# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE, 2018 www.tnpscthervupettagam.com



## SHANKAR IAS ACADEMY™

Plot No.1742, I<sup>4</sup> Floor, 18th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai – 600 040. Phone: 044-26216435, 64597222, 4353 3445, Mobile: 94441 66435

www.shankariasacademy.com





# CONTENT

TNPS	SC BITS	1
TAM	ILNADU	7
Age	e Relaxation for TNPSC Group I posts	7
Taı	mil Nadu to ban use of plastic	8
Ge	rman Award to Chennai Corporation	8
Ku	ımbakonam Municipality's waste recycling model	8
Taı	mil Nadu's 1st Antyodaya Express	8
En	d of Fishing Ban Term	9
NL	C's Solar Power Projects	10
AII	MS to come up at Madurai	10
NAT]	IONAL	10
Cle	ean Air India Initiative	10
Su	rya Kiran-XIII	10
NC	CDRC president	11
De	puty National Security Advisor	11
Pri	ime Minister's Visit to South East Asia	12
Ind	dia's First Advanced Forensic Lab	13
Mis	ssion Raftar	13
Tin	nes Higher Education ranking	14
On	ıline Analytical Tool	15
Blo	ock Chain Technology	15
Ret	tirement Benefits	15
S-4	400 Triumf deal	15
NC	CW and Facebook	16
Sev	va Bhoj Yojna	16
Ma	alabar Exercise 2018	17
3rc	d Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	18
Pra	adhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)	18
Ca	uvery Management Authority	19
Bij	ili Bill Mafi Yojana 2018	19
UN	N Global Compact Network India convention	20
'Ia	maushadhi Suwidha'	20



'Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan'	21
2nd National Health Editors' Conference	22
National Disaster Risk Index	22
Brahmaputra and Sutlej Data Sharing	23
Smoking Cessation Campaign	23
Dhanush artillery gun	23
Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution	24
Cheapest LNG from Gazprom Russia	25
ICGS C 439	25
Berne Convention	26
Mumbai Employees - Workers of longest hours	26
BIMSTEC military exercise	27
QS World University Rankings	28
South Asia Conclave	28
Swachh Iconic Places	29
3rd Meeting of National Council of Senior Citizens	30
New committee to bring more transparency	30
Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts	30
'Rail Madad' and 'Menu on Rails'	31
Niti Aayog's Composite Water Management Index	31
10th Smart City	32
North Eastern Council	32
Three Year Action Plan (2017-2020)	33
Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP)	33
Reservations in Promotions	34
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	34
Solar Charkha Mission	35
India BPO Promotion Scheme	35
ICGS Rani Rashmoni	36
Dam Safety Bill, 2018	36
North Eastern Council	37
National Digital Library	38
Lateral entry	38
World's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics	39
Women Wizards Rule Tech	39
5th National Standards Conclave	39
Paper setters to receive training from NTA	40
Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty	40



	IRDAI constitutes Suresh Mathur committee	. 41
	INDRA 2018	.41
	AADHAAR biometric data for criminal investigation - Not Permissible	. 42
	Two affiliates of al Qaeda and IS Banned	. 42
	Higher tariffs on 29 items imported from US	. 42
	Governor's Rule imposed in Jammu and Kashmir	. 43
	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)	. 43
	National Health Mission (NHM) Report	. 44
	Report by McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) for the Asia-Pacific region	. 45
	E.Sreedharan Committee	. 45
	Women in Prisons'	. 45
	India - world's most dangerous country for women	. 45
I	NTERNATIONAL	47
	Global Wind Summit	. 47
	RIMPAC	. 47
	Lebanon's prime minister	. 48
	Colombia in NATO	. 48
	Coast Guard Talks between India and Pakistan	. 48
	World Health Assembly Meet and Resolution on Digital Health	. 49
	Meeting of Director Generals of Military Operations	. 49
	The 108th session of UNWTO Executive council	. 50
	Denmark ban of face veil	. 50
	Paraguay interim president	. 50
	Social Media Tax – Uganda	. 51
	Singapore Airlines	. 51
	"End of Childhood Index 2018"	. 51
	TRIPS - CBD Linkage	. 52
	Spain's Prime Minister	. 53
	Prime Minister of Guinea	. 53
	RIMPAC 2018	. 54
	Jordan's new Prime Minister	. 55
	IBSA Ministerial Meet	. 55
	President of UN General Assembly	. 56
	'World Peace' medallion	. 56
	Annual Passport Index	. 57
	Dendrobrium Narendra Modi	. 58
	Peace Mission 2018	. 58



	Security Council - Non-Permanent Members	. 59
	Trooping the Colour	. 60
	Friendship Medal	. 61
	SCO summit	. 61
	G7 Summit	. 61
	Asia-Pacific Regional Conference	. 62
	New prime minister of Madagascar	. 63
	International Conference on ICT	. 63
	Trump for Nobel Peace Prize	. 64
	29th Anniversary of Tiananmen Massacre	. 64
	NSG plenary meeting	. 65
	India-US colloquium	. 65
	Historic Agreement On Name Change	. 65
	State of emergency declared - Papua New Guinea	. 66
	San Francisco's first black woman	. 66
	President of Colombia	. 67
	Social Enterprise Development Programme	. 67
	UNHRC – Withdrawal of USA	. 68
	Inter-Governmental Ministerial Meeting On Anti-Doping	. 68
	India - the US to hold inaugural 2+2 Dialogue	. 68
	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2018 report	. 69
	Canada legalizes recreational use of marijuana	. 69
	India and Bangladesh to institute CORPAT	. 70
	Anti-doping sports conference	. 70
	Erdogan Re-elected as president	.71
E	CONOMY	<b>7</b> 1
	Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM cards	.71
	IOC - Most profitable PSU	.71
	Microsoft – Third Most Valuable Company	.72
	Indian payment apps in Singapore	.72
	Financial Literacy Week	.72
	Stressed assets ARC	.72
	SEZ policy	. 73
	Expert Committee for startup - SEBI	. 73
	Tri-Party Repo Market platform'	. 74
	HDFC - 5th biggest consumer financial services company	
	New Group in WTO	. 75



	Public Credit Registry	.75
	Foreign portfolio investment norms	.76
	Additional duties on the US by China	.77
	Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018	.77
	Fitch cuts viability ratings	.78
	fDi Report 2018	.78
	Alteration of 'Relative' Definition	. 79
	Sandeep Bakhshi - New COO	. 79
	Draft on cross-border insolvency resolution	. 79
S	CIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	80
	GRACE-FO satellites	.80
	(514107) 2015 BZ509	.81
	Cloud-enabled National Data Centre	.81
	Rustom-2 Drone	.82
	PRAAPTI App	.82
	World first 3D printed human corneas	.83
	Pinaka Rocket	.83
	Maiden test Next Generation SFDR	.84
	Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS)	.84
	Gaofen-6 satellite	.85
	Fastest Supercomputer	.85
	India's first indigenous Lithium-Ion Battery project	.86
	World first EPR nuclear reactor	.86
	Agni-5	.86
	106th Indian Science Congress	.87
	Pinaka rocket system into guided missile	. 87
	'UTS on mobile' app	.88
	Wi-Fi Choupals	. 89
	Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018	. 89
	EPIC Planet	. 89
	Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) Cell Technology	. 90
	Glonass-M satellite	.91
	Remove DEBRIS	.91
E	NVIRONMENT	92
	World's first fully solar energy-powered airport	.92
	Extreme Weather Warnings	.92
	Adventure Tourism	00



	e-waste generation	92
	Blue Flag Certification	93
	10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF)	93
	World's oldest Sumatran Orangutan	94
	National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) Project	94
	Koko passed away	95
	National Wetland Committee	95
	Aldabra Giant Tortoise	96
S	STATE	96
	New State Symbols of Andhra Pradesh	96
	Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana	97
	Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy	98
	e-Office at UP	98
	Chandranna Bima Yojana	98
	Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya BimaYojana	98
	First-Ever Global Investor Meet	99
	Zero Based Natural Farming	99
	Paternity leave for government employees	99
	'Urban forest - Museum of Trees'	100
	Arunachal Rising Campaign	100
	Sikkim's longest tunnel	100
	Hyderabad – 3rd in Most Sound Polluted Cities	101
	'Business First Portal'	101
	'Sanskar'	101
	State Fruit of Tripura	101
	Auto-disable syringes	102
	'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana'	102
	Mukhbir Yojana- Jharkhand	103
	'Paree Pain Katha Tiye'	103
	'I-Hariyali' Mobile App	104
	Chief Ministers Subgroup	104
	7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme	104
	Gujarat launches Suryashakti Kisan Yojana	105
	Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018	106
	A.P. Medical and Rehabilitation Tourism (AMRIT)	106
F	PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS	106
	India Innovation Award 2018	106



Man Booker International Prize 2018	106
Venture Capital Symposium 2018	107
CEAT Awards	107
Linnean Medal	108
Chief of the DRDO	109
Barron's list of Top 30 Global CEO	109
PM of Italy	110
'Most Inspiring Icon of the Year for Social Welfare'	110
World Press Cartoon award	111
Bengal's Chau mask acquires GI	111
Kendrick Lamar – Pulitzer Prize	112
National Spelling Bee Winner 2018	113
Santokbaa Humanitarian Award	113
World's highest-paid athlete –Forbes	114
Youngest Author of India	114
Apple design award	115
Home Fire	115
EPS- Independent Director	116
World Economic Forum - Managing Board	116
'National Gopal Ratna' award	117
BCCI Awards	117
Lumiere Award	118
Chief financial officer of General Motors	118
NASA's record-breaking spacewoman	119
First woman Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter pilot from South India	120
Star Pick Brand Ambassador	120
Miss India 2018	120
Polar Music Prize	121
India Smart Cities Award	121
PM awards	123
Water Resources Management Report - Rajasthan	123
UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan awarded	123
World's Richest Man	123
Peter Thomson passes away	124
International Chamber of Commerce Chairman	124
WCD Ministry Received SKOCH Award	125
'Chief Minister of the Year' award	126
India's first 'Tribal Queen'	126



CDODEC	10-
SPORTS	
Monaco Grand Prix 2018	127
Thomas Cup 2018	127
ITTF Oman Open	127
Maharashtra's youngest International Master	128
Women's Asia Cup T20	128
Shakib Al Hasan	129
Rohan Bopanna - IOC's icon	129
Most valuable player - FIFA World Cup 2018	129
Asian Junior Athletics	130
Umakhanov Memorial Boxing Tournament	130
Bid to host 2026 Football World Cup	131
Historic India-Afghanistan Test	131
India's Highest Football Scorer	132
Century before lunch	132
2018 Gouden Spike meeting	133
Kia Super League	133
Stuttgart Open	134
Indian Sports Honours	134
England records highest ODI score	135
Salt Lake World Cup	135
2nd youngest Grandmaster	136
Singapore National Swimming Championships	136
French Grand Prix	137
Ulaanbaatar Cup for Boxing	137
World Para Athletics Grand Prix	138
Chemistry World Cup of Olympic Boxing 2018	138
IMPORTANT DAYS	138
World No Tobacco Day – May 31	138
World Milk Day – June 01	
Global Day of Parents – June 01	
Telangana formation day – June 02	
World Bicycle Day – June 03	
World Environment Day – 05 June	
World Brain Tumour Day – 08 June	
World Oceans Day - 08 June	
World Day against Child Labour – 12 June	



	International Albinism Awareness Day – 13 June	. 141
	World Blood Donor day - 14 June	. 142
	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – 15 June	. 143
	International Day of Family Remittances – 16 June	. 143
	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought – 17 June	. 143
	World Sustainable Gastronomy Day – 18 June	. 144
	Goa Revolution Day - 18 June	. 144
	World Refugee Day – 20 June	. 144
	International Yoga Day – June 21	. 145
	Fête de la Musique – June 21	. 145
	International Widows' Day - 23 June	. 145
	United Nations Public Service Day - 23 June	. 146
	International Olympic Day - 23 June	. 146
	Day of the Seafarer – 25 June	. 147
	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – 26 June	. 148
	UN MSME Day – 27 June	. 148
IV	IISCELLANEOUS	148
	Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM)	. 148
	Birmingham International Dance Festival	. 149
	European Union Film Festival (EUFF) 2018	. 149
	McKinsey Report – India	
	'World's first space nation'	. 149





#### TNPSC BITS

- Shri Mahender Singh Kanyal presently Director at external affairs Headquarters, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname.
- ❖ Shri S. D. Moorthy presently Deputy Secretary at Headquarters, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan.
- ❖ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated two newly-built expressways phase 1 of Delhi-Meerut Expressway and the Rs. 11,000 crore Eastern Peripheral Expressway, India's first smart and green highway.
- ❖ Tata Trusts signs MoU with the government to provide development support in Naxal-hit districts in Chhattisgarh. These eight worst Naxal-affected districts are covered under Transformation of aspirational districts Programme of NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Indian Navy inducted Landing Craft Utility MK-IV LCU vessel L54 at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Island. It is fourth of total eighth Mark IV LCU vessels to be inducted into Indian Navy.
- ❖ The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations (IDY-2018) will be held on 21st June 2018 at Dehradun in Uttrakhand.
- ❖ The World Bank will provide a USD 21.7 million loan for strengthening the public financial management in Rajasthan to improve budget execution and greater revenue efficiency.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Women and Child and Development (WCD) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uttar Pradesh Government for management of Home of Widows at Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan.
- India and World Bank signed a 500 million Dollar loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project.
- ❖ The First biannual IAF Commanders' Conference of 2018 was inaugurated by Defence Minister at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan), Delhi.
- ❖ The book 'Straight Talk' authored by the Member of Rajya Sabha, Mr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, was released by India's Vice President Mr. Venkaiah Naidu.
- ❖ The Third Home Affairs' Dialogue between India and U.K. was held at New Delhi. The Government of India delegation was led by Shri Rajiv Gauba, Union Home Secretary.
- ❖ S.C. Sharma, has been appointed as a Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The tenure of the directorship is five years.
- ❖ Deccan Queen, the first deluxe train, introduced between two premier cities of Maharashtra Pune and Mumbai on June 1, 1930, completes 88 years of service. This was the first deluxe train introduced on the railway to serve two





important cities of the region and was aptly named after Pune, which is also known as Queen of Deccan (Dakkhan ki Rani).

