RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS – (PHASE I) – JUNE 2018

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** launched an **Online Analytical Tool**
   - To facilitate closer monitoring of the flow and utilisation of foreign contributions received by various organisations registered or permitted under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010.**
   - This tool helps decision-makers in different Departments of Government to examine the source of foreign funds and their actual use in India.

2. **PM Narendra Modi** launched three Indian digital payment systems - **RuPay, BHIM app and UPI by SBI** at the 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' in **Singapore**
   - With the launch, India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore’s 33-year old **Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS).**
   - The move will enable RuPay users to make payments at all of NETS acceptance points across Singapore
   - Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS) is an electronic payment service provider formed in 1985 to spearhead the nation-wide implementation of Electronic Funds Transfer at Point-Of-Sale (EFTPOS) in Singapore

3. The two-day thematic seminar on **Water and Sanitation** started in Pune, Maharashtra.
   - This seminar is one among the eight events organized by the Ministry of Finance
   - Discussions were held on efficient water management, drinking water, sanitation infrastructure and waste management, financing, regulatory etc

4. **Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Home Affairs** come up with India’s **First Advanced Forensic Lab** launched in **Chandigarh.**
   - The lab is called ‘**Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory**’.
   - The labs are categorized to 4 units:
     i. Sexual Assault and Homicide Unit
     ii. Paternity Unit
     iii. Human Identification Unit
iv. **Mitochondrial Unit.**

- The objective is to address the gap in forensic analysis of pending sexual assault cases in the country
- 5 other labs would come up in: Mumbai, Chennai, Guwahati, Pune, Bhopal.

5. **The Ministry of Culture** launched a new scheme called ‘**Seva Bhoj Yojana**’
   - It has been launched to lessen the financial burden of **Charitable Religious Institutions**.
   - The scheme envisages to reimburse the **Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST)** on purchase of raw items such as ghee, edible oil, atta/maida/rava/flour, rice pulses, sugar, burra/jaggery etc which go into preparation of food/Prasad/langar/bhandara offered free of cost by religious institutions.
   - They should serve at least **5000** people in a month and is under Societies Registration Act and under Income Tax Act
   - The eligible institutions must be registered with the **Darpan Portal**.

6. The government of **Andhra Pradesh** announced that it will give allowance of **Rs. 1000 on monthly basis** to the state’s unemployed graduate youth.

7. **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **3rd year of Chandranna Bima Yojana**, in Amaravati, **Andhra Pradesh**.
   - It was launched on **October 2, 2016**
   - Aam Admi Bima Yojana, Pradhana Mantri Jeevana Jyothi Bima Yojana, Pradhana Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and the Individual Accident Bima Policy of the State government are a part of this insurance scheme.
   - The total policy amount will be paid by Andhra Pradesh government. The beneficiaries need to **pay only Rs. 15 per year**.
8. The government of Odisha launched a health insurance scheme for journalists – “Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana”
   - This scheme provides Rs. 2 Lakh per annum health insurance cover to all working journalists of the state.
   - The scheme would initially cover 3200 journalists and their family members

9. The government of Haryana has launched 15 new One-Stop centres for women affected by violence in all its districts.
   - The Seven districts which already have the OSCs are: Karnal, Bhiwani, Gurugram, Faridabad, Hisar, Rewari and Narnual.

10. India ranked 113 out of 175 countries in the Save the Children’s “End of Childhood Index 2018”.
    - The index is a part of a report: ‘The Many faces of Exclusion’.
    - US ranked 36th
    - Russia ranked 37th
    - China ranked 40th
    - Singapore and Slovenia are at the top of the chart sharing 1st place.
    - Niger is at the bottom

11. Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has revised the VIKALP scheme, enabling wait-listed passengers who booked tickets from counters to choose the alternate train accommodation scheme.
    - VIKALP or Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) was launched in 2015. This scheme was introduced only for tickets booked online.
    - If a passengers avails VIKALP scheme, he/she should mark his/her choice of alternate train departing within 12 hours, 24 hours, 48 hours.

12. India’s first superfast train, Deccan Queen Express from Mumbai to Pune marked 88 years of service.
• Also known as Queen of Deccan.

   • It has been done to increase public participation with the IT department to unearth black money and reduce tax evasion.
   • This has replaced the reward scheme issued in 2007.
   • Under this scheme a person upon giving specific information about tax evasion to the Investigation Directorate of the IT department can be rewarded up to Rs. 50 lakhs.
   • A reward of up to Rs. 5 crore would be given to people who would provide precise information about the black money tugged away in the foreign countries.

14. A new reward scheme named “Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018” has been introduced by the Income Tax Department.
   • A person can receive reward up to Rs. 1 crore for offering specific information in prescribed manner to the Joint or Additional Commissioners of Benami Prohibition Units (BPUs) in Investigation Directorates of Income Tax Department.

15. The co-founder of Citrus, Mr. Satyen Kothari has launched his new venture of an app that can sweep funds between bank A/Cs and Mutual Funds named Cube Wealth.
   • Customers can retrieve money to their bank A/Cs during emergencies however, this feature is only available to those whose initial amount of transaction is Rs. 50000.

16. India successfully performed the first test its new surface-to-air missile with nozzle less booster powered by Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology, from launching complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast.
   • Designed and developed by DRDO
17. The government is planning to set up a venture capital fund of **Rs 1,500 crore, with Rs 500 crore of the government’s money**, under the FAME-II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles) scheme to invest in the electric vehicles sector.

18. The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru** has made it to the top 100 universities in the Times Higher Education (THE)’s World Reputation Rankings 2018
   - Becoming the only Indian institution to make it to the prestigious list this year.

19. Assent has been given to set up the country’s **first National Sports University** in Manipur.

20. **India** has signed the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in Nursing with Singapore.
   - This is the first MRA being signed by India with any of our Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners.

21. **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) along with Yes Bank** organised a cleanliness drive at Kalindi Kunj ghat on river Yamuna in New Delhi, as a part of activities for the World Environment Day 2018
   - **World Environment Day** is observed every year on June 5

22. On June 2, 2018, **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare** announced that India has made huge progress in coconut cultivation from mid 2014-2018.
   - India became the leading country in coconut production and productivity.
   - Productivity increased from **10122** in 2013-14 to **1151** in 2014-18.
   - India has been exporting coconut oil to Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka since April 2017
   - Under the skill development program for coconut sector ‘Friends of Coconut Tree’, **33228** unemployed youths have been trained as compared to **27770** in 2004-14.
23. The Ministry of Earth Sciences launched a new forecast model called the **Ensemble Prediction System (EPS)**.
   - To give accurate and area specific forecast of extreme weather events like rain, heat wave and cold wave.
   - The EPS has been developed by – **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)** and **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology** all under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

24. Under the Supreme Court’s, the Centre formed a **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)**.
   - To address the dispute over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.

25. The government of **Andhra Pradesh** has launched a **Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF)** scheme for benefitting the farmers by **2024**.
   - Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a set of farming methods, and also a grassroots peasant movement, which has spread to various states in India.

26. **Saudi Arabia** announced a cabinet reshuffle with main focus on culture and religion.
   - Also, a **royal commission** has been set up for the holy city of Mecca.
   The commission will welcome Muslim pilgrims for the annual hajj in August and will be **chaired by Prince Mohammed**.

27. India successfully carried out the flight test of **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** propulsion based missile, according to the **Defence Ministry**.

28. Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), **Shripad Yesso Naik** will inaugurate the **third National Health Editors’ Conference on Yoga** at Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) in **New Delhi**.

29. **Humsafar Jodhpur Bandra Express** is flagged off at Bhagat Ki Kothi Railway Station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

30. **NTPC adopted the Charminar in Hyderabad** under the Swachh Iconic Places Project.
   - This has been selected under the Swachh Bharat Mission
31. The state government of **Gujarat** has launched a **dedicated ambulance service for infants**.
   - It has been done to prevent the death of newborns due to lack of emergency medical facilities in health centres
   - This service is under the ‘**Neonatal ambulance service project for inter-hospital transfer**’

32. **Telangana State Forest Development Corporation (TSFDC)** has launched **two eco-tourism projects** in the state.
   - One will be developed in **Chintaguda Village of Mancherial district** near **Kawal Tiger reserve**
   - Another will be developed in the back waters of **Nagarjuna Sagar** at **Vizag Colony**

33. On June 3, 2018, **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** and **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** has inked MOU to set up a **Resource Efficiency cell**.
   - It aims to provide mainstream resource efficiency in public policy besides serving as a platform for various ministries and agencies to promote resource efficiency in the use of materials in the country

34. India would import its **first** ever LNG from **Russia** on June 4, 2018.
   - India considered the **fourth largest** buyer of Liquefied Natural gas.
   - **GAIL India Ltd.** will be importing the LNG from **Gazprom** at Petronet LNG.
35. India successfully test-fired Agni-5, its indigenously developed nuclear capable long range ballistic missile with strike range of 5,000 km from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
   - Agni-5 is a surface to surface missile.
   - It features very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS), and advanced Micro Navigation System (MINS).

36. With an aim to make 500-meter area around Taj Mahal litter free and phase out single use plastic, Union Minister Mahesh Sharma administered a pledge to Agra Residents.
   - The pledge is called “Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution”.

37. Ministry of Agriculture announced the launch of ‘Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan’ from June 1 2018 till July 31, 2018.
• The objective of this abhiyaan is to help, advise, assist farmers to improve their farming techniques and increase their income.

• This is in line with PM Modi’s vision of doubling the farmers’ income by 2022.

• The Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan will take place across 25 villages (with more than 1000 population each)

• The overall coordination and implementation in the 25 villages of a district is being done by Krishi Vigyan Kendra of that district by appointing 111 officers in charge of each district

38. **13 Indian beaches** will soon get the Blue Flag certification which are environment-friendly, clean and equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists

• These beaches of **Odisha, Maharashtra and other coastal states** will be the first in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.

• These are **Chandrabhaga (Odisha), Konark coast; Maharashtra’s Chiwla and Bhogave beaches; one beach from Puducherry, Goa Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

• **Odisha’s Chandrabhaga beach** became Asia’s first beach to get a Blue Flag certification.
39. A volunteer workforce of 427 trained volunteers have been given the task to boost the biodiversity of aquatic species of river Ganga.

- The group is called Ganga Praharis.
- They will work along the ganga basin spreading across the states of: Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.
- It is a part of a project named ‘Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation’ of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun sponsored by National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG).

40. Minister of State of Railways, Rajen Gohain flagged off a new Antyodaya train named 22841/22842 Santragachi-Chennai Central Antyodaya Express (Weekly) from Kolkata.
41. India’s forest cover was **21.34 % in 2015** as per ‘Status of Environment Report, India 2015’ released by Union environment Minister Harsh Vardhan.

- This is an increase of 1.29 % from 20.05 % in 2009.
- **Mizoram** with 89 % has the **highest forest cover** compared to other states and Union territories in India.
- It is followed by Lakshadweep (84.56 %), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (82 %), Arunachal Pradesh (80 %).
- **Assam** has the **lowest forest cover** with 35 % among the listed 15 states and Union territories (UTs) having over 33 per cent forest cover.
- The **north-eastern states** contribute for one-fourth of India’s forest cover.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has the **maximum forest cover** of 72,462 sq km in India.

42. **Fifteen** projects were approved under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) of commerce ministry to develop infrastructure for promoting exports.

- In **2017** the Commerce Ministry introduced the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) to create required infrastructure for development and growth of exports by engagement of central or state agencies.
- The total scheme outlay is **Rs 600 crore**.
- The scheme has been launched for three years up to **2020**

43. According to a report released by **ASSOCHAM and NEC, India** is among the top 5 nations in producing e-waste.

- This study was taken ahead of World Environment Day on June 5.
- The other countries besides India are: **China, US, Japan and Germany**.
- Out of the total e-waste generated in 2016, only **20% (8.9 MT)** has been recycled and the rest has no records.
- Among the states Maharashtra ranks **first** with 19.8%, Tamil Nadu ranks **second** with 13%, Uttar Pradesh 10.1%, West Bengal 9.8%, Delhi 9.5%, Karnataka 8.9%, Gujarat 8.8%, Madhya Pradesh 7.6%
44. RBI supplied Rs.5400 crore for the implementation of Telengana Government’s investment program ‘Rythu Bandhu’ launched in May 2018.
   
   • Under the scheme, the farmers will get ₹4,000 each an acre in the kharif and rabi seasons to take care of the credit needs ahead of the farm seasons.

45. The attempt of government to privatize loss-making national carrier Air India hit a roadblock after no bids were received.
   
   • In April, the central government had invited bids for a 76% stake in Air India Ltd, along with a 100% stake in its subsidiary Air India Express Ltd, and 50% in Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt. Ltd.
   
   • The initial deadline of 14 May was extended to 31 May.
   
   • Air India has a 42.8% share of international traffic to and from India among home-grown carriers, and a share of 12.3% of the domestic market.

46. People in Mumbai work the most in the world—3,315 hours a year on average, says a UBS report of Price and Earning 2018.
• New Delhi is No. 4 at 2,511 hours a year, while Lagos residents are the most relaxed, at 609 hours out of 77 cities.
47. India and China will seek to resolve differences on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal

- India will seek non-reciprocal access to China’s market and urge China to support its efforts for a substantial agreement in services under the RCEP deal.
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand).
- The 16-member RCEP free trade agreement (FTA) is mostly held up due to India’s reluctance to substantially open up its market to China as it has an unsustainably high trade deficit of $63 billion in 2017-18 with its northern neighbour.
- Many countries want India to open up its market for 92% of traded goods, while India is only ready to offer market access up to a maximum of 85% items with deviations for countries like China, Australia and New Zealand with whom it does not have an FTA.

48. The Union government has announced a package of more than Rs 8,000 crore aimed to provide relief to sugarcane farmers and to clear their dues.
According to a government official, the package includes three elements.

- A buffer stock of 30 LMT (lakh metric tonnes) of sugar will be created with Rs 1,200 crore.
- The government has also increased minimum selling price (ex-mill sale price) to Rs 29 per kg from Rs 25 per kg.

50. Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Mansukh L. Mandaviya, launched the ‘JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA’.

- It is the oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- The affordable sanitary napkins will be made available at more than 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras in 33 States/UTs in India.
- The SUVIDHA napkins are offered at Rs. 2.50 per pad.

51. Inspired by the ‘Make in India’ initiative of the central government, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh mooted the initiative named: ‘Make in Northeast’.

- It has been done to identify the products of the north-eastern states and give them the opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders.
- Each of the 8 states can be given recognition with its own identity for eg.: Sikkim can be referred to as the “Organic State of India”, Mizoram as the “Bamboo State of India”, Manipur as the “Textiles State of India”.

52. Jammu and Kashmir government is to host its first ever “Global Investors Meet” in the end of July 2018 in Srinagar, focused on harnessing hydro power potential of 20,000 megawatts in Jammu Kashmir.

53. National Minorities and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has joined hands with 4 agencies of Jammu and Kashmir government to work for the empowerment of minorities.

- The 4 agencies are: J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), J&K Women’s Development Corporation (WDC), J&K SCs/STs & Backward Classes.
(BCs) Development Corporation and Jammu & Kashmir State Financial Corporation (SFC).

54. The state government of **Haryana** announced a hike of **2%** on the **Dearness Allowance (DA)**.
   - This would increase the DA from **5%** to **7%**.

55. **Hindustan Unilever** has decided to merge its **foods and refreshments** business into one division with effect from July 2018.

56. The central board of indirect taxes and customs issued a **detailed FAQ** clarifying queries on the applicability of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** on the financial services sector
   - **Taxable under GST**-
     i. Interest charged on outstanding credit card dues, on finance lease
     ii. Due to delays in certain types of loan instalment repayments
     iii. Interest or charges for delayed payments of brokerage amount or settlement obligations
     iv. Exit load in the form of fees on mutual funds and services provided by banks to RBI
   - **Not Taxable under GST**-
     i. Free services provided by a bank to its customers
     ii. Derivatives, securitization assets, future and forward contracts (with some riders)
     iii. Interest levied on most loans
     iv. Interest on debt instruments

57. Drug makers may have to contribute medicines equivalent to **at least 1% of their average profit in the past three years** to create a **medicine bank** that will be used during **public health emergencies in India or abroad, according to a government proposal**
58. **Maharashtra** government will provide the financial grant of **1,000 rupees per quintal** to those farmers whose tur and gram could not be purchased by the administration before the May 31 deadline.

- The state government had set up tur procurement target of **44.6 lakh quintals**.

59. In **Uttarakhand**, Polythene will be completely prohibited from **31st July in the state**.

- All the polythene vendors have been asked to finish the polythene stock before 31st July.

60. The **Madhya Pradesh** government has announced an outstanding power bill waiver scheme for labourers and poor families.

- The state cabinet headed by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan approved the **Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018 (Power Bill Waiver Scheme)** which is expected to benefit about 77 lakh people of the state.

- Another Yojana called: ‘**Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018**’.
  
  i. Under this scheme, the BPL families would be given power supply at a rate of **Rs.200** per month.

62. **Cabinet Approvals**
• The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for implementation of Phase-III of **Off-grid and Decentralised Solar PV (Photo Voltaic) Application Programme** to achieve additional 118 MWp (**Mega Watt peak**) off-grid solar PV capacity by **2020**.

  i. **3, 00,000** street lights would be installed in **North Eastern States** and **Left Wing Extremism** affected districts.

  ii. Solar power plants up to **25 KWH** in areas where grid power has not reached

• Cabinet approved the joint issue of postage between **India** and **Russia**.

  i. This was done between the **Department of Posts, India and Russia Post (Joint-Stock Company “MARKA” of Russian Federation)**.

63. The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** introduced the trial run of environment friendly bagasse-based food packaging on **8 premium trains like Shatabdis and Rajdhanis originating from New Delhi**.

  • Bagasse is the fibrous remains obtained after extracting sugarcane juice.

  • It is utilised to make disposable cutlery and containers to serve meals.

64. **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** inaugurated a web portal named **Continuous Medical Education (CME)** to offer information and suggestions related to exact treatment received by patients for various health issues.

  • All registered medical practitioners and doctors use this web portal. Doctors in rural areas can use this service on mobile or computers.

65. Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **R K Singh** chaired the ‘**Review, Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting**’ with the Secretaries of Power/Energy Departments of the States/UTs and Managing Directors of the Power Utilities.
66. The Indian government has formed a group to study the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India, headed by Baba Kalyani.

- The SEZ Policy was implemented from **1st April 2000**.
- The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 was passed by Parliament in May, 2005.

67. The 11th edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 was organized at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.

- This event was organized by Geo Spatial Media and Communication in association with Directorate General of Information System as knowledge partners.
- The theme of this year’s event: ‘GeoSpatial : A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security’.

68. The state government of Bihar launched new crop insurance scheme.

- This insurance scheme will come in effect from the Kharif season of 2018.
- The name of the scheme is: ‘Bihar State Crop Assistance scheme’.
- Under this scheme the farmers would get a compensation of **Rs 7500 per hectare** if less than **20%** of the crop is damaged.
- And if **more than 20%** of crop is damaged, **Rs.10000** would per hectare would be given as compensation.

69. Uttar Pradesh government to set up police station in every district

- 33 enforcements units are working to check power theft.
- The state government announced that only **15%** of power loss would be compensated.
- 55 more enforcement units have been approved.
- State cabinet has also decided to declare Nagar Palika Vrindavan and Nagar Panchayats Barsana, Gokul, Govardhan, Nandgaon, Radhakund and Baldev as no liquor areas. These places are under Mathura District.
70. The **Election Commission** has launched its online **RTI Portal**.
   - The portal- rti.eci.nic.in will facilitate applicants seeking information under the Right to Information Act.
   - The portal also facilitates the online reply to applications and also for making first appeal and reply thereto.

