

Current Affairs

(English)

For

All Upcoming Competitive Exam - 2018



Bank
(SBI/IBPS/RRB),
SSC, Railway, POST,
Insurance, RBI

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare **Shri J P Nadda** inaugurated the '71st Session of the **WHO Regional Committee** for South-East Asia,' in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Head:** Tedros Adhanom.
- ❖ Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu** launched **Coffee Connect**-India coffee field force app and **Coffee KrishiTharanga**-digital mobile extension services for **coffee stakeholders** at a function **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**.
 - ✓ The one-day conference inaugurated by the Minister of State of Communication (**I/C**) and Minister of State of Railways, **Shri Manoj Sinha** was a pre-cursor to the **Move: Global Mobility Summit**.
 - ✓ The conference was held to discuss strategies for future of mobility in India and to make Indian Railways more efficient, greener and a preferred mode of transport.
 - ✓ **NITI Aayog Headquarter:-** New Delhi, **CEO –** Amitabh Kant,
- ❖ The President, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** and The Chief Justice of India, **Shri Dipak Misra** inaugurate the **National Conference**, organised by the **Supreme Court Advocates-on-record Association (SCAORA)**, in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ 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**.
 - ✓ The Scheme consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of
 - Project Tiger (CSS-PT),
 - Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and
 - Project Elephant (CSS-PE).
- ❖ The **International Aviation Summit** in **Delhi** was organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (**MoCA**) in collaboration with the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** to discuss the importance of the **Indian aviation market**, and what it will take for the aviation sector to expand in India while maximizing the economic and social benefits of the potential growth.
 - ✓ **International Air Transport Association:Headquarter-** Quebec, Canada.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** approved to increase the wages of artisans by over **36 percent**, With this, the wages will be increased from **Rs 5.50** per hank previously to **Rs 7.50** per hank.
 - ✓ **KVIC Headquarter:** Mumbai, **Chairman:** Shri Vinay Kumar Saxena.
- ❖ A **Five Judge** Constitution Bench of the **Supreme Court** on September 6, 2018 decriminalised **Section 377** of the Indian Penal Code (**IPC**) by partially striking down some of its provisions. lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (**LGBT**) has equal citizenship and **equal protection of laws**.
 - ✓ The **Yogyakarta Principles** animates **Article 14**. Homosexuals have a **fundamental right** to live with dignity, are entitled to be treated as human beings and imbibe the spirit of fraternity.
- ❖ **Ministry of Tourism** sanctioned **Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project** under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** for development of rural circuit in **Kerala**.
 - ✓ The project will be focusing on development of **water-based** thematic cruise experiences in and around **Valapattanam** and **Kuppam Rivers** of **Kannur** District to tap potential of water tourism of Kerala.
 - ✓ **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**
 - The scheme was launched by **Union Tourism Ministry** with an objective to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country. Under this scheme, **13 thematic circuits** have been identified for development.
 - It is 100% centrally funded scheme for the project components undertaken for public funding.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram, **Chief minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** Palanisamy Sathasivam
- ❖ The **National Nutrition Month** (Rashtriya Poshan Maah) is being celebrated across the country in **September 2018** to mark fight against **malnutrition**.
 - ✓ The National Nutrition Month will also focus on **adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers** to eliminate the deficiencies prevailing in the **Health sector**.



- ❖ **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved establishment and operationalization of permanent campus of seven new **Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)**.
 - ✓ These IIMs will be established at Amritsar (Punjab), Bodh Gaya (Bihar), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Sambalpur (Odisha), Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Jammu.
- ❖ **Union Ministry of Railways** has launched **Rail Sahyog web portal** (www.railsahyog.in). It will provide platform for **Corporates** and **PSUs** to fund creation of **amenities** at railway stations through **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** funds.
- ❖ The **World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018)** was held **New Delhi**. It was inaugurated by Union Minister for **Human Resource Development (HRD) Prakash Javadekar**.
 - ✓ **Theme:** - "Challenges and Opportunities in Outcome Based Accreditation".
 - ✓ **WOSA 2018:-** The Summit facilitated exchange of information on various challenges being faced during transition between input-output based accreditation to outcome based accreditation.
- ❖ The **World Hindu Congress-2018** was held **Chicago**, United States. It was organized to commemorate **125th** years of **Swami Vivekananda's** historic Chicago address on **September 11, 1893**.
 - ✓ The theme of WHC-2018 was "**Sumantrite Suvikrante**"- **think collectively, achieve valiantly**". It was **2nd** edition of World Hindu Congress and was attended by Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu**.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved continuation of Capacity Development Scheme for period **2017-18 to 2019-20** with an outlay of **Rs 2,250 crore**. It is ongoing **Central Sector Scheme** of Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (**MoSPI**).
 - ✓ It has **2** sub schemes: **Economic Census** and **Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS)**.
 - ✓ **Union Minister of MOSPI:-** Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda, **Minister of State:-** Shri Vijay Goel.
- ❖ The **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)**.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry for Minority Affairs** minister **Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** has launched the country's **first** National Scholarship Portal Mobile App (**NSP Mobile App**). It aims to provide smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students from **poor** and **weaker sections**.
- ❖ The **Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar** in the **first** week of September 2018 decided to **end** the **Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)** boycott.
 - ✓ Resultantly, the ministry will send a team of officers to Paris this year to negotiate India's terms of participation in **PISA 2021** with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD).
 - ✓ **PISA Test**
 - The Programme for International Student Assessment (**PISA**) was introduced in the year **2000** by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (**OECD**).
 - **PISA** is a competency-based test. It tests the learning levels of **15-year-old** students in reading, **mathematics** and **science**. The test is carried out once in every three years.
 - As on date, there are **80 countries** participating in PISA, including China and Vietnam.
 - ✓ **OECD Founded:** 30 September 196, **Headquarter:** Paris, France, **Secretary-General:** José Ángel Gurría
- ❖ **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved proposal for introduction of Bill in Parliament for amendment of **National Institutes of Design (NID) Act, 2014** for establishing **four** new NIDs across the country.
 - ✓ National Institute of Design, Amaravati/Vijayawada, **Andhra Pradesh**.
 - ✓ National Institute of Design, Bhopal, **Madhya Pradesh**.
 - ✓ National Institute of Design, Jorhat, **Assam**.
 - ✓ National Institute of Design, Kurukshetra, **Haryana**.
- ❖ The **Election Commission** announced the withdrawal of the provision of **None Of The Above (NOTA)** option from ballot papers for elections to **Rajya Sabha** and **legislative council** in **states**.
- ❖ **Minister of State** for Housing and Urban Affairs, **Hardeep Singh Puri** inaugurated **first** regional workshop on **Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)** in **Pune**, Maharashtra.
 - ✓ **Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis, **Governor:** C. Vidyasagar Rao.
- ❖ 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.
 - ✓ **Theme:-** Increased Longevity with Reduced Fragility and Enhanced Mobility.
- ❖ The **Union cabinet** approved a proposal for the **100% electrification** of Indian Railways by **2021-22**, reducing dependence on imported **fossil fuel** and **saving revenue** for the national carrier.
- ❖ The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment organized a 1-day '**National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres**' at **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**, New Delhi.
- ❖ **Union Minister** of State for Tourism **K J Alphons** inaugurated the country's **first** tribal tourism circuit in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh.

- ❖ **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**.
 - ✓ **e-Sahaj portal:** The portal will help to strike **healthy balance** between meeting imperatives of national security and facilitating ease of doing business and promoting investment in the country,
- ❖ **Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** on eve of **World Ozone Day** (17th September) released draft **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)**. It makes India **first** country in world to develop such document.
- ❖ **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"**.
 - ✓ **NITI Aayog Formed:** 1 January 2015, **Headquarter:** New Delhi, **CEO:** Amitabh Kant
- ❖ **Cabinet 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**. CCEA also gave approval for **2-year** time extension for project from July 2018 to June 2020.
 - ✓ **DRIP :** The project **aims** to improve safety and operational performance of **198 Dams** from seven states (69 from Tamil Nadu), along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ The **foundation** stone of world-class convention centre **India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC)** was laid by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in **New Delhi** at an estimated cost of **Rs 25, 703 crores**.
 - ✓ The project is planned over an area of **221.37 acre** in Sector 25, **Dwarka, New Delhi**.
 - ✓ The IICC will be an integrated complex with a host of mutually beneficial facilities such as exhibition halls, convention centre comprising plenary hall, ballroom and meeting rooms, a multi-purpose arena, open exhibition spaces, mixed-use commercial spaces like star hotels, retail services and high-end offices.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved **ASHA Benefit Package** with effect from **October, 2018**, which will be paid in **November 2018**.
 - ✓ ASHA facilitators will be **enrolled** in the Union Government's **social security schemes** including the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (**PMJJY**) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (**PMSBY**).
 - ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana:**
 - The eligibility criteria for ASHAs and ASHA Facilitators to be covered under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (Life Insurance) include those who are aged between **18-70 years**.
 - The insurance cover would be for a one-year period stretching from **June 1 to May 31** and the benefits include:
 - **Rs 2 Lakh** in case of **death due to an accident**.
 - **Rs 2 Lakh** in case of total and irrecoverable loss of both eyes or loss of use of both hands or feet or loss of sight of one eye and loss of use of one hand or one foot.
 - **Rs 1 Lakh** in case of total and irrecoverable loss of sight of one eye or loss of use of one hand or one foot.
 - The annual premium of **Rs 12 per** beneficiary will be paid by the Union Government.
 - ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana:**
 - The eligibility criteria for ASHAs and ASHA Facilitators to be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (Accident Insurance) include those who are aged between **18-50 years**.
 - The insurance cover would be for a one-year period stretching from **June 1 to May 31**.
 - The benefit includes **Rs 2 Lakh** in case of death due to **any cause (accident and natural)**.
 - The annual premium of **Rs 330** (average) will be paid by the Central Government.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** launched the **logo** and the **web portal** for commemoration of **150th** birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, **Mahatma Gandhi**. that is observed in the form of **two year** long celebrations from **October 2, 2018** to **October 2, 2020** across the country and all over the **globe**.
 - ✓ The logo branding will be done in trains, metro rail, air India aircrafts, state roadways buses, government websites, e-mails, government stationery, calendar, government advertisements and digital signature.
 - ✓ The web portal '**http://gandhi.gov.in**' is participatory in nature and all the participating organisations will be able to upload their activities regarding commemoration on the website.
- ❖ **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has launched **Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)** portal (**www.cybercrime.gov.in**) to check objectionable **online content**. The portal will allow citizens to lodge complaints on objectionable online content related to **child pornography, child sexual abuse material** and sexually explicit material such as **rape and gang rape**.