- ❖ A two-day Conference of Governors and Lieutenant Governors was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This will be the 49th such Conference which will be presided by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ Indian Navy launched Operation 'Nistar' to evacuate 38 stranded Indian nationals in and around Socotra. Indian Naval Ship Sunayna, which was currently deployed for a mission in the Gulf of Aden, was directed to evacuate 38 Indian nationals stranded on the Yemeni island of Socotra in the aftermath of cyclone Mekenu.
- ❖ In its efforts to develop the financial capital into a fintech hub, the Maharashtra Government has announced the opening up of a 'sandbox' to boost start-ups.
- ❖ Malaysia's king has approved the appointment of an ethnic Indian lawyer as the new attorney general, the first minority to hold the post in 55 years.
- ❖ Veteran producer Pippa Harris has been appointed as the new chair of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). Her tenure will last for two years.
- ❖ The Telangana government and Life Insurance Corporation of India signed a memorandum of understanding on Rythu Bandhu Life Insurance Scheme to give a life cover of 5 lakh to pattadar farmers.
- \* Rashid Khan became the fastest to reach 50 T20I wickets in terms of time taken during Afghanistan's first match versus Bangladesh in Dehradun.
  - He took two years and 220 days since his debut to take 50 wickets in T20 Internationals
- Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal flagged off Humsafar Jodhpur Bandra Express at Bhagat Ki Kothi Railway Station in Rajasthan's Jodhpur.
- ❖ Bandhan Bank has appointed H R Khan, a former RBI deputy governor, as non-executive chairman. Khan's appointment will be for a period of three years with effect from June 5, 2018, or till the expiry of his term as an independent director whichever is earlier.
- ❖ The Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) International Airport in Babatpur about 26km from Varanasi is set to become the first Indian airport to have a national highway underneath its runway.
- Corporation Bank has bagged "Investor Relations Awards 2018" under the category — Best Expectation Management (Mid Cap) — for the financial year 2017-18.
- ❖ In Uttarakhand, Polythene will be completely prohibited from 31st July in the state.
- ❖ MK Jain, the MD & CEO of IDBI Bank, was appointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The seat was filled after





former Deputy Governor SS Mundra ended his three-year term in July 2017.

- ❖ India would be hosting the third Asia Cup International Bridge Championship in Goa.
- ❖ To enhance the livelihood of the rural women in Tamilnadu, the Tamilnadu Chief Minister Edapaddi Palanisamy has announced a new scheme, under Rule no 110, such as issuance of Free Nattukozhi as that of free distribution of Goat and Bull scheme.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy flagged off the youth parade in the name of "Enadhu Bharathan Ponnana Bharatham" organized by Bramma Kumari's women Association. The all India level youth parade has been organised since the past 2017 by the Bramma Kumari's Association.
  - The aim of the movement is to emphasise that ethical activity must be protected through peace, purity and yoga.
- ❖ After Chennai Central and Egmore, Tambaram is becoming a terminal. The new coach terminal constructed on the eastern side of the Tambaram station was dedicated to the nation by Union Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain.
- ❖ Days after notifying the Cauvery scheme approved by the Supreme Court, the Union government nominated central water commission chairman, S Masood Hussain and chief engineer, Navin Kumar as chairman and member of Cauvery Water Management Authority. Kumar also becomes the chairman of Cauvery water regulation committee, as per the scheme.
  - o The arrangements are "interim" until the process of regular appointments are made as per Cauvery scheme
- ❖ 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. These battalions will have 60% reservation to people from border areas of J&K.
- ❖ Arvind Saxena has been appointed to serve as the acting Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Saxena, a UPSC member, would be succeeding incumbent Vinay Mittal who completes his term on June 19.
- ❖ K.V. Chowdary, the retired Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has been appointed as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), New Delhi.
- ❖ T.M. Bhasin, Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Bank, has been appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in the CVC, New Delhi.
- ❖ The above appointments have been made for a term of four years from the date(s) on which they enter upon their office(s) or till they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), a Rs.6000 crore Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River





Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, with World Bank assistance.

- ❖ The 31st edition of CORPAT concluded at Belawan, Indonesia in which India had deployed INS Kulish, a Kora class missile corvette, and one Dornier maritime patrol aircraft.
  - o The opening ceremony of IND-INDO CORPAT was earlier conducted from 24 25 May 18 at Port Blair.
- Union IT and Law Minister Ravi Shakar Prasad released Bhagat Singh's jail diary book at a function in New Delhi. The jail diary book is a compilation of Bhagat Singh and his writings.
- ❖ Tsewang Namgyal, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Poland, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lithuania.
- ❖ Veteran film actor Anupam Kher will be given the prestigious Lifetime Achievement honor at the upcoming 19th edition of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony in Bangkok.
- Ms. Madhu Sethi presently Counsellor in the High Commission of India, London, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cuba.
- \* Rudrendra Tandon, presently Joint Secretary at Headquarters, has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to ASEAN.
- ❖ India's Sanjana Ramesh was awarded the 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) even as compatriot Vaishnavi Yadav won the 'Girls Grit Award' on the Basketball Without Borders Asia, which featured 66 campers from 16 countries from the Asia-Pacific region.
  - o Sanjana also won the Co-MVP award at the NBA Academies Women's camp. Rence Forthsky Padrigao of Philippines was named Boys MVP.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The Haryana government has raised the upper age limit of entry into government service from 40 to 42 years.
- ❖ A Conference on Implementation of National Pension System (NPS) by the Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs) was organized by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Gujarat will become the first Indian state to get completely covered under the piped gas distribution network. The western Indian state already has 84.31 per cent of its area under the city gas distribution (CGD) network.





- ❖ American fighter Ronda Rousey will become the first female MMA (Mixed Marital Art) fighter to be inducted into the Ultimate Fighting Championship Hall of Fame.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government and Canada's Quebec province have signed a pact to increase the economic cooperation, especially in areas like information technology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and welfare of the tribal community.
- ❖ In a significant move to boost India-Vietnam ties, union defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first representative office of the state-owned defence equipment manufacturer Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) in Hanoi.
- ❖ Twenty States have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for implementing Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM).
- ❖ The United States has approved sale of six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to India. The Apache choppers are one of the most advanced multi-role combat helicopters.
  - o The prime contractors for the support sale will be Lockheed Martin, Longbow, Raytheon, General Electric and Boeing.
- ❖ Public sector Vijaya Bank has bagged the Best Performing Public Sector Bank award for the financial year 2017-2018 from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The bank has performed well under Atal Pension Yojana.
  - o The award was given at the National Atal Pension Yojana Conference held at Delhi.
- ❖ S. Sundari Nanda, a 1988 AGMUT cadre Indian Police Service officer in the rank of ADGP, will assume charge as the first woman Director-General of Police, Puducherry.
- ❖ 'Yoga Ambassadors Tour', a specialized trip for yoga professionals from around the world, part of Kerala government's tourism promotion programme, was inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik.
- Gujarat has emerged as the leading state in generating e-way bills during April, May and the first week of June. The state has generated over 10.72 million inter-state and intra-state e-way bills, followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, respectively.
- ❖ Visva-Bharati University (VBU), founded by Rabindranath Tagore, will set up a yoga center inside the campus, named yoga gram (village).
- ❖ Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority has initiated a 'water literacy' campaign with the involvement of 70,000 students aiming to create awareness among 10 lakh people over the importance of water conservation in the State.





- Chairperson of Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (SILF) Tarun Das was conferred upon the Japan Imperial Decoration for his contribution to the strengthening of bilateral ties.
- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the renewal of long-term agreements (LTAs) for export of iron ore (lumps and fines) of grade +64% Fe content to Japan and South Korea for another five years (2018 to 2023) through state-owned trading firm MMTC.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has selected Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya as 100th smart city after evaluating the proposal submitted by it.
- ❖ Arvind Subramanian announced that he was stepping down as the Union government's chief economic adviser (CEA). Mr. Subramanian started his term as CEA on October 16 2014, for a term of three years.
  - o On the completion of three years, he was asked to continue for a year more, which would have taken his term to October 2018.
- ❖ Mongolia has launched construction of its first strategically important oil refinery funded by India in southern Dornogovi province. Its financing is part of \$1 billion soft credit line agreement between Mongolia and Export-Import Bank of India.
- ❖ The Delhi government has announced to introduce a "happiness curriculum" in Delhi's government schools from the coming academic session. The curriculum will include meditation, moral values, and mental exercises and its core idea is to produce "Sarvagun Sampann" (versatile) professionals and human beings.
- ❖ Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Vanijya Bhawan, a new office complex for the Union Department of Commerce, in New Delhi. It will be a completely paperless office with state-of-the-art-facilities.
- ❖ The Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS), a well-funded start-up in skill development for maritime and shipbuilding sector, has announced setting up of 24 labs -6 in Mumbai and 18 in Vizag campus.
  - o This is First-of-Its-Kind Infrastructure in Asia Pacific Region.
- ❖ The Uttarakhand High Court has banned whitewater river rafting, paragliding, and other water sports in the state until a policy on the same is framed by the Trivendra Singh Rawat-led government.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the MSME Ministry has adopted Jagatpur village in Delhi for its Swachhata Abhiyaan or cleanliness drive.
- ❖ A 3-day National Yoga Olympiad was inaugurated at the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in CIET in New Delhi. This is the third consecutive year of National Yoga Olympiad of NCERT. Two books Joy of Theatre and Sangeet training packages were released on the occasion.





- ❖ T. Armstrong Changsan (IFS: 1997), presently Consul General, Consulate General of India, Osaka-Kobe has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Iceland.
- ❖ As strategic partners, India and Australia held the 10th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at New Delhi. The next meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism shall be held in Australia in 2019.
- ❖ Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation of India, Suresh Prabhu co-chaired the 15th Session of the India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission with the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment, Steven Ciobo, in Canberra.
- ❖ National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is organizing a National Seminar on "Conservation of Particularly Vulnerable Tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands: The Way Forward" on 27th and 28th June 2018 at Kamaladevi Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi.
  - This Seminar is being organized in collaboration with Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Directors of 18 Tribal Research Institutes in different States.
- China has launched bird-shaped drones fitted with a camera, GPS antenna, and satellite communication capability, to monitor citizens living in different parts of the country.
  - o The program reportedly codenamed "Dove", is run by Song Bifeng, a professor at Northwestern Polytechnical University.
- ❖ Iran announced a list of imported goods to be banned in a move to protect domestic products and manage the outflow of currency.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has announced to organize a day-long Seminar on Technology Partnerships 'TECH-THON' for steering POSHAN Abhiyaan on June 28, 2018 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.
  - o The POSHAN Abhiyaan or the National Nutrition Mission is PM Narendra Modi's initiative for holistic nourishment.

#### **TAMILNADU**

#### Age Relaxation for TNPSC Group I posts

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced that the upper age limit for candidates appearing for examinations conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) for Group I, I-A and I-B posts would be relaxed by two years.
- ❖ The upper age limit for these posts for SC/ST/MBC/BC & DC (denotified classes) candidates has been raised from 35 to 37 years,





❖ The limit for general category candidates has been relaxed from 30 to 32 years.

#### Tamil Nadu to ban use of plastic

- ❖ On World Environment Day, Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced a "Plastic Free Tamil Nadu policy" under which plastic will be banned from January 2019.
- ❖ Earlier, former CM J Jayalalithaa introduced the Tamil Nadu Plastic Articles (Prohibition of Sale, Storage, Transport and Use) Bill in 2002 and subsequently a committee was formed and the recommendations are now being implemented.

#### German Award to Chennai Corporation

- ❖ The German firm GIZ awarded the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative worth of 2 Lakhs Euro to Chennai Metro Corporation.
- ❖ The awarding Ceremony recently held at leibbes City in Germany.
- ❖ For the design of Roads, the Chennai Corporation has been awarded by the German firm.
- ❖ On behalf of Germany's GIZ firm, the competition for Award for "Initiative on Making changes in the urban traffic" was organised.
- ❖ For this award, on behalf of Chennai Corporation the application for "The Competition in the name of designing work including all the characteristics of Roads" has been submitted.

#### Kumbakonam Municipality's waste recycling model

- ❖ The Kumbakonam Municipality (KM), a premier municipal body in Thanjavur district, has become a model for recycling of solid wastes.
- ❖ With two lakh tonnes of solid wastes collected over a period of years sent for recycling, KM has become the first in the country to do so.
- ❖ This model has been included as a model for emulation in the Swachh Bharat scheme.
- ❖ A private company, 'Zigma Global Environ Solutions', was employed to recycle the solid wastes.

#### Tamil Nadu's 1st Antyodaya Express

❖ The Union Minister of State for Railways RajenGohain flagged off an Antyodaya Express train service for unreserved passengers.





- ❖ Antyodaya Express will ply on the Tambaram-Tirunelveli route in the Southern state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Tambaram-Tirunelveli Antyodaya Express train, which is a daily, unreserved express train will be managed by the Southern zone of Indian Railways.
- ❖ The Tambaram-Tirunelveli Antyodaya Express train is the first Antyodaya service from Tamil Nadu.



#### **End of Fishing Ban Term**

- The 61-day annual ban on fishing by mechanized boats end on June 15.
- ❖ The ban would not apply to those using country boats or fiber boats for fishing.
- ❖ The fishing ban period started in Tamil Nadu on April 15, 2018 to facilitate breeding of fish and conservation of stock in marine ecology.
- ❖ From the year 2000 Tamil Nadu had been implementing the fishing ban for 45-47 days.
- ❖ But from the year 2017, adhering to the Union Agriculture Ministry, the state government had implemented the ban for 61 days to increase the fish reproduction.
- ❖ In 2017, the ban period was relaxed in the districts of Chennai, Kanchipuram, and Thiruvallur, which were hit by oil spill following the collision of two ships.





#### **NLC's Solar Power Projects**

- Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL)'s three 100 MW Solar Power Projects for commercial operation were inaugurated recently.
- These projects situated at Thoppalaakkarai and Sethupuram in Virudhunagar District and Sellaiya Sezhiyanallur in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu.

#### AIIMS to come up at Madurai

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government announced that the much-anticipated All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) facility announced for the state by the Centre will come up near Madurai.
- ❖ The AIIMS facility was announced for Tamil Nadu in the Union Budget 2015-16 but had faced some delays over the location of the facility.

#### **NATIONAL**

#### Clean Air India Initiative

- ❖ India and Netherlands launched Clean Air India Initiative in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aims to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and companies from the Netherlands.
- ❖ It also aims to build a network of entrepreneurs working on business solutions for cleaner air.

#### Surya Kiran-XIII

❖ The thirteenth edition of India-Nepal joint military exercise is conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 30 May to 12 June 2018.







- ❖ The joint military exercise aims to further enhance and strengthen the level of defense cooperation between the two neighboring nations.
- Surya Kiran series of bilateral military exercises are conducted bi-annually, alternatively in India and Nepal.
- ❖ The 12th edition of this exercise was held at Nepal Army Battle School (NABS) in Saljhandi, Nepal in September 2017.

#### **NCDRC** president

- ❖ Justice R K Agrawal, who retired as Supreme Court judge earlier, was appointed the president of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Justice (retd.) Agrawal's appointment as the president of the commission



- ❖ He will succeed Justice D K Jain, who completes his term on May 31.
- ❖ The NCDRC is a quasi-judicial authority to decides on consumers' complaints.
- ❖ It was established in 1988 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ The commission is headed by sitting or retired judge of Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ Anybody aggrieved over goods and services, for values over Rs one crore, can approach the commission for grievance redressal.