71. **India** has registered a significant decline in **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** recording a **22-percent reduction** in such deaths since 2013.
   - According to the Sample Registration System bulletin, the **MMR** has declined from **167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016**.
   - Major reduction in MMR has been seen in **Empowered Action Group (EAG)** states — from 246 to 188.
   - **Uttar Pradesh** has **topped** the list in reduction of maternal deaths with **30 %** decline.
   - **Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu** have already met the SDG target for MMR of **70 per 1,00,000**.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 Best States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 (61)</td>
<td>237 (300)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>UP/U'khand</td>
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<tr>
<td>61 (68)</td>
<td>201 (285)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
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<tr>
<td>66 (79)</td>
<td>199 (244)</td>
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72. **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D)** are in the top 200 in **QS World University Rankings 2019** by **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**.
   - The number of Indian universities in the top 1,000 increased from **20 to 24**.
   - **IIT-Bombay** is now the top institute in the country rising **17 positions from 2018 to 162**, displacing **IIT-Delhi** which has remained at **172**.
73. The Advisory Committee under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation approved 2 major irrigation/multipurpose projects and 4 flood management schemes/ master plans with a cumulative cost of Rs. 84,748 crore from six states/UT.
   - The Upper Pravara (Nilwande-II) Project is of Maharashtra.
   - The Kaleswaram Project is of Telangana.

74. The operation NISTAR was successful and 38 Indian Nationals were successfully evacuated from the Socotra Island.
   - This operation was performed by Indian Naval Ship Sunayna.
   - They were rescued from cyclone-hit Socotra island in Yemen under swift Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operation (HADR) code named Operation NISTAR.
   - Indian Nationals were stranded for nearly 10 days after severe cyclonic storm Mekunu devastated area around Socotra Island.

75. Shri Ashwani Lohani, Chairman, Railway Board has launched a document called “Guidebook for creating a child friendly and protective environment for children in contact with Railways” developed by National Commission for protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
• The aim of this guidebook is to protect children who have run away from abusive situations at home or are lost and have reached railway platforms as they are extremely vulnerable to abuse by strangers.
• Information Education Communication (IEC) Materials on child protection was launched in association with Save the Children to create awareness among stakeholders and people.

76. A new portal with single window facility for job seekers and employers was launched in Kerala.
• The facility was conceived and developed by Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE).
• LinkedIn, a social media platform, has also been associated with this portal.

77. The City of Hyderabad in Telangana has ranked third in the most sound polluted city list as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
• It is also considered among the top 10 most air polluted metropolitan cities.

• Iceland got the top rank and has been ranked the most peaceful country from 2008.
• Top 10 Peaceful Countries in 2018 GPI: Iceland (1), New Zealand (2), Austria (3), Portugal (4), Denmark (5), Canada (6), Czech Republic (7), Singapore (8), Japan (9) and Ireland (10).
• Top 10 Least Peaceful Countries: Syria (163), Afghanistan (162), South Sudan (161), Iraq (160), Somalia (159), Yemen (158), Libya (157), Democratic Republic of Congo (156), Central African Republic (155) and Russia (154).

79. Electric Vehicles market of India
• The National Electric Mobility Mission Plan was launched in 2013 by then prime minister Manmohan Singh.
The UPA government had envisaged electric and hybrid cars reaching 6-7 million units by 2020.

Through Energy Efficiency Services Ltd, the govt put out a tender to procure 10,000 electric cars, which was won by Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra.

The EV market in India was about 25,000 units at the end of 2016-17. Of the total EVs sold, nearly 92% were two-wheelers, while electric cars and four-wheelers accounted for less than 8% of total sales, according to Society of Manufacturers of the Electric Vehicles.

80. Every third adult in rural and every fifth adult in urban areas use tobacco in some or the other form, revealed the Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2 (GATS 2), released by the Ministry of health and family welfare

- GATS 2 revealed that 28.6% (266.8 million) of adults in India aged 15 and above currently use tobacco in some form
- Among the adults 24.9% (232.4 million) are daily tobacco users and 3.7% (34.4 million) are occasional users.
- The most commonly used tobacco product in India is khaini and it is used by every ninth adult (11.2%).

81. Punjab has launched a "Business First Portal".

- The online portal will facilitate the industrialists for Regulatory Clearances and Fiscal Approvals, real-time tracking of applications at the common platform.
- Regulatory clearances of all other departments will be integrated in the portal.

82. The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to do away with semester system in undergraduate (UG) courses and revert to annual examination system.

- HP Govt. had set up a review committee headed by former vice-chancellor to review RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) and it has recommended reverting to annual examination system.
- The RUSA was introduced in the state in 2013.
83. Minister of State for Defence, Dr, Subhash Bhamre has dedicated a highway tunnel at Theng near Chungthang in north Sikkim to the nation.
   - The tunnel will benefit the tourism and rapidly propel the growth of the state.
   - It is 578 m long and is Sikkim’s longest tunnel, Theng Tunnel.

84. The West Bengal Government has decided to invest 107 crore rupees to check erosion at vulnerable areas along the banks of the Ganga and the Padma.
   - A stretch of 15 kilometres will be concretized, to prevent erosion.
   - It will protect hundreds of homes and the river bank close to outposts of the Border Security Force on the Indo-Bangladesh border from being washed away by the strong currents.

85. President Ram Nath Kovind has distributed LPG connections to 20 beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Raj Bhavan in Agartala, Tripura.
   - He also laid the foundation stone for the re-development of Matabari Temple Complex at Tripura Sundari temple.

86. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu stated that the state was now Open Defecation Free (ODF) as it had achieved its goal of constructing 2.77 lakh individual toilets.

87. A Concession and Development agreement (CADA) has been signed in Vijayawada between the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) and Singapore-Amaravati Investments Holdings (SAIH) for joint development of 684 hectare start up area in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.

88. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed an MoU with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway to extend the cooperation within health sector through the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for a period of 3 years starting from 2018 to 2020.
• The area of focus include maternal, new-born, child health, and shall build on experiences from NIPI phase I and II.
• The focus states are **Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh** and **Rajasthan** and also as a RMNCHA+ partner in **Jammu & Kashmir**.
• RMNCH+A approach has been launched in 2013 and it essentially looks to address the major causes of mortality among women and children as well as the delays in accessing and utilizing health care and services.

89. To commemorate the **125**th Anniversary of Gandhi’s Satyagraha movement, **External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj**, would visit **Phoenix Settlement**.

• The two day celebration would be marked by the release of joint commemorative stamps of **Oliver Tambo and Pt Deen Dayal Upadhaya**.
• A Youth Summit would be organized where **20 diaspora and 5 Indian nationals** would participate to speak on Gandhiji’s message on peace.

90. The **Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)** has approved revised cost estimate of **Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP)** for **Rs. 3466 Crore** and has extended time duration for ending this project **till June 2020**.

• DRIP is funded by World Bank.

91. **Tripura’s queen variety pineapple** has been declared as **state fruit**.

• Tripura is one of the largest pineapple growing states in country
• There are more than 100 commercial scale pineapple plantations spread throughout the state.

92. **Andhra Pradesh** is set to become first state in India to use **auto-disable syringes** for all clinical purposes to prevent infection

• Auto Disable Syringe is medical syringe that cannot be reused.
• They incorporate mechanism to break or lock syringe plunger when injection is given to make syringe inoperable for being used for second time.
93. **Bayer AG acquired Monsanto Co for $63 billion**, emerging from an arduous two-year antitrust review as the biggest seed and agricultural chemicals maker in the world.

94. Tech giant **Google** has rolled out **free public WiFi at 400 Indian railway stations** in collaboration with **RailTel**.
   - Launched as a key initiative under Digital India programme, the service was kicked off from Mumbai Central station in January 2016, and Dibrugarh in Assam has become the 400th station to go live

95. **Qatar Airways** has been ranked the best airline among **72 international airlines in 2018**, according to a survey by **AirHelp**, a company that advocates on behalf of air travellers for compensation in cases of delays or cancelations.
   - Debt-ridden **Air India was ranked 58**, slightly better than **Jet Airways (63)**.
   - The overall rankings are based on: on-time performance, quality of service and claims-processing.
96. The 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit will be held in Qingdao, China.

- This will be India's first participation in the summit as a full-time member of the organization
- India, along with Pakistan, became a full-time member during the Astana summit in June 2017
- The Qingdao declaration calls for implementing three-year plan to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.
• It also calls for implementation of treaty on long-term good neighbourliness, friendship and co-operation.

97. The mass movement of the largest behaviour change programme **Swachh Bharat Mission** has crossed the 85% mark in achieving its goal

• Through mobilization of rural communities, **7.4 crore toilets** have been built across rural India, and as an outcome, over **3.8 lakh villages and 391 districts** have been declared **Open Defecation Free (ODF)**.

• Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in **2014** by the Modi Government to clean up street, roads and make cities and rural areas cleaner and to eradicate open defecation completely.

• The government aims to achieve these goals by **October 2, 2019** which will be commemorated as the **150th** anniversary of birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

• IHHL - Individual Household Latrine

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98. The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India**, has launched a **national media campaign** to encourage smoking cessation, at an event held at World Health Organisation.

• The public service announcement (PSA) is titled ‘**What Damage Will This Cigarette/Bidi Do**’

• The campaign highlights the theme of 2018 World No Tobacco Day (“tobacco and heart disease”).

• **Vital Strategies** offered **technical support** for this campaign.

• The campaign will be broadcast in **17 languages** on all major national government and private TV and radio channels.
According to The Tobacco Atlas, over 9 lakh Indians die due to tobacco-related diseases every year

99. Odisha government signed a MoU with Hyderabad-based Pullela Gopichand Badminton Foundation (PGBF) for setting up of P Gopichand Badminton Academy in Odisha.
   - Odisha government will offer complete financial support for the proposed badminton academy.

100. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched the Arunachal Rising Campaign.
   - It was launched to create awareness among people about the government initiatives, policies and programmes.
   - The campaign will spread information through various media like tools print, social media, audio-visual mode and other innovative techniques.
   - A web portal www.arunachalmonitoring.com and mobile apps that has been developed by the department of Finance, Planning and Investment was launched.

101. ONGC Videsh Ltd. received its first equity oil from Abu Dhabi’s Lower Zakum oilfield.

102. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has notified declaration submitted by Indian relating to Article II and III of Appendix to Paris Act (1971) related to Berne Convention for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.
   - It will enable India to avail itself facilities provided for Article II and III of the Appendix to Berne Convention during 10 years period that will expire, on October 10, 2024.
   - Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Convention) is international copyright agreement that mandates equal treatment of copyrighted works by signatories, known as Berne Union.
103. India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun **Dhanush** has successfully passed its final test at **Pokhran, Rajasthan**

- This paves its way for induction into Indian Army
- It has been developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Kolkata based on requirements of Indian Army and manufactured by Jabalpur-based Gun Carriage Factory (GCF)

104. The Central Government has decided to raise **five Indian Reserve Police (IRP) battalions in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** with an aim to provide jobs to local youths.

- The five IRP battalions in J&K will have over 5,000 personnel in which 60% reservation will be given to people living in zero to 10 km range from the border.
- Besides, **two female battalions** comprising **1,000 women personnel** will also be created.

105. **India and China** signed two bilateral agreements following the meeting between the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the side-lines of the summit.

- The agreements include continuing to **share Brahmaputra water** during flood season and **exporting non-Basmati rice to China**.
- The two countries have set a **trade target of 100 billion dollars by 2020**.

106. The Ministry of Railways has launched two mobile applications to ease the traveling experience.

- The two apps, **'Rail MADAD' and 'Menu on Rails'**, were launched
- While Rail MADAD will enable travellers to lodge complaints, Menu on Rails will facilitate seamless ordering of food
- **Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh** has been created with a corpus of one lakh crore rupees for making additional funds available for safety-related works.

107. The **Northern Railways** will now monitor the **cleanliness** of its trains using **WhatsApp groups** supervised by senior officials.
Every department, be it the pantry, bedrolls etc., will have separate WhatsApp groups, in which status report of cleanliness will be uploaded on a daily basis.

108. **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** will use flash flood guidance system for the first time in the country to forecast floods.
   - Currently, the **Central Water Commission** issues flood warnings.
   - Different kinds of soil from various parts of the country have been studied to find out how absorbent each variety was.

109. With **1,86,000 Indian students** currently studying in the **United States**, **India** is the second highest sender of foreign students to the US, next only to **China**.
   - US consul general in Kolkata, Craig Hall, stated that the United States is the top destination for foreign students worldwide and the number of Indian students in the US has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

110. Minister of State for External Affairs **V K Singh** has flagged off the **1st batch of three month-long Kailash Mansarovar Yatra-2018** in New Delhi.
   - There are two routes for the Yatra-
     i. One through **Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand** which involves some trekking also.
     ii. The other route is through **Nathu La Pass in Sikkim**, which is motor-able and suitable for senior citizens who unable to undertake arduous trekking.

111. The **44th G7 summit** was held in **Quebec, Canada**
   - It was the first summit for Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

112. The WHO has commended India's progress in reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by 77 percent, from **556 per one lac live births in 1990** to **130 per one lac live births in 2016**.
   - This progress puts the country on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of an MMR below 70 by 2030.
India’s present MMR is below the Millennium Development Goal target.

113. A National Disaster Risk Index currently in the form of a draft report prepared by the Union home ministry with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has ranked Delhi as the most vulnerable Union Territory to risk.

- Maharashtra has topped the list of high risk among states.
- The national disaster risk index maps hazards and vulnerabilities across 640 districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- This All India ranking of states and districts was prepared by considering the following 6 factors:
  i. Hazards
ii. Vulnerability

iii. Hazard specific vulnerability

iv. Hazard and vulnerability exposure

v. Capacity

vi. Risk

114. The Union Cabinet may decide on the launch of the FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles in India) scheme’s phase II within a month, to enhance adoption of energy-efficient vehicles.

115. Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd has signed a Memorandum of Agreement for transfer of technology for India’s first Lithium ion (Li-ion) Battery project in Bengaluru.

• To bring down the cost of cell manufacturing below Rs. 15,000/- per KW and to replace Lead Acid Battery.

116. Union Minister for Electronics & IT and Law Justice, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launched major services showcasing the impact and progress made by the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in promoting rural Wi-Fi network infrastructure.

• The Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE) is the first and the foremost Part of e-Governance scheme. The company is to select VLEs as per selection criteria suggested by Government.

• The VLE will provide all the services to citizens which are provided by Common Service Center (CSC) and thus, will act as a service delivery point through which the population of the catchments area benefits

• 5000 Wi-Fi choupals have been launched to provide Internet connectivity to the 2.5 lakh gram panchayats through optical fiber cable.

• CSC will also be used for first line maintenance of BharatNet in the country.

• BharatNet or Bharat Broadband Network Limited is a telecom infrastructure provider under government’s telecom department.
• It’s aim is to establish, manage and operate National Optic Fiber Network to provide a **minimum of 100 Mbps broadband** connectivity to each of 250000 Gram panchayats covering **625000** villages in the country.

117. The Common Service Centres (CSCs) Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) for delivery of railway services through CSC centres.
   • This will allow CSCs to work as IRCTC agents for train ticket bookings.

118. The special booklet titled *‘80-years of Odisha Budget – A Commemorative Volume’* was released by Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik**.
   • Odisha’s annual budget was only **Rs 1.77 crore** for the year **1936-37** which has increased to **Rs. 1,20,028 crore** in **2018-19**.
   • Odisha is the **first** state in the country to bring out such a compilation.

119. During the **18th Summit** of Shanghai Co-operation Summit (SCO) in **Qingdao, China**, **PM Narendra Modi**, coined the concept of **SECURE** as the summit was to combat terrorism.

120. The 11th World Hindi Conference will be hosted by Mauritius.
   • The main theme of the Conference is “**Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti”**.
   • The Event is organized by the Indian External Affairs Ministry every 3 years.
   • This year the organizing authority is **World Hindi Secretariat** located in **Mauritius**.
   • The **tenth** Conference was held in **Bhopal** in **2015**.
121. The second edition **India-US colloquium** on Earth Observations and Sciences for Society and Economy was inaugurated at **CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO)**, Dona Paula, **Goa**.

- The colloquium multi-disciplinary event will bring together 200 delegates from India and US to address emerging ocean and earth science issues.

122. India is ranked **59th** in terms of cost of violence as **9%** percentage of GDP.

- The impact of violence on the Indian economy stood at **$1.19 trillion last year**, in purchasing power parity terms, says a report prepared by **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** based on an analysis of **163 countries and territories**.

- The global economic impact of violence is defined as the expenditure and economic effect related to containing, preventing and dealing with the consequences of violence.

- The estimates include the direct and indirect cost of violence as well as an economic multiplier.

- **Syria** topped the list of most affected countries by economic cost of violence as a percentage of **GDP at 68 per cent**, followed by **Afghanistan (63 per cent)**, **Iraq (51 per cent)** in the second and third position respectively.

- Among developed nations, for the US, the cost of violence in terms of PPP was **USD 2.67 trillion or 8 per cent of the GDP**.

- For the UK, it was **312.27 billion**, **7 per cent of GDP**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Economic impact of violence (in $ billion*)</th>
<th>Cost as % of GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>41.98</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>67.81</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>366.42</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>32.62</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>13.13</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,190.51</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*in purchasing power parity terms
123. **India** took the **top spot** on remittances received in 2017.

- Remittances increased by about **10% last year over 2016**, although this comes on a favourable base considering that remittances had decreased by 9% in 2016.
- We typically receive a large proportion of our remittances from the **Gulf region** and 2017 was no different.
- A big chunk coming from the Middle East means that the pattern or flow of remittances closely aligns with crude oil prices.
- According to **JM Financial Institutional Securities Ltd**, the recent revamp of local hiring schemes/laws by five out of the top seven source countries for remittances is likely to prove a major headwind to increased remittances from higher crude oil prices.
- The five countries are **UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman**.

**The remittances break-up**
Countries in the Gulf region collectively account for a large share of overall remittances to India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Remittances (in $ billion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The crude-remittances love affair**
Given about 56% of the remittances come from the gulf economy, the pattern of remittances closely aligns with oil prices.

124. **NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has selected **3,000** additional schools for the establishment of **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)**, bringing the total number of ATL schools to **5,441**.

- The selected schools shall receive a grant of **Rs 20 lakh** spread over the next five years to establish Atal Tinkering Labs for nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among secondary school children across India.
- The Atal Tinkering labs are spread across all states and **5 out of 7** Union Territories.
• The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country, based on a detailed study and deliberations on innovation and entrepreneurial needs of India in the years ahead.

126. 10 new places have been inducted in the Phase III of Swachh Iconic Places under Swachh Bharat Mission and the SIP mission was launched at Mana village in Uttarakhand.

• The 10 new places are: RaghavendraSwamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh); Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal); Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana); VidurKuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh); Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand); Pangong Lake (Leh-Ladakh, J&K); Nagvasuki Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh); ImaKeithal/market (Imphal, Manipur); Sabarimala Temple (Kerala); and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).

127. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh urged the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) to work on providing training in soft skills to all the policemen in India.

128. The Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) is hosting one day thematic Seminar on “Private Sector Participation and Innovation in Resource Mobilisation” in Mumbai.

• It is to establish several regulatory, financial and operational structures to ensure the fast advancement of the infrastructure segment.

• India’s Infrastructure Sector has received an investment worth $1 trillion in the period from 2007 to 2017.

129. The Union Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh dedicated the rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 ‘Parvati’ of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to the Nation.
• **Parvati** is the first Blast Furnace of SAIL that was dedicated to the nation on 3rd February 1959 by the first President of India, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**

130. The Union Government has set up a **Technical Committee** headed by **T.C.A. Anant**, former Chief Statistician of India, to bring transparency in the jobs data calculation and presentation.

- Labour bureau carries out two major surveys on employment scenario: **Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey (AEUS)** and **Quarterly Employment Survey**.
- The Annual Employment Unemployment Survey was replaced by **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** which is performed by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- PLFS will have annual data on employment-unemployment on rural sector and quarterly data on employment-unemployment on urban sector based on larger sample size.