- ❖ The **Union Minister** for Railways and Coal, **Mr. Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the 'first ever' **India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018)** in the presence of the Tourism Minister of **Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Sajid**. The India Tourism Mart is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism from **16th to 18th September 2018**, in partnership with the **Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH)** and with support of State /UT Governments.
 - ✓ Tourism Ministry reached the ambitious goal of **US\$100 billion** FTA receipts/year within **5 years**.
- ❖ **External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj** and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the website for the **15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2019** that will be held in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
 - ✓ The website is available at: <https://pbdindia.gov.in/en>.
 - ✓ **Theme:** Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated centenary celebrations of **Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha** in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ **DBHPS** is national organisation that aims to improve **Hindi literacy** among non-Hindi speaking people of South India.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **New airport in Jharsuguda**—also known as the powerhouse of **Odisha**. PM also flagged off the **UDAN flight on Jharsuguda-Raipur sector**. It is first airport in Odisha to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) Scheme**.
 - ✓ The name of this airport has been named freedom fighter **Veer Surendra Sai**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched ambitious **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**, under Ayushman Bharat umbrella at **Ranchi, Jharkhand**. The scheme aims to provide annual **health insurance** cover of **Rs 5 lakh to 10.74 crore** beneficiary families i.e. over **50 crore** beneficiaries across **India**. The scheme will become operational from **September 25, 2018** i.e. on birth anniversary of **Deendayal Upadhyay**.
 - ✓ Recently The **Union Government** has announced that the treatment of **childhood cancer** will be covered under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**.
- ❖ **Indian Govt** Develops '**Cyber Trivia**' App for Kids, Against Dangerous **Blue Whale & Momo Challenge**.
 - ✓ According to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, **Cyber trivia' app** being developed by the **Indian government** will throw **multiple choice questions** to children, rewarding them with points for correct answers.
- ❖ The **21st Central Zonal Council** meeting was held in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**. It was chaired by Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh**.
 - ✓ The Council discussed various issues including road transport, Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna, measures to tackle Naxal violence, modernization of Police, infrastructure development of airports, minimum support price, National health mission and issues related to primary schools.
- ❖ **Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs** had held **2-day National Orientation workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ **NeVA** is initiative of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. It aims to make all legislatures in the country **paperless** by making proceedings of houses **digital**.
- ❖ Vice-President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated **Indian Culinary Institute (ICI)** in Tirupati, **Andhra Pradesh**. It is promoted by Union Ministry of Tourism. The ICI building was designed by **National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC)**.
 - ✓ The main objective of ICI is to institutionalize mechanism to support efforts intended to preserve, document, promote and disseminate Indian Cuisine.
- ❖ **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, the union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate change (**MoEF&CC**), has inaugurated air pollution control device—**Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit (WAYU)** at ITO in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ WAYU is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research—National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (**CSIR-NEERI**) to mitigate air pollution at traffic junctions.
- ❖ **Minister of State** for Labour and Employment, **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** inaugurated the **7th National Conference on Excellence in Workplace Safety and Occupational Health** in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved **National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP 2018)**. It replaces existing **National Telecom Policy-2012** to cater to the modern needs of the **digital communications sector** of India.
- ❖ **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** launched online software for processing applications **Agmark** quality certification mark for **agricultural products**.
 - ✓ **Agmark online system:** It is being implemented across the country to conduct quality control functions. It will be available 24×7. It will make process of application is simple, quick, transparent.
- ❖ **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** inaugurates International conference on **plastics recycling and waste management** in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Union Government** has enhanced its contribution in **State Disaster Response fund (SDRF)** from **75% to 90%**. With this enhancement Central Government's additional contribution in SDRF will be **Rs. 1690.35 crore** for the year **2018-19** and **Rs. 1774.67 crore** for the financial year **2019-20**.



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(Institute of Banking Personnel Selection) IBPS (Clerk) (BOB, DENA, PNB, BOI, Union etc...)	Qualification Any Graduate	Total Vacancies 7275	Declaration Date 14th Sept. 2018
(Reserve Bank of India) RBI (Assistant)	Qualification Any Graduate (Min. 50% Marks)	Total Vacancies 550+	Expected Declaration Month Nov/Dec - 2018
(State Bank of India) SBI (Junior Associate)	Qualification Any Graduate	Total Vacancies 8700+	Expected Declaration Month Mar/Apr - 2019
(State Bank of India) SBI (PO)	Qualification Any Graduate	Total Vacancies 2200+	Expected Declaration Month Apr/May - 2019
(Institute of Banking Personnel Selection) IBPS-RRB (Assistant) (Baroda Gramin, Dena Gramin, Saurashtra Gramin)	Qualification Any Graduate	Total Vacancies 5600+	Expected Declaration Month Jun/Jul - 2019
(Institute of Banking Personnel Selection) IBPS-RRB (Officer) (Baroda Gramin, Dena Gramin, Saurashtra Gramin)	Qualification Any Graduate	Total Vacancies 4800+	Expected Declaration Month Jun/Jul - 2019
(Institute of Banking Personnel Selection) IBPS (PO) (BOB, DENA, PNB, BOI, Union etc...)	Qualification Any Graduate	Total Vacancies 6100+	Expected Declaration Month Aug/Sep - 2019
(Institute of Banking Personnel Selection) IBPS (Clerk) (BOB, DENA, PNB, BOI, Union etc...)	Qualification Any Graduate	Total Vacancies 11500+	Expected Declaration Month Sep/Oct - 2019

Govt. Insurance Vacancy

LIC UIC NICL OICL NIACL

Assistant & Administrative Officer

Qualification Any Graduate	Total Vacancies 4700+	Expected Declaration Month Jan to Dec - 2019
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- ❖ The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention** in **New Delhi** for achieving **Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly providing **Clean Water** and **Sanitation**.
- ❖ **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and **National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI)** have jointly set up a **Centre of Excellence for data analytics (CEDA)** and **Digi VAARTA** (Vehicle to Accelerate Access and Reach to Transformational Action) to support Government departments to unlock the hidden potential of the data that they are generating as part of the **governance processes** and use it to improve the overall **governance**.
 - ✓ The interactive inclusion through Digi VAARTA would be available in **two channels** and **two languages** (Hindi and English and a toll free number: 14444).
- ❖ Minister of Railways and Coal, **Shri Piyush Goyal** has launched “**Rail Heritage Digitisation Project**” of Indian Railways in collaboration with **Google Arts & Culture**.
 - ✓ The project “**The Railways-Lifeline of a Nation**” was unveiled at an event hosted at the **National Rail Museum** in **New Delhi**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ **Ministry of 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**.
 - ✓ **ASEAN Headquarter:** Jakarta, Indonesia
- ❖ Minister of state for AYUSH **Shripad Yesso Naik** inaugurated the **4th International Ayurveda Congress, IAVC** at **Leiden** in the **Netherlands** with aimed at promotion and propagation of Ayurveda.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Amsterdam, **Currency:** Euro.
- ❖ The **2+2** dialog **India** and the **United States** signed the **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** during their first-ever ‘two plus two’ dialogue, which was held in **New Delhi** on September 6, 2018.
 - ✓ The high-level talks were held between the foreign and defence ministries of the two nations. **India’s External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** and **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** hosted the US Secretary of State **Michael Pompeo** and US Secretary of Defense **James Mattis** for the inaugural dialogue.
- ❖ **India and Bulgaria** have signed four **MoUs** in fields of Civil Nuclear cooperation, investment, Tourism and establishment of Hindi chair at **Sofia University**.
 - ✓ These agreements were signed after President **Ramnath Kovind** and his Bulgarian counterpart **Rumen Radev**.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Sofia, **Currency:** Bulgarian lev
- ❖ According to recent study published in **Lancet Global Health** journal, at least **34%** of **India’s** population is **insufficiently** active. The levels of insufficient activity were higher among **women** at **48%**, while prevalence was **22 %** among men.
- ❖ **International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018** was held in **Kathmandu**, capital of Nepal, The theme of 3-day summit was “**Equality begins with Economic Empowerment**”. It was organised by the **South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF)**.
 - ✓ The main objective of the summit was to bring together achievers, women business leaders, professionals, international service providers, experts, government representatives and other stakeholders with a focus on innovative economic transformation through discussions and collaborations.
- ❖ The **4th BIMSTEC Summit** concluded in **Kathmandu** with signing and adoption of **Kathmandu Declaration** by all the 7 members (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand).
 - ✓ **The 18-point** Kathmandu Declaration aims to enhance effectiveness of BIMSTEC Secretariat by engaging it in various technical and economic activities in the region.
 - ✓ **BIMSTEC Founded:** 1997, **Secretariat:** Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister, **Smt. Sushma Swaraj** went on a 2 nation ministerial visit to **Vietnam** and **Cambodia**.
 - ✓ **Vietnam:Capital:** Hanoi, **Currency:** Vietnamese dong.
 - ✓ **Cambodia:Capital:** Phnom Penh, **Currency:** Cambodian riel.
- ❖ **India and Pakistan** agreed to undertake the **Indus Waters Treaty** tours in the Indus basin on both sides to resolve issues on the various **hydroelectric projects**.
- ❖ **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.
 - ✓ The country’s **first** bullet train is likely to start running between **Mumbai** and **Ahmedabad** by the end of **2022**. The 508-km, high speed train corridor is being built with **Japanese assistance**.
- ❖ The **3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting)** Conference on ‘**Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons**’ was held in **Seoul**, capital of **South Korea**. It was jointly organised by **South Korea** and **National Human Rights Commission of Korea**.

