to develop Bhogapuram airport, Andhra Pradesh

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is prepared to take the construction of the proposed Greenfield Airport at Bhogapuram.

Andhra Pradesh CM launched e Pragati core platform

- Chief Minister N.Chandrababu Naidu launched e-Pragati core platform, a forward-looking digital initiative, at Undavalli, Amaravati.
- The Andhra Pradesh State government intends to realise the vision of 'Sunrise AP 2022'.

Cabinet approves Central University for Andhra Pradesh

- The Cabinet approved Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2018, to set up Central University in Andhra Pradesh. Minister Prakash Javadekar tweeted that the Central University of Andhra Pradesh will start its academic session on 5th August.

Andhra govt launched 'Anna Canteens', meals at just Rs 5

- Andhra Pradesh government launched 60 'Anna' canteens serving breakfast, lunch and dinner at just Rs.5, in nearly 25 municipalities across the state in the first phase, and will be run by Akshaya Patra Foundation. Chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated a canteen in Vijayawada. In the second phase of the project worth Rs.83 crore, another 103 canteens would be inaugurated by August 15.

Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam: Andhra Pradesh Government launches unemployment allowance scheme

- Andhra Pradesh Government has approved Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestam, an unemployment allowance scheme to provide Rs 1000 per month unemployed youth in state. It was announced by Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh who is also son of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the transit campus Central University of Andhra Pradesh

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the transit campus of the Central University of Andhra Pradesh at the IT Business Incubation Centre at the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU).

GST council announced Cashback for Digital Transactions

- Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announces 20% Cashback upto Rs 100 for the Digital Transactions done via BHIM, Rupaya or USSD mode. The main aim of the meeting on the concerns and suggestions of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

IIT-Madras develop first indigenous microprocessors under Project Shakti called RISECREEK

- Computer scientists from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have developed first of family of six industry-standard microprocessors under Project Shakti. The initial batch of 300 chips has been named RISECREEK and has been fabricated at Intel's facility at Oregon, US for free to run Linux operating system.

Andhra Pradesh CM Naidu inaugurates world's first high energy storage device

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister unveiled the world's first-ever high energy storage device in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. The thermal battery, first-of-its-kind anywhere in the world, is a revolutionary and disruptive technology patented by Dr. Patrick Glynn in 2016 in India

Andhra govt, Holytech sign MoU

- Andhra Pradesh government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with electronics giant, Holytech. Under the terms of the agreement, Holytech will set up its plant in 75 acres land in Tirupati and Chittoor districts, against an investment of Rs. 1400 crores.

Dr.Reddys Srikakulam API unit gets USFDA EIR

- Dr.Reddy's Laboratories said that its Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) plant in Srikakulam Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Andhra Pradesh, has received an Establishment Inspection Report (EIR) from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

HCL gets government approval to set up SEZ in Andhra Pradesh

- The commerce ministry has approved a proposal of HCL Technologies to set up a new IT Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, with a proposed investment of Rs 408.48 crore.

Andhra CM invited to address UN forum

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been invited by the United Nations (UN) to deliver a keynote address at an event, titled 'Financing Sustainable Agriculture: Global Challenges and Opportunities' – to be organised on the sideline of the annual UN General Assembly in New York on September 24.

'Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestham aims at creating more employable youth in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh has said that the state government's 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Nestham' scheme is aimed at creating more employable youth.

Andhra Pradesh announces Rs 2 cut in VAT on petrol, diesel

- Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced the reduction in Value Added Tax in the state assembly. The state would have to forego a revenue of 1,120 crore rupees due to the measure.

MasterCard launches digital platform for Andhra farmers

- The Andhra Pradesh government and MasterCard introduced e-Rythu, a mobile platform that provides farmers an easy and secure way to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural products via their feature phones.

On Ganesh Chaturthi, 580-kg laddu prepared in Hyderabad

- The sweetmeat was prepared by Suruchi Food at Tapeswaram in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The laddu costs about 3 lakh, with 220 kg sugar, 145 kg cow ghee, 175 kg Bengal gram flour, 25 kg cashew, going into its making besides other ingredients.

Swachh Dhara programme for clean water flagged off in Amaravathi

- The main objective is to provide clean drinking water across the state. The Tankers providing water across the state will be cleaned periodically.

Indian Culinary Institute inaugurated in Tirupati

- Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu dedicated the Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) in Tirupati and two coastal tourism projects taken up under Swadesh Darshan, to the nation. The ICI was designed by National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC).

Arunachal Pradesh

Capital – Itanagar; CM – PemaKhandu; Governor – B D Mishra

Arunachal Pradesh to launch new health insurance scheme

- The new Chief Minister's Arogya Arunachal Yojana (CMAAY) will enable citizens to avail cashless health services in empanelled hospitals of Arunachal Pradesh. Once launched, the scheme will offer healthcare services of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.

Arunachal Pradesh opens door for medical colleges availing best medical facilities

- Ensuring proper healthcare and medical facilities along with preparing good future doctors, the first medical college of Arunachal Pradesh, Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIHMS) started its maiden academic session.

Deputy CM Chawna Mein introduces Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board Bill, 2018

- Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chawna Mein introduced the Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board Bill, 2018 in the State Assembly. The Bill will streamline the process of recruitment to Group C posts in different government departments.

Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passes bill for creation of 3 new districts

- Arunachal Pradesh Legislative assembly has passed Arunachal Pradesh Re-Organisation of Districts (Amendment) Bill, 2018 for the creation of three new districts, Pakke-Kesang, Lepa Rada and Shi Yomi in the state.

Arunachal Pradesh launches two Agri schemes

- Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Minister Dr. Mohesh Chai launched Chief Minister's Sashakt Kisan Yojana (CMSKY) and the Chief Minister's Krishi Samuh Yojana (CMKSY) schemes.

Arunachal, British Council sign MoU for cultural cooperation

- The Arunachal Pradesh government signed a MoU with The British Council in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.

Assam

Capital – Dispur; CM – Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

Assam government to set up separate directorate for Divyangs

- The Assam government has decided to set up a separate directorate for the Divyangs. The information was shared by the state's Social Welfare minister Pramila Rani Brahma, who said that several steps are being taken for the welfare of the Divyangs.

Assam government to conduct door to door survey under PMAY-G

- In Assam, the Panchayat and Rural Development Department has stressed on accelerating the pace of overall development of rural areas through successful implementation of various programmes.

Assam Government extends AFSPA in the state for 6 more months

- Governor of Assam has extended application of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the entire state for six more months with immediate effect. For this, it used powers conferred under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 declaring entire state as 'Disturbed Area' upto 6 months or unless withdrawn earlier.

Assam government makes Asian Games medalist Hima Das as Sports Ambassador of state

- Assam government has made Asian Games medalist Hima Das as the Sports Ambassador of the state. Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal announced to develop 500 village stadiums in the state.

Sonowal inaugurates Indo-Bhutan Border Centre

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the Indo-Bhutan Border Centre at Darranga in Assam's Baksa district to strengthen bilateral trade with the neighboring country.

Assam government to provide electricity connection to all households by 31 December

- The Assam government will provide electricity connection to all households by December 31, 2018 under SOUVAGYA scheme.

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

- The scheme will be launched by Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal in Guwahati. The announcement was made by the state's Health and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. 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.

IWAI to launch Ro-Ro service to Majuli Island in Assam

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is set to launch a Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) service in Assam from Neamati to Manjuli island, the Ministry of Shipping. This service will reduce the road route distance of 423 km that trucks take from Neamati to Majuli Island via Tezpur Road Bridge to only 12.7 km with the use of river route.

India's longest river bridge will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam

- India's longest river bridge with total length of 19.3 kilometers will be built on Brahmaputra river in Assam. This bridge will connect Dhubri of Assam to Fulbarani of Meghalaya.

Kati Bihu festival celebrated across Assam

- Assam celebrated its 3rd Bihu festival known as the 'Kati Bihu' festival across the state. The name of the other 2 Bihu festivals is: Rongali and Bohagi Bihu. The festival derives its name from the Assamese month of Kati.

Bihar**Capital – Patna; CM – Nitish Kumar; Governor – Lalji Tandon****Asian Development Bank Approves 503 Million USD Project For Bihar**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved 503-million US Dollar lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar which would benefit the agriculture sector immensely in the region.

Bihar to get world's cheapest clean drinking water

- Sulabh International introduced the concept of 'Sulabh Sauchalya' in India, which is cost-effective innovative water project to provide the cheapest drinking water in the world, only in 50paise/litre.

Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana was launched in Bihar

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana', a scheme for the girl child. The scheme will provide Rs.54,100 for a girl child from her birth until she graduates.

India's first dolphin research centre to come up soon in Patna

- With the population of the endangered Gangetic river dolphin decreasing and its habitat changing, the much-awaited National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC), India's and Asia's first, would be a reality in Patna on October 5.

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.

Chhattisgarh**Capital – Raipur; CM – Bhupesh Baghel; Governor – Anandiben Patel****Chhattisgarh govt to set up a tribal museum in Naya Raipur**

- In order to exhibit culture and tradition of scheduled tribes, the tribal museum will be built at the cost of Rs 27 crore in an area of around 22 acres in Naya Raipur.

Startup India Yatra begins in Chhattisgarh

- The Startup India Yatra was launched on July 30th in Raipur. Students queued up in large numbers to register for the first boot camp at Raipur.

Delhi celebrates its first ever dragonfly festival

- This is First-ever festival for insects that help maintain ecosystem and is being organized from Aug 3 to Sept 1 jointly by WWF (World Wide Fund) India and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). This will culminate towards a dragonfly census on August 19. India has about 500 different types of species at present, while around 3012 species were recorded worldwide until 2010.

Chhattisgarh to rename Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar

- The state government of Chhattisgarh has decided to rename the state's new capital city Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar in the memory of former

First Tribal Circuit Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme inaugurated in Chhattisgarh

- Union Ministry of Tourism has inaugurated India's first tribal circuit project connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

Gujarat**Capital – Gandhinagar; CM – Vijay Rupani; Governor – Om Prakash Kohli****Gujarat signs MoU with Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency to strengthen trade, industrial relations**

- Gujarat Government's Industries and Mines Department has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) to strengthen trade, industrial relations. KOTRA is national trade and investment promotion organisation operated by South Korea Government.

Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani gives approval for Rs 39-cr 'Seema Darshan' project

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has given in-principle approval for the 39-crore rupees 'Seema Darshan' project for developing more infrastructure facilities from T-Junction to Zero Point at Nadabet near Suigam in Banaskantha district to instil patriotism through a unique Gujarat initiative for border tourism.

Gujarat to form Sanskrit Bhasha Vikas Board

- In order to promote the Sanskrit language, the Gujarat government has decided to form the Sanskrit Bhasha Vikas Board.

Gujarat Government announces urban sanitation policy

- The Gujarat government came out with an 'Urban Sanitation and Cleanliness Policy' for better management of solid and liquid waste in cities. The policy aims at complete abolition of manual scavenging.

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2019 is scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar

- The 9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2019 is scheduled to be held between January 18 and 20 in Gandhinagar with theme 'shaping of a New India'.

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

- 126 MW wind power capacity, part of India's first inter-state transmission system (ISTS) auction, was commissioned in Bhuj, Gujarat. It was part of India's first ISTS auction was conducted by state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) in February 2017.

National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) India's first railway varsity starts operations in Vadodara

- It is functioning at the National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara. It is funded by Ministry of Railways. University of California, Berkeley and Cornell University are its international partners. About National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) is India's first railway university located in Vadodara, Gujarat.

PM inaugurates Mahatma Gandhi Museum at Rajkot

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot.

Gujarat state government inaugurated vaccination of Gir lions against deadly Canine Distemper Virus CDV

- Gujarat state government has launched vaccination of Gir lions against deadly Canine Distemper Virus CDV.

Gujarat Government declares 51 talukas as water scarcity hit

- The Gujarat government declared 51 talukas, comprising 3,291 villages, as scarcity hit owing to scanty rains. Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said in Ahmedabad that 10 talukas of Kutch district.

Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service will be inaugurated in Gujarat

- Gogha- Dahej Ro-Pax Ferry service will be inaugurated in Gujarat on 27 October 2018. The ferry service is a part of Sagarmala programme of the Ministry of Shipping. The ferry service has a carrying capacity of 100 vehicles and 500 passengers. The ferry will travel through the sea route by crossing the Gulf in Cambay.

Gujarat First Mega Food Park Inaugurated In Surat

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat. It is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat.

Goa**Capital: Panaji; CM: Manohar Parrikar; Governor: Mridula Sinha**

GOAMILES: Goa Tourism's app-based taxi service flagged off by CM Manohar Parrikar

- Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation's app-based taxi service called 'GOAMILES' in Panaji.

Goa launches helpline for women in distress

- Goa government's Women and Child Development Ministry launched a universal helpline service for women in distress in the coastal state. The service which can be accessed by dialing 181 will be operated by GVK-EMRI, a private corporate entity in association with the state Women and Child Development Department.

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Haryana

Capital – Chandigarh; CM – Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

Haryana Government is going to host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets

- Haryana will host 33rd World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference in Gurugram from October 10-13 this year.

9L saplings planted in Jharkhand as part of govt's green drive:

- Nine lakh saplings were planted today across 24 river banks in the state as part of the Jharkhand government's initiative to protect the environment, an official release said. The state aims to plant 2.40 crore saplings by August 15

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Haryana to host World Union of Wholesale Markets Conference

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Haryana launches 'I am not afraid of English' initiative

- Haryana has launched 'I am not afraid of English' initiative to make primary school students fluent in English. The initiative aimed at capacity building of teachers to enable them help students to read, write and speak in English right from class 1.

Haryana government launched 'Paudhagiri' campaign to increase green cover

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched a campaign called 'Paudhagiri'. About 3,100 students participated in the movement. The aim of this scheme is to increase the green cover of the state.

NABARD sanctions Rs 772 Crore for Water Projects in Haryana

- In Haryana, water projects will supply water for 256 villages and 72 hamlets. The state government has sent three more project proposals costing Rs 236.85 crores. About NABARD Full form: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Head Quarters: Mumbai Founded on: 12 July 1982. Chairman- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.

Haryana Government to launch Ayushman Bharat scheme on Aug 15

- The main aim of the scheme to provide cashless healthcare facilities to beneficiaries at empanelled hospitals.

Haryana to inaugurate its first licensed Hisar Airport

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

Haryana signs MoU with Indian Oil for ethanol plant

- The Haryana government on September 10 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up an ethanol plant in Panipat with an outlay of over Rs 900 crore. The initiative at village Bohali with a proposed capacity of 100 kilolitres of ethanol per day will manage crop residue and prevent straw burning before the upcoming paddy season

Haryana to be made stray cattle-free by January 26

- Haryana will be made stray cattle-free by January 26 next year. Strict actions would be taken against those, whose cattle are found roaming on the roads and fine would also be imposed on them.

Haryana's Maharshi Dayanand University declared cleanest govt university by HRD Ministry

- Haryana's Maharshi Dayanand University has been declared the cleanest government varsity by the HRD Ministry, followed by Guru Nanak Dev University in Punjab's Amritsar. Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the "Swachh Campus rankings" under different categories.

NASSCOM unveils Centre of Excellence for IoT in Haryana

- Indian IT industry's apex body National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has launched its Centre of Excellence for the Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) at Gurugram, Haryana. This centre was launched in collaboration with Haryana government and is part of nationwide collaborative initiative involving the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Haryana to set up anti-terror force

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said an anti-terrorist force 'Kavach' – will be set up to further strengthen the security arrangements in the state. Kavach, which is being constituted to deal with terrorist activities, would have 150 police personnel who would be provided 14 weeks training by the National Security Guard (NSG) at Manesar.

PM Modi Unveils Chhotu Ram's Statue at Hooda Family Turf in Haryana's Rohtak

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Haryana's Rohtak district. Sir Chhotu Ram, who was born on November 24, 1881, was regarded as a messiah of peasants and was instrumental in empowering farmers in pre-Independence era and getting pro-farmers law enacted. He had fought for farmers' rights during the British rule.

Haryana's first autism research centre opens in Gurugram

- First of its kind in Haryana, National Autism Intervention Research Centre was launched in Gurugram at Fortis Memorial Research Institute by state's Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, R.R. Jowel.

Haryana govt to introduce livestock veterinary scheme

- Haryana Government has decided to introduce "Pashu Sanjeevni Sewa" in the state under which free of cost quality veterinary services and health care facilities for the livestock would be made available at the doorstep of livestock farmers through mobile veterinary clinics.

Himachal Pradesh

Capital – Shimla; CM – Jai Ram Thakur; Governor - Acharya Dev Vrat

'Himachal gets national award for best performance under PMSMA'

- Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged first among states for its performance under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritav Abhiyan (PMSMA) in the country.

Himachal Pradesh banned use of thermocol cutlery:

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur had announced the ban on the World Environment Day on June 5, but it was observed that it was still in use.

Himachal Pradesh launches Shaur Nahin mobile application

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched 'horn not ok' awareness campaign and 'shaur nahin' (no noise) mobile application. The main aim is to spread awareness of unnecessary blowing horn as it creates unnecessary noise pollution.

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur vows to bring down malnutrition rate by 11 percent in state by 2022

- The rate of stunted children in the state was 36 percent in year 2016 which had now come down to 26 percent and the line departments should work in coordination to bring it further down to 15 percent by 2022. He had started this programme with a vision to make a healthy society and a strong nation.

Snow leopard spotted in Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh

- Snow leopard was spotted at height of about 4,000 metres in Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. Its picture was captured by camera-trap installed by State Wildlife Department. These findings have ascertained that snow leopards inhabit new areas.

India's first railway station inside tunnel to come up in Himachal Pradesh

- For the first time in India, a railway station will be built inside a tunnel at a height of 3,000metres, on the strategic Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line close to the Sino-India border. Once completed, the Keylong station in Himachal Pradesh will be the first on the railway network to be inside a tunnel.

Himachal Pradesh government is considering a proposal to rename state capital Shimla to Shyamala

- BJP-ruled Himachal Pradesh government is considering a proposal to rename state capital Shimla to Shyamala. The demand was made by right-wing Hindu groups as part of efforts to remove symbols of British rule.

Jammu & Kashmir

Capital – Jammu (winter) Srinagar (summer); CM – Vacant; Governor - Satya Pal Malik

A three judge bench to hear the challenging Article 35A

- Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra observed that the Supreme Court will hear whether Article 35A is violative of the basic structure of the Constitution. Article 35A gives special status to the State and people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir becomes 3rd State to adopt RADMS software

- The Road Accident Data Management System (RADMS) software is a geographical information system (GIS) solution for identification of black spots, wrong driving practices, overloading issues, driver issues and other factors causing or related to road accidents. In 2015, the 'Supreme Court committee on road safety' had mandated all states to use RADMS.

J-K Sports Council organises orientation course to promote girls football

- Jammu and Kashmir State Sports Council has introduced a first-ever orientation course under United States-based trainers to promote football among the girls in the Valley.

ISRO signs MoU with Central University of Jammu for setting up of Space Science Centre

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu today for setting up of Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in University. It will be first of its kind institute coming up in Jammu and Kashmir.

Vaishno Devi shrine board enhanced the free insurance cover to pilgrims to Rs five lakh.

- The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), in its 63rd meeting, approved to enhance free accident insurance cover provided to pilgrim's visiting Vaishno Devi shrine.

Indian railways announced the world's highest railway line that will run along the India-China border

- Indian railways announced the world's highest railway line that will run along the India-China border. The rail line will have a highest road point of 5,360 metres above mean sea level.

Jharkhand

Capital – Ranchi (Atal Nagar); CM - Raghubar Das; Governor - Draupadi Murmu

Jharkhand to Set Up Country's 1st Khadi Mall

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that the first 'Khadi Mall' of the country will be opened in Jharkhand.

Following are the places in Jharkhand which will be renamed:

- Medical College Palamu will be renamed as Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College, Palamu.
- Sahibganj Harbour will be renamed as Atal Bihari Vajpayee Harbour Sahibganj.
- Deoghar Airport is named as Atal Bihari Vajpayee Airport Deoghar.
- Professional College Jamshedpur is renamed as Atal Bihari Vajpayee Professional College Jamshedpur.
- Convention Centre Ranchi is to be renamed as Atal Convention Centre Ranchi.
- Jharkhand Innovation Lab will be renamed as Atal Innovation Live.

- The 8-lane road from GOI Building to Kako Math in Dhanbad district will be named as Atal Marg.(It is to be noted that the 20-kilometre long stretch worth Rs. 413 crore will be constructed in collaboration with World Bank).

Jharkhand Government renames town and railway station after Bansidhar temple of Lord Krishna

- The town Nagar Untari and the railway station would be renamed as Bansidhar Nagar, after Banshidhar Temple. The union government is looking at proposals for a tie-up with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

China to be Jharkhand's partner country

- China will be Jharkhand's partner country at the Food Processing Summit slated in November, visiting Chief Minister Raghubar Das. Das is on a four-day visit to China at the invitation of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

India's Largest war memorial of India will be built in Jharkhand

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das has said their government is constructing India's biggest war memorial. Stories of the slain soldiers' bravery will be written in the war memorial which will have a replica of the Kargil War so that the youth can understand their duties towards the nation.

Karnataka

Capital – Bengaluru; CM – H D Kumaraswamy; Governor – Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala

Bangalore to get India's first government run eWaste recycling plant

- Union minister of chemicals and fertilisers Ananth Kumar announced that India's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bangalore. Bangalore is also the third in terms of e-waste generation in the country.

Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation

- Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation, US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) said

Karnataka government to launch Green Mysuru drive on 15th August

- The Forest Department of Karnataka is to launch a Green Mysuru drive on 15th August 2018 under Hasiru Karnataka programme. The aim is to increase the tree cover of the city and the district.

Karnataka made Yoga mandatory for all colleges and universities in the State

- The Karnataka government has made Yoga mandatory for all colleges and universities in the State. It was decided at a meeting of Vice-chancellors and other officials of state universities which was chaired by State Higher Education Minister G T Devegowda.

Karnataka Government launches Swachhameva Jayate

- In order to achieve the status of Open Defecation Free (ODF), Karnataka launched "Swachhameva Jayate" a rural cleanliness and sanitation campaign. This campaign will aim to boost the Swachh Survekshan Grameen in all the districts with the help of school children.

Excise Department used drones with camera to identify ganja plants in Karnataka

- Excise Department has employed drones fitted with a camera for surveillance in areas vulnerable for the cultivation of ganja. It served well by finding banned crops being cultivated in a clandestine manner in the Shivamogga district of Karnataka.

CJI inaugurated the new court complex in Hubballi

- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra inaugurated the new court complex in Hubballi, Karnataka. During the ceremony, the CJI has suggested the government to appoint graduates from specialised disciplines, other than law, in district courts in order to ensure speedy dispensation of justice.

Defence Minister launches Defence India Startup Challenge in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Defence India Startup Challenge in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Recognising the first set of incubators for these challenges the ministry has also signed an MoU with 5 incubators. IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Mumbai, Forge IIT Madras, and T hub

Bangalore airport set to become first in Asia to use face recognition as boarding pass

- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bangalore, capital of Karnataka is set to become first airport in Asia to introduce face recognition based passage system technology from 2019. For this, Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), which operates KIA has signed agreement with Portuguese software firm Vision Box.

Samsung opens world's largest mobile experience centre in Bengaluru

- Looking to further cement its position in India, South Korean tech major Samsung set up what is arguably the world's largest mobile experience centre in Bengaluru, barely two months after it opened its biggest mobile factory in Noida.

Bengaluru tops among Asian cities for technology enterprises

- Bengaluru, along with Singapore and Shenzhen, figure in the list of best locations for tech enterprises in Asia according to a research report 'Top Locations in Asia: Technology Sector,' released by Colliers Research.

Mysore city police is to launch Mysuraksha app

- The Mysore city police are to launch Mysuraksha app soon. The aim is to ensure the safety and security of passengers who use auto and cab. While downloading the app on their smartphones, the passengers can scan the Quick Response (QR) code printed on autos and cabs that will have the details of the vehicle and the driver.

President gives assent to Karnataka Good Samaritan Protection Bill, 2016

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016 under Article 200 of Constitution. With this, Karnataka became first state give legal protection to good Samaritans who help accidents victims with emergency medical care within golden hour. This law will ensure that good samaritans are not harassed in any manner and face any criminal or civil liability.

Karnataka Unveils 'Unnati Scheme' To Help Entrepreneurs From SC/ST Communities

- The Karnataka Government has unveiled 'Unnati Scheme' to help entrepreneurs from SC/ST Communities. Karnataka Social Welfare Minister Priyank Kharge announced that the state 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.

Karnataka cleared Rs.198 crore drinking water project for Ullal

- The Karnataka State government has cleared a Rs.198-crore drinking water project proposal for Ullal. Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy launched the Brand Mangaluru campaign and a village camp programme initiated by the Dakshina Kannada Working Journalists Union.

Karnataka CM announced formation of Kodagu Development Authority

- Karnataka Chief Minister H.D.Kumaraswamy announced the formation of the Kodagu Development Authority. The authority is to enable speedy reconstruction of the district, parts of which were ravaged by floods and landslips. So far, the State government funded Rs.127 crore for the rehabilitation works in the district.

Save Bandipur activists protested against the elevated highways through national parks

- Activists protested against the proposed elevated highways through national parks. Around 150 activists protested at Melkamanahalli gate, Karnataka.

Fact Sheet: Mammals of India (MaOI)

- Mammals of India (MaOI) is a new model of repository on Indian mammals by the Scientists and Researchers from the National Centers for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore. It is a citizen-scientific repository initiated in September 2018. It is a first such repository of Mammals in India.

Kerala

Capital – Thiruvananthapuram; CM – Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor – P Sathasivam

Nissan signs MoU with Kerala government for digital hub

- Nissan Motor signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Kerala to establish a new global center for its digital operations in India.

Kerala to launch country's first state-run all-woman hotel

- The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) is all set to launch India's first public sector hotel run entirely by women for women in the state's capital city, Thiruvananthapuram.

Kerala ropes in KPMG as consultant for rebuilding flood hit state

- Kerala Government has decided to appoint KPMG as project consultant partner for rebuilding state ravaged by recent massive floods. This decision was taken at state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme: Tourism Ministry sanctions Rs. 80.37 crore for developing cruise tourism in Kerala

- Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for development of rural circuit in Kerala. Under this project, Ministry of Tourism will be developing three cruises with budget of Rs. 80.37 crores

1.80.37 Crores worth developmental projects sanctioned by Tourism Ministry under Swadesh Darshan in Kerala

- The project focuses on the development of water-based thematic cruise experiences in and around Valapattanam and Kuppam Rivers of Kannur District. It consists of three thematic cruises : Malabari Cuisine and Culinary Cruise in Valapattanam River(40 km), Theyyam Cruise in Valapattanam River (16 km), Mangrove Cruise in Kuppam River(16 km).

World Bank estimates Rs 25,050 crore for rebuilding Kerala

- The World Bank (WB) team estimated that Kerala would require around Rs. 25,050 crore for reconstruction of the flood-ravaged economy and infrastructure.

Electric auto rickshaws are set to be launched in Kerala

- Electric autorickshaws are set to be launched in Kerala. A committee of six auto rickshaw driver unions signed a pact with a Kinetic Green, a private firm, to roll out 200 Electric auto rickshaws in Kochi. These vehicles are expected to be on the road in November.

Kerala the first smoke-free State to have 100% LPG

- The revenue department has imposed the duty based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR). A joint application was filed by domestic steel industries like JSW Steel Ltd, Sunflag Iron & Steel Co, Usha Martin, Gerdaul Steel India, Vardhman Special Steels and Jayaswal Neco Industries before DGTR to initiate an investigation on this issue.

Kerala needs Rs 31,000 crore post floods: UN report

- Kerala will need about Rs 31,000 crore for recovery and reconstruction following the century's worst floods, according to a UN report presented to the Chief Minister by UN Resident Coordinator in India Yuri Afanasiev.

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board to issue masala bonds worth Rs 5,000 crore for development works

- Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) is going to issue Masala bonds worth Rs. 5,000 crore to mobilise funds for various development works. KIIFB has appointed Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings for rating the Masala bonds issue.

Kerala the best State for teenage girls in India:

- Kerala tops the TAG index which compares the performance of each State based on the status of their teenage girls, as a part of the survey findings of The Teen Age Girls (TAG) Report, conducted by Project Nanhi Kali.

Foundation of India's Largest Dry Dock Laid at Cochin Shipyard

- The Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala.

KAU initiated a mission to rejuvenate hill garlic

- The Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has initiated a study on the farming practices of garlic followed in the hills of Kanthalloor and Vattavada areas of Idukki district of Kerala. This move is to promote the variety Malai poondu or hill garlic that is on the verge of extinction.

Madhya Pradesh**Capital – Bhopal; CM – Kamal Nath; Governor – Anandiben Patel****Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh gets GI tag**

- Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag from Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India.

MP CM launches Dial 100 Police Mobile App

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan **launched Dial 100 Mobile app**, which will help the needy at the time of emergency.

MP Government to name three awards after late former PM Vajpayee

- Madhya Pradesh Government will name three awards after the late former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as a tribute. “One will be for poets, second will be for outstanding contribution in the field of journalism, and third for good work in administration”, said Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Madhya Pradesh Government seeks revival of Cheetah Reintroduction Project

- Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to revive its Cheetah Reintroduction Project to reintroduce Cheetahs in Nauradehi sanctuary located in Sagar district of state.

Madhya Pradesh will organise "Mil -Banche", an interactive programme between schools and society

- In Madhya Pradesh, "Mil -Banche", an interactive programme between schools and society is being organised. This programme is being organised for the multi-dimensional development of children through language skill up-gradation, reading other books in addition to textbooks.

India gets first ever gender-neutral hostel in Mumbai's TISS

- After the Supreme Court scrapped Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that criminalised homosexuality, India has become the first-ever country to have a gender-neutral hostel.

MP announces 52nd district, decision to come into effect from October 1

- The Madhya Pradesh government announced the creation of a new district ‘Niwari’. The new district would include three tehsils of the present Tikamgarh district – Niwari, Orchha and Prithvipur. The government’s decision will come into effect from October 1.

Madhya Pradesh to get Ministry of cows

- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the setting up of a Ministry for cows. The Cow Ministry will replace the existing Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan (MPGEPS) Board because it has limitations.

India's first Corn Festival Starts In Madhya Pradesh

- In Madhya Pradesh, the first corn festival of the country is being held in Chhindwara. The festival is one of a kind international event. Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest corn producing states in India, with Chhindwara being the highest corn producing district.

Government inks \$150 Million loan agreement with ADB for India's first Global Skills Park in MP

- Government has inked US \$150 million loan agreement with multilateral lender Asian Development Bank (ADB) for establishing India's first Global Skills Park in Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh. It will have training facilities focusing on skills for manufacturing, service and advanced agricultural jobs, benefitting about 20,000 trainees and trainers.

Government inks \$110 million loan agreement with ADB to upgrade rural roads in MP

- Government has inked \$110 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to upgrade all-weather rural roads in Madhya Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). It is second tranche of \$500 million Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme for India approved by ADB in December 2017.

Rs 469-cr revival plan approved for NEPA Ltd

- The government has approved a Rs 469.41 crore package for the revival of closed NEPA mill in Madhya Pradesh, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said. NEPA Ltd is a public sector newsprint company, incorporated in 1947.

Government nod to establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation in Sehore

- The Union Cabinet has remodified its earlier decision to establish of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Sehore District (Bhopal-Sehore highway) instead of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. NIMHR will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation.

Maharashtra**Capital – Mumbai; CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Vidyasagar Rao****“Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai” has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list:**

- In yet another landmark achievement, India's nomination of the “Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai” has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Maharashtra Govt signs MoU with MCX

- Maharashtra Government signed an MoU with India's largest commodities exchange platform, Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) to launch Cotton Mission to empower cotton farmers in the state.

Maharashtra will launch 'One farmer one transformer' scheme from 15th August

- In order to reduce electricity losses, the Maharashtra government will launch a new scheme allocating "one transformer per farmer". Two lakh farmers will be given electricity connection for high voltage distribution line which will ensure uninterrupted power supply.

A 13 year old Mumbai boy Tilak Mehta launched logistics startup, partners 'Dabbawalas'

- Tilak Mehta, a 13-year-old boy from Mumbai, has launched a logistics startup called 'Papers N Parcels' (PNP) to carry parcels within the Mumbai city for same-day delivery. Users can place an order and get real-time updates via an app.

Special package for irrigation in Maharashtra

- The Cabinet approved a special package for 81 irrigation projects worth over Rs 13,000 crore in Vidarbha, Marathwada and other drought prone areas of Maharashtra, NCP MLA Shishikant Shinde on Wednesday linked the government largesse to electoral politics.

Maharashtra Govt to provide Rs. 21,000 crore package for Vidarbha, Marathwada

- The BJP-led Maharashtra government announced a special package worth over RS.21,000 crore for the development of industries, agriculture and tourism in the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions.

Mumbai's Elphinstone Road station renamed as Prabhadevi

- The station named after Lord Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay Presidency from 1853 to 1860, has been rechristened as Prabhadevi in honour of a local deity of the same name and to erase a "colonial" name.

Infosys Foundation and Bangalore Metro signed MoU For Constructing Station

- Infosys Foundation signed with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) for the construction of a station at Konappana Agrahara in Electronics City.

Mumbai to get 'Skyscraper Bridge' connecting Worli to Sewri

- This is the first bridge in Mumbai to be built at a height of 32m (the height of a 10-storey building) and at 4.5-km-long. This bridge costs around ₹1,500 crore and aims to connect the Bandra-Worli sea link to the Mumbai trans-harbour line at Sewri.

Maharashtra government approves Rs 7,000 crore for water projects in scarcity hit areas

- Under the National Rural Drinking Water Scheme, the Maharashtra government has approved a proposal of Rs 7,952 crore for completing 6,624 water projects in 10,583 villages.

Maharashtra Government announces special assistance of Rs 500 crore for OBC community

- Maharashtra Government announced a special assistance of Rs 500 crore for OBC community to help them develop employment opportunities for the youth

Helpline launched for SCs/STs in Karnataka

- Karnataka launched a round-the-clock information and grievance helpline for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) across the state. The helpline telephone number is 080-22634300 while Whatsapp and text messaging services can be accessed on 9901100000
- 'Kalyana Kendra' (welfare centre) helpline will allow members of these communities to get information on the state's welfare programmes for them as well as register complaints.

Maharashtra Cabinet clears proposal for financing farmers for purchasing farm equipment

- Maharashtra Cabinet cleared a proposal for financing farmers for purchasing farm equipment with an initial corpus of Rs 50 crore. The scheme is aimed at expediting the government's ambitious plan to double the income of farmers by 2022.

Marbat festival celebrated with great fervour in Nagpur

- Thousands of people thronged the streets of Maharashtra's Nagpur city to celebrate the Marbat festival. As per the tradition, the devotees took out a procession carrying effigies that represent evil forces. The clay effigies or 'Marbats' of Kali (black) and Pivli (Yellow) were the main attraction of the procession.

First Regional Workshop on RERA in Pune inaugurated by Shri Hardeep Puri

- The main objective is to provide positive solution to the problems of home buyers. Maharashtra is one of the first states to implement the provision of RERA. It is established the Real Estate Regulatory Authority of Maharashtra, which is popularly known as MahaRERA.

Maharashtra Government to set up new Cyber University

- Maharashtra Government is setting up new Cyber University dedicated to mitigating cyber threats. It will train 3,000 professionals to fight online space cyber-attacks, internet crimes and conduct cyber forensics.

Maharashtra Tops List of States with Maximum Average AUM: AMFI

- According to Association of Mutual Funds of India's (AMFI) statistics, Maharashtra tops the chart for state with the maximum penetration and Assets under Management (AUM). As per August, average assets under management (AUM) of mutual funds rose to an all-time high of Rs 25.2 lakh crore across the country.

Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication tag

- Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has granted Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These five districts Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad are from western Konkan coastal region of State. With this recognition, Alphonso has joined list of 325 products from India with GI tag.

Maharashtra launches website and app Maha madat to analyze drought situation

- Maharashtra launches website and app Maha madat to analyze drought situation. The main aim of the Website app to help in the accurate analysis of the drought-like situation in villages of the state. The website has been created by the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry with the help of the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC).

DRDO's remotely operated vehicle inducted in Pune police

- A Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), was inducted into the Pune police on an experimental basis to help in detection and disposal of bombs. The vehicle, 'Daksh', will be with the city police for the next six months and it will be used by the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS)

Maharashtra approves Rs 1,610 cr for Tarli irrigation project

- The Maharashtra government gave administrative approval of Rs 1,610 crore for the Tarli Irrigation Project in the state's Satara district. This is the fourth time that the state government has given a revised administrative approval for the project, which comprises eight lift irrigation schemes on the Tarli River, a tributary of River Krishna. The project will bring 6,507 hectares in the Tarli Valley and 8,876 hectares in the Maan and Khatav talukas of Satara district under irrigation.

WEF launches Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in Maharashtra, India

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced its new Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India. The Centre will be based in Maharashtra. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at function held in New Delhi. It will be fourth center in chain-ones as part of WEF's global network along with San Francisco (US), Tokyo (Japan) and Beijing (China) are already functioning.

Gwalior to host 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.

METRO INOX is India's First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema and South Mumbai's Largest Multiplex

- Mumbai's iconic heritage cinema METRO INOX is India's First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema and South Mumbai's Largest Multiplex. It has launched two INSIGNIA screens which are 100% solar powered. It has become the first multiplex in India to join the solar revolution.

Mumbai's METRO INOX is now South Mumbai's largest cinema and India's First Rooftop Solar Powered Cinema.

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Meghalaya

Capital – Shillong; CM – Conrad Sangma; Governor – Tathagata Roy

Shripad Yesso Naik lays the foundation stone of the 2nd Phase of construction of NEIAH

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone of the 2nd Phase of Construction of North East Institute of Ayurveda & Homeopathy (NEIAH) at NEIAH Campus, Mawdiangdiang, and Shillong on 29th July 2018.

Behdienkhlam Festival held in Meghalaya

- The famous 4-day Meghalaya Annual Cultural Festival, "Behdienkhlam", held every year at the small peripheral town of Jowai, Meghalaya. Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Dr. Jitendra Singh attended the Festival.

Meghalaya launches milk mission, bull fair

- The state government launched Meghalaya Milk Mission and First Meghalaya Bull Fair on Saturday to bridge the gap between demand and supply of milk.

Meghalaya passes Bill to protect people from fraudulent intention of financial

- The Meghalaya Assembly Friday introduced the Meghalaya Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Bill, 2018 to protect the public from any fraudulent intention of financial institutions.

Gadkari dedicates to nation upgraded NH-44 in Meghalaya

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari renovated and upgraded National Highway-44, which would boost industrial development in Meghalaya.

Meghalaya to launch Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries

- The state government of Meghalaya is planning to launch Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs 51 crore for the scheme and it will be launched on October 26. With the launch of the scheme, the state would be self-sufficient in fish production.

Centre to build sports stadium for differently-abled in Meghalaya

- Union Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot announced that the Centre would set up a sports stadium of international standard for persons with disability in Meghalaya.

Meghalaya launches Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries

- The Meghalaya government is all set to launch a new scheme Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries on October 26 next to meet the requirements of the state. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs 51 crore for scheme and the State Government has already received the first installment of Rs 25 crore.

Mizoram

Capital – Aizawl; CM - Zoramthanga; Governor – Kummanam Rajasekaran

The first international festival of Mizoram-Mizo Hnahthlak celebrated in Aizawl, Mizoram

- The first international festival of Mizoram 'Mizo Hnahthlak' was organized Dengthuama Hall in Aizawl, Mizoram.

New Delhi

Capital – New Delhi; CM - Arvind Kejriwal; Governor – Anil Bajjal

First ever 'India Tourism Mart' to be hosted in New Delhi

- Tourism Ministry in partnership with the FAITH (Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality), will organize the 'first ever' India Tourism Mart (ITM) from 16th to 18th September, 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Aim:- To boost the tourism sector in the country and to double the foreign tourist arrival in the next three years.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates SAFAR at ChandniChowk in Delhi

- Science & Technology, Earth Sciences; Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan unveiled a state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at ChandniChowk in Delhi.

Kumaraswamy seeks Wipro's help to fight air pollution in Bengaluru

- Karnataka chief minister H.D.Kumaraswamy met Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro Ltd, to propose a partnership to jointly combat issues like air pollution in Bangalore and the state.

Delhi Development Authority to plant 10 lakh saplings

- During the ongoing monsoon season, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has set a target of planting nearly 10 lakh saplings across various green spaces in Delhi including parks and the Yamuna flood plains.

Delhi Government launches new solar scheme to increase farmers' income

- The state cabinet of Delhi approved 'Mukhyamantri Kissan Aaye Badhotri Solar Yojna', a scheme for farmers that will be able to lease out a part of their agricultural land for setting up of solar panels to get additional income.

Delhi Police inducts India's first all-woman SWAT team for anti-terrorist operations

- Delhi Police has inducted India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations.

Delhi: 5-member panel to look into menace of dogs, monkeys

- To tackle the growing menace of stray dogs and monkeys in the state, the Delhi Assembly constituted a five-member committee for the same.

Charging Stations for e-Vehicles Inaugurated in Udyog Bhawan

- Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Anant G. Geete inaugurated two charging stations, one for fast charging (DC) and the other for slow charging (AC), in Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.

Delhi, Seoul governments to ink pact for cooperation in urban regeneration

- The Delhi Government and the Seoul Metropolitan Government are slated to sign an agreement this week for cooperation in urban regeneration. The agreement will be signed during Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's ongoing trip to Seoul.

Delhi government orders all Delhi schools to collect Aadhaar details of school children

- The Delhi government has asked all Delhi schools including government, government-aided and private schools, to collect Aadhaar details of their students. The government is to create a DATA BANK of the students of Delhi.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan Inaugurated Air Pollution Control Device "WAYU" In Delhi

- Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest and Climate change, Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) for traffic junctions at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk in Delhi.

Delhi, Moscow sign twin-city agreement

- Delhi government signed a twin city agreement with the Moscow administration for cooperation in the fields of education, healthcare, sports, tourism, transport and environment for a period of three years.

The national program of Wild Life Week concluded at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi

- The national program of Wild Life Week concluded at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi. Wildlife Week is observed every year from October 2 to 8. Wildlife Week is celebrated since 1952. Minister of State of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma addressed the event. He also inaugurated a bio-methanation plant under a MoU between Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The capacity of plant will be 3 Metric Tonnes per day.

Delhi Government launches Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme

- Delhi government has launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme that seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with it on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges.

Korean War memorial to be built in Delhi

- A Korean War memorial will be built in New Delhi to commemorate India's role in the war that ended in an armistice in 1953. "India and South Korea have agreed to build a war memorial. The idea was proposed by the Korean War Veterans Association in India. The Delhi government had identified the land for the memorial in central Delhi.

Museum on Prime Ministers of India will be set up in Delhi

- Minister of state for culture, Mahesh Sharma and Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri jointly laid the foundation stone for proposed Museum on Prime Ministers of India at Teen Murti Estate, New Delhi.

Much awaited Rani-Jhansi Flyover inaugurated in Delhi

- Rani Jhansi Grade separator, the ambitious flyover project in north Delhi was thrown open to public by Union Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

IGI Airport to get Taxibots

- Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi, India is set to commence commercial use of semi-robotic tow trucks. The Taxibots are launched by TaxiBot India.

Nagaland

Capital – Kohima; CM - Neiphiu Rio; Governor – Padmanabha Acharya

The Nagaland government has declared the Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary as an elephant reserve

- The Nagaland government has declared the Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary as an elephant reserve making it the 30th reserve for jumbos in the country. Singphan Elephant Reserve has huge tracts of forest, strategically located in contiguity with the Abhaypur Reserve Forest of Assam which is frequented by the moving herds of elephants.

Odisha

Capital – Bhubaneswar; CM – Naveen Patnaik; Governor – Ganeshi Lal

Bhitarkanika National Park became largest habitat of Endangered Estuarine Crocodiles

- Bhitarkanika National Park is located in Kendrapara district of Odisha in eastern India. 101 nesting sites of estuarine crocodiles were found this time by enumerators.