131. The **Haryana** government increased the upper age limit to enter into government service from **40 to 42 years**.

132. **KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission)** has made a world record of distributing maximum number of bee-boxes in one day.

- **2330 bee-boxes** were distributed to 233 beneficiaries in the Zangalee Army area.

133. The central government has decided to establish **India’s first ever National Police Museum** in **Lutyens’ Delhi**.

- It is expected to be inaugurated in **October 21** in honor of ‘Police commemoration Day’.
- This project is headed by **Intelligence Bureau**.

134. The **Assam government** announced the launch of an awareness campaign called ‘Sanskar’.

- In the wake of incidents triggered by superstitions the government has decided to take steps to launch this campaign in all development blocks and panchayats.
135. It was announced that the first military exercise of the (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) BIMSTEC group would be held in Pune, India in the second week of September 2018.

- This exercise will focus on the counter-terrorism measures and to promote strategic alignment.
- The army officers of all the 7 BIMSTEC nations – Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal, would participate.
- The theme would be counter terrorism in semi urban and cordon and search and each side would bring 30 soldiers.

136. India has ranked 177 out of 180 countries in the Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings, as per the State of India’s Environment (SoE) 2018 in Figures that has been released recently.

- EPI ranked 180 countries on 24 performance indicators which is developed by Yale University (Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy) and Columbia University (Center for International Earth Science Information Network) in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.
- In 2016, India ranked 141 out of 180 countries
- India has scored 5.75 out of 100 in air quality
  - i. Lucknow was worse in Winter.
  - ii. Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru and Chennai experienced comparatively better air quality
- In 18 Indian states and UTs, more than 82 per cent rural households are without a tapped connection.
  - i. 70,736 rural habitats with a combined population of 47.4 million live on contaminated groundwater.
137. The government has approved a 33% increase in carpet area of houses eligible for interest subsidy under its affordable housing scheme Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) to attract more beneficiaries.

- The carpet area of a house has been enhanced to **160 sq m from 120 sq m** for Middle Income Group-I (MIG-I), while it has been increased to **200 sq m from 150 sq m** in case of MIG-II.
- Under the **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)**, each beneficiary can avail subsidy up to Rs 2.35 lakh on purchase of a house under the scheme.

138. India extended a financial aid of Rs 99 million to Nepal for the construction of **2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems** in 12 districts of the country’s southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity.

- The assistance has been extended as part of the final payment for the **Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project**, which was launched in January 2017.

139. The Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) has developed a mobile based application called ‘**UTS on Mobile**’ for cashless train ticketing.

- The “**UTS on Mobile**” application enables booking and cancellation of unreserved tickets, issue and renewal of season and platform tickets, check and load R-wallet balance and lets to maintain user profile management and booking history.
• After registration, Railway Wallet (R-Wallet) will be created automatically with zero balance to the passenger.
• The R-Wallet can be recharged at any UTS counter or through recharge option in the https://www.utsonmobile.indianrail.gov.in website.

140. Grants-in-aid worth Rs. **14.30 crore** has been sanctioned for **Block level sports** in Jammu and Kashmir under the ‘Khelo India’ Scheme by the Union Sports Ministry.

141. The **Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority** has announced the launch of a ‘**Water Literacy**’ (Jalasaksharatha) campaign to create awareness about the importance and optimal use of the resource and conservation in the state.
   • The campaign would involve **70000 students** for creating the awareness.
   • State Education Minister Prof C Raveendranath released a special course book named as ‘**The Water: Textbook for Environment Literacy Programme-1**’ has been brought out for the campaign, which contains 16 chapters for the purpose.

142. **NITI Aayog** the think tank has launched ‘**Composite Water Management Index**’.
   • The aim is to fulfil **cooperative and competitive federalism** among states and Union Territories.
   • To fulfil the objective of ‘**Sab ka Saath, Sab ka Vikas**’

143. The government approved the **Solar Chakra Mission** of the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) which will be launched by the President, Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi.
   • The Mission will cover **50 clusters** and every cluster will employ **400 to 2000 artisans**.
   • It will provide subsidy of **Rs. 550 crore** to the artisans.
   • **15 new state-of-the-art technology centers** are being set up all over the country including North-East, of which **10 centers** will become operational by **March 2019**.
• The 10 centres are located in Durg (Chhattisgarh), Bhiwadi (Rajasthan), Rohtak (Haryana), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Sitarganj (Uttarakhand), Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), Bhopal (M.P.), Kanpur (U.P.) and Puducherry.

• Ministry has promoted Ease-of-Doing-Business with the setting up of 4 portals: ‘MSME Sambandh’, MSME Samadhaan, Udyog Aadhaar and Udyam Sakhi.

144. Organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)-NIO and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the 2nd edition of India-US colloquium was inaugurated.

• It is an event that aims to focus on the emerging earth sciences issues.

145. United States government approved a deal to sell the Indian military six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters for 930 million dollars.

146. ISRO’s rocket sciences arm Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has decided to transfer its own in-house lithium ion (Li ion) cell technology to successful Indian industries and start-ups on non-exclusive basis in automobiles for Rs. 1 crore.

147. The initiative aims to accelerate development of indigenous electric vehicle (EV) industry and reduce dependence of imported lithium ion cell technology.

148. The Maharashtra government and Canada’s Quebec province have signed a pact to increase the economic cooperation, especially in areas of information technology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and welfare of the tribal community.

149. The Integrated Command and Control Centre of the Naya Raipur Smart City was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

• It has become 10th operational Smart City Centre under the Smart City Mission of government.

• Naya Raipur is one of the 3 Smart Cities of Chhattisgarh selected under the Smart Cities Mission.

• The other two cities are Raipur and Bilaspur.
• The Smart Cities Mission is an innovative and new flagship initiative by the Ministry of Urban Development to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people.
• The Mission will cover 100 cities and its duration will be five years from 2015 to 2020.

150. Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first Representative Office of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Hanoi, Vietnam.
• The Representative Office will aim to promote BEL’s exports in areas such as Weapon Systems, Radar Systems, Naval Systems, Military Communication Systems, Electronic Warfare Systems, Combat Management System and Coastal Surveillance System.
• BEL is India’s leading defence electronics company.

151. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved of the joint issue of a postage stamp between Department of Posts and Vietnam Post.
• The Theme of the Joint Postage Stamp is: “Ancient Architecture”.
• It depicts Sanchi Stupa of India and Pho Minh Pagoda of Vietnam.
152. The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for introduction of **Dam Safety Bill, 2018.**
   - To ensure safety of dams and safeguard benefits from such dams.
   - Constitution of a **National Committee on Dam Safety** for formulating policies of dam safety.
   - Establishment of **National Dam Safety Authority** as a regulatory body for implementation of policies.
   - Constitution of a **State Committee on Dam Safety** by State Government.
   - There are over **5200 large dams** in India and about **450** are under construction.

153. The **Mizoram** government decided to introduce a resolution in the state legislature objecting to the **Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016.**
   - With The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, the government plans to change the definition of illegal migrants.
   - The Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha seeks to amend the **Citizenship Act, 1955** to provide citizenship to illegal migrants, from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who are of **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian extraction**
   - However, the Act doesn’t have a provision for **Muslim sects like Shias and Ahmediyas** who also face persecution in Pakistan.
   - The Bill also seeks to reduce the requirement of **11 years of continuous stay in the country to six years** to obtain citizenship by naturalisation.

154. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the creation of **two women Battalions for Jammu and Kashmir** Police to improve the representation of women in the State Police.

155. A tripartite Concession Agreement was signed between **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), UP Jal Nigam and Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd.** to develop an Integrated Sewage Infrastructure for **Mathura** on the Hybrid Annuity-based PPP mode.
• The Mathura sewage project is India’s first Integrated Sewage Infrastructure project based on One City – One-Operator concept.
• This project integrates building of new STPs (sewage treatment plant) and maintenance of existing infrastructure under one operator for the entire city.

156. The Arunachal Pradesh Government has signed a MOU with Smart Village Movement (SVM) of Andhra Pradesh.
• To facilitate technology innovations, research and development in selected villages of the state.

157. Two new species of cricket frogs named Kalinga and Krishnan have been discovered in the Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats recently.

158. The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of Three Year Action Plan (2017-2020) of scheme for Agricultural Education Division and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes.
• The plan aims at strengthening and developing higher agricultural education in India.

159. The Union Cabinet has given final extension to commission constituted to examine sub-categorisation within Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central list.
• The Commission was constituted with approval of President under Article 340 of Constitution in October, 2017 and is headed by Justice G. Rohini.

160. Bengaluru is the second cheapest city to relocate to in terms of living expenses in the first month, after Cairo, according to a study by furnished apartment search engine Nestpick.
• The living cost for the first month after relocation in Cairo comes at $656, while for Bengaluru it is at $742.13.
• Bengaluru is ranked at 79th.
• **Dubai** emerged as the most expensive city to relocate as the total first month living expense stands at $4,251.68, followed by **Auckland** ($4,002.76)

### Most expensive cities to move in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Total (in $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dubai (UAE)</td>
<td>4,251.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Auckland (New Zealand)</td>
<td>4,002.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>San Francisco (US)</td>
<td>3,768.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>New York (US)</td>
<td>3,374.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>London (UK)</td>
<td>3,207.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cheapest cities to move in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Total (in $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Riga (Latvia)</td>
<td>931.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Budapest (Hungary)</td>
<td>870.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Bucharest (Romania)</td>
<td>754.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Bengaluru (India)</td>
<td>742.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Cairo (Egypt)</td>
<td>656</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

161. The **Global Economic Policy Uncertainty Index** spiked to 172.56 in May, the highest level seen so far in this calendar year.

• This index constructed by three US-based economists—Scott Ross Baker, Nick Bloom and Steven J. Davis—tracks the general state of the economy as it relates to businesses.
• This index measures the policy related economic uncertainty.
• It can include broad economy wide conditions or specific economic conditions of a particular industry.
162. Stockholm-based Truecaller, owned by True Software Scandinavia AB, acquired Mumbai-based mobile payments start-up Chillr (Backwater Technologies Pvt Ltd)
   - This is Truecaller’s first ever acquisition in the India market.

   - A February 2018 Deloitte report on Trend-setting Millennials shows that millennials in general spend more on discretionary items as their disposable income rises.
   - Also, 32.7% expenses from incremental income is spent on entertainment, including eating out and 21.4% on apparel and accessories. Savings, in most cases, is under 10% of overall income, shows the report.
164. The European Union Film Festival (EUFF) will premiere in New Delhi at the Siri Fort Auditorium.

165. The Union Minister for Railways, Coal, Finance & Company Affairs, Mr Piyush Goyal inaugurated Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL)’s three 100 MW Solar Power Projects for commercial operation and dedicated these projects to the Nation in Tamil Nadu.

166. Mr J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare exchanged the MoU with the State Health Ministers of 20 States marking their commitment towards the launch of the Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM).
   - West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, Punjab and Delhi are yet to implement this programme.

167. Flipkart-owned PhonePe has partnered cab aggregator Ola that will allow riders to book rides using the former’s payment platform.
   - PhonePe has also added ‘Auto-pay’ feature that enables users to make payments easily.

168. Marg ERP limited has partnered with ICICI Bank, India’s largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, to offer an integrated payments platform to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers, using MARG’s accounting software.
• **Marg ERP limited** is a leading Inventory and Accounting software solution company.

169. It was announced that the **106th Indian Science Congress** will be held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in **Jalandhar, Punjab**.

• The theme for the **five-day** science congress is ‘**Future India: Science & Technology**’.

170. A **National Tribal Museum** and a **National Level Tribal Research Institute** is proposed to be set up at **Delhi** by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

• Museum will feature the rich tribal culture and heritage using advanced technologies.

171. As a part of **Kerala government’s** tourism promotion programme, ‘**Yoga Ambassadors Tour**’, a specialized trip for yoga professionals from around the world was inaugurated by Minister of State for **AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik**.

• It aims to design a wholesome yoga package for visiting tourists with well-known yoga destinations with related activities.

172. An all women Naval mountaineering team **led by Lt Cdr Kokila Sajwan** summited **Mount Deo Tibba**.

• Mount Deo Tibba is the **second highest peak** (6001M) in the **Pir-Panjal range** in Himachal Pradesh. It is one of the most difficult peaks to summit.

• **Indrasan** is the highest peak in Pir-Panjal range.

173. Japan’s **Softbank Group Corp** has decided to invest **$60 bn – $100 bn** in India’s solar power generation.

• Saudi Arabia is the **largest** investor in SoftBank’s Vision Fund.
174. **Nitin Gadkari** released a book ‘Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops’ published by **NABARD** (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) at an event in **New Delhi**.

- The book is about a study on **10 major crops** - rice, wheat, maize, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton and potato etc
- The book recommends to realign cropping pattern with focus on water scarcity of irrigation, ration irrigation supplies in canal irrigation system, enhance micro-irrigation and invest in water harvesting and artificial recharge and promote participatory irrigation management.

175. With less than a quarter of women of working age in the labour force, **India has far fewer** women working or available for work compared to any other large economy in the world.

- Data from the two latest quinquennial employment surveys of the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** show that this was driven by a rise in the share of women who listed ‘**attending to domestic duties**’ as their principal activity in the year preceding the surveys.
- While the rise in share of women attending to domestic duties was more pronounced among rural women, the share of women attending to domestic duties was higher in urban India in both surveys. The analysis includes all women in the age group 15-59 at the time of the survey.
- **Sikhs and Muslims** reported the highest share of women attending to domestic duties in 2011-12. **Among Hindus**, the share was **higher for upper castes** than for other caste groups.
- **Majority of women** attending to domestic duties are, however, willing to work **part-time** if such work were made available at their household, the survey data shows.
- **Tailoring work** seems to be the most preferred option for such women, followed by **dairy-related and poultry-related work**. The share of women who cited tailoring as their most preferred option rose sharply between 2004-05 and 2011-12.
176. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBITC) under Finance Ministry has raised import duty by 5-10% on non-palm edible oils, both crude and refined ones, in order to protect interest of domestic oilseeds growers and processors.

- Sunflower oil –
  i. Crude Variant – 25% to 35%
  ii. Refined Variant – 35% to 45%

- Crude Groundnut oil
  i. Crude - 30% to 35%
  ii. Refined - 35% to 45%
177. **Canola Oil** - 25% to 35%

178. **Niti Aayog’s Composite Water Index Report**
- **Gujarat** topped the list while **Jharkhand** was adjudged as the worst performer.
- Gujarat is followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- In the north-eastern and Himalayan states, **Tripura** has been adjudged as the top state in 2016-17 followed by **Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam**.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Himalayan states</th>
<th>North-Eastern and Himalayan states</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
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<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Assam</td>
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<td>Maharashtra</td>
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<td>Punjab</td>
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<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
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<td>Telangana</td>
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<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
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<td>Rajasthan</td>
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<td>Kerala</td>
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<td>Bihar</td>
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<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>Haryana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gujarat: 76
- Madhya Pradesh: 69
- Andhra Pradesh: 68
- Karnataka: 56
- Maharashtra: 55
- Punjab: 53
- Tamil Nadu: 51
- Telangana: 50
- Chhattisgarh: 49
- Rajasthan: 48
- Goa: 44
- Kerala: 42
- Odisha: 42
- Bihar: 38
- Uttar Pradesh: 38
- Haryana: 38
- Jharkhand: 35

- Tripura: 59
- Himachal Pradesh: 53
- Sikkim: 49
- Assam: 31
- Nagaland: 28
- Uttarakhand: 26
- Meghalaya: 26
179. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva in Washington DC to seek assistance for a Multimodal Transport Corridor and the Rural Livelihood Project.
   
   • It aims to provide sustainable livelihood enhancements in 10,000 villages in the state.

180. In a National Consultation on National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) chaired by Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Uma Bharti, Swajal scheme was announced in 115 aspirational districts of the country.
   
   • The Union Government had selected 115 backward (aspirational) districts for rapid transformation by 2022 in line with Government’s vision to create ‘New India.
   • Under it, 90% of project cost is taken care by the Government and remaining 10% is contributed by beneficiary community.
   • Swajal is community owned drinking water scheme or programme for sustained drinking water supply.
   • It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Sushri Uma Bharti, in Bagori, Uttarakhand with a budget of Rs 32 lakhs on 20, February 2018. The village of Sadag has been implementing the concept of Swajal since 1996.

181. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid foundation stone for sewage management system and Storm water drainage system in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
   
   • This schemes are under government’s Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.
   • AMRUT was launched in June 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects.’
   • Rajasthan was the first state in the country to submit State Annual Action Plan under AMRUT.
182. The government has proposed to penalise insurance companies for delay in payment to hospitals for settlement of claims under the **Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)**.

- Under the scheme, if an insurance company delays the claim payment **over 15 days**, then it should pay a penalty of 1% interest on the claimed amount per week till it completely settles the claim.
- **AB-NHPM** was launched in March 2018.
- The scheme will integrate two on-going centrally sponsored schemes viz. **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)** and **Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS)**.
- It includes pre and post-hospitalisation expenses. It will cover all pre-existing conditions from beginning of the policy.

183. The Foundation of stone of “**Auxiliary Production Unit and State-of-the-Art Artificial Limbs Fitting Centre**” was laid in Faridabad, Haryana.

- These services provided at the auxiliary centres in other areas will help differently abled people to cover lesser distance for receiving these devices.

184. The Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism **K.J. Alphons** launched the new **Incredible India website**.

- The New Incredible India website portrays India as a holistic destination with experiences in spirituality, heritage, adventure, culture, yoga, wellness, etc.
- Tech Mahindra, Google, Adobe and NIC team participated in the development of this website.
- The website will be available in Hindi and major international languages soon.
- The Website Link is: [https://www.incredibleindia.org/](https://www.incredibleindia.org/)

185. India would introduce retaliatory tariffs worth **$240 million** soon on a revised list of **30 items** imported from the United States to counter United States’ move to increase duties on **Indian steel and aluminium**.
• India had asked the US government to exempt it from its **25% tax on steel and 10% on aluminium** imposed by US President Donald Trump on the basis of national security.
• But, it was rejected by US.

186. **Reliance Industries** is investing in establishing **India’s first carbon fibre manufacturing unit** to cater the aerospace and defence sectors.

187. **Pinaka** rocket system of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, known for firing 12 rockets in just 44 seconds, is being converted into a **precision-guided missile**.
• It has been developed into **Pinaka Mark II**.

188. The **U.S. has surpassed India** to become the **top destination for greenfield foreign direct investment in 2017**.
• According to the **FDI Report 2018**, compiled by FDI Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd.
• India had maintained the top slot in greenfield FDI investment in 2015 and 2016
• US recorded $87.4 billion on FDI.
• **In the Asia and Pacific region, China (USD 50.8 billion) was on top** in terms of FDI in the total number of new projects and capital investment, followed by **India (USD 25.1 billion)**.
• A green field investment is a type of foreign direct investment (FDI) where a parent company builds its operations in a foreign country from the ground up.

189. States have collected taxes to the tune of **Rs 10,000 crore** online since the rollout of Transport Mission Mode Project (MMP).
• The Road and Transport Mission Mode Project (MMP) is one of the 27 Mission Mode Projects of the National e-Governance Plan in India, a program to centralize governance operations online.
• Two flagship applications under Transport (Mission Mode Project) MMP — **Vahan and Sarathi Vahan** — have been released.
• **Vahan** deals with vehicle registration, taxation, permit, fitness and associated services.

• **Sarathi Vahan** deals with driving licence, learner licence, driving schools and related activities.

• The applications have been implemented in more than **1,000 RTOs** across **33 states** and Union territories – with state-specific rules, tax structures.

190. **Telangana** govt. to set up ‘**District Child Protection Units (DCPU)**’ in all **31 districts** to protect the children from child abuse, child labour and also to implement the child rights in all districts.