- ❖ Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) have signed agreement for implementation of **e-VidyaBharati** and **e-AarogyaBharati** (e-VBAB) Network Project in **Africa**. The project is seen as digital bridge of **knowledge** and **health** between **India** and **Africa**.
 - ✓ **E-VBAB Network Project**: It is technological upgrade and extension of **Pan-African e-Network Project** (Phase 1) which was implemented in **48 partner** countries across Africa from **2009 till 2017**. The phase 1 of project had successfully imparted **tele-education** and **tele-medicine** by linking educational institutions and hospitals in India with those from participating countries from Africa.
- ❖ **India** was the focus country of **87th Izmir International Trade Show** held in **Izmir**, **3rd** most populous city in **Turkey**, after **Istanbul** and **Ankara** from **7th to 11th September, 2018**. **Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)** had led **75-member Indian** delegation for this trade show.
 - ✓ **TPCI**: It is trade and investment promotion organization of Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It works to open new areas for co-operation in **trade** and **investment** between **India** and rest of the world.
- ❖ The **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka is set to become **first** airport in Asia to introduce **face recognition** based passage system technology from **2019**. For this, Bengaluru International Airport Ltd. (**BIAL**), which operates **KIA** has signed agreement with Portuguese software firm **Vision Box**.
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ **India** and **France** have signed implementation agreement on **Mobilise Your City (MYC)** to support three pilot cities **Nagpur, Kochi** and **Ahmedabad** for reduction of **greenhouse gas (GHG)** emissions related to **urban transport**.
 - ✓ **MYC** is global and inclusive network of cities and countries as well as umbrella brand of **European development cooperation** particularly related to field of **sustainable urban transport**.
- ❖ **Singapore-based** global investment firm **Temasek** has signed agreement to invest up to **Rs 2,750 crore** (\$400 million) in **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) Master Fund**. With this investment, NIIF Master Fund is now one of largest infrastructure funds in India which invests in **core infrastructure sectors** in India with focus on **energy, transportation** and **urban infrastructure**.
 - ✓ **NIIF** was set up in **December 2015** to catalyse funding into the country's infrastructure sector by serving as quasi sovereign wealth fund (**SWF**).
- ❖ **India** and **Czech Republic** have signed **five agreements** on defence, scientific and industrial research, laser technology, agriculture and diplomatic visa waiver.
 - ✓ **Czech Capital**: Prague, **Currency**: Czech koruna
- ❖ **India, Bangladesh** jointly inaugurated **three projects** related to **power supply rehabilitation** of existing railway section. These projects were jointly inaugurated Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** through video conference.
 - ✓ These **three** projects are:
 - Rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazzpur section of Bangladesh Railways.
 - Additional power supply from India to Bangladesh 500 MW.
 - Akhaura-Agartala Rail Lin.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved **MoU** signed between **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** and member banks under **BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism** on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and **Block chain Technology** in context of development of **digital economy**.
- ❖ **India, Iran** and **Afghanistan** held their **first** tripartite meeting in **Kabul** during which implementation of the **Chabahar port project** and a host of other issues including ways to deepen **counter-terror cooperation**.
 - ✓ The meeting focused on consolidating economic cooperation, including Chabahar, as well as enhancing cooperation on counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, and continuing support to the peace and reconciliation process.
 - ✓ **Afghanistan:Capital**: Kabul, **Currency**: Afghani
 - ✓ **Iran:Capital**: Tehran, **Currency**: Rial
- ❖ **Asian Development Bank** released its **Flagship Statistical Report 2018** for **Asia** and the **Pacific**, according to report the **GDP** has increased from **30.1%** in 2000 to **42.6%** in 2017.
 - ✓ This report provides the latest available economic, financial, social, **SDG** indicators and environmental statistics for the 48 regional members of ADB.
 - ✓ **Established** :-1966, **Headquarter**:- Manila , Philippines, **President**: Takehiko Nakao.
- ❖ The **Global Climate Action Summit 2018** was held during September 12-14, 2018 at **San Francisco, California, United States**.
 - ✓ Over **4000 businesses**, cities, states and civil society delegates attended the summit and showed their commitments to achieve the goals set by the **Paris Agreement**.
 - ✓ **Four** key areas: Investment, Corporate Engagement, Investor Disclosure and Policy Advocacy achieving its **2025 emissions reduction** target.

- ❖ As per a **UN report** on the 'state of food security and nutrition in the world' that was published on September 11, 2018, the number of **undernourished** globally increased to **821 million** in 2017, from around **804 million** in 2016, which means that one in every **nine** people, does not have enough to **eat**.
 - ✓ It was published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**), International Fund for Agricultural Development (**IFAD**), World Food Programme (**WFP**), UN Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) and the World Health Organization (**WHO**).
 - ✓ **Food Insecurity and Undernutrition**:-The food insecurity can contribute to child wasting, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies by negatively affecting the adequacy of food consumption.
- ❖ The **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) World Economic Forum** has begun in Hanoi, **Vietnam**.
 - ✓ **Theme**: "ASEAN 4.0: Entrepreneurship and the Fourth Industrial Revolution."
 - ✓ **Vietnam:Capital**: Hanoi, **Currency**: Dong.
- ❖ The **4th Eastern Economic Forum** was held in **Vladivostok**, Russia for the development of the Far East in **logistics, energy, natural** resources.
 - ✓ **Capital**: Moscow, **Currency**: Ruble.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Bangladeshi counterpart **Sheikh Hasina** jointly launched the construction of **India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline** Project through video conferencing. It is **first** such pipeline through which refined **diesel** will be supplied to **Bangladesh from India**.
- ❖ **India** and **Germany** have signed Memorandum of Agreement (**MoA**) on **skill development**, which will provide dual vocational **education** and **training** to Indian youth. It was signed between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**) and Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (**IGCC**).
- ❖ **Germany** has rolled out world's **first** hydrogen-powered passenger train. These locomotives named **iLint trains** emit **zero emissions**, making them **eco-friendly**. This train technology offers greener and quieter alternative to diesel on non-electrified railway lines.
 - ✓ **Germany Capital**: Berlin, **Currency**: Euro
- ❖ **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**.
 - ✓ **Malta Capital**: Valletta, **Currency**: Euro
- ❖ The **7th UNWTO Global Summit** on Urban Tourism was held in **Seoul**, capital of **South Korea** from 16 to 19 September, 2018.
 - ✓ **Theme**:- 'A 2030 Vision for Urban Tourism'.
- ❖ 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)**.
- ❖ According to review by **Asia Pacific Policy Group on Money Laundering (APPG)**, **Pakistan's** recent action against **terror financing**, particularly on legal front were found to be "**unsatisfactory**" despite it was placed on the Financial Action Task Force (**FATF**) grey list in **February 2018** for failing to **curb terror funding**.
- ❖ **India** and **Morocco** have signed revised **Air Services Agreement** between two countries enabling greater air connectivity through modernized agreement.
 - ✓ **Morocco Capital**: Rabat, **Currency**: Moroccan dirham.
- ❖ **India** and **Niger** signed an **MOU** for establishment of the **Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre** in Niamey, **Niger**.
 - ✓ **Niger:Capital**: Niamey, **Currency**: West African CFA franc.
- ❖ **Union Agriculture and Environment** ministries along with **united nation** 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**.
 - ✓ It aims to transform agricultural production to generate global environmental benefits by addressing biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management.
 - ✓ **FAO Headquarter**: Rome, Italy, **Members**: 194, **Head**: Jose Graziano Da Silva.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **India** climbed one spot to **130** out of **189** countries in the latest **human development index** rankings released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
 - ✓ **Norway**, **Switzerland**, **Australia**, **Ireland** and **Germany** topped the ranking, while **Niger**, the Central African Republic, **South Sudan**, **Chad** and **Burundi** have the **lowest scores** in the HDI's measurement of national achievements in **health, education** and **income**.
 - ✓ **UNDP:Headquarter**: New York city, USA.
- ❖ **India** and **Nepal** during the **5th meeting** of **Boundary Working Group (BWG)** held in **Kathmandu** have agreed to explore possibility of using **high resolution satellite images** in boundary survey work.