#### **Deputy National Security Advisor**

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Saran's appointment as the deputy NSA for a period of two years
- Saran is currently India's Ambassador to Russia.





❖ Former chief of the Intelligence Bureau, Ajit Doval is the National Security Adviser (NSA).



- ❖ The NSA is the chief executive of National Security Council (NSC) and primary advisor to Prime Minister on national and international security issues and oversees strategic issues.
- ❖ It is NSA to whom intelligence agencies such as Research & Analysis Wing (RAW) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) report, rather than directly to Prime Minister.
- ❖ The post of NSA was created in November 1998 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government. Brajesh Mishra was first to be appointed NSA of India.
- ❖ Since the inception of the post, all NSAs appointed belong to Indian Foreign Service (IFS) except M K Narayanan and incumbent, Ajit Doval, who belong to Indian Police Service.

#### Prime Minister's Visit to South East Asia

- ❖ Prime Minister kicked off his three-nation tour to boost India's ties with the southeastern nations Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia.
- India and Indonesia have signed 15 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) during Prime Minister's visit to Jakarta with Indonesia's President Joko Widodo.
- ❖ Both countries also agreed to celebrate 70 years of their diplomatic relations in 2019-20.
- ❖ Under Business to Business (B2B) and Government to Business (G2B), the agreements were signed between Kite Museum of Ahmedabad and Layang Layang to promote and popularise the art of kite designing.
- ❖ Archaeological Survey of India and Indonesia's PT Taman Wisata Candi Borobudur, Prambanan and Ratu Boko (National Authority Agency responsible for the protection and conservation of the Borobudur and





Prambanan) have decided to work together on beautifying world cultural heritage of the Prambanan Temple and the Taj Mahal.

#### India's First Advanced Forensic Lab

- Minister for Women and Child Development, Mrs.Maneka Sanjay Gandhi laid the foundation of Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory in the campus of Central Forensic Science Lab, Chandigarh.
- ❖ It is India's first advanced forensic lab dedicated to crimes related to women for timely deliver justice.
- ❖ At present, there are 6 Central Forensic Science Labs (CFSLs) in Chandigarh, Guwahati, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune and Bhopal and one State Forensic Science Lab in each State/UT.



- ❖ These las are responsible for conducting forensic analysis of all cases in the country including sexual assault homicide.
- ❖ In Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory, four units are to be established to address cases related to women:
  - o Sexual Assault and Homicide Unit
  - o Paternity Unit
  - Human Identification Unit
  - Mitochondrial Unit

#### **Mission Raftar**

❖ Ministry of Railways conducted one-day workshop Mission Raftaar aimed at raising average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi.

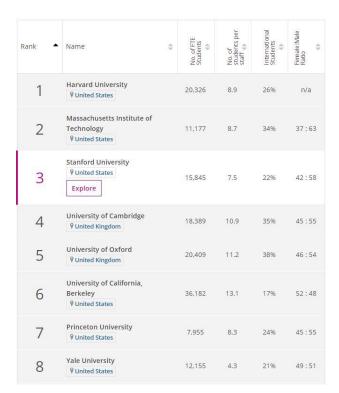




- ❖ The mission aims at doubling the average speed of freight trains and increasing average speed of coaching trains by 25kmph over a five-year period.
- ❖ It was launched as part of the strategy of Indian Railways to keep pace with growing competition from competing modes viz. road and airlines etc.
- Principal routes have been identified for raising of speed under Mission Raftaar.
- These are six routes on Golden Quadrilateral namely, Delhi Mumbai, Delhi Howrah, Howrah- Chennai, Chennai Mumbai, Delhi Chennai and Howrah Mumbai.

#### **Times Higher Education ranking**

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has made it to the top 100 universities in the Times Higher Education's World Reputation Rankings 2018.



- ❖ It becomes the only Indian institution to make it to the prestigious list this year.
- ❖ The IISc has been ranked in the 91-100 band of the annual list topped by American universities Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford, with the UK's Cambridge and Oxford completing the top five.
- ❖ India features in the table for the first time since 2011.





#### **Online Analytical Tool**

- 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, 2010.
- This web-based tool enables decision-makers in various Departments of Government to scrutinise source of foreign funds and their actual use in India.
- ❖ It gives them the capacity to take data-driven and evidence-based decisions regarding the compliance of the provisions of the FCRA, 2010.

#### **Block Chain Technology**

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its draft Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation, 2018 has proposed use of blockchain technology.
- ❖ It aims to check the menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) or spam calls and messages.
- ❖ This will be for first time; any country will deploy blockchain technology to check unwanted calls.
- ❖ Using blockchain technology, all information can be recorded and more options can be given to customers regarding commercial communications.

#### **Retirement Benefits**

- ❖ The Home Ministry said that the government has decided to extend Rs 1 lakh to a retired President and Rs 90,000 to a retired Vice-President on account of office expenses every year.
- ❖ The decisions have been taken to amend rules related to the President's Pension Rules, 1962 and the Vice-President's Pension, Housing and Other Facilities Rules, 1999.
- ❖ The salaries of the President and the Vice President were increased to Rs 5 lakh and Rs 4 lakh per month respectively four months ago.

#### S-400 Triumf deal

- ❖ India has concluded price negotiations with Russia for a nearly Rs 40,000 crore deal to procure S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems for the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The two countries are now trying to find a way out to evade the provisions of a US law (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act -





CAATSA) that seeks to punish countries and entities engaged in agreement with the defence or intelligence establishment of Russia.



- ❖ The US had announced sanctions against Russia under the stringent law for its alleged meddling in the American presidential election in 2016.
- ❖ India wants to procure the long-range missile systems to tighten its air defence mechanism, particularly along the nearly 4,000-km-long Sino-India border.
- ❖ In 2016, India and Russia had signed an agreement on the 'Triumf interceptor-based missile system which can destroy incoming hostile aircraft, missiles and even drones at ranges of up to 400 km.
- S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system.

#### **NCW** and Facebook

- ❖ Social networking giant Facebook said it has partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch a digital literacy programme in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF).
- ❖ As part of the digital literacy programme pilot, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women in universities across major cities in Haryana, Delhi-NCR, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu over a one-year period.

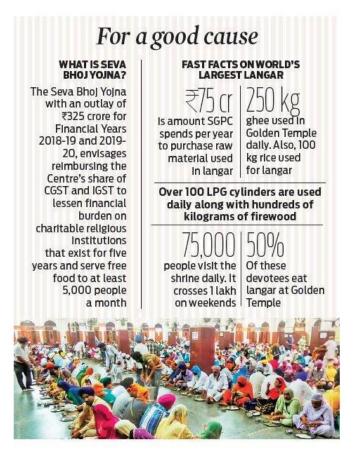
#### Seva Bhoj Yojna

❖ The Union Ministry of Culture has introduced a new scheme namely 'Seva Bhoj Yojna' to provide special financial assistance to all charitable religious institutions that serve free food to people.





- ❖ Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid by these institutions will be reimbursed by the Centre.
- ❖ Institutions (temples, gurudwaras, mosques, churches, ashrams, dargahs, monasteries etc.) in existence for 5 years who serve free food to at least 5,000 people in a month will be eligible for the benefits.
- ❖ The ministry will register eligible charitable religious institutions on the 'Darpan' portal.



#### **Malabar Exercise 2018**

- ❖ Trilateral Naval Exercise Malabar 2018 between India, Japan and the United States was held off the coast of Guam in Philippine Sea.
- ❖ It was the 22nd edition of the naval exercise.
- ❖ Aim of the 22nd edition of annual exercise is increasing interoperability between naval forces and sharing their expertise in maritime security.
- ❖ Malabar Exercise was started as Indo-US bilateral naval war drill in 1992. Since then it is held annually.
- ❖ Japan had formally joined the exercise as a permanent participant in 2015, making it trilateral exercise.





#### 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- ❖ Two Day Thematic Seminar on 'Water and Sanitation' in a run-up to 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held at Pune.
- ❖ The seminar was hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India along with Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries as Knowledge Partner along with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), FICCI.
- ❖ This seminar is one among the eight events organized by the Ministry of Finance as a lead-up to the AIIB's 3rd Annual Meeting which will be held in June 2018 in Mumbai.
- ❖ With regard to water management, Government of India has recently launched 'Swajal' a community-led drinking water project aimed at providing sustainable and adequate drinking water in an integrated manner in rural areas.

#### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

❖ The Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved construction of another 1.5 lakh affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for benefit of urban poor.



❖ The decision in this regard was taken at 34th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee.





- ❖ PMAY(U) aims to provide houses to all poor in urban areas by 2022. Its objective is to construct two crore houses across nation.
- ❖ Intended beneficiaries of the scheme are Poor people (BPL) and People living under Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and LIG (Low Income Group) categories in urban establishments of the country.

#### **Cauvery Management Authority**

- ❖ The Centre has constituted a Cauvery Water Management Authority (CMA) to address the dispute over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and, Puducherry.
- ❖ The Ministry of Water Resources has framed a scheme constituting the CMA and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee to give effect to the decision of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as modified by the Supreme Court order.
- ❖ The authority would comprise a chairman, eight members besides a secretary.
- ❖ Out of eight members, two each will be full-time and part-time members, while the rest four would be part-time members from states.
- ❖ The authority at the beginning of the water year (June 1 each year) would determine the total residual storage in the specified reservoirs.

#### Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh state cabinet headed by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan approved the Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018, outstanding power bill waiver scheme for labourers and poor families.
- ❖ The state cabinet also approved Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018 (a scheme to provide subsidised power) in the meeting.

Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana (BBMY)
Power bill waiver for labourers & BPL

MP Govt to waive-off electricity bills of labourers & BPL families

**ELIGIBILITY: Labourers & BPL families in MP** 

BENEFITS: Power bill waiver / bill mafi

❖ Under the subsidised power scheme, registered labourers of the unorganised sector and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of Rs 200 per month.





❖ Power connection under the Mukhyamantri Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana would be provided free of cost to the beneficiaries.

#### **UN Global Compact Network India convention**

❖ Global Compact Network India (GCNI), a local network of the United Nations Global Compact in New York, is holding its 13th National Convention on the theme of 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bengaluru.



- ❖ This year, the GCNI convention is of a greater significance as it is coinciding with the UN India Business Forum.
- ❖ As part of a long-term association, Accenture, will support the event as the Knowledge Partner of GCNI.
- ❖ D K Hota, CMD, BEML is the convention's chairman, while Shashi Shanker, CMD, ONGC, will be its president.

#### 'Janaushadhi Suvidha'

- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh L Mandaviya, launched the 'Janaushadhi Suvidha', the oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in Delhi.
- ❖ The product also comes with a special additive, which makes it biodegradable when it comes in contact with oxygen after being discarded.





❖ According to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, about 58 percent of women aged between 15 to 24 years use locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins and tampons.

#### **Background**

- ❖ 'Jan Aushadhi' is a project launched by the Union Government in 2008 to provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all.
- ❖ The campaign was undertaken through sale of generic medicines through exclusive outlets by the name 'Jan Aushadhi Medical Store' in various districts of the country.
- ❖ The first 'Jan Aushadhi Medical Store' was opened on November 25, 2008 at Amritsar in Punjab.

#### 'Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan'

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022 has launched the Krishi kalyan Abhiyaan from 1st June to 31st July, 2018.
- ❖ The purpose of the scheme is to aid, assist and advice farmers on how to improve their farming techniques and raise their incomes.
- ❖ The Krishi kalyan Abhiyaan will be undertaken in 25 Villages with more than 1000 population each in Aspirational Districts identified in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development as per directions of NITI Ayog.
- ❖ In districts where number of villages (with more than 1000 population) is less than 25, all villages will be covered.
- ❖ Farm science centres called Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) will coordinate and implement the programme.





#### 2nd National Health Editors' Conference

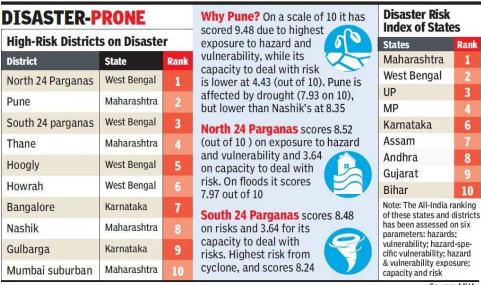
- The Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the 2nd National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga at the National Media Centre in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference is being organized by the
  - Ministry of AYUSH in association with Press Information Bureau (PIB),
  - o Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and
  - Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (M/o AYUSH)

as a part of celebrations of the 3rd International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2017.

- ❖ The theme of this year's conference is "Yoga for Health and Harmony".
- The first National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga was organized by Ministry of AYUSH and PIB in 2016.

#### **National Disaster Risk Index**

- The first ever National Disaster Risk Index, which gauges potential hazards and disasters across the 640 districts of India was released.
- It is currently in the form of a draft report prepared by the Union home ministry with support from the UNDP.



- Maharashtra is the most disaster vulnerable state followed by West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Delhi is most at risk among Union territories (UTs).





#### Brahmaputra and Sutlej Data Sharing

- ❖ China has resumed sharing hydrological data on the Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers with India after a year's gap.
- China stopped the exercise citing that the hydrological gathering sites were washed away due to floods. It also coincided with the 73-day Doklam standoff that took place during the peak monsoon period.
- ❖ China has resumed sharing hydrological data after the two sides held talks over the issue in March.
- ❖ Data will be shared twice daily until October.
- Beijing has started providing data from three hydrological stations Nugesha, Yangcun, and Nuxia, lying on the mainstream of the Brahmaputra, also known as Yarlung Zangbo in China
- ❖ Data is shared from the station at Tsada for the Sutlej, known as Langqen Zangbo

#### **Smoking Cessation Campaign**

- ❖ At a World Health Organisation event held recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India launched a national media campaign to encourage smoking cessation.
- ❖ Titled 'What Damage Will This Cigarette/Bidi Do,' the public service announcement (PSA) prompts smokers to think about each cigarette or bidi as the path to one of many potentially harmful events: heart attacks, cancer, lung disease, and more.
- ❖ By highlighting tobacco's links to stroke and heart disease, the leading cause of death among tobacco users globally, the campaign amplifies the theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day, which is 'Tobacco Breaks Hearts.'
- ❖ The campaign will achieve pan India reach by being broadcast in 17 languages on all major national government and private TV and radio channels.

#### Dhanush artillery gun

❖ India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun "Dhanush" has passed its final test at Pokhran, paving the way for its induction into the Army.





- ❖ Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun and is also called the "desi Bofors".
- ❖ It has a strike range of 38 kilometres and 81 percent of its components are indigenously sourced.
- ❖ The gun has been developed by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Kolkata based on the documents given to India as part of the first phase of "Transfer of Technology" (ToT) under the Bofors gun deal inked in the late 1980s.