- It was already established in 10 districts and now will be extended to 21 more districts.

191. **SAARC Development Fund** will soon be launching a **Social Enterprise Development Programme (SEDP)** to fund **80 entities** annually across the **8-member states** including India.

- SDF would create access to financial services which can boost job creation, raise income, reduce vulnerability and increase investments in human capital in — **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka** (SAARC members).

192. According to the data of **Commerce Ministry**, **India** had trade deficit with as many as **10 member countries** out of **16** of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) nations**.

- These RCEP bloc nations include: **China, South Korea and Australia**.

- Trade Deficit is the difference between **imports and exports**. With free trade agreements this would increase

- **RCEP** consists of **10 ASEAN** group members (**Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam**)
and their six FTA partners – India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

193. **The Insurance Regulating body IRDAI** has formed a 10 member committee to review regulations of the **Insurance marketing Firms (IMF).**

   - It would recommend measures to strengthen the distributing channel by including products under the jurisdiction of other financial sector regulators.

194. **Fourth meeting** of NITI Aayog’s Governing Council began at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in **New Delhi.**

   - The development agenda for ‘**New India 2022**’ was also expected to be approved.

195. **NEW INDIA 2022**

   - By successfully completing transitions in Political, Social and Economic areas, India will emerge as a model for the rest of the world.

   - **Sankalp se Siddhi:** For India to emerge as:

     i. **Swachh**
ii. Swastha
iii. Shikshit
iv. Sampann
v. Saksham
vi. Surakshit

![Sankalp se Siddhi: For India to emerge as: Bharat by 2022]

- **Freedom 1 – Poverty Free India**
  i. Achieve Kuposhan Mukt Bharat by 2022
  ii. Swasth Bharat: focus on wellness
  iii. Padhe India Badhe India
  iv. 20 World Class higher education institutions by 2022

- **Freedom 2 – Dirt and Squalor Free India**
  i. Swachh Bharat
  ii. Clean Rivers
  iii. Clean Energy

- **Freedom 3 – Corruption Free India**
- **Freedom 4 – Terrorism Free India**
- **Freedom 5 – Casteism Free India**
- **Freedom 6 – Communalism Free India**
  i. Nai Manzil, Nai Roshni,
  ii. Stand-Up India,
  iii. Begum Hazrat Mahal Scholarship
  iv. Seekho aur Kamao
  v. Padho Pardes,
  vi. Progress Panchayat,
vii. **Hunar Haat**

196. **US officials** from **Pentagon** will meet the Indian experts on negotiation of communications military agreements.
   - The US had granted India the status of a *Major Defence Partner* in 2016.
   - The talks are based on the military agreement between India and US in 2016 on **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)**.
   - It is meant to facilitate the use of high-end secured communication equipment to be installed on military platforms being sold to India.
   - If **COMCASA** becomes mandatory, then **India** is to get the armed version of the **Sea Guardian drones from Washington**.

197. The Bengaluru-based **KisanKraft** intends to take the *aerobic rice* technology to **five** states during this **Kharif season** and conduct demonstrations to reach out to more farmers.
   - The aerobic rice technology is a solution for **water-stressed paddy** farmers.
   - As against up to **5,000 litres** of water required to produce one kg of wetland rice, the aerobic rice requires only up to **2,500 litres**.
   - **Aerobic rice** is direct-seeded into the field, eliminating the cost of raising nursery, transplantation and its related impact on labour health.

198. The **Tripura** government launched the **GPS (Global Positioning System)** and **wireless based 24x7 “mobile policing” service** to control crime, mainly against women.
   - As per the ‘**mobile policing**’ service, a police van or a small vehicle with police personnel will be patrolling 24*7 in their assigned zone.

199. **India** is among the **top performing markets** in **Asia** in local currency terms, but not in **dollar terms**.
   - **Foreign institutional investors (FIIs)** have sold a net of **$238.5 million** of Indian shares so far this year.
   - India’s benchmark **Sensex** has returned **4.6% so far this year**, the best among the major markets in Asia in local currency terms.
• In dollar terms, however, it has shed 1.71%, lagging behind markets in Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore.

200. The panel formed by IRDAI to review the regulations pertaining to insurance marketing firms will be headed by Suresh Mathur.

201. The Central Water Commission (CWC), India’s apex technical organisation in the field of Water Resources has signed a Collaboration Agreement with Google for flood forecasting.

• Using its high-resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM), Google would help to generate flood inundation maps with the forecast inputs of CWC.

202. The indigenously upgraded artillery gun Dhanush has successfully completed final user trials and is ready for induction into the Army.

• Dhanush is an upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun procured by India in the mid-1980s.

203. The 220 MW Unit-1 of Karnataka’s Kaiga Generating Systems (KGS-1) set a new record of the continuous operation of 766 days

• It has surpassed the earlier record of 765 days set by the Unit-5 of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS-5) in 2014.
• With this achievement, KGS-1 stands second in the world among the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and fourth among all nuclear power reactors in terms of continuous operation.

204. The government has planned to expand the BPO promotion scheme to 1 lakh seats and will also establish India’s largest National data centre in Bhopal.
  • Current seats are 48,000.

205. ‘COP CONNECT’, a mobile app to support the professional communication and collaboration needs of the complete police department of Telangana, was launched.
  • It was developed by Telangana State Police internal Communication strategy.
  • This app will help the police personnel to engage and consult each other to perform better.
  • It has all features of messaging app.

206. The Haryana government has approved a scheme to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs. 8000 to female acid victims.
  • They would also be given priority in the allotment of fair price shops by the Haryana Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.

207. The Chhattisgarh cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Raman Singh approved merger of ‘Shikshakarmi’ with the state School Education Department.

208. The Punjab government launched a smartphone application that lets users order free plant saplings.
  • The App is called : ‘i-Hariyali’ app and is under ‘Mission Tandarust’.
  • The users can book a sapling of their choice, a maximum of 25 per person, from a nearby government nursery

209. Seychelles have declined the proposal of ‘Assumption Island’ given by India to develop a naval base due to ongoing protests in the country against this issue.
• The proposal of Assumption Island owned by the Seychelles has been declined and puts a blow to the government’s “SAGAR” (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

210. **India** is planning to gift a **Dornier aircraft** to **Seychelles** and explore trilateral cooperation involving France.

211. **Bajaj Electricals** bought the **Nirlep Appliances** for nearly **Rs 80 crore**, which includes equity and debt.

212. The telecom department is likely to approve the merger of **Vodafone India** and **Idea Cellular** that will create the country’s largest mobile service operator with proposed name of **Vodafone Idea Ltd**.

213. The last of the **five Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)** project of **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** named ‘**Rani Rashmoni**’ was commissioned in the Indian Coast Guard in **Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
   • The previous vessels included: Rani Abbakka, Rani Avanti, Rani Durgavati, Rani Gaidinliu.

214. Union Minister for Women and Child Development **Maneka Gandhi** and Minister of State for Home **Hansraj Ahir** jointly launched “**Legal Processes for the Police in Respect of Crime Against Children**”, a handbook on ways to prevent crimes against children.
   • The handbook has been released with an idea to prevent child abuse and for capacity building of the police to deal with this issue.

215. The **Unique Identification Authority of India’s (UIDAI’s)** plan to make **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** use Aadhaar Virtual IDs to authenticate customers.
   • NBFCs point out that using **virtual IDs** will give them access to limited details about the customers, which may make lending more difficult.
• Since virtual IDs mask the Aadhaar number, NBFCs believe the cost of customer acquisition will rise as they have to do additional physical checks.

216. A survey to gauge the level of comfort and frequency of online transactions revealed that banking transactions, bill payments and online shopping are the top three online financial activities, and that smartphones and laptops are the most used mediums.

• The 2018 Digital Habits Survey by Exide Life Insurance is based on responses by about 9,000 participants regarding their habits while dealing with financial services online.

• Digital Super-heroes (who frequently use internet-based services) - top five internet based activities are—checking mails, following news, paying utility bills, paying insurance premiums and buying travel tickets.

217. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri J P Nadda released the National Health Profile (NHP)-2018 prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI).

• He also launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) – Country’s first ever national healthcare facility registry of authentic,
standardized and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments.

218. To boost standardization of products, **Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu** announced implementing the **Indian National Strategy for Standardization**.
   - The objective is to achieve the highest quality standards in production and distribution of goods and services.

219. Government has set up a **Chief Ministers Subgroup** to coordinate **Policy Approaches for Agriculture and MGNREGS**.
   - It has Madhya Pradesh’s CM as Convener.
   - To work in coordination for realizing PM’s vision towards **Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022**.

220. The **11th report** of the **Common Review Mission of the National Health Mission (NHM)** was released and it has stated that, women bear uneven burden in family planning with **women** accounting for more than **93 per cent of sterilisations in India**.
   - The data has been cited from the **Health Management Information System (HMIS)**.
   - As per HMIS in 2017-18 (till October) out of the total **14,73,418** sterilisation procedures only **6.8 %** were male sterilisation and **93.1 %** were female sterilization.

221. The **Visva-Bharati University** received **Rs 5 crore** central grant for setting up a ‘**Yoga Gram**’ in the university campus, in **Kolkata**.

222. **Haryana** government has decided to provide star rankings to its panchayats based on 7 social parameters under **Haryana’s 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme**.
   - The panchayats will be judged based on sex ratio, education, hygiene, environment preservation, governance and social participation.
   - **Ambala topped** the star ranking with 407 stars. It was followed by Gurugram with 199 stars and Karnal with 75 stars.
223. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has adopted Jagatpur village in Delhi for its Swachhata Abhiyaan.

224. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation announced Shillong, capital city of Meghalaya as the 100th Smart City.

225. The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu has received the book "Vedvigyan Alok" (Maharishi Aitareya Mahidas Praneet - Aitareya Brahmina ki Vaigyanik Vyakhya) authored by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik.
   - The book is divided into four broad volumes. The Book Vedvigyan Alok is the scriptural verse in Vedas' prose.

226. Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has supplied nearly 60,000 tonnes of steel material for the 111-km-long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new broad gauge railway project in Manipur.
   - It will become the world’s tallest girder rail bridge in the world.

227. Nasscom unveiled its ‘Women Wizards Rule Tech’ programme for women techies to support women in being successful and thus increasing the number of women as senior officials in the IT field.

228. Music composer A R Rahman has been named the Brand Ambassador of Sikkim government.

229. Microsoft has acquired Flipgrid, a video discussion platform, which has over 20 million teachers and students throughout the world as users.

230. 5G Network-
   - 5G networks are seen launching across the world by 2020.
   - China, South Korea and the US are leading the pack.
   - China may be the biggest 5G market by 2022.
   - In India, a SPECTRUM COMMITTEE has been set up in September to give recommendations on 5G Network.
231. A study conducted by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in Nagpur, India, showed that about **60% of the PM2.5 burden in Delhi** is due to the neighbouring states.

   - NDL is the **Single Window Platform** that collects and collates metadata from premier learning institutions in India and abroad, as well as other relevant sources.
   - It is done as an initiative under “Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat”.

233. Peak hour traffic in major Indian cities almost **doubles the travel time** along some popular routes, reveals data from Uber Movement, which provides anonymised, collated data of rides on its platform.
   - The data also reveals that traffic is often skewed in one direction during a particular time of the day, reflecting that economic activity is often concentrated in a few parts of city.
   - In Delhi, the addition to travel time was **77% along the Gurugram to Delhi highway**.
Healthy gross domestic product (GDP) growth, surging stock markets and positive real estate prices helped Indian high net-worth individuals (HNI) report the strongest growth in wealth in the year 2017, according to the World Wealth Report 2018 by Capgemini.

- India was the fastest growing market in 2017, with a 20.4% HNI population expansion and a 21.6% HNI wealth growth, the report said.
- HNI population in India expanded to 263,300 in 2017 from 218,600 in the previous year, while HNI wealth grew to $1.06 trillion from $877.4 billion in the previous year.
- India edged out Netherlands to take the 11th spot on the pecking order of countries.
235. India and Australia held the **10th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism** at New Delhi.
   - They discussed terrorist threats in their respective regions including the problem of cross-border terrorism in the Af-Pak region.

236. The world’s **first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics** was launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
   - It will work on proper management of dead bodies in times of emergencies and their identification.

237. The **7th India Minerals and Metals forum** was inaugurated in New Delhi.
   - The forum seeks to come up with solutions to consolidate small players for strengthening of overall health of the industry.

238. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has declared medium- and long-term targets **5 GW by 2022** and **30 GW by 2030** for offshore wind power capacity addition.
   - India has an onshore wind target of **60 GW** and its achievement of **34 GW** and solar target of **100 GW by 2022**.

239. The **Gujarat** government announced ‘Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018’ to encourage setting up of wind and solar power projects at one location.
   - The Policy will act in for 5 years.
   - As per the policy, developers can establish wind energy units on the land currently used for solar power units.
• 50% exemption from electricity duty is entitled for selling the power to a third party.

240. The Union Commerce Ministry to set up a special cell for turmeric in Nizamabad, Telangana.
• This would help improve the content of ‘curcumin’, the naturally occurring chemical compound found in turmeric, which will provide better price for the crop and also enhance the export potential.

241. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir inaugurated the 19th All India Conference of Directors of Finger Prints Bureau in Hyderabad.
• It will be a 2 day conference on Automatic Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS), usage experience of AFIS in Maharashtra and Telangana, integration of Finger Prints with CCTNS/ICJS.
• Two books entitled ‘Compendium of Fingerprint equipment 2018” & ‘Award of excellence in FP identification / science competition – compilation of cases’ were released during the Conference.

242. The Kerala Government launched an ambitious micro-finance programme in the co-operative sector.
• To help ordinary people who are being exploited by private financiers charging exorbitant interest rates for loans.
• They have launched the proposed scheme, titled ‘Muttathe Mulla’.

243. Under the India Smart Cities Awards, nine awards in three categories, i.e., Project Award, Innovative Idea Award and City Award had been announced.
• The city award is being given to Surat for showing great momentum in implementation of projects especially in the categories of urban environment, transport and mobility and sustainable integrated development.
• Joint winners in this category are *Bhopal* for their *Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)* and *Ahmedabad for Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project (Innovative Award)*.

244. Ministry of steel has issued two Quality Control orders, namely *Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2018* and *Stainless Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2018* as part of its commitment to ensure 100% quality regime in the sector.

• Under which **sixteen** additional steel products have been brought under the ambit of Quality Control Order (QCO).

• Bringing around 90% of the steel and steel products consumed in the country under QCO.

245. **Insurance Laws Amendment Act, 2015**

• The agents can get commissions even after they stop servicing your insurance policy.

• After the amendments in the Act, the decision moved to the Board of Insurance companies.

• The *Insurance Act of 1938* made renewal commissions an entitlement for agents who no longer serviced the policyholder, provided they had spent a minimum number of years with the insurer.

  i. The rules applied even after the agent dies. The commission, also called **hereditary commission**, in this case went to the nominee of the insurance agent.

• The amendment to the insurance Act removed **section 44** altogether and new rules on commissions left it to the board of insurance companies to decide how they wanted to pay commission to agents that no longer worked with the insurance company.
246. A committee has been set up to lay down the standards for metro rail systems across the country which will be headed by ‘metro man of India’, E. Sreedharan.

247. The Union Government is considering doubling, or even trebling, the minimum monthly pension for retired organized sector employees

- A three-member committee, constituted by the labour ministry three months ago, is of the opinion that the existing pension of ₹1,000 per month is too low.
- The committee has suggested that the government should immediately announce ₹2,000 as minimum pension. The further enhancement up to ₹5,000 can be debated and arrived at over time.
248. Of Assam’s 14 MPs, All India United Democratic Front chief Badruddin Ajmal and his brother Sirajuddin Ajmal did not figure in the first draft of the updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) created anxieties among the Bengali Muslim minority of Assam.
   • Bengali origin Muslims in Assam descend from peasant workers brought from the former Bengal and East Bengal starting in the 19th century under colonial rule, they have long been portrayed as irregular migrants.
   • National Register of Citizens - The National Register of Citizens (NRC) contains names of Indian citizens of Assam.
   • Centre is set to complete counting the Indian citizens living in Assam by June-end and list their names in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and exclude illegal settlers from Bangladesh.

249. The Airports Authority of India has proposed to set up a Water Aerodrome in Chilika Lake for starting amphibious aircraft operations in Odisha.
   • A water aerodrome is an area of open water used regularly by seaplanes or amphibious aircraft for landing and taking off.

250. The State Food Safety wing officials during inspection seized 6,000 kg of fish preserved using formalin (formaldehyde) at the inter-State border check-post at Walayar in Palakkad.
   • The inspections, as part of Operation Sagar Rani, were led by the Joint Food Safety Commissioner (Administration), along with a team of food safety intelligence officials from Kozhikode and Ernakulam and the district food safety squad in Palakkad.
   • To ensure safety and hygiene at fish handling and distribution centres, Food Safety officials in the district launched an initiative named ‘Operation Sagar Rani’ in 2017.
251. The **Rajasthan Government** has introduced a **20% surcharge on liquor**.
   - The proceeds from the same would be used for **protection of cows in the state**.

252. **Maharashtra** has banned manufacturing, use, sale, distribution and storage of plastic materials such as bags, spoons, plates and other disposable items.
   - The ban also includes packaging material and thermocol.
   - However, plastic used for **packaging of medicines and drugs, milk and handling of solid waste** is exempted from the ban.
   - For **first time** offenders the fine will be **Rs 5,000**.
   - For **second time offenders**, the fine will be **Rs 10,000**.
   - Those who violate it for the **third time** will face a fine of **Rs 25,000** along with imprisonment of **three months**.
   - **Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB)** will enforce the ban on plastic.
   - The use of **thermocol for decoration during the Ganesh festival may be permitted** if the Mandals give an undertaking that the waste will later be handed over to Municipal Corporation for proper disposal.
   - An Expo was organized in Mumbai - to help Mumbaikars choose alternatives: **starch bags and spoons, compostable bags and wooden cutlery**.
   - India generates an estimated **32 million metric tonnes of packaging waste** each year, of which plastic waste constitutes **16%**. But only **60%** of the collected plastic waste is recycled.
253. India’s **14.5% of the population** suffers from undernourishment, going by the **UN’s State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report for 2017** (assessment for 2014-16).

- As per the Health Ministry, **53% of women are anaemic**.

254. **India** has lowered the limits on the export of certain essential commodities such as potatoes, onions, and eggs to the Maldives.

- The new **three-year average method** of calculating the limits will result in a year-on-year reduction in the amount of some essential goods exported to the Maldives, but an increase in others.

- For example, the limit on **potato exports** has been lowered to **5,308.7 MT in 2018-19** compared with the **5,589.78 MT exported in 2017-18**.

- However, the three-year average resulted in an increase in the limit for **wheat flour exports to 946.21 MT in 2018-19** from the **408.59 MT supplied last year**.

255. **India and Bangladesh** have agreed to institute a **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** as an annual feature between the two Navies for the **first time**.

- The Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with **Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand**.
256. The Law Commission is preparing a report on the codification of personal laws to bring a Uniform Civil Code.

- **Uniform Civil Code (Article 44)** is the ongoing point of debate within Indian mandate to replace personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community in India with a common set of rules governing every citizen.
- Personal laws cover matters of property, marriage, divorce, inheritance and succession.
- Currently, there are different personal laws for Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsis and others. A uniform code will mean a set of common personal laws for all citizens.

257. The government has further extended the ban on import of milk and its products, including chocolates, from China for six months till 23 December.

- The ban was first imposed in **September 2008** and later extended from time to time.
- The ban was imposed on apprehensions of presence of **melamine** in some milk consignments from China.
- **Melamine** is a toxic chemical used for making plastics and fertilisers.
- Although India does not import milk, milk products from China, it has imposed the ban as a preventive measure.
• India is the world’s largest producer and consumer of milk. It produces around 150 million tonne milk annually.