- ❖ The **International Day of Sign Languages** is celebrated annually across the world on **23 September** every year along with International Week of the **Deaf**. This day aims to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the **human rights** of people who are deaf. This year it was **first** International Day of Sign Languages.
 - ✓ **Theme:-**With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!.
- ❖ According to **the Lancet** India ranks **158th** among **195** countries in **health** care investment an improvement from its 1990 ranking of **162nd**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** is organising the **1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA)**; the **2nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting** and the **2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018)** from **2nd to 5th October 2018** in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **NITI Aayog** and **United Nations** in India signed a **five year Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022**. The agreement is reflection of commitment and efforts made by India towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals.
 - ✓ **UNSDF 2018-22** includes **seven primary areas**-1)Poverty and urbanization, 2) Health, Water and Sanitation, 3)Education and employment, 4) Nutrition and food security, 5) Climate change, clean energy, and disaster tensility, 6) Skilling, Entrepreneurship and Employment Generation, 7) Gender equality and youth development
- ❖ **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**.
 - ✓ India's **top three** trading partners in **South Asia** are **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal**. India's trade with South Asia is only **3%** of its global trade. India's trade with the world stands at **637.4 billion USD**.
- ❖ **India** is placed **96th** among **162 countries** on **Economic Freedom Index**, The report was released by the **Centre for Civil Society (CCS)** along with Canada's **Fraser Institute**.
 - ✓ **Hong Kong and Singapore** again topped the index, continuing their streak as the **first** and the **second** country, respectively. New Zealand, Switzerland, Ireland, the US, Georgia, Mauritius, the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada were among the top 10.
- ❖ **Union Minister** of Health and Family Welfare **JP Nadda**, addressed at the '**High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis** at the **73rd session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** at **New York**. He stated that India showed a personal commitment to tackling TB head-on as India plans to **eliminate TB by 2025**, five years ahead of the **SDG target of 2030**, by launching the **TB Free India Campaign**.
- ❖ **Ministry of AYUSH** has set up an **AYUSH Information Cell** at the Indian Embassy in **Romania** to present authentic information about AYUSH system of medicine and to promote **Ayurveda practice** in Romania.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Bucharest, **Currency:** Romanian leu.
- ❖ **India** has signed **2** loan agreement 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.

STATES HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The Minister for Women & Child Development, **Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi**, alongwith Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, **Shri Adityanath Yogi** inaugurated the widows' home '**Krishna Kutir**' at a function at Vrindavan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** has cleared proposal of **Jharkhand** Government to rename **Nagar Untari town** and **Nagar Untari railway station** as **Banshidhar Nagar**, after **Banshidhar Temple**, which is dedicated to Krishna in Garhwa district of state.
- ❖ The **World Bank** has approved a financial assistance of **Rs. 929.89 crore** for Shimla **water supply and sewerage project**.
 - ✓ **Himachal Pradesh:Capital:** Shimla, **Chief Minister:** Jai Ram Thakur, **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat.
- ❖ The **Odisha** State Assembly has passed resolution seeking **creation** of Legislative Council (**Vidhan Parishad**).
 - ✓ A proposal in this regard was approved at the Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik**, parliamentary affairs minister **BK Aarukha**.
- ❖ The **Delhi Government** has launched scheme for **doorstep delivery** of **40 essential government services** like caste and marriage certificates, driving license and new water connections.
- ❖ **Haryana Government** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** to set up **ethanol plant** at village **Bohali village** in Panipat district with an outlay of over **Rs. 900 crore**.
 - ✓ This plant will motivate farmers in its 50 km radius area to manage crop residue and prevent straw burning and help to fulfill increasing demand of ethanol and also bio-fuels for consumers of petroleum product.
 - ✓ **Haryana:Capital:** Chandigarh, **Chief Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar, **Governor:** Satyadev Narayan Arya
- ❖ The **Regional Conference on Good Governance** with Focus on Aspirational Districts was held in **Bhopal**, capital of Madhya Pradesh. It was organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (**DAR&PG**), Ministry of Personnel, **Public Grievances** and **Pensions** in association with Madhya Pradesh Government. Delegates from **12 States/2 UTs** had participated in this Conference. There were 5 Technical sessions in this 2-day conference.

- ❖ The Health and Family Welfare Department of **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.
 - ✓ Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar already have prohibited manufacture, import, sale and distribution of Ends or e-cigarettes.
- ❖ Chief Minister of Assam **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the **Indo-Bhutan Border Centre** at Darranga in Assam's **Baksa** district to strengthen bilateral trade with the **neighbouring country**.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Dispur, **Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal, **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi.
- ❖ **Jammu and Kashmir** administration launched **E-Plant clinics** in **Udhampur** district in an event organized by **ADIO NIC** and **Agricultural Department**.
 - ✓ These have been established by the Agriculture Department in collaboration with Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI).
- ❖ The **Sadarmatt Anicut** and **Pedda Cheruvu irrigation tank** of Telangana are the **first** from India to secure a place in the register of **World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS)**.
 - ✓ WHIS is maintained by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID).
- ❖ India's ace sprinter **Hima Das** was appointed as **Sports Ambassador** of **Assam** to inspire budding players of **northeastern state** to aim big and young generation to take up sports seriously.
- ❖ **The government** of Andhra Pradesh chief minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** launched a mobile platform, **e-Rythu** (e-farmer in Telugu) which will enable **small-scale farmers** to market their produce at **reasonable prices**.
 - ✓ The platform has been **developed** by global payments and technology company **Mastercard** and aims to digitize agriculture marketplaces, payments, workflows, and provide farmers an easy and secure way to buy, sell and receive payments for agricultural products via their feature phones.
- ❖ **Union Government** has inked **US\$74 million** loan agreement for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Credit for **Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP)**.
 - ✓ **Uttarakhand Chif Minister:** Trivendra Singh Rawat, **Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya
- ❖ **Maharashtra Government** is setting up new **Cyber University** dedicated to mitigating **cyber threats**.
 - ✓ The Cyber University will provide for and prepare internet professionals on lines of **Microsoft Certified Professional Program**.
- ❖ Rajasthan's **first lion safari** was inaugurated at **Nahargarh Biological Park**.
- ❖ The **UP police** launched the '**e-FIR**' or '**dial-FIR**' scheme for the **first** time in the country, to help the citizens lodge a report and **FIR online**.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Governor **Satya Pal Malik** declared the state **open defecation free (ODF)** at the launch of "**Swachhata Hi Seva**" campaign at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (**SKICC**).
- ❖ India's **first** ever certified '**Dog Park**' comes up in **Hyderabad**.
 - ✓ **Telengana:Chief Minister:** K.Chandrashekhar Rao, **Governor:** E.S.L. Narasimhan.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** flagged off the '**Swachh Dhara**' programme with an aim to provide **clean drinking** water across the state.
- ❖ **Tamil Nadu government** has announced Scheme for protection of exotic **Neela kurinji** (*Strobilanthus kunthianus*) **plants** that flower only once in **12 years**. This scheme comes following complaints that these rare and ecologically unique flowers are being packaged and sold on the **commercial basis**.
- ❖ **Jharkhand government** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **National Insurance Company Ltd** to provide **medical facilities** to the people of the state under the Centre's flagship health scheme "**Ayushman Bharat Yojana**".
 - ✓ **Capital:** Ranchi, **Chief minister:** Raghubar Das, **Governor :** Draupadi Murmu.
- ❖ **Assam government** has decided to observe **September 22** as "**Rhino Day**", During the **10th** meeting of the State Board for Wildlife Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** expressed the idea to make people aware about the importance of **Rhinos**.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** has topped **Ease of Living Index rankings** under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). It was followed by **Odisha** and **Madhya Pradesh**. The **3 states** were awarded best-performing states at National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018 held in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ The index was conceived by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** in **June 2017**. It aims to help cities assess their liveability vis-a-vis global and national benchmarks and encourage them to move towards '**outcome-based**' approach to urban planning and management.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Sikkim's** first-ever airport at **Pakyong**. Prior to this airport, Sikkim was only state in India remaining without functional airport. **Pakyong airport** is India's **100th** functional airport and one of the country's **five highest airports**.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Gangtok, **Chief Minister:** Pawan Kumar Chamling, **Governor:** Shri Ganga Prasad.
- ❖ Vice-President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated two coastal tourism circuit projects in **Andhra Pradesh** taken up under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**. These projects are aimed at boosting **beach** and **coastal tourism** by leveraging bountiful coastlines along the state.

- ✓ **First coastal circuit:** It includes beautification of **Nellore tank** and **Pulicat Lake**, facelift to Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, construction of restaurant and development of Kotha Koduru, Ubbala Madugu, Mypadu, Rama Theertham, and Isukapalli project.
- ✓ **Second coastal circuit:** It is aimed at developing **Kakinada port**, **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Hope Island**, construction of cottages and wooden huts at Aduru, Passarlapudi and S Yanam and development of Kotipalli project.
- ❖ The BRICS' **New Development Bank** has approved a **\$525-million loan** for infrastructure projects in India. The loan will be used by the Indian government for on-lending to the **Madhya Pradesh government** for rehabilitating major district roads with a total length of about 2,000 km.
- ❖ Multilateral lender **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** will provide **US \$150 million loan** for establishing first **multi-skills park** in central Indian state of **Madhya Pradesh**.
 - ✓ **ADB Headquarter:** Manila, Philippines, **President:** Takehiko Nakao.
- ❖ The **Kolkata Municipal Corporation**, with the support of the **Asian Development Bank**, launched the country's **first flood forecasting and early-warning system**, which will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other **climate-related data**.
 - ✓ **West Bengal Chief Minister:** Mamata Banerjee, **Governor:** Kesari Nath Tripathi.
- ❖ The **8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship** held at the Jimmy George indoor stadium **Thiruvananthapuram** (Kerala). The championship organized jointly by **Yoga Federation of India**, **Yoga Association of Kerala**, and **Asian Yoga Federation** is being attended by around **350 participants** from **13 Asian countries**.
- ❖ The **150th birth anniversary** of **Mahatma Gandhi**, **Assam** state government will launch the **Universal Pension scheme** in the state. Under the scheme, the pension will be given to citizens over **60 years** of age.
- ❖ India's **first corn festival** began in Chhindwara, **Madhya Pradesh**.
- ❖ Vice president **M. Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated three days long **Smart City Expo India-2018** in **Jaipur**.
- ❖ The **Hyderabad Metro Rail's (HMR)** 46-km Corridor One became India's **second-largest metro** network after **Delhi**.