#### **Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution**

- ❖ Union Minister Mahesh Sharma administered a pledge called "Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution" to Agra Residents.
- ❖ It was done with an aim to make 500-meter area around Taj Mahal litter free and phase out single use plastic.
- ❖ The pledge was made in the presence of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Executive Director Erik Solheim and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador Diya Mirza.
- ❖ The declaration came in line with the World Environment day (June 5) which has a slogan of 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

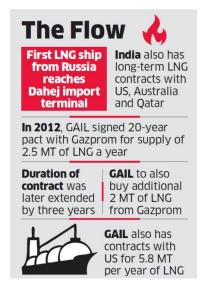






#### Cheapest LNG from Gazprom Russia

- ❖ India received first shipment of its so far cheapest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Russian supplier Gazprom.
- ❖ The LNG has been delivered at a price close to USD 7 per million British Thermal Unit (mmBtu) which is around 1.5 USD cheaper from the LNG imported from Qatar, India's oldest and largest supplier of LNG.
- ❖ This price is also 1-1.5 USD per mmBtu cheaper than the LNG sourced from Australia and United States.
- ❖ At present, close to half of Natural Gas demand is fulfilled by imports where India is fourth largest importer of LNG.
- ❖ Natural Gas is one of the key inputs for generation of power and manufacturing products in fertilizer and steel industries.



#### **ICGS C 439**

- ❖ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) recently commissioned interceptor ship ICGS C 439 at Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Its induction will help to further enhance operational capabilities to undertake multifarious tasks such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and medical evacuations along western coast.
- ❖ ICGS C 439 is designed by L&T Marine & Ship Design Division, an in-house facility of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Limited.
- ❖ It is powered by twin water-jet propulsion systems to enable quick response. It can achieve maximum speed of 45 knots.





#### **Berne Convention**

- ❖ World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has notified declaration submitted by India relating to Article II and III of Appendix to Paris Act (1971) related to Berne Convention for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.
- ❖ The declaration entered into force, with respect to India from March 28, 2018.

### Copyright: Berne Convention



- The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works was concluded in 1886, but has been revised several times. 174 States party.
- Article 9(1) of the TRIPS Agreement incorporates
   Articles 1-21 of the Berne Convention (Paris Act 1971)
   and the Appendix thereto by reference.
- Exception is Article 6bis dealing with moral rights on which there was no consensus among WTO Members.

27

- ❖ It will enable India to avail itself faculties provided in Berne Convention during 10 years' period that will expire, on October 10, 2024.
- ❖ India has been member of Berne Convention since April 1928.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ It was adopted in 1886 in Berne, Switzerland.
- ❖ The convention requires signatory member countries to recognize copyrighted literary or artistic works in same way that its national copyrights are recognized.

#### Mumbai Employees - Workers of longest hours

- ❖ Mumbai, the financial capital of India tops the list of cities with the longest annual working hours, in a report by the Swiss Bank UBS.
- ❖ The report says the average Mumbaikar works 3,314.7 hours a year. New Delhi is ranked 4th and Bogota 5th on the list.





City	Work in hours*	City	Work in hours*
Mumbai	3,314.7	Istanbul	2,318.6
Hanoi	2,691.4	Seoul	2,307.2
Mexico City	2,622.1	Manila	2,288.8
New Delhi	2511.4	Paris	1,662
Bogotá	2,357.8	Rome	1,581
Dubai	2,323	*per year; Source: UBS	

- ❖ Employees in Hanoi (2,691.4) and Mexico City (2,622.1) are placed second and third respectively in the list of earning levels with respect to annual working hours among the 77 cities surveyed.
- ❖ European cities such as Paris (ranked 75) and Rome (76) have almost half the annual working hours of the first 3 cities!
- ❖ According to the report, Zurich is the most expensive place to live in, while Cairo is the cheapest.
- ❖ Gross earnings in Geneva are the highest, whereas New Delhi, Mumbai, Cairo are the 3 lowest.
- ❖ Purchasing Power of the people in Los Angeles is the most, with Lagos being the last.

# **BIMSTEC** military exercise

❖ India will host first military exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Countries in September 2018 in Pune, Maharashtra.



❖ The theme of the exercise includes counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search.





- ❖ The main aim of this military exercise is to promote strategic alignment among the member-states and to share best practices in the area of counter-terrorism.
- ❖ BIMSTEC countries had held disaster management exercise in 2017 in New Delhi, but this will be first military exercise of the grouping.

# **QS World University Rankings**

- IIT-Bombay has progressed to 162nd rank to emerge as India's top-rated institution, moving up 17 places from last year.
- ❖ It now ranks higher than IIT-Delhi (172) and has also overtaken the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, which is ranked 170.
- \* Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retains its pole position as the world's best university for a record-breaking seventh consecutive year.
- QS ranks the world's 1000 best universities, which come from 85 countries. US institutions retain all top four positions (Stanford 2nd, Harvard 3rd, Caltech 4th).
- Overall, six of the country's eight ranked IITs and IISc improved their ranks, with two (IIT-Delhi and IIT Madras) remaining stable yearon-year.





#### **South Asia Conclave**

- ❖ Oxford University Press (OUP) will host the inaugural edition of the South Asia Conclave.
- ❖ Thought leaders, politicians, industry experts, academics and policymakers, and journalists will participate and explore contemporary research and ideas on modern South Asia.





- ❖ The panel will be chaired by Ashutosh Varshney, professor of political science, and director of the Centre for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University.
- ❖ It will be co-chaired by Pradeep Chhibber, professor of political science and director of the Institute of International Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

# **Swachh Iconic Places**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has selected 10 more iconic sites under Phase III of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ❖ The third phase of SIP was launched at Mana village which is situated close to Badrinath temple in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ 10 new iconic sites are

Raghavendra Swamy Temple	Hazarduari Palace (West Bengal),	
(Andhra Pradesh)		
Brahma Sarovar Temple (Haryana),	Vidur Kuti (Uttar Pradesh),	
Mana village (Uttarakhand),	Pangong Lake (J&K),	
Nagvasuki Temple (UP),	Ima Keithal market (Manipur),	
Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and	Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).	

SIP is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission and was launched in 2016.



Hazarduari Palace (West Bengal)

❖ It is a collaborative project of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation with three other central Ministries: Ministry of (M/o) Housing and Urban Affairs, M/o Culture, and M/o Tourism.





# 3rd Meeting of National Council of Senior Citizens

- ❖ Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment chaired the "3rd Meeting of National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC)" conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.
- ❖ The NCSrC advises Central and State Governments on issues related to the welfare of senior citizens and improvement of their quality of life.



❖ The NCSrC meets at least two times a year. Its first meeting was held on 30th August 2016. The second meeting was held on 19th June 2017.

# New committee to bring more transparency

- ❖ The Union government has formed a new committee under the chairmanship of former Chief Statistician Prof. T.C.A Anant to bring more transparency in employment-related data releases.
- ❖ Labour bureau conducts two major surveys on employment scenario— Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey and Quarterly Employment Survey.
- ❖ The Annual Employment Unemployment Survey was later replaced by Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI).
- ❖ The PLFS would not only have annual data on employment-unemployment on the rural sector but will also have quarterly data on employment-unemployment on urban sector based on larger sample size.
- ❖ Besides, the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has started releasing monthly payroll data.

# Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts

Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has launched Swajal Scheme in 115 Aspirational districts of India to provide clean drinking water.





- ❖ It will involve an outlay of Rs. 700 crores through flexi-funds under existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) budget.
- ❖ Swajal is community owned drinking water scheme or programme for sustained drinking water supply.
- ❖ Under it, 90% of project cost is taken care by the Government and remaining 10% is contributed by the beneficiary community.

#### 'Rail Madad' and 'Menu on Rails'

- ❖ The Union Minister of Railways & Coal has launched two new mobile apps 'Rail Madad' and 'Menu on Rails', to ease the traveling experience of the commuters.
- ❖ The Rail Madad app is aimed at expediting & streamlining passenger grievance redressal while the 'Menu on Rails' app will allow passengers to check the list of meals and beverages served on all type of trains and their prices.
- ❖ The Rail MADAD (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) app allows passengers to
  - o lodge complaints through mobile app/web platform and
  - o enables them to check real-time feedback on the status of redressal of their complaints.
- ❖ The app for the first time completely digitized the Complaint management system.
- ❖ It integrates RPGRAMS (Railway Passenger Grievance Redressal and Management System) developed by Northern Railway (Delhi Division).
- ❖ Rail MADAD also displays various helpline numbers (e.g., Security, Child helpline etc) and provides direct calling facility for immediate assistance in one easy step.

# Niti Aayog's Composite Water Management Index

- ❖ Gujarat has topped the Niti Aayog's composite water management index (CWMI), while tribal state Jharkhand was adjudged as the worst performer.
- ❖ Gujarat is followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra on the index.
- ❖ According to the report, titled 'Composite Water Management Index' released by Minister for Water Resources, Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are worst performing states in water management.
- ❖ 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.





- ❖ In terms of incremental change in index (over 2015-16 level), Rajasthan holds number one position in general states and Tripura ranks at first position amongst North Eastern and Himalayan states
- ❖ First of its kind Index has been done through a water data collection exercise in partnership with
  - o Ministry of Water Resources,
  - o Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation and
  - o All the states/ Union Territories



# 10th Smart City

- ❖ Prime Minister dedicated country's 10th Smart City Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- Under the ambitious Smart City Mission, ICCC in nine cities are operational in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Pune, Nagpur, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Bhopal and Kakinada.
- ❖ Naya Raipur is upcoming capital city of Chhattisgarh and country's first smart greenfield city.
- ❖ It is one of the three Smart Cities of Chhattisgarh selected under Smart Cities Mission.
- Other two cities are Raipur and Bilaspur.

#### **North Eastern Council**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for nomination of Union Home Minister as exofficio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC).
- ❖ It also approved that Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER will serve as Vice Chairman of NEC.





- ❖ NEC is statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all eight North Eastern States.
- ❖ It is statutory body established under North Eastern Council (NEC) Act, 1971 as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with states.
- ❖ It has been mandated to function as regional planning body for NER.

# Three Year Action Plan (2017-2020)

- ❖ 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.

# Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP)

- ❖ The meeting of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has revised cost and deadline of World Bank Funded Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP) to Rs.3466 Crore till June 2020.
- ❖ The meeting was held under Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Expenditure.



- ❖ DRIP is a state sector scheme with the central component to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams, along with institutional strengthening with system-wide management approach.
- ❖ The project was launched in 2012 by Central Water Commission (CWC) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation with assistance from World Bank.





#### **Reservations in Promotions**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has allowed Centre to go ahead with reservation in promotion for SC/ST employees as per the law.
- ❖ From the center's behalf, the Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh had pleased SC to allow promotions, which were on standstill, as per the mandate of the constitution.



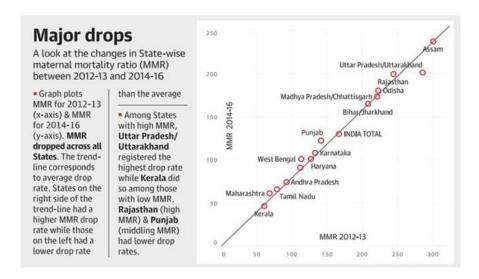
- ❖ With respect to the reservation in promotions in government jobs, the Supreme Court verdict in M Nagaraj Case (2006) that concept of creamy layer is not applicable to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- \* Reservations in promotions are mandated by Article 16 (4A) of the constitution.

# **Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)**

- ❖ According to the sample registration system (SRS) data released by the office of Registrar General of India, the maternal mortality rate (MMR)declined to 130 in 2014-16 from 167 in 2011-13.
- ❖ The 22% reduction in MMR since 2013 is a significant improvement on a parameter widely used by analysts and developmental economists to rate a country's progress.
- ❖ Among states, the three best are Kerala-46 (61), Maharashtra-61(68) and Tamil Nadu-66 (79) and worst states are Assam-237 (300), UP/Uttarakhand-201 (285) and Rajasthan-199 (244).







- ❖ The global MMR for the year 1990 was 385. In 2015, this number stood at 216, showing a drop of 44% in 25 years.
- ❖ Most of the global maternal deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa (66%), followed by South Asia (22%).

#### Solar Charkha Mission

- ❖ The Solar Charkha Mission of the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) will be launched by President in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Mission has been approved by the Government of India and will disburse subsidy of Rs 550 crore to the artisans and it will cover 50 clusters
- ❖ 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.

#### **India BPO Promotion Scheme**

- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is planning to expand its India BPO Promotion Scheme to 1 lakh seats from current 48,000 seats.
- ❖ It will also set up 5th and India's largest National data center (NDC) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh with a capacity of 5 lakh virtual servers.
- ❖ NDCs host government websites, services, and apps are currently operational at four locations Pune, Hyderabad, Delhi, and Bhubaneswar.







# Indian BPO Promotion Scheme

- ❖ India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) was approved under Digital India Programme to incentivize BPO/IT- ITES operations sector in the country.
- ❖ It was launched in 2014. The scheme aims to incentivize establishment of BPO firms and their extension to Tier II and Tier III cities (as per census 2011)
- ❖ The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society of MeitY is the nodal implementing agency of the scheme.

#### ICGS Rani Rashmoni

- ❖ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned fast patrol vessel (FPV) ICGS Rani Rashmoni, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is fifth and last ship to be commissioned in the series of fast patrol vessel (FPV) project of ICG.
- ❖ ICGS Rani Rashmoni has been designed and built by Hindustan Ship Yard Ltd. It is named after legendary Rani Rashmoni of Kolkata.
- ❖ It can perform multifarious tasks such as surveillance, search and rescue, interdiction, anti-smuggling and anti-poaching operations.

# Dam Safety Bill, 2018

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for introduction of Dam Safety Bill, 2018 in the Parliament.
- ❖ The bill will enable all states and union territories of India to adopt uniform dam safety procedures that will not only ensure the safety of the dams but will also safeguard their benefits.
- ❖ The uniformity will also help in protecting human life, livestock, and property.

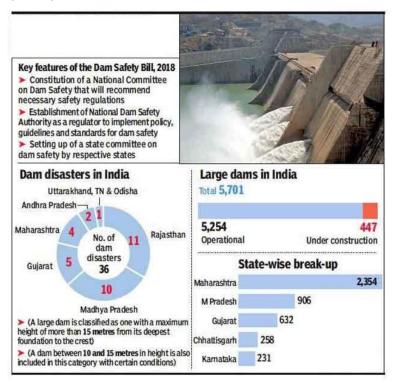




- ❖ The Bill will provide for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams in the country to ensure their safe functioning.
- It will provide for the constitution of a
  - o National Committee on Dam Safety
  - o State Committee on Dam Safety

that will evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations as required for the purpose.