Orissa government signs MoU with RIMES

- Odisha Govt has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) to enhance effective management of all kinds of disasters.

Rs.500 Fine for open defecation in Sambalpur:

- Defecation in the open will attract a hefty penalty of Rs 500 here, an official said. "Though there are many community toilets across the city, many people are found defecating in open, putting the people at risk of various diseases.

CM Naveen Patnaik orders ban on plastic ban in Odisha from October 2:

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday announced a ban on the use of plastic in the state from October 2, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. In the first phase, plastic will be banned in six places – the pilgrim city of Puri, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela.

Odisha to get India's 1st skill training centre

- Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan announced that the Centre is planning to set up one National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in every State to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country. He laid the foundation stone of country's first such skill training institute at Barang near Bhubaneswar.

World famous Rath Yatra celebrated in Odisha

- Popularly known as the 'Festival of Chariots', Rath Yatra festival in honour of Puri's Lord Jagannath is one of the most awaited festivals of Orissa and is falling on July 14.

Odisha to host 40-day Odisha Triennial of International Art (OTIA) in Bhubaneshwar, Puri and Konark:

Odisha will be the host to the Odisha Triennial of International Art (OTIA), India's first private sector triennial, in December-January which will be a 40 day event. The events of the Odisha Triennial of International Art (OTIA) will take place in Bhubaneshwar, Puri and Konark.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik releases first-ever tribal atlas of Odisha

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released the first tribal atlas of Odisha consisting of a set of maps and statistics highlighting the tribal demography of Odisha.

Odisha CM launches Green Mahanadi Mission

- A total of two crore saplings will be planted on the banks of the Mahanadi, Tel and Ib rivers under the Green Mahanadi Mission.

Odisha CM Inaugurates Rs 300 Crore Irrigation Dam Project

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Rs 300 crore Rukura Medium Irrigation Dam project in Sundargarh district.

Odisha to Implement Own Food Security Act from October

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced that the state government would implement its own food security act from October 2 this year.

Odisha govt to set up interpretation centre at Bhitarkanika National Park

- The Odisha government is setting up a world-class interpretation centre at Dangamal near Bhitarkanika National Park to showcase its efforts in protecting crocodiles and preserving its rich mangrove diversity.

Odisha aims to be the manufacturing hub of eastern India

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said that Odisha aims to leverage its ports. This move is a part of a push to develop the State as a manufacturing hub in eastern India that could serve the larger South Asian regional market.

Japan to be 'Country Partner' for Make in Odisha 2018

- The Odisha Government has tied up with Japan for its mega investment Conclave 2018 to take place in November this year. The state has already identified 600 acres near capital city Bhubaneswar that could serve as a dedicated industrial park for Japanese investors.

BNHS to open its first regional centre near Chilika Lake

- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), one of India's premier avian research institutes, will start operating its first regional centre or avifauna observatory on the campus of Wetland Research and Training Centre near Chilika Lake (Asia's largest brackish water lagoon), Odisha.

Odisha government has launched a programme "Mu Hero, Mu Odisha"

- The Odisha government has launched a programme "Mu Hero, Mu Odisha" (I am Hero-I am Odisha)" to identify and to give recognition to the young achievers of the state. The initiative is to be conducted by the Biju Yuva Vahini (BYV) members.

AAI dropped water aerodrome project in Chilika Lake

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) cancelled the proposed water aerodrome project at Chilika Lake in Odisha. Environmentalists and Chilika Development Authority (CDA) strictly opposed the project planned by AAI as it would have a negative impact on the ecosystem and the surrounding human population at the world's second largest brackish water lake.

Festival of Nuakhai celebrated in Odisha

- Nuakhai Bhetghat is the reap celebration of individuals of Western Odisha. The festival bears significance among the farmer community as they perform puja on their farmland to thank 'Mother Earth' for being so bountiful.

Odisha CM launches star-rating system for industries to reduce air pollution

- Odisha government introduced a system to rate industries based on the amount of pollutants generated by them. They will be given star rating from one to five with the most polluting industry getting one star while the industry with highest compliance rate with pollution control norms will get five stars.

Newly-built Jharsuguda airport to be renamed after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai: Odisha Assembly

- The state assembly of Odisha passed a unanimous resolution to name the newly-built Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai.

Theme of Odisha Conclave unveiled

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled the theme of Odisha Conclave 2018. The flagship biennial business event of the Government of Odisha will be themed on 'I am Odisha'.

Odisha: Government adopts 'No Work No Pay' policy in education dept

- Odisha government has decided to adopt the 'No Work No Pay' policy with regard to the strike by the block grant teachers and lecturers.

Odisha CM launches own food security scheme

- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched his government's own food security scheme on Gandhi Jayanti that would cover 25 lakh people in the first phase, who were left out under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)-2013.

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

- Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals, a state-owned company launched Asia's first cannister-based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program". The programme was inaugurated by Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Chairman, Methanol Apex Committee at the Assam Petro-chemicals campus at Namrup, Assam. Odisha CM launches Nirman Kusuma Yojana

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the "Nirman Kusuma Yojana"

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the "Nirman Kusuma Yojana" to provide financial assistance to children of construction workers for pursuing technical education. An ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs 23,600, while a diploma student to get Rs 26,300 per annum. A total of 1878 students will get benefit from the programme.

CM launches 'Odyssey City Card' for Bhubaneswar

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a common city payment card system "Odyssey City Card" for Bhubaneswar. As a joint initiative of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd and the ICICI Bank, the card will facilitate payment transactions for citizen services across the city.

BPCL to Set Up Country's 1st Biofuel Plant In Odisha

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (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.

Cyclone ‘Titli’ intensifies into severe cyclonic storm in Odisha, Andhra

- Cyclone Titli has intensified into a “very severe cyclonic storm” and will make a landfall in areas bordering Odisha and Andhra Pradesh along the eastern coast.

Country's first Second Generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-Refinery plant in Odisha

- Governor of Odisha Prof Ganeshi Lal laid the foundation stone on country's first 58-acre Second Generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-Refinery plant at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha.

Portal to promote Odia language, literature inaugurated in Odisha

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a new web portal of ‘Odia Virtual Academy’ (www.ova.gov.in) to promote the Odia language and literature at the Secretariat in Bhubaneswar. The new website will be helpful in the promotion of Odia language at the international level, especially for the Non Resident Odias (NROs).

Odisha CM Patnaik launches EDWS

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched India’s first automatic Early Warning Dissemination System (EDWS). The inauguration coincided with Odisha Government observing Disaster Preparedness Day. On this day, 19 years ago, the state was left devastated by “Super Cyclone” in 1999.

Punjab**Capital – Chandigarh; CM – Amarinder Singh; Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore****Punjab CM orders mandatory dope test for all government employees**

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh ordered all government employees, including police officers, to undergo a mandatory dope test.

Patiala Foundation has been accorded “Special Consultative Status” by the United Nations

- Punjab based non-profit organisation Patiala Foundation has been accorded “Special Consultative Status” by the United Nations. The recognition confers a set of privileges on the NGO, which has been working in the field of livelihood, tourism and road safety.

Dharmendra Pradhan laid foundation stone of Permanent Campus For NSTI, Women In Mohali

- This is the first Nanoscience and technology (NSTI) Institute for Punjab and only one of its kinds in India which is exclusively for women.
- The Minister also launched a unique Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) which would admit differently abled persons as well, also a first of its kind in India at Mohali.

IFFCO forays into food processing, forms JV with Spanish firm at Ludhiana in Punjab

- Fertilizer major IFFCO has entered into joint venture with Congelados De Navarra to set up food processing plant at Ludhiana in Punjab with an investment of Rs 325 crore.

The Punjab Government will start ‘Tatkal Sewa’ for property registration

- The Punjab Government will start ‘Tatkal Sewa’ for property registration across the state from 13th August 2018. The state government has fixed the sum of Rs 5,000 as facilitation charges to seek appointment for ‘tatkal’ (instant) registration for properties.

Punjab uses mobile app to distribute 13 lakh saplings

- Punjab Minister announced that Punjab, the first state in India to launch a mobile app ‘i-Hariyali’ to supply free saplings, has provided 13 lakh saplings to people through this endeavour so far.

Punjab Government to make sacrilege of religious text punishable with life imprisonment

- The Chief Minister of Punjab, Amarinder Singh on August 21, 2018 announced that the state cabinet has approved amendments to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to make sacrilege of all religious text punishable with life imprisonment.

3-day International Water Colour Festival begins at Ranchi

- Chief Minister Raghubar Das said that art is in every pocket of Jharkhand; all we need is to polish it. There are also possibilities of natural tourism along with mining and eco-tourism in the state.

Punjab’s CM launches e-properties module to facilitate online property transactions called PUDA 360

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh launched PUDA 360, an e-properties module to facilitate online property transactions. It is aimed at bringing greater efficiency and transparency in the functioning of Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority (PUDA).

Punjab government to launch programme to curb oral cancer

- The Punjab government will soon launch a special programme to curb oral cancer in the State, Health Minister Brahm Mohindra

Punjab launches mobile apps to check stubble burning

- To check the practice of stubble burning, Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday launched three mobile apps aimed at checking crop residue burning and creating awareness about its ill-effects. The three android mobile applications have been developed by Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC).

i-Khet: Machine for facilitating farmers to have access to the agriculture machinery/equipment for in-situ management of crop residue.

e-PEHaL: for monitoring tree plantation

e-Prevent: to have prompt and accurate information regarding incidents of crop residue burning

Punjab government signed a MoU with the Centre to implement the PMJAY

- Punjab government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre to implement the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) in Punjab. By implementing PMJAY in Punjab, the scheme will be extended to cover more than 43 lakh families, instead of the proposed 14.96 lakh families.

The Punjab government has banned the sale of glyphosate

- The Punjab government has banned the sale of glyphosate. Glyphosate is a herbicide which is extensively used in the State to control a wide variety of weeds in almost all the crops. The chemical has been observed to be a Group 2A cancer-causing material.

India's First Robotic Dinosaurs Gallery Inaugurated In Kapurthala

- The country's first gallery on robotic dinosaurs was opened to the public at the Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala.

Rajasthan

Capital – Jaipur; CM – Ashok Gehlot; Governor – Kalyan Singh

Rajasthan has signed a MOU with Microsoft to provide digital training:

- Rajasthan has emerged as the first State to sign a memorandum of understanding with Microsoft to provide digital training to 9,500 students of government colleges. It will also train 500 faculty members.

India's 1st Private UAV Factory to Come up in Kota

- India's first private sector unit for manufacturing Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group on the campus of Shriram Rayons in Kota, Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Signs MoU with Sohanlalji Buladevi Ojha Gaushala Samiti for the 1st cow sanctuary in state

- Rajasthan Government signed an MoU with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladevi Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary', a shelter for 10000 cows. This will be the first cow sanctuary in Rajasthan and will be situated in Bikaner's Napasar.

Rajasthan first State to implement Biofuel policy

- Rajasthan became first state in the country to implement National Policy on Biofuels unveiled by Union Government in May 2018. Its implementation was approved by high-power Biofuel Authority. It was also decided that state Government will release Biofuel Rules, 2018.

Rajasthan government to organize human chain along Pak border

- On the evening of Independence Day, the Rajasthan government will organize a human chain along the 650-km-long Pakistan border under a programme, 'Shahadat ko Salam'.

India's largest Startup incubation and acceleration- Bhamashah Techno Hub – was inaugurated in Jaipur

- India's largest Startup incubation and acceleration- Bhamashah Techno Hub – was inaugurated by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje in Jaipur On August 23, 2018.

Sushma Swaraj inaugurated 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Vietnam capital Hanoi

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj who is on a four day two nation tour of South East Asia which includes Vietnam and Cambodia, presented free India-made prosthetic limbs for 500 Vietnamese beneficiaries.

Rajasthan Government to Provide Free Mobile Phones to Women Of BPL Families

- In a bid to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship 'Digital India' campaign, Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under the Bhamashah Yojana. Focused on women who fall under the Below Poverty Line (BPL), the scheme aims to transfer financial and non-financial benefits of government schemes in a transparent manner.

Salman Khan Inaugurates Special Children's Centre Umang in Jaipur

- Salman Khan will officially inaugurate "Umang", a centre for special children in Jaipur. After unveiling the plaque, he will meet the children and see the services provided by the centre for rehabilitating them.

Jaipur Art Summit to open in Delhi

- Over 20 artists from across the globe will showcase their works at a week-long international art summit in New Delhi starting from October 4-10, and are open for public participation. Currently in its sixth edition, the Jaipur Art Summit Metro Edition will open to the public at the Triveni Kala Sangam in an exhibition titled "Cross Border Art Connect", along with talk shows and an art competition.

Rajasthan opens much-awaited Dravyavati river project

- Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the city's 'Dravyavati River Rejuvenation Project' executed by Tata Projects Ltd. spread over 47.5 km rain-fed riverfront.

Rajasthan government launched a scheme aimed to provide free electricity to farmers of the state

- Rajasthan government launched a scheme aimed to provide free electricity to farmers of the state having electric connections in general category for specific limit. According to the scheme, more than 12 lakh farmers of the state will receive free electricity up to Rs 10,000 for a year on their agricultural electricity connection.

Health ministry confirms 22 Zika cases in Rajasthan

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has confirmed 22 positive laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika virus in Rajasthan's capital Jaipur. It was detected through Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) surveillance system and all suspected cases in defined area and mosquito samples are being tested.

Tamil Nadu

Capital – Chennai; CM – Edappadi K. Palaniswami; Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

Sathyasri Sharmila from Tamil Nadu becomes First Transgender Lawyer of India:

- 36 year-old Sathyasri Sharmila from Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu has become the first transgender lawyer to enroll herself with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (BCTNP).

CEAT signs MoU for Greenfield plan

- Tyre major CEAT, the flagship company of the RPG Group, signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu State government to invest Rs.4,000 crore in a greenfield plant in Sriperumbudur near Chennai to boost the State's tyre manufacturing capacity

Vermicompost is distributed from Raj bhavan to 70 TN schools

- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit launched the distribution of surplus vermicompost produced on the Raj Bhavan campus to about 70 schools in the city free of cost. The aim is to create awareness about solid waste management among students.

Fossil museum in Ariyalur is set to be inaugurated by Tamil Nadu CM

- The fossil museum at Varanavasi near Ariyalur town is in the state of completion and it will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister in a few days. The 100-acre museum will showcase the natural formation of rocks that provide evidence of the existence of dinosaurs and other associated reptilians in the Ariyalur region.

ASI has planned to upgrade seven monuments in Tamil Nadu under Adarsh Smarak Scheme

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has planned to upgrade infrastructural and tourist-friendly facilities at seven sites, which are approved under Adarsh Smarak Scheme for Conservation of Monuments, in Tamil Nadu.

TN government sets up 24-hour helpline for protection of inter-caste couples

- The Tamil Nadu government has set a 24-hour helpline to assist and protect inter-caste couples.

Red Fort at MMC is to be remodelled into Museum

- Red Fort, which is at the east of Madras Medical College (MMC) Chennai, is planned to be remodelled into a museum. The building was constructed in 1897, the red brick structure has been classified as a Grade I heritage building by the Justice E. Padmanabhan Committee on heritage structures.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid foundation stone for Special Investment Region

- The project cost is estimated at around Rs 2,420 crores. Special Investment Region (SIR) is developed by GMR Infrastructures Limited and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO) and would come up on the 2,100-acre area in Denkanikottai and Shoolagiri taluks of Krishnagiri district.

TN CM inaugurates India's tallest Film Studio

- MGR Centenary Film Studio, the tallest such structure in the country, was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami.

Tamil Nadu Government bans manufacture and sale of e-cigarettes

- Tamil Nadu Government has issued order banning manufacture, sale and possession of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) or e-Cigarettes with immediate effect in the state. The ban covers distribution, trade, display, marketing, advertisement, use, import and possession of e-cigarettes as well.

Tamil Nadu and Centre sign MoU on implementing Ayushman-Bharat with state run CMCHIS

- This association would benefit about 77 lakh poor and vulnerable families in Tamil Nadu. Additionally, the insurance benefit for all those covered under the state scheme will be increased to Rs 5 lakh as per the National Health Protection Scheme.

Naveen Patnaik inaugurates Odisha Bhawan in Chennai

- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Odisha Bhawan in Chennai. He said, "With completion of this facility, we have created an institution which will provide a platform for engagement between Odisha and the State of Tamil Nadu".

IIT-Madras will collaborate with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency to enhance data-driven governance

- IIT-Madras will collaborate with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance. Through this engagement, the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC DSAI) at IIT-Madras has agreed to support the State government on various data science and ICT-related challenges. The collaboration is expected to contribute towards various aspects of governance, including (but not limited to) education, healthcare, and agriculture, says a press release from IIT-Madras.

Government approves special package for footwear and leather sector

- The Union Government has approved a special package for employment generation in the leather and footwear sector. The government has approved four projects worth over Rs 105 crore to promote the leather industry in Tamil Nadu.

TN CM inaugurated Centre of Excellence at MIT

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated the Skills Development Corporation at MIT Chromepet, Anna University and other engineering colleges through video conferencing. They were built at a cost of Rs.546.84 crore. He launched a new software application for e-procurement of paddy by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., developed at a cost of over Rs.7.6 crore.

Telangana

Capital – Hyderabad; CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao; Governor – E S L Narasimhan

Telangana to set up Biopharma scale-up lab

- The government of Telangana will set up of a state-of-the-art B-Hub, which will have a scale-up manufacturing facility for Biopharma based R&D.

Telangana government asked ICRISAT to study the Mission Kakatiya project

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Catchment Area Development Authority of Telangana Irrigation Department at the State Secretariat. Upon this, Telangana government has asked the ICRISAT to conduct a research on the impact of Mission Kakatiya programme.

Tech Mahindra & Government of Telangana collaborate to launch India's first blockchain district

- The Telangana State Information Technology, Electronics and Communication department (ITE&C) signed an MoU with Tech Mahindra to launch India's first Blockchain district in Telangana at the International Blockchain Congress 2018. It will be a centre of excellence and an incubator.

Italian Bike-Maker Benelli signs MoU for Plant in telangana

- Company would initially start assembling CKD (Completely Knocked Down) kits of the bike for Benelli to assemble, manufacture bikes and import exclusive range of the bikes from Italy and Southeast Asian regions.

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

- National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telangana. It is India's first genetic resource bank where genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.

Telangana Government launches Disaster Response Force in Hyderabad

- Telangana Government for the first time has launched Disaster Response Force (DRF) vehicles in the capital city of Hyderabad. The main aim to start this DRF is that state should have its own Disaster force to swiftly deal with emergency situations.

IIT-Hyderabad launches First of its kind in India, Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI)

- It offers facilities like free software tools with leading technology partners in Electronic Design Automation (EDA). The main aim to incubate a minimum of 50 'Make-in-India' chip design companies that can compete globally and generate Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

Telangana dissolves 1st state assembly 9 months before tenure ends

- Based on the recommendation of Telangana Chief Minister and TRS (Telangana Rashtra Samiti) President K Chandrasekhar Rao and his Cabinet, the first state assembly of Telangana has been dissolved nine months before the term of the House expires.

Century-old irrigation facilities in Telangana get heritage tag

- For the first time in the country, an irrigation anicut and a lake have been recognized as heritage structures by international agencies. Sadarmatt anicut located in Medampally in Nirmal district and Pedda Cheruvu in Kamareddy district have been nominated as heritage structures at the 69th International Executive Council meeting of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID 2018) held in Saskatoon, Canada last month.

Hyderabad International Airport: World no 1 Airport in 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum category

- Hyderabad International Airport (Rajiv Gandhi International Airport) was awarded Airports Council International Airport Service Quality World no.1 airport award in the 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category.

First ever dedicated dog park was constructed in Hyderabad

- The park is spread across an area of 1.3 acres. It was developed by Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) at a cost of Rs 1.1 crore. It is certified by the Kennel Club of India.

Hyderabad Metro becomes India's 2nd largest metro rail network

- After Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Governor ESL Narasimhan flagged off the 16-km stretch of Hyderabad Metro between Ameerpet and L B Nagar, Hyderabad Metro became the second biggest rail network in India with a total of 46 km service, next only to Delhi.

Centre granted Rs.450 crore for backward districts of Telangana

- Centre has released Rs.450 crore as special grant to Telangana government as it took up the developmental work in the former nine backward districts of the State. The fund has been granted upon the recommendations of the NITI Ayog.

Thamirabarani Maha Pushkaram – Oct 12 to Oct 23 '2018

- Thamirabarani Maha Pushkaram event that will be celebrated from Oct 12-Oct 23' 2018 in the Thamirabarani River. This event comes once in 75 years.

Nilgiris district administration proposed a 10 km road through tiger reserve

- The Nilgiris district administration has proposed a 10 km road that would cut through the core area of the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode and the buffer zone of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Udhagamandalam

SRiX Agribusiness Academy India's first portal for agri biz learning launched in Warangal

- It was inaugurated by British Deputy High Commissioner Hyderabad Andrew Fleming. Additionally, Sarras Academies Ltd, a UK-based company, and SR Innovation Exchange have joined hands to launch the Academy. The name of the platform is SRiX Agri-Business Academy.

Tripura

Capital – Agartala; CM – Biplab Kumar Deb; Governor – Kaptan Singh Solanki

India & Japan to cooperate in bamboo sector in Tripura

- A team from the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi and stakeholders in the Bamboo handicraft sector of Tripura took part in a workshop called 'Bridging Japan and India by Bamboo'.

Tripura to set up flute performance research institute

- Tripura Government would set up a flute performance research institute to take out the traditional musical act and its eminence as a traditional musical instrument across the world, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said.

Uttarakhand**Capital – Dehradun; CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor – Baby Rani Maurya****Uttarakhand 1st state to give ID cards to Gau Rakshaks**

- Gau rakshaks are protectors of cows who will now be known as gau sanrakshaks - which means 'guardians of cows'. The initiative has been taken to distinguish genuine gau rakshaks from ruffians who resort to violence in the name of cow protection.

Uttarakhand ranked best among states in PMGSY

- Uttarakhand has been ranked the best among states in the country for the construction of maximum number of roads under the PMGSY during 2017-2018. The state constructed a maximum of 1,839 kilometer roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana against a target of 1,500 km set for the year 2017-18.

World Bank to lend \$74 mn for workforce training in Uttarakhand

- India signed a \$74 million loan agreement with the World Bank for the Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project.

Uttarakhand House nod to declare cow 'Rashtra Mata'

- The Uttarakhand Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to declare cow the 'Rashtra Mata' or the mother of the nation. State Animal Husbandry Minister Rekha Arya, who moved the resolution in the Assembly, said that considering it a request from Uttarakhand Assembly, the Centre must grant the status of mother of nation to the cow.

Uttarakhand CM flags off test run of state's first electric bus

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat flagged off the test run of the state's first electric bus. In the recent Investors Summit, an MoU worth Rs 700 crore was signed for the operation of electric buses in the state. In this connection a bus has been provided by a Hyderabad based company for test run on Dehradun-Mussoorie and Haldwani-Nainital road for one month.

NSE Signs Pact with Uttarakhand Govt To Fuel SMEs Growth In State

- National Stock Exchange signed a pact with the Uttarakhand government to provide access to capital to MSMEs, which will fuel the growth of such entities in the state.

Uttar Pradesh**Capital – Lucknow; CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Ram Naik****Uttar Pradesh orders plastic ban from July 15, third time since 2015:**

- During a programme in Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced ban on plastic bags, cups and glasses across the state from July 15

UP government to ask non performing employees aged above 50yrs to retire

- The screening test is now mandatory for all government employees in Uttar Pradesh who have crossed the age of 50 years.

Modi, S. Korean PM inaugurates "world's largest mobile manufacturing plant" in Noida:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in on Monday inaugurated Samsung's mobile manufacturing plant, touted as the biggest in the world, in Noida.

Regional Rail Training Institute inaugurated at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh

- Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha inaugurated Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI) in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh.

U.P. police plans to set up Digital Armies to counter fake news

- Uttar Pradesh police have planned to set up 'Digital Armies' of the outstanding residents to keep a vigil on inflammatory posts and rumour-mongering.

108m Ram statue to come up near Queen Ho Memorial on Saryu Bank in UP:

- The Uttar Pradesh government has plans to install a 108-metre tall statue of Lord Ram at his birth place under the Navya Ayodhya Project. In the first step towards the grand plan, a place has been chosen near Queen Ho Memorial across river Saryu in Ayodhya.

President Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurates ‘One District One Product’ Summit

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the ‘One District One Product’ Summit in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The special emphasis was laid on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Defence Industrial Corridor Launched in Aligarh, UP

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a defence industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

NGT directed UP government to submit an action plan on e-waste management

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board to submit an action plan on e-waste management within three months.

The 2018 Krishi Kumbh International Conference and Exhibition will be held at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (Telibagh) in Lucknow

- The 2018 Krishi Kumbh International Conference and Exhibition will be held at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (Telibagh) in Lucknow from October 26, which will be organized by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Vision document on Taj Mahal should take into account pollution in TTZ

- The Supreme Court ruled that the vision document on protection and preservation of the Taj Mahal in Agra should be prepared taking into account issues like pollution in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) and industries operating there.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi inaugurates the first luxury cruise 'Alaknanda' in Varanasi

- The five-star luxury cruise, a 30-metre double-decked modern line, is a startup venture of Varanasi based Nordic Cruiseline. It will run between Assi Ghat and Panchganga Ghat for a two-hour ride of around 12 km in the morning and evening.

Lucknow to host 1st International cricket match after 24 years

- Lucknow's Ekana International Cricket Stadium is set to host its first international cricket match as the stadium has been announced as the venue for the second T20I between India and West Indies on November 6.

Lucknow's Hazratganj Chauraha to be renamed after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- Lucknow's famous 'Hazratganj Chauraha' will be renamed after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as 'Atal Chowk' Sharing details of the decision, city Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia told that they will also build a memorial named "Atal Smriti Upvan" for the late veteran leader, who was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Police to launch first-ever 'dial-FIR' scheme

- In this scheme, a common man can register regular crimes without going to a police station, by dialing the emergency number UP 100 and file an FIR, a call-based FIR. An e-FIR or dial-FIR scheme is the FIR (first information report) that sets the law into motion and to start investigation.

Kent RO to set up its second manufacturing plant at Noida

- Kent RO Systems, a healthcare products firm, is to set up its second manufacturing plant at Noida. For this project, it has invested more than Rs.150 crore

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch projects worth over 500 crore rupees in Varanasi

- The main projects are to be inaugurated are Integrated Power Development Scheme for Puraani Kashi and an Atal Incubation Centre at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He will distribute 500 bee boxes under Honey mission and various electric based machines to the porters and artisans.

UP scored 1st place in Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the state has scored the first position in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) by providing houses to 11 lakh poor families.

Samarkand region, Uzbekistan and Agra, Uttar Pradesh MOU

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Khokimiat of Samarkand City, Samarkand region, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Municipal Corporation of Agra, Uttar Pradesh Republic of India

4th India International Science Festival-2018 held in Lucknow

- The fourth India International Science Festival 2018 (IISF 2018) will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from October 5 to 8, 2018. It is being organized by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow. The theme of this edition of the Science Festival is “Science for Transformation“.

REINVEST- 2018: 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo held in Noida

- The second Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (REINVEST- 2018) was organised by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in Noida from October 3 to 5, 2018 in Noida.

Nitin Gadkari laid Foundation Stone for Rs1, 224 Crore Highway Projects in Uttar Pradesh

- Besides, the highway projects, Gadkari also laid the foundation stone for the development of National Waterway 40 (river Ghaghra). This project undertakes development work of 354 km stretch of Ghagra river under the Sagarmala Programme of Ministry of Shipping.

Ghaziabad will soon house an institute for political training

- In a first, the Uttar Pradesh government has approved the setting up of a political training institute in Ghaziabad. The institute will give political training to public representatives and political workers, and will professionally groom political leadership in the country.

Allahabad may become Prayagraj

- A proposal to change the name was passed in the Kumbh Mela Margdarshak Mandal meeting held in Allahabad on Saturday. Governor Ram Naik, who presided over the meeting, included several State Cabinet Ministers and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

In a first, UP govt makes man-animal conflict a ‘State Declared Disaster’

- The Uttar Pradesh government has made the man-animal conflict a ‘State Declared Disaster’ bringing such incidents under the ambit of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to ensure better coordination and relief during such mishaps in the state.

West Bengal

Capital – Kolkata; CM – Mamata Banerjee; Governor – Keshari Nath Tripathi

West Bengal chief minister cuts luxury travel for ministers, announces 'one person, one car' policy:

- In an attempt to reduce travel expenses of ministers and bureaucrats, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee also announced that foreign travel of ministers and state officials would be sanctioned only by her, apart from ordering cuts on hospitality expenses such as food and refreshments on an emergency basis.

A world class exhibition on four eminent personalities of Bengal

- A world class exhibition on four eminent personalities of Bengal, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subha Chandra Bose, Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee would be organized very soon at National Library in Kolkata at permanent basis

West Bengal passes resolution to change name of state to 'Bangla'

- The ruling Trinamool Congress government placed a proposal in the state assembly to change the name of West Bengal to "Bangla" in all languages.

West Bengal Assembly passes Lokayukta Bill

- The West Bengal Assembly passed the West Bengal Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2018, The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013. Parliament of India. A bill to provide for the establishment of a body of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for matters connected therewith or incidental there

Sharmila Tagore was today conferred D Litt (Honoris Causa) by West Bengal Governor

- Bollywood actress Sharmila Tagore was conferred D Litt (Honoris Causa) by West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi at a special convocation of Kazi Nazrul University held at the Raj Bhawan

Kolkata man Amit Sahai tops IQ world list with the score of 148

- Amit Sahai, a 43-year-old senior professional from Kolkata has topped the prestigious Intelligence Quotient (IQ) World list along with two other Americans with a score of 148.

Israel opens visa centre in Kolkata

- In a bid to encourage more Indian travelers to visit Israel, the Middle East nation has opened a Visa Application Centre in Kolkata that would cater to West Bengal and seven northeastern states.

Asian School indoor rowing inaugurated in Kolkata

- The first Asian School Indoor Rowing Championship was inaugurated in Kolkata with oldest rowing coach Ashok Chatterjee and former international oarsman Ashok Mehta lighting the sacred lamp.

Bengal aiming to reduce under nutrition by 2020: Mamata

- Observing the National Nutrition Week, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee said that the state government has adopted a multi-sectoral strategy to reduce under-nutrition and anaemia among women and children in a targeted manner by 2020.

West Bengal government launched mobile blood donation camp

- The West Bengal government has launched a mobile blood donation camp in a red luxury bus. The bus moves from location to location, collecting blood in West Bengal.

WB Government denies 'stop promotion' rumour on social media

- The West Bengal government on September 4, 2018 denied rumours doing the rounds on social media that it has instructed all departments to stop promotion of its employees till the Lok Sabha elections, which are due in 2019.

Ayushman Bharat Call Centre Inaugurated In Bangalore

- Ayushman Bharat call centre was formally inaugurated in Bangalore by CEO of Ayushman Bharat Dr. Indu Bhushan. The call centre functioning 24×7 in collaboration with Medi assistant is sharing info in English and Hindi initially and 9 more regional languages to be added later. The executives are working in 7 different shifts and one more such call centre functioning in Hyderabad.

Cyclone-30: India's biggest cyclotron facility becomes operational

- India's biggest cyclotron facility named Cyclone-30 became operational at Kolkata-based Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), which comes under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Kolkata launches India's first flood forecast system

- The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, has launched the country's first flood forecasting and early-warning system. It will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other climate-related data this is expected to help policy-makers make informed decisions during disasters.

Lakshadweep Island

Capital – Kavaratti; Governor - Shri Farooq Khan.

Lakshadweep joins hand to incorporate UDAY scheme providing electricity to people:

- Lakshadweep, the Union Territory joined hands with the UDAY scheme, which is meant for the revival of debt-stressed power distribution companies (discoms) in the country.

Daman and Diu

Capital – Daman; Governor - Praful Khoda Patel.

Diu Becomes First UT To Be 100% Powered By Solar Energy

- Diu has become the first Union Territory in India to run 100 percent on solar power generated energy.

Other National News

Government forms panel to upgrade norms for state, district level economic data collection:

- The government has set up a 13-member committee headed by Ravindra H Dholakia to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation.

Tax department launches 'instant' PAN card service:

- The Income Tax Department has launched an 'instant' Aadhaar-based PAN allotment service for individuals seeking the unique identity for the first time.

Aadhaar, PAN Linking Deadline Extended To March 31 Next Year

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the time for linking PAN with Aadhaar till 31 March 2019.

Monti Rajkhowa, the First Assamese Woman to Scale Mount Kanchenjunga

- Monti, who is professionally an executive engineer of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) based in Mumbai, is the first lady ONGC officer among her male counterparts to have managed to scale the world's toughest peak.

India increases GEF grants to 15 million dollar from 12 million dollar

- India will increase the money it pays to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the next four years to \$15 million, from the \$12 million currently.

2021 census data to be stored electronically:

- The data collected during the 2021 Census will be stored electronically, the first time since the decennial exercise was conducted in 1951 in Independent India.

India to provide tariff concessions on 3,142 items to APTA members

- India has agreed to provide tariff concessions on 3,142 products to Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) members, from July 1, 2018.

Consult UPSC for selecting DGP, SC tells States

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday restrained the State governments from appointing Directors-General of Police without first consulting the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Nipah outbreak from fruit bats, says ICMR:

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has confirmed that fruit bats were the primary source of the Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts, where 17 people died due to the virus earlier this year.

President launches Solar Charkha Mission

- President Ram Nath Kovind has launched Solar Charkha Mission under which Govt will disburse subsidy of Rs 550 crore to thousands of artisans, generating employment in rural areas.

Hindi is the most spoken language in India

- According to data on language released by the Union govt as part of Census 2011, Hindi is the most spoken language in India.

Election Commission launches Braille-enabled Voter IDs

- The Election Commission on Wednesday launched voter identity cards with Braille label to ensure greater participation of persons with visual impairment in the electoral process.

Sunil Mehta led panel suggested 5 pronged strategy to tackle NPA

- Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said that the government would follow the Sunil Mehta Committee's 5 pronged strategies towards resolution of stressed assets, 'SASHAKT' to tackle the crisis in Indian banks.

Law commission says allow gambling in sports but regulate it:

- The Law Commission of India on Thursday submitted a report to the government, saying that since it is impossible to stop illegal gambling, the only viable option left is to "regulate" gambling in sports.

ICAT releases First BS-VI engine certificate

- ICAT has completed the first BS-VI certification for a heavy duty engine model for M/s Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Limited. The engine has been developed and manufactured indigenously by Volvo Eicher in India.

Railways to accept Aadhaar, driving licence copies in DigiLocker as valid ID proofs:

- Worried about losing your identity proofs while travelling by train? Worry no more. The railways have now said that they will accept soft copies of Aadhaar and driving licence in your DigiLocker, a digital storage service operated by the government that enables Indian citizens to store certain official documents on cloud.

NSG Becomes 1st Central Force to Opt For E-Ticketing Instead Of Railway Warrant

- The National Security Guard will be the first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant under an agreement signed with the IRCTC.

International Mango Festival Is Back With 500 Varieties Of Mangoes in Delhi

- The International Mango Festival has returned this year with over 500 varieties of mangoes for all the mango lovers. The festival, which began in the year 1988, will be held on 9th and 10th July 2018 at Dilli Haat in Janakpuri.

Semi high speed train named 'Train 18' built by India's Integral Coach Factory

- India's much-awaited indigenously manufactured semi high-speed train called "Train 2018", code-named Train 18, is expected to be rolled out in September.

National Human Rights Commission announced winners of its silver jubilee logo, slogan tagline contests

- Bansi Lal Ketki from Mumbai in Maharashtra won the first prize of Rs 50,000 along with a certificate in the logo design contest. His design artistically adds the numerals '25' to the existing logo of the NHRC, using the theme of the tricolour.

Narendra Modi to inaugurate the 'Statue of Unity' on 31st October

- The Statue of Unity, being built near the Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada River, at a cost of Rs 2,989, in memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

JEE Main, NEET to be held twice a year from 2019

- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that the national-level Engineering Entrance Test (JEE Main) and medical entrance examinations (NEET) will be held twice a year from 2019.

IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IISc Bengaluru granted Institute of Eminence status

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay and Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru were the three public institutes announced as IoE. They will get Rs 1,000 crore from the government in the next five years.
- From the private sector, BITS Pilani, Manipal Academy of Higher Education and JIO Institute by Reliance Foundation were granted the status.

Ramayana Express from November 14:

- Starting November, the Indian Railways will start a special train, 'Shri Ramayana Express', which will cover important destinations related to the epic in a 16-day journey. The train will be flagged off on November 14 from Delhi's Safdarjung railway station.

The tour will be spread across India as well as Sri Lanka. It will be priced at ₹15,120 per person.

Scientists have discovered the world's oldest color bright pink

- The color of bubble gum, flamingos and cotton candy -- bright pink -- is the world's oldest color FROM Sahara Desert, according to a recent study.

PM Modi Inaugurates New Headquarters Building of ASI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India in New Delhi.
- The new Headquarters building is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including energy-efficient lighting and rainwater harvesting. It will also include a Central Archaeological Library with a collection of about one lakh 50 thousand books and journals.

Niti Aayog proposes 15-point action plan to combat air pollution in ten most polluted cities

- Niti Aayog has proposed a 15-point action plan to combat air pollution in ten most polluted cities in the country, including Delhi, Kanpur and Varanasi. The draft action plan titled 'Breathe India' includes encouraging electric vehicles, phasing out private diesel vehicle and development of crop residue utilisation policy.

Aurobindo Pharma gets USFDA approval for manufacturing Azithromycin tablets

- Aurobindo Pharma, a drug firm, has received its final approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture and market Azithromycin tablets.

Worlds first ever colour X-ray performed on human body:

- Scientists from New Zealand have performed the first-ever 3-D, colour X-ray on a human body, using the imaging technology developed for the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN physics lab.

IIT Madras unveiled World's First Remotely Operable Microscope

- The Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) at a cost of Rs 40 crore was developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions headed by IIT Madras.

Aadhaar not mandatory for Rs. 5 lakh insurance under Modicare

- The Health Ministry has clarified it's not mandatory for beneficiaries to submit Aadhaar details for seeking Rs.5-lakh health insurance under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, dubbed as 'Modicare'.

Committee Set Up To Synergise NCC and NSS

- The government has decided to set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Anil Swarup, former Secretary, School Education, with suitable representations from NCC, M/o Youth Affairs and Ministry of HRD to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS).

T-Hub To Host Country's 1st Defence Incubator

- One of the country's first Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad, which is India's missile development centre and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries. The incubator will be housed at T-Hub. The Telangana State government proposes to accommodate the Defence incubator in the upcoming Phase-2 of the T-Hub.

PFRDA Invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Actuarial Valuation of Atal Pension Yojana

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed Actuary/Actuarial Firm for valuation to estimate the likely shortfall or otherwise on account of the minimum guaranteed pension and suitable provisioning for gap funding under Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

Cabinet Approves Signing Of MoU amongst BRICS Nations on RAPC

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU amongst BRICS Nations on the Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation (RAPC). The objective is that BRICS countries will benefit from the establishment of an institutional framework to cooperate in the field of civil aviation.

Government to create National Database of Arms Licenses system from Apr 2019

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is planning to create National Database of Arms Licenses system from Apr 2019.
- It will include names of all arms licence holders, new or old and they will be issued a unique identification number (UIN).

USFDA approved Sun Pharma for cancer treatment injection

- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has received approval from the United States Food & Drug Administration (USFDA), the U.S. health regulator, for its INFUGEM injection which is used for the treatment of cancer.

NMCG organises Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan in five Ganga Basin states

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is running "Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan" in five main stem Ganga basin states namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The drive was launched on the 9th July and the week upto 15th July was observed as 'Shubharambh Saptah'.

Centre Forms Panel to Tackle Industrial Pollution Near Taj Mahal

- The government has formed a committee to look into the issue of industrial pollution around the iconic Taj Mahal under C K Mishra.

Wildlife scientists has satellite collared a Dhole

- A team of wildlife scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have collared a dhole, the Indian wild dog, with a satellite transmitter. It is a measure taken to study and track the habits of the endangered species. It took over 10 days for the scientists to track down a pack of 14 dholes in Bishanpura meadow in the Mukki range of the Kanha National Park.

Government to use MicroDots technology to check vehicle thefts

- In this technique, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body including their engines.

India to build 2,000 kms of international roads by 2022

- The government is planning to build 1,911 kilometres of international connectivity roads over the five year period ending 2022 under its flagship Bharatmala scheme.

New Electronic Voting Machines manufacturing facility inaugurated

- Election Commissioner Sunil Arora inaugurated a new manufacturing facility for EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) production at Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), in Bangalore. Braille EPI Cards (Electors Photo Identity Card) were distributed for the first time in Karnataka to four visually impaired voters.

O.Jindal Global University signed a MoU with Harvard University for an annual study programme

- O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana signed a MoU with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health for an annual study programme. Nearly 30 students of Jindal Global University has taken the annual study-abroad programme at Harvard University.

NGT asked states to submit CZMP to MoEF by August 31

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) granted more time to all states and Union Territories (UT) to submit a Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) to the Ministry of Environment and Forests by August 31.

Women and Child Development Ministry to move proposal to amend POCSO Act

- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 - for enhancing punishment in cases of sexual assault against young boys, will be sent to the Cabinet in two-three days by Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry.

India has become a popular hub of medical tourism

- India has become a popular hub of medical tourism, attracting a large number of foreign patients every year. The reason behind such happening is a rare combination of advanced facilities, skilled doctors, and low cost of treatment.

The Lok Sabha passed the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018

- The Lok Sabha passed the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018, that seeks to punish bribe-givers and bribe-takers.

17 sites in the country to be developed as Iconic Tourist Sites

- Ministry of Tourism has identified 17 sites in 12 clusters in the country for development under Iconic Tourist Sites Development Project, pursuant to Budget Announcements of 2018-19.
- Following are the 17 sites:
 - Uttar Pradesh- TajMahal & FatehpurSikri
 - Maharashtra- Ajanta & Ellora.
 - Delhi- Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort & QutubMinar
 - Goa- Colva beach
 - Rajasthan- Amer Fort
 - Gujarat- Somnath & Dholavira
 - Madhya Pradesh- Khajuraho
 - Karnataka- Hampi
 - Tamil Nadu- Mahabalipuram
 - Assam- Kaziranga
 - Kerala- Kumarakom
 - Bihar- Mahabodhi.

Privilege motion against PM, Defence Minister and Congress President

- Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said that privilege notices against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman of the ruling party and Congress president Rahul Gandhi are under her consideration.

IRDAI has constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20. IRDAI Member P.J. Joseph will be the chairman of the committee.

The international festival of photography, will be held in Chennai

- The second edition of the Chennai Photo Biennale (CPB), the international festival of photography, will be held from February 22 to March 24, 2019.

Lok Sabha passes Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill 2018

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018. The Bill provides for the prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation of trafficked persons and seeks to establish National Anti-Trafficking Bureau to investigate trafficking cases.
- It also provides for the setting up of Anti-Trafficking Units (ATUs) at e district level which will deal with the investigation, prevention, rescue, and protection of victims and witnesses.

Parliament passes Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018.

- Parliament has passed Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 that aims to curb practice of evading criminal prosecution by economic offenders fleeing from country to evade clutches Indian law by remaining outside jurisdiction of Indian courts. The bill will replace an ordinance promulgated by President in April 2018.

IRDAI Forms Panel To Review 3rd Party Motor Cover Costs

- Insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20.

Venkaiah Naidu is appointed as the Chancellor of Pondicherry University

- Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu is appointed as the Chancellor of Pondicherry Central University by the President, Ram Nath Kovind, in his capacity as Visitor of the university. The term of the Chancellor will be five years.