258. Traditional **Boat race – Vallam Kali** will begin on June 28.

  • It is observed in **Kerala**.
  • The season of boat races in Kerala will begin with the **Champakulam Moolam boat race**.
  • The Champakulam Moolam Boat Race is one of the **oldest** vallam kali (snake boat race) (after the **Aranmula Boat Race**) in **Kerala** state of south India.
  • The race is for the **Raja Pramukhan Trophy**.

259. **National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2015–2016**

  • Stunting has declined from 46.3% (**2005-06 Report**) to 34.4%.
  • Wasting rates have increased from **16.5% to 25.6%** (Wasting - The process by which a debilitating disease causes muscle and fat tissue to "waste" away i.e. excessive weight loss).
  • The **underweight rate (36%)** has remained static in the last 10 years.
    i. This is worse than in some of the world’s poorest countries — **Bangladesh (33%), Afghanistan (25%) or Mozambique (15%)**.
    ii. This level of poor nutrition security disproportionately affects the poorest segment of the population.
• Every second tribal child suffers from growth restricting malnutrition due to chronic hunger.
  
  i. In September 2016, the National Human Rights Commission issued notice to the Maharashtra government over reports of 600 children dying due to malnutrition in Palghar.

260. Saudi Arabian Oil Co., or Saudi Aramco (world biggest oil producer) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (Adnoc), the state-run oil firm of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will jointly develop the massive refinery and petrochemicals complexes at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra.

• With three million barrels per day of crude oil production, Adnoc is the world’s 12th largest producer and UAE is a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).
261. Water Crisis

**MINT GRAPHITI**

**ON THE WATER FRONT**
India has a serious problem on its hand when it comes to water. Even at a time when water availability is slightly more than demand, millions of people suffer due to inadequate distribution and bad management. With overall countrywide demand expected to outstrip supply soon, the crisis on the water front is unlikely to quieten any time soon.

- **600 MILLION**: Indians face extreme water stress and about 200,000 people die every year due to inadequate access to safe water.
- **7 major ongoing river water sharing disputes, involving 11 states, continue to rankle India’s polity**
- **6% of GDP will be lost by 2050 due to water crisis if a business-as-usual scenario persists**
- **21 major cities are expected to run out of groundwater soon, affecting roughly 100 million people**
- Only around **55,000** of India’s 12 million wells have gauges to measure the state of the country’s groundwater resources.

**Best and worst performing states**

* (non-hilly states)
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Installing good quality rainwater harvesting structures is the single most important intervention an average citizen can make. Costs range from ₹2,000-30,000, depending on the city, for buildings of about 300 sq. m.

- Learn about and lobby for progressive legislation, like the pending Groundwater Bill 2016, which seeks to regulate the use of groundwater as a “common pool resource” held in collective trust, which cannot be viewed as an individual’s right.

- Join a citizen’s lobby group such as Bengaluru’s lake movement or volunteer time for organizations such as WaterAid or Arghyam.
• About 200,000 people die every year due to inadequate access to water.
• There are many dimensions to the problem.
  i. One of the most important is agriculture, given that it consumes about 83% of India’s freshwater resources.
• Another recent report – “Water Productivity Matching Of Major Crops”
  i. It is published by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) and Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (Icrier).
  ii. Consider the production of water-thirsty crops like paddy and sugar cane in the Punjab-Haryana belt and Maharashtra, respectively. There is a serious mismatch between the cropping pattern of these crops and water resource availability in the states growing them.
  iii. The Nabard-Icrier report also makes an argument for moving such high water-reliant crops to other, relatively water-abundant areas.
  iv. For instance, in regions with high irrigation water productivity better suited to water-intensive crops—such as Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh—poor power supply and other such problems make cultivation of water-intensive crops non-remunerative. There is room for the government to correct such misalignment.
  v. India’s public sector agriculture research institutions led by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research had released a record 313 new crop varieties during 2016-17. These crops would increase farm production while minimizing the use of inputs.
• Scientists from the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University - They have been suggesting irrigation techniques such as the Alternate Wetting and Drying Method (AWD)—a widely practised technique in the Philippines and Vietnam—in the wake of the Supreme Court’s Cauvery water-sharing decision.
• This technique enables farmers to save up to 5,000 litres of water for each kilogram of rice produced—water savings of about 30% without a decline in yields.
262. Indian women suffering from deficiency of vitamin D are susceptible to diabetes, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal.
   - The study that involves 1,361 women from Delhi aged 20 to 60 years showed a significant association of low vitamin D levels with higher blood glucose values in women with pre-diabetes.
   - The study is conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences along with Fortis C-DOC and Diabetes Foundation (India).
   - According to a recent report by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), a trade association in the country, around 88% of Delhi’s population has less than normal vitamin D levels.

263. Key leaders of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) are set to start a political movement against the status quo, after stepping down from the West Bengal government’s board for civic and economic development of Darjeeling.

264. A recent report “The Power of Parity: Advancing Women’s Equality In Asia Pacific” by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) for the Asia-Pacific region, India’s gender inequality is extremely high on work & politics.
   - India’s score was 0.30 in gender equality at work and 0.78 in legal protection and political voice out of 1.0 scale.
   - India behind the Asia-Pacific average in all four, but ahead of Bangladesh and Pakistan.
   - In India, women contribute just 18% to GDP and the female share of the labour force stands at 25%.
   - It is second in the region only to Pakistan, where women contribute 11% to the GDP and form 22% of the workforce.
   - It has 4 broad categories: Work, Services & enablers, Legal & political, Physical Security.
   - Here it can be categorized as:
Points | Category
---|---
0.0-0.50 | Extremely high inequality
0.50-0.75 | High inequality
0.75-0.95 | Medium Inequality
0.95-1.0 | Low Inequality

- Advancing women’s equality in the countries of Asia Pacific, the report suggests, could add $4.5 trillion to their collective GDP annually in 2025.

265. The National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), tasked with redeveloping half a dozen south Delhi colonies assured the Delhi High Court that no trees would be cut for the project till July 4.

266. India is the world’s most dangerous country for women due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour, according to a poll of Global Experts, in the Thomson Reuters Foundation survey of about 550 experts.

- Afghanistan and Syria ranked second and third respectively followed by Somalia and Saudi Arabia.
- The only Western nation in the top 10 was the United States, which ranked joint third when respondents were asked where women were most at risk of sexual violence, harassment and being coerced into sex.
- The poll was a repeat of a survey in 2011 that found experts saw Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, India, and Somalia as the most dangerous countries for women.

267. The Centre has decided to discontinue overtime allowance given to its employees except operational staff, according to an order issued by the personnel ministry.
268. A **Centralised Appellate Authority** is to be set up by Revenue Department to deal with the problem created by contradictory verdicts passed by the **Authority of Advance Rulings** (AAR) in different states.

- Under the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** law, each state is required to set up an Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR) comprising one member from the central tax department, and the other from the respective state.
- Therefore, the government is constituting **Centralised AAR**.

269. According to the **2018 Cost of Living Survey** by global consulting firm **Mercer**, Cost of living for expatriates in **Mumbai** is the highest in the country, and more expensive than its global peers like **Melbourne** and **Frankfurt**.

- **Mumbai** is ranked at the **55th spot** in terms of cost of living globally, higher than cities like Melbourne (58), Frankfurt (68), Buenos Aires (76), Stockholm (89) and Atlanta (95).
- **Hong Kong** is ranked as the world’s costliest city to live in for expatriates.
- The survey is designed to help multinational companies and governments determine compensation strategies for their expatriate employees.
- Inflation, among the highest in Indian cities surveyed, remained at **5.57%** for the surveyed set of expatriate goods, during the survey period. This is especially true for prices of expatriate food items such as, butter, meat and poultry as well as premium farm produce which have increased significantly, along with prices of alcohol.
- Costs of sporting, leisure related activities have also played a role to rising prices, followed in part by transportation costs, which includes taxi fares and cost of registration and road taxes.
270. According to a global survey of over **40,000 adults** conducted in 2017 by **Pew Research Centre**, only **one in four Indian adults** either **owns a smartphone or uses the internet occasionally**, something that the report considers to be a measure of internet penetration.

- **India** also ranked among the very **lowest, just above Tanzania**, in terms of the percentage of adults owning a smartphone.
- Of the **22% of households** where at least one member accessed internet in India in **2016**, **more than 80% did it through mobile phones only**, according to the **ICE 360° survey**, a nationally representative sample of 61,000 households conducted by the Independent Not-For-Profit Organisation, **People Research on India’s Consumer Economy**.

271. **India** gifted a **Dornier maritime patrol aircraft** to **Seychelles** which will enhance the surveillance capabilities of the island nation.
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a $100 million line of credit under which Seychelles can purchase military hardware from India.

• The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) built Do-228 aircraft was formally handed over by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to the President of Seychelles, Danny Faure.

272. The Haryana government has announced a new policy under which medical students who quit their course midway will have to shell out up to ₹7.5 lakh.

  • Postgraduate students who quit before the completion of their course will also be barred from seeking admission to another institute for the next three years.

  • Undergraduate students pursuing MBBS or BDS will pay ₹5 lakh if they quit the course.

273. The inaugural meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) is expected to give directions to the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on the plan of action for water release by Karnataka to Tamil Nadu during July.

  • The Central Government has formed Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as per the provisions in the Cauvery Management Scheme laid down by the Supreme Court.

  • S Masood Husain is the Chairman of Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.
274. **Indian nationals** seeking passport can now apply from anywhere in the country irrespective of where they live, under a new **liberalized scheme** launched by the External Affairs Ministry.

275. A study, published in *Environmental Science and Technology Letters*, has found over 30 micrograms per litre (mcg/l) of the heavy metal in parts of north-western, southern and south-eastern India.

- Drinking such water can damage one’s kidneys and the **World Health Organization** prescribes 30 mcg/l as an upper limit.
- In Rajasthan and other north-western regions, uranium occurs mostly in **alluvial aquifers**; while in **southern regions** such as Telangana, crystalline rocks such as granite seem to be the source.
- When groundwater is over-extracted from such soils, the uranium is exposed to air, triggering its release.

276. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** to boost lending **tenfold** to **$40 billion by 2020**, and to **$100 billion by 2025**, in order to speed up infrastructure financing across the region.
277. **China proposed 2+1 talks with India**
   - Under the mechanism, China and India can jointly conduct a dialogue with a third regional country.

278. **The Government proposes to set up 3000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30,000 SHGs across the country under the Van Dhan Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**
   - The Prime Minister launched the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED on 14th April, 2018.

279. **The Maharashtra government set up a committee to study issues related to the development of a 1,000-MW floating solar power plant at Ujani dam in Solapur district of Maharashtra.**
   - Satish Chavan has been appointed as the head of the committee.

280. **The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has launched its report titled ‘Women in Prisons’.
   - It aims to build an understanding of the various challenges faced by women in prisons and their resolutions.
   - It is a comprehensive list of 134 recommendations.
   - Bail should be granted to those under-trial women who have spent one-third of their maximum possible sentence in detention.
   - A separate accommodation for mothers in post-natal stage to maintain hygiene and protect the infant from contagion, for at least a year after childbirth has been made.
   - Prison authorities should coordinate with local police to ensure released prisoners are not harassed by them due to the attached stigma.
   - Prisoners must also be given the right to vote.
   - A robust grievance redressal system must be made in prisons so that apart from the prisoner herself, her legal adviser or family members should be allowed to make complaints regarding her stay in prison.
281. A campaign to encourage farmers to voluntarily adopt a new scheme ‘Paani Bachao, Paise Kamao’, for checking depletion of underground water, was launched in Jalandhar, Punjab.
   • Through this scheme, farmers will receive monetary benefit for less use of tube well.

282. The Godikan panchayat in Haryana has become the first panchayat in India to pass a resolution to marry girls only to families that have a toilet in their house.

283. The tourism department of the state of Goa announced that it will launch app-based taxi services in the state called: ‘GOAMILES’ in July 2018.
   • It would help in curbing fleecing by the taxi drivers and easy facilitation for the passengers.
   • The key features of the initiative would be modest pricing and convenience to the traveller.

284. According to a report by market research firm eMarketer, media consumption over digital mediums like smartphones, tablets, and PCs and others are expected to more than double from five years ago among the Indian adult population.
   • Indian adults will spend around 1 hour, 24 minutes per day with digital devices in 2018.
   • Interestingly, the overall smartphone penetration in India is still relatively low, and just over 29% of the adult population currently use smartphones in the country.
   • eMarketer predicts that smartphone users in India will spend 2 hours, 39 minutes daily with their handsets in 2018.
285. The government has started discussions for sale of Air India’s (AI’s) iconic building in Mumbai to the country’s biggest container port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT).

286. US government has asked all countries including India to stop oil imports from Iran by November 4.

- India is the second largest buyer of Iranian crude after China
- And Iran is the third largest supplier to India after Saudi Arabia and Iraq.
- This has been done in line with the US withdrawal from Iran deal.
• **Iran Nuclear Deal** - In 2015, six countries led by the US signed up to a landmark deal with Iran known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and Tehran agreed to limit its nuclear programme in exchange for the lifting of certain western sanctions.
  
  i. The **US, UK, France, Germany, Russia, China and Iran** signed the deal, alongside the EU.
  
  ii. As part of its withdrawal from the deal, the **Trump administration** has **re-imposed sweeping sanctions** against Iran with immediate effect that effectively blocks **new contracts with Iran and business operations** in the country.

287. As per the **Demographic and Health Surveys**, of Live Mint, Of the **43 countries** for which recent data on sexual violence is available, **India ranks 32** when it comes to the share of women aged 15-49 who ever experienced such violence in their lifetime.

• These **43 countries** are those for which the last DHS survey was conducted on or after **2010**.

• In **India**, the DHS is known as the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**, which interviewed more than **700,000 women in 2015-16** during the last round of the survey.
While the risk of sexual violence in India is undeniable, India does not seem to be the most dangerous place when it comes to the risk of sexual violence.

Most offenders tend to be husbands or partners of the victims.

Union Government has unveiled the draft of the bill to replace higher education regulator University Grants Commission (UGC) with a Higher Education Commission.
The new commission to be established through an Act will not have grant-making authority, will promote reduced inspection system and will focus more on quality outcome at universities and colleges.

According to the draft bill, the commission will have the power to impose penalty on higher educational institutions that are found wanting.

Any further violations could lead to criminal proceedings “under the Criminal Procedure Code and may be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to three years”.

289. India and Singapore have resolved the contentious issues of visa and banking restrictions, which led to the conclusion of the long-pending second review of the bilateral free trade agreement.

- The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between the two countries came into force on 1 August 2005 and the first review was concluded on 1 October 2007.
- The second review of the CECA was launched in May 2010, but since then the review was held primarily on two counts.
  i. One, Singapore had restricted the movement of skilled professionals from India after putting Indian information technology companies under its fair consideration framework watch list, which gave preference to Singapore citizens in jobs introduced in 2014.
  ii. Two, Singapore mandated a higher Asset Maintenance Ratio (AMR) for Indian banks, including the State Bank of India and the ICICI Bank, operating in Singapore compared to the mandate for other foreign banks.

290. Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao released Rs.15 crore for organizing Bonalu Festival.

- Bonalu is an annual festival of Telangana celebrated in twin cities Hyderabad, Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana.
291. Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh announced that centre has released **Rs 340 crore to Assam**.
   - Out of Rs.340 crore, **Rs 101 crore** was released by the DoNER and **Rs 239 crore** was given by the home ministry under the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) account.

292. Union Government approved signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) titled Joint Declaration of Intent between India and Germany on Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation.

293. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has restricted the manufacture of Oxytocin formulations for domestic use to public sector only from 1st July 2018.
   - The import of Oxytocin and its formulations is also banned.
   - Only Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (KAPL), a public sector company, will manufacture Oxytocin for domestic use from 1st July 2018.
   - The Union government banned imports of the hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in the livestock industry, where activists say it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals.

294. The government approved capital infusion of **Rs 2,000 crore** in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC).
   - The amount would be infused in the three financial years i.e. **Rs.50 crore** in 2017-18, **Rs.1450 crore** in the year 2018-19 and **Rs.500 crore** for 2019-20.

295. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) sent a vision document called IMPRESS (Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences) to the government.
   - It includes research proposals on public private partnerships, food security, Make In India (a key policy initiative of the present government), federalism, regionalism and its implications, etc.
296. **Tamil Nadu** will become the **first State in the country** to virtually connect **58** computed tomography (CT) and **18** magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines located in different government hospitals in the State.
   - It will be done through tele-radiology system.

297. **Punjab CM Amarinder Singh**, to hand over **₹4.50 cr.** to **40 people** who spent time in Jodhpur prison following the Army operation to flush out militants from the **Golden Temple** in 1984.
   - Around **300 people** were arrested and detained in the Jodhpur jail in June 1984 in the wake of **Operation Blue Star**, and were later released in three batches, between March 1989 and July 1991.

298. **India** has moved up just **one spot** in the **Global Real Estate Transparency Index** from **36** in **2016** to **35** in **2018**.
   - According to report by real estate advisory firm **Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. (JLL)**.
   - This was despite the implementation of the **Real Estate (Regulation And Development) Act or RERA**.
   - RERA was implemented in **May 2016** to bring accountability and transparency into the sector.
   - However, unlike a few states such as **Maharashtra and Karnataka**, several states have been slow in its implementation.
   - The **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016** is an Act of the Parliament of India which seeks to protect home-buyers as well as help boost investments in the real estate industry.
   - The Act establishes **Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)** in each state for regulation of the real estate sector and also acts as an adjudicating body for speedy dispute redressal.
   - Although, **India** is one of the **10 countries** that have registered **maximum improvement** in transparency in real estate over the last two years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela (least transparent market)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
299. As per the recommendations of the committee formed under the Secretary of the Transport Ministry, expenses incurred by manufacturing companies in setting up charging stations for electric vehicles across the country should be considered an activity within the ambit of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

- The proposal has been made to facilitate adoption of electric mobility in India, where setting up charging infrastructure is becoming a major impediment.
- **Higher depreciation on electric vehicles is required**, along with incentive or weighted deductions for investments in the electric mobility space.
- The depreciation of EVs may be allowed at a rate of 50% against a rate of 15% allowed at present.
- The committee was set up by the government to suggest measures to **promote electric mobility** in India through **non-fiscal incentivization** and **promote electrification in public transport** and last-mile connectivity.
300. On the upcoming **National Deworming Day** to be held in August, the centre is planning to include children who are not part of the school or Anganwadi system.

- The **National Deworming Day** is a flagship programme, which started in 2015 to combat the public health risk of intestinal worms in boys and girls aged 1-19 years.
- The ministry now aims to expand the treatment coverage.
- The **World Health Organization** estimated in 2014 that over **220 million Indian children aged 1-14 years** were at risk of worm infections.

301. **Changing monsoon patterns** and rising temperatures driven by climate change could cost **India 2.8% of GDP**, says a new **World Bank report**.

- Climate change could depress the living standards of nearly half the India’s population by **2050**, which now lives in the vulnerable areas.
- Low-income states such as **Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh**, which are also home to large tribal populations, are predicted to be the top two climate hotspots by 2050 that are likely to experience a decline of over 9% in their living standards.
- Followed by **Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra**.
- The report also highlights that seven out of the top 10 most-affected hotspot districts would belong to the **Vidarbha region of Maharashtra**.
- It is expected that India’s average annual temperatures could rise by **1- 2°C by 2050** even if preventive measures are taken along the lines of those listed in the Paris Agreement, while the rise would be **1.5-3°C if no steps are taken**.

302. **The Central Board of Trustees**, Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), approved the proposal for insertion of **Paragraph 68HH in EPF Scheme, 1952** provisioning advance from the fund to a member who ceases to be in employment for a continuous period not less than one month.