❖ It will also enable the establishment of National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body.



# **North Eastern Council**

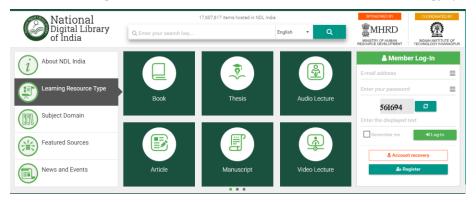
- ❖ The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) proposal to nominate Union Home Minister as Ex-Officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC).
- ❖ NEC is a statutory body with the Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North-Eastern states as its member.
- ❖ The Minister of State, Ministry of DoNER would serve as the Vice Chairman of the council.
- ❖ NEC was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with the States.





# **National Digital Library**

- ❖ The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar launched the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) on the occasion of the National Reading Day, on June 19, 2018.
- ❖ This National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is a project of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).



- ❖ It has been developed by IIT Kharagpur. The NDL is a single window platform and it is a 24x7 knowledge resource that is accessible to anyone.
- ❖ The library can be accessed at ndp.iitkgp.ac.in. The user registration is open to users from around the world.

# Lateral entry

- ❖ The Union government has invited "outstanding individuals" to join the government at the level of Joint Secretary at the Centre.
- ❖ The move comes in a bid to bring in expertise from the private sector and infuse talent into the country's bureaucracy.
- ❖ Any private sector professional with 15 years of work experience in any of the 10 fields like civil aviation, commerce, economic affairs can apply for the posts.
- ❖ The age of the candidate should not be less than 40 years.
- ❖ The selected individuals will be given three-year contracts extendable to five years based on performance — in key ministries and given the pay scale of a joint secretary.





#### World's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics

- ❖ The world's first of its kind and state-of-the-art International Centre for 'Humanitarian Forensics' (ICHF) was launched at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The center is a joint venture of the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in India, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives and also Gujarat Forensic Science University.
- ❖ The center will aid humanitarian efforts during emergencies and natural disasters such as the work carried out by Red Cross during the Gujarat Earthquake.
- ❖ Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU) is the world's first and only University dedicated to Forensic and Allied Sciences.

#### **Women Wizards Rule Tech**

- ❖ Women Wizards Rule Tech (W2RT) is a unique program with the objective to increase the pipeline of women in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, And Mathematics)/ Technology at senior levels capable of taking up leadership roles and enable their retention in the chosen domains.
- ❖ The program is designed exclusively for Women professionals in Core Technologies from Information Technology (IT), Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) / Business process management (BPM), Product and R&D Firms.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative of NASSCOM, NASSCOM Sector Skills Council and Data Security Council of India.
- ❖ W2RT was launched at the NASSCOM D&I Summit 2018 in Chennai.

# **NASSCOM**

- ❖ The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) is a trade association of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry.
- ♦ NASSCOM is a non-profit organization established in 1988.
- NASSCOM is headquartered in New Delhi, India, with regional offices in the cities of Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, and Thiruvananthapuram.

#### 5th National Standards Conclave

- ❖ The 5th National Standards Conclave with the theme "Implementing the Indian National Strategy for Standardization" was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organized by Department of Commerce and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).





- ❖ Two reports were also released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Indian National Strategy for Standardization (INSS) and CII-ASL Study on TBT/SPS Notifications.
- ❖ INSS is the result of the combined efforts of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and industry stakeholders.

# Paper setters to receive training from NTA

- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has announced that National Testing Agency (NTA) will train paper setters to set better question papers and provide better model answers.
- NTA was set up to relieve Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other educational regulator bodies from the burden of conducting multiple examinations.
- ❖ It will take over all examinations from the CBSE (except the 10th and 12th board examinations) from 2019 in a phased manner.
- It will be also conducting prestigious
  - o Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and
  - o National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) except AIIMS and JIPMER, Puducherry.

#### **National Testing Agency (NTA)**

- ❖ NTA was approved by Union cabinet in November 2017 as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions in India.
- ❖ It is registered as a society under Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ❖ It mandates is to conduct entrance tests entrusted to it by any department or ministry and put in place a robust system for conducting of examinations.
- ❖ It is chaired by eminent educationist appointed by Ministry of HRD. Its CEO will be Director General (DG) appointed by Government.
- ❖ Besides, it has Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions.

# Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty

❖ Indian Army is observing the year 2018 as "Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty" to honor soldiers who have been disabled in the line of duty.





❖ The primary focus of this initiative is to alleviate sufferings of these soldiers, who have done their duty with utmost dedication to the nation and have been disabled for the life.

#### **IRDAI** constitutes Suresh Mathur committee

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has set up a 10-member committee to review norms related to Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF) with an aim to increase insurance penetration in the country.
- ❖ The committee is headed by Suresh Mathur, Executive Director (insurance marketing firms), IRDAI.
- ❖ The committee has been asked to revisit IRDAI (Registration of Insurance Marketing Firms) Regulations, 2015.
- ❖ IMF's new distribution channel was introduced by IRDAI in 2015, with the objective of increasing insurance penetration through area-wise registration approach.
- ❖ The channel has now been in operation for three years.

# Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)

- ❖ IRDA is an apex statutory body that regulates and develops the insurance industry in India.
- ❖ It was constituted as per provisions of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. It is headquartered in Hyderabad. Telangana.

#### **INDRA 2018**

- ❖ The tri-service joint military exercise Indra-2018 between India and Russia will take place at Indian military base in second half of 2018.
- ❖ In this edition of exercise, combined military units of Russian Eastern Military District will participate in military drills.





- ❖ INDRA military exercise was launched in 2003 as a bilateral exercise between India and Russia to boost cooperation and interoperability between navies of two countries.
- ❖ The name of the exercise INDRA has been derived from INDia and RussiA.
- ❖ This exercise was transformed into a tri-services military exercise in 2017 and was for the first time held successfully in October 2017 at Vladivostok, Russia.
- ❖ It was India's first joint tri-services exercise and also first between Russia and India.
- ❖ It was also the first time Russia has hosted tri-services military exercise on its soil.

# AADHAAR biometric data for criminal investigation - Not Permissible

- ❖ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has notified that use of Aadhaar biometric data for criminal investigation is not allowed under Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- ❖ As per Section 29 of the Aadhaar Act,
  - The biometric data collected by UIDAI can be used only for purpose of generating Aadhaar and for authentication of the identity of Aadhaar holders and cannot be used for any other purpose.
- The very limited exception to this is allowed under Section 33 of Aadhaar Act,
  - which permits the use of or access to Aadhaar biometric data in cases involving national security only after pre-authorisation by oversight committee headed by Cabinet Secretary.

# Two affiliates of al Qaeda and IS Banned

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has banned al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) under the anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.
- ❖ AQIS is an affiliate of al Qaeda and ISKP is Afghanistan wing of Islamic State (IS).
- ❖ Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967is anti-terrorist law aimed at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.

# Higher tariffs on 29 items imported from US

❖ India has notified higher tariffs on 29 items imported from United States (US).





# ITEMS FACING HIGHER DUTY

Final list of imports from US to see tariffs hiked #	Old tariff rate (% if not otherwise mentioned)	Revised tariff rate (% if not otherwise mentioned)
Almonds (in shell)	₹35/kg	₹42/kg
Laboratory reagent*	10%	20%
Phosporic acid	10%	20%
Apples	50%	75%
Binders for foundry moulds	10%	17.5%
Walnuts (in shell)	30%	120%
Chickpea (garbanzos)	30%	70%
Lentils (mosur)	30%	70%
Bengal gram (desi chana)	30%	70%
Boric acid	10%	17.5%

❖ This was in retaliation against US announcement imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum items,25% and 10% respectively, imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico in March 2018 to compensate from loss of revenue.

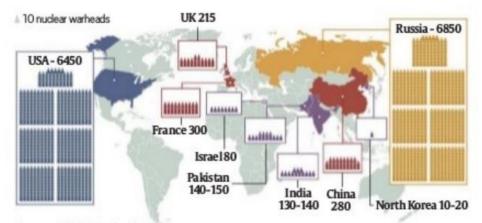
# Governor's Rule imposed in Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the imposition of Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ This is the eighth time in the last four decades J&K was put under Governor's rule and third time under J&K Governor N N Vohra tenure.
- ❖ The state Assembly has been put under suspended animation.
- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has appointed B.B. Vyas along with a super cop and anti-Naxal expert K. Vijay Kumar as advisers to Governor N.N. Vohra.
- Chhattisgarh-cadre IAS officer B.V.R. Subrahmanyam was on Wednesday appointed as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir in place of B.B. Vyas.

# Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

❖ According to updated count by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the number of nuclear warheads with nine nuclear countries has reduced from 14,935 at the start of 2017 to 14,465 at the start of 2018.





Source: SIPRI Yearbook 2018

- ❖ These nine countries are United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.
- ❖ SIPRI is an independent think tank that uses open sources to compile such data since 1966.
- ❖ Russia (with 6850 nuclear warheads) and the US (with 6450 warheads) hold 92% of world's total nuclear warheads.
- ❖ The reduction is due to arms control commitments by US and Russia in 2010 Treaty on Measures for Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty).

# National Health Mission (NHM) Report

- ❖ According to the 11th report of Common Review Mission of National Health Mission (NHM), women bear the uneven burden in family planning as they account for more than 93% of sterilizations in the country.
- ❖ In 2017-18 (till October) of the total 14,73,418 sterilization procedures 93.1 % were female sterilization (tubectomies) and only 6.8 % were male sterilization (vasectomy).
- ❖ The report was based on latest data from Health Management Information System (HMIS) where states upload data on various parameters of NHM including sterilizations.
- ❖ This is a marginal improvement from earlier years when women accounted for 98% of all sterilization in the country.
- ❖ Common Review Mission (CRM) is an external evaluation of the flagship NHM.





# Report by McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) for the Asia-Pacific region

- ❖ According to a recent report by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) for the Asia-Pacific region, gender inequality in India is extremely high at the workplace and in terms of legal protection and political voice.
- ❖ India's score was 0.30 in gender equality at work and 0.78 in legal protection and political voice.
- ❖ It is behind Asia-Pacific average in all four categories of GPS, but ahead of Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- ❖ The report had assessed inequality on the basis of Gender Parity Score (GPS) that uses 15 indicators of gender equality in work and society under four broad categories.
- ❖ It ranks countries on a scale of 0 (signifying inequality) to 1 (signifying parity).

#### E.Sreedharan Committee

- ❖ Prime Minister has approved setting up of the committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in the country.
- ❖ The committee will be headed by E.Sreedharan (famously known as metro man of India).
- ❖ It will come up with uniform standards for various components that will be followed by metro rail systems across the country.

#### 'Women in Prisons'

- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has come up with its report titled 'Women in Prisons'.
- ❖ It aims to build an understanding of the various entitlements of women in prisons, the various issues faced by them and possible methods for resolution of the same.
- ❖ The report contains a comprehensive list of 134 recommendations for improving the lives of women under incarceration, addresses a wide range of issues pertaining to pregnancy and childbirth in prison, their mental health, legal aid and reintegration in society.

# India - world's most dangerous country for women

❖ According to a survey conducted by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, India is the world's most dangerous country for women due to the high risk of sexual violence and being forced into slave labour.





- ❖ The same poll conducted in 2011 had placed India at the fourth place. This time Pakistan, in sixth place, was considered safer than India for women.
- ❖ War-torn Afghanistan and Syria ranked second and third followed by Somalia and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The only Western nation in the top 10 was the United States, which ranked 10th overall and joint third for sexual violence and harassment.
- ❖ Government data shows reported cases of crime against women rose by 83% between 2007 and 2016.





# **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **Global Wind Summit**

❖ The first edition of Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany from September 25 to 28, 2018.







- ❖ The summit will provide a public platform for energy sector experts from across the globe to discuss the innovative and green technologies for sustained wind energy making.
- ❖ It will be largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.
- ❖ India with 33GW (installed capacity) is a fourth largest country after China, US, and Germany in terms of wind energy installed capacity.

#### **RIMPAC**

- United States had withdrawn the invitation to Chinese navy to participate in 2018 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) maritime exercise.
- The withdrawal was in response to China's continued illegal militarisation of islands in the disputed South China Sea.
- ❖ RIMPAC 2019 is the 26th exercise of its type, after first being held in 1971.
- ❖ The RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. It is held biennially near Honolulu, Hawaii (US) during June and July of even-numbered years.



❖ It is hosted and administered by the United States Navy's Pacific Fleet (headquartered at Pearl Harbor).





# Lebanon's prime minister

- ❖ Lebanese MPs elected Saad Hariri as prime minister for the third time.
- ❖ He retains the title despite his party losing more than a third of its MPs in elections earlier this month.



- ❖ Hariri assumed the premiership after winning the backing of 111 out of 128 MPs in official consultations.
- ❖ The post of prime minister is reserved for a Sunni Muslim in Lebanon's sectarian power-sharing system.

# Colombia in NATO

- ❖ Colombia has formally joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, making it the only Latin American nation in the alliance.
- ❖ The 29-nation NATO alliance reached a partnership agreement with Colombia back in May 2017, just after peace was signed with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.
- ❖ The partnership with Colombia will cooperate on global security areas like cyber and maritime security, terrorism and links to organized crime.
- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.

#### Coast Guard Talks between India and Pakistan

❖ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) held talks, addressing issues pertaining to boundary violations by fishermen from both sides and enhancing cooperation in the area of maritime search and rescue, and combating pollution at sea.





- ❖ The high-level meeting was conducted for envisaging cooperation between ICG and PMSA under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two agencies in 2005.
- ❖ The MoU was extended for five years in 2016.
- ❖ This annual meeting was not held last year after Indian Special Forces conducted "surgical strikes" against terror launch pads in Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in September 2016 and a Pakistani military court awarded the death sentence former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav in April 2017.

# World Health Assembly Meet and Resolution on Digital Health

- ❖ The 71st World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland
- ❖ It has adopted a resolution on Digital Health.
- ❖ The resolution was initiated by India and was co-sponsored by 20 countries.
- ❖ Digital health technology has a huge potential for supporting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and improving accessibility, quality, and affordability of health services
- ❖ It includes using modern advanced technologies such as deep machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), internet of things (IoT) and other emerging disciplines like genomics.
- ❖ World Health Assembly was established on 7 April 1948, it succeeded the Health Organization, which was an agency of the League of Nations.
- ❖ It is a member of UN Development Group (UNDP).
- It is headquartered at Geneva.
- ❖ The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the forum through which the World Health Organization (WHO) is governed by its 194-member states. WHO flag features the Rod of Asclepius as a symbol for healing.
- ❖ It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states.
- ❖ The members of the World Health Assembly generally meet every year in May in Geneva, the location of WHO Headquarters.