100th year of the publication of the ‘Report on Indian constitutional reforms’, commonly known as the Montagu-Chelmsford Report

- This month marks the 100th year of the publication of the ‘Report on Indian constitutional reforms’, commonly known as the Montagu-Chelmsford Report (MCR)

Data Protection Authority will be sector-agnostic:

- The Justice Srikrishna committee, in a report and a draft Bill, recommended the creation of a Data Protection Authority that will be in charge of ensuring that entities processing data do so in keeping with the law.

Union Minister JP Nadda launches National Viral Hepatitis Control Program

- To eradicate viral hepatitis by the year of 2030, Union Minister J P Nadda launches National Viral Hepatitis Control Program. He released the Operational Guidelines for National Viral Hepatitis Control Program, National Laboratory Guidelines for Viral Hepatitis Testing and National Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Viral Hepatitis.

Mangalore KMC doctors identified a rare blood group called P Null phenotype

- A team of doctors, from the Blood Bank of Kasturba Medical College (KMC) Mangalore, came across a rare blood group and identified it as ‘pp’ or ‘P null’ phenotype. Immunohaematology work-up was performed by the team and International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL), Bristol, U.K., confirmed it by doing a serological test. This is the first time that the P blood group null phenotype has been detected in India.

USFDA approved Aurobindo Pharma for generic anticoagulant injection

- United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has approved Aurobindo Pharma Limited for the manufacturing and marketing of Bivalirudin injection with the strength of 250 mg/vial. It is used as an anticoagulant in patients with certain conditions.

Dindigul district administration has proposed to conduct Kodai festival in the month of August

- The Dindigul district administration has proposed to conduct Kurinji or Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) flower, Kodai festival in the month of August. The Kurinji flower, which blossoms once in 12 years in Kodaikanal, Yercaud and Nilgiris would be showcased.

FSSAI sealed an edible oil manufacturing unit under the suspicion of adulteration

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) sealed an edible oil manufacturing unit near Kinathukkadavu in Coimbatore under the suspicion of adulteration. The unit was sealed with 64,774 litres of edible oil worth Rs.70 lakh.

Government imposes 25% safeguard duty on import of solar cells from China and Malaysia

- Union Government has imposed safeguard duty of 25% on import of solar cells (whether or not assembled in modules or panels) from China and Malaysia.

Government launches logo, tagline for GI

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has unveiled tricolour logo for geographical indication (GI) certified products. The logo has tagline “*Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India*” printed below it.

Cabinet approves Extension of Concessional Financing Scheme) for another five years to 2023

- Union Cabinet has approved first extension of Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) for another five years from 2018 to 2023 to support Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad.

Cabinet approves restructuring of Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board

- The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the restructuring of the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB) to ensure more transparency and efficiency in recruitment of meritorious scientists to various positions in ICAR.
- The ASRB would be delinked from Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and be attached with Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) for the purpose of autonomy, secrecy, accountability and efficient functioning, a release said.

NBRC researchers decipher how Zika virus causes microcephaly

- Scientists from National Brain Research Centre (NBRC) have successfully identified molecular and cellular mechanisms by which Zika virus causes microcephaly. Babies born with microcephaly have significantly smaller head size compared with normal babies.

Declaring SAI Stadia as “Plastic Free Zones”

- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports are celebrating Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th August, 2018 under the Swachh Bharat Mission Programme of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation. On this occasion, Department of Sports has taken two major initiatives.

- First initiative will be for making all five SAI Stadia namely Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex, Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range and Dr. SPM Swimming Pool Complex as “Plastic Free Zone”.

Startup India Yatra launched in Chhattisgarh

- The Startup India Yatra launched in Raipur, the capital city of Chhattisgarh. Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India. Aim:- To promote job creation in tier 2 and tier 3 towns and cities.

World Economic Forum claps for Indian Railways for its efforts for green environment

- One of the lifelines of India for transportation, Indian railways was praised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for its solar train launched which helped to keep the environment clean. WEF has also posted a video describing the features of the solar powered railway station and train of our railways.

North East Venture Fund for North Eastern region

- North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has set up the North East Venture Fund (NEVF) for North East Region.
- The capital commitment to the fund is Rs.100.00 crore with an initial contribution of Rs.75.00 crore consisting of Rs.45.00 crore from Ministry of DoNER and Rs.30.00 crore from NEDFi.

Centre approved to elevate KM Joseph as Supreme Court judge

- Centre approved the appointment of 3 judges to Supreme Court - Uttarakhand Chief Justice KM Joseph along with Madras HC Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Orissa HC Chief Justice Vineet Saran are elevated as Supreme Court judges.

Lok Sabha passed the 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill

- Lok Sabha passed the 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill unanimously to provide a National Commission for Backward Classes (BC) as a constitutional body. The Bill was passed with all 406 votes being cast in support of the Bill. The Bill will be reviewed by the Rajya Sabha as a constitutional amendment under Article 368 should be passed by both the Houses of the Parliament separately with a special majority.

DTAB to impose ban on Oxytocin

- The Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) recommended the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to lift the ban on Oxytocin. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945, the ban will be imposed citing the serious misuse of oxytocin in the dairy sector. Also, DTAB suggested that only Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a PSU, could manufacture and supply the drug across the country.

Government withdraws proposal of setting up Social Media Communication Hub

- Centre has notified Supreme Court that it has withdrawn proposal for setting up ‘Social Media Communication Hub’. This comes after apex court had issued notice to centre earlier and had termed Government’s proposal to monitor online data using this hub akin to ‘creating a surveillance state’.

Government Approves 122 New Research Projects Under ‘IMPRINT-2’ Scheme

- Government has approved 122 new research projects of 112 crore rupees under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology ‘IMPRINT-2’ scheme. The initiative aims to advance research in energy, security and healthcare domains in the high education institutions.

Shantali 1st Indian tribal language to get own Wiki edition

- Shantali has become the first Indian tribal language to get a Wikipedia edition in its own script after the Santali Wikipedia went live earlier this month, according to a report

PM Modi announces setting up of 12 modern biofuel refineries

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that 12 modern biofuel refineries worth ten thousand crore rupees will be established across the country.

Govt extended eVisa facility for citizens of 165 countries

- In order to promote tourism, the Indian government has extended e-visa facility for citizens of 165 countries at 25 airports and five seaports. On March 2018, The Ministry of Tourism has launched the 'Incredible India 2.0' campaign, to promote various destinations and tourism products of the country

CCEA approves continuation of Post Matric Scholarship for OBC Students for studying in India scheme

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved continuation and revision of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes Students for studying in India (PMS-OBC) till 2020.

CCEA approves continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) beyond 12th Five Year Plan period ((2012–2017)). It will help in connecting 38,412 habitations at estimated cost of Rs. 84,934 crore.

Cabinet extends tenure of Commission constituted to examine issue of OBC sub-categorization

- Union Cabinet has approved extension of term of Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central List till November 2018.

Lok Sabha passes Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to allow proxy voting to overseas Indians

- Lok Sabha has passed Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017 by voice vote to extend the facility of 'proxy voting' to overseas Indians, on the lines of service voters.

HRD to spend Rs 418 cry on research with foreign institutes

- Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry announced a spending of Rs 418 crore from 2018-20 on collaborative research between Indian and foreign institutes under the 'Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration' (SPARC).

Astronomers spotted a very distant radio galaxy

- Astronomers, from Pune, used an Indian telescope, Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), and discovered the most distant radio galaxy ever known.

Indian Railways to stop free travel insurance from September 1

- Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has decided to stop free travel insurance starting September 1 and "free insurance will be optional". The insurance provided by the IRCTC had a maximum cover of Rs. 10 lakh in case of a person's death during a train journey, Rs. 7.5 lakh if a person is disabled due to an accident, Rs. 2 lakh if injured and Rs. 10,000 for transportation of mortal remains.

Lok Sabha passes Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018

- The Lok Sabha has passed Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 to help India become hub for domestic and global arbitration for settling commercial disputes.

Three north-eastern States emerge as new HIV hotspots

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

Oral Hygiene Day was celebrated in KLEVE Institute of Dental Sciences, Bangalore

- Students and teachers of the Department of Periodontics at the KLE Vishwanath Katti Institute of Dental Sciences celebrated Oral Hygiene Day on 9th August 2018.

IGIB team finds a new target to reverse iron overload disease

- Using zebrafish, researchers at the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) have successfully discovered a pathway that regulates hepcidin hormone production. The hepcidin hormone, released by the liver, is a central regulator of iron in the body.

Centre approves proposal for setting up water aerodromes

- The civil aviation ministry has approved a proposal for setting up of water aerodromes in the country, with Chilika Lake in Odisha, Sardar Sarovar Dam and Sabarmati River Front in Gujarat being identified in the first phase for development of such facilities.

Prasar Bharati tied up with Google & YouTube to telecast Independence Day programme live online

- Prasar Bharati has tied up with Google and YouTube to telecast the Independence Day programme live online. Mr. Vempati stated that the live stream window will be seen on the homepage of Google itself so that people do not have to look for a separate link to go to the Youtube channel.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches road safety awareness video

- Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari today launched road safety awareness video with Brand ambassador of road safety campaign actor Akshay Kumar in New Delhi.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd becomes first defence PSU to go live on TReDS platform

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has become the first defence public sector undertaking to go live on the Trade Receivables Electronic Discounting System (TReDS) platform, paving way for faster payments to its suppliers in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) segment.

PM Modi announces Rs. 1,000 crore financial aid for IIT Bombay

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay will get this financial aid under the status of Institution of Eminence (IoE). Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated the new building of the Department of Energy Science and Engineering and Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering at IIT Bombay.

Railway Ministry launches Digital Screens at 22 stations

- From the Independence Day on (August 15, 2018), “digital screens” has been made operational at 22 railway stations. Additionally, QR code based posters on Railway Heritage are also being displayed at these stations.

Supreme Court said that Creamy layer can not be applied to deny promotions for government jobs to SC/ST

- The Central government told the Supreme Court that the creamy layer concept cannot be applied to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities to deny quota in government job promotions. The case was brought before a five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra.

IIT Kharagpur to set up Re-Water Research Center

- The IIT Kharagpur will set up a Re-Water Research Center, seed-funded by two alumni members to replenish and rejuvenate water resources

Phased rollout of face authentication from Sept 15: UIDAI

- UIDAI has announced a phased rollout of face recognition feature as an additional authentication mode, starting with telecom operators from September 15.

NOTA Option Not Applicable For Rajya Sabha Elections: Supreme Court

- The ruling of ‘None of The Above’ (NOTA) option was made by a bench of Justices comprising CJI Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud.

September 2018 will be observed National Nutrition Month

- Union Ministry of Women and Child Development announced to observe September 2018 as the National Nutrition Month to mark the country’s fight against malnutrition.

Health Ministry notifies new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs. In this regard, it has made amendments in Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Rules, 2008.

5 northern states and 2 UTs to set up centralised secretariat at Panchkula to tackle drug menace

- Five northern states Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Union territories of Chandigarh and Delhi have decided to set up centralised secretariat at Panchkula (Haryana) to tackle the drug menace.

Chandrayaan-I data confirms presence of ice on Moon

- Using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, Scientists have found frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon’s Polar Regions.

Maxxis, Taiwan based company, is to launch 5 tyre units in India

- Maxxis India, the Indian subsidiary of Taiwan-based tyre-maker Maxxis, plans to launch 5 new manufacturing plants in India.

India banned petroleum coke import for use as fuel

- Among polluting fuels, petroleum coke (Petcoke) remains one of the most polluting ones as it emits 11% more greenhouse gas compared to coal. India is the world's biggest consumer of Petcoke.

SBM-U added elimination of public urination in its agenda

- Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) has officially included the elimination of public urination in its agenda.

Centre wants Supreme Court to get tough with FB, YouTube

- Finding the efforts by Internet giants to curb circulation of online videos of sexual violence against women and children inadequate, the government is likely to seek “stricter directions” to service providers, such as Facebook and YouTube, from the Supreme Court.

FSSAI notifies food safety standards for honey and its products to curb adulteration

- The regulator FSSAI has come out with food safety standards for honey and its products, in a bid to curb adulteration. The move comes in the wake of government promoting farmers to venture into the beekeeping business to increase their income.

UGC directs universities and higher education institutions to ban sale of junk food on their campuses

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi set rolling a new slogan, ‘Saaf Niyat, Sahi Vikas’, about his government as he gave away over 1 lakh houses to women under the flagship Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (rural) scheme, calling it a Rakshabandhan gift.

Modi coins slogan ‘Saaf Niyat, Sahi Vikas’, gifts women Rakhi homes

- University Grants Commission (UGC) issued circular directing all varsities and higher education institutions to ban sale of junk food on their campuses.

Government developing National Logistics Portal

- Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry is developing National Logistics Portal is to ensure ease of trading in international and domestic markets. The portal will link all stakeholders of EXIM (export and import), domestic trade and movement and all trade activities on single platform.

Researchers develop ReMix an in-body GPS system to track tumours

- Researchers able to track implants with centimeter-level accuracy in animal tests. Similar implants can be used to deliver drugs to specific regions of the body. The test was conducted by scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in the US.

WhatsApp bats for user privacy to the Centre

- WhatsApp disagrees with the Centre’s idea of over tracing the origin of fake messages. Whatsapp, the messaging platform, said it will not comply with the demands set by the government.

Indian-American scientist Chander Mohan has found simple way to predict Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

- Prof. Chander Mohan, an Indian-American scientist, has identified as many as 50 protein biomarkers that can non-invasively detect Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) - a gut disorder that leads to diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, and weight loss. Mohan, who is professor at University of Houston in the US, received a \$ 347,490 grant from the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America.

India’s first biofuel flight to fly from Dehradun to Delhi

- India’s first flight using biofuel will fly from Dehradun (capital of Uttarakhand) to Delhi. The first ever biofuel test flight was conducted by SpiceJet on its turboprop Q-400 plane.

Home Ministry revokes security clearance to Qatar-based English news channel Al Jazeera

- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has revoked security clearance of Qatar government’s state-funded English news broadcaster Al Jazeera.

TRIBES India Outlets to open at Ahmedabad, Udaipur and Kolkata airports

- Airport Authority of India (AAI) has allotted space to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) for opening of Tribes India outlets at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Kolkata (West Bengal) airports.

IAF launches Speedex Contract

- Indian Airforce has formally launched *The Stores, Proactive, Efficient and Expeditious Despatch of Extra Size/ Wt Consignment (SPEEDEX) contract*.

The MTB: IAF launches Trans Himalayan Mountain Terrain Biking Expedition

- Indian Air Force (IAF) launched Trans-Himalayan Mountain Terrain Biking Expedition (THE MTB) as part of its celebration of 86th Anniversary on 8 October 2018. The expedition was started on 17 Aug 2018 from Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) in Ladakh (Jammu) to Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh.

Eye examination may help doctors to predict Alzheimers disease

- Researchers said that advances in eye exam technology could help, in the future, doctors to diagnose people with Alzheimer’s disease long before symptoms appear. They conducted a study on people who are all in their mid-70s with no outward symptoms of Alzheimer’s.

Indians can make calls on flights starting October

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has reportedly said that people will be allowed to make calls and use the internet during flights (at 30,000 ft) from October.

PM to launch FAME India II on Sept 7

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the second phase of the FAME India scheme offering incentives for mass adoption of electric vehicles with an outlay of Rs 5,500 crore on September 7.

Sports for Steel Ministry CPSEs Launched Policy

- The main aim of the policy provides a framework for the promotion of sports by Steel Ministry Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

NAA introduced GST helpline

- The National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) has introduced a helpline to encourage consumers to resolve all the queries to file complaints against the companies that are not passing GST rate cut benefits. Since the rollout of GST on July 1, 2017, the GST Council has cut tax rates on several occasions on a number of items. The helpline number is 011-21400643.

CBSE has developed Parinam Manjusha, a digiLocker facility

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) along with National e-Governance Division has developed 'Parinam Manjusha'

India's first biofuel flight was powered by jatropha seeds

- India's first first-ever environment friendly biofuel powered flight between Dehradun and Delhi was propelled by blend of oil from jatropha seeds and aviation turbine fuel. The 43-minute flight was operated by SpiceJet's Bombardier Q-400 aircraft, with 20 officials and five crew members on board

River Ganga drying up in summers due to groundwater depletion: Study

- According to recent study conducted by IIT-Kharagpur, River Ganga has witnessed unprecedented low levels of water in several lower reaches in last few summer seasons. The study was carried out under IIT-KGP Science and Heritage Initiative (SANDHI) Initiative, which focuses on river systems and its relationship with settlement system.

Scientists create nano medical robot and sets Guinness World Record

- The scientists have developed the smallest medical robot and set a new Guinness World Record. The device, which is of 120 nanometres in size, can interact with biological cells. These nanocomposite particles can assist to treat cancer and Alzheimer's in the future and one day it might lead to huge medical advancements. The nanocomposites are made of two different types of multifunctional oxide materials in a "core and shell" configuration. The core is magnetic and changes shape in response to magnetic fields. The ferroelectric shell converts pressure into electric potentials.

Supreme Court clarified Second marriage is valid even if plea against divorce is pending

- Interpreting section 15 of Hindu Marriage Act, SC bench observed that restriction placed on the second marriage in Section 15 of the Act till the dismissal of an appeal would not apply to a case where parties have settled and decided not to pursue the matter. Section 5(1) of the Hindu Marriage Act places a bar on marriage by a person who has a spouse living at the time of the marriage. Section 11 makes such a marriage null and void. Section 15 tells when a divorcee can marry again.

Government approves commercial flying of drones in India from Dec 1

- The government announced that industries including real estate, power and agriculture will be able to legally fly remotely piloted aircraft or drones in the country for commercial purposes from December 1, when the 'Digital Sky' platform will become operative.

Government to launch National Mission on GeM in September

- The National Mission on Government e Marketplace (GeM) will be launched on September 5 to accelerate the adoption and use of GeM by major central ministries, state governments and their agencies.

India could reduce emissions by 2030

- Individual city, region and company commitments in India could reduce emissions to 225-255 MtCO_{2e}/year by 2030, more than the emissions generated by the country's industrial processes in 2014, a new international study said on 30 August.

Pondicherry bags top position in National Clean School Award given by HRD Ministry

- Union Territory of Puducherry has bagged top position in National Clean School Award after seven schools from Pondicherry were awarded for cleanliness.

India opens Zokhawthar immigration check-post in Mizoram along Myanmar border

- India has opened Zokhawthar land immigration check-post in Mizoram along border with Myanmar.

Department of Biotechnology inks MoU with IAE on Enhancing Innovation for Clean Energy Transition

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Union Ministry of Science and Technology has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Energy Agency (IEA) for enhancing innovation for Clean Energy Transition.

Union Government introduces Atal ranking for institutions to promote innovation

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has introduced Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARRIA) to systematically rank education institutions and universities primarily on innovation related indicators.

HRD Ministry launches Innovation Cell at AICTE

- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has established Innovation Cell at AICTE premises in New Delhi. It aims to systematically foster culture of innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

Environment Ministry releases India's National REDD+ Strategy

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) strategy for India.

Census 2021 for first time to collect data on Other Backwards Castes

- Union Home Ministry has announced that Census 2021 for the first time in independent India will collect data on Other Backwards Castes (OBCs). This comes more than 25 years after implementation of 27% reservation for OBCs based on Mandal Commission's recommendations on basis of last castes data collected in 1931 census.

India to Have One-Nation-One-Card Policy For Transport Soon: NITI Aayog

- The main objective of the strategy is to plan for the citizens of India first, rather than focussing on vehicles alone, by providing sustainable mobility and accessibility. The announcement was made at a function on Future Mobility Summit-2018 in New Delhi.

Government releases Rs 400 crore for development of forward areas along international borders

- Nearly Rs 400 crore has been released by the Centre to 10 states, having international borders, for developing forward areas as part of an ambitious plan to ameliorate the problems of those living in these isolated locations.

NITI Aayog expert group urges plan to save springs in Himalayas

- NITI Aayog constituted group of experts has submitted report titled 'Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security.' It has mentioned that nearly 30% of springs crucial to water security of people are drying and 50% have reported reduced discharge.

India not to attend Afghan peace conference in Moscow

- India has reportedly declined an invitation from Russia to attend a multilateral conference on Afghanistan after Afghanistan itself decided against attending the conclave.

TRANSTAN made Aadhaar mandatory for organ transplant

- Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) has made Aadhaar mandatory for Indian patients to register in the Tamil Nadu Network for Organ Sharing. While foreigners are asked to submit a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the respective Embassies.

India to generate 100 GW solar energy by 2022

- India has set a target to generate 100 GW solar energy by 2022 for increasing share of carbon free energy in the energy mix.

BEL bags contract to supply 7 long range surface-to-air missile systems to Indian Navy

- State-run Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has bagged order worth Rs. 9,200 crore for supply of seven Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) systems to Indian Navy. In this regard, it has entered into a contract with Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).

Supreme Court decriminalised a portion of Section 377 of IPC

- On 6th September 2018, the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra overruled its own 2013 decision and decriminalised a portion of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), that criminalises private consensual sexual acts between same sex adults (homosexuality).

India retains WHO Regional Director position

- India has retained the top WHO position in South-East Asia Region with Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another five-year term beginning February 2019.

India to Participate In International Students' Test after 9-Year Boycott

- India has decided to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which tests the learning level of 15 year olds, after a gap of nine years, a senior HRD Ministry official said. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) conducts PISA every three years.

ONGC discovers oil, gas reserves in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal

- State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has made oil and gas discoveries in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal that may potentially open up two new sedimentary basins in country. They are category-III basins, having hydrocarbon and are considered geologically prospective for exploration.

Government spent Rs 132 crore on GST advertisements

- The expenditure on advertisements through print media stood at nearly Rs.27 crore while more than ₹5 crore was spent on advertisements with outdoor media. There was "nil" expenditure for the same on electronic media. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was implemented on July 1, 2017. The government had also roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan as brand ambassador to promote GST and inform people about its benefits.

Home ministry sanctions Rs 3,000 cr for special women safety programme

- Public panic buttons and all-women police patrol teams will soon be launched in eight major cities, including Delhi, under a special women safety programme for which the home ministry has approved nearly Rs 3,000 crore.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to cover Child Cancer Treatment

- The government has said that treatment of childhood cancer will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The scheme will provide health insurance cover of five lakh rupees to poor families. BPL and lower-middle-class families will benefit from it.

India launches new digital bridge with Africa

- Ravi Kumar Yellanki, president, Society of Aquaculture Professionals, said that India is set to gain the top slot in farmed shrimp production by overtaking China in 2019-20. The 7 lakh tonnes of shrimp production target was the target for the year 2018 and India might end up producing 6.5 lakh tonnes, which equals China's production.

India is to overtake China in farmed shrimp production in FY 2019-20

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj gestures at a function before signing of an agreement for the implementation of e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project, in New Delhi.

Government makes Demat mandatory for issue and transfer of shares

- Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has mandatory for unlisted public companies to issue new shares or transfer of all shares in dematerialized or Demat (i.e. in electronic form) form beginning October 2, 2018. With this, major benefits of dematerialization of securities will now be available to unlisted Public companies

Health Ministry notifies HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have issued notification for bringing Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 in force from 10th September, 2018.

India to supply 160 railway coaches to Sri Lanka

- The agreement to supply the railway passenger coaches custom-made in India, valued at around \$82.64 million, was signed between RITES Limited of India and Sri Lankan government in Colombo. India has already completed projects close to 1 billion US dollars under concessional financing in the railway sector in Sri Lanka including railway lines to Jaffna and Thalai Mannar.

Government Approves 100% Electrification of Railways by 2021-22

- Four months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi questioned the need for total electrification of the country's rail network, the PM-led Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved 100 per cent electrification of the Indian Railways, tentatively by 2021-22, settling a decades-long debate.

Radha Mohan Singh launches Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund

- Vast opportunities exist today for dairy entrepreneurs and in order to concretize these opportunities and help double the income of dairy farmers, Rs 51,077 crore is needed to operationalize the National Action Plan (Vision-2024), Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh said at the inauguration ceremony of Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) in New Delhi.

INMAS develops India's first indigenous anti-nuclear medical kit

- In a major shot in the arm for paramilitary and police forces, scientists at a central research institute claim to have developed India's first indigenous medical kit that may ensure protection from serious injuries and faster healing of wounds resulting from nuclear warfare or radioactive leakage.

EyeROV TUNA: India's first underwater robotic drone handed over to NPOL

- India's first underwater robotic drone EyeROV TUNA was handed over to Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Power Ministry launches Chiller Star Labelling Program on energy efficiency in chillers

- Union Ministry of Power has launched Chiller Star Labelling Program to encourage deployment of energy efficient chiller systems in the country. It was launched as part of occasion of 24th World Ozone Day and 31st Anniversary of Montreal Protocol, which will be observed on 16th September 2018.

Erratic monsoon rainfall in India partly due to air pollution: Study

- According to recent study by scientists from IIT Kanpur, erratic behavior of monsoon rainfall, including phenomenon of concentrated heavy rainfall on small number of days in localized area can be attributed to the rising air pollution, especially the increase in suspended particles in the atmosphere.

DEPwD organized National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres for Divyangans

- Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment will be the chief guest on the occasion, the Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, will also preside over the function.

Rajnath Singh inaugurated hi-tech smart fencing under CIBMS

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first phase of hi-tech smart fencing of an 11 km stretch on the International Border (IB) in Jammu under Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) programme.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma releases National Museum Research Bulletin

- The Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma released two important publications of the National Museum (M/o Culture), Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata:Ek Parichay (Hindi) and the National Museum Research Bulletin Number 10: Special issue (In House Publication), in New Delhi.

ICAP: India first country in world to develop document on cooling action plan

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on eve of World Ozone Day (16th September) released draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP). It makes India first country in world to develop such document. The draft was prepared by Ozone Cell of MoEFC

NITI Aayog calls for clear policy on shifting cultivation

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will lay the foundation stone for India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) at Dwarka, New Delhi, on September 20, 2018.
- India's first 'smart fence' pilot project was inaugurated along two 5-km each patches of India-Pakistan International Border Jammu and Kashmir. It was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh from Border Security Force (BSF) Headquarters in Ploura, J&K.

President Launches Logo, Web Portal For Mahatma's Birth Anniversary

- President Ram Nath Kovind launched a logo and web portal for the upcoming celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The portal –gandhi.gov.in is participatory in nature and all participating organisations will be able to upload their activities regarding the commemoration of the occasion.

India committed to become \$5 tn economy by 2025: Naidu

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu said that India is committed to be a five trillion dollar economy by 2025 while addressing at the India-Malta Business Forum in Floriana, Malta.

PM to lay foundation stone for India International Convention and Expo Centre

- NITI Aayog in its recently report has recommended that Ministry of Agriculture to take up mission on shifting cultivation to ensure inter-ministerial convergence between different ministries. The report was titled "Mission on Shifting Cultivation: Towards a Transformational Approach".

India puts four more nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards

- India has decided to place four more reactors under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. It was announced Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at 62nd General Conference of IAEA held in Vienna, Austria.

CCEA approves Revised Cost Estimate of Dam rehabilitation and Improvement Project

- Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Revised Cost Estimate of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). It has been increased to Rs. 3,466 crore from earlier Rs. 1968 crore.

Health Ministry launches sputum sample transportation through Department of Post

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched pilot project for transport of sputum specimen for Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis by utilising services of Department of Post in Karawal Nagar, New Delhi.

MSME Insider: Monthly e-Newsletter of MSME Ministry launched

- Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has launched its monthly e-newsletter MSME Insider.

Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates ‘All India Pension Adalat’

- The Union Minister of State Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the ‘**Pension Adalat**’, organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.

Sex offenders’ registry launched with 4.4 lakh entries

- India became the ninth country in the world to have a National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO), accessible only to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of “investigation and monitoring”. The proposal to set up a registry was mooted by the UPA government after the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape case in New Delhi.

Border Security Force (BSF) has opened a new hotline in New Delhi to communicate with the Pakistan Rangers

- The Border Security Force (BSF) has opened a new hotline in New Delhi to communicate with the Pakistan Rangers. It was set up last month after the BSF was unable to reach the Rangers through the hotline in Jammu on a June night when four BSF jawans were killed.

India Contributes 1 Million To UN's Ambitious Solar Project

- The contribution will help reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy. According to India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, India is the first responder to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for climate action.

Indian Railways increases price of tea and coffee on trains, stations

- The price of a 150 ml cup of tea with teabag and a 150 ml cup of coffee on trains has been increased to ₹10 from Rs.7. Standard readymade tea will be served at Rs.5 per cup. Whereas, tea in pots (285 ml) and coffee in pots (285 ml) priced at Rs 10 and Rs 15, respectively have been discontinued.

Navy Officer Tommy rescued after three day search

- Malayalam sailor Abhilash Tommy, who was the first Indian to circumnavigate the world solo, was injured during the ongoing Golden Globe race in South Indian Ocean during a storm that also demasted his vessel. Tommy's Twitter handle informed that he was safe inside the boat.

Government Recorded More Than Rs. 12,000 Crore Business on GeM

- The National Mission on Government e Marketplace (GeM), was launched by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu, on 5th of September 2018.

VP Naidu to inaugurate world's largest dome in Pune on Oct 2

- A colossal dome shaped structure will be inaugurated at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology's (MIT), Pune on October 2.

MOM completed 4 years of its journey

- ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), India's maiden interplanetary mission, has completed four years orbiting around the red planet. MOM was launched on November 5, 2013, and it placed itself into the Martian orbit on September 24, 2014.

Supreme Court Guidelines for Aadhaar linking:

- The apex court struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, hence barring private companies from seeking Aadhaar details of consumers.

What Needs Aadhaar Linking:

- 1) It is mandatory to link PAN card with Aadhaar
- 2) Aadhaar is a must for filing income tax returns
- 3) Aadhaar is necessary for availing welfare schemes and subsidies given by the government

Aadhaar Not Needed For These Services:

- 1) Aadhaar data is not needed for opening a bank account as the SC on Wednesday struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act which allowed private companies to avail Aadhaar data
- 2) With the SC striking down Section 57 other private entities like telecom and e-commerce firms are now barred from asking for Aadhaar. So, Aadhaar is not needed to get a SIM card or shopping online
- 3) Aadhaar is not needed for admission in schools adding that no child can be denied benefits of any schemes on not being able to bring Aadhaar.

4) Aadhaar no more compulsory to appear in CBSE, UGC and NEET examinations

Cabinet clears proposal to convert GSTN into Government Company

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that Cabinet cleared a proposal to convert Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) into a 100% government-owned company. 50% stake will be owned by the Centre and the remaining by the states. Currently, the Centre and the states together hold a 49% stake in the company, which provides the IT backbone to the indirect tax regime. The remaining 51% is held by five private financial institutions – HDFC, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, NSE Strategic Investment Co and LIC Housing Finance.

India's 1st electric hypercar concept Vazirani Shul unveiled

- Mumbai-based Vazirani Automotive has unveiled their first turbine-electric hypercar concept, the Shul, in India. The new Vazirani Shul, which is quite similar to the BMW i8, has been created by designer and co-founder Chunky Vazirani. The name 'Shul' (pronounced 'Shool') has been derived from the Hindu god Shiva.

Cabinet approves financial assistance for Sirhind Feeder Canal and Rajasthan Feeder Canal

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved providing Central Assistance of Rs. 620.42 Cr. and Rs. 205.758 Cr. for implementation of relining of Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Sirhind Feeder Canal respectively over five years (2018-19 to 2022-23).

Adultery No Longer a Criminal Offence, SC Strikes Down Section 497 of IPC

- A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra scrapped the pre-Independence provision of adultery in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which treats a married woman as a commodity owned by her husband. Section 497 (adultery) gives a husband the exclusive right to prosecute his wife's lover. If found guilty, the adulterer faces five years behind bars.

Second Anniversary of Surgical Strike was celebrated as Parakram Parv

- Second Anniversary of Surgical Strike was celebrated as Parakram Parv or Surgical Strike Day on September 29 – 30, 2018 by Indian Army to showcase gallant action of brave Army in the conduct of Surgical Strikes on September 29, 2016. This day was also marked to remember sacrifice of soldiers during 'Uri incident'.

Suresh Prabhu launched the World Bank Group's regional trade report

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, launched the World Bank Group's regional trade report "A Glass Half Full-The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia" at a seminar organised by FICCI in New Delhi.

'Kisan Kranti Padyatra' to reach Delhi on October 2

- Heavy security has been deployed at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border ahead of the arrival of 'Kisan Kranti Padyatra', which is being staged by farmers under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union. Earlier on September 30, the Union had announced that their 'Padyatra' that has begun from Haridwar will reach the national capital on the occasion of the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2.

AICTE to establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur

- All India Council for Technical Education will establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. Moreover, three more ATAL academies will come at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Guwahati (Assam) and Baroda (Gujarat) by next year.

Government to convert 1.5 lakh Primary Health Centers into Wellness Centers

- Union Health Minister JP Nadda has said that 1.5 lakh Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and sub-centres will be converted into wellness centers by 2022. These centres will facilitate screening of every individual aged 30 for blood pressure, diabetes, tuberculosis, breast cancer and leprosy among others.

Gram Sabhas to inform farmers about crop insurance scheme

- Gram Sabhas across the country have been asked to inform farmers about the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) at the beginning of the Rabi Season

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 Court, the Law Commission of India report, submissions of the Central Public Information Officer in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to come to a conclusion that the characteristics of the BCCI fulfil the required conditions of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act.

Walmart Foundation announced that it is to invest Rs.180 crore in India to improve farmers' livelihood

- Walmart Foundation announced that it is to invest Rs.180 crore in India over the next five years to improve farmers' livelihood. The funds would be used to support farmer organisations to develop knowledge of sustainable farming practices, share business best practices and add value to primary agricultural commodities. The money will also be used to improve access to finance and markets. Walmart India would grow its direct sourcing from farmers to 25% of the products sold in its Cash & Carry stores over the same period.

Railways to install sanitary pad vending machines in 63 trains:

- The East Coast Railway is set to install automatic sanitary napkin vending machines in 90 compartments of 63 trains. The price of a sanitary napkin is Rs.5, while each machine can hold 75 sanitary pads at a time.

Cabinet hikes MSP of Rabi crops for 2018-19:

- A day after farmers demanding higher MSP prices and uniformity in loan waivers clashed with police at the UP Gate-Delhi border, the Cabinet hiked the minimum support price of Rabi crops for 2018-19. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in its meeting approved the hike in minimum support prices (MSP) of wheat by Rs. 105 per quintal, masaur Rs. 225,/quintal, safflower by Rs. 845/quintal, and gram by Rs. 220/quintal.

India aims to generate 40% power from non-fossil fuel by 2030

- Stressing that India would generate 40 per cent of power from non-fossil fuels by 2030, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for connecting solar energy supply across borders giving the mantra of 'One World One Sun One Grid'.

UN postal agency issues commemorative stamps on International Day of Non-Violence

- In commemoration of the International Day of Non-violence, marked on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, the UN postal agency issued a new collection of stamps featuring artistic interpretation of 'The Knotted Gun', an iconic global sculpture giving the message of peace and non-violence.

Project Utkrisht: Railways to roll out 640 rakes by 2020 for Rs 4-bn

- Indian Railways have plans to develop 640 Utkrisht rakes under its project of upgrading the mail/express trains in the next two years at a cost of Rs 400 crore. Kalka Mail from Howrah station was the first lot of Utkrisht rakes departed to Delhi. The project has been undertaken as 'green rakes'(consisting of 20 or 22 coaches) at Eastern Railways' Liluah workshop and they cost Rs 60 lakh each. The unique feature of this Utkrisht Rake is the provision of Swachh Rail Toilet (SRT), which is a hybrid design of the bio-toilet system.

Cabinet approves 50% profit over input cost for Rabi crops

- The Union Cabinet approved a hike in the minimum support prices (MSPs) for rabi crops for 2018-19. Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad stated that hiked MSPs translated to 112.5 per cent more than the cost for wheat. Pegging the cost of production of wheat at Rs 866 per quintal, its MSP for the 2018-19 rabi season would now be Rs 1,840 against Rs 1,735 last year. The decision would translate in additional return of Rs 62,635 crore to the farmers by way of increased MSP of notified crops at least 50 per cent return over the cost of production and will aid in doubling farmers' income.

Digi Yatra: Government releases policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports

- Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has released policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called Digi Yatra. The initiative seeks to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel. It will be operational by end of February, 2019 at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports. In later phase, Airports Authority of India (AAI) will roll out this initiative at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada airports by April 2019.

One in three companies in India prefer hiring men: WEF Study

- According to recently released World Economic Forum (WEF) "Future of Work in India" report, companies in India experiencing highest growth prefer hiring men.

India to expect 10 per cent rise in salary in 2019, highest increase in Asia Pacific

- Salaries in India are projected to rise 10% in 2019, same as the actual increase in 2018, according to the latest Q3 2018 Salary Budget Planning Report released by Willis Towers Watson, the global advisory, broking and solutions company.

IIT-Kharagpur was named the national coordinating institute of the SPARC

- IIT-Kharagpur was named the national coordinating institute of the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. As a national coordinating institute, it would do managing the online portal, Coordinating with the other nodal institutes of India, Organising two annual SPARC conferences and managing the intellectual output of SPARC.

Government sanctions 5 new battalions of Rapid Action Force

- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sanctioned five new battalions of anti-riot and crowd control Rapid Action Force (RAF). These new battalions will be stationed at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Hajipur (Bihar), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mangalore (Karnataka) and Nuh (Haryana).

Crop damages in wild animal attacks put under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna on pilot basis

- Union Government has decided to cover damages to crops in wild animal attacks under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna in select districts on an experimental basis. In this regard, Government has amended provisions of crop insurance scheme in consultation with various stakeholders after review of its working for the last two years. The amended provisions of the scheme have been implemented from October 2018.

Earth will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold by 2030: Report

- The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report said the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2030, precipitating the risk of extreme drought, wildfires, floods and food shortages for hundreds of millions of people.

Nitin Gadkari to lay the foundation stone for development of Ghagra River as National Waterway

- The waterway will stretch from Manjhighat at Ganga-Gaghra river confluence to Faizabad or Ayodhya along Gaghra River for a length of 354 km.

Idiocracy among 1,400 new words in Oxford dictionary

- The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has officially added word 'Idiocracy' in it. It is among 1,400 new words, senses, and phrases added to the latest update of OED. The OED has defined word as society consisting of or governed by people characterized as idiots or government formed of people considered stupid, ignorant, or idiotic.

Union Home Ministry will soon add Pondicherry police to UT force

- The Union Home Ministry will soon initiate the process to include the Pondicherry police into an amalgamated force, which would include senior ranks from Chandigarh and five other Union Territories including Delhi

India's first National Environment Survey to kick off in 2019

- India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will be kicked off in January, 2019 to map environment data of 55 districts across 24 states and 3 Union Territories.

External Affairs Ministry launches India for Humanity initiative

- Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched *India for Humanity initiative* to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and honour of his service to humanity.

Government exempts devices operating in low frequency range from licensing norms

- No licence will be required by any person to establish, maintain, work, possess or deal in any wireless equipment for purpose of usage of very low power radio frequency devices or equipments. It will be application for inductive applications in frequency bands of 302 to 435 KHz (kilohertz), 855 to 1050 KHz and 1.89 to 2.31 MHz on non-interference, non-protection and shared (non-exclusive) basis.

Cabinet approves merger of NCVT, NSDA to form NCVET

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the merger of the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) to establish the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).

21% Indian children are under-weight: Global Hunger Index

- At least one in five Indian children under the age of five are wasted, which means they have extremely low weight for their height, reflecting acute under-nutrition, according to the Global Hunger Index 2018.

Government issues draft National Policy on Electronics 2018

- Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued draft 'National Policy on Electronics 2018' (NPE 2018) for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector of India. It sets ambitious target of creating \$400 billion electronics manufacturing industry by 2025, with mobile phone devices segment accounting for three-fourths of production.

Cabinet approves establishment of permanent campuses of two new IISERs at Tirupati and Berhampur

- Union Cabinet has approved establishment and operationalisation of two new permanent campuses of the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Behrampur (Odisha). Cabinet also has approved creation of two posts of Registrar, one in each IISER.

NITI Aayog has organised Workshop on ‘Best Practices in International Arbitration’

- NITI Aayog has organised Workshop on ‘Best Practices in International Arbitration’ in collaboration with ICC International Court of Arbitration in New Delhi on 10 October 2018. Its purpose is to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms and to not only encourage ‘Make in India’ but also to ‘Resolve in India’. The workshop would cover basic concepts of international arbitration and include best practices on drafting, selection of arbitrators, enforcement of arbitral awards, role of courts in the arbitration life cycle, among other topics, with information sharing sessions to be conducted by world class faculty and practitioners from the United Kingdom, Singapore, Paris and India.

Centre exempts Sikh women from wearing helmet in Chandigarh

- The Central government has sent an advisory to the Chandigarh Administration to follow the notification issued by the Delhi Government giving exemption to Sikh women from wearing protective headgear (helmet) while riding two-wheelers in the city. This is in response to the representation received by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh from representatives of Sikh bodies.

Union Cabinet approves Productivity linked bonus for Railway Employees

- Union Cabinet has approved the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days’ wages for financial year 2017-18 for all eligible non-gazetted Railway employees. It will be not available to Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. This decision will benefit about 11.91 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees.

India suffered \$79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years: UN Report

- According to United Nations report titled ‘Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters 1998-2017’, India has suffered whopping \$79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years. The report was compiled by UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction which highlights impact of extreme weather events on global economy. The report was released ahead of International Day for Disaster Reduction, observed every year on October 13.

India remains polio free, all vaccines used in Government immunisation programme safe: UNICEF, WHO

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) have reiterated India’s status as polio-free country. This comes in backdrop of some oral polio vaccine vials being found contaminated with the type-2 polio virus.

Government hikes import duty on certain communication items up to 20 per cent

- The government has hiked the import duty on certain communication items, including base stations, to up to 20 per cent as part of efforts to check a widening current account deficit by curbing imports. According to the notification issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs, the increased duties will be effective from October 12, 2018.

India Wins the Seat to UN Human Rights Council

- India was elected to the United Nations’ top human rights body for a period of three years beginning 1 January 2019, getting 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category. The 193-member UN General Assembly held elections for new members to the UN Human Rights Council. The 18 new members were elected by absolute majority through a secret ballot.

National Human Rights Commission celebrates Silver Jubilee

- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated Silver Jubilee (25 years) on October 12, 2018. NHRC was set up on October 12, 1993. The silver Jubilee celebrations were held in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the function and appreciated role of NHRC.

CPCB to implement action plan to combat air pollution

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is to implement an emergency action plan called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). It aimed at combating air pollution that has begun to show a trend towards very poor category.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Silver Jubilee Celebrations Of NHRC

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Human Rights Commission’s (NHRC) 25th anniversary an important role to play in government’s efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

Government opens new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription

- Union Government has opened new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription. Under this scheme, sovereign gold bonds will be issued every month from October 2018 to February 2019. This bond will be sold through Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, Post Office, Stock Exchange (NSE and BSE).

Union Government Releases Analytical Report Of National Health Profile 2018

- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has released an 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.

35 Multimodal logistics park policy proposed by Commerce ministry

- The Commerce ministry announced formulation of a national logistics policy for development of multimodal logistics parks to enable easy movement of goods and domestic and global trade purposes. Each park is supposed to have a plot of 50 acres with each costing Rs. 200-300 crore for development. 35 such parks have been proposed by different ministries including railways.

Foreign tourists can now visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions

- Government has allowed foreign tourists to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands without any restrictions. In this regard, Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has modified its earlier order which made it mandatory for foreign tourists to register with Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of their arrival.

Government launches Swasth Bharat Yatra national campaign for food safety

- The Union Government launched national campaign 'Swasth Bharat Yatra' on occasion of World Food Day (observed on 16 October) to sensitise people about eating safe food and be healthy. The campaign has been launched in association with states and led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Government committed to achieving goal of zero hunger by 2030: Agriculture Minister

- The government is continuously working on achieving the goal of zero hunger by 2030 in a systematic manner, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh said. He said, this year's world food day aims at showcasing centre's global commitment towards zero hunger. Mr. Singh was addressing a two-day Agri-Startup and Entrepreneurship Conclave in New Delhi on the occasion of World Food Day. Mr Singh said, 45 models on integrated farming.