- Under this proposal a member can avail **75% of the total fund** (including employee as well as employer share) standing to the member’s credit with interest thereon.
• It approved the proposal to continue SBI Mutual Fund and UTI Mutual Fund as ETF manufacturer for investment in ETF by EPFO for tenure of one year i.e. till 30/06/2019

303. Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Digital Academy and addressed the first batch of professionals enrolled for undergoing courses in the fields of Psychiatry and Psychiatric Social Work.

• NIMHANS is initiating programmes for training of healthcare service providers across the country to deliver quality mental healthcare services.

304. The Tamil Nadu government today released its Ecotourism Policy 2017 which is a community based ecotourism policy.

• The Forest Department will be the nodal department for implementing the policy.
• The SEB will finalise the strategies regarding pricing and appropriate packaging and branding of ecotourism destinations.

305. Military Engineer Services (MES) launched its newly designed website.

• It is line with the GiGW (Guidelines For Indian Government Websites) guidelines.

306. India announced that, it will raise the fund from $12 million to $15 million to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)’s new four-year investment cycle called GEF-7.

• GEF was formed in 1992 during the Rio Earth Summit to manage serious environmental problems.

307. The navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX).

308. French utility EDF and General Electric have signed a pact to jointly build six reactors for India’s most ambitious nuclear power plant at Jaitapur in Maharashtra.
• The **9,900 megawatt** (mw) plant at Jaitapur is being built by State run-Nuclear Power Corporation of India.

• This will be the **world’s largest** nuclear power unit.

309. World’s **lightest** satellite named Jai Hind 1-S that weighs only **33.39 grams**.

• Designed by four students from Department of Aerospace Engineering in Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science near Chennai.

310. The **Centre** is considering a proposal to set up a **Centre of Excellence for Blockchain Technology** in Hyderabad to drive innovation.

• It is the first centre for **Blockchain** technology.

311. Money parked by **Indians in Swiss banks** rose more than **50% to 1.01 billion Swiss francs (Rs. 7,000 crore)** in 2017.

• In comparison, the total funds held by all foreign clients of **Swiss banks** rose about **3% to 1.46 trillion francs** or about **Rs. 100 lakh crore** in 2017, according to the official annual data released by the Swiss National Bank (SNB), the central banking authority of the Alpine nation.

• As per the latest data, the Indian money in Swiss banks included **464 million francs (Rs. 3,200 crore)** in the form of customer deposits, **152 million francs (Rs. 1,050 crore)** through other banks and **383 million francs (Rs. 2,640 crore)** as ‘other liabilities’ such as securities at the end of 2017.

312. On **June 28, 2018**, the currency weakened **breaching 69 per dollar**, an all-time low.

• The rupee, which has **lost almost 8%** in value since January 1, is the **worst-performing currency** in Asia this year.

313. A new **District Health Ranking System** has been evolved in Rajasthan for monitoring the delivery of healthcare services, vaccination in infants, family welfare programmes
and institutional deliveries as well as the implementation of the Bhamashah health insurance scheme.

- **New India Assurance Company Limited (NIA)** has announced that it will execute health insurance for about one crore poor families across the State.
- Under the project called the **Bhamasha Swasthya Bima Yojana (BSBY)**, about four crore people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will get health insurance benefits.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Ben Lacomte, French swimmer has set off from Japan aiming to become the first person to swim across the Pacific Ocean.

2. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Portugal Prime Minister António Costa launched the new “WHO Global action plan on physical activity and health 2018-2030: More active people for a healthier world.”
   - The action plan explains how countries can reduce physical inactivity in adults and adolescents by 15% by 2030.
   - It specifies a set of 20 policy areas aimed to develop more active societies by improving the environments and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to do more walking, cycling, sport, active recreation, dance and play.

3. Saudi Arabia gave away its first batch of driving licenses to women after decades long ban.
   - Saudi Arabia the only country where women are not allowed to drive.
   - The ban ends on June 24 2018

4. Citi Bank becomes the first corporate bank to make use of UK’s Open Banking regime.
   - According to the open banking regime, the European Banks are required to share customer data with third party banks upon the customers’ approval.
   - Citi Bank is the first to enrol as “Payment Initiation Service Provider”.
   - This would enable it to receive small payments directly from UK’s customer bank accounts without debit or credit cards.
   - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) have signed an agreement to set up a framework for recognizing members easier and encourage mobility of professionals between both countries, at the SAICA head office in Johannesburg.

5. The Fuego volcano erupted in El Rodeo, Guatemala on June 3, 2018
   - Also known as The Volcan de Fuego, or “Volcano of Fire.”
6. **China** has approved the first domestically developed, long-acting injectable HIV drug named **Albuvirtide**.
   - Albuvirtide has been approved by the China Food and Drug Administration
   - It can block the fusion of the virus and host cell membranes, blocking the HIV life cycle in the earliest stage.

7. World’s **first European Pressurized Reactor (EPR)** nuclear reactor started its operations in **Taishan**, in **Southern China**.
   - It is being managed by **China General Nuclear Power Corporation**.

8. **Refugees** now make up **1% of the world’s population**, the **highest in modern history**.
   - There were **68 million refugees** and internally displaced people in 2016, a rate of 910 people per 100,000.

9. **No place to call home**
   The number of displaced persons per 100,000 people has increased by over 1,000% since 1951

10. The UN General Assembly elected **South Africa, Indonesia, Dominican Republic**, **Germany and Belgium** as non-permanent members of the Security Council for term of two years starting from **1st January 2019**

11. The voting was to fill the seats that will be vacated by **Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan** and **Sweden** in 2018.

12. Chinese President **Xi Jinping** presented **China’s first friendship medal** to Russian President **Vladimir Putin**, at a special event held at the Great Hall of People, China.
   - This Friendship medal has been claimed to be the **highest state honour of China**.
   - In 2017, Vladimir Putin awarded Xi Jinping the **Order of St Andrew** for his remarkable service to Chinese and Russian people.
13. American fighter **Ronda Rousey** will become the **first female** Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter to be inducted into the **Ultimate Fighting Championship Hall of Fame**.
   - There would be no women in UFC without Ronda Rousey

14. The **United States** has decided to provide security guarantees to **North Korea**, in exchange of **Pyongyang's firm** and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.
   - This is according to the joint document which was signed by **US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un** following their historic maiden talks at Singapore's Sentosa island

15. The **Nepal** cabinet approved the **Chinese government's** proposal to repair two ‘**Friendship Bridges**’ that link Nepal and China, and few others.
   - The bridges were damaged in 2015 due to earthquakes.

16. **India** is working to bring together a group of **8-10 member countries** of the **WTO** to develop an agenda to create a conducive atmosphere in Geneva for smooth functioning of **WTO** (World Trade Organisation).
   - This will be an informal group within the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
   - It might include countries like Brazil, China, South Africa, China, Indonesia and Columbia.
   - The **main focus** is to develop a proper structured agenda that will be acceptable to all countries to reduce the tension prevailing among the WTO member countries.

17. An **International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** will be held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
   - The Theme of the two-day conference is **“Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society”**.
     - The conference aims to bring government and private sector together for developing a plan of action using sustainable ICT applications.
   - It also seeks to unleash the prospects of **SMART Nepal** by **2030**.
18. Federal Reserve officials raised interest rates for the second time this year by 25 basis points to 2.0 percent.
   - Higher interest rates may tempt large foreign funds to move their money to the US, hurting emerging markets.

19. Pakistan and the World Bank inked agreements worth $565 million to help build and support the projects in power and water sectors.
   - Out of the total grant of $565 million, $425 million is meant for the NTDC and $140 million is for the Sindh government
   - NTDC - National Transmission & Dispatch Company is a Pakistani government-owned power transmission company

20. NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, who spent a record-breaking 665 days in space, has retired from the space agency.

21. Japan’s Cabinet has adopted an economic plan that will allow more foreign workers to work in the country.
   - This proposal will help rapidly aging country to make up for its declining workforce.
   - In recent times, number of foreign workers in Japan has nearly doubled to 1.28 million.

22. United States has slapped stiff 25% tariff on US $50 billion worth of Chinese goods.
   - It has accused China of intellectual property (IP) theft and unfair trade practices.
   - The tariffs will be applied in two waves-
     - The first will apply to 818 Chinese goods worth $34 billion and in second wave it will apply to 284 goods worth another $16 billion.

23. The Union Government has approved financial assistance amounting to Rs. 5.5 lakh per family to West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs).

24. The World Bank has approved $700 million to help Bangladesh achieve its education for all vision by improving the primary education sector.
• The Quality Learning for All Program (QLEAP) will cover more than 18 million children studying in pre-primary level to grade 5.
• It will also finance implementation of the government’s Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP4).

25. WhatsApp payment service has been in beta testing and almost one million people are testing the feature.
   • This is being implemented with the help of NPCI and multiple banks.
   • It has tied up with banks to facilitate financial transactions via Unified Payments

26. Russia successfully launched a Glonass- M positioning satellite using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket.
   • The Glonass network provides real-time positioning data for surface, sea and airborne objects around the globe, at an accuracy reportedly at par with the U.S. Global Positioning System.

   • The theme of the celebration was: ‘Yoga for Health’.

    • With this, Latvia became first Baltic state to chair the NSG.

29. US scientists have unveiled “Summit”, the world’s most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer.
    • Summit can perform more than 2,00,000 trillion calculations per second.
    • It would be of great help in research in energy, advanced materials and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
• The US Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) supercomputer called Summit will be 8 times more powerful than its previous system Titan.

30. **OPEC** meeting is scheduled to be happen in **Vienna**.

• **OPEC** - Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization of 14 nations as of February 2018, founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela), and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna, Austria.

• Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

31. **Amazon** founder and CEO **Jeff Bezos** became the richest man in the world with a net wealth of $141.9 billion, as per the Forbes World’s Billionaires list.

• **Bill Gates**, the principal founder of Microsoft Corporation, is the second-richest man in the world with a net wealth of $92.9 billion.

• **Warren Buffet**, who is one of the most successful investors in the world, has secured third place with a net wealth of $82.2 billion.

32. Researchers have discovered the world’s first known natural manta ray nursery, that allows them to observe the Juvenile Manta Ray in their habitat.

• It is located in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Texas at US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)’s Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

33. The annual nuclear forces data has been released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

• As per the report, **Pakistan remains ahead of India** in possessing nuclear warheads.

• **China** has double the quantity.

• **Pakistan** is said to possess 140-150 nuclear warheads this year.

• **India** is said to have 130-140 nuclear warheads.
34. Nikki Haley, the US envoy to the UN announced that United States has resigned UN Human Rights Council.

- The US cited the UNHRC’s admission of nations with questionable human rights records as the reason to quit.

35. The finance ministry announced that India has hiked customs duty on several goods, including Bengal gram, lentils and artemia, imported from the US.

- The move was against the duty hike by the US on certain steel and aluminium products which had tariff implication of $241 million on India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products</th>
<th>Increased rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chickpeas and Bengal gram</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lentils</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boric Acid and binders</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic reagents</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemia (a kind of shrimp)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- India has excluded motorbikes above 800 cc.
36. The PepsiCo Foundation announced a USD 4.26 million grant to an international non-profit organisation WaterAid to provide safe water access to communities in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala by December 2020.
   - This adds to the USD 17 million that the Foundation has made in India to date.

37. China’s Central bank – People’s Bank of China, will cut the amount of cash some lenders must hold as reserves, unlocking about 700 billion yuan ($108 billion) of liquidity.
   - The required reserve ratio for some banks will drop by 0.5%.
   - The aim is to support small and micro enterprises, and to further promote the debt-to-equity swap program.

38. OPEC would soon increase the oil supply by 600,000 to 800,000 barrels a day to the market, helping to tame oil prices that have soared to multi-year highs recently.
   - For India, risks from a high current account deficit and inflation will persist.
     - Additionally, higher oil prices bring back oil subsidy sharing nightmares for oil producer Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd.
   - OPEC - Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization of 15 nations as of June 2018
   - It was founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela), and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna, Austria.

39. An anti-doping sports conference named “Clean Sport=Fair Outcome?” was conducted to address the issue of doping, at Oslo, Norway.
   - RemoveDebris, the first-ever satellite to test possible solutions in cleaning up space junk has been deployed by the International Space Station (ISS).
   - RemoveDebris will begin experiments in orbit soon. It will use various innovative technologies to clean up space debris.

40. China will reduce tariffs on soybean imported from India, South Korea, Bangladesh, Laos, and Sri Lanka from the current three per cent to zero from 1 July.

41. The Hayabusa2, Japanese Probe mission has reached an asteroid 300 million km away to collect information about the birth of the solar system and the origin of life.
42. The **Financial Action Task Force** has decided to keep **Pakistan** remain on the **grey list** for failing to curb anti-terror financing.

- Despite Islamabad submitting a 26-point action plan and launching a concerted diplomatic effort to avert the decision.
- It was also agreed in **February** that an action plan would be negotiated between Pakistan and FATF members by June.
- **Pakistan** will work towards effective implementation of the **Action Plan** while staying in the **grey list**.
- The **FATF** is an **inter-governmental body** established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

43. The **World Health Organization** (WHO) has come up with a safe and effective alternative to the controversial drug **oxytocin** which is known as **Carbetocin**.

- While **oxytocin**, must be stored and transported at **2–8 degrees Celsius**, and becomes less effective when exposed to heat, **carbetocin** does not require refrigeration and retains its efficacy for at least three years even if it is stored at **30 degrees Celsius**, and in 75% relative humidity.
BANKING AND ECONOMY

1. India’s economy accelerated to 7.7% in the three months ended 31 March, the fastest pace in seven quarters

2. Kolkata-based United Bank of India, which has a gross non-performing assets (NPA) ratio of 24.1% has capped the amount of corporate loans to a single borrower at ₹150 crore
   - UBI Bank is under the Prompt Corrective Action of RBI along with 10 other banks
   - The 11 banks under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) are Dena Bank, Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank, IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Bank of Maharashtra
   - Under the PCA, banks face restrictions on distributing dividends and remitting profits.
   - The owner may be asked to infuse capital into the lender. Besides, the lenders are stopped from expanding their branch networks and need to maintain higher provisions. Management compensation and directors fees are also capped.
3. **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) reported a record net quarterly loss of ₹13,417 crore in the quarter ended March 2018.

4. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released its loan of $252 million to the island nation of **Sri Lanka**.
   - This loan is a part of a deal of amount $1.5 billion that was to be loaned by the IMF to Sri Lanka.

5. India’s major banks **SBI, PNB and ICICI bank** raised the lending rate making the loans costlier.
   - They increased their benchmark lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points or by 0.1% for all tenors up to 10 years.
   - **PNB** has raised tenors for 3 and 5 years to 8.55% and 8.7%.
   - **PNB** has also raised the base rate of 9.15% to 9.25%.
   - **ICICI** has raised MCLR for 5 year tenors to 8.70% and also changed tenors for three and one year.
6. The global financial services major Morgan Stanley reported that India would become a leader in shared mobility by 2030.
   • This improvement would be caused by the increasing amount of electric and autonomous vehicles being used.
   • This would increase the shared miles by 35% to 50% of all miles travelled in India by 2040.

   • These four banks has a combined loss of Rs. 21,646.38 crore in the financial year end of March 31.
   • This will create India’s second largest bank after SBI having combined asset of Rs 16.58 trillion.

8. Micro lender Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd. gets a no–objection nod for its merger with IndusInd Bank
   • Bharat Financial (earlier known as SKS Microfinance)
9. Unlike in the past when RBI used to issue an annual forecast for inflation that came up for frequent review, it now has a quarterly forecast, an annual forecast and even an average inflation rate it sees in the first and the second half of a fiscal year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forecast period</th>
<th>Inflation forecasts (in %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April Policy</td>
<td>February policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 FY18</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1 FY19</td>
<td>4.7-5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2 FY19</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RBI

10. Vedanta Ltd has taken over control of bankrupt company Electrosteel Steels Ltd.

- Vedanta Star Ltd, fully owned subsidiary of Vedanta Ltd, has deposited an upfront amount of ₹5,320 crore in an escrow account for the Electrosteel acquisition.

11. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India has increased the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.25 percent.
MPC revised CPI inflation for 2018-19 to 4.8-4.9% in the first half and 4.7% in the second half. The MPC stated that the GDP growth rate for 2018-19 is retained at 7.4 percent.

- Repo Rate: 6.25%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 6.00%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate: 6.50%

12. The anti-poverty agency predicts global growth will decelerate slightly from a solid 3.1 percent this year to 3 percent next year and 2.9 percent in 2020

- The World Bank predicts that US growth will register 2.7 percent in 2018, aided by tax cuts, before slowing to 2.5 percent next year and 2 percent in 2020.
- India is expected to grow by 7.3% in FY19 and 7.5% in FY20.
- This was released in World Bank’s ‘Global Economic Prospect’ report.
- China's growth is projected at 6.5 percent this year, 6.3 percent in 2019 and 6.2 percent in 2020.

13. Bank of Baroda increased its Marginal Cost-Based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 5 basis points.

14. IDFC Bank received RBI’s approval for merger of Capital First, Capital First Home Finance and Capital First Securities with the company.

15. World Bank approved an amount of Rs. 6000 crore for the implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana.

- This scheme aims to improve ground water management through community participation.
- Under this scheme, priority is given to areas with critically low ground water level.
- The priority areas are: Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
16. **Foreign Direct Investment** to India decreased to **40 billion dollars** last year from **44 billion dollars in 2016** while outflows from India, the main source of investment in South Asia, **more than doubled**, according to a new trade report by the **UN**

- According to the **World Investment Report, 2018** by the **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, global foreign direct investment flows fell by **23 percent in 2017**, to USD 1.43 trillion from USD 1.87 trillion in 2016.

17. RBI announced a relaxation of **180 days** for **MSMEs** who are not classified as ‘Non-Performing’.

- MSMEs which were standard as on August 31, 2017, shall continue to be classified as standard by banks and NBFCs if the payments due as on September 1, 2017, and falling due thereafter up to **December 31, 2018**, were paid not later than 180 days from their original due date.
- After **January 2019** the rules will fall back to the normal **90 day** regime for the GST registered MSMEs.

18. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has announced that it will set up a **Public Credit Registry (PCR)** as a repository of information regarding loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers.

- This decision has been taken as per recommendations of **Y.M. Deosthalee committee** set up by the central bank.
- PCR will work as a repository of all loan contracts, duly verified by reporting institutions for all / any lending in India, regardless of the amount of the loan.
- PCR should also capture data such as external commercial borrowings, market borrowings, and all contingent liabilities; and should provide an holistic picture about the borrower’s indebtedness.
- This registry will distinguish between bad borrowers and good borrowers and will offer interest rates accordingly.
19. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to invest in infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), in a bid to promote infrastructure development through this investment route.

20. RBI has made changes in the **Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)** to make it more attractive.

- The scheme was first launched by the government in 2015 to mobilise the idle gold of the household or institutions to the banks as deposits for a fixed period of time.
- The interest rate varied from 2.25% to 2.5%.
- The revamping of the scheme is aimed at enabling people to open a hassle-free gold deposit account.
- The short-term deposits should be treated as bank's on-balance sheet liability
- These deposits will be made with the designated banks for a short period of 1-3 years (with a facility of rollover)
- Deposits can also be allowed for broken periods (e.g. 1 year 3 months; 2 years 4 months 5 days; etc.

21. Reserve Bank has stated that **interest subsidy scheme** on **short-term crop loans** of up to **three lakh rupees** will be implemented through the **Direct Benefit Transfer** (DBT) mode from the current financial year.
- Direct Benefit Transfer was started on 1st January 2013.

22. Foreign Direct Investment in India has risen up to $61.96 billion in **2017-18**.
- The FDI inflows were **$60 billion** in **2016**.
- FDI has increased by **$222.75** billion from **$152** billion in **4 years**.
23. Credit rating Agency **Moody’s** predicted India’s fiscal deficit to be **3.3%** of GDP for FY 2018-19.
   - The planned expenditure of the govt. has been suggested to be cut back.
   - Government is likely to reduce excise duty on petroleum and diesel products if the price of global crude continues to remain high.