# **Meeting of Director Generals of Military Operations**

- ❖ The Director Generals of Military Operations or DGMOs of India and Pakistan agreed to fully implement the ceasefire pact of 2003 in "letter and spirit" forthwith to stop cross-border firings in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The two military commanders reviewed the prevailing situation along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in J&K
- ❖ The special hotline contact was initiated by the Pakistani DGMO.





# The 108th session of UNWTO Executive council

- ❖ The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Mr. K. J. Alphons attended the 108th session of UNWTO Executive Council held in San Sebastian, Spain.
- ❖ The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- ❖ The Council meets at least twice a year, the next to be held in Bahrain.
- ❖ The council consists of 30 Full Members elected by the assembly in the proportion of one member for every Five Full Members.

# Denmark ban of face veil

- ❖ The Danish parliament passed a law banning the Islamic full-face veil in public spaces.
- Covering the face includes niqub and burqa.
- ❖ Before this Austria, France and Belgium have also passed similar laws.

# Paraguay interim president

❖ Paraguay gets a first interim woman President Alicia Pucheta for the first time in its history after outgoing leader Horacio Cartes stepped down ahead of schedule.







# Social Media Tax - Uganda

Uganda's Parliament passed a bill for "social media tax" imposing a daily fee of about 200 shillings for using platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter.

# **Singapore Airlines**

❖ Singapore Airlines (SIA) will launch the world's longest non-stop commercial flight between Singapore and Newark of New Jersey, USA from October 11, 2018.



❖ The airline will deploy the new Airbus A350-900 ULR for covering distance of 16,700km in up to 18 hours and 45 minutes.

### "End of Childhood Index 2018"

- ❖ According to a Save the Children's "End of Childhood Index 2018", India ranks 113 among 175 countries.
- ❖ India jumped three positions up from 116 in 2017 with improvement in India's overall score by 14 points from 754 to 768 on a scale of 1000.
- ❖ Singapore and Slovenia are placed at the top sharing the first place in the index and Niger figures at the end of the list at 175.
- ❖ While US and Russia rank 36 and 37 on the index, China takes the 40th position.
- ❖ The study attributes this improvement to a reduced rate of child marriage. The Index was part of the report titled "The Many Faces of Exclusion".
- ❖ It shows that under five mortality rate (deaths per 1000 live births) was 43 which is a cause for concern.
- ❖ Also, child stunting (children aged 0-59 months) was 38.4% and rated as high.







# TRIPS - CBD Linkage

- ❖ The International Conference on TRIPS- CBD Linkage will be held in Geneva on June 7-8, 2018 to revive WTO discussions on issues related to theft of traditional knowledge.
- ❖ International Conference on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ❖ The conference will be organised jointly by Indian Government, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the South Centre, an inter-governmental organisation based in Geneva.

# **Background**

- ❖ In 2008, developing countries garnered the support of the European Union to form a coalition of 109 countries, which included the African and Caribbean and Pacific Countries, for the TRIPS-CBD Linkage and seeking amendment of the TRIPS Agreement.
- ❖ TRIPS CBD Linkage is important for India and other developing countries because it seeks to address bio-piracy.









- ❖ The Convention on Biological Diversity is a multilateral agreement on sustainable development that has been ratified by 196 nations.
- ❖ The Convention entered into force on 29 December 1993.
- The convention calls for
  - o Conservation of biological diversity
  - Sustainable use of its components
  - o Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources

# Spain's Prime Minister

❖ Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez has been sworn in as Spain's Prime Minister by King Felipe VI.



- ❖ Spain is the eurozone's No. 4 economy and an influential member of the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Mr. Sanchez is Spain's seventh Prime Minister since the return to democracy following the death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco in 1975.

#### **Prime Minister of Guinea**

- President of the Republic of Guinea Alpha Conde has named Ibrahima Kassory Fofana as the country's new prime minister.
- Fofana, a Conde loyalist and former minister of investment and publicprivate partnerships, replaces Mamady Youla, who resigned last week along with his government.







❖ Guinea is Africa's top producer of bauxite, which is used to make aluminium. It also has significant reserves of iron ore.

# **RIMPAC 2018**

- ❖ The world's largest international maritime warfare exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC-2018) will see participation of 26 countries, including India.
- ❖ The theme for this year's RIMPAC exercise is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners"
- ❖ The exercise will be held from June 27 to August 2, 2018 in and around Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.



- ❖ Four countries Brazil, Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam are participating for first time.
- ❖ New Zealand will be serving as sea combat commander in this edition of exercise, and Chile serving as combined force maritime component commander.





❖ This will be for the first time non-founding RIMPAC nation (Chile) will hold component commander leadership position.

#### **About RIMPAC**

- ❖ RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise.
- ❖ It was held for first time in 1971, since the held biennially near Honolulu, Hawaii (US) during June and July of even-numbered years.
- ❖ It is hosted and administered by United States Navy's Pacific Fleet. Its headquarters is located at Pearl Harbour.
- ❖ This exercise is organised with the collaboration of Coast Guard, and Hawaii National Guard forces.

#### Jordan's new Prime Minister

❖ Jordan's King Abdullah II has formally appointed Omar al-Razzaz as the country's prime minister and tasked him with forming a new government.



- ❖ The appointment comes a day after King Abdullah II accepted the resignation of former Prime Minister Hani al-Mulki
- ❖ The appointment comes in a bid to defuse anger amid mass protests over price increases and an income tax reform bill.
- ❖ Al-Razzaz is a former World Bank economist and previously served as Jordan's education minister.

#### **IBSA Ministerial Meet**

- ❖ A meeting between external affairs ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa was organized in Pretoria, South Africa.
- ❖ This ministerial summit was chaired by India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.





- ❖ The outcome of this meeting was a document titled IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation.
- ❖ IBSA was established in 2003 via Brasilia Declaration by external affairs ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa.

# **President of UN General Assembly**

- ❖ Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces was elected as the President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ She will be succeeding Miroslav Lajcak, the current Assembly President.
- ❖ Poet and politician, Espinosa secured 128 votes against 62 votes obtained by UN Ambassador Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake of Honduras, the only other candidate.



- ❖ With this, Espinosa Garces became the fourth woman to head the UNGA.
- ❖ The previous women leaders of the Assembly were
  - o India's Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit in 1953
  - o Liberia's Angie Elisabeth Brooks in 1969 and
  - Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of Bahrain in 2006.
- ❖ Espinosa is also the first woman ever from Latin America and the Caribbean to preside over the Assembly.

#### 'World Peace' medallion

Singapore has unveiled a 'World Peace' medallion to commemorate the upcoming summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.





- ❖ The medal is accompanied by the dove and olive branch motif, a biblical symbol of peace, as well as a rose and a magnolia, the national flowers of the two countries.
- ❖ The meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un will be the first ever between a sitting US President and a North Korean leader.
- ❖ In 2015, Singapore hosted a historic meeting of the leaders of Taiwan and China, for the first time since the 1949 civil war between Communists and Nationalist.

# **Annual Passport Index**

- ❖ India has bagged the 76th position in a list of the world's most powerful passports, granting its holders visa-free access to 59 countries.
- ❖ The results are part of citizenship planning firm Henley and Partners' annual passport index.







- ❖ The Index ranks passports based on the number of countries a holder can go to without a visa or the number of countries a holder can go to where they can obtain a visa, visitor's permit, or electronic travel authority upon arrival.
- ❖ As per the annual passport index, Japan has been deemed the world's most powerful passport, with access to 189 countries.
- ❖ The list of 5 most powerful passports are,
  - o Japan 189 countries
  - o Germany, Singapore 188
  - Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Sweden, Spain, South Korea 187
  - Norway, U.K., Austria, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, U.S. 186
  - o Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Canada 185

#### Dendrobrium Narendra Modi

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister paid a three-day visit to Singapore.
- ❖ An orchid was named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark his visit to the National Orchid Garden of Singapore.
- ❖ The orchid is named Dendrobrium Narendra Modi.



- ❖ The prime minister visited Singapore's oldest Hindu Temple Sri Mariamman.
- ❖ Built in 1827, the temple was constructed for worship by immigrants from the Nagapatnam and Cuddalore districts of South India.
- ❖ The temple is located in the heart of Chinatown.

#### **Peace Mission 2018**

❖ Member states of the SCO will participate in the joint military drill named 'Peace Mission 2018'.





❖ The exercises are biannual, multinational drills with the goal of enhancing counterterrorism coordination and cooperation among the eight member countries.



- ❖ Indian and Pakistani armies are taking part for the first time will help ease tensions between the two neighbours and promote positive interactions.
- ❖ The last exercise of the SCO was held in Kyrgyzstan in September 2016.
- ❖ The 2018 exercise will be the first for India and Pakistan since becoming full members of the SCO in 2017
- ❖ It also will be the first time India and Pakistan take part in a military exercise together since their independence, though their militaries have previously worked on United Nations peacekeeping missions

# **Security Council - Non-Permanent Members**

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly elected five new non-permanent Members of the Security Council.
- ❖ Each member serves two-year terms on the body that sets the UN's whole peace and security agenda.
- ❖ The elected member nations are Germany, Indonesia, South Africa, the Dominican Republic and Belgium.





- ❖ They will fill the seats being vacated by Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, and Sweden.
- ❖ The other five non-permanent members who will remain on the Council are Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Peru, and Poland.
- ❖ This will be the Dominican Republic's first time on the Security Council with the other four countries having previously served on the body.

# **Trooping the Colour**

❖ A 22-year-old Sikh Coldstream Guardcreated history by becoming the first to wear a turban instead of a bearskin hat during an annual parade that marks the birthday of Britain's longest-reigning monarch Queen Elizabeth II.



- ❖ Charanpreet Singh Lall of the Coldstream Guards marched among 1,000 British soldiers who took part in the Trooping the Colour parade.
- Ceremony marks the Queen's official 92nd birthday held at London.
- ❖ Trooping the Colour, staged every June by London's Horse Guards Parade, has commemorated the birthday of the sovereign for more than 250 years.
- ❖ It originated from traditional preparations for battle.





# Friendship Medal

- China awarded its first highest state honour Friendship Medal to Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ The award was personally bestowed on Vladimir Putin by Chinese President Xi Jinping in grand ceremony held at Great Hall of the People in capital city of Beijing.
- ❖ This was first time China has awarded medal since it was established in 2015.
- ❖ Friendship Medal is conferred by China only on foreigner who has made outstanding contributions in promoting exchange and cooperation between China and world, and in maintaining world peace.



#### **SCO** summit

- ❖ The 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit concluded with the adoption of the Qingdao declaration at China.
- ❖ It was adopted by leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- ❖ It was India and Pakistan's first summit as full members of SCO grouping.
- ❖ The Qingdao declaration calls for implementing three-year plan to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.

# **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

- ❖ SCO is a Eurasian economic, political and security organisation headquartered in Beijing, China.
- ❖ The Declaration on establishment of SCO was signed in Shanghai (China) in June 2001 by six founding states Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ India and Pakistan were granted SCO membership in June 2017. Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia currently enjoy observer status of SCO
- Sri Lanka, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia and Nepal are dialogue partners of SCO.

### **G7** Summit

❖ The 44th summit of the Group of Seven (G7) was held in La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada.





- ❖ It ended in complete disarray with US President Donald Trump blasting off host Canada and abruptly retracting his support for a joint statement, signed by every nation in the group.
- ❖ The summit was overshadowed by differences over trade tariff disputes and calls to readmit Russia.
- ❖ With Trump's isolation from other allies, the G7 has been billed as a 'G6 plus one' with the US on the out for the first-ever time.
- ❖ The five themes for this year's summit included,
  - o Inclusive economic growth
  - o Gender equality and women's empowerment
  - o World security
  - Jobs of the future
  - o Climate change and oceans
- ❖ The current presidency of the G7 is held by Canada, which is also the host of the 2018 G7 summit.



- ❖ The 2019 summit will be held in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France. The presidency will also automatically shift to France in the year.
- ❖ Last year's G7 summit was hosted by Italy.
- ❖ The G7 includes a group of seven most industrialized, developed and advanced economies of the world.
- ❖ It includes US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan. The countries meet annually and discuss global issues.

# **Asia-Pacific Regional Conference**

❖ The Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Third Asia- Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is being held at Kathmandu, Nepal.





❖ The 3-day event is hosted by the Government of Nepal (Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology).

## New prime minister of Madagascar

- ❖ Madagascar's president has appointed the country's local representative of the International Labour Organisation, Christian Ntsay, as the new prime minister.
- ❖ Former Prime Minister Olivier Mahafaly resigned his post to comply with the terms of a court ruling that ordered the formation of a new consensus government to end a political crisis on the Indian Ocean island nation.
- ❖ Ntsay was the fourth prime minister nominated by Rajaonarimampianina after he became the Malagasy president in 2014.



The island country, located in the Indian Ocean, is one of the world's poorest countries despite having nickel, cobalt, gold, uranium and other mineral reserves.

#### **International Conference on ICT**

- ❖ International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be held in Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal from June 17-18, 2018.
- ❖ The Theme of the two-day conference is "Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society".
- ❖ The conference is organized by Federation of Computer Association Nepal (CAN).
- ❖ It aims to bring government and private sector together for developing a plan of action using sustainable ICT applications.
- ❖ It also seeks to unleash prospects of SMART Nepal by 2030.





# **Trump for Nobel Peace Prize**

- ❖ Anti-immigration Norwegian politicians have nominated Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize after his historic meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to discuss nuclear disarmament.
- ❖ The nomination is past the deadline for the next Prize, so his name is submitted for the 2019 awards.
- ❖ A record 330 people were nominated for the 2018 award.
- ❖ Mr. Trump became the first sitting US president to meet with Mr Kim or anybody in his family, which has ruled over North Korea for decades.
- Mr. Trump's nomination places him alongside other prominent nominees in the past, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, and former Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

## 29th Anniversary of Tiananmen Massacre

- ❖ June 4, 2018 marked the 29th anniversary of Tiananmen Square protests/massacre of China.
- ❖ On this day in 1989, the Chinese troops had violently retaken the Tiananmen Square in Beijing from the pro-democracy protesters.



- ❖ This event is also known as June Fourth Incident in modern Chinese history.
- ❖ 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.





❖ Though there was neither a common cause nor a common leader, the broad demand was political reforms as the protesters did not like the way country's economy was run by Communist Party of China.

## **NSG** plenary meeting

- ❖ The 28th Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting was held in Jurmala, Latvia after Latvia assumed chairmanship of NSG for 2018-19.
- ❖ With this, Latvia became the first Baltic state to chair the NSG.
- ❖ There was no headway in India's application for NSG entry in this plenary meeting.
- ❖ India had applied for NSG membership at 2016 Seoul plenary session, but it was objected by few member countries of NSG including China.
- ❖ NSG was set up in 1974 as a reaction to India's first successful nuclear tests (codenamed Smiling Buddha) to stop so-called misuse of nuclear material meant for peaceful purposes.
- Currently, NSG has 48 members.