Ocean Cleanup Foundation launched floating pipe to gather ocean plastic

- The Ocean Cleanup Foundation has launched a project to collect the plastic in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Wilson, a 2,000-foot-long floating pipe has begun its mission to collect the plastic in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The pipe is constructed in U shape. It features a three-metre-deep net to trap floating plastic under the water's surface. A boat will visit the spot every few months to remove the debris.

MJ Akbar resigns as Union Minister

- MJ Akbar, Minister of State For External Affairs, has resigned from his post in the wake of allegations of sexual harassment made by several women against him. MJ Akbar said in a statement that he would "seek justice in a court of law" in a "personal capacity".

CVC analyses 100 top bank frauds, suggests improvements in system after identifying gaps

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has reviewed and analysed 100 top bank frauds and has suggested systematic improvement in the system after identifying the gaps.

Air India gets equity infusion of Rs 1,000 crore from NSSF : Union Government

- Air India raised Rs 3,000 crore so far which includes Rs 1,000 crore to the airline from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) on behalf of the government. Another Rs 500 crore will be raised by the airline through a loan from the unused sovereign guarantee. It is a part of the Rs 4,200 crore debt of AI to oil companies.

IIT Bombay tops in the "QS India University Rankings 2019"

- QS Quacquarelli Symonds, the global higher education think tank, has released "QS India University Rankings 2019", its first standalone ranking of India's higher education institutions. The rankings include Public Universities, Private Universities and H.E. Institutions or Deemed Universities. IIT Bombay has been named India's leading institution.

Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier of Uttarkashi district have been named after former Prime Minister 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.

PM announces national award in Netaji's name for disaster relief workers

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced launch of national award in name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to honour those involved in disaster response operations.

Experts' group to cut schoolbag weight

- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) informed the Madras High Court on Monday that an Expert Group has been constituted to formulate a draft policy on reducing the weight of school bags in proportion to the age and average weight of children.

Supreme Court moves to make Diwali less noisy

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday struck a balance between the interests of the firecracker industry and the right to public health, allowing the manufacture and sale of only “green” and reduced-emission or “improved” crackers, while banning those that are loud and toxic to man, animal and the environment.
- The judgment reduced the time for bursting crackers during Deepavali and other festivals to two hours: between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. For Christmas and New Year, the time slot allowed is just half-an-hour, between 11.55 p.m. and half-past midnight. The reduced time window is applicable across the country.

GCF approves \$43 million to boost climate resilience for India’s coastal communities

- UN-backed fund Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved US \$43.4 million for enhancing climate resilience for millions of people living in India’s coastal communities as part of its efforts to combat extreme impacts of climate change. The grant is part of more than US \$1 billion approved by 21st meeting of GCF Board held in Bahrain’s capital Manama for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.

80% of Ganga to be clean before March 2019: Gadkari

- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari said that the work for cleaning and rejuvenation of River Ganga is ongoing and 70-80per cent of the work will be completed before March next year.

ICRI has declared year 2018 as International Year of the Reef

- International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has declared year 2018 as International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018). It is designed to raise awareness about the threats to coral reefs and the associated ecosystem.

India has most outward migrants in 2017, says ADB report

- Most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh, an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report titled ‘Asian Economic Integration Report 2018’ said.

No Sale of BS-IV Vehicles across Country From April 1, 2020:

- 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.

Railway panel to probe Santragachi stampede

- The South Eastern Railway set up a committee headed by J.N. Laldas to inquire into the circumstances which led to the stampede at the Santragachi station in Howrah district of West Bengal.

Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in Thimphu

- India's legend cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.

Researchers from India country developed a skin gel to protect farmers from pesticides

- Indian researchers have developed a gel when applied on the skin, can inhibit some pesticides from getting absorbed into the body, and would help preventing serious adverse effects and even death.

Ayush Ministry to develop parameters to certify Yoga professionals

- Ayush Ministry is to develop parameters to certify Yoga professionals at various levels. The Chairman of the steering committee and Yoga Guru Ramdev said the scheme aims at certifying the competence of yoga professionals and institutions meeting the prescribed standards.

Indian telecom industry will rollout one million WiFi hotspots by December next year:

- Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha has said that Indian telecom industry will rollout one million WiFi hotspots in the country by December next year. He said, it is another step towards the digital empowerment of the nation.

Govt. notifies rules on granting citizenship

- A parliamentary committee has been examining the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which proposes to grant citizenship to six persecuted minorities: Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists who came to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh before 2014.

India’s first made-in-India engineless train ‘Train 18’ is set to hit the tracks for trials on October 29:

- India’s first made-in-India engineless train ‘Train 18’ is set to hit the tracks for trials on October 29, 2018. The train will be unveiled on October 29 for three to four days trial outside the Coach Factory’s premises.

Six-member panel set up to resolve stressed assets

- The overseeing committee (OC) that is being set up under the inter-creditor agreement (ICA) for resolution of stressed assets will have six members, including Janki Ballabh (former Chairman, State Bank of India), MBN Rao (former Chairman & Managing Director, Canara Bank), M Damodaran (former Chairman, SEBI) and HR Khan (former Deputy

Governor, RBI). The OC also includes a senior Tata Group executive with expertise in the power sector and a Bombay High Court Judge, said a senior public sector bank official.

India set to be third largest aviation market soon: now in 7th rank

- India will be the third largest aviation market globally a year sooner than was earlier predicted. It is now expected to be among the top three countries by 2024 from its current seventh position, according to global aviation body IATA.

MHRD to spend Rs 200 cr on research in social science

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) launched a scheme in New Delhi in which it will be spending Rs 200 crore for promoting research in social sciences. The 'Impactful Policy Research in Social Science' (IMPRESS) will fund around 1,500 projects on merit basis and each will be allocated Rs 20-25 lakh. The fund would be released in four phases, with the first batch being finalised by January 2019.

Fact Sheet: Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FAIDF)

- To double farmers' income by 2022 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved creation of FAIDF recently. The proposal for creation of fund was made in budget 2018-19.

India Building World's Highest Railway Line

- India railways announced its plan to link New Delhi and Ladakh by means of a railway line that will run along the India-China Border. The proposed *Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Line* would be the world's highest railway line once launched.

India-UK to collaborate on research on Ganga delta, Bay of Bengal

- India and the United Kingdom will collaborate on research on different aspects of the Ganga delta region and the Bay of Bengal. The two countries are also collaborating in several areas of earth sciences and weather, like the monsoon.

India contributes \$300K to UN programme to train commanders

- India has donated \$300,000 to a programme to train commanders for UN peacekeeping. Known as the "Pipeline to Peacekeeping Command Programme," it will "over a period of three years, help develop the capacity of future commanders and managers to lead by example and raise awareness of UN standards of conduct among their personnel.

WTO sets panel to examine the India, U.S. export case

- The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) panel is to examine the India-U.S. export case. WTO's dispute settlement body has set up a panel to examine the U.S.' complaint against certain export-subsidy measures by India as both the sides failed to resolve the issue at the consultation level.

A Rs.700 crore project to clean up courts has been proposed under Swachh Nyayalaya

- In the pre-launch function of the 'Swachh Nyayalaya' project, a Rs.700-crore project has been proposed to have clean courts, right from the Supreme Court and the High Courts to the 3,388 lower courts. Under the project, construction of toilets for both male and female lawyers and litigants, a facility that many courts sorely lack, has been planned.

CII Joins WhatsApp to Train SMEs Across India

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced that it would work with WhatsApp to educate and train Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on how WhatsApp Business app can help them grow their businesses.

Facebook launches Digital Literacy Library in 6 Indian languages

- As part of its efforts to train 3,00,000 people in India on digital literacy by end of 2018, Facebook has announced the launch of the Digital Literacy Library, a collection of lessons in six local languages – Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

United Nations decided to launch project on creating Indias intangible heritage inventory

- This project dubbed- A snapshot inventory of intangible cultural heritage, will be launched to protect the disappearing intangible cultural heritage of India. This will include art forms, craftsmanship and other intangible cultural heritage of the country.

Important International News

India, Pakistan exchange lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen

- India and Pakistan exchanged lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen lodged in each other's jails. The list was shared as per the provision of bilateral agreement on consular access signed between both countries in May 2008.

Sri Lanka moves its naval base to China run Hambantota port

- Sri Lanka is shifting a naval base currently situated in the tourist district of Galle to the Hambantota port which is built and controlled by China. Sri Lanka formally handed over the port to China in December, 2017. Sri Lanka Prime Minister:- Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Air India removes 'Taiwan' from its website due to China's pressure:

- Air India has changed its reference to Taiwan on its website to 'Chinese Taipei' after pressure from China, which does not recognize Taiwan as a separate country.

Beijing eyes UNESCO status for Mao tomb, Tiananmen Square:

- Beijing wants to have Mao Zedong's Mausoleum and Tiananmen Square, powerful and controversial symbols of Chinese communist might, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Nawaz Sharif sentenced to 10 years in jail:

- An anti-corruption court in Islamabad on July 6 sentenced former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to 10 years in prison.

Test-tube embryos may save the northern white rhinos from extinction

- Scientists have grown hybrid embryos from the sperm of near-extinct northern white rhinoceroses in the laboratory, hoping to save the species.

Turkey to sell four corvette warships to Pakistan

- Turkey signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build four corvettes for Pakistan under the MILGEM project in May 2017.

Nepal, India to Jointly Promote Tourism

- The 2nd meeting of the joint working group on tourism cooperation between India and Nepal concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal. Both sides agreed to jointly promote Buddhist and Ramayana circuits and Adventure tourism.

India to develop 'World's emptiest airport' in Sri Lanka

- India would operate Sri Lanka's loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota, called the 'world's emptiest airport' due to a lack of flights.

UK town to be Amritsar's twin city to honour last Sikh king

- A small town Thetford of England will be converted into a twin city of Amritsar in the memory of the last king of the Sikh Empire, Maharaja Duleep Singh.

Satyarup Siddhanta becomes second Indian to climb world's highest volcano

- Satyarup Siddhanta has become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world. Satyarup is also set to be the first Indian to climb Mt Sidley, the highest volcano of Antarctica.

Nepal returns the dancing bear to India

- Nineteen-year-old sloth bear Rangila which was smuggled into Nepal in December 2017 is being sent back to India. The Indian and Nepalese governments, Nepal's Jane Goodall Institute, and the Indian non-profit, Wildlife SOS, facilitated the repatriation.

UNSC imposes arms embargo on South Sudan:

- The United Nations Security Council has passed a resolution to impose an arms embargo on South Sudan. The measure will stop the flow of weapons to armed groups in the country. It is in addition to the current sanctions, till May 31, 2019.

Pakistan PM launched first land based communication link with China

- Pakistan Prime Minister Nasirul Mulk inaugurated the Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) project that would serve as the first land-based communication link between the two countries, and as a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Iceland replaces US and joins as new member of UN Human Rights Council

- The U.N. General Assembly has elected Iceland for the U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC), filling the seat vacated by the United States, which withdrew from UNHRC last month.

EU and Japan signed major trade deal

- Japan and the EU signed a trade deal, as an act against protectionism, as Washington puts up barriers and threatens a trade war.

Twelve new moons discovered orbiting Jupiter

- Scientists have discovered 12 new moons orbiting Jupiter, making the total number of natural satellites circling around Jupiter to 79.

Hungary to withdraw from UN migration pact

- Hungary will withdraw from the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" agreement which force countries to shelter migrants and it will be adopted in December, 2018.

United Kingdom selects Sutherland for its first spaceport

- United Kingdom chosen "Sutherland", on the A'Mhoine peninsula on the north coast of Scotland to send satellites vertically into orbit by the early 2020s. For development of this spaceport, UK Government will provide \$3.3 million funding to Local business development agency the Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Israeli parliament passed bill defining the country as Jewish state

- This bill is assumed to be granting an advantageous status to Jewish-only communities and downgrading Arabic from an official language to one with a "special status."

Myanmar joins International Solar Alliance

- Myanmar has joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming the 68th member of the grouping that is aiming at optimum utilisation of solar energy.

India topped the list of skilled visa immigrants in Australia

- For those coming to Australia on the skilled visa, India with 2,34,395 individuals (19 per cent) bagged the top rank, followed by England and China at 160,558 (13 per cent) and 146,842 (12 per cent) people, respectively.

London launches action plan to become world's most walkable city

- Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has said that, he has planned to make London, the world's most walkable city in the world by launching 'Walking Action Plan'.

Iran to jointly produce defence equipment with Pakistan

- Major General Mohammad Baqeri, chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, made the remarks following a meeting with Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain in Islamabad.

PM Modi Flags off Emergency Ambulance Service In Sri Lanka

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated first phase of the India-assisted emergency ambulance service over Sri Lanka, through video conferencing from New Delhi.

PM Modi to gift 200 cows to a village in Rwanda

- Modi will travel to Rwuru model village in Rwanda's eastern province and gift the cows to mark India's contribution to Rwandan President Paul Kagame's flagship programme named 'Girinka'. He also gifts 200 cows to that village.

China offered a gift of USD 295 million to Sri Lanka

- Chinese President Xi Jinping offered a gift of \$295 million to Sri Lanka, as Beijing tries to expand its influence in the island nation.

Japan passed law to legalise casino gambling

- Japan's parliament has passed the Integrated Resort (IR) bill which will lead to the opening of the country's first legal casino. As per the bill, the casinos will be restricted to three locations in the initial phase.

New Zealand demands Australia to change its flag

- As the Flag of New Zealand looks similar to that of Australia, Acting New Zealand PM Winston Peters is demanding Australia to change their flag.

INAF scientists find the water body in Mars planet

- Scientists from the National Institute for Astrophysics, Italy have spotted salt-laden lake under the ice on the southern polar plain of Mars using a radar instrument on an orbiting spacecraft.

Venezuela to remove five zeroes from its currency because of hyperinflation:

- Venezuela will remove five zeroes from the bolivar currency rather than the three zeroes originally planned, President Nicolas Maduro said on Wednesday, in an effort to keep up with inflation projected to reach 1 million percent this year

Gandhi Heritage Centre to be built in Uganda

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to build a Gandhi Heritage Centre in Uganda's Jinja, where a statue of Mahatma Gandhi now stands during five-day three-nation tour of the African continent-Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa.

Imran Khan declares victory in Pakistan election

- Pakistan's cricket star-turned politician Imran Khan declared victory for his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) in the country's general election.

BAN2401, a new drug for Alzheimer disease

- BAN2401, a new drug that reduces plaques in the brain and slows down the cognition for Alzheimer disease has been introduced by Eisai, a Japan-based company and Biogen, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Society to advance former Indian president Dr Abdul Kalam's vision set up in Singapore

- A society has been set up in Singapore to honor of former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and to advance his vision for the world.

New Ebola virus has been found in bats in Sierra Leone

- A new Ebola virus has been found in bats in Sierra Leone. Two years before an outbreak of Ebola killed over 11,000 across West Africa.

India to give flash flood warning to Asian nations

- India has been designated as a nodal centre for preparing flash-flood forecasts by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). USEFUL INFO World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headquarters Geneva, Switzerland.

US Elevated India's Status to STA-1 to Ease Export Controls for High-Tech Product Sales

- The United States has eased export controls for high-technology product sales to India by elevating its status to a Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) country. The information was shared by US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

Scientists Discover New Shape 'Scutoid' From Human Cells

- American and Spanish Scientists have discovered a new shape called 'scutoid' while studying nature's way of moulding tissue to form the skin, cavity linings and the building blocks of organs. The shape has five sides on one end and six on the other and a triangular surface on one of its longer edges.

China launches Gaofen-11 to monitor Belt and Road Initiative BRI

- China has successfully launched an optical remote sensing satellite – Gaofen-11, as part of its high-resolution Earth observation project which will also provide data for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The satellite can be used for land survey, urban planning, road network design, agriculture, and disaster relief.

Animal species in Peru are facing extinction

- Among Peru's total of 389 threatened species around 186 species of animals are facing extinction and 203 animal species are made vulnerable due to their declined population numbers.

World's first intertidal art gallery opens in Maldives

- An intertidal art gallery named Coralarium was opened in the Maldives. It is filled with around 30 sculptures acting as a habitat for coral and other marine species. At a depth of 3 m in the lagoon, it features semi-submerged exhibits that disappear and reappear as the tide goes in and out.

Imran Khan Invites Aamir Khan, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev Navjot Sidhu to Oath Ceremony

- Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime minister-to-be, has invited Bollywood star Aamir Khan and former cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Navjot Singh Sidhu to his oath-taking ceremony on August 11.

Golden Bridge supported by hand shaped concrete opened in Vietnam

- Vietnam's Cau Van which means "Golden Bridge" in Vietnamese, has just opened in the Ba Na Hills near the city of Da Nang and is 150 metres long and 1,400 metres above sea level. The bridge supported by two hand-shaped concrete, was designed to evoke the image of the "giant hands of Gods, pulling a strip of gold out of the land".

UAE launches amnesty programme to aid foreign visa violators

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched a landmark three-month visa amnesty programme, which will benefit hundreds of illegal foreign workers, including Indians, who are overstaying their permits in the gulf nation.

UNICEF warns of another cholera outbreak in Yemen

- World Health Organization (WHO) warned Yemen may be on the verge of another cholera epidemic, which could be deadlier than previous ones because of widespread malnutrition in the war-torn country.

UK Announces New Organ Donation Plan to Address Indian-Origin Shortages

- The UK government has announced new plans to change the law for organ and tissue donation to address the urgent need for organs within the Indian-origin communities in the country.

Chinese researchers create world's first single-chromosome yeast

- Researchers from China have claimed to have created the world's first single-chromosome yeast while not affecting the majority of its functions.

Sri Lanka's Hambantota to become Indian Ocean's leading port

- Sri Lanka's Hambantota port is gearing up to become a leading port in the Indian Ocean region. The location of the port had always been extremely advantageous as it was located just a little less than half a nautical mile from the sea lanes.

Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018 commenced at Birgunj

- The festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Province 2 Mohammad Lal Babu Raut. The main aim of the festival is to strengthen Indo-Nepal ties.

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

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Macau in China would overtake oil-rich Qatar with the highest per-capita gross domestic product of any country or jurisdiction on earth, by 2020.

Malaysia plans internet ban from 12 am to 6 am for teens under 17

- The Malaysian government is considering to ban internet from 12 am to 6 am daily for teenagers under 17 years of age.

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

- Austria's capital Vienna has topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index for the first time, beating Australian city Melbourne, which had topped the list for the past seven years.

Beijing to get first internet court to settle online disputes

- The Chinese capital is all set to get its first internet court to settle online disputes

Saudi Arabia plans to introduce sleep pods for Hajj pilgrims

- Saudi Arabia is introducing free sleep pods for Hajj pilgrims in the city of Mina.

Afghanistan celebrates its 99th Independence Day

- Afghanistan celebrated its 99th Independence Day on August 19 2018, with President Ashraf Ghani laying a wreath at the Independence Minaret to pay tributes to security forces who lost their lives.

Venezuela devalues currency by 95%, hikes minimum wage

- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has devalued the bolivar by 95% and raised the minimum wage ahead of the rollout of the 'sovereign bolivar' on August 20.

Sri Lanka: Ten-day festival of historic Esala Maha Perehera begins

- In Sri Lanka, the ten-day festival of the historic Esala Maha Perehera began in Kandy with a grand procession. The procession set off from the biggest Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka, Sri Dalada Maligawa at an auspicious time.

Russia invited Taliban for talks on 4th September

- Russia has invited the Taliban for the international peace talks on Afghanistan on 4th September. Russia is hoping that the Taliban will react positively to the offer as it has not responded yet.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi offered uninterrupted dialogue with India

- Pakistan's newly elected Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi extended the hand of friendship. He offered an uninterrupted dialogue.

NSIC inks pact with Malaysia's SME Corp

- National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) signed an MoU with SME Corporation Malaysia for exchange of information and cooperation in areas such as policies to aid development of small and medium businesses (SMBs) in the two countries.

Kowsar: Iran unveils first domestically manufactured fighter jet

- Iran has unveiled first domestically manufactured fighter jet nicknamed Kowsar. It was unveiled at defence show held in the capital city of Tehran.

Germany to trump Japan again with world's largest current account surplus: Ifo

- Germany's current account surplus is set to remain the world's largest this year despite increased trade tensions, the Ifo institute said on Monday, in an estimate likely to renew criticism of Chancellor Angela Merkel's fiscal policies.

Greece exits eurozone bailout programme after 8 years

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

35% of cyber-attacks on Indian sites from China: CERT-In report

- According to recent report by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), maximum number of cyber-attacks on official Indian websites is from China, US and Russia.

Japan Gets 1st Woman Fighter Pilot Misa Matsushima

- Japan will shortly have its first female fighter pilot, the military said yesterday, with the "Top Gun" inspired officer vowing to blaze a trail in the sky for other women.

Mountain Echoes Literature Festival

- The 9th edition of Mountain Echoes Literature Festival 2018 has started in Thimphu, Bhutan to serve as a collaborative platform for knowledge sharing, leading to global cultural potpourri of ideas.

2018 Nallur Kantha Swamy festival has started in Srilanka

- The annual festival at Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil has started in Jaffna, Sri Lanka with the sacred flag hoisting ceremony and is attracting thousands of Hindu pilgrims from within the country and abroad.

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

- Scotland has become the world's first country to provide free sanitary products to all students in a bid to tackle "period poverty".

Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharamshala inaugurated in Kathmandu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli inaugurated 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharamshala in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal. They handed over this Dharamshala to Pashupati Area Development Trust.

China-Maldives Friendship Bridge: First cross-sea bridge in the Maldives inaugurated

- China-Maldives Friendship Bridge was recently opened for traffic. It is first cross-sea bridge to be built in Maldives. It was China's flagship infrastructure project in Maldives. It is considered as iconic project of China and Maldives cooperation towards building 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

NASA seeks ideas to convert Carbon dioxide to an useful compound

- NASA has announced a public competition seeking novel solutions to turn Carbon dioxide into useful compounds. The challenge is open to all. This is to find a solution that might help future astronauts exploring Mars as the Martin atmosphere has abundant CO₂.

India on track to buy 18 bullet trains from Japan for Rs 7,000 crore

- India will purchase 18 bullet train sets from Japan at a total cost of about Rs 7,000 crore in a deal that includes a pledge to transfer technology for local production. Each train will have 10 coaches and would be able to cruise at the speed of 350 km per hour. The country's first bullet train is likely to start running between Mumbai and Ahmedabad by the end of 2022.

UAE revealed the names of the 2 astronauts for the space mission

- The United Arab Emirates has disclosed its first two astronauts to go on a mission to the International Space Station. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed al-Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai named the new astronauts as Hazza al-Mansouri, 34-year-old, and Sultan al-Neyadi, 37-year-old.

China pledged to offer USD 60 billion to Africa

- China has offered USD 60 bn funds to Africa in order to boost industry, counter hunger, and enhance security. China will carry out 50 China-Africa security assistance programmes will be launched under the flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

World's first lion cubs born via artificial insemination

- In a world first achievement, a lioness at the Ukutula Conservation Center and Biobank in South Africa's North West province has given birth to two cubs conceived via non-surgical artificial insemination, using fresh semen from an adult male lion at the same facility.

Dr Arif Alvi elected as 13th President of Pakistan

- Dr Arif ur Rehman Alvi (69) was elected as 13th President of Pakistan. He is close ally of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and one of founding members of ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. He will take oath of office of President on September 9, 2018.

Typhoon Jebi: Japan hit by strongest storm of 25 years

- Jebi, Japan's most powerful storm in 25 years, has killed at least 10 people. It recorded winds of up to 216km/h (135mph). In a separate incident, a 6.6 magnitude earthquake caused a landslide on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

Japan to conduct world's first test of space elevator

- Japanese researchers from Shizuoka University will conduct world's first experiment to test small prototype of space elevator in space by using two mini satellites. The test equipment will be launched by Japan's space agency on board of H-2B rocket from southern island of Tanegashima.

Australia has minted a gold coin encrusted with rare pink diamonds

- Australia has minted a gold coin encrusted with rare pink diamonds worth Aus\$2.48 million (US\$1.8 million) to meet growing demand for high-end collectables from the ultra-rich. The two-kilogramme treasure, which depicts a sailing ship, a gold prospector and boab trees found in Western Australia, is considered legal tender and will be sold to the highest bidder.

Qatar 1st Gulf nation to grant permanent residency to expatriates

- The country's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has issued a decree allowing a maximum of 100 expatriates (foreigners) to gain permanent residency each year. Children of Qatari mother's, and skilled expatriates who have lived in the country for more than 20 years will be given priority.

China will be Jharkhand's partner country at the Food processing summit

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das was on a four-day visit to China at the invitation of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC). He invited China to participate in food processing summit, which will be organised by Jharkhand Government in November.

Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state: Report

- According to recent report, Pakistan could become world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state after Russia, United States, France and China in terms of possession of total nuclear warheads. Pakistan currently has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads and its stockpile is expected to increase to 220 to 250 by 2025 (surpassing United Kingdom) if its current proliferation trend continues.

CPEC to focus on social service sectors of Pakistan

- To support Prime Minister Imran Khan's focus on the development of social infrastructure China and Pakistan are now looking for projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

South Africa declares end of listeria outbreak that killed more than 200

- South Africa declared an official end to the world's worst recorded listeria outbreak after it killed 216 people and sickened more than 1,000 since early 2017.

Nepal to join military drill with China after snubbing India

- Nepal will take part in a 12-day-long 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2' military exercise with China. The exercise will be held from September 17 to 28 in China's Chengdu city. This comes after Nepal withdrew from the first-ever Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) military drill in India

IWC defeated the proposal to create Whale Sanctuary

- The International Whaling Commission (IWC) defeated a proposal to create a whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic at a meeting in Brazil. The proposal received support from 39 countries but was opposed by 25. Brazil first introduced the proposal in 2001.

Bangladesh govt approved India to use the Chittagong and Mongla seaports

- Bangladesh's Cabinet approved a proposed agreement with India to allow it to use the Bangladesh seaports. The approved agreement will be effective for five years. The agreement would allow India to Chittagong and Mongla seaports for transporting goods to and from the northeastern States.

Germany introduced world's first hydrogen powered train

- Germany launched the world's first hydrogen-powered train. The hydrogen-powered train technology is costlier but eco-friendly. The two bright blue Coradia iLint trains are built by French TGV-maker Alstom. It runs a 100km between the towns and cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude in northern Germany.

India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project construction launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly launched the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project through video conferencing.

AAI to develop project report for Sri Lanka's Palaly airport

- State-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) will prepare a detailed project report for development of Palaly airport in Sri Lanka. This would be the first project for the AAI in the island nation.

The World Anti-Doping Agency lifts ban on Russia

- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) lifted a ban on Russia's anti-doping agency, RUSADA, paving the way for Russian athletes to return to competition across all sports.

Australia to host major cultural festival in India

- Australia's High Commissioner to India, Harinder Sidhu, unveiled the program for Australia Fest – a six-month celebration of Australian culture, involving over 75 events across 20 cities in India. Australia's culture, creativity and dynamism will be on show across India.

Pakistan invites Saudi Arabia to be third partner in CPEC

- Saudi Arabia will be the third "strategic partner" of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC is the flagship project of the multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping, aimed at enhancing Beijing's influence around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects.

Maldives President Abdulla Yameen concedes defeat in election

- Much to the surprise of his critics and political rivals, Maldives President Abdulla Yameen on Monday conceded defeat in Sunday's presidential election, making way for the joint Opposition candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

Statue of Nelson Mandela unveiled at United Nations and UN is declaring 2019-2028 the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace"

- Statue of Nelson Mandela was unveiled at the United Nations to honour the late South African leader's birth. This year marks the 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela and the UN is declaring 2019-2028 the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace".

AYUSH Information Cell set up at the Indian Embassy in Romania

- Ministry of AYUSH has set up an AYUSH Information Cell at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Romania to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system of medicine and encourage Ayurveda practice in Romania.

Argentina Gets Biggest Loan in IMF's History At \$57 billion

- Argentina has received the biggest loan package ever from the International Monetary Fund, aimed at shoring up the country's ailing finances a whopping \$57.1bn that will be disbursed over the next three years.

US, Morocco launch GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative to curb terrorist travel

- United States and Morocco have launched GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative under auspices of Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). The initiative brings together stakeholders to share expertise on developing and implementing effective counterterrorism watchlisting and screening tools. It was launched on sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.

Nobel scandal: French photographer imprisoned for rape

- The French photographer, Jean-Claude Arnault, who has close links to the Swedish Academy and was embroiled into controversies for sexual assault, was convicted. The 72-year-old has been sentenced to two years in prison for rape.

India, Uzbekistan join hands for developing ICT Sector

- Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad and his counterpart Shuhrat Sadikov was held for strengthening the ICT sector. Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad assured his counterpart that India will provide all possible technical support from the Indian side in the digital growth of Uzbekistan.

India releases commemorative stamps in Netherlands to mark Gandhi Jayanti

- The Indian embassy in the Netherlands released commemorative stamps in honour of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

Dubai's Burj Khalifa pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi

- Pictures of Mahatma Gandhi and his messages were beamed on Dubai's Burj Khalifa to mark his birth anniversary. Indian embassies had arranged LED projections highlighting Mahatma Gandhi's life and philosophy at over 120 locations globally.

India launches relief operation for tsunami-hit Indonesia

- India has launched a massive operation to provide assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia, dispatching two aircraft and three naval ships carrying relief material to the country. Operation Samudra Maitri for humanitarian assistance was launched on October 1, and following Indonesia's acceptance of international aid.

World's first full-sized Hyperloop capsule unveiled in Spain

- The world's first full-sized Hyperloop passenger capsule "Quintero One" has been unveiled in Spain giving those in attendance a glimpse of the future. California based company Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (Hyperloop TT) revealed the slimline capsule, which can reach speeds of 1,220 kilometres per hour.

Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium dedicated to people in Sri Lanka

- The Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium built with Indian grant assistance of Rs. 300 million at the University of Ruhuna, Matara in the Southern Province, was dedicated to the people of Sri Lanka. The auditorium named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is a symbol of cultural links with India.

Bangladesh enacts Digital Security Bill, 2018

- Bangladesh's President Abdul Hamid has given his assent controversial Digital Security Bill, 2018, by enacting it as a law. This new law combines previous colonial-era Official Secrets Act with tough new provisions such as arrests without warrant. Bangladesh Government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (Bangladesh Awami League) has defended the digital law as necessary to combat cyber crime

China to sell 48 high end armed drones to Pakistan

- China is to sell 48 high-end armed drones to Pakistan. This will be the largest deal of its kind. The cost of the major defence deal hasn't been revealed yet. Wing Loong II is a high-end reconnaissance, strike and multi-role endurance unmanned aerial system, capable of being fitted with air-to-surface weapons.

Singapore Passport Named World's Most Powerful, India 66th

- Singapore's passport has been named the most powerful in the world, overtaking Japan, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018.

Scientists from US develop world's first bioelectronics medicine

- Scientists from US claimed that they have developed world's first bioelectronic medicine which is implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves healing of damaged nerve.

India has offered USD 20 mn grant to Tajikistan for development projects

- India offered a grant of USD 20 million to Tajikistan for financing development projects in the resource-rich Central Asian country as Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Tajik President Emamoli Rahmon held talks and reaffirmed their determination to counter all forms of terrorism and violent extremism.

Cabinet approves MoC between India and Finland on Environmental Cooperation

- Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Finland on Environmental Cooperation. The MoC will enable establishment and promotion of closer and long-term cooperation between two countries in field of environment protection and management of natural resources on basis of equity, reciprocity and mutual benefits.

British scientists have created 3D-printed meals

- British scientists have created 3D-printed meals for St Helen's Primary School in Canning Town, London, to develop an interest in science subjects among students. Scientists from the annual Big Bang Fair that promotes science, technology and maths (STEM) subjects worked with St Helen's Primary School. They created dishes like geometric fish and chips, cauliflower cogs and mathematical constant 'Pi' shaped pie, etc.

Malaysia to abolish the death penalty for all crimes

- Malaysia's Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has agreed to abolish death penalty for all crimes and halt pending executions.

Stanford University of California named World's Most Innovative University: Reuters

- Stanford University was named as World's Most Innovative University by Reuters news agency rankings. No Indian was able to make it to the list. The Reuters' top 100 World's Most Innovative University ranking recognises universities from across the world for their work in inventing new technologies, advance science and power new markets and industries. It was first published in 2015, since then there has been no mention of any Indian university in the list.

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

- India and Sri Lanka signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for construction of 1200 houses through 50 model villages, using Indian grant assistance of 60 crore Sri Lankan rupees. With this, India's collaboration with Srilanka government under Model Villages Housing Program stands at 2400 houses in 100 model villages. As per the new MoUs, 600 houses each will be constructed in the Southern and Northern Provinces.

UK Minister to Launch Anti-loneliness Strategy To Combat 'Scourge of Isolation'

- Tracey Crouch, the world's first minister for loneliness appointed by the UK government this year, is set to launch her first anti-loneliness strategy to combat the scourge of isolation.

Germany and the UK, with support from the World Bank, new GRiF

- The governments of Germany and the UK, with support from the World Bank, are establishing a new Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF) to pilot and scale up support to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable countries to climate and disaster shocks.

After Uruguay, Canada becomes second country to legalises use of cannabis

- Canada has legalised the possession and use of recreational cannabis. After Uruguay, it has become the second country and the largest country to do so.

India to set up special desk to facilitate investments from UAE

- India will soon set up a special UAE desk to facilitate investments and resolve any business issues between the two nations.

Rwanda announced gender balanced cabinets with 50 percent women

- Rwanda, the East African nation, announced gender-balanced Cabinets with 50% women. It said that women now make up half of the slimmed-down, 26-seat Cabinet. A higher number of women in decision-making roles might lead to a decrease in gender discrimination and gender-based crimes. Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women said that Rwanda joins a handful of countries, mostly European, where women make up 50% or more of ministerial positions.

World's longest sea bridge between China-Hong Kong to open on October 24

- The world's longest sea bridge Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will be thrown open for traffic on October 24.

China has successfully tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone "Feihong-98 (FH-98)"

- China has successfully tested the world's largest unmanned transport drone "Feihong-98 (FH-98)", which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes, at Baotou test site in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

China is in the process of creating an "artificial moon"

- China is in the process of creating an "artificial moon" that would be bright enough to replace the streetlights in the south-western city of Chengdu by 2020.

Chinese-made world's largest amphibious aircraft completes successful flight

- China's home-grown amphibious aircraft AG600, claimed by Beijing as the world's largest, carried out its first take-off and landing on waters.

US has said that it could remove India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners

- In its latest report, the US has said that it could remove India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners citing certain developments and steps taken by New Delhi, which address some of its major concerns.

US to pull out of Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia

- United States (US) President Donald Trump has announced that US will unilaterally pull out of three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during Cold War.

World's oldest intact shipwreck found in Black Sea

- An ancient Greek trading ship dating back more than 2,400 years has been found virtually intact at the bottom of the Black Sea

NASSCOM partnered with Hiroshima for Japan-India IT corridor in Hiroshima

- Indian IT industry's apex body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) entered into a partnership with the Hiroshima government for co-creating a Japan-India IT Corridor in Hiroshima.

US to pull out of Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia

- United States (US) President Donald Trump has announced that US will unilaterally pull out of three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed with Russia during Cold War.

Xi Jinping opens world's longest sea bridge

- Chinese President Xi Jinping inaugurated a 55-km bridge that will deepen the integration of Hong Kong and Macao with the rest of China.

Hurricane Willa hits Mexican coast

- Hurricane Willa swept onto Mexico's Pacific mainland with 195 kph winds, hitting an area of beach towns, fishing villages and farms after roaring over an offshore penal colony.

Paul Biya, won the 7th term as President of Cameroon

- Paul Biya, won the 7th term as President of Cameroon. Paul Biya has been ruling Cameroon since 1982. He is 85 years old. He had won 71.3 % of the ballot in the presidential election. His rival Maurice Kamto came second with 14.2 % of the vote.

Mahinda Rajapaksha sworn in as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has sacked Ranil Wickremesinghe, incumbent prime minister of Sri Lanka and appointed former President Mahinda Rajapaksha as new Prime Minister.

World's largest airport 'under one roof' to open in Istanbul

- The world's largest airport terminal "under one roof" with a capacity to serve 90 million passengers will be officially opened on October 29 in Istanbul, Turkey. Dubbed as phase-1A of the project Istanbul New Airport will have a capacity to handle 90 million passenger per year, making it the largest such facility in the world.

Philippine Island once called 'Cesspool' reopens to visitors

- The Philippine island- Boracay, which was once called 'cesspool' due to overcrowding, partying and neglect, was opened for visitors on October 26, 2018 after a six-month closure to clean waters.

China and Japan to partner in building Asia infrastructure

- China and Japan to partner in building Asia infrastructure. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has arrived in China. His visit is expected to trigger significant collaboration between Tokyo and Beijing in developing infrastructure in Asia. He was received by his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang, at the Great Hall of the People. The function was held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the China-Japan treaty of friendship.

Pakistan to send first manned space mission in 2022

- Pakistan's plan to send a human to space is aimed for the same year that India plans to launch its own manned human space mission. The major difference between the two missions is that while ISRO's mission will be their own, Pakistan will do so with China's help.

US to not allow Iran to develop world's deadliest weapons

- US President Donald Trump said that all sanctions against Iran lifted by the 2015 nuclear deal will be back in full force from November 5 and promised more in the future to prevent Tehran from developing the world's deadliest weapons.

Higgins re-elected Irish President again

- Michael D Higgins has been re-elected Irish president after winning a landslide victory with 822,566 votes. The 77-year-old professor and campaigner will serve his second term after first being elected in 2011.

Jair Bolsonaro Wins Presidential Election In Brazil

- Far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro has won a sweeping victory in Brazil's presidential election. Mr. Bolsonaro won 55.2% of the votes cast against 44.8% for Fernando Haddad from the left-wing Workers' Party.

Angela Merkel to Step Down As German Chancellor In 2021

- Germany's Angela Merkel has announced that she will step down as Chancellor in 2021, following recent election setbacks. She would not seek re-election as leader of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

Researchers at the University of Michigan in the United States, have developed a web-based tool to monitor fake news on social media platforms

- Researchers at the University of Michigan in the United States have developed a web-based tool to monitor fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. The tool uses a Platform Health Metric called the Iffy Quotient, which draws data from 2 external entities: NewsWhip and Media Bias/Fact Checker.