24. Following RBI’s decision to raise the repo rate to **25 basis points**, the following banks have raised their MCLR rates as well.
   - **Oriental Bank of Commerce**
     - The bank has raised its MCLRs by **10 to 15** basis points for various tenors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenure</th>
<th>Raised by (in basis points)</th>
<th>Increased % of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over night</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One month</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Months</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Months</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8.65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ii. The bank has raised its MCLRs by 10 basis points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenure</th>
<th>Increase by (basis points)</th>
<th>Latest rate of Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overnight</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One – Month</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three months</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six months</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Reserve Bank of India has brought a new methodology of setting lending rate by commercial banks under the name **Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR)**. It has modified the existing base rate system from April 2016 onwards.
- As per the new guidelines by the RBI, banks have to prepare Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) which will be the internal benchmark lending rates. Based upon this MCLR, interest rate for different types of customers should be fixed in accordance with their riskiness. The base rate will be now determined on the basis of the MCLR calculation.
- The MCLR should be revised monthly by considering some new factors including the repo rate and other borrowing rates.
- As per the new guidelines, banks have to set five benchmark rates for different tenure or time periods ranging from overnight (one day) rates to one year.

25. **Yes Bank** has launched a first of a kind new deposit scheme to fetch Rs. 1000 crore from the scheme.
   - It is the first of many green retail products to be launched by the bank
   - This scheme is called ‘**Green Future : Deposit**’.


• This would provide a peak interest of 7.5% and has a tenure of 18 months 8 days to 18 months 18 days.
• For senior citizens it would provide 8% interest.
• It has also launched a pilot project for recycled dry waste generated at facilities and has recycled close to 9.5 tonne of dry waste, resulting in 27.35 MT of carbon footprint reduction every quarter.

• To provide insurance services to customers
• It has already partnered with Birla Sunlife Insurance for the same.

27. Airtel Payments Bank has been denied permission to use the UIDAI’s e-KYC facility due to wrong doing from the bank’s part.
• As per RBI’s report the Bank has used the e-KYC facility to provide LPG subsidies to its customers without permission.

28. According to a report by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) a growth close to 8% GDP in next 2 years is expected.
• Fiscal prudence, able macroeconomic management, and strong reforms would be the reasons for the growth.
• Good performance across sectors such as automotive, white goods, steel, cement, and capital goods.

29. On the backdrop of rising oil prices and shortfall in FPI inflows to the country the RBI is expected to raise $30-35 billion via NRI bonds to raise the rupee.
• If the RBI does go ahead and sells bonds to NRIs, this will be the fourth such offering.
  i. The government had first raised money through NRIs by floating $5 billion of Resurgent India Bonds in 1998 in the wake of sanctions placed on the country following the second round of nuclear tests in Pokhran.
  ii. The second offering was the $5-billion India Millennium Deposits just two years later.
iii. The last such issuance was a $34-billion FCNR (B) special deposit in September 2013, after the rupee hit 68.84.

- Another reason for the government to issue bonds is that $27 billion of foreign exchange loans and bonds are set to mature by March 2019, putting further pressure on the rupee.

30. The government is likely to launch a **Rs 500-crore** Credit Enhancement Fund next month to facilitate infrastructure investments by insurance and pension funds.

- This will help in upgrading credit ratings of bonds issued by infrastructure companies and facilitate investment from investors like pension and insurance funds.
- The initial corpus of the fund, to be sponsored by IIFCL (India Infrastructure Finance Company), will be **Rs 500 crore**, and it will operate as a non-banking finance company.

31. **IIFCL will hold a 22.5 percent stake** in the NBFC, while the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has offered to pick up a **10 per cent** stake, **SBI, Bank of Baroda and LIC** will also have stakes in the firm.

32. According to **SBI's annual report** for 2017-18, **Axis bank** has the highest **value** share of mobile banking transactions by **17.2%**

- **Paytm** tops the chart by **volumes with 22%** and by **value it is 0.25%**.
- **ICICI** has 17.1% share by value and **9.7% by volume**.
- **SBI** has **19.5% by volume in January 2018** compared to **25%** at the end of March 2019.
- By **value share SBI has 16.8% from 44.4%** in 2017.
33. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to limit the amount of short-term cash a company can borrow from banks against stocks or receivables, in an attempt to bring credit discipline among large borrowers.
   - That borrowers with working capital facility of over ₹150 crore need to withdraw a minimum of 40% of the limit as loan component and the remaining as cash credit.

34. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted an Expert Committee to frame rules for direct listing of Indian firms abroad.
   - The committee will examine the economic case for permitting direct listing of Indian companies overseas and listing of Indian companies on foreign bourses in India.

35. SEBI has constituted Group to look into existing Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) framework and suggest measures to facilitate listing of start-ups.
   - The group will look into existing ITP framework and suggest measures to facilitate listing of start-ups.
   - It will revisit current ITP framework and identify areas, if any, which require further changes.
   - It will also address issues relevant to ITP which group may like to assess.

• It is a repo contract where a third entity, apart from the borrower and lender, called tri-party agent acts as an intermediary to facilitate services like collateral selection, payment and settlement, custody and management during the life of the transaction.
• It provides opportunity to borrow against the securities and provides short-term liquidity to participants.
• This would increase demand for corporate bonds and may provide a boost to much needed liquidity in the corporate bond market.
• Axis Bank Ltd and ICICI Securities Primary Dealership are the first few members who have participated on the platform.

37. Inflation based on wholesale prices shot up to a 14-month high of 4.43% in May on increasing prices of petrol and diesel as well as vegetables.
• The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation stood at 3.18% in April and 2.26% in May 2017.
• Wholesale Price index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) are the two primary measures of inflation
• Index figures reflects the change in a set of associated variables over a period of time in a particular direction.
• Price Index shows the total change in price level paid by a consumer or producer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basis</th>
<th>WPI</th>
<th>CPI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Price index which represents the wholesale price of the goods basket over a period of time</td>
<td>Price index which represents the average price of goods basket over a period of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covers</td>
<td>Goods only</td>
<td>Goods and services both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures</td>
<td>Measures the change in prices charged by manufacturers and wholesalers</td>
<td>Measures the average price of goods and services that consumers have paid for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published by</td>
<td>Office of Economic Advisor</td>
<td>Central Statistics Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commodities involved: WPI is based on the price of 435 commodities in India, which is an indicator of movement in price of commodities in all trade and transactions.

Inflation: Measures inflation at each stage of production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Wholesale level</th>
<th>Retail level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

38. Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for grant of permission to HDFC Bank to raise additional share capital of up to a maximum of Rs 24,000 crore.

- The composite foreign shareholding in the Bank will not exceed 74% of the enhanced paid-up equity share capital of the bank.

39. HDFC has been ranked as the 5th biggest public company globally in the ‘consumer financial services category’ compiled by Forbes in its 16th annual Forbes Global 2000 list.

- Data from FactSet Research systems has been taken to screen for the biggest public companies in four metric: sales, profits, assets and market value.
- American Express tops the chart.
- Indiabulls Housing Finance is the only other Indian company (at 13th place) on the list.
- Reliance Industries at 83rd place, the only from India in the top-100

40. Fitch Ratings raised India growth forecast for 2018-19 to 7.4% from 7.3% but cited higher financing costs and rising oil prices as risks to growth.

- For 2019-20, it estimated the country to grow at 7.5%.
- Last month, US-based Moody's cut India’s growth forecast for 2018-19 to 7.3 per cent from 7.5 per cent citing rising oil prices.

41. Fitch has degraded the ratings of ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.
• It downgraded ICICI Bank’s ‘support rating’ to ‘3’, from ‘2’ and its support rating floor to ‘BB+’, from ‘BBB-’ and Axis Bank at ‘BBB-’.

42. **Current account deficit** (CAD) is widening—the means of financing it also became more risky in 2017-18.

• On the one hand, higher oil prices are raising the CAD and on the other foreign direct investment (FDI), the most stable source of financing the deficit, has come down.

**Worsening CAD, volatile financing**
The widening current account deficit is being funded by debt portfolio flows and short-term credit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018 (in $ billion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current account deficit</td>
<td>-15.3</td>
<td>-48.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign direct investment</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign portfolio investment-equities</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign portfolio investment-debt</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term credit</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kotak Economics Research
43. **Karnataka Bank** introduced a novel card variant called ‘**KBL Deposit Only Card**’.
   - This card is meant for **Bank’s Current/Overdraft** customers.
   - This would ensure hassle free cash deposit transactions at Bank’s **24x7 e-Lobby** Services.
   - By using this card customers can perform cash deposit transactions even with higher deposit limit at Bank’s Bunch Note Acceptor (BNA) / Cash Recycler kiosks.

44. **ICICI Venture** has sold its **30%** stake in hospital chain **Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS)** to General Atlantic for **Rs 850 crore**.

45. The **Reserve Bank** has eased investment norms for **Foreign Portfolio Investors** (FPIs) in **Debt**, especially into individual large corporates.
   - It increased the FPIs cap on investment in government security to **30 percent** of the outstanding stock of that security, **from 20 percent** earlier.
   - FPIs were allowed to invest in government bonds with a minimum residual maturity of **three**.
   - FPIs are permitted to invest in **Government securities (G-secs)**, including treasury bills, and SDLs without any minimum residual maturity requirement, subject to the condition that short-term investments( Investments with maturity of one year) by an FPI under either category **shall not exceed 20 per cent of the total investment of that FPI in that category**.
   - FPIs were permitted to invest in government securities till the limit utilisation reaches **90 per cent**.

46. **Banks Board Bureau (BBB)** has recommended **22 general managers** to be elevated as **executive directors** at the various **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.
   - This is the **first major exercise** undertaken by reconstituted BBB, headed by newly appointed **Chairman BP Sharma**.
   - BBB is super authority (**autonomous and self-governing body**) of Central Government comprising eminent professionals and officials to improve governance of PSBs.
• It was announced by Union Government in August 2015 as part of seven point Indradhanush Mission to revamp PSBs.

47. Under the ‘Maintenance of Close Relative’ category of the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has narrowed the definition of relatives to check the flow of funds.
  • This is only applicable to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.
  • RBI has introduced a system for daily reporting of individual transactions under the LRS by banks.
  • This enables banks to view remittances already made by an individual during the fiscal, thus improving monitoring and ensuring compliance.

48. Yes Bank has received approval from market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for acting as custodian of securities.
  • The bank has taken advantage of its global reach through its international banking team, IFSC banking unit in GIFT City and its representative office in Abu Dhabi as a part of its strategy.
  • It would be opening representative offices in London and Singapore as per recent approval from the Reserve Bank of India.

49. The second tranche of Bharat-22 ETF (Exchange Traded Fund), Follow on Fund Offer (FoF) opened for fresh subscription on June 19, 2018.
  • There is also a green shoe option of Rs 2,400 crore, subject to government approval.
  • The government launched the BHARAT-22 exchange traded fund (ETF), which is managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund on November 14, 2017.
  • It’s a part of the government’s disinvestment programme.

50. With a view to promote the Priority Sector Lending guidelines for housing loans with the Affordable Housing Scheme, the RBI has changed the eligibility conditions of the priority sector lending.
51. For **economically Weaker Sections** and **Low Income Groups** the eligibility has been changed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous eligibility</th>
<th>Changed eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From 28 lakh (for metropolitan cities)</td>
<td>To 35 lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 20 lakh (for other centres)</td>
<td>To 25 lakh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Existing limit of family income of Rs. 2 lakh per annum has been changed to to **Rs 3 lakh** per annum for economically weaker group and **Rs 6 lakh** for low income groups.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** is an initiative by Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor with a target of building **20 million** affordable houses by **31 March 2022**.
- It has two components: **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U)** for the urban poor and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) (**PMAY-G** and also **PMAY-R**) for the rural poor.
- The slogan is “**Housing for All**”.

52. UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey said that **18,000** centres have come up for enrolment and updating of the biometric ID.

- They are called the ‘**Bank Aadhaar Kendras**’.

53. The **Banks Board Bureau (BBB)**, the advisory body formed by the government for selection of candidates for top level board appointment will soon be appointing **Managing Directors**.

- Recently BBB has recommended **22 General Managers** to be escalated as **Executive Directors**.
- **BP Sharma** is the Chairman of BBB.

54. **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** will invest **$200 million** in India’s **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**.
• NIIF was set up in 2015 as an investment vehicle for funding commercially viable greenfield, brownfield and stalled projects in the infrastructure sector.

• India is AIIB’s second-largest shareholder after China and has expressed its concerns over its neighbour’s ambitious ‘One Belt One Road’ (OBOR) initiative aimed at connecting around 60 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe.

55. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with draft guidelines on constituting a Board Of Management (BoM) in addition to the Board Of Directors, for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).

  • It would strengthen the governance in these banks.
  • The BoM will be responsible for credit, risk and liquidity management of the bank.
  • The BoM will consist of members with special knowledge and practical experience in banking.

56. BSE and NSE have put in place a new framework to shortlist and review stocks under enhanced surveillance measures.

  • Under the new guidelines, public sector enterprises and public sector banks will be excluded from the process of shortlisting of securities under Additional Surveillance Measures (ASM).
  • The parameters for shortlisting securities under ASM include high-low variation, client concentration, number of price band hits, close-to-close price variation and Price-Earning ratio.

57. BSE to launch platform to make stock market listing attractive for startups.

  • It will be launched at its SME (small and medium enterprise) segment.
  • It will facilitate the listing of companies in sectors like IT, ITES, bio-technology and life sciences, 3D printing, space technology and e-commerce.
  • A company needs to have a pre-issue paid up equity share capital of a minimum of Rs 1 crore.
  • It should be in existence for a minimum period of three years on the date of filing the draft prospectus with BSE.
58. The country’s oldest public sector financial institution Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) plans to raise **Rs 3,000 crore** from debt, including bonds, during the current fiscal.

59. **ICICI Bank** –

- The whistle-blower, an ICICI Bank employee, filed complaints on 20 and 22 March alleging the bank deliberately did not set aside funds to cover 31 **defaulting loan accounts** between fiscal 2008 and March 2016.
- The person said the bank inflated profits, mainly by underreporting the quantum of bad loans to these firms, delaying impairment for more than four years in some cases.
- ICICI Bank said **29 loan accounts** were classified as NPAs between the year ended 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2017, and the remaining two by 31 December 2017.
- The RBI began a second probe into ICICI Bank’s affairs within days of receiving the whistle-blower’s complaints in March.
- RBI began its probe into at least 26 of 31 loan accounts.
- Sebi is set to begin adjudication proceedings against ICICI Bank and CEO Kochhar for non-disclosure of information in the Videocon case.

60. As per the **Financial Stability Report** of RBI, Gross **Non-Performing Asset** (NPA) ratio of banks will rise to **12.2% by March 2019 from 11.6%** at the end of the previous fiscal, if economic conditions remains the same.

- In a scenario of severe stress, this ratio may rise to as high as **13.3% by March**.
- For public sector banks, this ratio may jump to **17.3% by March**.
- The gross NPA ratio of state-run banks under PCA will worsen to 22.3% by March, with six banks likely to experience capital shortfall under the baseline scenario.
- The banks under PCA framework include **IDBI Bank Ltd, UCO Bank, Central Bank of India, Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank**.
• In other words, the capital position of these banks is expected to weaken even further and money from the government will go into filling the big hole in capital rather than be used for growth.

• The PCA scheme of RBI puts various restrictions on activities generating income but there is hardly any reduction on the expenses side. With operating expenses remaining largely the same and income falling every quarter, it is very difficult for these banks’ financial performance to improve.

61. SEBI is considering to allow mutual funds to participate in the segment while also actively considering allowing derivatives on commodity indices.

• A separate committee is set up for physical settlement for commodity derivative contracts.

• Physical settlement refers to the system where the contract on the day of expiry is settled through the delivery of the underlying commodity instead of the current practice of cash. This assumes significance as currently only about 1-2% of the total turnover of certain commodities is settled by way of physical delivery.

62. As a part of Rationalization of overseas operations, State Bank of India (SBI) is going to shut 9 more foreign branches.

• The lender has operations in 36 countries with 190 branches.

63. The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) announced that it has extended $10 million worth of line of credit (LOC) to Seychelles.

• This is for healthcare and procurement of goods and projects.

• It is the first tranche of the $50 million sanctioned by the Exim Bank to the country.

64. Private sector lender RBL Bank has fully acquired Mumbai-based financial product distribution firm Swadhaar FinServe Pvt Ltd from their earlier holding of 60.49%.

65. The board of Indian Bank has decided to withdraw its May 10 resolution recommending a dividend of Rs. 6 per equity share (60%).
i. Indian Bank moved the RBI seeking clarification on Section 15 (1) of Banking Regulation Act.

ii. According to this section, banks are not allowed to pay any dividend on shares until all their capitalised expenses (including preliminary expenses, organisation expenses, share-selling commission, brokerage, amount of losses incurred and any ‘other item of expenditure not represented by tangible assets) have been completely written off.
APPOINTMENTS

1. The Indian Super League (ISL) club **FC Pune City** appointed **Brazilian Marcos Paqueta** as their head coach.
2. **Giuseppe Conte** was sworn in as **Prime Minister of Italy’s new populist government**
3. **Pedro Sanchez** was sworn in as **Spain’s Prime Minister**.
4. **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** was sworn in for a second 4 year term as **Egyptian President**.
5. **Nikesh Arora** as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of **Palo Alto Networks Inc**, a Cybersecurity firm.
6. **ITI Limited** announced that **K Alagesan** has taken additional charge as its **Chairman and Managing Director**
7. **M Venkatesh** took charge as the Managing Director & CEO of **Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL)**.
8. **Priyanka Das** from Assam has been appointed as ambassador for ‘promote science’ initiative in **France** to encourage girls to pursue scientific careers.
9. **Vijay Mahajan** has been selected as the **Secretary and CEO of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation(RGF) and the Director of Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS)**.
10. The MD&CEO of IDBI Bank, **Mukesh Kumar Jain** has been appointed as **fourth RBI Deputy Governor** for a 3 year term.
11. **Derrick Pereira**, FC Goa assistant head coach and former footballer, has taken charge as the new **Technical Director of FC Goa**.
12. **Rudrenda Tandon** was appointed as next Ambassador of **India to ASEAN**.
13. **Tsewang Namgyal** was made the next Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Lithuania**.
14. **R Gandhi**, former deputy governor of RBI (Reserve Bank of India) has joined the board of **Electronic Payment Services (EPS)** as Independent Director.
15. **West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi** was given additional charge of Tripura, during the absence of **Tathagata Roy, Governor of Tripura**.
16. **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has appointed **Sarita Nayar** as a member to its Managing board.
17. **Professor Hasan Askari Rizvi** took charge as the caretaker Chief Minister of Pakistan’s Punjab Province.
18. Sunil Sood has been appointed as the Chairman of Telecom industry body (COAI) and Ajai Puri as Vice Chairman.


20. Sharad Kumar has appointed Vigilance Commissioner in the probity watchdog Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

21. Suranjan Gupta has taken charge as the Executive Director and Secretary of Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) India.

22. Arvind Saxena has been made the acting Chairman of UPSC (Union Public Service Commission).

23. S Ramesh has been appointed as the Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
   - CBEC (Central Board of Excise and Customs) has been renamed to CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs).

24. Yes Bank approved the re-appointment of Rana Kapoor as MD & CEO of Yes bank.

25. An Indian-American woman, Dhivya Suryadevara has been named the Chief Finance Officer of the US’ largest automaker, General Motors.

26. Moina Benazir, an officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service has been appointed as the first woman Haj coordinator by the Union ministry of minority affairs.
   - She would lead a team of 1300 women to perform Haj without their male partners.