## India-US colloquium

- ❖ 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 is being organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)-NIO and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

#### **Historic Agreement On Name Change**

- Greece and Macedonia signed a historic preliminary agreement to rename the country the Republic of North Macedonia.
- ❖ It ended a row that has poisoned relations between the two neighbors since 1991.
- ❖ The agreement will also enable the landlocked state to start proceedings and eventually join the EU and NATO.
- ❖ The agreement still requires the approval of both parliaments and a referendum in Macedonia.
- ❖ Since 1991, Athens has objected to its neighbor being called Macedonia because it has its own northern province of the same name, which in ancient times was the cradle of Alexander the Great's empire -- a source of intense pride for modern-day Greeks.





# State of emergency declared - Papua New Guinea

- ❖ The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea has declared a nine-month state of emergency in the country's rugged Southern Highlands province in response to several days of riots.
- ❖ The small resource-rich Pacific nation, which is due to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in November 2018, has long struggled with violence and lawlessness.
- ❖ The riots are due to a court ruling that upheld the election of the regional governor William Powi, amid accusations of vote rigging
- ❖ Thomas Eluh, a former policeman and acting administrator in the province, has been given constitutional emergency powers.

#### San Francisco's first black woman

- ❖ London Breed made history when she became the first black woman (African-American) to be elected mayor of San Francisco.
- ❖ She defeated a rival who was seeking to become the first openly gay man in the position.
- ❖ She will serve as mayor until 2020, finishing out the rest of Lee's term.
- ❖ Breed is only the second woman to hold the position. Dianne Feinstein was the first woman appointed to the same job in 1978.





## **President of Colombia**

- ❖ Conservative candidate Ivan Duque has won Colombia's presidential runoff election by defeating Leftist candidate and former mayor of Bogota Gustavo Petro, obtaining 54 percent of the vote.
- ❖ Duque's running mate became the first woman ever elected to the nation's vice presidency.
- ❖ The elections were the first to be held since a 2016 peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).
- ❖ Duque is a social conservative who opposes gay marriage, euthanasia and the decriminalization of drugs. He will become Colombia's youngest president.

## Social Enterprise Development Programme

- ❖ Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund (SDF) will soon be launching a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across the 8-member states including India.
- ❖ The programme will be implemented in all SAARC member states with the objective of identifying and building social enterprises by using a mix of grants and concessional returnable capital.
- ❖ SDF was established by heads of all eight SAARC member states during 16th SAARC summit at Thimphu, Bhutan in April 2010.
- ❖ Its Governing Council comprises finance ministers of these eight countries. SDF's Secretariat is located at Thimphu, capital of Bhutan
- ❖ It is the successor of South Asian Development Fund (SADF), which was launched in 1996 by merging two existing facilities called





- SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) and
- o SAARC Regional Fund.
- ❖ SDF was created as umbrella financial mechanism for all SAARC developmental projects and programmes.

#### **UNHRC - Withdrawal of USA**

- ❖ The United States has withdrawn from the United Nations' top human rights body accusing it of "chronic bias" against Israel.
- ❖ Washington's withdrawal is the latest US rejection of multilateral engagement after it pulled out of the Paris climate agreement and the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.
- ❖ The Human Rights Council was created in 2006 after its precursor, the Human Rights Commission, was disbanded by then-Secretary General Kofi Annan because of a "credibility deficit."
- ❖ The body consists of 47 member states, with a specific number of seats given to each region of the world.
- ❖ Members are elected by the U.N. General Assembly for three-year terms and cannot serve more than two terms in a row.
- ❖ It was only in 2009 that the U.S. joined the organization under President Barack Obama.

#### Inter-Governmental Ministerial Meeting On Anti-Doping

- ❖ The 15th annual Asia and Oceania Region Inter-Governmental Ministerial meeting on anti-doping was held in Colombo.
- ❖ It is attended by representatives from 29 countries including India.
- ❖ The 15th such annual gathering is also being attended by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to discuss important anti-doping issues that will help in the fight for clean sport.

#### India - the US to hold inaugural 2+2 Dialogue

- ❖ The inaugural India, United States 2+2 Dialogue will be held on July 6, 2018 in Washington. DC, the capital city of US.
- ❖ The 2+2 Dialogue between US and India aims to enhance strategic coordination between both countries and maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ The new dialogue format will replace earlier India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue.

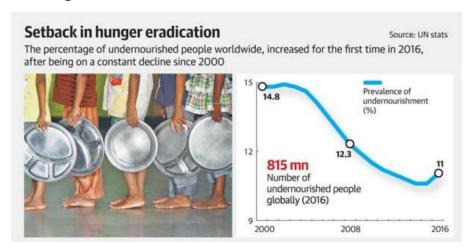




❖ It is similar to India-Japan 2+2 dialogue format between foreign and defense secretaries of the two countries.

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2018 report

- ❖ According to United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2018 report, a number of hungry people in the world has risen for the first time in more than a decade.
- ❖ There are now approximately 38 million more undernourished people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016.



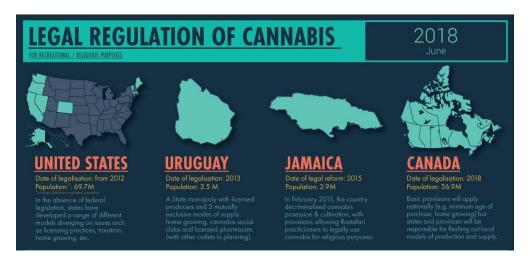
- ❖ The report said Conflict, drought, and disasters linked to climate change are among the key factors causing this reversal in progress.
- ❖ South Asia, which includes India, has seen child marriage rates plunge, with a girl's risk of getting married in childhood dropping by 40% from 2000 to 2017.
- On the other hand, water stress levels for many countries in the region are above 70%, indicating fast-approaching water scarcity.
- ❖ The report is an overview of progress towards achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), which consists of 17 goals and 169 targets.
- ❖ It was adopted at t UN Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015.

# Canada legalizes recreational use of marijuana

- ❖ The Parliament of Canada has passed Cannabis Act (or Bill C-45), a landmark law that legalizes recreational use of marijuana nationwide.
- ❖ It makes Canada the first G7 country to legalize the drug's recreational use and the second to have a nationwide, legal marijuana market, after Uruguay (permitted in December 2013).







- ❖ It allows adults to possess up to 30 grams of dried cannabis in public, but minimum legal age to buy and consume the drug has been set federally at 18.
- Cannabis is banned in most countries but it is legal for medicinal purposes in 14 European countries, Argentina, Israel, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama, Turkey, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

## India and Bangladesh to institute CORPAT

- ❖ India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) as an annual exercise between navies of two neighboring countries.
- ❖ The first edition of CORPAT between two navies was inaugurated by Indian Navy's Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba during his visit to Bangladesh.
- ❖ The first edition of CORPAT saw the participation of two frigates from Bangladesh Navy (BNS Dhaleswari and BNS Abu Bakar) and two from Indian navy (INS Kadmatt and INS Satpura).
- ❖ Indian Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with Indonesia, Thailand, and Myanmar.
- ❖ It also conducts EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) surveillance of Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles on their request.
- ❖ The CORPAT exercise between navies carries out search and rescue operations, institutes measure for vessels indulged in unlawful activities as well as control pollution.

#### **Anti-doping sports conference**

❖ An anti-doping sports conference titled Clean Sport=Fair Outcome?' was held today at Oslo to address the issue of doping menace.





- ❖ The conference is a joint initiative of the World Forum for Ethics in Business (WFEB), Anti-Doping Norway and Fair Sport to propose a substantial agenda for action
- ❖ The Anti-Doping in Sports conference is a continuation of WFEB's conference series on Ethics in Sports'.
- ❖ Earlier editions were held at the FIFA headquarters (2014, 2016) and at the stadium of Germany's soccer club, Union Berlin (2015).

# Erdogan Re-elected as president

- ❖ Turkey's long-standing leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been re-elected to a new five-year term after securing outright victory in the presidential poll.
- ❖ Erdogan was re-elected with 53 % of the vote, avoiding a runoff.
- ❖ His closest challenger, Muharrem Ince of the Republican People's Party (CHP), won 30% of the vote.

#### **ECONOMY**

#### Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM cards

- ❖ Baba Ramdev launched Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM cards, in alliance with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
- ❖ Initially, only the employees and office bearers of Patanjali will be able to avail the benefits of the SIM card.
- ❖ After its full-fledged launch, people will get discount of 10 percent on Patanjali products with this card.
- ❖ Just with the recharge of Rs 144, one would be able to make unlimited calls across the country, get 2 GB data pack and send 100 SMS.

#### **IOC** - Most profitable PSU

- \* Reliance Industries retains the crown being the country's most profitable company for third year in a row.
- ❖ Fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has for the second year in a row beaten Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) to become India's most profitable state-owned company.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services, India's largest software services exporter, was the second most profitable company in the country.





## Microsoft - Third Most Valuable Company

- ❖ Microsoft surpassed Google's parent company Alphabet in market value, becoming the third most valuable company in the world.
- Only Apple and Amazon are first two valuable companies of the world.
- ❖ Compared with tech giants such as Amazon and Apple, Microsoft is less reliant on one particular business to generate income.
- ❖ Microsoft's valuation now stands at \$753 billion, while Alphabet is worth \$742 billion.
- ❖ Apple and Amazon lead with market caps of \$924 billion and \$783 billion respectively.

## Indian payment apps in Singapore

- ❖ At the 'Business, Innovation and Community' Event at Singapore Indian Prime minister Modi has launched India's BHIM, RuPay and SBI app.
- ❖ India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS).
- \* RuPay users will be able to make payments at all NETS acceptance points across Singapore.
- ❖ Also, a new app-based rupee remittance mode of the SBI's Singapore branch was launched at the event
- ❖ Singapore branch of the SBI is the first to launch this new mode of remittance in collaboration with NPCI.

## Financial Literacy Week

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India, RBI, is organizing Financial Literacy Week from 4th June 8th June across the nation.
- ❖ This year the theme is Customer Protection.
- ❖ The aim is to create financial awareness among bank customers about financial products and services, good financial practices and digitization.

#### Stressed assets ARC

❖ The finance ministry has set up a committee to examine the possibility of setting up an asset reconstruction company or an asset management company to fast-track resolution of stressed assets.





Punjab National Bank's non-executive chairman Sunil Mehta will be heading the panel.

## **SEZ** policy

- ❖ The Centre has constituted a group of eminent persons headed by Bharat Forge's Baba Kalyani to study the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) policy of the country.
- ❖ It would suggest measures to make it more relevant for exporters and compatible with World Trade Organisation (WTO) norms.
- ❖ The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on 10th February, 2006.
- ❖ There are 223 operational SEZs in the country and the total investments made in the zones so far is ₹18,878 crore.

#### **Expert Committee for startup - SEBI**

- ❖ The market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has constituted an expert committee to make listings of startups attractive.
- It will recommend a suitable framework to allow direct listing of Indian companies' overseas bourses while also allowing overseas companies to list directly on Indian bourses.
- Currently, Indian companies can only use the depository receipts route Global Depository Receipts (GDR) or American Depository Receipts (ADR) – to list on the overseas exchanges.



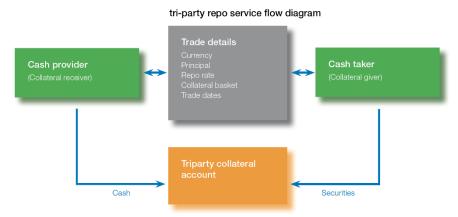


ADR	GDR
American depository receipt (ADR) is compulsory for non –us companies to trade in stock market of USA.	Global depository receipt (GDR) is compulsory for foreign company to access in any other country's share market for dealing in stock.
ADRs can get from level 1 to level III.	GDRs are already equal to high preference receipt of level II and level III.
ADRs up to level –I need to accept only general condition of SEC of USA.	GDRs can only be issued under rule 144 A after accepting strict rules of SEC of USA.
ADR is only negotiable in USA.	GDR is negotiable instrument all over the world
Investors of USA can buy ADRs from New york stock exchange (NYSE) or NASDAQ	Investors of UK can buy GDRs from London stock exchange and luxemberg stock exchange and invest in Indian companies without any extra responsibilities.

Similarly, foreign companies can access Indian capital markets only through Indian Depository Receipts (IDRP) for a listing of equities.

# 'Tri-Party Repo Market platform'

- ❖ National Stock Exchange (NSE) has launched a Tri-party Repo Market Platform' in its debt segment for the repurchase of the corporate debt security.
- ❖ 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 an 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.





## HDFC - 5th biggest consumer financial services company

- ❖ HDFC has been ranked as the 5th biggest public company globally in the 'consumer financial services category' on a list compiled by Forbes magazine.
- ❖ HDFC's rank has moved up from 7th place last year.
- ❖ American Express has topped this category, while Indiabulls Housing Finance is the only other Indian company (at 13th place) on the list.
- ❖ In the overall list, topped by China's banking behemoth ICBC, HDFC took 321st place, up from 404th a year ago.
- ❖ The 16th annual Forbes Global 2000 list includes publicly-traded companies from 60 countries.
- ❖ Forbes compiled the Global 2000 list using data from Fact Set Research systems.

## **New Group in WTO**

- ❖ India is considering bringing together group of 8-10 member countries of World Trade Organisation (WTO) to prepare agenda for creation of conducive atmosphere to ensure smooth functioning of the global trade body.
- ❖ It would be an informal group within the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which may also include nations like Brazil, China, South Africa, Indonesia and Columbia.

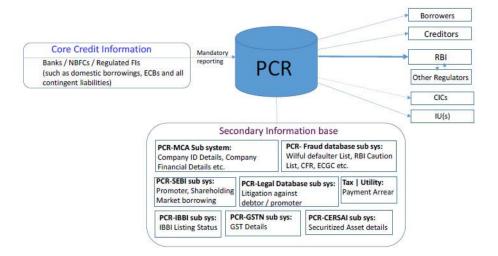
#### **Background**

- ❖ The talks at WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference held in Argentina's Buenous Aires in December 2017 had collapsed after US went back on its commitment to find permanent solution to public food stockholding issue, a key matter for India.
- ❖ Following the collapse, India had organised mini-ministerial meeting of about 45 WTO members in March 2018 to revitalise multi-lateral trade body.

#### **Public Credit Registry**

- ❖ 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 and it had submitted its report in April 2018.





This registry will distinguish between bad borrowers and good borrowers and will offer interest rates accordingly.

## Foreign portfolio investment norms

❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has eased investment norms for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in debt, especially into individual large corporates.

#### **Corporate Bonds**

- ❖ FPIs are permitted to invest in corporate bonds with a minimum residual maturity of above 1 year.
- ❖ The short-term investments in corporate bonds by an FPI shall not exceed 20% of the total investment of that FPI in corporate bonds.