Important Appointments

National Appointments

Person	Designation
Alka Tiwari	Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Secretary
Ravi Thapar	Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Costa Rica
Vijay Srinivas	Director and GM of United India Insurance
Justice Indira Banerjee	Head inquiry panel to probe allegations of impropriety against sitting HC judges
P K Shrivastava	Director-General and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
Adarsh Kumar Goel	Chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)
Martin Schwenk	MD and CEO of Mercedes Benz India
Vidya Balan	Muthoot Pappachan Group brand ambassador
Uday Kumar Varma	Member of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council.
Sandeep Sancheti	President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU)
T Latha	New MD & CEO Of Dhanlaxmi Bank

Dipa Karmakar	Tripura's brand ambassador
Kaptan Singh Solanki	Additional charge of Himachal Pradesh
Amitabh Malhotra	HSBC India Head - Investment Banking
Hima Das	Assam's sports ambassador
TV Narendran	Bhushan Steel chairman
Alia Bhatt	Brand Ambassador of ITC's Sunfeast Dark Fantasy
Seven new members take oath in Rajya Sabha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rakesh Sinha - Delhi • Sonal Mansingh – Orissa • Raghunath Mohapatra – Orissa • Ram Shakal – Uttar Pradesh • Elamaram Kareem - Kerala • Binoy Viswam - Kerala • Jose K Mani – Kerala
Prof D Sahasrabudhe	Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
V.K.Tahilramani	Chief Justice of Madras High Court (HC)
Madhusudan Padhi	Principal secretary to Odisha Governor
Rajendra Menon	Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court
Arman Ali	Executive director of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP)
Rishi Srivastava	New MD & CEO of Tata AIA Life
Rakesh Sharma	CCO of Bajaj Auto Ltd
Analjit Singh	Non-executive Chairman of Max Financial Services
Harivansh Narayan Singh	New deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha
Deepak Parekh	HDFC director
Kumar Mangalam Birla, YC Deveshwar	Directors of Air India
Gita Mittal	New Chief Justice of J&K HC
Vijay Thakur Singh	Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs
Ramon Laguarta	Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indira Banerjee 2. R Banumathi 3. Indu Malhotra 	Supreme Court to Get three Women Judges for the first time
S Gopakumar	United India Insurance as Director & GM
R S Sharma	TRAI chairperson till 2020
Rajendra Menon	Chief Justice of Delhi High Court
Rekha Sharma	Chairperson of National Commission for Women
Ashish Kumar Bhutani	CEO of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
TP Sharma	New chief of Chhattisgarh Lokayukta
Raveena Tandon	Brand ambassador of Sanjay Gandhi National Park Maharashtra
Satya Pal Malik	Jammu and Kashmir Governor
Lal Ji Tandon	Bihar Governor
Baby Rani Maurya	Uttarakhand Governor
Kaptan Singh Solanki	Tripura Governor
Tathagata Roy	Meghalaya Governor
Ganga Prasad	Sikkim Governor
Haryana	Satyadev Narayan Arya Governor
Arun Jaitley	Take charge as Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister

Kabir Mathur	Head of India investments by Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)
Satheesh Reddy	Secretary, Department of Defence R&D
	Chairman of DRDO
U K Varma	Assocham Secretary General
Akshay Kumar	Brand ambassador of its Road Safety campaigns
K S Srinivas	Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).
Manjula Chellur	Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (ATE)
Rekha Sharma	Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW)
Arman Ali	Executive Director of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP).
Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe	Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
TCA Raghavan	Director General (DG) of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).
Justice AK Goel	New Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
Anant Barua	Whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
S Ramesh	Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
Sunil Mehta	New chairman of Indian Banks Association (IBA)
Binoy Kumar	The new Secretary of the Ministry of Steel
Chanda Kochhar	Director on the board of ICICI Securities
R Madhavan	Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
Ranjan Gogoi	The new Chief Justice of India
Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan	CEO of the Vedanta Resources Plc.
Amitabh Chaudhry	Axis CEO & MD
Mary Kom	Brand ambassador by BSNL for 2 years
NP Singh	President of Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)
Akshay Kumar	First Honorary Ambassador of Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation
Anshula Kant	Managing Director SBI
LK Advani	Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha
Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas	Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman
Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma	Ambassadors of Skill India Campaign
Delhi airport	Best Airport by the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2017
Anindo Majumdar	Secretary of Central Vigilance Commission
Anushka Sharma	Smita Patil Memorial Award
Kalraj Mishra	New Chairman of the standing committee on Defence
Keith Enright	Chief Privacy Officer
Ajit Mohan	MD & Vice-president
Anil Khosla	New Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force
Sanjay Kumar	Additional charge of the post of Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards
Rajni Kant Misra	The chief of Border Security Force (BSF)
Mary Kom	Brand Ambassador of Tribal India
N. Ravi	Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI).
Jayant Mammen Mathew	President of the prestigious Indian Newspaper Society
Madan Bhimarao Lokur	National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)
Ravi Venkatesan	UNICEF'S special representative of young people

Rangachari Sridharan	Chief of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
Arun Kumar	New Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF)
Adam Mosseri	New Instagram Head
Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad	New Hockey India president
Ranjan Gogoi	46th Chief Justice of India
Nikki Krishnamurthy	Uber's Chief People Officer (CPO).
Sandeep Bakhshi	New CEO of ICICI
R N Ravi	Deputy National Security Advisor
Pankaj Sharma	India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament
Pankaj Sharma	Ambassador and India's permanent representative to (UNCD)
Srinivasan Swamy	Chairman of International Advertising Association
Vikram Limaye	Chairman of the working committee and director of World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)
Richie Benaud	Sport Australia Hall Of Fame Legend
Ministry of Railways	Best department for its contribution to "Swachhta Pakhwada" under the "Swachhta Hi Seva" category
Tushar Mehta	The new Solicitor General of India
Rakesh Sharma	Managing director and chief executive officer of IDBI bank
Pravin Srivastava	India's third Chief Statistician
Mahesh Reddy	PHDCCI Secretary-General
Arundhati Bhattacharya	Chrys Capital Advisor
Shekhar Mande	Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
Milind Pant	CEO of Amway
Nimesh Shah	Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)
S B Zaware	9-member group to study issues at IL&FS: ICAI
SS Mundra	BankBazaar Advisor
Arundhati Bhattacharya	Additional director, designated as independent director, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).
Sajjan Jindal	Treasurer of World Steel Association
Vikas Sehgal	Independent director Cyient
Suresh Nambath	Next Editor of 'The Hindu'
Arpwood Capital and JM Financial Consultants	The Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) financial and transaction advisers
Alvarez & Marsal	The Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) restructuring advisers
K.N. Radhakrishnan	TVS Motor's New CEO
Saurabh Kumar	India's ambassador to Myanmar
Chief justice of the Uttarakhand HC	Justice Ramesh Rangnath
Chief justice of the Sikkim HC	Vijai Kumar Bist
Chief justice of the Calcutta HC	Debasis Kar Gupta
Chief justice of Gauhati HC	Ajjikuttira Somaiah Bopanna
Chief justice of the Bombay HC	Naresh Harishchandra Patil
Interim Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)	Sanjay Mishra
Independent director of Wipro	Arundhati Bhattacharya

International Appointments

Person	Designation
Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador	Mexico's President
Emmerson Mnangagwa	Zimbabwe President
India	President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development
Ajay Data	First Indian to get elected as ICANN ccNSO council
Ivan Duque	President of Colombia
Michelle Bachelet	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Imran Khan	Pakistan's 22nd Prime Minister
Marco Villiger	FIFA's legal chief
Satya S Tripathi	Assistant Secretary-General and Head UNEP
Scott Morrison	New Australian PM
Antonio Guterres	Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
Moutaz Mousa Abdallah	Sudan's new PM
Tran Dai Quang	Vietnam President
B. S. Mubarak	Next Ambassador of India to Republic of Guatemala
Barham Salih	Iraq President
Gita Gopinath	Chief Economist of IMF
Ravi Venkatesan	UNICEF special representative of young people
Ramon Laguarta	Chief Executive Officer of global beverage giant PepsiCo
Pankaj Sharma	India's Ambassador To UN Conference On Disarmament
Brett Kavanaugh	US Supreme Court Justice
Maeen Abdulmalik	Yemen's New PM
Nageshwar Rao	Interim CBI director
Former British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg	Head Of Facebook's global affairs and communications team
Rohini Bopanna	FIH International Technical

Important Resignations

Person	Designation
Retirement from all forms of cricket	Mohammad Kaif
Indra K. Nooyi	Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo
Mario Gomez	Veteran German Football Player
Jhulan Goswami	The veteran India Pacer, has announced her retirement from Twenty20 Internationals.
Anil Ambani	Director of RNaval
RP Singh	Retires from all forms of cricket
Taranjeet Singh	Twitter's Country Director
Shikha Sharma's	Axis CEO & MD
Jack Ma	Alibaba co-founder
Elon Musk	Tesla Chairman
Nikki Haley	US ambassador to the UN

Awards and Honors

Awards	Winners
Icon Award at the London Indian Film Festival	Irrfan Khan

Kalidas Award	Artist Anjolie Ela Menon and Ramachandran
Man Booker Prize	Michael Ondaatje's 'The English Patient'
Knowledge Excellence Award	T.K Chand
Indian of the Year	Ishwar Sharma
Sangita Kalanidhi award	Aruna Sairam
India's Chef de Mission at 2018 Asian Games	Brij Bhushan Saran Singh
PATA award	Sahapedia's India Heritage Walk fete
Ramon Magsaysay Award	Phunsuk Wangdu
	Bharat Vatwani
	Youk Chhang
	Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz
	Howard Dee
Vo Thi Hoang Yen	
Mohun Bagan Awards	Mohun Bagan 'Ratna' – Pradip Chowdhury 1. Goalkeeper Shilton Paul– Best Footballer for the year 2017-18, 2. Sudip Chatterjee– Best Cricketer, 3. Sourav Das– Best Youth Footballer Player, 4. Special award – Rahim Ali for his performance in the U-17 World Cup.
INFRA Icon Award	ONGC
3rd BRICS Film Festival concluded with India Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Actress: Bhanita Das, Village Rockstars • Best Film: Newton by Amit Masurkar • Special Jury Award: Village Rockstars by Rima Das The festival screened four Indian Films in the following category Films in Competition Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newton by Amit Masurkar • Village Rock Stars by Rima Das Films in Non-competition Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinjar by Sandeep Pampally • Bhanayakam by Jayaraj
Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award	Gopalkrishna Gandhi
'Marketer of the Year' award by the International Advertising Association of India (IAAI)	Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), Amul
Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math	Akshay Venkatesh
MasterChef Australia 2018	Sashi Cheliah
Women who Changed the World'	Marie Curie
The Hindu Playwright Award 2018	Annie Zaidi
US Legion of Merit 2018	Dalbir Singh Suhag
WHO World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award	S K Arora

Prestigious J C Bose Fellowship-2018	Prof Appa Rao Podile
2018 UEFA President's Award	David Beckham
Asia Game Changer of the Year award	Indra Nooyi
Reliance Power Unit	\$56-Million International Arbitration Award
The first Indian poet invited to record his poems at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. in 'The Poet and the Poem' series conducted by poet Grace Cavalieri	Abhay K
Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva - Miss Universe India 2018	Nehal Chudasama
UEFA The best player in Europe	Luka Modric
UEFA The best player in last season's Champions League.	Real Madrid
UEFA The best women's player award	Pernille Harder
UEFA Best goalkeeper of the season	Keylor Navas
UEFA Best defender of the season	Sergio Ramos
UEFA Forward of the Season	Cristina Ronaldo
Sarala Puraskar Award	Satrughna Pandav for his poetry collection 'Misra Dhrupad'.
Rs 200 crore arbitration against NHAI	Reliance Infrastructure
Meryl Streep Award for Excellence	Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
BSNL WiFi Leadership Awards 2018	Vipin Tyagi
Outstanding Investigator Award	Arul Chinnaiyan
Paul Baran Young Scholar Award for 2018	Nandakumar Rajalakshmi
Honoris Causa' by the University of Engineering & Management (UEM).	Bibek Debroy
UNIATF Award	Manoj Jhalani
Shekhawat Meera Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy	Sawai Singh
Managing Director and Vice-president of Facebook	Ajit Mohan
Alternative Nobel	Abdullah al-Hamid
	Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani
	Waleed Abu al-Khair
	Thelma Aldana of Guatemala
	Ivan Velasquez
Icons of Indian Cinema' Award at Jagran Film Festival	Pankaj Kapoor
Only sportsperson featuring in the Forbes India's maiden 'tycoons of tomorrow' list of 22 young achievers in the fields of business, acting and sports	PV Sindhu
Lata Mangeshkar Award by Mumbai	Raam-Laxman
Business World's '40 Under 40' title	Chiranjiv Patel
2018 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award	Dr. Evan Atar Adaha
United Nations' highest environmental honour	Prime Minister Modi
Posthumously honored with US Congressional Gold	Gandhiji

Mid-day Young Achiever Icons Award 2018	Ruhaan Rajput
Mother Teresa Award-2018	Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege
Tourism awards at Annual Travel Awards ceremony	Nepal
ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & The Pacific 2018	ESIC
Dhanvantari Award	Sultan Pradhan
Midday Young Achiever Icons Award 2018	Ruhan Rajput
2018 Deming Prize	Rane NSK
India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'	Veena Sendre
Ramini Foundation's Outstanding Person award	Pullela Gopichand
Best Sportsperson of the Year by SJAM	Rahul Aware
FAO's Future Policy Gold Award	Sikkim's 100% organic farming
New Academy Prize in Literature or Alternative Nobel Literature Prize	Maryse Conde
Special lifetime achievement award from the Music Academy in Chennai	Vikku Vinayakram
Hridaynath Award for lifetime achievement	Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi
2018 Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize	Dr. Teejan Bai
Social Entrepreneur of the Year award 2018	Prema Gopalan
Man Booker Prize for Her Novel 'Milkman'	Anna Burns
International Olympic committee award	Suheil Tandon
Wildlife Photographer of 2018 award	Dutch Oosten
Vishwa Konkani Book Award	H M Pernal
Presidential Medal for Combating Human Trafficking	Minal Patel Davis
Top Wildlife Photo Award in Junior Category	Arshdeep Singh
Carnot Prize For Rural Electrification Effort	Piyush Goyal
2018 Shakti Bhatt Prize	Sujatha Gidla
Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award	Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
"Rajbhasha Kirti" award on the occasion of Hindi Diwas	Punjab National Bank
19th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration	Fali S. Nariman
Sri Maharshi Valmiki award	Deva Gowda
UN Award for excellence in promoting investments in sustainable development	Invest India
2018 Seoul Peace Prize	PM Narendra Modi
INSA Teachers Award	Ashis Mukherjee
Miss Deaf Asia 2018	Haryana girl Nishtha Dudeja
World Agriculture Prize	M.S. Swaminathan
India's richest book prize	Benyamin
the FICCI India Sports Awards 2018	Athletics Federation of India
Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and	India

Management Award, 2018	
Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 – Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh • 2015 – Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) • 2016 – India’s greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar
Posthumously awarded UN Human Rights Prize	Asma Jahangir
Best Mining Equipment Seller Award	Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)
World Health Summit Startup Award In Berlin	Roopam Sharma
	Clara Sosa
Miss Grand International 2018 In Myanmar	

Actors Akshay Kumar-76, Salman Khan-82 ranked in Forbes Top 100 highest-paid entertainers

- Bollywood actors Akshay Kumar and Salman Khan have ranked in the Forbes list of top 100 highest-paid entertainers 2018. Akshay Kumar ranked 76th with earnings of \$40.5M Salman Khan ranked 82nd with earnings of \$37.7M

Michael Ondaatje again named in Man Booker Prize list

- Sri Lankan-born Canadian author Michael Ondaatje has again made the Man Booker Prize list with his latest novel "Warlight", which tells the story of two orphans in London in the immediate aftermath of World War II.

Selected Nominees:

- Belinda Bauer (UK) - *Snap* (Bantam Press)
- Anna Burns (UK) - *Milkman* (Faber & Faber)
- Nick Drnaso (USA) - *Sabrina* (Granta Books)
- Esi Edugyan (Canada) - *Washington Black* (Serpent’s Tail)
- Guy Gunaratne (UK) - *In Our Mad And Furious City* (Tinder Press)
- Daisy Johnson (UK) - *Everything Under* (Jonathan Cape)
- Rachel Kushner (USA) - *The Mars Room* (Jonathan Cape)
- Sophie Mackintosh (UK) - *The Water Cure* (Hamish Hamilton)
- Michael Ondaatje (Canada) - *Warlight* (Jonathan Cape)
- Richard Powers (USA) - *The Overstory* (William Heinemann)
- Robin Robertson (UK) - *The Long Take* (Picador)
- Sally Rooney (Ireland) - *Normal People* (Faber & Faber)
- Donal Ryan (Ireland) - *From A Low And Quiet Sea* (Doubleday Ireland)

Five parliamentarians conferred Outstanding Parliamentarian Award

- The names were shortlisted by an award committee headed by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.
 - 1) Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards 2013: Dr Najma Heptulla
 - 2) Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards 2014: Hukmdev Narayan Yadav
 - 3) Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards 2015: Ghulam Nabi Azad
 - 4) Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards 2016: Dinesh Trivedi
 - 5) Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards 2017: Bhartruhari Mahtab

Emmy Awards 2018 Announced: Complete List of Winners

- The 70th annual primetime Emmy honors handed out at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. Michael Che and Colin Hanks hosted the show.

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Best Comedy	The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
2.	Best Drama	Game of Thrones
3.	Best Actress, Comedy	Rachel Brosnahan, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”
4.	Best Actor, Comedy	Bill Hader, “Barry”
5.	Best Actress, Drama	Claire Foy, “The Crown”
6.	Best Actor, Drama	Matthew Rhys, “The Americans”
7.	Best Actress, Limited Series or TV Movie	Regina King, “Seven Seconds”

8.	Best Actor, Limited Series or TV Movie	Darren Criss, “The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story”
9.	Writing for a Comedy Series	Amy Sherman-Palladino, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” (“Pilot”)
10.	Writing for a Drama Series	Joel Fields and Joe Weisberg, “The Americans” (“Start”)
11.	Writing for a Limited Series, Movie or Drama	William Bridges and Charlie Brooker, “Black Mirror: USS Callister”
12.	Directing for a Comedy Series	Amy Sherman-Palladino, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” (“Pilot”)
13.	Directing for a Drama Series	Stephen Daldry, “The Crown” (“Paterfamilias”)
14.	Directing for a Limited Series	Ryan Murphy, “The Assassination Of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently conferred Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018

- **Top 3 States:** Haryana (1st), Gujarat (2nd) and Maharashtra (3rd).
- **Top 3 Districts:** Satara (Maharashtra), Rewari (Haryana) and Pedapalli (Telangana).
- **States with maximum citizen participation:** Uttar Pradesh (1st), Gujarat (2nd) and Maharashtra (3rd).
- **Districts with maximum citizens’ participation:** Nashik (Maharashtra), Solapur (Maharashtra) and Chittorgarh (Rajasthan).

India Post honors Narayan Seva Sansthan with new postal stamp

- The Indian postal services honoured the Narayan Seva Sansthan, the Udaipur-based non-profit organisation, by launching their postal stamps. The stamp of Rs 5 includes the official logo of the Narayan Seva Sansthan in bright colours along with the picture of NGO’s Polio Hospital which is situated in Udaipur.

Record number of nearly 50,000 nominations received for Padma Awards 2019

- A record number of nearly 50 thousand nominations have been received for the Padma Awards-2019. Home Ministry said that the nomination received this year is 32 times higher compared to 2010.

Important Committees

Committee	Heads
ARC/AML panel for stressed assets	Sunil Mehta
IRDAI Sets Up Panel To Review Norms For Marketing Firms	Suresh Mathur
To bring transparency in the jobs data calculation and presentation	T.C.A. Anant
Committee for Standardization and Indigenization in Metro Rail Systems	E. Sreedharan
Panel to upgrade norms for state, district level economic data collection	Ravindra H Dholakia
Public Credit Registry (PCR) Committee a repository of information regarding loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers	Y.M. Deosthalee
panel to upgrade norms for state, district level economic data collection	Ravindra H Dholakia
UGC Committee to regulate fee for medical courses in Deemed Universities	Prof. R.C. Deka
UGC Committee on examination Reforms	Prof. M.M. Salunkhe
4-member panel to propose measures on mob violence, lynching	Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba
The National Green Tribunal formed a monitoring committee for Yamuna Rejuvenation Project	A K Goel
The Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) framework, which is part of project 'Sashakt', to take concerted efforts towards resolving dud loans under Rs. 500 crore.	Sunil Mehta
Revive stressed thermal power plant	Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha
16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.	Suresh Prabhu
FSSAI ropes in expert panel to review food labeling standards	B Sesikeran
Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Advanced)	Bhaskar Ramamurthy

Task force for Kerala flood relief work	Gopalakrishnan
5G steering committee	AJ Paulraj
Chairman Of Panel To Decide Vedanta's Plea	S J Vazifdar
To review framework dealing with offences under the Companies Act, 2013 to promote better corporate compliance	Shri Injeti Srinivas
Government constitute 21-member Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council	Principal Scientific Advisor to government K Vijay Raghavan
The head of the panel that has been tasked with selecting India's next chief economic advisor (CEA).	Bimal Jalan
Proposals of the draft e-commerce policy	Secretary in the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) Ramesh Abhishek
National Green Tribunal has appointed three committees to monitor disposal of garbage in an eco-friendly manner across the country	Former Supreme Court judge Justice D K Jain
Head selection committee for Dronacharya and Dhyanchand awards	Mukul Mudgal
Head of the committee of harrowing arrest and alleged torture of former space scientist Nambi Narayanan in the 'ISRO spy scandal's	DK Jain
Head of Gaganyaan mission	VR Lalithambika
Head of the panel for look into the aspect of jail reforms across the country and suggest measures to deal with them	Amitava Roy
Panel formed to settle land acquisition issues of Ratnagiri refinery	D.M. Sukthankar
Committee recommend for the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal	Ranjana Prakash Desai
Seven-member ministerial panel to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters.	Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi
Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority	Bhure Lal
Security Policy Group under NSA to assist National Security Council	National Security Advisor Ajit Doval
Panel set to probe e-commerce firms' big discounts	Injeti Srinivas
Committee to examine #MeToo cases	Maneka Gandhi
The parliamentary panel on labor was constituted to examine the functioning of retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)	Kirit Somaiya
Four member Group of Ministers to crackdown on workplace sexual harassment	Rajnath Singh

Important MoU and Agreements

MoU signed between AIIA and IIT Delhi

- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated Raising towards Excellence – A two day Conference of Heads of AYUSH National Institutes organized by All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at New Delhi.

MoU between India and Indonesia

- MoU between India and Indonesia on cooperation in the field of pharmaceutical products, pharmaceutical substances, biological product and cosmetics regulatory functions.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) signed 3 MOUs with Ireland, Bahrain, Tanzania

- Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) signed in 2010 and approves fresh MRA between the ICAI and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Ireland.
- MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance, Bahrain.
- MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and "National Board of Accountants and Auditors, Tanzania- These MoU will develop a mutually beneficial relationship in the best interest of ICAI members, students and their organizations.

MoU between India and Cuba in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy

- MoU between India and Cuba on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy- The MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

UNEP Partners with Google for Monitoring Impact Of Human Activity On Ecosystem

- UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has entered into a partnership with search engine giant Google to monitor the impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools.

Delhi AIIMS signed MoU with IIT Kharagpur for education and research purposes

- The AIIMS has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, for collaboration in education, research outreach and medical services.

NITI Aayog signs SoI with Lupin Foundation for Collaborating in Aspirational Districts

- Shri Yaduvendra Mathur, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog and Shri Sita Ram Gupta, Executive Director, Lupin Foundation was signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to collaborate and improve indicators in education, health & nutrition, financial inclusion and skill development, agriculture and water resources and basic infrastructure in Aspirational Districts(in the backward districts) of India.

Invest India, Business France sign MoU to promote investment

- The MoU aims to facilitate direct foreign investment by providing practical investment information to enterprises. It will also support the companies pursuing those opportunities which contribute positively to economic growth of the two countries.

Invest India And UAE Ministry Sign MoU For Technological Cooperation

- Invest India and the UAE Minister for Artificial Intelligence (AI) signed an MoU for India - UAE Artificial Intelligence Bridge in New Delhi. This partnership will generate an estimated USD 20 billion in economic benefits during the next decade for both countries.

Common Service Centers to help in implementation of Ayushman Bharat

- Common Service Center (CSC) and National Health Accounts (NHA) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme through 3 lakh Common Service Centers (CSCs) across the country.

India, Germany Sign Pact On Financial And Technical Cooperation

- India and Germany have signed an agreement on financial and technical cooperation focusing on sustainable urban development and renewable energy.

BEML and HEC Sign Pact to Manufacture Mining Equipment

- Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML) and Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) have signed pact for making mining equipment. The MoU will result into additional Rs 150-200 crore revenue for both PSUs.

MoU between Environment & Skill Development Ministries to train one lakh RAC Service Technicians

- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship took place up skilling and certification of 100,000 RAC service technicians.

PHDCCI and CNI Sign MoU to Set Up Indo-Nepal Centre

- PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) have signed an MoU to establish India-Nepal Centre in Kathmandu, Nepal. It will further strengthen economic engagement between the two countries.

TRIFED signed MOU with National Medicinal Plant Board

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) has signed MOU with National Medicinal Plant Board The main aim to promote Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) forest produce for livelihood development of tribal people by promoting primary level value addition to MAPs produce from forest area at the grassroots level.

Indian Housing Project in Plantation Areas: India hands over 1st lot of houses built in Sri Lanka

- India has handed over 404 houses built for Indian-origin people in Sri Lanka's tea plantation areas at Dunsinane Estate in Nuwara Eliya city. This is first lot of houses built under Indian Housing Project in Plantation Areas in Sri Lanka.

India and Japan agree to expand maritime co-operation to ensure peace & stability in Indo-Pacific region

- India and Japan have resolved to expand their maritime cooperation and work together to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

India, Singapore Sign 2nd Protocol Amending Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

- India and Singapore have signed the Second Protocol amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in New Delhi which will boost bilateral trade between the two countries.

Myanmar Media Group inks MoU with Prasar Bharati

- The agreement was signed in the presence of Prasar Bharati CEO, Shashi Shekhar Vempati and Editor-in-chief and MD, Mizzima in New Delhi.

JNPT, Maharashtra, MP and Ministry of Railways sign MoU for Indore-Manmad Railway Line Project

- The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, under the Ministry of Shipping, on August 28, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Railways, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for implementation of the 362 km Indore- Manmad New Railway Line Project.

EU-India joined hands to develop new Influenza vaccine

- They have committed EUR 15 million each to fund for this cause through the “Horizon 2020” programme. Indian government and the European Union (EU) partnered for Rs. 240 crore research programme to develop a Next Generation Influenza Vaccine to protect people throughout the world. About EU The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe.

MoU signed for skill development of Arogyamitras under the PMJAY

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Health Agency (NHA), to provide capacity building for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) to ensure effective rollout and continued quality implementation.
- He said that the programme will provide financial protection to 10.74 crore poor, deprived families who will get a benefit cover of Rs 5 lakh per family. Arogyamitras will be important link in providing quality care.

Indian Railways, GAIL India sign MoU for use of Natural Gas in railway workshops and production units

- This MoU is an in-principle agreement between GAIL and Indian Railways for both industrial and domestic purposes. The MoU aims to replace industrial gases like Dissolved Acetylene, LPG, BMCG and Furnace Oil, High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil with environment friendly Natural Gas.

India, Nepal sign MoU on Raxaul-Kathmandu railway line

- India and Nepal have signed MoU to build strategic railway line connecting Raxaul city in Bihar, India to Kathmandu, capital of Nepal. It was signed after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks on all aspects of the bilateral ties with his Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli on sidelines of 4th BIMSTEC Summit held in Nepal.

India and Russia plans for logistics agreements

- India and Russia are planning to conclude a logistics agreement. The countries are targeting to conclude consultations before the annual summit which has been scheduled to happen in October between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

India and Cyprus signed MoUs on curbing money laundering

- India and Cyprus signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on combating money laundering and cooperation in the field of environment. The MoU was signed between Financial Intelligence Unit, India, and Unit for Combating Money Laundering of Cyprus.

India and France sign implementation agreement on Mobilise Your City

- India and France have signed implementation agreement on Mobilise Your City (MYC) to support three pilot cities – Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmadabad for reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport. It was signed between Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Agency Française de Développement (AfD).

India and Bulgaria signed pact MoUs in the field of Investment, Tourism and Civil Nuclear Cooperation

- They signed five MoUs in the field of Investment, Tourism, Civil Nuclear Cooperation, Establishment of Hindi Chair at Sofia University and enhancing scientific cooperation. The five important MoUs were signed following the detailed talks between Indian delegations led by President Kovind and Bulgarian delegations.

India, Bangladesh jointly inaugurate three projects

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, and Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Tripura jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh via video conferencing. These include 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, Akhaura – Agartala Rail Link and Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.

India, U.S. signed COMCASA agreement

- Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) will facilitate access to advanced defence systems and enable India to optimally utilise its existing US-origin platforms.

Cabinet apprised of India-Brunei MoU on operation of telemetry tracking for satellites

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Brunei Darussalam on cooperation in the operation of telemetry tracking and telecomm and station for satellite and launch vehicles, and for cooperation in the field of space research, science and applications.

India, Iran and Afghanistan hold first tripartite meeting in Kabul

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and South Africa on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes.

India, Malta sign three MoUs in Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training

- India and Malta signed three Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in the fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training. These MoUs were signed after delegation level talks between Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and President of Malta, Ms. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. Vice President Naidu visited in Malta in the second phase of his visit to three European countries viz. Serbia, Malta and Romania. It was the first senior Indian leader to visit Mediterranean nation in last 28 years.

India, Germany sign pact to boost vocational education, training

- India and Germany signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) to focus on the field of dual vocational education and training and skill development.

Home Ministry signs MoU with ISRO to set up Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response

- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to set up of state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER). ISRO will render its technical expertise for setting up of proposed ICR-ER.

India and Niger signed an MOU for establishment of the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre in Niamey

- India and Niger signed an MOU for establishment of the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre in Niamey, Niger. This was signed Mr. Saidil Mohamed's visit in India. The Convention Centre is being established in the context of the African Union (AU) Summit that Niger is to host in 2019.

Asian News International, ANI and Emirates News Agency signed an MoU, for bilateral cooperation in the area of the free news exchange in Abu Dhabi

- Asian News International, ANI and Emirates News Agency, WAM, the official news agency of the UAE government has signed an MoU, for bilateral cooperation in the area of the free news exchange in Abu Dhabi.

Cabinet approves MoU b/w ICAI & ICPAK:

- The Union Cabinet has approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).

Cabinet nod for NITI Aayog-MEDRF MoU for economic development:

- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of an agreement between NITI Aayog and Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (MEDRF) in the field of social, economic, industrial and regional development programmes.

India, United States form alliance in public and private sectors to combat menace of tuberculosis

- The US and India have formed an alliance comprising leading experts in public and private sectors to combat the menace of tuberculosis. US Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator Mark Green announced the formation of 'USAID-India End TB Alliance' at an event in New York in presence of Union Health Minister USAID is making an initial USD 30 million commitment.

India, Japan sign Loan Agreement for Bullet Train Funds

- India has signed two loan agreements with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project and Kolkata East West Metro Project. Under these agreements, Japan will provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of around Rs 5,500 crore as tranche 1 for Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project Rs.1619 crore for tranche 3 Kolkata East-West Metro Project .

Victoria and India strengthening ties through sports

- The State of Victoria, Australia is celebrating six key sporting activities taking place in India and Melbourne over the next six months which are aligned with Victoria's India Strategy to strengthen trade, investment and people to people linkages.

Goa, Portugal ink MoU on water management

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Portuguese Environment Ministry and the Public Works Department of Goa will help the State manage its water resources better.

India, Russia ink action plan to set up 6 more n-reactors in India

- India and Russia signed a document for cooperation on a new nuclear power project in India with the latest VVER-1200 type reactors powered by advanced fuel. The action plan document was signed by India's Department of Atomic Energy Secretary Kamlesh Vyas and Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev on the sidelines of 19th India-Russia annual bilateral summit in New Delhi.

Atal Innovation Mission & SIRIUS Sign MoU

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

Indian Railways Signed Agreements with Government of Russian Federation

- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Joint Stock Company 'Russian Railways' on the sidelines of India-Russia Summit. The MoC intends to carry forward the activities taken up under the MoU signed between the two countries on 24th December 2015. 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.

CII and UN Environment Sign MoU

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed an MoU with the UN Environment for coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The agreement aims to cover all major areas of interest common to both CII and UN Environment.

UNICEF and NASSCOM signed MoU to Strengthen Child Rights

- This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will work collaboratively on two key areas including national sensitization on child online protection and encouraging innovations for child rights' in the country. NASSCOM Chairman is Rishad Premji.

IBM India partners Niti Aayog to skill students in new-age tech

- Tech major IBM India and NITI Aayog announced an internship programme for the top performing under-18 students selected by the ATAL Innovation Mission, a flagship programme of the government to promote entrepreneurship and innovation.

Coal India Signs MoU with NLC for 5000 MW Power Generation

- Coal India tasked to become a net zero emission energy company by the ministry of coal and a move which requires it to generate 3,000 MW of solar power.

About NLC Neyveli lignite Corporation (NLC)

- Industry: Mining
- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

NITI Aayog's AIM and 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). About NITI Aayog NITI: National Institution for Transforming India.

IIT Kharagpur and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) have signed an MoU to facilitate cooperation in research and education

- The IIT Kharagpur and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) have signed an MoU to facilitate cooperation in research and education between the two institutes in New Delhi. NTNU is an expert in Hydro Power, Ocean Modelling, Deep Sea Resources and Marine Technology which will be key areas of focus under this MoU.

India and China launch first joint programme to train Afghanistan diplomats

- Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Vinay Kumar hosted 10 Afghan Diplomats who will be traveling to India for the 1st India-China joint training programme. This will be under the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China, and Afghanistan.

MoU signed between Lady Irwin College & MoRD for Roshni

- Ministry of Rural Development and Lady Irwin College, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing ROSHNI – Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action. ROSHNI is technically and financially supported by UNICEF India serving as a technical support unit at national level.

ICFRE inks two MoUs to launch Prakriti programme

- Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) to launch 'Prakriti' programme. The two MoUs have been signed for a period of 10 years.

Nasscom, Dubai Internet City sign MoU to attract Indian enterprises

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dubai Internet City (DIC) to facilitate expansion of Indian businesses in the Middle East.

India, Myanmar sign MoU towards Sittwe Port operationalisation

- India and Myanmar signed an important MoU on Monday for the appointment of a private Port Operator for the Operation and Maintenance of Sittwe Port, Paletwa Inland Water Terminal and associated facilities included in the Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project in implementation of India's Act East Policy.

India, China sign agreement on security cooperation

- India and China have signed agreement on internal security cooperation. It is first such agreement to be signed between the two countries. The agreement was signed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and China's State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi in New Delhi.

India, Iran, Afghanistan hold first trilateral on Chabahar port project

- The first trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan and Iran of Coordination Council of Chabahar Agreement was held in Tehran, capital city of Iran.

Cabinet Okays BRICS nations' pact on cooperation in social, labour sphere

- The Union Cabinet approved an agreement signed among BRICS nations for cooperation in the social and labour sphere.

India, Japan sign MoC to promote Ayurveda, Yoga

- India and Japan decided to cooperate for the first time in the areas of Indian traditional medicinal systems such as Yoga and Ayurveda to provide holistic healthcare and wellness in both the countries.

India, Japan sign bilateral currency swap agreement worth \$75 Bn

- India and Japan concluded a USD 75 billion bilateral currency swap agreement, a move that will help in bringing greater stability in foreign exchange and capital markets in the country.

India and European Union (EU) decided to cooperate on Digital communications

- India and European Union (EU) decided to cooperate on Digital communications, Digital economy and society. The Minister of State for Communications (Independent Charge) Government of India, Mr Manoj Sinha and the H.E. Mr Andrus Ansip, European Commissioner for Digital Single Market and Vice President of the European Commission in their meeting in New Delhi.

Summit and Conference**Suresh Prabhu addressed Renewable Energy Dialogue 2018 in New Delhi**

- India has set a target of achieving 40% of its total electricity generation non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. Government of India's target of installing 20 GW of solar power by 2022 was achieved four years of ahead of schedule in January, 2018 through solar parks and India has set a fresh target of achieving 100 GW of solar power by 2022

The first meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) held in New Delhi

- The first meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) has been held at Central Water Commission (CWC) office in New Delhi to resolve disputes over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.

NITI Aayog to organise India's First Global Mobility Summit

- Steeply falling technology costs and business – model innovation are driving the world's transition to renewable energy and electric vehicles.

India to hold annual Delhi dialogue with ASEAN leaders in July

- India will hold another round of Delhi Dialogue with ASEAN leaders on 19th and 20th July 2018.

HRD Minister inaugurated 17th World Sanskrit Conference in Canada

- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 17th World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver, Canada, from July 9-13, 2018.

Eat Right Movement off to a healthy start

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Tuesday unveiled 'The Eat Right Movement', built on two broad pillars of 'Eat Healthy' and 'Eat Safe'. The programme aims to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices.

World Cities Summit 2018 held in Singapore

- The 6th edition of biennial 'World Cities Summit' was held in Singapore from July 8 to 12, 2018, with the theme of "Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration". The summit will be held together with the Singapore International Water Week and the CleanEnviro Summit Singapore.

Varanasi to host Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019:

- The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is being organized by Ministry of External Affairs in association with the State Government of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh in January 2019 (Jan. 21 – 23, 2019). Theme of 2019 event is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India".

6th meeting of BRICS Education Ministers at Cape Town

- Union Minister of State for HRD, Dr SatyaPal Singh attended the 6th meeting of BRICS Education Ministers at Cape Town, South Africa.

Nepal to host BIMSTEC Summit on Aug 31

- Nepal is set to hold a two-day Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit, starting from August 31, in Kathmandu.

Two plus Two Dialogue between India and USA to Be Held In New Delhi

- US State Department announced that the inaugural 'two-plus-two dialogue' between India and the United States will be held in New Delhi in September 2018.

India's first government sponsored 'Transgender Poets' meet held in Kolkata

- This Meet was chaired by India's first transgender college principal Manabi Bandopadhyay, who read out several of her own poems at the two-and-a-half-hour event organised by the Sahitya Akademi.

Goa bans fish import from other states for 15 days after formalin scare

- After high level traces of cancer-causing chemical formalin were found in fish consignments, Goa CM Manohar Parrikar banned import of fish from neighbouring states for 15 days. Formalin is a toxic chemical and is used to preserve bodies and prevent decay in mortuaries.

BRICS Media Forum opens in Cape Town, South Africa

- Leaders of media organizations from BRICS countries met to discuss cooperation at the BRICS Media Forum that opened in Cape Town, South Africa. Themes: "BRICS Media Cooperation - Fostering an Inclusive, Just World Order"

28th Meeting of GST Council Held In New Delhi

- The 28th meeting of the GST Council chaired by interim finance minister Piyush Goyal was held in New Delhi. The Council was deliberated upon a number of key issues on its agenda which includes rate revision on a number of items, amendments to the GST law, simplification of return, and the setting up of a National Appellate Tribunal in Delhi.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates National Traders' Conclave in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three day National Traders' Conclave at Constitution Club of India, in New Delhi.

First Meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats Held in Agartala

- The first meeting of the **India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats** was held in Agartala, Tripura. The meeting reveal about the positive impact of Border Hatts on the livelihoods of the people living in areas around the Haats.

Second Meeting of National Council On Indias Nutrition Challenges Held In New Delhi

- Ministry of Women and Child Development organised a second meeting of under POSHAN Abhiyan in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, NITI Aayog.

Thaawarchand Gehlot Attends Global Disability Summit 2018 In London:

- Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment attended the Global Disability Summit held in London, UK. The motto of the Conference was to firm up the commitments of the country leaders towards the cause of persons with disabilities.

BRICS Summit 2018 begins in Johannesburg

- The 10th edition of BRICS Summit began in Johannesburg, South Africa on July 25, 2018. Attended by all the BRICS leaders, the BRICS Summit 2018 will be held from July 25 to July 27. Theme: 'BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'

The 2nd Young Superintendent of Police Conference held in New Delhi

- The 2nd Young Superintendent of Police Conference will be organized by Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) with theme "Predictive Policing and Contemporary Challenges for Indian Police Forces" in New Delhi on July 26, 2018.
- USEFUL INFO: Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) Headquarters: New Delhi

Sixth India-UK Science & Innovation Council Meeting Held In New Delhi

- The 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting held in New Delhi discussed a range of issues on S&T cooperation between the two countries.

Union HRD Minister Releases the AISHE Report 2017-18

- On the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima, the Ministry of Human Resource Development organized a National Conference of Vice Chancellors & Directors of Higher Education Institutions of India in New Delhi the Minister released the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) Report 2017-1

First Nepal-India Think Tank Summit Began in Kathmandu

- The Think Tank summit is organized by the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs and Nehru Memorial Museum Library.

Hyderabad to host India's first-ever international blockchain Congress

- The inaugural edition of the International Blockchain Congress in India will be held on August 3 & 4 at, Novotel & HICC Complex, Hyderabad.

Unified Commanders' Conference (UCC) for the year 2018 has started at New Delhi

- The Unified Commanders' Conference (UCC) for the year 2018 has started at New Delhi on July 30 to review external security challenges as well as the country's preparedness. The 2-day annual conference will provide a platform for discussions at the Apex Level on all 'Joint Issues' among the three Services & Ministry of Defence.

11th World Hindi Conference to be held in Mauritius

- The 11th World Hindi Conference or Vishwa Hindi Sammellan will be held at Mauritius' Port Louis. The dates of the conference are 18-20 August and will be held at Swami Vivekananda International Conference Center. The event, held once in three years, is dedicated to Hindi language.

2-Day Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting Begins In New Delhi

- A two-day Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting began in New Delhi as a prelude to 2 plus 2 Dialogue between the two countries scheduled in September 2018.

NITI Aayog to Host Investors' Conference For Development Of Islands

- NITI Aayog will host an Investors' Conference at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra for the Holistic Development of Islands. The Conference will be inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.

India and USA Military Cooperation Meeting begins In New Delhi

- The meeting was co-chaired by Lt Gen Satish Dua, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) and Lt Gen Bryan Fenton, Deputy Commander, Indo-Pacific Command. External Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would meet their US counterparts in 2 plus 2 meeting in September in New Delhi.

GST Council meets in New Delhi to discuss MSME Sector's suggestions and concerns

- The 29th Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council meeting to be held and various issues will be discussed on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The meeting is headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meet Held in Singapore

- Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong chaired the 51st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers meeting in Singapore.

International Conference on Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling Inaugurated In New Delhi

- The conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2018 launched in India

- The event was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) – one of the founding partners of Global Innovation Index (GII) along with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in collaboration with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

‘Prathibandhit Sahitya Mein Swatantrata Sangram’ inaugurated by Ministry of Culture

- The Minister of State for Culture (I/C) and Minister of State for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated an exhibition entitled ‘Prathibandhit Sahitya mein Swatantrata Sangram’ (Freedom Movement through Proscribed Literature) in the premises of National Archives of India, in New Delhi.

NITI Aayog Hosts Investors Conference in Andaman & Nicobar, And Lakshadweep Islands

- This NITI Aayog conference was inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog. The 11 anchor tourism projects are proposed to be implemented with private sector participation under the suitable risk-sharing model and through open-competitive bidding.

Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018 to be conducted in Russia

- As part of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) initiatives, SCO Peace Mission Exercise is conducted biennially for SCO member states. The joint exercise for the year 2018 will be conducted by Central Military Commission of Russia from 22 August to 29 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia.

IIM & IIT Indore's i5 Summit to be held on 18-19 August 2018

- The i5 Summit 2018, an entrepreneurship summit organised by IIM and IIT Indore, will be held at IIM Indore from 18 to 19 August this year.

Eleventh World Hindi Conference held in Mauritius

- The 11th World Hindi Conference has started in Port Louis the capital of Mauritius. In the beginning of the conference, a two-minute silence was observed to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sushma Swaraj to inaugurate Panini Language Laboratory in Mauritius

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will inaugurate "Panini Language Laboratory" during World Hindi Conference in Port Louis, Mauritius

Conference on cartooning in Bengaluru

- Ten years after it conducted the last State-level cartoon conference, the Karnataka Cartoonists Association is going to conduct the 41st conference in the city on August 25 and 26.

India-Japan Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue

- The Defence Minister of Japan Mr. Itsunori Onodera is on a bilateral visit to India at the invitation of the Defence Minister of India Smt Nirmala Sitharaman from 19 to 20 August 2018. The two Ministers held the annual Defence Ministerial Meeting on 20 August 2018 in Delhi.

India Banking Conclave 2018 held in New Delhi

- India Banking Conclave (IBC) 2018 was held in New Delhi from 23-24, 2018. It was organised by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) along with its knowledge partner and government Think Tank, NITI Aayog.

4th BIMSTEC Summit to Be Held In Kathmandu

- The fourth Summit of Heads of State/Government of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will be held at Kathmandu in Nepal on August 30 and 31.

President inaugurates sixth edition of International Buddhist Conclave 2018

- The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the “International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018”. The Minister of State (Independent charge), Shri K.J. Alphons presided over the inaugural function. The 4 days long Conclave has been organized by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from 23rd – 26th August, 2018 at New Delhi and Ajanta (Maharashtra), followed by site visits to Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodhgaya (Bihar) and Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh).

G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting held in Salta, Argentina

- The G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting was held in Salta, Argentina from 23 to 24 August, 2018. It took place as part of Sherpa Track for 2018 G20 Leaders’ Summit, which is to be hosted by Argentina by end of 2018. The theme of the meeting was ‘Building consensus for fair and sustainable development’.

Youths' conclave "ATAL – Arunachal Transformation & Aspirational Leadership" in Itanagar on 22nd September 2018

- The Arunachal Pradesh government has decided to organize a youths' conclave "ATAL – Arunachal Transformation & Aspirational Leadership" in Itanagar on 22nd September 2018.

Fourth Asian Electoral Stakeholders Forum Begins In Colombo

- The two-day forum is being held for the first time in South Asia with support from the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and the Asian network for free elections (ANFREL). The theme is, 'Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together'.

AESF-IV: 4th Asian electoral stakeholders forum held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

- The fourth edition of Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV) was held Colombo, Sri Lanka to discuss the state of elections and democracy in the region. This was for first time AESF was held in South Asia. It was jointly organised by Election Commission of Sri Lanka and Asian network for free elections (ANFREL).

Piyush Goyal inaugurates Smart Railway Conclave organised by FICCI, in New Delhi

- Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways & Coal, inaugurates Smart Railway Conclave organised by FICCI, in New Delhi. In his opening remarks, he reiterated Government's commitment to ensure a smart Railway and a smart nation so that every citizen of India gets a better future.

First SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum Begins In Kathmandu

- The theme of three-day Forum is the 'Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia'. About SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Member states: 8 members Headquarters: Kathmandu Official languages: English

4th BIMSTEC Summit kicks off: PM Modi arrives in Nepal

- The 4th BIMSTEC Summit began on August 30, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The two-day Summit will be held during August 30-31, 2018 with the main focus on countering terrorism, enhancing regional connectivity and boosting trade. Theme 2018: 'Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region'.

6TH RCEP Ministerial Meeting begins in Singapore

- The 6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting began in Singapore on August 30, 2018. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu is leading the Indian delegation for the meeting.
- The Minister will participate in the meeting consisting of 10 ASEAN countries and six ASEAN FTA partners namely, India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

The 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) 2018 has been inaugurated at Leiden, the Netherlands

- The 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) 2018 has been inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik at Leiden, the Netherlands on September 1. The congress would focus on promotion and propagation of Ayurveda in the Netherlands and its neighbouring countries of Europe.

MOVE Cyclathon organized by NITI Aayog to promote clean mobility

- National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog flagged off cycle rally MOVE Cyclathon to spread message of clean mobility to the Indian public and promote cleaner, accessible modes of transport. The cyclathon was held in run up to MOVE: Global Mobility Summit scheduled to be held on September 7, 8 in New Delhi.

Seventh Meeting of National Medicinal Plants Board

- The Seventh meeting of National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Ministry of AYUSH was held under the chairpersonship of Minister of State for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik at New Delhi.

Gujarat government partners with US advocacy group for Vibrant Gujarat summit

- The summit which will be held from 18th to 20th January 2019 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. About US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) Type – a non-profit organization Objective – strengthening the U.S.-India bilateral and strategic partnership President and CEO – Mukesh Aghi

6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers Meeting (EAS-EMM) was held in Singapore

- Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended the 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) in Singapore. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of ASEAN.

International Aviation Summit Held in New Delhi

- The International Aviation Summit began in New Delhi, India. The seminar has been jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA).

International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 Held In Nepal

- The International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 is being held in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Vice President of Nepal Nanda Bahadur Pun inaugurated the summit. The theme of the 3-day event is “Equality begins with Economic Empowerment”.

J.P. Nadda inaugurate the ‘71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia’, in New Delhi

- Countries in WHO’s South-East Asia Region, including India committed to make essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and medical devices “affordable and accessible to all” within the region and beyond. Health ministers and officials of the 11-member countries taking part in the 71st session of the WHO Regional Committee in New Delhi signed the ‘Delhi Declaration’ aimed at improving access to essential medical products.