27. Omar al-Razzaz was sworn in as Jordan’s Prime Minister.

28. Ivan Duque has been appointed as the President of Columbia.
   - Duque, who will turn 42 just before taking office will be Colombia’s youngest ever President.

29. Sandeep Bakshi has been appointed as the Whole-Time Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ICICI Bank.
   - Chanda Kochhar, MD and CEO, will remain on leave till the investigation completes.
   - N.S. Kannan has been appointed as CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance for five years.
30. **Bangladesh** appointed **Lieutenant General Aziz Ahmed** as Bangladesh’s new **Army Chief**.

31. The Union government has appointed **Uday Vora** as the member of the **National Wetland Committee**.
   - The Committee was formed to advise government on appropriate policies and measures to be taken for conservation and management of the wetlands.

32. **Dr. Mukul Saxena** has been appointed as **Executive Vice President & Chief Technology Officer** (CTO) of **Havells India**.

33. **T. Armstrong Changsan** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of **Iceland**.

34. **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** has been re-elected as the **President of Turkey**.

35. **Yousaf Saleem** became the **first blind judge in Pakistan** after taking oath of civil judge.
   - **Brahmananda Sharma** of India became the Rajasthan’s First visually impaired judge.

36. **Anant Barua** has been appointed the new whole-time member of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

37. **Daikin Industries Ltd** has appointed its India operations MD & CEO **Kanwaljeet Jawa** into the Board of the parent company.
   - He will be the **first Indian** on the Daikin Industries board.
IMPORTANT DAYS

1. On 1st June 2018, Global Day of Parents was observed all over the world

2. On June 2, 2018, Telangana celebrated its statehood day.
   - Telangana celebrates its fourth year of formation this year.
   - It became India’s 29th state on 2 June 2014, following its separation from Andhra Pradesh.

3. On The Financial Literacy week begins from June 4 to June 8 2018.
   - The theme for this year’s Financial Literacy week has been declared by RBI as: Consumer Protection.
   - The event will focus on creating awareness among customers of banks about financial products and services, good financial practices and going digital
   - Resolution of the complaints would be received within 90 days from the date of receipt of complaint.
   - Awareness regarding Banking Ombudsman scheme would be emphasized.

4. On June 3, 2018, the first World Bicycle Day was celebrated all over the world.
   - The World Bicycle Day has been coined to honor the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle and the environmental and health benefits of using bicycle as a mode of transport.

5. On 4th June 2018, International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed all over the world.
   - On 19 August 1982, the UN General Assembly declared 4 June as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.

6. June 4, 2018 marked the 29th anniversary of Tiananmen Square protests of China.
   - On this day in 1989, the Chinese troops had violently retook the Tiananmen Square in Beijing from the pro-democracy protesters.
   - On this occasion, the Chinese people worldwide also remember a lone man, better known as “Tank Man” who armed with nothing more than two shopping bags stepped in front of the row of tanks moving down the streets of Beijing.
7. **World Environment Day – June 5**
   - World Environment Day is the United Nations' (UN) most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment
   - **The theme for the World Environment Day 2018, "Beat Plastic Pollution".**

8. **On 5th June 2018, International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing** was observed.
   - UN also declared **2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture**, to focus on small-scale fishermen and women who comprise 90% of the world’s fisheries work force.

9. **World Ocean Day - 8th June 2018**
   - On June 8th each year, we celebrate the ocean, its importance in our lives, and how we can protect it.
   - The main action focus is to prevent plastic pollution and encourage solutions for a healthy ocean.

10. **World Brain Tumour Day – June 8, 2018**
    - This day helps to create awareness among the public about brain.
    - This day also focuses on helping people suffering from brain tumour.

11. **On 11th June 2018, Green Mizoram Day** was observed throughout Mizoram.
    - On this day government employees, students and members of NGOs planted large number of trees.

12. **The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002** to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.
    - It is observed each year on **June 12.**
    - It is to raise awareness of the plight of child laborers worldwide.
    - This year, the World Day Against Child Labour and the World Day for Safety and Health at Work shine a spotlight on the global need to **improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour.**
13. On 13th June 2018, International Albinism Awareness Day was observed all over the world.
   • In 2014, the UN General Assembly declared 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day with effect from 2015.
   • Albinism is a genetic condition that causes very little or no pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes.
   • The theme for International Albinism Awareness Day 2018 is: “shining our light to the world”.

14. On 14 June 2018, World Blood Donor Day was celebrated all over the world.
   • The theme of World Blood Donor Day 2018 is: blood donation as an action of solidarity.
   • The slogan for World Blood Donor Day 2018 is: “Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life”.

15. The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed every year on 15th June.
   • The theme this year is “Moving from Awareness to Action through a Human Rights based approach”.

16.

17. The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is observed every year on 16 June.
   • It is aimed at recognizing significant financial contribution migrant workers make to wellbeing of their families back home and to sustainable development of their countries of origin.
   • Remittance is a transfer of money by foreign worker to individual or family in their home country.

18. The World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) will be celebrated worldwide on 17 June.
• It is observed each year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
• 2018 Theme of WDCD: “Land has true value – Invest in”

19. On **18th June 2018**, **International Picnic Day** was celebrated all over the world.
20. On **18th June 2018**, **the Sustainable Gastronomy Day** was observed all over the world.
21. On **19th June 2018**, **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict** was observed all over the world.
   • This day is celebrated to create awareness on the necessity to curb conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence throughout the world etc.
   • Theme - “The Plight and Rights of Children Born of War”.

22. The ministry of Defence is observing the year 2018 as the ‘**Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty**’.
   • This is to honour soldiers who have been disabled in line of duty, while serving the Nation.
23. On **20th June 2018**, **World Refugee Day** was observed all over the world.
   • The theme for World Refugee Day 2018 is: ‘**Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees**’.
24. On **21st June 2018**, **World Music Day** was celebrated all over the world.
   • World Music Day is also known as **Fête de la Musique** or Make Music Day.
25. On **21st June 2018**, **4th International Yoga Day** was celebrated all over the world.
   • Theme – Yoga for Peace
26. On **25th June 2018**, **Day of the seafarer** was celebrated throughout the world.
   • Day of the Seafarer is coordinated by the **International Maritime Organization**.
   • The theme for Day of the Seafarer 2018 is: “seafarers’ wellbeing”

27. **26th June 2018** - **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**
   • The theme for **2018** is: “**Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe**”
Objective - To strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.


The United Nations’ (UN) International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is annually observed on June 26 to remind people that human torture is not only unacceptable – it is also a crime.


The day was first observed in the year 2017.

This day is observed to raise public awareness of their contribution to sustainable development.

30. The National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on June 29 in India to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.

The day also acknowledges notable contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning.

The 2018 theme is “Quality Assurance in Official Statistics”.
AWARDS

1. Space scientist **A S Kiran Kumar, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **Kailash Satyarthi** received Santokbaa Humanitarian Award.

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the **Padma Shri award**, one of India's highest civilian awards, **to former Singaporean diplomat Tommy Koh**.
   
   - Koh was among 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) recipients of the prestigious award this year.

3. Four-year old **Ayan Gogoi Gohain** of North Lakhimpur district, **Assam** was honoured with the ‘**Youngest Author of India**’ title by **The India Book of Records**.
   
   - He has been awarded for his book “**HoneyComb**”

4. India cricket captain **Virat Kohli** will be presented the **Polly Umrigar Award for the best international cricketer (2016-17 and 2017-18)** at the BCCI Awards that will be held in Bengaluru.
   
   - **Harmanpreet Kaur** and **Smriti Mandhana** will be awarded the **best international cricketer (women) for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons** respectively.
   
   - They will be the **first recipients** of this award.

5. **Anupam Kher** will be presented the Lifetime Achievement honour at the **19th edition of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA)** awards ceremony in **Bangkok**.

6. **Kamila Shamsie**’s book “**Home Fire**” has bagged the **Women’s Prize for Fiction, 2018**.
   
   - Kamila Shamsie is a British Pakistani author.

7. **SVC Co-operative Bank** has received the **National Payments Excellence Award 2017** by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
   
   - It is the highest recognition in the banking industry for exceptional performance in payments system.
   
   - This is for their outstanding performance in **NFS ATM Network and CTS**.

8. **Noted social reformer and founder of Sulabh International, Bindeshwar Pathak** was honoured with Japan’s prestigious **Nikkei Asia Prize**.
   
   - The award was given under Culture and Community category for his significant work in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination.
9. The award was launched in 1996, the award honours people in Asia who have made significant contributions in one of the three areas of regional growth; science, technology & innovation and culture & community.

10. Anukreethy Vas, a 19-year-old Tamil Nadu college student, has been crowned Femina Miss India 2018 in a grand ceremony in Mumbai.

11. Actor Kalki Koechlin will be conferred with the French distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) for her contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema.

12. 19th edition of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards ceremony was held at Siam Niramit Theatre in Bangkok, Thailand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best Picture:</th>
<th>Tumhari Sulu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Director:</td>
<td>Saket Chaudhary (Hindi Medium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female):</td>
<td>Sridevi (Mom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male):</td>
<td>Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Supporting Actor (Female):</td>
<td>Meher Vij (Secret Superstar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Supporting Actor (Male):</td>
<td>Nawazuddin Siddiqui (Mom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Story:</td>
<td>Amit V Masurkar (Newton)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. World Food Prize 2018 will be awarded to Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro.
   - **Lawrence Haddad** is a British economist and food policy researcher.
   - **Dr. David Nabarro** has worked with the World Health Organization and United Nations on health and hunger issues.

14. Pallavi Durua, of Odisha’s Koraput district, was crowned as the first Tribal Queen at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap in Odisha.

15. TechnipFMC was awarded a special recognition award for their community development initiative in India called ‘Seed of Hope’, at the 13th National Convention 2018.
   - **Seed of Hope** is the flagship CSR program of TechnipFMC. The project was started in 2016.
   - It aims to enhance the quality of life of the village people in Suva, Gujarat.
16. **Pushpa Bhave**, an eminent scholar and social activist was awarded the ‘**Rajarshi Shahu Puraskar**’.
   - **Rajarshi Shahu**, a former ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Kolhapur.
   - The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

17. The Ministry of Shipping’s ‘**Sagarmala**’ programme was awarded the ‘**Gold Award**’ in **infrastructure sector** in the **52nd Skoch Summit 2018**.

18. **Sagarmala** is the flagship programme of the **Ministry of Shipping** for port-led development of India by utilising India’s 7,500 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location of India on major international maritime trade route.
SPORTS

1. The ICC has included Nepal, Netherlands, Scotland and the UAE in their ODI rankings list apart from the 12 existing countries.
   - The 12 existing countries are – England, India, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Ireland.

2. India’s Sanjana Ramesh was awarded the ‘Most Valuable Player’ (MVP) at Basketball Without Borders Asia 2018 held at the NBA Academy India in Greater Noida.

3. Kagiso Rabada, the world’s number one Test bowler, was named as South Africa’s Cricketer of the Year.

4. Raj became the first Indian cricketer to score 2000 runs in Twenty20 Internationals (T20I)
   - Now she has 2,015 runs in 75 matches and has become the seventh woman to reach 2,000 runs.
   - The list is topped by Charlotte Edwards (2,605), Stafanie Taylor (2,582) and Suzie Bates (2,515).

5. India cricket captain Virat Kohli is among the world’s highest-paid athletes, according to a Forbes’ compilation topped by American boxing champion Floyd Mayweather.
   - Kohli, the only sportsperson from India to be featured in the list, is ranked 83rd with earnings of USD 24 million.

6. Revised pension to meritorious Sportspersons.

7. The rate of pension for medal winners in the Para-Olympics Games and Para Asian Games will be equal to the medal winners in the Olympic Games and Asian Games respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of meritorious pension</th>
<th>Amount in Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medallist at the Olympic/Para-Olympic Games</td>
<td>Rs.20,000/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Current Affairs

#### Gold medallist at World Cup/World Championship (in Olympic/Asian Games disciplines)

| 10. Rs.16,000/- |

#### Silver/Bronze medallist at World Cup/World Championship (in Olympics/Asian Games disciplines) Gold medallist in Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games

| 11. Rs.14,000/- |

#### Silver and Bronze medallist in Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games

| 12. Rs.12,000/- |

13. **Harry Kane** has been named the **most valuable player for the upcoming FIFA World Cup**
   - The 2018 FIFA World Cup will be the 21st FIFA World Cup scheduled to take place in **Russia**

14. India’s **Ashish Jakhar** created a new national record and won a **gold medal** in the **men’s hammer throw event** at the 2018 Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Gifu, Japan.
   - India’s **Priyadarshini Suresh** won **bronze medal** in the **women’s triple jump event** and **Poonam Sonune** won **bronze medal** in the **women’s 5000m competition**.
   - **Damneet Singh** came second and won **silver medal** with a throw of 74.08m.

15. **India** has lifted the **Intercontinental Cup football title** defeating **Kenya**
   - **Sunil Chhetri** has become the joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentine superstar Lionel Messi with his 64th strike for the country against Kenya.

16. World number one **Simona Halep** has won her **first Grand Slam title**.

17. World number one **Rafael Nadal** won an **11th French Open title**

18. **Bangladesh** won the Women’s Asia T20 Cup 2018 at the Kinrara Academy Oval in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
   - Bangladesh’s **Rumana Ahmed** was named the **Player of the Match**.
19. India won three more medals on the third and penultimate day of Asian Junior Athletics Championships held in Gifu, Japan, making the medal overall tally: three gold, one silver and nine bronze medals.
   - Anu Kumar won a gold medal in the men’s 800 m.
   - Arpandeep Kaur Bajwa bagged a bronze medal in the women’s discus throw.

20. Indian boxers bagged one Gold and two Silver medals at the Umakanov Memorial Tournament in the Russian city of Kaspiysk.
   - Indian boxers bagged one Gold and two Silver medals at the Umakanov Memorial Tournament in the Russian city of Kaspiysk.

21. FIFA’s congress voted USA, Canada and Mexico to host 2026 Football World Cup.

22. Long distance runner Gavit Murali Kumar won gold in men’s 10,000 metre race at the Gouden Spike meeting in Leiden, The Netherlands.

23. Rafael Nadal was the defending champion in the Men’s Singles and won his 11th French Open title (Roland Gaross).
   - Simona Halep won her first Grand Slam title in the women’s singles.

24. India Women’s Cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana will become the first Indian player to appear in Kia Super League - the women’s cricket super league in England.

25. New Zealand’s teenage player Amelia Kerr has created a world record in the women’s ODI cricket by scoring an unbeaten 232 runs in a match against Ireland in Dublin.
   - She became the highest individual scorer in women’s ODI.

26. American golfer Brooks Koepka has made history as he became the first player in 29 years to win back-to-back US Open titles at Shinnecock Hills in New York.
   - The World number one Dustin Johnson finished third.

27. Roger Federer claimed his 98th ATP title in the Stuttgart Cup Final.
   - Tim Putz and Phillip Petzschner (Germany) won the Men’s Doubles title.

28. Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has improved 10 places and reached his career-best 24th spot.
29. Borna Coric defeated Roger Federer to win the Gerry Weber Open.
   • As a result of Federer's loss, Rafael Nadal will reclaim the top spot in the ATP rankings.

30. India's R. Praggnanandhaa has become the country's youngest and the world's second youngest grand master at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days
   • He has reached the final round of the ongoing Grendine Open in Italy.
   • Sergey Karjakin of Ukraine holds the record for being the youngest GM at 12 years and seven months.

31. Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton won the French Grand Prix for Mercedes.

32. With two gold, a silver and two bronze, India was on top of the table (as of June 25, 2018) in the Junior World Cup shooting held in Germany.
   • Anmol clinched the junior men’s free pistol bronze.
   • Anmol, Arjun Singh Cheema and Gaurav Rana jointly won the gold medal.
   • Neha, Devanshi Sharma and Anushka Patil jointly won gold medal.

33. Mandeep Jangra was the lone Indian boxer to claim a gold medal in 69kg boxing Championship at the Ulaanbaatar Cup in Mongolia.
   • India ended the tournament with one gold, four silver, and four bronze medals.
   • He won silver medal in Commonwealth games 2014.

34. Archer Deepika Kumari won her first individual gold medal in six years at the Salt Lake World Cup of 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup (US).
   • Deepika was a World Cup Final silver medallist in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015.

35. Sumadhura Group, a Realty firm announced that, it has appointed cricket player MS Dhoni as its brand ambassador.

36. India’s Karman Kaur Thandi bagged her first singles title on the (International Tennis Federation) ITF Pro circuit at the Hong Kong ITF Tournament.
37. The Indian domination in air events continued as Hriday Hazarika and Saurabh Chaudhary won the junior men’s air rifle and air pistol gold medals respectively in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.

38. Bengal swimmer Swadesh Mondal created another national record at the 45th Glenmark Junior and 35th Sub Junior National Aquatic Championships in Pune, Maharashtra.

39. Commonwealth Games gold medallist Manu Bhaker, win the women’s air pistol gold in the Junior World Cup, Germany.
   - India continued to sit on top of the medals table with nine gold, one silver and seven bronze medals.
MISCELLANEOUS

1. Timothy Pereira, former football player passed away.

2. China successfully launched Gaofen-6 satellite, a new Earth observation satellite, on a Long March-2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China.
   - The Gaofen-6 satellite will focus on agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring.
   - Also, a scientific experiment satellite named Luojia-1 was sent into space at the same time.
   - It was the 276th mission of the Long March rocket series.

3. The world’s first mini-satellites, MarCO-A and MarCO-B, to enter deep space, which were designed to monitor NASA’s InSight Mars lander, have successfully oriented towards Mars.

4. The flower Impatiens Dorjeeekhanduii was named after the former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu.

5. Researchers have found severe uranium contamination in groundwater from aquifers in 16 Indian states
   - Around one third of all water wells tested in Rajasthan, contained uranium levels that exceed the World Health Organization (WHO) and US Environmental Protection Agency’s safe drinking water standards.

6. David Douglas Duncan, a photographer who changed the role of war photography by projecting the sufferings of soldiers in Korea and Vietnam, passed away in France.

7. Maria Bueno, a popular Brazilian tennis player, passed away
   - She was called by the nickname the “Sao Paulo Swallow” and was considered the Brazilian “queen” of tennis.

8. A team of researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, have discovered a planet named EPIC.
   - The planet is six times bigger than Earth and the year lasts 19.5 days.
   - It revolves around a Sun-like star about 600 light years away.
   - Both the planet and the star have been named as EPIC.
This discovery was made using a PRL-designed spectrograph, PARAS, to measure and confirm the mass of the new planet.

- The host star is named as EPIC 211945201 or K2-236
- Its surface temperature is very high around 600°C
- Its mass is 27 times that of Earth’s and is known as a sub-Saturn or super-Neptune-sized planet.

9. Shujaat Bukhari, a veteran journalist and editor of the Rising Kashmir newspaper was shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

10. Noted mimicry artiste Nerella Venumadhav had passed away.

- He served in MLC in 1971 in undivided Andhra Pradesh.
- He was awarded with Padma Shri in 2001.

11. Puan, the world’s oldest Sumatran Orangutan, passed away.

- She was called the “grand old lady” of Sumatran orangutans, in Australia.


- The World Golf Hall of Fame named him “the thinking man’s golfer.

13. The Mesoamerican Reef, an underwater wonder world whose survival was considered to be at risk for years, may now be removed from UNESCO’s list of threatened World Heritage Sites.

- Second in size only to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Caribbean reef was named to the prestigious World Heritage List in 1996, but placed on endangered status in 2009.


15. Analysing grains of the mineral zircon extracted from a Martian meteorite known as Black Beauty, scientists determined that the Red Planet’s outer layer hardened 4.547 billion years ago, only 20 million years after the birth of the Sun.

- Mars was once much more Earth-like, with a thick atmosphere, abundant water and global oceans.

16. A rare toad in Nevada’s high desert has been considered under the Endangered Species Act protection.