ECONOMY AWARENESS

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of **Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd**, Bhilwara, Rajasthan to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on **August 31, 2018**.
- ❖ **National Housing Bank** provide relief to a refinance assistance of **Rs 200 crore** the households having annual income up to **Rs 3 lakh** in rural areas and up to **Rs 6 lakh** in urban areas in the floods-hit state of **Kerala**.
 - ✓ **NHB Founded:** 9 July 1988, **Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Managing Director:** Shri Sriram Kalyanaraman
- ❖ **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**.
 - ✓ The index will be calculated in **Indian Rupees** and **US Dollar** in real-time by **BSE**, Asia's oldest exchange.
 - ✓ Only common stocks classified as Banks by the BSE Sector Classification model and that are not classified under the BSE scrip category as a **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)**.
- ❖ The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** launched its **first Trade Finance Scorecard**, a new tool to address market and boost trade finance to prevent money-laundering and terrorism.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** directed all **scheduled commercial banks** with more than **10 branches** to appoint an **internal ombudsman**.
 - ✓ However, the apex bank **excluded** Regional Rural Banks from its directive.
- ❖ The **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** was launched on **September 1, 2018** by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to ensure **financial inclusion** of all the citizens in the country, especially the rural population. The IPPBs will have **650 branches** and **3250 access points** across the country.
 - ✓ The payments bank, where the Indian government holds 100 per cent equity.
 - ✓ The main objective of the IPPB is to build **financial inclusion** at affordable rate for the common man.
 - ✓ All the **1.55 lakh** post offices in the country will be **linked** to the IPPB system by **December 31, 2018**.
 - ✓ The Union Cabinet had approved **80 per cent** increase in spending for IPPB from **Rs 800 crore** to **Rs 1435 crore**.
 - ✓ **Headquarter:** New Delhi, **MD & CEO:** Suresh Sethi, **Tagline:** Aapka Bank Aapke Dwaar.
- ❖ **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** has executed a corporate agency agreement with **HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company** to offer general insurance products (**non-life**) to its customers under open architecture and the same has been approved by **IRDA**.
 - ✓ The Insurance Products offered are like Motor, Health, Travel, Home and Personal Accident Insurance in the retail space and customized products like Property, Marine and Liability Insurance in the corporate space.
- ❖ **Mauritius** remained the top source of **foreign direct investment** into **India** in 2017-18 followed by **Singapore**, whereas total FDI stood at **USD 37.36 billion** in the **financial year**, a marginal rise over the **USD 36.31 billion** recorded in the previous fiscal, according to **RBI data**.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Port Louis, **Currency:** Mauritian rupee

- ❖ The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** relaxed **Aadhar** enrolment targets for **banks** and extended the deadline to **November 1, 2018**.
 ✓ **UIDAI Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Chief Executive Officer:** Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- ❖ The **government** decided to make the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts, the government has decided to **double** the overdraft facility from **Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000**.
 ✓ The age for availing entitlements has also been relaxed from **60 to 65 years**, around **53% account** holders under Jan Dhan are women, out of which **59% accounts** belong to **rural and semi-urban areas**.
 ✓ **Accident insurance** cover on **Rupay debit cards** linked with new insurance accounts increased to **Rs 2 lakh** from **Rs 1 lakh**.
- ❖ **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 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.
- ❖ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has partnered with **Financial Software and Systems (FSS)**, a payments technology company to ensure that **micro-merchants** are able to accept payments over any channel—online, unified payments interface (**UPI**), quick-response (**QR**) codes, Aadhaar and IPPB accounts.
 ✓ **FSS** will also provide **merchant management** and settlement solutions including on-boarding fee calculation, reconciliation and settlement to unorganized sector especially **rural households**, small and medium enterprises and **women**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a total penalty of **Rs. 3 crore** on three state-run banks of **Union Bank of India, Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra** for delay in detection and reporting of **fraud** in some **accounts**.
- ❖ The **Centre** has proposed the amalgamation of state-owned **Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank** to create India's **3rd largest bank** as parts of reforms in the **public sector banking** segment.
 ✓ It is estimated that the combined business of these banks would be **Rs 14.82 lakh crore**.
 ✓ This decision is part of the government's efforts to increase the **ability** to pay banks' **debt**, repair banking system and accelerate **economic growth**.
 ✓ These banks will continue to work **independently** even after the merger.
- ❖ **Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** has launched its monthly **e-newsletter** **MSME Insider**. The e-newsletter will give **information** of activities undertaken by MSME Ministry and also act as bridge between Ministry and millions of MSME units spread across the country.
 ✓ It will also help in developing **two-way** communication between **MSME Ministry** and its **stakeholders**.
 ✓ Minister of state (I/C): **Shri Giriraj Singh**, Secretary: **Dr. Arun Kumar Panda**.
- ❖ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has tied up a **five-year** with **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** to sell the latter's insurance products (**Bancassurance**) through their **accounts**. **BALIC** is the **first** life insurer to partner with IPPB.
- ❖ Leading stock exchanges **BSE and NSE** have got approval from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch trading in **commodity derivatives** segment from **1-October-2018**.
 ✓ **BSE** will begin trading in **commodity derivatives** with **non-agriculture commodities** like metals initially, followed by agri-commodities subsequently. **NSE** will launch its commodity derivatives segment trading in non-agriculture commodities in initial phase, followed by **agriculture commodities**.
 ✓ Currently, commodity derivatives are largely traded on **MCX and NCDEX**.
 ✓ **Bombay Stock Exchange: Headquarter-** Mumbai, **Chairman - S Ravi**.
 ✓ **National Stock Exchange: Headquarter-** Mumbai, **Chairman - Mr. Ashok Chawla**.
- ❖ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved **PayU India** to operate its own **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**.
- ❖ **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has approved **Rs 65,634.93 crore** loan so far to **93** prioritised irrigation projects under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)** through long term irrigation fund (**LTIF**).
 ✓ **Headquarter** Mumbai, **Chairman-Harsh Kumar Bhanwala**.
- ❖ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has shortlisted **five IT firms** for implementation of **Centralised Information and Management System (CIMS)** for seamless data collection and validations. These five IT firms are Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini Technology Services India, IBM India and Larsen & Toubro Infotech. These five firms were selected based on **expression of interest (EOI)** notified by RBI in July 2018 for identification of solution provider for implementation of CIMS by overhauling its **Data Warehouse (DW)**.
- ❖ **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** and **London Stock Exchange (LSE)** have signed Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to collaborate on creating **dual listing route** for **masala bonds** and foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers.
 ✓ **Masala bonds** are rupee-denominated bonds through which Indian entities can raise money from foreign markets in rupee and not in foreign currency.
- ❖ **Fitch Ratings** upped **India's** growth forecast for the current fiscal to **7.8 per cent**, from **7.4 per cent** earlier, but flagged rising oil bill and higher interest rates as key concerns.

- ❖ **Corporation bank** inked a pact on **information utility (IU)** agreement with **National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL)**.
 - ✓ **Headquarter:** Mangalore, **MD & CEO:** Shri Jai Kumar Garg,
 - ✓ **Tagline:** A Premier Public Sector Bank, Prosperity for all.
- ❖ **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** (3) **Quality**.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved conversion of **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** into government-owned company. Government will now own **100%** of GSTN which is **IT backbone** to **GST regime**. Majority of **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** processes including registration, filing of returns, payment of taxes, processing of refunds is IT driven and mainly through GSTN.
 - ✓ GSTN was set up as not for profit, non-Government, private limited company in 2013.
- ❖ Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has tied up with **Venture Catalysts (VCAT)** to provide **corporate banking services** to **start-up** companies.
- ❖ **Finance Ministry** has launched Mobile Application **Jan Dhan Darshak** as a Part of **Financial Inclusion**. This App will provide guidance to the common people in locating a **financial service** touch point at a given location in the country.
 - ✓ **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, Ministry of Finance and **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** have jointly developed the app **Jan Dhan Darshak** as a part of financial inclusion initiative.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has barred **Bandhan Bank** from opening **new branches** without its approval and ordered the bank to freeze the salary of its chief executive **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** over its failure to meet shareholding rules.
 - ✓ 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**.
- ❖ After deciding to merge **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, **Vijaya Bank** and **Dena Bank**, the government is likely to announce the merger of **three** other banks before the end of the year the **3 public sector banks (PSBs)** are likely to be **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, **Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC)** and **Andhra Bank**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** fined Karur Vysya Bank a total of Rs. 5 crore for non-compliance of its directives.
 - ✓ **Karur Vysya Bank:Headquarter:** Karur,Tamil Nadu, **MD & CEO:** PR Seshadri, **Tagline:** Smart way to Bank.
- ❖ **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.
 - ✓ 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.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, **Shri Arun Jaitley** launched a web portal for a transformative initiative in **MSME credit** space. The web portal is: **www.psbloansin59minutes.com**.
 - ✓ This is a first one of a kind MSME credit space which will ensure seamless loan approval up to **Rs. 1 crore** within **59 minutes** from **SIDBI** and **5 Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- ❖ 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**.
 - ✓ LRSAM has long-range engagement capability to penetrate **deep water** and **land** to intercept all types of aerial targets like subsonic and supersonic missiles, fighter aircraft, maritime patrolling aircraft (MPA), helicopter and sea skimming missiles.
- ❖ **Union Government** has received **Rs. 3,000 crore** of additional tax from **MNCs** that have entered into **advance pricing agreements (APAs)** with it over last five years and also has eliminated big source of **tax litigation**. It was revealed in recently released annual report on advance pricing agreements (APAs) for FY18 by **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
 - ✓ APAs are primarily aimed at avoiding transfer pricing disputes arising from cross-border transactions undertaken by MNCs.
- ❖ The merger of **Idea Cellular** and **Vodafone India** has been completed after it was cleared by **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**.
- ❖ India's **first 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck (Model BH205-E)**, designed and developed by **Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)** was flagged off recently. The dump truck has been developed for use in the project of **Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)**, Singrauli, **Madhya Pradesh**.
- ❖ The **Competition Commission of India** approved the acquisition of **Pipeline Infrastructure** by **India Infrastructure Trust**.