USIBC to hold its first Summit in Mumbai

- The US-India Business Council (USIBC), a top American business advocacy group, to showcase the positive impact of the US-India relationship and focus on future opportunities for companies in the two nations.

Conference on E-Mobility in Indian Railways held in New Delhi

- The main aim is to discuss strategies for future of mobility in India and to make Indian Railways more efficient, greener and a preferred mode of transport. It acted as a common platform for project developers and other stakeholders.

Thaawarchand Gehlot to attend the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference

- Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment left for Seoul (Korea). He is heading a 3-member Indian Delegation to attend the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on ‘Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons’ jointly organised in Seoul during 5th to 7th September, 2018 by the Republic of Korea and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea

A Conference on "E-Mobility in Indian Railways" organized by Ministry of Railways New Delhi

- A Conference on "E-Mobility in Indian Railways" organized by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineers (IREE) in association with NITI Aayog concluded in New Delhi.

Bengaluru to host Aero India in February 2019: Defence Ministry

- The next edition of Aero India will be held in Bengaluru from February 20 to 24, 2019, Defence Ministry announced. Yelahanka Air Force station in Bengaluru has hosted all the 11 editions of Aero India so far and has emerged as a premier air show in Asia.

World Summit on Accreditation underway in New Delhi

- The World Summit on Accreditation pertaining to educational institutes got underway in New Delhi on 8th September. The three-day Summit will focus on challenges and opportunities in outcome-based accreditation.

3-day World Hindu Congress Begins In Chicago

- The three-day World Hindu Congress has begun in Chicago. Over 2000 delegates from across the globe are participating in this mega event. The theme of World Hindu Congress is ‘Think collectively, Achieve valiantly’

India Pavilion at Food and Drink Technology Africa Trade Show in South Africa launched by TPCI

- Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) with the support of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and delegation of 42 Indian businessmen related to food and beverages industry took part in it.

Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi

- Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation will organise a global sanitation convention to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, also coinciding with the fourth anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission. Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) will be held in New Delhi from September 29 to October 2, Mr. Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation said.

Two Day Regional Conference on Good Governance in Bhopal

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG), Government of India in association with Government of Madhya Pradesh is organizing a Regional Conference on Good Governance with Focus on Aspirational Districts, in Bhopal.

WOSA-2018: 4th World Summit on Accreditation held in New Delhi

- The World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) was held New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) Prakash Javadekar. WOSA-2018 was organized by National Board of Accreditation (NBA) with main focus (theme) on “Challenges and Opportunities in Outcome Based Accreditation”.

6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference at AIIMS New Delhi

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The theme of the conference is: "Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility". This was organized by Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India.

Dubai to host India-UAE Partnership Summit

- A two-day India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) will be held in Dubai from October 30. We are delighted to support the second IUPS being organised by the Business Leaders Forum (BLF). Its objectives and agenda fit perfectly into efforts to promote the strategic partnership between India and the United Arab Emirates.

Asean World Economic Forum begins in Vietnam

- The World Economic Forum for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) began in Vietnam amid the ban of two human rights activists by Vietnamese authorities. Amnesty International said in a statement that Vietnam refused entry to its senior director of global operations, Minar Pimple, who was to due to speak on diversity and pluralism.

R Madhavan to host National Geographics Mega Icons series

- He will host National Geographic's upcoming series Mega Icons which will narrate the inspiring tales of veteran personalities from all walks of life. The first session will feature the stories of former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam, Actor-politician Kamal Haasan, spiritual leader Dalai Lama, cricketer and skipper of the Indian team, Virat Kohli and Kiran Bedi, first women to qualify for Indian Police Service.

Two Day Regional Conference on Good Governance with Focus on Aspirational Districts held in Bhopal

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG), Government of India in association with Government of Madhya Pradesh is organizing a Regional Conference on Good Governance with Focus on Aspirational Districts, in Bhopal. Delegates from 12 States and 2 UTs will participate in the Conference.

2018 Global Summit on Climate Action will be held at San Francisco in California, United States

- The 2018 Global Summit on Climate Action will be held at San Francisco in California, United States from September 12 to 14, 2018. The summit is a platform that brings together several decision makers and officials, as well as people, from around the world to discuss proposals for future action on climate change.

G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting Held in Argentina

- The main aim is to issues including increasing protectionism challenges to promote global commerce and the new industrial revolution was discussed at the meeting.

Piyush Goyal inaugurates the first ever India tourism Mart 2018

- The Union Minister for Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 'first ever' India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) in the presence of Union Tourism Minister, Shri K J Alphons and the Tourism Minister of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Sajid, in New Delhi.

7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism held in Seoul

- 7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism was held in Seoul, capital of South Korea from 16 to 19 September, 2018. The theme of the summit was 'A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism'.

Employee's State Insurance rolls out Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna

- The Employee's State Insurance (ESI) has rolled out Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for providing unemployment allowance to workers rendered jobless due to changing employment pattern. It was announced at 175th ESI Corporation meeting chaired by Union Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar in New Delhi.

Commerce Ministers of India and Bangladesh hold Bilateral Meeting in Dhaka

- A bilateral meeting was held in Dhaka between Commerce Minister of Bangladesh, Tofail Ahmed, MP and Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Minister of India, Suresh Prabhu.

Indo-Uzbekistan joint exhibition inaugurated at National Museum

- An exhibition dedicated to the upcoming state visit of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to India was inaugurated at National Museum in New Delhi. Titled "India – Uzbekistan: Dialogue of Cultures", it was inaugurated by Arun Goel, Secretary, Ministry of Culture.

7th National Conference on Excellence in Workplace Safety held in New Delhi

- The 7th edition of FICCI Safety Systems Excellence Awards for Industry was launched in June 2018. The award ceremony & the conference are scheduled in September. The conference theme is "Excellence in Workplace Safety & Occupational Health".

2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, 4 October 2018 in New Delhi

- Ministers for Renewable Energy from IORA countries would convene for the 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting to share the Key Takeaways from the Experts' Meeting held on the previous day and endorse the IORA Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu to inaugurate national literary and intellectual conference- "Lok Manthan 2018" in Ranchi

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will today inaugurate a national literary and intellectual conference- "Lok Manthan 2018" at Khel Gaon in Ranchi.

3-day International conference on Smart cities to begin at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre (JECC) in Sitapura of Jaipur

- The city is all decked up to host a three-day international conference, 'Smart City Expo India 2018' at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre (JECC) in Sitapura, which will be organised jointly by Jaipur Development Authority (JDA), Fira Barcelona International and Quantela Inc.

UAE to host Interfaith Alliance Forum in November

- The UAE will host the Interfaith Alliance Forum in Abu Dhabi on 19th and 20th November. The Interfaith Alliance Forum coincides with World Children's Day, celebrated on 20th November, highlighting the importance of unifying views among religions and cultures to ensure the protection of children.

China to hold 5th World Internet Conference in November

- China will hold the fifth World Internet Conference (WIC) in its river town of Wuzhen in November. This year's WIC will be held in China's Zhejiang province under the theme of "Creating a digital world for mutual trust and collective governance – towards a community with a shared future in cyberspace".

President of India Inaugurates Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi on September 29, 2018. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that achieving universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene by 2030 is a major challenge in many parts of the world.

Sustainable mountain development summit from Oct 3-5 held in Shimla

- Deliberations on ecological, social and economic drivers of change will mark the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit VII to be held in Shimla from October 3 to 5.

World Boxing Council convention kicks off

- The 56th annual convention of the World Boxing Council (WBC) kicked off in Kiev, Ukraine. The meeting, which is hosted by Ukraine for the first time, will last until October 5.

Government launches Closing the Skills Gap Task Force

- Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched *Closing the Skills Gap Task Force* in India in collaboration with World Economic Forum (WEF). It will be co-chaired by Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan along with Salil Parekh, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys.

India to be guest of honour at Mexico's international cultural fest

- The 46th edition of Cervantino International Festival, to be held in Mexico, will see India participating as a guest of honour, with an elaborate programme of performing arts. The nearly three-week long festival will kick off on October 10 in the heritage city of Guanajuato in Mexico.

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 will continue till 6 October. Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the conference.

India to Host the 14th International GCA Conference on Media and Communication

- Global Communication Association (GCA), a not-for-profit body of media and communication professionals, is organizing its 14th international conference of communication experts and specialists, in India, on 11-12 October 2018, in the historic 'Pink City' of Jaipur.

Women achievers meet at UN forum in Bengaluru

- Over a dozen women achievers from different walks of life participated in a day-long festival at a UN forum in Bengaluru.

Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region, Zone III in Guwahati

- Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of India Region, Zone III in Guwahati. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference plays an important role in promoting democracy.

Jharkhand to become partner state at Goa International Film Festival

- This year Goa International Film Festival from 20th to 28th of November will have Jharkhand's partner state. It was also decided to organize Jharkhand Film Festival, under Indian Panorama, in two towns of Jharkhand in the first month of next year.

IPCC Special Report on Climate Change:

- United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released special report on global warming in Incheon, South Korea. The report includes contributions from 91 authors and review editors from 40 countries. It will be key scientific input in upcoming Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2018.

Minister of State for Commerce Attends India and West Africa Conclave in Nigeria

- President and Vice President of Nigeria along with Ministers and Delegation of West African countries are participating in the Conclave.

The 29th Accountants General conference was inaugurated in New Delhi

- The 29th Accountants General conference was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi. The conference comprised deliberations on adopting most modern audit techniques to further improve audit effectiveness and enhance accountability in public spending.

The Organics and Millets International Trade Fair 2019 held in Bangalore

- The Organics and Millets International Trade Fair 2019, organised by the Karnataka's Department of Agriculture, will be held in Bengaluru from 18-20 January.

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

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will be participating in the 17th Council of Heads of Government, CHG, meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 11th to 12th of this month.

IOC picks Senegal as first African host for Youth Olympics

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has picked its first African host of any Olympics, formally awarding the 2022 Youth Games to Senegal. The 2022 decision was taken at a two-day IOC meeting on the sidelines of the Buenos Aires Youth Olympics.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has participated in the 17th Council of Heads of Government (CHG-2018) meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

India, Australia participate in second 2+2 dialogue in Canberra, Australia

- India and Australia participate in the second '2+2' secretary-level dialogue in Canberra during which key issues related to their strategic and defence ties were discussed and the two countries underlined the need for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair

- The 46th edition of world's largest (Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair) IHGF-Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida from October 14 to 18, 2018. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Textiles Ajay Tamta. It was organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). It saw participation by over 3200 exhibitors and visit of overseas buyers from over 110 countries.

New Delhi to host 6th India International Silk Fair

- The Textile ministry announced that the Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, will inaugurate the 6th edition of India International Silk Fair (IISF) in New Delhi

Australia to engage deeply with TN at the upcoming Global Investors Meet 2019

- The Australian government is to engage actively with Tamil Nadu at the upcoming Global Investors Meet 2019. It is to pursue opportunities in education, road safety technology, urban infrastructure, fisheries and agribusiness.

Two-day Agri-startup and Entrepreneurship inaugurated in New Delhi

- The Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated a two-day Agri-startup and Entrepreneurship in New Delhi on October 16, 2018, on the occasion of World Food Day. The theme of the event was unleashing potentials in agriculture for young agri-preneurs.

6th Meeting of UAE-India High-Level Joint Task Force Held In Mumbai

- The sixth meeting of the UAE – India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (“the Joint Task Force”) was held in Mumbai to review the progress being made in addressing the agreed actions of the previous meeting held in Abu Dhabi in January 2018 and to elaborate a number of new key issues of mutual importance.

Goa Maritime Symposium 2018 inaugurated by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil

- The 2018 Goa Maritime Symposium, the second edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GSM) was inaugurated by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil in Goa.

PM Narendra Modi chairs 6th meeting of NDMA

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired sixth meeting of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at New Delhi. In this meeting, he reviewed activities of NDMA to effectively manage and respond to disasters affecting country.

12th ASEM Summit held in Brussels, Belgium

- The 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit was held in Brussels, Belgium. The theme of summit was ‘Global Partners for Global Challenges’. It was chaired by European Council President Donald Tusk. India was represented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

7th Meeting of Education Ministers of SCO Member States held in Astana, Kazakhstan

- The seventh meeting of education ministers of member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, capital city of Kazakhstan. The meeting was organised with assistance of Kazakhstan Government and its Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Rector’s Office of University of SCO (USCO).

Singapore hosts 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting and 5th ADMM-Plus

- The 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 5th ADMM-Plus was held on October 19 and 20, 2018 Singapore. ADMM and ADMM-Plus serves as key Ministerial-level platforms in regional security architecture for promoting strategic dialogue and practical cooperation between ASEAN and its partners.

Turkey is to host four nation summits on Syria crisis

- Turkey is to host a summit between the leaders of Turkey, France, Germany and Russia in Istanbul in October. The aim of the summit is to discuss the conflict in Syria and efforts for a lasting solution to the war in the Arab country.

Eighth European Congress on SMEs held in Katowice, Poland

- The motto of the Congress was: “Science- Business-Self Government TOGETHER FOR ECONOMY”. This would engage in the challenges and possibilities of development of SMEs as Small and Medium-size Entrepreneurship is the most important sector of the Polish Economy.

27th Fusion Energy Conference held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The 27th Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The six-day event is organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hosted by Department of Atomic Energy and Gandhinagar-based Institute of Plasma Research.

India to Host 4th Edition of Global Partners’ Forum in December 2018

- India will host the fourth edition of Global Partners’ Forum on 12th and 13th December 2018 in New Delhi.

The World Diamond Council (WDC) is to hold its 14th annual general meeting (AGM) in Mumbai

- The World Diamond Council (WDC) is to hold its 14th annual general meeting (AGM) in Mumbai on October 22 -23, 2018.

India to host global meet on maternal, child health in Dec: UNICEF

- India will be the global host of UNICEF’s Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health stakeholders meeting, including participation from nearly hundred countries, this December.

PM Modi inaugurates 36th Indian Carpets Expo in Varanasi

- The 36th edition of India Carpet Expo, organised by Carpet Export Promotion Council at Trade facilitation Center and Craft Museum, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) was inaugurated by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister through video conferencing at Amphitheatre near the museum.

7th meeting of education ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan

- The 7th meeting of education ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Uttar Pradesh government made the man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster'

- The Uttar Pradesh government made the man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster'. These incidents would be under the ambit of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference Starts In Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) has started in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fosters the exchange of scientific and technical results in nuclear fusion research and development through its series of Fusion Energy Conferences.

Fourth Edition Of NITI Lecture Series Held In New Delhi

- Fourth Edition Of NITI Lecture Series Held In New Delhi. The theme for this year is “AI for ALL: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth”.

India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation held in New Delhi

- The first India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation held in New Delhi recently. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism and welcomed increased cooperation between India and China in the area of security.

Sagar conference inaugurated in Goa

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the second edition of the Sagar conference at Bambolim, Goa. It is being organised by the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS).

STAPCOR 2018: International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs held at Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep

- International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) was held at Bangaram Island, Union Territory of Lakshadweep from 22nd to 24th October, 2018. The theme of the conference was “Reef for Life”. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 opens in New Delhi

- The Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 opened in New Delhi. The theme of the 2-day summit is, ‘Connecting Farmers to Market’. Inaugurating the summit, Secretary Agriculture and Co-operation Sanjay Agrawal said, several measures are being taken to double farmers’ income by 2022.

UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh announces TECH 2018

- UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh announces TECH 2018, an international conference which aims to showcase the role of games and digital learning in enabling a shift from "transmissive pedagogies" to "transformative pedagogies" to create peaceful and sustainable societies.

The 2018 WETEX (Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition) has started at the Dubai

- The 2018 WETEX (Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition) has started at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Dubai from October 23. It is considered as one of the leading sustainability exhibitions in the Middle East and North Africa region.

India Mobile Congress 2018 held in New Delhi

- The second edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) was held New Delhi from October 25-27, 2018. It was organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). The theme was “New Digital Horizons. Connect. Create. Innovate”.

Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave

- Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave. The theme of the conclave is ‘Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy’.

2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care Held in Kazakhstan

- J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed the ‘Second Plenary Session of ‘2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care (PHC) towards UHC & SDGs’, at Astana, Kazakhstan.

Union Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th Edition of BIOFACH INDIA

- Honourable Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th Edition of BIOFACH INDIA, the largest show on the “Organic Sector” in India.

North East Festival and Experiencing the North East held in New Delhi

- The sixth edition of North East festival is being organized till October 28, 2018 in New Delhi and the 15th edition of Indian International Centre festival is to be held from 27-31 October 2018.

2nd Guwahati International Film Festival 2018 begins with focus on ASEAN

- The second edition of the Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF 2018) began on October 25. The week-long festival will end on October 31 and will witness the screening of more than 100 films from 50 countries.

5th National Summit on Public Health Care Begins In Assam

- The 5th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India have begun at Kaziranga in Assam. State Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal and Union Health Minister J P Nadda inaugurated the three-day summit.

Important Mobile App and Web Portal

NRL Becomes 1st Oil PSU to Introduce Online Legal Compliance

- Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam has become the first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing 'Legatrix'.

Election Commission launches app to report electoral malpractice:

- The Election Commission on Tuesday launched an Android-based mobile application named "cVigil" for citizens to share proof of malpractices by political parties, their candidates and activists when the Model Code of Conduct is in force.

BSNL unveiled internet telephony service 'Wings'

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will roll out its new internet telephony service with brand name "Wings" from August 1

CBIC launched GST 'Verify App'

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) have launched a mobile app 'GST Verify' developed by B Raghu Kiran, joint commissioner GST Hyderabad.

IFFCO rolls out e-commerce platform for farmers

- Fertiliser major IFFCO launched a mobile application and web portal, IFFCO iMandi to address all needs of the farming community associated with it.

Chhattisgarh Launches 'Abhar Aapki Sewa Ka' App for Pensioners

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh announced a Chhattisgarh Online Pension Management System (OPMS) has launched an app called "Abhar aapki sewa ka".

TreadWill: IIT Kanpur develops online tool to help people deal with mental health issues

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has created an online tool named TreadWill, to help people overcome issues related to mental health.

Mobile app 'Bijli Mitra' for replacement of transformers in Rajasthan

- Farmers in Rajasthan will soon have the ease to get their defunct transformers replaced within six hours of registering a complaint through a mobile app. The process of replacing transformers used to consume a lot of time, therefore, the government decided to introduce mobile app 'Bijli Mitra' so that farmers can register their complaint.

Government launches free software e-Aksharayan for editing text on scanned images

- The IT ministry launched a desktop software e-Aksharayan to enable editing of text printed on scanned documents and it can be downloaded for free from its website.

Chhattisgarh CM Launch Mobile Distribution Scheme 'Mobile Tihar'

- Actress Kangana Ranaut and Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched a smartphone distribution scheme called 'Mobile Tihar' under Sanchar Kranti Yojna.
- The scheme includes distribution of smartphones to 45 lakh women and 5 lakh children, and setting up of 556 new mobile towers. The Chhattisgarh government is working towards improving network connectivity and empowering youth with smartphones.

India's first in-phone tourism guide and mobile application "Go whats That"

- India's first in-phone tourism guide and mobile application "Go whats That" has launched by Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, at Rock Garden in Chandigarh on July 28, 2018.

Airtel globally launches ‘Bandwith on Demand’ for business

- Telecom major Bharti Airtel launched its “Bandwith on Demand” platform globally to enable businesses manages bandwidth requirements on a real-time basis.

IWAI Launches Dedicated Portal FOCAL For Cargo Owners and Shippers

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has launched a dedicated portal to connect cargo owners and shippers with real-time data on the availability of vessels. The portal has been named as the *Forum of Cargo Owners and Logistics Operators (FOCAL)* and it will facilitate responses from the logistics operators against the requirement raised by cargo owners and vice-versa.

NITI Aayog Launches Global Mobility Hackathon 'Move Hack'

- NITI Aayog has launched *Move Hack*, a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India. MoveHack aims to bring about innovative, dynamic and scalable solutions to problems pertaining to mobility. The hackathon has a two-pronged campaign approach:
 - 1) “Just Code It”
 - 2) “Just Solve It”

World's 1st Hindi-Speaking Robot Rashmi

- Ranchi-based software developer Ranjit Srivastava is developing the world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot called Rashmi.

FICCI launches WOW mobile app to create awareness on preventive healthcare

- FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the women’s wing of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has launched WOW (Wellness of Women) mobile application aimed at creating awareness on preventive healthcare for women across the country.

Online system launched to manage road construction bids

- The central government launched an online management system – Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) – to expedite land acquisition and the bidding process for road construction.

Paytm launched Paytm AI Cloud for India, an AI Cloud computing platform

- One97 Communications, the parent entity of Paytm launched “Paytm AI Cloud for India”, an AI Cloud computing platform designed for developers, startups and enterprises. Paytm AI Cloud will process and store all the data of the consumer locally in servers located only in India while conforming to the highest security and privacy standards.

‘SWAYAM’ portal to reduce IIT aspirants’ dependence on coaching

- HRD Minister has said that IIT-PAL lectures would now be available in handheld devices via the ‘SWAYAM’ portal in order to reduce students’ dependence on coaching classes.

Neta App launched to rate and review elected representatives

- Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched National Electoral Transformation (NETA) mobile application that allows voters to rate and review their political representatives.

Congress chief Rahul Gandhi to address Indian Overseas Congress

- With successive two years in its bag, the third edition of Indian Ocean Conference is set to begin on August 27 at Hanoi, Vietnam. The theme of the two- day conference will focus on ‘Building Regional Architectures’,

Vietnam to host Indian Ocean conference

- It is the second event in Germany, after speaking at the Bucerius Summer School in Hamburg. The Congress chief will then visit the UK, where he will address an event organized by the Indian Overseas Congress in collaboration with local Indian-origin parliamentarians.

NASA introduced an app to take space selfies

- NASA has introduced two virtual reality apps which will allow users to take selfies in front of gorgeous cosmic locations. The two apps, the Selfies app and Exoplanet Excursions virtual reality app, were released to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the launch of NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister launches online portal for Common Carrier Capacity booking on GAIL’s pipelines

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched an online portal for enabling easy, efficient and transparent booking of Common carrier capacity for natural gas transmission services under GAIL’s pipelines.

Google launches 'Navlekha' for Indian language publishers

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

Tez rebranded as Google Pay to offer Instant Bank Loans

- Google Tez rebranded as Google Pay recently partnered with HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd., Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. and Federal Bank Ltd. to offer instant, pre-approved loans to customers.

Government launches Coffee Connect app and KrishiTharanga project

- Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched Coffee Connect-India coffee field force app and Coffee KrishiTharanga – digital mobile extension services project for coffee stakeholders.

Google announces new AI Technology to fight online child sexual abuse

- The advanced AI technology uses deep neural networks for image processing that will enable identification of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. About Google Founded: September 4, 1998 (20 years ago) in Menlo Park, California Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin

Piyush Goyal Launched 'AAPOORTI' App of 'Indian Railways E-Procurement System'

- Ministry of Railways & Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) organised a seminar on "Leveraging IT for Mobility" in New Delhi. Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Shri Goyal also launched a new app – "AAPOORTI" mobile App of 'Indian Railways e-procurement system' (IREPS).

National Scholarship Portal Mobile App launched

- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched the country's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile App (NSP Mobile App) in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Navqi said, this Portal will ensure a smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students belonging to poor and weaker sections.

Google's Mailing App 'Inbox' to discontinue from March 2019

- Google is set to shut down its alternate mailing app "Inbox" in March 2019, giving users time to shift to the traditional Gmail by then, the company has said in a blog post.

Government launches e-Sahaj portal to facilitate security clearances of businesses

- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched e-Sahaj portal to facilitate individuals and private companies in seeking security clearance for setting up businesses in certain sensitive sectors.

Tourism Minister Launches Incredible India Mobile App

- Union KJ Alphons presented the National Tourism Awards 2016-17 and launched the 'Incredible India' mobile app and the "Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification" programme on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

WHO launches 'SAFER', a new initiative to reduce harmful use of alcohol

- The World Health Organization (WHO) released SAFER, a new initiative and technical package outlining five high-impact strategies that can help governments reduce the harmful use of alcohol and related health, social and economic consequences.

Truecaller launches chat feature to curb spread of fake news:

- Swedish caller ID service Truecaller has launched Truecaller Chat, an instant messaging (IM) service which will let users report links to curb the spreading of fake news.

MobiKwik launched an instant loan approval and disbursement product called 'Boost'.

- MobiKwik launched an instant loan approval and disbursement product called 'Boost'. As per the offer, loans of upto Rs 60,000 can be sanctioned as well as disbursed in a matter of 90 seconds. The approval time for the loan would be 30 seconds based on an innovative risk scoring model called 'Mobiscore'. The minimum amount of loans that can be approved is for Rs. 5000 and the users will have the option to transfer the amount in their bank accounts. They can pay the loan in easy monthly installments of 6-9 months. It is the first-of-its-kind of credit disbursement product that disburses loan amount in the user's mobile wallet.

Bharti Airtel acquired artificial intelligence (AI) service provider AuthMe ID Services

- Bharti Airtel acquired artificial intelligence (AI) service provider AuthMe ID Services. Bharti Airtel has not revealed the size of the deal. As part of the acquire deal, the core team of AuthMe will join Airtel and will be part of Airtel X Labs in Bengaluru.

IAF launches MedWatch mobile health app

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched 'MedWatch' mobile health app to provide health information to users, including first-aid and other health and nutritional topics. It was launched on 8 October on the occasion of IAF's 85th anniversary. *It is first of its kind mobile health app built by any of the three armed forces.*

Environment Ministry, World Bank release report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country

- Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and World Bank Report have jointly released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country.

IRCTC launches 'AskDisha' for customer support and engagement

- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) Saturday launched 'AskDisha' (Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime) -- a chatbot powered by artificial intelligence (AI) for improving customer services of railway passengers, a statement from railways said.

Kamal Haasan launched a safety app named Raudram

- Kamal Haasan, Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) founder, launched a safety app named 'Raudram'. The app aimed at ensuring the safety of women in the city. The launch function held at Sri Sairam Engineering College. One can store three contact numbers upon registration in the app.

NCR RASTA and Yatri RASTA: North Central Railways launches two mobile apps

- The North Central Railways (NCR) launched two mobile apps, NCR RASTA (Railway assets Summerised Tracking Application) and Yatri RASTA (Railway Approach to Station Tracking Application) for its employees and passengers, respectively, for locating assets and stations.
- **NCR RASTA app:** It is for use of railway officers and staff and has exact mapping of all railway assets. It will enable railway staff to reach desired asset using Google Navigation in case of any emergency.
- **Yatri RASTA app:** It will allow general public to locate railway stations easily. It is already available for smartphones running on Android and can be downloaded free of cost from Google Play Store.

NCW launches dedicated e-mail address to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) has come out with dedicated e-mail address (ncw.metoo@gmail.com) to report instances of sexual harassment at workplace. On receiving complaint mail, NCW will take forward complaints of sexual harassment at workplace received so that appropriate action may be taken, as per law.

CSIR-IITR has developed an innovative technology for "Drinking Water Disinfection System" Oneer™

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow, has developed an innovative technology for "Drinking Water Disinfection System" with the trade name "Oneer™".

PNB Metlife launches AI-powered customer service app

- Life insurer PNB Metlife has unveiled an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered customer service app 'Khushi'.
- In 2016, the company had launched 'conVRse', virtual reality (VR) service platform as well as 'eBranch', a paperless digital platform enabling real time transfer of information. Going forward, PNB MetLife would upgrade Khushi to include other languages and IOS devices

Paytm launches 'PayPay' mobile wallet in Japan in JV with SoftBank, Yahoo Japan

- Paytm has launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
- In addition, for sellers and establishments, "PayPay" will not charge any fee for user scan type settlement till the end of September 2021.

PM Modi Launches 'Main Nahi Hum' Portal in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Modi said this while interacting with IT professionals in Delhi. He also launched a portal and app, Main Nahin Hum, which will enable IT professionals and organisations to bring their efforts towards social causes and service to society on one single platform.

Union HRD Minister launches the web portal SPARC in New Delhi

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

Railways' UTS app to be launched on 1 November

- The railways ‘UTS mobile’ app for buying unreserved tickets online will be launched nationwide on November 1, 2018. It was first launched in Mumbai because a large number of people travel in locals.

Important Defence and Science News

INS Sahyadri wins praise for integrating yoga into regime:

- Indigenously built stealth frigate, INS Sahyadri, which is participating in RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise), the world’s largest international maritime exercise, has been adjudged runner-up in an innovation competition during the harbour phase of the exercise.

ISRO to test its astronaut escape feature:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has scheduled a ‘pad abort test’ of an experimental space crew capsule as an important cog of its plan to send Indians to space one day.

Tejas fighter aircraft begins operations from Sulur station, Tamilnadu

Indian- Made Indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas of No 45 Squadron 'The Flying Daggers' formally commenced operations from the Air Force Station at Sulur near Coimbatore under Group Captain S Dhankhar.

DAC approves implementation of Strategic Partnership guidelines

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved implementation of Strategic Partnership guidelines. It is considered as major step towards boosting private sector participation in domestic defence manufacturing. The policy had come into effect in May 2017 but progress was delayed due to lack of specific guidelines.

NASA's TESS started its planet searching operation

- NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), the newest planet hunter, has started its search for planets around nearby stars. TESS was launched in April 2018. It began its science operations on July 25. It is expected to transmit its first series of science data back to Earth in August.

Ballistic Missile Interceptor AAD successfully Flight Tested

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the successful test of the Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.

The successful test on Naval LCA marks a milestone

- The indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Naval Prototype 2 (NP2) successfully landed on the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) in Goa. This trial is a milestone towards completion of CCT trials of LCA Navy.

HAL along with IIT-K tested RUAV

- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and IIT-Kanpur have together developed a 10 kg Rotary Wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (RUAV). It was tested successfully and flown for the first time in Bengaluru.

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

- Williams has been named for the Boeing programme to the ISS (International Space Station), the first test flight scheduled to take place in the middle of 2019.

Army on track for BIMSTEC exercise in September

- The Indian army has conducted the final co-ordinating conference for the Joint Military Exercise (MILEX-18) in Pune. MILEX-18 will be held at the Foreign Training Node at Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra in September.

Maitree 2018: India, Thailand joint military exercise held in Thailand

- Joint military exercise Maitree 2018 between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army was conducted in Thailand from 6 to 19 August 2018.

ISRO postpones launch of Chandrayaan-2 mission

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has postponed Chandrayaan-2, India’s second mission to moon to January 2019. This will be second time mission has been postponed. The ambitious mission was earlier planned to be launched in April 2018 and was later fixed for October 2018.

ISRO to launch its heaviest satellite GSAT 11 on November 30

- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) heaviest satellite so far - the GSAT-11 (weighing over 5.7 tonnes i.e., 5,700-kg)- which the space agency had cleared for launch in June, will take off a spaceport in French Guiana on 30 November.

Cabinet approved for four more NDRF battalions

- The Union Cabinet approved for four more battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The estimated cost for the approval is Rs.637 crore. It aimed at reducing the response time considering the country's vast geographic area.

NASA set to launch 'touch the Sun' spacecraft

- NASA is all set to launch its historic small car-size probe to "touch the Sun" from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

India to launch its second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 on January 3 next year

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is aiming to launch the mission but the window to land on the lunar surface is open till March 2019. The 800-crore rupees is the overall cost of lunar mission named "Chandrayaan-2" The 3,890-kg Chandrayaan-2, which will be launched onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-3, will orbit around the moon.

ISRO plans to telecast its own ISRO TV Channel

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to celebrate Vikram Sarabhai centenary celebration starting in August 2019.

India to launch GSAT-32 in October 2019 to replace GSAT-6A

- Indian space agency ISRO will launch GSAT-32 satellite in October 2019 to replace GSAT-6A which stopped communicating a few days after its launch on March 29.

ISRO to launch incubators for Indian space startups

- ISRO has announced its plans to launch incubators across India to support startups working on building newer solutions in rocketry, communication satellites and applications based on remote sensing data.

DAC approves procurement of six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved procurement of six indigenously designed and manufactured Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for Indian Navy.

Indian, Singapore navies to commemorate 25th anniversary of maritime bilateral exercise

- The navies of India and Singapore will conduct joint exercises next month to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the maritime bilateral relations between the two countries.

India successfully tests Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' from Pokhran

- India successfully flight tested the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' from Pokhran in Rajasthan.

Aditya – L1: First Indian mission to study the Sun to be launched in 2019

- (ISRO) chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar announced that Aditya-L1, India's maiden mission to the Sun, will be launched in 2019.

Nepal to join BIMSTEC military exercise in India next month

- Nepal will join the first ever military exercise of the countries in the BIMSTEC, or Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, to be hosted by India from September 10-16 in Pune of the western Indian state of Maharashtra.

Exercise Maitree 2018: India, Thailand joint military exercise concludes

- Joint platoon level military exercise Maitree 2018 between India and Thailand was conducted in Thailand from 6 to 19 August 2018.

Pitch Black 2018 Exercise concludes in Australia

- Pitch Black – 18 (PB-18), biennial multinational air exercise hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) concluded recently Darwin, Australia.

Smart Anti Airfield Weapon successfully flight tested near Pokhran

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested indigenously developed light weight glide bomb Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) dropped from an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft.

First-ever IAF-RMAF joint air exercise Elang Shakti begins in Malaysia

- The first-ever joint air exercise involving the Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force commenced at Subang Air Base in Malaysia. It is the inaugural bilateral exercise between IAF & RMAF. The exercise seeks to deepen defense and military ties between the two countries. The exercise in Malaysia will be called Exercise Elang Shakti.

INS Khanjar visits Yangon, Myanmar

- INS Khanjar a Missile Corvette of Indian Navy was on a three-day visit to Yangon, Myanmar to undertake operational turn around (OTR) and as part of goodwill visit from 18 to 20 Aug 18.

INS Vikramaditya to be have marine hydraulic systems

- INS Vikramaditya, India's only aircraft carrier, is going to be fitted with marine hydraulic system for the first time as part of its upgrade that will give an edge to the air-capable wing of the ship.

Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018 Started In Russia

- Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, the latest in 'Peace Mission' series formally started at Chebarkul, Russia.

EU Wind Survey Satellite 'Aeolus' Launched From French Guyana

- A new European satellite named 'Aeolus' using advanced laser technology to track global winds and improve weather forecasts has been successfully put into orbit on a Vega rocket from French Guyana.

NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft catches its first glimpse of its target Bennu asteroid

- NASA's asteroid sampling spacecraft OSIRIS-REx has captured first images of its target asteroid Bennu and began its final approach towards it after almost two-year journey.

Aeolus: European Space Agency launches world's first wind-sensing satellite

- European Space Agency (ESA) has successfully launched wind-sensing satellite named Aeolus into orbit on board of Vega rocket from French Guyana.

DAC approves procurement of 111 utility helicopters for Indian Navy

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved procurement of 111 utility helicopters for Indian Navy at cost of over Rs 21,000 crore.

ISRO unveils Gaganyaan Mission to put Indians in space before 2022

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on August 28, 2018 unveiled the details of the Gaganyaan mission for manned space flight before 2022 by GSLV MK III vehicle.

Multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise "KAKADU 2018" has started in Darwin, Australia

- The 14th edition of multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise "KAKADU 2018" has started in Darwin, Australia from August 29 and will continue till September 15.

Vostok-2018: Russia to conduct largest military exercise in September 2018

- Russia is going to conduct Vostok-2018 (East-2018) military exercise in central and eastern Russian military districts from September 11 to 15, 2018.

NASA scientists found signs of water in Jupiter's Great Red Spot

- NASA scientists detected signs of water above the planet's deepest clouds deep inside Jupiter's Great Red Spot, a storm raging on the planet for over 350 years.

Tsunami mock drill 'IOWave18' begins: India along with 23 countries participates in exercise

- Exercise IOWave18 will simulate Indian Ocean countries being put in a tsunami warning situation and require the National Tsunami Warning Centre and the National and/or Local Disaster Management Offices in each country to implement their Standard Operating Procedures.

NASA is set to launch the most advanced laser instrument ICESat-2 (Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2)

- In order to measure the changes in the heights of Earth's polar ice, NASA is set to launch the most advanced laser instrument ICESat-2 (Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2). ICESat-2 is National Aero Space Agency's one of a kind laser instrument.

Ukraine launched joint military exercises with the U.S. and other NATO countries

- Ukraine has launched joint military exercises with the U.S. and a string of other NATO countries. The annual Rapid Trident military exercises are to happen in the western Ukrainian village of Starychi until September 15, involve some 2,200 soldiers from 14 countries.

KAZIND 2018: Indo-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND to be held in Otar region, Kazakhstan

- India, Kazakhstan joint army exercise KAZIND will be conducted between Indian and Kazakhstan Army in Otar region, Kazakhstan from 10 to 23 September 2018. This will be third joint military exercise between two countries which have history of extensive cooperation in defence arena. The second edition of the exercise was held in India in 2017.

Indian Air Force successfully carries first-ever mid-air refuelling of LCA Tejas

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully carried out first ever midair refuelling of indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas. The midair refuelling test conducted involved dry linkup, meaning no fuel was actually transferred between IAF Il-78 tanker and Tejas fighter jet through its air-to-air refuelling probe.

ISRO plans to set up its First Overseas Ground Station at North Pole

- The ground station will augment the Indian Remote Sensing (Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) operations crucial not just for civilian needs like disaster management but also for the armed forces. However, ISRO has already two ground stations-IMGEOS at Shadnagar and AGEOS in Antarctica.

Bangladesh Naval Ship Somudra Joy arrives at Visakhapatnam on a goodwill visit

- BNS Somudra Joy, a Hamilton Class frigate commissioned on 23 December 2013, is one of the largest ships of the Bangladesh Navy. The ship earlier visited Visakhapatnam in Feb 2016 and participated in the International Fleet Review hosted by Indian Navy.

IAF & French Air force Conduct Basic Training in India

- Indian Air Force (IAF) recently participated in Exercise Pitch Black 2018 at Darwin, Australia. Sixteen different nations from across the globe, including French Air Force (FAF) participated in this exercise. On the return leg, Rafale fighter aircraft and transport aircraft of FAF staged through Air Force Station, Gwalior and Air Force Station, Agra from 01 – 04 Sep 18.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has recently announced to launch Mars Mission "HOPE" in 2020

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has recently announced to launch Mars Mission "HOPE", which is expected to be launched by 2020. Upon launch, it will become the first mission to Mars by any Arab or Muslim country. The aim of the mission is to enrich the capabilities of Emirati engineers and to increase human knowledge about the Martian atmosphere.

Nepal not to join BIMSTEC military drill in India

- Nepal will not join the first-ever joint military drill among the armies of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) members, to be hosted by India next week

France to collaborate on India's first human space mission 'Gaganyaan'

- India and France inked an agreement to collaborate on Gaganyaan, ISRO's first human space mission. ISRO and CNES, the French space agency, will be combining their expertise in fields of space medicine, astronaut health monitoring, life support, radiation protection, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems. The two space agencies also plan to work on Mars, Venus and asteroids. India plans to send three humans to space before 2022.

Indian, US Armies to Carry out 2-Week Combat Exercise In Uttarakhand

- Armies of India and the US will hold their annual combat exercise “Yudh Abhyas” at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand from September 16 to 29 with an aim to enhance inter-operability between the two forces. The exercise will also focus on enhancing counter-terror cooperation.

BIMSTEC militaries begin joint exercise on counter terrorism

- The inaugural Military Field Training Exercise for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation nations called MILEX-18, started with a grand opening ceremony at Aundh Military Station, Pune.

NASA's Dawn mission is about to end

- Dawn, NASA's only robot exploring the Asteroid Belt, is about to die. The spacecraft is likely to run out of a key fuel known as hydrazine which keeps it oriented and in communication with Earth -- between September and October. Launched in September 2007, Dawn was majorly tasked to study two of the three known protoplanets of the asteroid belt Vesta and Ceres

Cyient Solutions & Systems (CSS) has received an order from Indian Army to supply SpyLite mini UAV

- Cyient Solutions & Systems (CSS) has received an order from Indian Army to supply SpyLite mini UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) systems for high altitude aerial surveillance. It is an advanced, electric, mini unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). It can be further optimized to offer covert, extended range real-time visual intelligence.

Opening ceremony: INDO-MONGOLIA joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018

- Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ullanbaatar, Mongolia with a brief but impressive opening ceremony.

VC 11184: HSL to undertake sea trials of India's first ocean surveillance ship

- Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is gearing up to undertake sea trials of India's first ocean surveillance ship by end of September 2018 or first week of October 2018. This ship is now simply referred as VC 11184 and will be formally named after its induction into the Indian Navy.

Vijaya: Indian Coast Guard commissions indigenously built patrol vessel

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned indigenously built patrol vessel ICGS Vijaya in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is second in the series of 98 m offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) commissioned by ICG.

SpaceX to send tourists around the moon

- SpaceX has signed on its first private moon traveller. It is yet to reveal the name of the traveller and the timing of the flight to the moon at the company's headquarters in Hawthorne, California. The original plan called for two paying passengers to fly around the moon this year, using a Falcon Heavy rocket and a Dragon crew capsule. But now changed to one passenger.

DAC approves procurement of upgraded Akash missile system

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitaraman given approval to Indian Army for inducting upgraded variant of indigenously developed Akash short-range surface-to-air missile (SRSAM) system.

Exercise Aviaindra-18 Commences at Lipetsk (Russia)

- Exercise Aviaindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and the Russian Federation. First Aviaindra was conducted in 2014 and has been planned as a bi-annual exercise.

ISRO setting up launch pad for Gaganyaan mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is setting up a third launch pad at Sriharikota to undertake the Gaganyaan manned space flight programme. In addition, ISRO is scouting for a location on the western sea coast near Gujarat to set up another launch pad for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV).

Prahar: Short-range, Quick Reaction tactical ballistic missile tested fired

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested indigenously developed surface-to-surface short-range tactical ballistic missile 'Prahaar'. It was launched from mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III, Integrated Test Range (ITR), Balasore off Odisha Coast.

NASA's satellite TESS that has discovered two new Earth-like planets named super-Earth and hot Earth

- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)'s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered two new earth-like exoplanets namely: "super-Earth" and "hot Earth". TESS was launched in April 2018 to detect exoplanets (planets outside the sun's solar system).

Team Europe Retains Laver Cup

- Team Europe retained the Laver Cup that it won in Prague 12 months ago after a day of riveting and frequently brilliant tennis at the United Center

Sinisuka Ginting and Carolina Marin Won China Open

- Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting beat Japan's Kento Momota to take the Men's singles China Open title in Changzhou. Spain's Carolina Marin beat China's Chen Yufei to take the women's singles title. Ginting last beat Momota at the Asian Games in Jakarta last month.

MS Dhoni overtakes Dravid to become India's 2nd most capped cricketer

- Mahendra Singh become the second most capped player for India in international cricket as he played his 505th match for India in the Super Four of Asia Cup 2018 against Pakistan on September 23. Before Dhoni, Rahul Dravid was the second most capped player for India with 504 caps in international cricket. Sachin Tendulkar is the top most capped player for India with a record 664 matches for India.

Pavithra Naveen won Pan Tech-Abu Dhabi 83rd State senior championships at the EISA Badminton Academy

- Pavithra Naveen claimed the Pan Tech-Abu Dhabi 83rd State senior championships at the EISA Badminton Academy, at Ettumanoor, Kerala.

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.

Joint Exercises between Coast Guards Of India, Vietnam

- The Indian and Vietnamese Coast Guards will take part in joint exercises off Chennai to promote interoperability between the two maritime forces. The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) vessel Sagar Manjusha will participate in the exercise.

IAF successfully conducts series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully undertaken series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVR-AAM) from September 26 to October 3, 2018. The tests were conducted at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Balasore, and Odisha as part of final development trials of the missile.

Sahyog HOP TAC -2018: First India-Vietnam Coast Guards exercise held in Bay of Bengal

- The maiden joint exercise of Coast Guards of India and Vietnam “Sahyog HOP TAC -2018” was held in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu. It was aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between coast guards of both navies.

Parker Solar Probe completes first Venus flyby: NASA

- NASA’s Parker Solar Probe has successfully completed flyby of Venus at distance of about 2,415 kilometres during its first gravity assist from planet. These gravity assists will help spacecraft tighten its orbit closer to Sun over course of the mission. The spacecraft in future will be carrying six Venus gravity assists over the course of the seven-year mission.

Gaganyaan: ISRO, ROSCOSMOS to work together for first Indian manned mission

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia’s federal space agency Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS) have agreed to work together for first manned space mission Gaganyaan. In this regard, both space agencies have signed MoU at end of delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin in New Delhi.

India-Japan maritime exercise commences at Visakhapatnam

- JIMEX-18, a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Japan, began in Visakhapatnam. The nine-day event is aimed at enhancing inter-operability, improving understanding and imbibing the best practices of each other.

Pakistan Test-Fires Nuclear-Capable Ghauri Ballistic Missile

- Pakistan successfully test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometers. The launch was conducted by Army Strategic Forces Command and was aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness.

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. The main aim is to enhance regional capabilities to secure air sovereignty and promote peace and security through cooperation.

IND-INDO CORPAT: 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol being held in Indonesia

- The 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) is being held in Belawan, Indonesia from 11 – 27 October 2018. The patrolling will be conducted in three phases, followed by closing ceremony at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kulish, a Kora class missile corvette and Dornier naval maritime time patrol aircraft from Andaman and Nicobar command are participating.

Soyuz crew survives emergency landing

- The Soyuz rocket made a successful emergency landing after an engine problem on lift-off to the International Space Station (ISS). The two-man crew, astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin, survived. The rocket was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 0840 GMT.

First India US Special Forces exercises to be take place in 2019

- The first India-U.S. tri-services exercise will be taking place in 2019. The talks are on to include the special forces of the two countries in the drill. The focus of the drill will be on a United Nations (UN) based scenario and the overarching mission of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief measure.

Japan joins PH-US armed exercises

- Japanese troops stormed a beach in the Philippines Saturday in joint exercises with US and Filipino troops that officials said marked the first time Tokyo’s armored vehicles rolled on foreign soil since World War II.

NASAs Chandra Observatory is back in action after brief shutdown

- NASA’s Chandra X-ray telescope that suffered technical glitch is back online. Due to the glitch occurred in one of Chandra’s gyroscopes it went into safe mode. Chandra X-ray telescope observes galaxies from the Earth’s orbit.

Dharma Guardian: First India, Japan joint military exercise to be held in Mizoram

- The first joint military exercise named “Dharma Guardian” between India and Japan will be held at the Army’s Counter-Insurgency Warfare School at Vairengte (Mizoram) from November 1 to 14, 2018.

AG600: China’s first amphibious aircraft completes first water takeoff

- China’s first home-grown amphibious aircraft AG600 (code-named Kunlong) successfully carried out its first take-off and landing on water. It is claimed to be as the world’s largest amphibious aircraft.

Cope India air exercise: India, Japan, US planning to host joint trilateral air exercise

- India and US have agreed to elevate their bilateral ‘Cope India’ air exercise to trilateral format by including Japan.

NASA Space Apps challenge 2018 on DSU campus

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Space Apps challenge 2018 Hackathon has been organised at Dayananda Sagar University (DSU), Kudlu Gate campus, on Hosur Road.

European and Japanese space agencies launched an Ariane 5 rocket successfully

- 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.

India’s First Domestic Cruise ‘Angriya’ Flagged Off From Mumbai

- Angria, 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.

The first-ever joint maritime exercise will be conducted between ASEAN and China in the South China Sea

- The first-ever joint maritime exercise will be conducted between ASEAN and China in the South China Sea near the city of Zhanjiang in an effort to reduce tensions in the disputed region.

European Space Agency and JAXA have successfully launched an unmanned Bepi Colombo spacecraft to Mercury

- The European Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have successfully launched an unmanned Bepi Colombo spacecraft into orbit from an Ariane 5 rocket for a joint mission to Mercury, the planet closest to the sun.

Iron Magic 19: UAE, US to conduct military exercise near Dubai

- The joint military exercise Iron Magic 19 between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States (US) kicked off near Dubai.

Druzhba-III: Russia and Pakistan holding military exercise in Pakistan

- The Druzhba 2018 (Friendship 2018) joint bilateral military exercise between Pakistan and Russian special forces has begun in Pakistan.

NASA celebrates 10 years of operation of Fermi Gamma ray Space Telescope

- NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope completes 10 years of operations. To celebrate this, the NASA scientists have devised a new set of 21 modern gamma-ray constellations. The constellations were named them after fictional characters such as the Hulk and Godzilla.

Coast Guard Training Ship ICGS Varuna Launched

- Anil Ambani-led shipbuilder Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNEL) launched a 3,000-tonne training ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), which will be delivered in May next year.

NATO's biggest military maneuvers begins in Norway

- NATO's biggest military maneuvers began in Norway that involves restoring the Scandinavian country's sovereignty after an attack by a "fictitious aggressor.

ISRO successfully tests lander for soft landing on the moon

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted crucial tests to ensure smooth and precise landing of Vikram, the lander aboard Chandrayaan 2. The aim of the Lander Actuator Performance Test (LAPT) was to assess the performance of the navigational system onboard the lander for steering the module horizontally and vertically to reach a predefined target.

S.No	Name of the countries	Name of exercises	Venue of exercise
1	India	Kyrgyzstan	Khanjar IV (Special forces) Kok Jhangak Kyrgyzstan

2	India	Nepal	Surya Kiran XI (Military)	Uttarkhand India
3	India	Singapore	Bold Kurukshetra (Military)	Madhya Pradesh India
4	India	Oman	Al Nagah-Ii II (Military)	Himachal Pradesh India
5	India	Mongolia	Nomadic Elephant XII (Military)	Mizoram India
6	India Army Chetak Corps		Thar Shakti (Military)	Rajasthan India
7	India	Nepal	Surya Kiran XII (Military)	Saljhandi Nepal
8	India	USA	Yudh Abhyas (Military)	Washington USA
9	India	Sri Lanka	Mitra Shakti (Military)	Pune India
10	India	Russia	Indra (Tri service)	Vladivostok Russia
11	India	Kazakhstan	Prabal Doztyk (Military)	Himachal Pradesh India
12	India	Bangladesh	Sampriti (Military)	Mizoram India
13	India		DANX (Naval and special forces)	Andaman and Nicobar India
14	India	Myanmar	IMBAX (Military)	Meghalaya India
15	India	UK	Ajeya Warrior (Military)	Rajasthan India
16	India	Seychelles	Lamitye 2018	Mahe Island in Seychelles
17	India	Pakistan	Peace Mission 2018' multi-nation counter-terror exercise	Russia
18	India	Korea	SAHYOG- HYEOLLYEOG 2018	-
19	India	Kyrgyzstan	KHANJAR-V	Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School, Variegate, Mizoram, India.

Important Schemes and Programs

Cabinet approved Umbrella schemes for relief and rehabilitation of Migrants and repatriates to continue up to 2020:

- The Union Cabinet approved the Umbrella scheme Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates of Ministry of Home Affairs to continue the 8 existing schemes up to March 2020.

INS Sahyadri wins praise for integrating yoga into regime:

- Indigenously built stealth frigate, INS Sahyadri, which is participating in RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise), the world's largest international maritime exercise, has been adjudged runner-up in an innovation competition during the harbour phase of the exercise.

ISRO to test its astronaut escape feature:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has scheduled a 'pad abort test' of an experimental space crew capsule as an important cog of its plan to send Indians to space one day.

Tejas fighter aircraft begins operations from Sullur station, Tamilnadu

- Indian- Made Indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas of No 45 Squadron 'The Flying Daggers' formally commenced operations from the Air Force Station at Sullur near Coimbatore under Group Captain S Dhankhar.

Israeli unmanned spacecraft to land on Moon in 2019

- An Israeli non-profit group plans to land an unmanned spacecraft on the moon in February, 2019 in the first landing of its kind since 2013.

To monitor India, China launched 2 Spy Satellites for Pakistan

- The two Spy Satellites were launched on Chinese rocket Long March-2C from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. One of them - the PRSS-1 - is a remote sensing satellite built by China. The other is PakTES-1A - Pakistan's indigenously developed scientific experiment satellite.

ISRO join hands with J&K to set up telemedicine centre at 12,700 feet

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) joined hands with J&K's Directorate of Health Services-Kashmir (DHS-K) to set up a telemedicine center at an altitude of 12,700 feet to provide service to pilgrims en route to the Amarnath shrine.

ISRO successfully conducts ground test of Vikas Engine

- ISRO successfully conducted ground test of its high thrust version of Vikas Engine at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu for duration of 195 seconds.

China to launch 300 low-orbit satellites named the Hongyan constellation

- China announced that, it has planned to launch 300 low-orbit satellites named the Hongyan constellation to offer worldwide communication services and the first in the series will be launched in 2018

IAF participation in Exercise Pitch Black 2018

- The Indian Air Force for the first time is participating with fighter aircraft in Exercise Pitch Black 2018 (PB-18), which is scheduled from 24 Jul 18 to 18 Aug 18 in Australia.

NASA launches toolkit to promote commercial use of satellite data

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched the 'Remote Sensing Toolkit' to promote commercial use of satellite data.

Facebook to Launch Satellite Athena in 2019

- Facebook is working on a new satellite project, named Athena that will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas. The company aims to launch a satellite in early 2019.

International Army Games 2018 will be conducted from July 28 to August 11

- The Army games are organised annually by Russia and this year 28 competitions will be held in seven countries including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia. This year the Games will bring together 181 teams from 32 countries. Military servicemen from Algeria, Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan and the Philippines will demonstrate their skill for the first time. The Indian Army will be participating in two team competitions - the Tank Biathlon and Elbrus Ring - being held in Russia.

NASA launches toolkit to promote commercial use of satellite data

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched the 'Remote Sensing Toolkit' to promote commercial use of satellite data. This toolkit was launched with an aim to make it easier for users to find, analyse and utilise the relevant satellite data for their research, business projects or conservation efforts.

SpaceX launched world's heaviest communications satellite

- Elon Musk-led space startup SpaceX launched the Telstar 19 Vantage satellite, the world's heaviest commercial communications satellite weighing over 7,000 kg, through its Falcon 9 rocket. The satellite has been produced by Space Systems Loral (SSL).
- Goal:- To provide high-throughput broadcast and internet services from Brazil to the northernmost regions of Canada.

India plans to buy missile shield from U.S for \$1 billion

- India is in talks with the U.S. to procure an advanced air defence system to defend the National Capital Region (NCR) from aerial attacks. The process for procuring the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II), estimated at \$1 billion, has been initiated.

International Army Games 2018 declared open in Moscow

- The International Army Games 2018 at Patriot Park in Moscow region was declared open by Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. Indian teams are taking part in two major competitions-- Tank Biathlon event at Alabino ranges and Moscow region and Elbrus Ring competition in Caucasus Mountains.

Cabinet approved Umbrella schemes for relief and rehabilitation of Migrants and repatriates to continue up to 2020:

- The Union Cabinet approved the Umbrella scheme Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates of Ministry of Home Affairs to continue the 8 existing schemes up to March 2020.

Ministry of Water Resources Launches “Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puruskar Pao” Contest

- In an attempt to engage with the people of India on the important issues of water conservation and water management, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has launched a video contest titled “Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puruskar Pao”.

Ministry of Drinking water and sanitation launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018

- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in the Delhi. An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts and the results will be announced in the form of a ranking of all districts and states on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters.

The Medini Puraskar Yojna Scheme re-introduced:

- The Environment Ministry re-introduced the ‘Medini Puraskar Yojna’– a scheme that awards Indian authors for their original work in Hindi on environment, pollution and climate change subjects. Rs one lakh will be given as first prize, Rs 75,000 as second prize and Rs 50,000 as third prize. There will also be a consolation prize of Rs 25,000 and each author will receive a citation.

WCD Ministry launches ‘Childline1098’ contest

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a contest, '#Childline1098' to mark the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, 2018.

Rs 1,754.14 crore sanctioned by Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh under the National Dairy Plan (NDP) to enhance productivity of milch animals

- Union Agriculture Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh announced that the government has sanctioned Rs 1,754.14 crore under National Dairy Plan (NDP). To enhance productivity of milch animals.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen launched in UP, Jharkhand and Maharashtra

- The Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) announced by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation on July 13th, 2018, was launched by three States this week.
- Under the SSG 2018, an independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts from 1st to 31st August 2018

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & MyGov Launches 'Innovate India Platform'

- R Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission and Arvind Gupta CEO, MyGov launched the “#InnovateIndia Platform”, collaboration between the Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov, a citizen-centric platform of the Government of India.

UNICEF International Children's Film Festival in Kolkata

- A bouquet of 32 offerings from 17 countries would be on show at the UNICEF 18th International Children's Film Festival that began in Kolkata.

3rd edition of Kabira festival 2018 held in Varanasi

- The 3rd edition of Kabira festival 2018 will be held in Varanasi on November 16 to celebrate the spirit of 15th-century mystic poet Kabir.

PM Modi to Launch Projects Worth RS 60,000 Crore In Lucknow

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally lay foundation stones of 81 industrial projects worth Rs 60,228 crore in a groundbreaking ceremony to be held in the state capital. These projects, after completion, are expected to generate two lakh jobs in Uttar Pradesh.

Indian Railways launches Mission Satyanishtha

- The Indian Railways launched ‘Mission Satyanishtha’ and a programme on Ethics in Public Governance, in a first-of-its-kind event, at a day-long function held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.

Government launches Seva Bhoj Yojna

- Union Ministry of Culture launched Seva Bhoj Yojna, a new scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people. Under this scheme,

Centre's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Interstate GST charged on raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.

Cabinet approves policy framework for exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons

- Union Cabinet has approved policy framework to permit exploration and exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons such as Shale oil/gas, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) etc.

SAATHI Initiative Launched

- Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Power have joined hands under the initiative SAATHI(Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help Small Industries) in order to sustain and accelerate the adoption of energy efficient textile technologies in the powerloom sector and cost savings due to use of such technology.

Solar Charkhas to Generate Direct Employment to One Lakh Persons

- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched the Mission Solar Charkha for implementation of 50 Solar Charkha Clusters across the country with a budget of Rs.550 crore for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Cabinet okays Rs 15,000Cr support to Swachh Bharat Mission

- The Union Cabinet at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved raising of Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) of Rs 15,000 crore through NABARD for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) during 2018-19. The funds will be utilized to achieve and sustain Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in the villages across the country.

Ujjwala Yojana to achieve its target of providing 5 crores free LPG connections to poor families

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet project Ujjwala Yojana will achieve its target of providing 5 crores free LPG connections to poor families. The main aim of bringing clean cooking fuel to poor households identified according to the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC). More than 44 percent of Ujjwala beneficiaries are currently are from SC/ST communities.

Integrate to Innovate Programme (i2i) launched for startups in energy sector

- Invest India under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in partnership with energy companies has launched Integrate to Innovate Programme for startups in energy sector. It is three-month programme for startups in the power sector aims to foster collaboration between startups and large corporations of the energy sector.

'Digital North East Vision 2022' has been released in Guwahati, Assam

- The document 'Digital North East Vision 2022' has been released by Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad in Guwahati, Assam. Under this vision, the Union government will invest nearly Rs. 10,000 crore in the region over the next 4 years to implement more than 400 projects.

Ayushman Bharat scheme to be launched on September 25

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to announce the launch of the Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Scheme (AB-NHPS), which aims to provide a medical coverage of ₹ 5 lakh a family every year.

Government unveils draft UDAN scheme for International routes

- The Union Government unveiled a draft scheme for extending the affordable air travel programme- UDAN to international circuits, with state governments identifying the routes for operation. The draft International Air Connectivity (IAC) scheme aims to increase the international ticketing to 20 crore by 2027.

Government to spend Rs 400 cr on 600 projects under SPARC

- Under its scheme to forge international research partnerships, the Human Research Development (HRD) Ministry will fund 600 projects in top-ranked institutes with a total of about Rs 400 crore, according to the IIT-Kharagpur, the coordinating centre for the SPARC – Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration.

J P Nadda launches logo of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda on August 27, 2018 announced that 29 States and Union Territories (UTs) signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of on Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY).

Union Cabinet approves Earth Sciences Ministry's umbrella scheme 'O-SMART'

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on August 29, 2018 gave its approval for implementation of an umbrella scheme 'Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)'.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned two new projects under Heritage and North East Circuits of Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS) in Punjab and Tripura.

- The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned two new projects under Heritage and North East Circuits of Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS) in Punjab and Tripura. 'Swadesh Darshan' is the scheme of the Ministry of Tourism for the development

of thematic circuits in the country. The first project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 'North East Circuit: Imphal and Khongjom' was inaugurated in Manipur

Cabinet approves continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats beyond 12th Plan

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond the 12th Plan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

Punjab, J&K ink pact on restarting Shahpur Kandi project

- Border States Punjab & Jammu and Kashmir signed an agreement to re-start work on the Rs 2,793-crore Shahpur Kandi project. The project, when implemented, will enable the country to fully utilize the Ravi water as per the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. It will not only deliver power and irrigation benefits to the nation worth Rs 850 crore annually but will also prevent Ravi water going waste to Pakistan.

Anti-open defecation campaign flagged off in Lucknow

- The Lucknow Municipal Corporation launched an anti-open defecation campaign, titled “Khule me shauch ki ghanti bajao – siti bajao” (whistle blowing campaign against open defecation), in line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s vision to make the capital city Open Defecation Free (ODF) by October 2.

PM Modi Announces Launch Of ‘Swachhata Hi Seva Movement’

- To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of ‘Swachhata Hi Seva Movement’ from September 15. The mission – which also celebrates the fourth anniversary of the SBM – will take place across the length and breadth of the country and will continue till Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary on October 2, the Prime Minister said.

Government launches Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme

- Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has launched Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10881 crore. Under this fund, first installment of Rs. 440 crore was given to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

Government, FAO launches agriculture project in 5 states with \$33.5 million GEF grant

- Union government (Agriculture and Environment ministries) along with UN body Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has launched agriculture project that seeks to bring transformative change in farm sector through conservation of biodiversity and forest landscapes.

ESIC Approves Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna For Cash Relief To Unemployed Insured Persons

- The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a new scheme- Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna for Insured Persons covered under the Employees’ State Insurance Act.

Union Cabinet Approves National Digital Communications Policy

- National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 aims to attract USD 100 billion investment and create 4 million jobs in the sector by 2022. According to the draft of the policy, NDCP is focused on increasing high-speed broadband penetration, with use of modern technologies like 5G and optical fibres across the country at affordable rates.

Apollo Munich launches ‘iCan’, a lifelong cancer plan for healthy people

- With an estimated seven lakh Indians registered as cancer patients every year, health insurance agency Apollo Munich has come up with a new product called ‘iCan’ which offers a life-long coverage for cancer and comes with an annual renewal policy, even after claim.

LooReview Campaign: Government and Google launch campaign to review public toilets

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has partnered with Google to launch Loo Review campaign on Google Map. The joint campaign has been launched under aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U).

Petroleum Minister Launches SATAT Initiative

- Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched an innovative initiative titled SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation).

Government launches SATAT initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas production

- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has launched Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) aimed at providing sustainable alternative towards affordable transportation. The initiative was launched with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs i.e. IOC, BPCL and HPCL).

National Khadi Festival 2018 inaugurated by Union MSME Minister

- A month-long National Khadi Festival 2018 to promote Khadi products has been inaugurated on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti 2018, by Union Minister for Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Giriraj Singh.

Centre to release state rankings under Poshan Abhiyaan next year March

- The government said that it will come up with 'Status of India Nutrition' report in March next year where states will be ranked according to their performance under the Poshan Abhiyaan. The National Institute on Nutrition (NIN) will come out with the report which deals with various parameters of nutrition.

Country's biggest skill competition 'India Skills 2018' concludes in New Delhi

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

Exhibition "Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti"

- Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Inaugurated the exhibition "Revisiting Gandhi: The Art of Shelly Jyoti" at IGNCA, New Delhi, the 06th of October, 2018.

Website for Aero India 2019 launched by Minister of Defence

- The Website for Aero India 2019 is: <https://aeroindia.gov.in/Aero-India> The portal facilitated payment of registration fee online for business visitors. Furthermore, it has been integrated with multi-currency Payment Gateway where Indian companies would be able to pay in Indian Rupees using Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking/UPI/NEFT/RTGS and foreign companies would be able to pay in US dollars using credit card/debit card.

Youth Road Safety Learners Licence Programme launched by MoS Road Transport Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya

- Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Chemical & Fertilizer today launched the Youth Road Safety Learners Licence programme in New Delhi. This programme will be run in collaboration with Diageo India and the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE).

Environment Ministry launches Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign

- Environment Ministry has launched Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali campaign. This campaign was initiated in 2017-18 wherein large number of school children participated and took pledge to minimize bursting of crackers.

President inaugurated three-day Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sannam in Maharashtra

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated three-day Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sannam in Maharashtra. The conference was organized by the Bhagwan Rishabhdev Murti Nirman Samiti.

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 three-day 'Krishi Kumbh' is being organized to promote modern technique and diversification in agriculture that could help in doubling farmer's income.

Maneka Gandhi inaugurates 5th edition of Women of India National Organic Fest 2018 in New Delhi

- Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated the 5th edition of Women of India National Organic Fest 2018 in New Delhi. The fest will continue till 4th of next month.

Important Ranking and Indexes

Money in Swiss banks: India moves to 73rd place, UK remains on top

- India has moved up 15 places to 73rd in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks in 2017, while the UK remains on top.

Western Ghats bags fourth best tourist spot in Lonely Planet's best Asia destinations list:

- One of the Hottest Biodiversity Hotspots and UNESCO World Heritage site, the Western Ghats has come fourth in the list of the Lonely Planet, considered a Bible by travellers worldwide.
- The panel of travel experts has named Busan, South Korea, Uzbekistan and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to the first three spots.

BSNL becomes India's 1st network to launch 'internet telephony'

- BSNL on Wednesday became the country's first telephone network to launch 'internet telephony' service, which makes landline work like mobile. BSNL users will be able to call on any network's number by installing BSNL's app 'Wings' on their devices including smartphone, tablet or laptop. Until now, phone calls on mobile apps were possible only within users of a particular app.

UK topped Global Ranking of Nations' soft power

- In 2018 'Soft Power 30' index, published by UK-based strategic communications consultancy firm Portland and the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy, France placed second and Germany as third followed by the US.
- India does not figure on the list, but this year's report also features a chapter dedicated solely to Asia, listing 10 countries in the region, ranking India's soft power as eighth.

India ranks 109th, stands behind Pakistan in 4G speeds

- According to data speed tester Ookla, India ranks 109th in overall 4G mobile internet speeds with an average download speed of 9.12 Mbps which is less than Pakistan (14.03 Mbps).

Udaipur ranked 3rd among world's best cities

- The city of Udaipur has once again in 2018 been ranked among the World's Best Cities by Travel + Leisure. The top 2 cities are both in Mexico: San Miguel de Allende and Oaxaca

Public Affairs Index 2018: Kerala Best Governed State, Bihar Worst

- According to the Public Affairs Index 2018, Kerala is the best-governed state in the country, released by a Bengaluru think-tank, Public Affairs Centre. As per the report, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat are among the top five states delivering good governance. Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha ranked the lowest on the index, indicating higher social and economic inequalities.
- This year's index also measured how child-friendly each state is. Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram topped this index.

Iran becomes India's second largest oil supplier

- Iran has overtaken Saudi Arabia to be the second largest supplier of crude oil to Indian public sector firms during April-June quarter. Iraq remains India's No:1 supplier of crude.

Nationwide 'State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index' Released

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), has released the 'State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index', which assesses state policies and programmes aimed at improving energy efficiency across various sectors.
- The 'Front Runner' states in the inaugural edition of the Index are: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Rajasthan based on available data.

Fortune 500 Companies: 7 Indian firms in top 500; Walmart Top

- The list of Indian Companies is below:

Company	Rank	Info
Indian Oil Corp (IOC)	137	
Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)	148	Top private Indian Firm
Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC)	197	
State Bank of India (SBI)	216	Top Indian Bank
Tata Motors	232	
Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL)	314	
Rajesh Exports	405	

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

- Vijay Mallya (promoter of defunct Kingfisher Airlines) allegedly defrauded banks of about Rs 7,500 crore, according to the list the Finance Ministry submitted in the Lok Sabha. Mehul Choksi, promoter of Gitanjali Jewels (₹ 7,080 crore) and his nephew Nirav Modi (₹ 6,498 crore) took the second and third spots.

Delhi and Tamil Nadu emerges most-attractive state for investors in Investment Potential Index

- Delhi emerged the most-attractive for investors on the top position on the National Council for Applied and Economic Research (NCAER)'s 2018 State Investment Potential Index. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh retained their first and second positions.

Pune has been ranked first in the Ease of Living Index

- Pune has been ranked first in the Ease of Living Index launched by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Delhi languishing at 65. Kolkata refused to participate in the survey

Pune tops ease of living index, Delhi 65th

- Pune has ranked first while two more Maharashtra cities — Navi Mumbai and Greater Mumbai — figure in the second and third spots in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Ease of Living Index.

Rajasthan's Jodhpur railway station ranked as India's cleanest

- Jodhpur was followed by stations Jaipur and Tirupati in cleanliness in the A1 Category of railway stations. Rajasthan's Marwar topped among the A Category railway stations, followed by Phulera and Warangal.

Reliance Jio tops Fortune list for widening internet access

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led telecom startup Reliance Jio has been ranked number one on Fortune's global list for rapidly expanding access to the Internet.

Forbes Released List of Highest Paid Female Athletes: Serena Williams Tops, PV Sindhu Ranks 7th

- 1. Serena Williams (\$18.1 million), 2. Dane Caroline Wozniacki (\$13 million), 3. Sloane Stephens (\$11.2 million), 4. Garbine Muguruza (\$11 million), 5. Maria Sharapova (\$10.5 million).

Forbes' List of World's Highest-Paid Actors 2018: George Clooney Tops, Akshay Kumar Ranks 7th

- 1. George Clooney: \$239m 2. Dwayne Johnson: \$124m 3. Robert Downey Jr: \$81m. Akshay and Salman made it to spot seven and nine, respectively.

Delhi on top in the list of highest polluted cities and Bhopal on the lowest level of pollution

- The highest pollution is due to transport in the national capital of Delhi. At the same time, Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal has the lowest level of pollution. The Center for Science and Environment (CSE) has released the report named The Urban Commute after studying 14 cities in the country.

Kolkata, Bhopal Top among Indian Cities in Clean Transport: CSE Survey

- The Statistics from 14 cities across India have been analysed by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the New Delhi-based think tank, to check how some cities, which hold sizeable shares of India's urban population are positioned in the race for clean and low carbon mobility.
- Top 3 in overall emissions and energy consumption: 1. Bhopal 2. Vijayawada 3. Chandigarh.
- Top 3 in Per-travel trip emissions and energy consumption: 1. Kolkata 2. Mumbai 3. Bhopal.

Kolkata tops in 4G Coverage in India, Jammu and Kashmir ranked last

- Kolkata has topped OpenSignal's list of 4G availability with over 90.7% coverage, across all of India's 22 telecom circles for the May-July period this year. It is followed by Punjab (89.8%), Bihar (89.2%), Madhya Pradesh (89.1%) and Odisha (89%). The Jammu and Kashmir circle comes at the last spot with 80.23 percent 4G availability.

India ranked third in family-owned businesses

- India has a total of 111 companies and \$839 billion total market capitalization. India follows China (159 companies) and the US (121 companies).

AP, Odisha & Madhya Pradesh Best Performing States in "Ease of Living Index" Under Amrut

- The "Ease of Living Index" rankings were launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018 in New Delhi. Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

India and Morocco Signed MoU To Enhance Cooperation In MSME Sector

- India and Morocco signed an MoU for deepening cooperation between MSME sectors of the two countries in Rabat, Morocco. The MoU was signed by CMD, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Ravindra Nath and Director General, Maroc PME, Mr Rabri Barrazouka.

Apple displaced Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018

- 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.

Index	Rank
Family-Owned Businesses	3
Most Valuable Nation Brand	9
Tuberculosis (Tb) Cases	1
Ease Of Doing Business	77
Gender Gap	108
Military Strength Global Firepower Index 2017	4
Mastercard Women Entrepreneurs Index	52
Web-Borne Threats	12
World Happiness Report	133

Energy Transition Index 2018	78
Global Startup Ecosystem	37
Internet Security Threat Report'	3
World's Largest Economy	6
World Press Freedom Index	138
Fdi Confidence Index	11
Asia-Pacific On Power Index	4
Business Optimism Index	6
Healthcare Access And Quality (Haq) Index	145
End Of Childhood Index 2018	113
Global Peace Index	136
Environment Performance Index (Epi)	177
Cyber Attacks On The Rise Globally	4
Indian Real Estate Transparency	35
Global Innovation Index	57
World's largest economy	6
FDI Confidence Index	11
Global Optimism Index	6
E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018.	96
Environmental Performance Index 2018	177
Global Innovation Index (GII)	57
Human Development Index	130
Family-Owned Business List	3
Economic Freedom Index	96
Largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs	5
Government's adoption of e-payments in 2018	28
Global Hunger Index	103
Inequality index	147
Global RTI rating	6
World's most depressed country	1
Global competitiveness index	58
Largest insurance gap in the world (underinsured country)	2
Global Passport Index	66

Important Books and Authors

Books	Authors
Moving On, Moving Forward - A Year in Office	Venkaiah Naidu
Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System	Reference document developed by POSOCO
Paritchaikku Bhayamen	V.Insuvai
Constitutionalizing India: an Ideational Project'	Shri Bidyut Chakrabarty
The Rule Breakers'	Preeti Shenoy
The Beauty of All My Days: A Memoir	Ruskin Bond
Sri Sri's Authorized biography	Francois Gautier
Story so far (A book on sprinter Dutee Chand)	Sundeep Misra
Feisty At Fifty	Sudha Menon
Lalu Leela'	Sushil Modi
The Paradoxical Prime Minister: Narendra Modi And His India	Shashi Tharoor
Black Hole Entropy and Soft Hair	Stephen Hawking
Biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna titled 'Building a Legacy'	V Pattabhi Ram

Fulfilling Bapu's Dreams – Prime Minister Modi's tribute to Gandhiji'	Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev
Mahila Suraksha	Jai Ram Thakur
'A Tribute to Jagu'	Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) paid tribute to former BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya.
Dr Prabhakaran Jain	Paramveer Parwane
Namaste Shalom	MP Shri Tarun Vijay
Think India journal on Deendayal Upadhyay	NCP leader DP Tripathi
Sarvapriya Atalji	Suresh Chand
Jannayak Atalji	Kingshuk nag
Atal Jeevan Gatha	Vijai Trivedi
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp'	Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu
'Bhavdiye'	Venkaiah Naidu
Trishanku Nation – Memory, Self and Society in Contemporary India	Deepak Kumar
'Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary'	Arvind Mohan
'Champaran Andolan 1917'	Ashutosh Partheshwar
'Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi'	Srikant.
Have a Safe Journey	Nitin Gadkari
Economist Rao's Book	Former PM Manmohan Singh Launches
The Red Fort Declaration – The Legacy 20 Years'	Fakir Hassen
Across The Bench - Insight Into The Indian Military Judicial System	Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan
NABARD Publication On 'Water Productivity Mapping Of Major Indian Crops'	based on a study of 10 important crops by a team under the leadership of leading agricultural economist Dr. Ashok Gulati
“The Ivory Throne : Chronicles of the House of Travancore”	Manu S. Pillai
Vedvigyan Alok	Acharya Agnivarat Naishtik
Human Rights, Values and Cultural Ethos	R.P. Dhokalia.
'Eleventh Hour'	Hussain Zaidi
Ramachandra Guha	'Gandhi: The Years That Changed The World (1914-1948)'
“The Dhoni Touch: Unravelling the Enigma That Is Mahendra Singh Dhoni”	Bharat Sundaresan
Untold Story of Broadcasting	Gautam Chatterjee
Jewellery	Gulab Kothari
Ghats of Banaras	Pratapanand Jha and Sachidanand Joshi
Bebak Baat'	Shri Vijay Goyal
'281 And Beyond'	VVS Laxman Autobiography
'No Spin'	Shane Warne
Beyond The Lines	Kuldip Nayar
Sea Prayer	Khaled Hosseini
Atal Ji Ne Kaha	Brijendra Rehi

Important Sports News

Cricket

India now moved to the second spot in the ICC T20I team rankings

- After winning the two-match T20I series against Ireland, Indian team reached the second spot in the ICC T20I team rankings.

Ramesh Powar appointed as interim coach of India women's cricket team

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed former India off-spinner Ramesh Powar to look after the Indian women's cricket team till replacement for Coach Tushar Arothe will be found. The Indian women's Cricket team is scheduled to have a series in Sri Lanka in August.

Fakhar Zaman becomes first Pakistani to score double century in ODIs

- Fakhar Zaman broke the previous 194 run record of Saeed Anwar for Pakistan and also became the first player from Pakistan to score a double hundred in ODI cricket.

Virat Kohli held No.1 spot in the ICC ODI player rankings

- In the International Cricket Council (ICC) ODI player rankings for batsmen, India skipper Virat Kohli tops the chart by touching a career-high 911 points.

Fakhar Zaman, Quickest Player To Reach 1000 Runs In 1-Day Internationals

- Fakhar Zaman recently scored a double century for Pakistan against Zimbabwe and he became the first player from Pakistan to score a double century in a one-day international. He became the quickest player in history to reach 1,000 runs in the format.

Cricket Curry festival organised in Japan to promote cricket

- International cricket's governing body, ICC, organised the 'Sano Cricket Curry Festival' in the Japanese city of Sano to promote cricket in the nation. A cricket match between the Japanese cricket team and an Indian team was held at the event. The festival also featured cultural events and food from cricket-playing nations like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Smriti Mandhana becomes second Indian cricketer to hit a hundred in women's T20 cricket

- Indian women's cricket team opener, 22-year-old, Smriti Mandhana scored 102 runs off 61 balls for Western Storm against Lancashire Thunder, slamming 12 fours and four sixes. The first Indian who scored century in women's T20 cricket is Mithali Raj (100* for Railways, 2017)

Fifteen Year Old Nepalese becomes 4th youngest to play an ODI

- Nepalese cricketer Rohit Kumar Paudel, aged 15 years and 335 days, has become the fourth youngest debutant in men's ODI cricket. Rohit made his debut against the Netherlands in the second ODI at the VRA Ground in Amstelveen.

Virat Kohli tops 2018 charts for most runs scored in international cricket

- Kohli has achieved yet another record in his cricketing career. He is now the top player who scored the most number of international runs in the year 2018. Virat Kohli is at the first position with 1404 runs in his bag through 509 runs in Test cricket, 146 in T20Is and 749 in Odis.

New Delhi to host shooting World Cup in 2020

- The Indian shooters preparing for the Tokyo Olympics will have top-class competition at home as the International Shooting Federation (ISSF) has awarded a World Cup in principle to India in 2020.

James Anderson became first bowler to take 100 Test wickets at Lord's

- England fast bowler James Anderson (36-year-old) became the first bowler to take 100 Test wickets at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground when he dismissed India opener Murali Vijay on day four of the second Test in the ongoing five-match Test series against India.

Pakistan cricketer Nasir Jamshed banned for ten years for spot-fixing

- Pakistan batsman Nasir Jamshed has been banned for ten years by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for his involvement in spot-fixing in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in 2016-17.

Pant 1st Indian to begin scoring in Test cricket with a six

- Delhi batsman Rishabh Pant became the first Indian cricketer to score his first runs in Test cricket with a six.

Rishabh Pant becomes fourth Indian wicketkeeper to take five catches on debut Test

- Rishabh Pant entered his name in record books by becoming only the fourth Indian wicket-keeper to take five catches on his debut Test match at Trent Bridge where India are playing England in five-match Test series.

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

- 36-year-old Johnson announced his retirement from international cricket during the Test series against New Zealand in Perth in November 2015, but remained a useful bowler in Twenty20 competitions, including for Perth Scorchers in the Australian 'Big Bash' tournament.

Tamil Nadu Subramaniam Badrinath quits all forms of cricket

- Former India and Tamil Nadu batsman Subramaniam Badrinath announced his retirement from all forms of cricket in a specially organised presser at the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) headquarters in Chennai.

Alastair Cook Announces International Retirement

- England's highest Test run-scorer Alastair Cook announced his retirement from International cricket after final Test against India. He has scored 12,254 runs and made 32 centuries in 160 Tests all England records.

India Blue defeated India Red and won 57th Duleep Trophy

- They won by an innings and 187 runs. About Duleep Trophy It was the 57th season of the Duleep Trophy, a first-class cricket tournament in India. It took place in NPR College ground in Dindigul from August to September 2018. There were 3 participants: India Red, India Blue and India Green

Asia Cup: India's game against Hong Kong to get ODI status

- The ICC has decided to accord One-Day International status to India and Pakistan's group league matches against Hong Kong in the upcoming Asia Cup, starting September 15.

Jhulan Goswami 1st player to pick 300 international wickets in Women's Cricket

- Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami achieved this feat after reaching the landmark figure in India's nine-wicket win over Sri Lanka on September 11. Another Indian Cricketer Mithali Raj went past England's Charlotte Edwards (117) as the most-capped captain in women's ODIs with her 118th appearance.

Former England captain Collingwood announces retirement

- Former England captain Paul Collingwood will retire from professional cricket at the end of the current season. Collingwood, 42, became the first England captain to win a trophy at a global tournament when he guided them to the ICC World T20 in 2010.

Super over introduced for the 1st time ever in Asia Cup

- The 2018 edition of the Asia Cup will have a Super Over to decide tied matches, for the first time ever in the history of the tournament. A Super Over consists of six deliveries and two wickets for each side. The 14th edition of the Asia Cup is currently being held in the United Arab Emirates in September 2018.

Virat Kohli becomes fastest batsman to score 24 Test hundreds since Don Bradman

- India captain Virat Kohli became the quickest batsman to reach 24 Test centuries after the great Donald Bradman early on day two against the West Indies. The Indian skipper also surpassed Australia's Steve Smith to go second in the list of centuries among active players, behind South Africa's Hashim Amla on 28. 16-year-old Manu Bhaker is leading the Indian team in the opening ceremony as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the games.

Former England batsman Nick Compton Retires From Cricket

- Former England batsman Nick Compton announced his retirement from cricket. Compton, who scored more than 12,000 first-class, runs at an average of 40.42, including 27 hundred.

India won the U19 Asia Cup 2018 title

- India beat Sri Lanka by 144 runs to clinch the Under-19 Asia Cup 2018 title in Dhaka.

India, England, Sri Lanka to play blind cricket tri-series in Goa

- Goa is gearing up to witness the blind cricket triangular series between India, England and Sri Lanka, slated to commence on 8 October at the Goa Cricket Association Alto Porvorim.

Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah maintain top positions in ICC ODI rankings

- Virat Kohli led the batsman's list with 884 points, his deputy Rohit Sharma with 842 ranking points maintained the second position. The other Indian batsman in the top-10 was Shikhar Dhawan, who is placed fifth in the list with 802 points. Among the bowlers, death overs specialist Bumrah with 797 points was on the top while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav with 700 points is placed third in the list.
- In the team ranking, India is currently placed second with 122 points behind England, which has 127 points.

Former Chelsea and England defender John Terry retires from football

- Former Chelsea and England captain John Terry has decided to call time on his playing career after 23 years in the game.

Abdur Rehman bids adieu to International cricket

- Pakistan spinner Abdur Rehman has announced his retirement from international cricket. Declaring the same, the 38-year-old said that it is a "tough call" but it is no longer possible for him to continue playing the game.

Kumble launches Power Bat

- The Power Bat is powered by the Microsoft Azure cloud platform using AI and Internet of Things (IoT) services. Power Bat is a unique concept whereby a lightweight, Azure Sphere-powered sticker is stuck on the shoulder of the bat. As soon

as the batsman hits the ball, data on different parameters (speed, twist, and quality of the shot) are captured in a new unit of measurement titled Power Speks.

India wins triangular series by defeating Sri Lanka in Blind Cricket

- Indian blind cricket team defeated Sri Lanka and won the triangular series in Goa. Goa Governor Mridula Sinha was invited as the chief guest for the final. India played the tri-series against England and Sri Lanka.

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

- Virat Kohli is now the fastest man in the history of ODI cricket to reach 10,000 runs. The Indian skipper reached the landmark on his way to his 37th ODI ton in the Vizag ODI against the West Indies. He has reached the 10,000-run mark in 205 innings, which is 54 less than ‘Master Blaster’ Sachin Tendulkar who held the record earlier.

Dwayne Bravo retires from international cricket

- All-rounder Dwayne Bravo announced his retirement from international cricket on Wednesday (October 24). The 35-year-old, who last represented the Windies in September 2016, played a grand total of 270 internationals and played a starring role in each of their two World T20 triumphs in 2012 and 2016.

Wrestling

Wimbledon increases prize money

- Wimbledon announced it was hiking its total prize pot for the 2018 tennis championships to £34 million, up 7.6%.

Taro Daniel beats Malek Jaziri, wins maiden ATP title

- Japan’s Taro Daniel grabbed his first ATP title after beating Tunisian Malek Jaziri 7-6(4), 6-4 in the Istanbul Open final on Sunday.

Nadal wins eighth Italian Open title:

- Rafael Nadal came out on top in a matchup of this year’s top two clay-court players, beating defending champion Alexander Zverev 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 on Sunday to win a record-extending eighth Italian Open title.

Football

Cristiano Ronaldo moves to Juventus after 9 years at Real Madrid:

- Juventus FC have agreed to sign Cristiano Ronaldo from Real Madrid, the Spanish giants announced through an official statement. The deal is believed to go ahead for a fee of above 100 million euros and will be payable over two years.

France become first finalists of 2018 FIFA World Cup

- France defeated Belgium to reach the FIFA World Cup 2018 final for overall third time and the first time since 2006. Samuel Umtiti’s goal in the 51st minute, lifted France to the Final match. France will face either England or Croatia at Moscow’s Luzhniki Stadium.

CBF reappointed Coach Tite as Brazil coach until 2022

- Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), the national governing body for football in Brazil, reappointed Coach Adenor Leonardo Bacchi (nicknamed as Coach Tite) until the end of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Footballer Lionel Messi confirmed as the new Barcelona captain

- Lionel Messi has succeeded Andres Iniesta as captain of Barcelona, after the Spaniard ended his 22-year stay at the club to join Japanese side Vissel Kobe in May.

FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights:

- The 21st FIFA World Cup kicked off in the Russian capital of Moscow
- 32 nations, divided into eight groups
- Official Mascot: Zabivaka– “the one who scores” (in Russian) is a wolf who radiates fun, charm and confidence designed by Ekaterina Bocharova
- Champions: France (2nd title) - 38 Million USD Prize
- Runners-up: Croatia - 28 Million USD Prize
- Third place: Belgium - 24 Million USD Prize
- Fourth place: England - 22 Million USD Prize
- FIFA World Cup-2022 will be hosted by Qatar.

Category	Player	Country
Golden Ball	Luka Modrić	Croatia
Silver Ball	Eden Hazard	Belgium

Bronze Ball	Antoine Griezmann	France
Golden Boot	Harry Kane(6 goals, 0 assists)	England
Silver Boot	Antoine Griezmann(4 goals, 2 assists)	France
Bronze Boot	Romelu Lukaku(4 goals, 1 assist)	Belgium
Golden Glove	Thibaut Courtois	Belgium
Best Young Player	Kylian Mbappé	France
FIFA Fair Play Award		Spain

Luka Modric Wins ‘UEFA Men’s Player of The Year Award’

- Croatian midfielder Luka Modric has revealed that he received a congratulatory message from Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo after the former was named UEFA Player of the Year.