- ❖ **Union Minister** of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu** participated in the 2-day **G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting**, held in Mar del Plata in **Argentina**.
 - ✓ The **agenda** includes global supply chains, the **4th industrial revolution** and the **international trade** outlook.
 - ✓ **Theme:-** Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development.
- ❖ **BSNL** has inked a pact with Japan's **Softbank** and **NTT Communications** to roll out **5G** and internet of things technology in India.
- ❖ **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**.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

- ❖ **India** along with **23 other nations**, would be participating in a major **Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise** (drill) on September 4 and 5.
 - ✓ The exercise, known as **IOWave18**, is being organised by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)** of **UNESCO**.
 - ✓ **UNESCO Headquarter:** Paris, France, **Head:** Audrey Azoulay
- ❖ **Indian Army** and **Kazakhstan Army** completed the **third edition** of their joint military Exercise **KAZIND 2018** in Otar Military area, **Kazakhstan** in a significant step towards **fostering military** and **diplomatic ties** between the two countries.
 - ✓ The **aim** of the exercise is to build and promote bilateral Army to Army relations and exchange skills and experiences between Kazakhstan Army and the Indian Army.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Astana, **Currency:** Kazakhstani tenge.
- ❖ **Indian navy** ships and aircraft arrived in **Sri Lanka** to take part in the **SLINEX-2018** joint exercise at **Trincomalee**, Sri Lanka. It aims to enhance cooperation in the maritime domain and to further strengthen mutual trust and interoperability between the two navies.
 - ✓ The exercise will be conducted in two phases, namely the **Harbour** and **Sea Phase**.
- ❖ **Cyient Solutions & Systems Pvt. Ltd** has bagged order from **Indian Army** to supply **SpyLite mini UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle)** systems for high altitude **aerial surveillance**. Cyient Solutions & Systems Pvt. Ltd is joint venture between **IT firm Cyient** and **BlueBird Aero Systems** of **Israel**.
- ❖ Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated 3-day **Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference-2018** in **New Delhi**. It was jointly organised by **PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry** in association with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSME**).
- ❖ The **first** field training military exercise **MILEX-18**, as part of the **Bay of Bengal initiative for multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation (BIMSTEC)** commenced at Foreign Training Node at **Aundh** in **Pune**, Maharashtra. All member BIMSTEC countries, except **Nepal** will take active part in this exercise.
 - ✓ **MILEX-18:** Its main aim is to promote strategic alignment among member-states and to share best practices in the area of **counter-terrorism**.
- ❖ **India, Mongolia** joint exercise **Nomadic Elephant 2018** commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (**MAF**) Five Hills Training Area in **Ulaanbaatar**. Nomadic Elephant is annual **bilateral military** exercise started in **2006**.
 - ✓ **Nomadic Elephant 2018:** This year it is **13th** edition of exercise aimed at developing mutual understanding and respect between armies of both countries and facilitate in tackling the world wide phenomenon of terrorism.
 - ✓ **Mongolia:Capital:** Ullanbaatar, **Currency:** Mongolian togrog.
- ❖ **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay** has recommissioned **India's** oldest nuclear research reactor named '**Apsara**', which was shut down permanently in **2009** for repair.
 - ✓ The refurbished version of this reactor has been named as '**Apsara-upgraded**' (**Apsara-U**) and also has double capacity compared to its earlier version.
 - ✓ **Apsara** was the **first** nuclear research reactor in **Asia**. It had become operational in BARC's Trombay campus in August 1956. It was **first** nuclear research reactor **indigenously** developed in India.
- ❖ **India** and **United States** joint military exercise "**Yudh Abhyas 2018**" commenced at **Chaubattia, Uttarakhand**. It will be **fourteenth edition** of exercise in **Yudh Abhyas** series which was started in **2004** under **US Army Pacific Partnership Program**.
 - ✓ The aim of this exercise will be to enhance interoperability between armies. It will also focus on enhancing counter-terror cooperation.
- ❖ **India** and **Russia** joint "**Air Exercise Aviaindra 18**" was held in **Lipetsk**, Russia from September 17 to 28, 2018. The second session of **Aviaindra 18** will be conducted in **Jodhpur**, Rajasthan (India) from December **10 Dec** to **22, 2018**.
 - ✓ The aim of this exercise is focused towards **anti-terrorist operations** in bi-lateral scenario. It also seeks to further enhance co-operation and understanding between Air forces of both countries in each other's Concept of Operations.

- ❖ **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted **first** successful trials of indigenously developed 3rd generation **Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** has approved procurement of **1,000 engines** of 1,000 BHP (brake horse power) for fitment in **T-72 tanks** of Indian Army. These engines will be procured under '**Buy & Make**' category at an approximate cost of over **Rs 2,300 crore**.
- ❖ Raksha Mantri **Nirmala Sitharaman** while inaugurating the **37th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference** in **New Delhi**, lauded the exemplary efficiency of the Coast Guard and foresightedness of its leadership for scientific and meticulously planned development of the organisation to meet the **emergent challenges**.
- ❖ The **2nd Anniversary of Surgical Strike** was celebrated as **Parakram Parv** or **Surgical Strike Day** on September 29-30, 2018 by **Indian Army**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ **NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)** are collaborating to set up Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (**ICTAI**) in **Bengaluru**, **Karnataka**. This collaboration is part of NITI Aayog's '**National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence**'.
- ❖ **India and France** have signed agreement to collaborate for **ISRO's first human space mission Gaganyaan** to be launched in **2022**.
 - ✓ **Gaganyaan Mission**: It will be India's **first** manned space mission. Under it, India is planning to send **three humans** (Gaganyatris) into space by **2022** for period of **five** to seven days. The mission was announced by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during his **72nd Independence Day** speech.
- ❖ **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully carried out **first** ever mid-air refuelling of indigenously developed **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas MK-1** over Gwalior, **Madhya Pradesh**.
- ❖ **Hindustan Shipyard Limited** announced that India's **first** ocean surveillance and missile tracking ship **VC 11184**, will undertake its **first** sea trial in the first week of **October 2018**.
- ❖ Minister of Railways & Coal, **Piyush Goyal** launched a new mobile app named "**AAPOORTI**" of '**Indian Railways e-procurement system**' (**IREPS**), at the seminar on "**Leveraging IT for Mobility**" in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched two satellites-**NovaSAR** and **S1-4**-belonging to United Kingdom (**UK**) based Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (**SSTL**).
 - ✓ **S1-4 Satellite**: It is high resolution earth observation satellite meant for surveying resources, environment monitoring, urban management and disaster monitoring.
 - ✓ **NovaSAR Satellite**: It carries S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (**SAR**) and Automatic Identification Receiver payloads. It is technology demonstration mission designed to test capabilities of new low cost S-band SAR platform.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has inaugurated **S-Band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar (DWR)** at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota spaceport, **Andhra Pradesh**.
 - ✓ **Doppler Weather Radar (DWR)**: The radar has been indigenously developed by Bharat Electronics Ltd (**BEL**), Bengaluru under ToT (Training of Trainers) from ISRO. It is the seventh radar of such type manufactured in the country under "**Make in India**".
- ❖ 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**).
 - ✓ **EyeROV TUNA** has been designed and developed indigenously by Kochi-based start-up **IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd (EyeROV)**.
- ❖ India's largest **Cyclotron**, a type of particle accelerator that produces **radioisotopes**, for medical applications became operational in **Kolkata**. According to the **Department of Atomic Energy**, the facility called **Cyclone-30** at the **Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC)** in Kolkata will provide affordable radioisotopes and related **radiopharmaceuticals**. The first phase of production generating **Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG)**, a radioisotope used for date imaging and oncological tissue imaging.
- ❖ **India** successfully conducted **Prithvi interceptor missile** test off the **Odisha coast** at night. With this, **Defence Research and Development Organization** achieved major milestone in developing indigenous two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system.
 - ✓ **DRDO Headquarter**: New Delhi, **Defence Secretary and Chairman**: Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy.
- ❖ The indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range **Air-to-Air Missile Astra**, was successfully test fired by the Indian Air Force from Su-30 aircraft, from Air Force Station, **Kalaikunda** (**West Bengal**).

- ❖ The **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)**.