Maldives defeated India to Lift South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup

- They defeated India with a goal 2-1. The win for Maldives comes 10 years after their first SAFF Cup title in 2008

Women’s world boxing in India

- World Cup 2018 semi-finalists Belgium have joined world champions France as the joint leaders in the FIFA rankings 2018, the first time in the table's 25-year history that the top spot has been shared. Top 10 FIFA rankings 2018: 1. France and Belgium; 3. Brazil; 4. Croatia

New Kabaddi Federation of India (NKFI) launches Indo International Premier Kabaddi League

- The World Women’s Boxing Championships, to be hosted by India after more than a decade, will be held from November 15 in the national capital

Richa Mishra set record in women’s 400m swimming

- Richa Mishra, 36-year-old, became the best Indian performance in the women’s 400m Individual Medley on the second day of the Glenmark 72nd National swimming championship at the Dr.B.R.Ambedkar international aquatic complex in Trivandrum, Kerala.

First time in FIFA rankings history 2 teams sharing top spot

- The league have 8 teams Bengaluru Rhinos, Chennai Cheetahs, Delhi Dumars, Telangana Bulls, Patna Panthers, Haryana Hurricanes, Mumbai Marathas and Kolkata Tigers. Each team will have 2 to 3 international players. NKFI will distribute 20 % of the annual profits from the league to the participating players.

World Cup Veteran Mile Jedinak Retires From Australian National Team

- Australian football captain Mile Jedinak has announced his retirement from international football after a stellar career that saw him reach three World Cups.

Russia’s World Cup hero Igor Akinfeev retires from international football

- Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev is retiring from international soccer after leading the national side as captain to this year’s World Cup quarter-finals on home soil.

Bengaluru FC win Puttaiah Memorial Cup

- Bengaluru FC clinched their second Puttaiah Memorial Cup after a 2-1 win over Madras Engineering Group (MEG) in the final of the 2018 edition of the competition at the Bangalore Football Stadium in Bengaluru.

India’s FIFA ranking unfazed, retain 97th spot

- The Indian men’s football ranking is unfazed, as it continues to be placed at the 97th spot in the latest rankings released by Federation International Football Association (FIFA). Belgium have retained the pole position ahead of World Cup champions France.

Tennis

US Open 2018 champions to get a cash award of 26 crores

- USA Open 2018 men's and women's singles champions will get a reward \$3.8 million (over Rs26 crore) each and the tournament's total prize money will be \$53 million (around Rs.366 crore).

Karman Kaur has become 6th Indian woman tennis player to crack the top-200 rankings in singles

- Karman Kaur Thandi from Delhi has become only the 6th Indian woman tennis player to crack the top-200 rankings in singles and is now ranked exactly 200 in the WTA list. Karman, backed by Mahesh Bhupathi, has been in good form in the past few weeks, winning her maiden ITF singles title in Hong Kong and making the semi-finals in two others in China.

Rafael Nadal maintains 1st spot in ATP rankings

- Spain's Rafael Nadal continued to lead the men's Association of Tennis Professionals world singles rankings released on 6th August, 2018 with 9,310 average points, ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer.

Novak Djokovic beats Roger Federer in Cincinnati Masters final

- Novak Djokovic beat Roger Federer 6-4 6-4 to win the Cincinnati Masters and become the first man to complete a career sweep of all nine 1000 Series titles.

Rohan Bopanna, Divij Sharan win gold medal in Men's Doubles tennis at 2018 Asian Games

- Indian tennis pair of Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won gold medal in Men's Doubles tennis at 2018 Asian Games.

Novak Djokovic, a Serbian professional tennis player, has recently won the 2018 Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament

- Novak Djokovic, a Serbian professional tennis player, has recently won the 2018 Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament in Shanghai, China.

Others**India clinched the Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 title**

- The Indian kabaddi team beat Iran 44-26 and lifted the "Kabaddi Masters 2018" title in Dubai. India's captain - Ajay Thakur Iranian captain - Mohammad Maleki.

Asian Games gold medalist Mary Kom to skip 2018 Asian Games

- Indian boxer Mary Kom, who won a gold medal in the 51 kg category at the Asian Games in 2014, is set to skip the 2018 edition of the championship.

Indian para-athlete Yogesh Kathuniya sets world record in discus throw

- India's para-athlete Yogesh Kathuniya smashed the world record in the men's discus F36 while winning gold in the Para-Athletics Grand Prix in Berlin.

Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix

- Verstappen (20-year-old Dutch driver) won Red Bull's home Austrian Grand Prix Formula One to claim his first win of the season.

Vikram Dogra becomes the first Indian Army officer to complete world's toughest Ironman Triathlon:

- Ironman Triathlon comprises three consecutive events: a 3.8-km swim, 180-km cycling and 42.2-km marathon, to be completed within 17 hours.

Anju Khosla, Oldest Indian Woman To Complete Ironman Triathlon

- At 52, Anju Khosla has become the oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon – one of the toughest one-day sporting events.

Sports Authority of India to be renamed 'Sports India'

- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore confirmed that name of "Sports Authority of India" (SAI) will be changed as 'Sports India'. Daily expenses on food and nutrition of the athletes will be increased.

Kerala to host world kayaking tourney:

- The Kayaking community from across the world will make a beeline for Thusharagiri in Kozhikode for the first edition of the Malabar World Kayak Championship to be organised by the Tourism Department from July 18 to 22.

Vettel wins Silverstone epic four-way battle ahead

- Sebastian Vettel won a thrilling British Grand Prix which saw Lewis Hamilton come from the back of the grid to battle for second.

Dipa Karmakar wins gold in Gymnastics World Cup:

- Returning to action after a long lay-off of nearly two years due to injury, India's premier gymnast Dipa Karmakar clinched the gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin

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Indias Bajrang Punia won gold medal at Tbilisi Grand Prix, Deepak won bronze

- Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia won the gold medal at Tbilisi Grand Prix in Georgia with a 9-3 win over Iran's Mehran Akbar Nasirifrachali in the 65kg category final. Deepak Punia won the bronze medal in the 86kg category by defeating Turkey's Osman Gocen 5-3.

India's Dalabehera Bags Bronze In Junior World Weightlifting

- Indian lifter Jhilli Dalabehera has bagged the bronze medal in the 2018 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships at Tashkent. She lifted 167 kg in the 48 kg category to finish third on the podium.

Dipika Pallikal to represent Asia in CGF AAC

- Squash player Dipika Pallikal has been appointed as Asia's representative in the prestigious Athletes Advisory Commission of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Indian goalkeeper, Sreejesh is to lead Indian Hockey Team at Asian games 2018

- Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will lead the 18 member Indian men's hockey squad and Chinglensana Singh Kangujam will serve as his deputy in the 18th Asian Games. It will begin in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia in August 2018.

Abhishek Nayar is appointed as mentor, lead coach of KKR Academy

- IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) has appointed Abhishek Nayar as the mentor and lead coach of the KKR Academy. KKR has also appointed Omkar Salvi as the bowling coach of Academy.

India bagged 4 medals in the Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament

- India has bagged 3 silver medals and a bronze in the Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament Stage 3 in Taipei, Taiwan. India also finished joint third with Iran in the championship.

Hima Das becomes first woman to win gold in World Jr Athletics C'ships

- Hima Das, 18-year-old from Dhing village in Assam is first Indian woman to win gold at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships.

Anish and Manu won gold in shooting

- In the 28th Meeting of Shooting Hopes international championship, Anish Bhanwala won in junior men's 25m rapid fire pistol and Manu Bhaker won the junior women's 10m air pistol.

PV Sindhu finished as runner up at the Thailand Open

- World number three Sindhu lost the match 15-21, 18-21 in 50 minutes against the world number eight Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, in the final of the Thailand Open BWF World Tour Super 500 tournament in Bangkok.

Marc Marquez won German Grand Prix for 9th time

- Honda's Marc Marquez clinched his ninth consecutive German Grand Prix victory and took a 46-point championship lead over Valentino Rossi into the summer break after dominating what is set to be the final MotoGP race at the Sachsenring. Seven-time world champion Valentino Rossi finished second with his Yamaha team-mate Maverick Vinales third.

Sajan clinches gold in Junior Asian Wrestling Championships

- Indian wrestler Sajan clinched India's first gold on the opening day of the Junior Asian Wrestling Championships.

Boxer Mayweather tops Forbes' list of World's highest paid celebrity

- American Boxing champion Floyd Mayweather has been named the world's highest paid celebrity by Forbes with earnings of \$285 million in the last 12 months. Actor George Clooney take the No. 2 spot with the highest annual pay of his career.

India won 9 medals in World Junior Wushu Championships

- The Indian team bagged nine medals including four silver and five bronze in the 7th World Junior Wushu championships held in Brasilia, Brazil.

Vinesh Phogat Wins Gold At Spanish Grand Prix

- Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won gold at the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid, conceding just one point in five bouts en route to the title victory in the women's 50kg freestyle category

Neeraj Chopra wins gold at Sotteville Athletics Meet in France

- India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the International de Sotteville-les-Rouen Meeting in France, beating a competitive field which included 2012 London Olympics gold-medallist Keshorn Walcott.

Indian junior women's hockey team beats Belgium at U 23 tournament

- The Indian junior women's hockey team defeated Belgium (2-0) at the Under-23 six-nations tournament. This is its third consecutive win at the tournament.

The next senior women's FIFA World Cup will be held in France

- The next senior Football World Cup: the women's tournament will be held in France, next year. The quadrennial international men's football championship - 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar.

IOC adds 7 medal events to 2022 Beijing Winter Games

- Planning for its next three Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has added seven medal events to the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

OMC becomes official partner for Hockey Mens World Cup 2018

- Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) is announced to be the official partner for the Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 which is scheduled to be held from November 28 to December 16 at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Shubhankar Sharma becomes youngest Indian to make cut in a major

- Shubhankar Sharma became the youngest Indian golfer to achieve the feat at the 147th Open Championships at Carnoustie, Scotland.

Alisson Becker Became World's Most Expensive Goalkeeper

- Alisson Becker of Brazil became the World's most expensive goalkeeper while transferring clubs from Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a world record £56 million.

734 youngsters shortlisted for complete scholarship under KHELO INDIA Scheme

- A total of 734 youngsters were shortlisted today for scholarship under the Khelo India Talent Development Scheme. The scheme is a unique programme to nurture sporting talent.

India's Muhammed Anas Yahiya breaks own national 400 metres record

- India's **Muhammad Anas Yahiya** broke his own national record to win the **400 metres race** at the Cena Noveho Mesta and Metuji meet in Czech Republic.

Bargiel became the first person to ski down the world's 2nd highest mountain

- Poland's Andrzej Bargiel became the first person to ski down the world's second-highest mountain, the 8,611-metre high K2 peak in Pakistan. K2 also known as "Savage Mountain" is considered to be a more challenging climb than the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.

All India Football Federation Awards 2017 Announced: Complete List Of Winners

Sl No	Award For	Winner
1.	Player of the Year	Sunil Chhetri

2.	Woman Player of the Year	Kamala Devi
3.	Best Grassroots Development Programme	Kerala FA
4.	long-time contribution to Indian Football	Hero Motocorp
5.	Best Referee	CR Srikrishna
6.	Best Assistant Referee	Sumanta Datta
7.	Emerging Player of the Year	Anirudh Thapa
8.	Emerging Woman Footballer of the Year	E Panthoi

Tokyo 2020 committee officially unveils Olympic mascots

- The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee officially presented its Olympic mascots Miraitowa and Someity at a massive event. The name of the blue-checked Olympic mascot Miraitowa is derived from a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity. Someity, the pink-checked Paralympic mascot owes its name to a type of cherry tree blossom.

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched gold medal at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2018

- Sixteen-year-old Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen secured a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships after defeating World junior champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in straight games in the final.

Lewis Hamilton won German Grand Prix 2018

- Lewis Hamilton won the German Grand Prix 2018 held at Hockenheimring track in Germany

Hima Das wins India's first ever gold in U-20 Athletics c'ship

- Sprinter Hima Das, from Assam, scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to win gold in the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) World U-20 Athletic Championships.

Shotputter Dhanvir, hurdler Vishnu Priya set records in 15th National youth athletics championships

- Kerala's 400m hurdler Vishnu Priya and Punjab's shot-putter Dhanvir Singh set new meet records in the 15th National Youth Athletics Championships in Vadodara, Gujarat.

Olympic Medalists To Now Receive Rs 20,000 Pension Per Month

- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced that the rate of pension for sportspersons who have won medals in international competitions and have retired from active sports has been doubled from April 1.

World Junior Squash Championships Begins In Chennai

- The Men's team event of the World Junior Squash Championships has begun in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Indian Women's Compound Archery Team Reaches World Rank 1

- Indian women's compound archery team created history by becoming the world rank one side in the category. The team is six points ahead of the Chinese Taipei team.

Sourabh Verma won Russian Open Badminton Trophy

- Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma won the Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok. Sourabh won the Chinese Taipei Masters in 2016 and finished runners-up at Bitburger Open the same year.

Bajrang Punia won second consecutive international gold at Yasar Dogu International

- Bajrang Punia won his second consecutive international gold and Sandeep Tomar won a silver medal at the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey. Indian wrestlers returned with 10 medals, including seven by women, from the ranking event.

Youngest Indian girl scales Kilimanjaro in 3 days

- Shivangi Pathak, the 17-year-old from Haryana, who became the youngest woman from India to reach the peak of Mount Everest from Nepal side, has now scaled Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, in three days. Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro measures 5,895 metres in height.

Dustin Johnson won the Canadian Open 2018

- Dustin Johnson, an American professional golfer, won the Canadian Open title. This is his third Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) victory in 2018. This win is the 19th title of his career.

Indian juniors won six medals at Jordan Table Tennis meet 2018

- Indian junior paddlers won six medals in the individual events at the Jordan Junior and Cadet Open 2018 in Jordan. The medals included gold, three silver and two bronze.

List of the Indian winners:

- Gold:** (i)A team consisting of Prapti Sen, Swastika Ghosh and Surbhi Patwari.
- Silver:** (i)A team consisting of Jeet Chandra, Manush Shah and Snehit Suravajjula
(ii)A team consisting of Diya Chitale and Trisha Gogoi

(iii) Trisha (Individual)

- **Bronze:** (i) A team consisting of Ankuram Jain, Parth Virmani and Sarthak
(ii) A team consisting of Payas Jain and H Jeho

Egypt beat England to win boy's title at WSF-World Junior Squash team championship

- Egypt defeated England, 2-0 to win the boy's title at the WSF-World Junior Squash team championship in Chennai. Egypt's Marwan Tarek, who lost the individual championship final, defeated Nick Wall of England in straight games. The first game saw Tarek poised to win easily before Wall fought back to 10-all.

Neeraj Chopra Won Gold Medal At Savo Games In Finland

- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in the Savo Games in Lapinlahti, Finland. Neeraj Chopra made a throw of 85.69 meters and won the gold medal. Chao-Tsun Cheng of Chinese Taipei made a throw of 82.52m and won a silver medal.

Asian Athletics Championships 2019 to be held in Doha, Qatar

- The 23rd Asian Athletics Championships will be held in Doha, Qatar from April 19 to April 24, 2019. The biennial continental event which is usually held in July-August has been preponed by the Asian Athletics Association (AAA) due to the intensely hot and humid summers in Doha

Ten year old swimmer breaks record set by 23 time Olympic gold medalist

- At the Far Western Long Course Championship, a 10-year-old swimmer named Clark Kent Apuada (Filipino-American boy) won the 100-meter butterfly in 1:09:38, that's more than a second faster than the record Michael Phelps (23-time Olympic gold medalist)

Lewis Hamilton Wins 6th Hungarian Formula 1 Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the Hungarian Grand Prix for the 6th time, at the Hungaroring circuit, in Hungary. This is the 67th career victory for Lewis Hamilton.

Vaibhav Suri won the Biel Masters Chess title

- Grandmaster Vaibhav Suri beat Prithu Gupta and won the Biel Masters Chess title at Switzerland and made his second Grandmaster-norm in the premier nine-round competition.

Indian wrestlers won medals in wrestling Championship 2018

- Indian wrestlers won titles, in overall, in the U-15 Asian schoolboys' freestyle & Greco-Roman style wrestling Championship 2018. They bagged one gold, six silvers and eight bronze medals for a total of 169 points.

Netherlands crowned as world champions for 8th time at Women's Hockey Tournament

- Kitty van Male, top scorer at the Women's Hockey Tournament. Spain won the third-place match by beating Australia 3-1 to claim their first ever World Cup medal. India finished the tournament at the 8th spot.

World Badminton Championships 2018 Concludes: Complete List Of Winners

S.No.	Event	Winner	Runner-up
1.	Men's Singles	Kento Momota (Japan)	Shi Yuqi (China)
2.	Women's Singles	Carolina Marin (Spain)	P. V. Sindhu (India)
3.	Men's Doubles	Li Junhui (China) and Liu Yuchen (China)	Takeshi Kamura (Japan) and Keigo Sonoda (Japan)
4.	Women's Doubles	Mayu Matsumoto (Japan) and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)	Yuki Fukushima (Japan) and Sayaka Hirota (Japan)
5.	Mixed Doubles	Zheng Siwei (China) and Huang Yaqiong (China)	Wang Yili (China) and Huang Dongping (China)

Sports Minister welcomes Webb Ellis Cup on maiden India visit

- Sports Minister of India, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, launched the Rugby World Cup 2019 Trophy Tour in India, welcoming the Webb Ellis Cup to Delhi.

About 65,000 Indonesians performed poco poco dance to promote Asian Games 2018

- Indonesia's Capital city Jakarta and the city of Palembang on Sumatra will jointly host Asian Games from August 18, 2018. Indonesian president Joko Widodo along with 65,000 Indonesians performed a mass dance through the streets of Jakarta to promote the Asian Games 2018 and try to set a world record along the way. Poco-poco is the original culture of Indonesia and it's a native dance.

Gaganjeet Bhullar won European Tour Title

- Gaganjeet Bhullar golf player won around 9 Asian Tour titles. He became the most successful Indian player on Asian Tour. He defeated Anthony Quayle of Australia.

Neeraj Chopra named India's flag-bearer for Asian Games opening ceremony

- Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra named the Indian contingent's flag-bearer for the Asian Games opening ceremony to be held on August 18 in Jakarta.

Viraj Madappa becomes youngest Indian golfer to win on Asian tour

- Indian golfer Viraj Madappa won his maiden title on the Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru

Asian Games 2018: Shooters Apurvi, Ravi win India's first medal

- The Indian pair of Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar made the country proud as they bagged the bronze medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event of the ongoing 18th edition of the Asian Games.

Wrestler Bajrang Punia brings India first Asian Games gold

- Wrestler Bajrang Punia defeated Japan's Daichi Takatani in the men's freestyle 65kg final to win India's first gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games.

Teen cyclist creates history by claiming India's first ever medal

- Teen cyclist Esow Alben has ed history by claiming India's first ever medal - a silver- at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Aigle, Switzerland.

Indian eves win SAFF U-15 Championship defeating Bangladesh

- India defeated Bangladesh in the final of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Championship in Thimbu, Bhutan this evening.

Iran Beat India In Kabaddi Semis To Script History

- Iran scripted history in the annals of world kabaddi by stunning India 27-18 in the semi-finals of the 18th Asian Games. This is the first time since the traditional rural sport was included in the Asian Games in 1990 that the Indian men's team will not take home the gold.

Kho-Kho gets recognition from Olympic Council of Asia OCA

- Kho-Kho will be included as a demonstration sport in the Asian Indoor Games. Also, it has the possibility to be included as a discipline in the next Asian Games. Rajeev Mehta is the Secretary General of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

India finish second in Women's kabaddi for 1st time at Asiad

- India bagged silver medal in Women's kabaddi at the Asian Games 2018 after losing to Iran in the final match.

Asiad 2018: India clinches 4 medals in Wushu

- All the four Indian wushu players lost their semifinal bouts to settle for bronze medals but ensured that the country produced its best-ever performance in the Asian Games. Naorem Roshibini Devi, Santosh Kumar, Surya Bhanu Partap Singh and Narender Grewal

Indian rower Dushyant bags Bronze medal 2018 Asian Games

- Indian rowers Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh won the men's Quadruple Sculls to win India's fifth gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.

Shot-putter Tejinder Pal Singh Toor wins India's first Gold medal in Athletics at 2018 Asian Games

- Shot-putter Tejinder Pal Singh Toor (24) won Gold medal in men's shot put final at 2018 Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games held in Indonesia.

Asian Games 2018: Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian javelin thrower to win Asiad gold

- Day 9 at the 18th Asian Games was when Neeraj Chopra, with a throw of 88.06m broke the national record and clinched the much-awaited gold. With the win, he became the first Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold.

Asian Games 2018: PV Sindhu storms into historic final, Saina Nehwal wins bronze

- India's medal account opened on Day 9 of the 18th Asian Games with star shuttler Saina Nehwal winning a historic bronze
- In another first, India's PV Sindhu defeated Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 15-21, 21-10 in their semifinal clash to become the first-ever badminton player to reach the final

North Korea to host 2019 Asian youth weightlifting championships from Oct 27, 2019

- North Korea announced that it would be the host for the 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships that will commence from October 27, 2019.

Japan Wins 1st Ever Title At FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018

- The U-20 Japan Women's National Team won against the U-20 Spain Women's National Team at the final of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018, taking down the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title for the first time in Japanese football history.

Swapna Barman wins India's first gold medal in Heptathlon Athletics in Asian Games

- Indian athlete Swapna Barman (21) won gold medal in women's Heptathlon Athletics event at 18th edition of Asian Games held in Jakarta-Palembang in Indonesia.

'Smart India Hackathon 2019' was launched in New Delhi

- The third edition of world's biggest open innovation model 'Smart India Hackathon 2019' was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.

India bag gold in women's 4 x 400m relay

- Indian team, comprising Hima Das, Machelaira Poovamma, Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwadand Velluva Koroth Vismaya, bagged a gold medal in Women's 4 x 400m Relay event at the ongoing 18th edition of the Asian Games.

Jinson Johnson strikes gold in men's 1500m

- Indian athlete Jinson Johnson clinched a gold medal in Men's 1500m athletics event at the ongoing 18th edition of the Asian Games.

Asian Games 2018 Highlights:

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Medal	Total
1	China	132	92	65	289
2	Japan	75	56	74	205
3	Korea, Republic Of	49	58	70	177
4	Indonesia	31	24	43	98
5	Uzbekistan	21	24	25	70
8	India	15	24	30	69

List of Gold Medals Won by India:

Sports	Sl. No.	Winners	Event
Athletics	1.	Tajinderpal Singh Toor	Men's Shot put
	2.	Neeraj Chopra	Men's Javelin Throw
	3.	Manjit Singh	Men's 800m
	4.	Arpinder Singh	Men's Triple Jump
	5.	Swapna Barman	Women's Heptathlon
	6.	Jinson Johnson	Men's 1500m
	7.	M. R. Poovamma, Saritaben Gaikwad, Hima Das, V.K. Vismaya	Women's 4x400m Relay
Boxing	8.	Amit Panghal	Men's Light Fly (49kg)
Bridge	9.	Pranab Bardhan, Shibhnath Sarkar	Men's Pair
Rowing	10.	Sawarn Singh, Dattu Baban Bhokanal, Om Prakash, Sukhmeet Singh	Men's Quadruple Sculls
Shooting	11.	Saurabh Chaudhary	Men's 10-metre air pistol
	12.	Rahi Sarnobat	Women's 25-metre pistol
Tennis	13.	Rohan Bopanna, Divij Sharan	Men's Doubles
Wrestling	14.	Bajrang Punia	Men's freestyle 65 kg
	15.	Vinesh Phogat	Women's freestyle 50 kg

List of Silver Medals Won by India:

Sports	Sl. No.	Event	Winners
Archery	1.	Women's Team Compound	Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari,

			Jyothi Surekha Vennam
	2.	Men's Team Compound	Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, Aman Saini
Athletics	3.	Men's 800m	Jinson Johnson
	4.	Women's 400m	Hima Das
	5.	Men's 400m	Muhammad Anas
	6.	Women's 100m	Dutee Chand
	7.	Women's 200m	Dutee Chand
	8.	Men's 400m Hurdles	Dharun Ayyasamy
	9.	Women's 3000m Steeplechase	Sudha Singh
	10.	Women's Long jump	Neena Varakil
	11.	Mixed 4 x 400 metres relay	Rajiv Arokia, Muhammed Anas, Hima Das, M. R. Poovamma
	12.	Men's 4x400m Relay	Dharun Ayyasamy, Kunhu Mohammed, Rajiv Arokia, Muhammed Anas
Badminton	13.	Women's Singles	PV Sindhu
Equestrian	14.	Individual Eventing	Fouaad Mirza
	15.	Team Eventing	Fouaad Mirza, Rakesh Kumar, Ashish Malik, Jitender Singh
Hockey	16.	Women's Tournament	Indian Women's Team
Kabaddi	17.	Women's Tournament	Indian Women's Team
Kurash	18.	Women's 52 kg	Pincky Balhara
Sailing	19.	49er FX women	Shweta Shervergar, Varsha Gautham
Shooting	20.	Men's 10-metre air rifle	Deepak Kumar
	21.	Men's trap	Lakshay Sheoran
	22.	Men's 50-metre rifle three positions	Sanjeev Rajput
	23.	Men's double trap	Shardul Vihan
Squash	24.	Women's Team	Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Joshna Chinappa, Tanvi Khanna, Sunayna Kuruvilla

List Of Bronze Medals Won By India

Sports	Sl.No.	Event	Winners
Athletics	1.	PU Chitra	Women's 1500 m
	2.	Seema Punia	Women's Discus Throw
Badminton	3.	Saina Nehwal	Women's Singles
Boxing	4.	Vikas Krishan Yadav	Men's Middle (75kg)
Bridge	5.	Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder, Jaggy Shivdasani, Rajeshwar Tewari, Ajay Khare, Raju Tolani	Men's Team
	6.	Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Rajeev Khandelwal, Gopinath Manna, Himani Khandelwal, Hema Deora, Kiran Nadar	Mixed Team
Hockey	7.	Indian Men's Team	Men's Tournament
Kabaddi	8.	Indian Men's Team	Men's Tournament
Kurash	9.	Malaprabha Jadhav	Women's 52kg
Rowing	10.	Dushyant Chauhan	Men's Lightweight single sculls
	11.	Rohit Kumar, Bhagwan Singh	Men's Lightweight double sculls
Sailing	12.	Varun Thakkar, Ganapathy Chengappa	49er Men

	13.	Harshita Tomar	Mixed Open Laser 4.7
Sepak Takraw	14.	Indian Men's Team	Men's Team Regu
Shooting	15.	Ravi Kumar, Apurvi Chandela	10-metre air rifle mixed team
	16.	Abhishek Verma	Men's 10-metre air pistol
	17.	Heena Sidhu	Women's 10-metre air pistol
Squash	18.	Saurav Ghosal	Men's singles
	19.	Joshna Chinappa	Women's singles
	20.	Dipika Pallikal Karthik	Women's singles
	21.	Saurav Ghosal, Harinder Pal Sandhu, Ramit Tandon, Mahesh Mangaonkar	Men's Team
Table Tennis	22.	Sathiyana Gnanasekaran, Achanta Sharath Kamal, Anthony Amalraj, Harmeet Desai, Manav Thakkar	Men's Team
	23.	Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra	Mixed doubles
Tennis	24.	Ankita Raina -	Women's Singles
	25.	Prajesh Gunneswaran	Men's Singles
Wrestling	26.	Divya Kakran	Women's freestyle 68 kg
Wushu	27.	Roshibina Naorem	Women's Sanda 60 kg (Bronze)
	28.	Santhosh Kumar	Men's Sanda 56 kg
	29.	Surya Bhanu Pratap Singh	Men's Sanda 60 kg
	30.	Narender Grewal	Men's Sanda 65 kg

Important Points to Note in Asian Games 2018:

1. The 2018 Asian Games being held in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.
2. Hanoi, Vietnam was originally selected to be the host 2018 Asian games after some concerns it shifted to Jakarta and Palembang.
3. Motto of 2018 Asian Games is "Energy of Asia"
4. Mascots of 2018 Asian Games are 1) Bhin Bhin—a greater bird-of-paradise, 2) Atung—a Bawean deer, and 3) Kaka—a Javan rhinoceros.
5. Opening day Flag Bearer: Neeraj Chopra
6. Closing day Flag Bearer: Rani Rampal
7. Bajrang Punia (Wrestling) won 1st Gold Medal for India in Asian Games 2018.
8. Sepak Takraw won in Asian Games 2018.
9. Rahi Sarnobat became 1st Indian woman to win Asian Games gold in shooting.
10. Vinesh Phogat became 1st Indian woman to win gold in wrestling
11. It was the 1st time that Indian Kabaddi Team could not win Gold.
12. Swapna Barman became 1st Indian to win an Asiad gold in the women's heptathlon event.
13. Neeraj Chopra became 1st Indian javelin thrower to win an Asiad gold.
14. Dutee Chand Won India's first medal in 20 years in a women's 100 event.

Japan's swimmer Ikee named Asian Games' MVP

- Japan's young swimmer Rikako Ikee was named the Indonesia Asian Games' Most Valuable Player (MVP) after winning six gold and two silver medals. She received \$50,000 in prize money.

Anjum, Apurvi become first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for 2020 Olympics

- Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela have become the first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for the 2020 Olympics. Anjum finished second on the podium and won silver in the women's 10m air rifle event of the International Shooting Sports Federation's (ISSF) World Championship in Changwon, South Korea. Apurvi finished fourth in the same event.

India to host FIBA 3×3 World Tour Masters event

- One of the most prestigious 3×3 basketball tournaments in the world, the FIBA (International Basketball Federation) 3×3 World Tour Masters is coming to India for the first time on September 23 and 24 for the Hyderabad Masters in the city of Hyderabad.

Indian Kho-Kho team to get financial support for participation in International championship

- Encouraging traditional games of the country, the Union Sports Minister, Rajyavardhan Rathore has approved the financial support for the Kho Kho team participating at the first International Kho Kho championship in England.

Shooting Worlds: Ankur Mittal wins double trap gold

- Ankur Mittal claimed the men's double trap **gold** medal in the ISSF World Championship for his career's biggest triumph, as the Indian shooting team continued its dominance in the premier tournament.

Arpinder Singh is the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup

- Triple jumper Arpinder Singh has created history by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup. At Ostrava in the Czech Republic, he clinched a bronze. The 25-year-old Arpinder was representing the Asia-Pacific team in the meet, held once every four years. Reigning Olympic and world champion Christian Taylor of the United States took the gold with a jump of 17.59 metres.

BFI nominated Amit Panghal for Arjuna award 2018

- Boxer Amit Panghal, Asian Games 2018 gold medallist, was nominated for this year's Arjuna award by the Boxing Federation of India. He joined Sonia Lather and Gaurav Bidhuri in the list of boxing nominees.

Sardar Singh announces retirement from international hockey

- Former India Hockey captain Sardar Singh has announced his retirement from international hockey after an illustrious career spanning 12 years.

India's 102-year-old female athlete wins gold medal at World Masters

- Man Kaur, a 102-year-old Chandigarh-based athlete, won the 200m race in the 100-104 age group category at the World Masters Athletics Championships in Spain.

Mary Kom won gold in Silesian Open boxing tournament

- M.C.Mary Kom, Five-time World champion, won her third gold medal of the year in the 48kg youth category of the Silesian Open boxing tournament for women in Gliwice, Poland.

Lewis Hamilton wins the Singapore Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton won the Singapore Grand Prix with a strong run from pole position to increase his world championship lead over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Hangzhou to host 2022 Asian Para Games

- With 19 days to go before the opening of the third Asian Para Games in Jakarta, the Asian Paralympics Committee (APC) confirmed that Hangzhou in China will host the fourth edition in 2022.

Shah Rukh Khan attends PCI send-off for Indian Contingent at Asian Para Games 2018

- Para Athletes at the Rio Paralympics 2016, the Paralympic Committee of India arranged for a ceremonial send-off to the contingent for the Asian Para Games. The event was attended by film star Shah Rukh Khan, who shared a few words of motivation and spent time interacting with the departing contingent.

8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship begins in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- Thiruvananthapuram is all set to play host to the 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship, which will be held at the Jimmy George indoor stadium from September 27 to 30.

Madrid to host new-format Davis Cup in 2019, 2020

- Madrid has been chosen to host the first two new-format Davis Cup finals in 2019 and 2020. The current Davis Cup format is a knockout event played February, July, September and November at venues around the globe, with best-of-five match ties following Grand Slam events until the final round.

Sharmila won gold in women's javelin's throw

- Railways athlete Sharmila Kumari produced the first upset in the 58th National Open athletics championships by pipping national record holder Annu Rani to the gold medal in the women's javelin throw.

Yuvraj Wadhvani clinches Asian Junior Squash title

- India's Yuvraj Wadhvani defeated Anas Ali Shah of Pakistan in the final to win the boys under-13 title in the 25th Asian junior individual squash championship in Chennai.

Hamilton wins Russian Grand Prix

- Formula One defending champion Lewis Hamilton of Britain (Mercedes) won the Russian Grand Prix after Mercedes' other driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland at the Sochi Autodrom circuit in Sochi, Russia.

Manpreet Singh will be captain of Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy 2018

- Indian midfielder Manpreet Singh will be captain of the 18-member Indian team at the 5th edition of Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy 2018.

Sanya Richards-Ross will be the event ambassador for the Airtel Delhi half marathon

- Four-time Olympic gold medallist athlete Sanya Richards-Ross will be the event ambassador for the Airtel Delhi half marathon to be held on October 21.

Manu Bhaker Named India's Flag-Bearer At Youth Olympic Games

- Teenage shooting star Manu Bhaker was named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from October 6-18.

36th National Games to Be Held Next Year In Goa

- The much-delayed 36th National Games in Goa will be held from March 30 to April 14 next year. Opening and Closing ceremonies will be held at PJN Stadium, Fatorda. Shooting and cycling events will be held in New Delhi as Goa does not have facilities for these two sports. Five sports Rugby, Wushu, Modern Pentathlon, Lawn Bowl, and Billiards and Snooker will be added in the Games programme.

Lewis Hamilton wins Japanese Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton won the Japanese Grand Prix in a Mercedes one-two to take a 67-point lead in the Formula One championship. Finland's Valtteri Bottas secured the Mercedes one-two with second place while Verstappen finished third.

India's Keerthana Pandian wins IBSF world U-16 snooker title

- India's Keerthana Pandian has won the girls' title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships, her maiden international crown.

Indian pair win U-15 girls doubles title in Badminton Asia Junior U-17 & U-15 championships

- The Indian pair of Meghana Reddy and Tasnim Mir has won the Under-15 girls doubles title in the Badminton Asia Junior Under-17 and Under-15 championships.

Keerthana Pandian won the World Under-16 Snooker Championships

- Keerthana Pandian won the World Under-16 Snooker Championships to seal her first international title. She defeated Albina Leschuk 3-1.

Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins India's maiden gold medal at Youth Olympic Games

- Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga (15) won India's maiden gold medal at 2018 Youth Olympic Games being held in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina.

Youth Olympics: Thangjam Tababi Devi clinches India's first judo medal at Youth Olympic Games

- Thangjam Tababi Devi (16) became India's first judo medallist at the Olympic level. She achieved this feat after winning silver medal at ongoing Youth Olympics Games in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina.

Manu Bhaker, 1st Indian Woman to Win Gold At YOG

- Sixteen-year-old shooter Manu Bhaker has become the first-ever Indian woman to win gold at Youth Olympics.

Sharad Kumar won gold in men's high jump in Asian Para Games

- Indian para high jumper Sharad Kumar won gold in men's high jump T42/63 category. This is his second successive gold in the Asian Para Games 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Japan all set to host 2019 World Relays

- Japan is all set to host the 2019 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays, beginning May 11. The development came after IAAF council voted to award the prestigious event to Yokohama city of the country.

Bajrang Punia Becomes First Indian To Get World Championship Seeding

- CWG and Asian Games gold medallist Bajrang Punia is the only Indian wrestler from a strong 30-member squad to get a seeding at the upcoming World Championships as he has been seeded third in the 65kg category in men's freestyle competition.

Indian Men's & Women's Hockey teams bag Silver medals at Youth Olympic Games in Argentina

- The Indian Under-18 men's and women Hockey team finished their 2018 Youth Olympic Games campaign with silver medals at Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Great Britain lifted the 8th edition of Sultan Johar Cup

- Great Britain lifted the 8th edition of Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey tournament in Johor Bahru, Malaysia on October 13, 2018. In the final, Great Britain defeated India 3-2. The other teams in the tournament were Japan, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand

Turtle ‘Olly’ named official mascot for the Odisha Men’s Hockey World Cup

- Turtle ‘Olly’ has been declared as the official mascot for the Odisha Men’s Hockey World Cup, scheduled to be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from November 28 to December 16, 2018.

The 4th edition of IAAF World Relays 2019 will be hosted by JAAF

- The 4th edition of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays 2019 will be hosted by Japan Association of Athletics Federations (JAAF) at Nissan Stadium in Yokohama (near Tokyo), which is scheduled to begin from May 11-12, 2019.

Kimi Raikkonen wins US Grand Prix

- Finnish Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen registered his first victory in last five years by finishing at the top of the podium in the United States (US) Grand Prix

Denmark Open: Top-seeded Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan defeats Saina Nehwal in women’s singles final

- In Badminton, a valiant Saina Nehwal went down fighting to world number one Tai Tzu Ying in the 2018 Denmark Open final match.

North East Olympics begins in Imphal

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh declared open the first edition of North East Olympic Games 2018 at Main Stadium Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal.

Spain's Marc Marquez won MotoGP world champion for the fifth time

- Spain's Marc Marquez won MotoGP world champion for the fifth time in six years in the Japanese MotoGP. Honda factory rider becomes the youngest rider to win five premier class titles. Marquez's Repsol Honda teammate Cal Crutchlow of Britain finished second.

PV Sindhu regains World No. 2 spot in BWF rankings

- Olympic and world championship silver medallist PV Sindhu has once again regained her World No. 2 status in the latest BWF rankings. She is behind Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, who continues to dominate the rankings.

Wheelchair shuttler Sanjeev Kumar wins two gold medals at Denmark Open

- Dropped for Para Asian Games, wheelchair badminton player Sanjeev Kumar returned with two gold medals and a bronze from the first Victor Denmark Championship recently in Odense, Denmark.

Fact Sheet: World Wrestling Championships – 2018

- The 2018 World Wrestling Championships were fifteenth edition of World Wrestling Championships of combined events and were held from October 20 to 28 in Budapest, Hungary.

Sourav Kothari wins World Billiards Championship title

- India's Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore to clinch the 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title. The former national and Asian Billiards champion was pipped at the post for the coveted World Billiards crown on two occasions in the last two years.

Indian Golfer Khalin Joshi Clinches Panasonic Open India Title

- Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched the Panasonic Open India title at the Delhi Golf Club. With this win, Joshi became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India title in the last eight editions of the tournament.

Simona Halep becomes first 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.

Tata Steel named as official partner of men's hockey World Cup

- Steel manufacturing giant Tata Steel was named as an official partner for the prestigious men's hockey World Cup to be held here from November 28 to December 16.

Roger Federer Won 99th Career Title in his Hometown

- He won his 99th career title after winning the Basel Open for the ninth time in his career. Federer, who was born in the Swiss city of Basel, won his fourth title of the year in the form of the Basel Open.

Vishal bags gold, Raegan settles for silver in Egypt

- Vishal Rajveer Shah won the mini cadet boys singles' title at the Egypt Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament after he outclassed local boy Badr Mostafa in straight games. He dominated the match from the very beginning as he defeated Mostafa to clinch the yellow metal.

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.

Important Obituaries

PERSON	FIELD
J.G. Nadkarni	Navy chief
MM Jacob	Congress Leader
Dada J P Vaswani	Chief of Sadhu Vaswani Mission, Spiritual leader
Kalpesh Yagnik	National Group Editor of Dainik Bhaskar
Vyasa Rao	Kannada poet and film lyricist
Rita Bhaduri	Veteran Actor
Poet Gopal Das Neeraj	Hindi poet
Ramchandra Singhdeo	Former and first Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh
Jonathan Gold	Pulitzer Prize-Winning Restaurant Critic
Swapan Sarkar	Veteran sports journalist
Ramapada Chowdhury	Bengali writer
Umbayee	Malayalam ghazal singer and composer
Jalees Sherwani	Veteran screenwriter
M Karunanidhi	Five time Tamil Nadu Chief Minister
RK Dhawan	Long-time aide of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi
Sumatheendra Nadig	Kannada poet and critic
Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul	Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001
Anant Bajaj	Managing Director of Bajaj Electricals
Somnath Chatterjee	Former Lok Sabha Speaker of
Balramji Das Tandon	Chhattisgarh Governor
Hakam Singh	Asian Games gold medallist
Chennupati Vidya	Former member of Lok Sabha
Aretha Franklin	US singer
Kofi Annan	United Nations chief and Nobel Peace Prize laureate
Uri Avnery	Israeli journalist and peace activist
Sujata Kumar	Actor
Gurudas Kamat	Senior Congress leader
Hakam Singh	Asian Games gold medalist
Kuldip Nayar	Veteran Journalist
Debu Bose	Veteran Odia actor
Vijay Chavan	Veteran Marathi actor
K K Haridas	Malayalam film director
Gopal Bose	Former Indian cricketer
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Former Indian PM
Arthur Pereira	Former Maharashtra football player
Bhagwati Kumar Sharma	Noted Gujarati author, journalist and poet
Rita Jitendra	A leading educationist and writer
Goura Chandra Mohapatra	Veteran freedom fighter
Vijay Shankar Vyas	Padma Bhushan awardee and noted agricultural economist
Brij Katyal	Veteran film writer
Anna Rajam Malhotra	First Indian woman IAS officer
Manoharsinh Jadeja, popularly known as 'Dada'	Ex-Gujarat Finance Minister
Pandit Tulsidas Borkar	Legendary Harmonium Artist
Balabhaskar	Kerala violinist and music composer
Balabhaskar	Kerala musician and violinist

Thampi Kannanthanam	Veteran Malayalam film personality
Will Vinton	Oscar-winning animator
Gita Uplekar	Girl in iconic 'Glow of Hope' painting
Pradip Chowdhury	Veteran journalist and former News Editor of Press Trust of India (PTI)
Montserrat Caballe	Spanish soprano
Natwar Thakkar	Eminent Gandhian, popularly known as 'Nagaland's Gandhi'
Nitin Bali	Singer
G.D.Agarwal	Save Ganga' crusader
M N Paloor	Noted Malayalam poet
Annapurna Devi	Hindustani classical musician
Paul Allen	Co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates
Narayan Datt Tiwari	Former Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister
Bhola Singh	BJP leader and sitting Member of Parliament (MP)
Osamu Shimomura	Japanese Nobel chemistry laureate
Madan Lal Khurana	Former chief minister of Delhi

The Complete List of Winners of Nobel Prize 2018

S. No.	Field	Description	Winner
1.	Physiology or Medicine	For their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation	James P. Allison(USA), Tasuku Honjo(Japan)
2.	Physics	For their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses in the field of laser physics	Gérard Mourou(France), Arthur Ashkin(USA), Donna Strickland(Canada)
3.	Chemistry	For control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind.	George Smith (USA), Frances Arnold (USA), Greg Winter (UK)
4.	Literature	This year no Nobel Prize for Literature	
5.	Peace	For their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.	Denis Mukwege (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Nadia Murad (Germany)
6.	Economic Sciences	For work on climate change, and the endogenous growth theory	William Nordhaus (US) Paul Romer(US)

Why this year there is no Nobel Prize for Literature?

An expose published late last year by the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter told the story of 18 women who said they were sexually harassed or assaulted by a French arts promoter named Jean-Claude Arnault. He's married to poet Katarina Frostenson and is friends with Horace Engdahl, two members of the Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobel Prize in literature. Earlier this week, Arnault was sentenced to two years in prison after being found guilty of raping a woman in 2011.



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