SPORTS

- ❖ India finishes **8th** with a final tally of **69 medals**–15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze, at **Asian Games 2018**.
 - ✓ China topped the tally with 289 medals including 132 gold.
 - ✓ **Japan** finishes **2nd** while Republic of **Korea** secured **3rd** place.
 - ✓ The 2018 Asian Games, officially known as the **18th Asian Games** were held in Jakarta-Palembang 2018 from **18 August to 2 September** 2018 in the Indonesian cities of **Jakarta** and **Palembang**.
 - ✓ This was second time Asian Games history, Indonesia had hosted it after **first time in 1962** in Jakarta. Indian women hockey captain **Rani Rampal** was **India's flag-bearer** at closing ceremony.
 - ✓ **Mascots**: Trio of **Bhin Bhin** (bird of paradise), **Kaka** (one horned rhino) and **Atung** (deer).
- ❖ Japanese swimmer **Rikako Ikee** became the **first** female athlete to be named the Most Valuable player in the **18th Asian Games** by the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**.
- ❖ **India's** women's 10 metre air rifle shooters **Anjum Moudgil** and **Apurvi Chandela** secured a quota place for the **2020 Tokyo Olympics** after their impressive performances at the **ISSF World Championships**.
- ❖ Former world number one **Novak Djokovic** from Serbia won **2018 US Open title** of tennis in men's singles category by defeating Argentina's **Juan Martín del Potro**.
 - ✓ **Women's singles title**: It was won by Japan's Naomi Osaka by defeating Serena Williams.
 - ✓ **Men's Double title**: It was won by US pair of Mike Bryan and Jack Sock.
 - ✓ **Women's Doubles title**: It was won by Ashleigh Barty (Australia) and CoCo Vandeweghe (US).
 - ✓ **Mixed Doubles title**: It was won by Jamie Murray (UK) and Bethanie Mattek-Sands (US).
- ❖ **India Blue** has won 2017-18 **Duleep Trophy** by defeating defending champion **India Red** by an innings and 187 runs in the final match played at NPR College ground in **Dindigul, Tamilnadu**.
 - ✓ **Duleep Trophy**: It is a domestic first-class cricket tournament played between teams representing geographical zones of India.
- ❖ **India's** 101-year-old female athlete **Mann Kaur** wins **gold medal** at **World Masters Athletics Championships** in **Malaga, Spain**.
- ❖ **Sardar Singh**, former Indian **hockey captain**, has announced his **retirement** from **international hockey**.
- ❖ Triple jumper **Arpinder Singh** became the **first** Indian to win a medal at the **IAAF Continental Cup**, by winning **bronze** medal, at Ostrava, **Czech Republic**.
- ❖ **Indian women boxers** have bagged a total of **seven medals**, including **3 gold** medals, **2 silver** medals and **2 bronze** medals at the **32nd Ahmet Comert Boxing tournament** in **Turkey**.

1	Monika Monika	Light Fly (48kg)	Gold
2	Simranjit Kaur Baatth	Light Welter (64kg)	Gold
3	Bhagyabati Kachari	Light Heavy (81kg)	Gold
4	Pinki Rani	Pinki Rani	Silver
5	M.Kumari Devi Maisnam	M.Kumari Devi Maisnam	Silver
6	Sonia Sonia	Sonia Sonia	Bronze
7	Kavita Cehahal	Kavita Cehahal	Bronze

- ❖ The **National Sports Awards** every year to recognize and award excellence in **sports in India**. These awards include **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (RGKRA)**, **Dronacharya Award**, **Arjuna Award**, **Dhyan Chand Award**, **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy** and **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar**. The awardees will receive their awards from President **Ram Nath Kovind** at special function organized at **Rashtrapati Bhawan** on **25th September, 2018**.
 - ✓ **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**:
 - It is India's **highest sporting** award given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of **four years**.
 - **Recipients are**: S. Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting) and Virat Kohli (Cricket).
 - ✓ **Dronacharya Awards 2018**:
 - It bestowed upon **coaches** for producing medal winners at prestigious **international sports events**.

1	Subedar Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa	Boxing	5	Shri Clarence Lobo	Hockey
2	Shri Vijay Sharma	Weightlifting	6	Shri Tarak Sinha	Cricket
3	Shri A. Srinivasa Rao	Table Tennis	7	Shri Jiwan Kumar Sharma	Judo
4	Shri Sukhdev Singh Pannu	Athletics	8	Shri V.R. Beedu	Athletics

✓ **Arjuna Awards 2018:**

- It is India's **second** highest sporting award bestowed upon sportsperson for consistently outstanding performance for **four** years.

1	Shri Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	11	Ms. Rahi Sarnobat	Shooting
2	Naib Subedar Jinson Johnson	Athletics	12	Shri Ankur Mittal	Shooting
3	Ms. Hima Das	Athletics	13	Ms. Shreyasi Singh	Shooting
4	Ms. Nelakurthi Sikki Reddy	Badminton	14	Ms. Manika Batra	Table Tennis
5	Subedar Satish Kumar	Boxing	15	Shri G. Sathiyam	Table Tennis
6	Ms. Smriti Mandhana	Cricket	16	Shri Rohan Bopanna	Tennis
7	Shri Shubhankar Sharma	Golf	17	Shri Sumit	Wrestling
8	Shri Manpreet Singh	Hockey	18	Ms. Pooja Kadian	Wushu
9	Ms. Savita	Hockey	19	Shri Ankur Dhama	Para-Athletics
10	Col. Ravi Rathore	Polo	20	Shri Manoj Sarkar	Para-Badminton

✓ **Dhyan Chand Award 2018:**

- Dhyan Chand Award is given for life time contribution to sports development.

1	Shri Satyadev Prasad	Archery	3	Ms. Bobby Aloysius	Athletics
2	Shri Bharat Kumar Chetri	Hockey	4	Shri Chougale Dadu Dattatray	Wrestling

✓ **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2018:**

- Identification and Nurturing of Budding & Young Talent: **Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited.**
- Encouragement to Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility: **JSW Sports.**
- Sports for Development: **Isha Outreach.**

✓ **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2017-18:**

- It is given annually to the university/institutions for their all-round performance in Inter-University Tournaments.
- **Recipient:** Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

❖ **Lewis Hamilton** won the **Singapore Grand Prix** at Marina Bay Street Circuit, in **Singapore**.

❖ AIBA Women's **World Boxing Championships** will be hosted by **India** from 13-25 November 2018 in **New Delhi**.

✓ **International Boxing Association:** Headquarter–Lausanne, Switzerland, **President** – Mr Gafur Rahimov.

❖ **Badminton** player and Olympian **PV Sindhu** is the 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.

❖ **Luka Modric** has been named the **Fifa men's** footballer of the year at a ceremony in **London**, with Brazil's **Marta** crowned the world's best female player.

❖ **India** beat **Bangladesh** by three wickets to win their **seventh Asia Cup** title at the **Dubai International Cricket Stadium** in Dubai.

❖ **M.Sreesankar**, the **19-year-old**, defeated **Ankit Sharma's** National and meet record in the **men's long jump** in the **National Open athletics championships**.

AWARDS & HONOURS

❖ Union Ministry of **Human Resource Development** launched the **National Clean School Award 2018** prepared by National Institute of Cleanliness Education and Research (**NICER**).

✓ It is a compilation of 52 schools out of 721 schools based on the cleanliness factor.

✓ **Puducherry** top followed by Tamil nadu, Andhra Pradesh & Gujarat combined.

❖ The Panchpatmali bauxite mine of **National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO)** won **5 awards** at the concluding ceremony of **20th Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) week**.

❖ Mumbai-based eminent neurosurgeon **Dr B.K. Misra** was named for prestigious **Dr B.C. Roy National Award** for year 2018 as **Eminent Medical Person** of the Year.

- ❖ **Union Ministry of Water Resources** has instituted **National Water Awards** with objective to encourage all stakeholders to manage their water resources efficiently and create water consciousness in the **country**. The awards will be given for **13 categories**
 - ✓ They will be given for **13 categories** viz. Best State; Best District; Best Village Panchayat; Best Municipal Corporation; Best research, innovation and adaptation of new technology for water conservation; Best educative and mass awareness efforts; Best TV show for promoting water conservation; Best Newspaper; Best School; Best Institution for successful campus water usage; Best Resident Welfare Association.
- ❖ **Shri Manoj Jhalani**, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (**NHM**), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been conferred with the prestigious **UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF)** Award for his outstanding contribution towards **prevention** and control of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** and related **Sustainable Development Goals**.
- ❖ **Bibek Debroy**, Chairman, **Economic Advisory Council** to the Prime Minister, was conferred '**Honoris Causa**' by the **University of Engineering & Management (UEM)** in **Kolkata**.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, **Prakash Javadekar** presented the **Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2017-18** at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in **New Delhi**, as a part of the **Swachhata Hi Seva** campaign launched by PM **Narendra Modi** on September **15, 2018**.
 - ✓ The award was launched as a follow up to the Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative launched in 2014.
- ❖ The Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu** presented "**Rajbhasha Kirti**" award to **Punjab National Bank** on the occasion of **Hindi Divas**.
 - ✓ **Headquarter:** New Delhi, **MD & CEO:** Shri Sunil Mehta, **Tagline:** The Name you can bank upon!.
- ❖ Assamese movie '**Village Rockstars**' was selected as India's official entry to the **Oscars 2019** (91st Academy Awards) under **Foreign Language Film** category.
 - ✓ The film is written, edited, co-produced, and directed by **Rima Das**, who is a self-taught filmmaker. It has been set in Das' own village Kalandiya in Chaygao district of Assam.
- ❖ Social networking giant **Facebook** has selected **three** Indian women among five global leaders for **\$1 million** award as part of its Community Leadership Programme. They are **Adhunikha Prakash**, **Chetana Misra** and **Tamanna Dhamija**.
 - ✓ They were awarded **\$50,000** in fellowship each.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been awarded with the United Nations' highest honour "**Champions of the Earth award 2018**" for his leadership of the **International Solar Alliance** and **pledge** to eliminate single use plastic in India by **2022**.
- ❖ Airports Authority of India's **Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport**, Indore and **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport**, Ahmedabad were conferred with the prestigious **National Tourism Awards 2016-17** at a glittering award function on **World Tourism Day**.
- ❖ The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, Bangalore has been named the **Top Indian institute** for the **5th** straight year in the **Times Higher Education World University Rankings** and was placed in the 251-300 bracket.
- ❖ Actor-director **Pankaj Kapur** is honoured with '**Icons of Indian Cinema**' Award at the closing ceremony of the **9th** edition of **Jagran Film Festival** in **Mumbai**. He is a 3-time **National Award** winner films were **Raakh** (1989), **Ek Doctor Ki Maut** (1991) **Vishal Bhardwaj's** adaptation of Macbeth, **Maqbool** (2003).
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** conferred **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure awards 2017** to 10 recipients at an event in **Rashtrapati Bhawan**, New Delhi.
 - ✓ Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award is the highest national recognition for remarkable achievements in **adventure on land, sea and air**.
 - ✓ Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award 2017 has been conferred to the all-women crew of **INSV Tarini** for circumnavigating the world in **8 months**.
 - ✓ The **INSV Tarini** crew who received the award:

• Lt. Commander Vartika Joshi,	Lieutenant P. Swathi,	Lieutenant Pratibha Jamwal
• Lieutenant Vijaya Devi,	Sub Lieutenant Payal Gupta,	Lieutenant B Aishwarya

PERSON APPOINTED /RESIGNED

- ❖ **R Madhavan** took over as Chairman and Managing Director of defence PSU **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** from **T Suvarna Raju**.
- ❖ BSNL signed in Indian Boxer **Mary Kom** as the brand ambassador of the company.
- ❖ **India** has retained the top WHO position in South-East Asia Region with **Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh** unanimously re-elected as Regional Director for another five-year term beginning February 2019.
- ❖ **Dr Arif ur Rehman Alvi** was elected as **13th President of Pakistan**.
- ❖ Justice **Ranjan Gogoi** will be become **46th Chief Justice of India** succeeding incumbent **Dipak Misra**.
- ❖ 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. Bank of India's managing director and chief executive **Dina Bandhu Mohapatra** was elected as the **deputy chairman**.
- ❖ Senior BJP leader **L K Advani** was renominated as Chairman of **Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha**.
- ❖ **State Bank of India** appointed **Anshula Kant** as **Managing Director**.
- ❖ Two-wheeler market leader **Hero MotoCorp** announced signing up of Indian cricket captain **Virat Kohli** as its **brand ambassador**.
- ❖ Axis Bank, **Amitabh Chaudhry** has been appointed its **Managing Director & CEO** from January 1, 2019 for a period of **three years**.
- ❖ Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed renowned scientist **Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas** as chairman of **Atomic Energy Commission** and secretary of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- ❖ Financial Commissioner of Delhi **Anindo Majumdar** was appointed Secretary, **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**.
- ❖ Actors **Varun Dhawan** and **Anushka Sharma** have been signed as ambassadors of **Skill India Campaign** to promote the **Skill India Mission**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- ❖ **Tajinder Mukherjee** took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Insurance Company Limited (NIC).
- ❖ **State Bank of India** appointed **Prashant Kumar** as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Bank.
 - ✓ **Headquarter:** Mumbai, **Chairman:** Rajnish Kumar,
 - ✓ **Tagline:** With you all the way, Pure Banking Nothing Else, The Nation's banks on us.
- ❖ **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** was elected the new President of **Maldives**.
 - ✓ **Maldives:Capital**-Male, **Currency**-Maldivian rufiyaa.
- ❖ Indian actress **Jaya Prada** has been appointed **Goodwill Ambassador** for the promotion of **Nepal tourism** for a term of **4 years**.
- ❖ Air Marshal **Anil Khosla** will be appointed as the new **Vice Chief** of the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ **Anil Kumar Chaudhary** has been appointed as the new chairman of the **Steel Authority of India (SAIL)**.
- ❖ **Facebook** has appointed **Ajit Mohan** as managing director and vice-president of **India operations**.
- ❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has appointed senior IPS officer **Rajni Kant Misra** as Director General of **Border Security Force (BSF)**.
- ❖ Union Minister for Tribal Affairs minister **Shri Jual Oram**, introduced the Indian Sporting Legend and the World Boxing Champion **Ms. Mary Kom** as the Brand Ambassador of "**Tribes India**" and launched the "**Punch Tantra**" Diwali collection.
- ❖ The Centre constituted an **eight-member** search committee, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**, to recommend the chairperson and members of the **anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal**.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has constituted High Level Committee on **Corporate Social Responsibility-2018 (HLC-2018)** under Chairmanship of Secretary, MCA **Injeti Srinivas**.

OBITUARY

- ❖ Popular Jain monk **Tarun Sagar** passed away at Radhapuri Jain Temple in east Delhi after a prolonged illness.
- ❖ Former Maharashtra football player **Arthur Pereira** died in Mumbai.
- ❖ Gujarati author and journalist **Bhagwatikumar Sharma** passed away.
- ❖ Former India striker **Sukalyan Ghosh Dastidar** has passed away.
- ❖ The Mumbai-based, Artist **Mehli Gobhai** passed away.
- ❖ Padma Bhushan awardee and agricultural economist **Vijay Shankar Vyas** passed away.
- ❖ India's **first** woman IAS officer post-Independence, **Anna Rajam Malhotra**, passed away.
- ❖ Revolutionary leader, writer and feminist **Kondapalli Koteswaramma** passed away.
- ❖ Former Asian Games champion wrestler **Ganpatrao Andalka (83)**, passed away.
- ❖ Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president **Biswanath Dutt** passed away.
- ❖ Renowned filmmaker **Kalpana Lajmi** died at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai.
- ❖ The legendary harmonium artiste **Pandit Tulsidas Borkar** passed away.
- ❖ Renowned Marathi writer, novelist and translator **Kavita Mahajan** passed away.
- ❖ Former Union Minister and Congress leader **Shantaram Potdukhe** has passed away.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, released the book “**Moving On, Moving Forward**–A Year in Office” to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
- ❖ Union HRD Minister **Shri Prakash Javadekar** released the curriculum on **Experiential Learning–Gandhi’s Nai Talim** in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Preeti Shenoy** announced the launch of her new book named ‘**The Rule Breakers**’. This book covers complex themes of women’s equality, gender, inclusion etc.
- ❖ **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu**, Honourable Vice President of India released the Book **Constitutionalizing India: an Ideational Project**, authored by **Shri Bidyut Chakrabarty**, in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Westland Books** announced that, journalist, author and filmmaker **Sundeep Misra**, would write a book on sprinter Dutee Chand, who won **2 silver medals** at the Asian Games 2018.
 - ✓ The book is named “**Story so far**”. It would be released in 2019.
- ❖ The **Minister of State** for Culture (Independent Charge) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, **Dr. Mahesh Sharma** released **two important** publications of the **National Museum** in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ The **National Museum Research Bulletin No.10**: Special issue has a number of research paper that highlight the collection, display and education.
 - ✓ **Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata** : Ek Parichay is a Hindi version of An Introduction To Indus Valley Civilization which among the bestsellers.
- ❖ The book “**Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple**” written by **Vineet Bajpai** was launched in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ The **Urdu version** of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s book ‘**Exam Warriors**’ was released in **New Delhi**.

Days|Week|Year

- ❖ **2nd September 2018**: -World coconut day.
 - ✓ Theme: -‘**Coconut for Good Health, Wealth & Wellness**’.
- ❖ **5th September 2018**: -National Teachers’ Day.
- ❖ **5th September 2018**: -International Day of Charity.
- ❖ **8th September 2018**: -International Literacy day.
 - ✓ Theme: -literacy and skill development.
- ❖ **10th September 2018**: -World Suicide Prevention Day.
- ❖ **12th September 2018**: -International Day for South-South Cooperation.
- ❖ **14th September 2018**: - National Hindi Divas (Hindi Day).
 - ✓ Theme: -Working Together to Prevent Suicide.
- ❖ **16th September 2018**: -International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer (or **World Ozone Day**).
 - ✓ Theme: -‘Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol’.
- ❖ **23rd September 2018**: -**The first International Day of Sign Languages**.
 - ✓ Theme: -With Sign Language, Everyone is Included.
- ❖ **22nd September 2018**: -**World Rose Day or Cancer Free Day**.
- ❖ **26th September 2018**: -**World Contraception Day**.
- ❖ **27th September 2018**: -The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
- ❖ **27th September 2018**: -**World Tourism Day**.
 - ✓ Theme: -Tourism and the Digital Transformation.
- ❖ **28th September 2018**: -**World Rabies Day**.
 - ✓ Theme: -‘Rabies: Share the message. Save a life’.
- ❖ **29th September 2018**: -**World Heart Day**.
 - ✓ Theme: - My Heart, Your Heart.
- ❖ **30th September 2018**: -**International Translation Day**.
 - ✓ Theme: - Translation: promoting cultural heritage in changing times.

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