#### Government securities

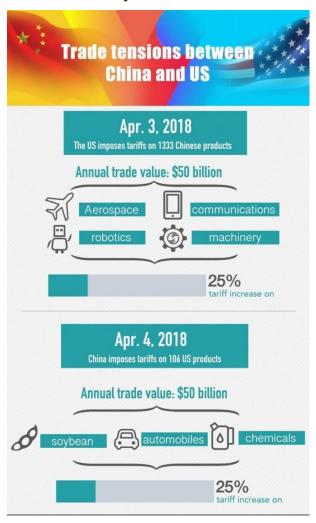
- ❖ The FPIs cap on investment in Government securities (G-secs) has been increased to 30% of outstanding stock of that security, from 20% earlier.
- ❖ FPIs were allowed to invest in government bonds with a minimum residual maturity of three years.
- ❖ FPIs are permitted to invest in G-secs, including treasury bills (T-bills), and SDLs (State Development Loans) without any minimum residual maturity requirement.
- ❖ However, it will be subject to the condition that short-term investments by FPI under either category shall not exceed 20% of the total investment of that FPI in that category.
- ❖ In this case, short-term investments are defined as investments with residual maturity up to 1 year.





## Additional duties on the US by China

❖ In a tit-for-tat action, China has imposed additional tariffs and duties on \$50-billion worth of American products.



- ❖ It comes after US President Donald Trump slapped stiff 25% tariff on Chinese goods worth a similar amount.
- ❖ The decision was taken in line with relevant stipulations of Foreign Trade Law of China and Regulations of China on Import and Export Duties, as well as fundamental principles of international laws.

## Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has assented to the promulgation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance.
- ❖ This ordinance makes some fine-tuning mechanisms in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- ❖ This ordinance brings some specific changes affecting mainly real estate and financial sectors and key changes are,





- Homebuyers Recognized as Financial Creditors
- Special Provisions for MSME
- o Withdrawal of Insolvency Application
- ❖ After this amendment, the IBC law will recognize the homebuyers as financial creditors, giving them due to representation in the Committee of Creditors (CoC). Thus, now home buyers will be an integral part of the decision making process.
- ❖ Now, the promoters of MSMEs are allowed to bid for their companies as long as they are not wilful defaulters and don't attract any other related disqualification.
- ❖ The ordinance permits the withdrawal of the insolvency applications only if it is approved by 90% vote share of the CoC.
- ❖ Further, the CoC voting threshold has been brought down to 66 percent from 75 percent for all major decisions.

## Fitch cuts viability ratings

- \* Rating agency Fitch has downgraded the viability ratings (VRs) of State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB).
- ❖ Fitch downgraded the VRs of SBI and BoB by one-notch to 'BB+' and 'BB', respectively.
- ❖ It cited the lenders' weakened risk profile due to poor asset quality and the vulnerability of their capital buffers to moderate shocks.
- ❖ As many as 19 of India's 21 state banks reported losses in the last fiscal, cumulatively wiping out almost all of the government's \$ 13 billion capital injections during the year.
- ❖ Fitch, which has a negative sector outlook on Indian banks, however, affirmed the 'BBB' Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) of SBI, BoB, Canara Bank and Bank of India (BoI) with a stable outlook.

#### BBB rating

❖ A BBB rating reflects an opinion that the issuer has the current capacity to meet its debt obligations but faces more solvency risk than an A-rated issue and less than a BB-rated issue if business, financial, or economic conditions change measurably.

#### fDi Report 2018

❖ The U.S. has surpassed India to become the top destination for greenfield FDI investment in 2017.





- ❖ According to the fDi Report 2018, compiled by FDI Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times the number of greenfield FDI projects in India during the year fell sharply by 21% to 637.
- ❖ India had maintained the numero uno slot in greenfield FDI investment in 2015 and 2016.
- ❖ However, in 2017, the U.S. reclaimed the spot from India, recording \$87.4 billion of announced Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- ❖ In the Asia and Pacific region, China was on top in terms of FDI in a total number of new projects and capital investment, followed by India.

#### Alteration of 'Relative' Definition

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has narrowed the definition of relatives over the funds sent abroad under the 'maintenance of close relative' category of the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)to check the flow of funds.
- ❖ Hence, funds under the 'maintenance of close relative' category can be sent only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.
- ❖ This has brought about by defining 'relatives' under the Companies Act, 2013 instead of the same act of 1956.
- ♦ Outward remittances under maintenance of close relatives shot up to almost \$3 billion in 2017-18 from a mere \$174 million in 2013-14.

#### Sandeep Bakhshi - New COO

- ICICI Bank board has appointed ICICI Prudential Life Insurance CEO Sandeep Bakhshi
- This move comes after ICICI Bank announced that its Chief Executive Chanda Kochhar would go on leave until the completion of an inquiry over an alleged conflict of interest
- ❖ Bakhshi, whose appointment is for a period of five years beginning June 19, pending regulatory approvals, will report to Kochhar.
- ❖ The new COO will report to the bank's board during Kochhar's period of leave.

#### Draft on cross-border insolvency resolution

❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has released a draft on cross-border insolvency in order to strengthen Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).



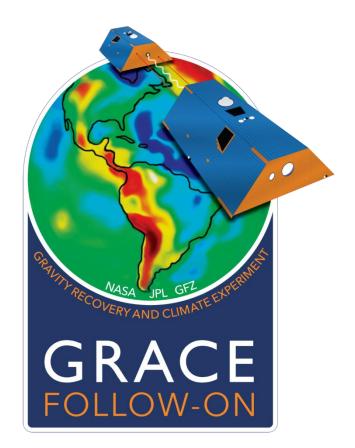


- ❖ The existing IBC provisions (234&235) are not adequate to effectively deal with default cases of the domestic corporate debtor having assets and operations outside India.
- ❖ The draft on cross-border insolvency favors adoption of UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Laws) Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, 1997.
- Under it, central government after entering into an agreement with other countries may bring overseas asset of domestic corporate debtor into consideration of insolvency resolution in India.

#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### **GRACE-FO** satellites

Elon Musk-led SpaceX has successfully launched twin NASA satellites GRACE-FO (Follow-On) that will track Earth's water Cycle i.e. water movement and ice melt.



- ❖ It was launched onboard of SpaceX's preflown Falcon 9 Rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, US
- ❖ GRACE-FO is a joint project between National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ).

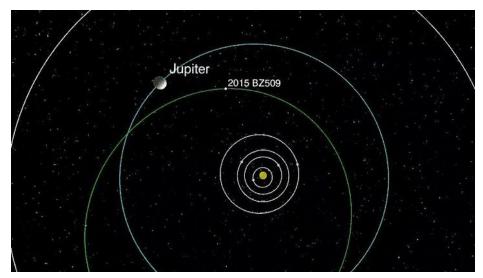




❖ It is follow-on mission to original GRACE mission, which had mapped Earth's water and ice by measuring changes in Earth's gravity field from 2002 to 2017.

## (514107) 2015 BZ509

- ❖ Scientists have discovered an asteroid named (514107) 2015 BZ509 nestling in Jupiter's orbit that had migrated from another star system.
- ❖ It makes it first known permanent immigrant to our solar system.
- ❖ All of the planets in our Solar System, and the vast majority of other objects as well travel around the Sun in the same direction.



- ❖ However, 2015 BZ509 is different it moves in the opposite direction in what is known as a 'retrograde' orbit.
- ❖ The asteroid Oumuamua was actually first discovered in 2014, but after four years of tracking it, scientists were able to determine that it had arrived in our solar system some 4.5 billion years ago just as Earth was beginning to form.
- ❖ However, it was just a tourist passing through, whereas this former exoasteroid given the catchy name (514107) 2015 BZ509 is a long-term resident.

#### **Cloud-enabled National Data Centre**

- ❖ National Informatics Centre (NIC) has set up cloud-enabled National Data Centre at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ It will offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for e-governance applications of ministries and departments.
- ❖ It is fourth cloud-enabled National Data Centre of NIC after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.





- NIC (Rashtriya Suchna Vigyan Kendra) is premier science & technology organization of Government in informatics services and information and communication technology (ICT) applications.
- ❖ It is part of MeitY's Department of Electronics & Information Technology. It was established in 1976.

#### **Rustom-2 Drone**

❖ The Rustom-II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), which is being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), will be delivered to the armed forces by 2020.



- ❖ The drone is being developed for use by all three services of the Indian Armed Forces, primarily for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations.
- ❖ The medium-altitude prototype can fly at over 22,000 feet and is a long-endurance UAV that has a 20-hour approximate flight time.
- ❖ After perfecting the vehicle, the manufacturing will be done by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and Bharat Electronics Ltd, as per the contract.

# PRAAPTI App

❖ The Ministry of Power has launched a web portal and an app called PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators).





- ❖ It is an effort to bring in greater transparency in power purchase transactions between generators and distribution companies (DISCOMs).
- ❖ The app will allow people to know the tariffs at which the power was procured by the Discoms.

## World first 3D printed human corneas

- ❖ Scientists from Newcastle University, UK have created world's first 3D printed human corneas (3D printed thin protective film over eye)
- ❖ It could solve the problem of shortage of available eye donors and help millions of blind people gain sight again.
- ❖ The 3D printed human corneas were produced using bio-ink solution consisting of healthy corneal stem mixed together with alginate and collagen.

#### Pinaka Rocket

- An upgraded version of Pinaka rocket, with enhanced range and guidance system, was successfully test-fired from Chandipur in Odisha for the second consecutive day
- ❖ The earlier Pinaka system, which was an unguided one, has now been transformed into a guided version, with a navigation, guidance and control kit developed by the Research Centre, Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.
- ❖ The RCI comes under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).





- ❖ The conversion helped in enhancing the range and accuracy of Pinaka. If its range was 40 km earlier, it is more than 70 km now.
- ❖ The test was carried out from a multi-barrel launcher from the firing point of the Proof & Experiment Establishment (PXE) under DRDO.

#### **Maiden test Next Generation SFDR**

- ❖ The DRDO successfully carried out the maiden flight test of a new surfaceto-air missile (yet to get a formal name) powered by Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion Technology.
- ❖ SFDR's technology demonstrator flight test was conducted from Launch Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❖ SFDR technology is jointly developed by India and Russia.
- ❖ SFDR is propulsion technology different than that of conventional solid fuelled or liquid fuelled missiles.

#### **Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS)**

- ❖ The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has launched Ensemble Prediction System (EPS) for more accurate and area-specific forecast of extreme weather events including rains, heat wave, and cold wave.
- ❖ The new EPS system has been developed by three bodies under Ministry of Earth Sciences viz.
  - o Indian Meteorological Department (IMD),
  - National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and
  - o Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.
- ❖ The most salient feature of new EPS is its high resolution for short-medium range weather forecasts.



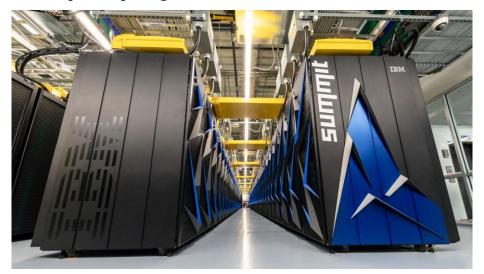


#### Gaofen-6 satellite

- ❖ China has successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite which will be mainly used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring.
- ❖ The Gaofen-6 satellite was launched on a Long March-2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- ❖ Gaofen-6 is the latest of a series of China High-resolution Earth Observation System (CHEOS) satellites.
- ❖ The satellite was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST), a subordinate to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC.
- ❖ A scientific experiment satellite named Luojia-1 was sent into space at the same time.

## **Fastest Supercomputer**

❖ IBM and the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory have revealed the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer - Summit supercomputing machine.



- ❖ Summit supercomputing machine can deliver a peak performance of 200 quadrillion calculations per second (that's 200 followed by 15 zeros) using a standard measure used to rate supercomputers or 200 petaflops.
- ❖ The speed of Summit is nearly twice the peak performance of China's top-ranking Sunway TaihuLight
- ❖ For the first time in five years, the world's fastest computer is no longer in China





## India's first indigenous Lithium-Ion Battery project

- ❖ Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) lab has signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project.
- ❖ The agreement was signed by CSIR's Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ CSIR-CECRI has developed the indigenous technology of Lithium-ion cells in partnership with other sister CSIR labs. It has secured globally recognized patent for this technology.
- Under the singed MoA, Raasi Group will set up a Lithium-ion cells manufacturing facility in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu close to Bangalore.

#### World first EPR nuclear reactor

- ❖ A third-generation European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) in Taishan, southern China carried out its first nuclear chain reaction.
- ❖ Unit 1 of the Taishan nuclear power plant has attained a sustained chain reaction for the first time, becoming the first EPR reactor to reach the commissioning milestone.
- ❖ With EPRs in Finland and France facing setbacks, the Taishan 1 reactor is the first of its kind.
- ❖ Taishan 1 and 2 are the first two reactors based on the EPR design to be built in China.

#### Agni-5

❖ India successfully test-fired it's indigenously developed nuclear capable longrange ballistic missile Agni-5 from Dr. Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.







- ❖ This was the sixth trial of the state-of-the-art Agni-5.
- ❖ The surface-to-surface missile was launched with the help of a mobile launcher and it has a strike range of 5,000 km.
- ❖ Unlike other missiles of the series, Agni-5 is the most advanced with new technologies in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine.

## 106th Indian Science Congress

- ❖ 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'.



❖ It will be organized by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), a premier scientific organization of India.

## Pinaka rocket system into guided missile

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has converted indigenous Pinaka rocket system into a precision-guided missile, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets.
- It is jointly developed by
  - Pune based Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE),
  - Defense Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad and
  - Research Centre, Imarat (RCI).





❖ It is fired using multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) and the rocket has been named after Pinaka, the bow of Lord Shiva.



- ❖ It already has been inducted into Indian Army and Pinaka Mark I was used in 1999 Kargil conflict.
- ❖ Its initial version (Pinaka Mark I) was upgraded into Pinaka Mark II, with an enhanced range of 70 to 80 km with a five-metre accuracy compared to Mark I, with a range of 40 km.

## 'UTS on mobile' app

❖ 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.





## Wi-Fi Choupals

❖ The Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeITY) launched 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages in partnership with common service centres (CSCs).

Centre has instigated 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in partnership with common service centres (CSCs)



Aim - To transform rural Internet connectivity through BharatNet

- ❖ It was jointly inaugurated by Union Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.
- ❖ The aim of Wi-Fi Choupals is to transform rural Internet connectivity through Bharat Net.

#### **Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018**

- ❖ The 11th edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 was held at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.
- ❖ Its theme was 'GeoSpatial: A Force Multiplier for Defense and Internal Security'.
- ❖ The aim of the event was to provide a platform to showcase innovative applications of Geospatial technologies.
- ❖ The event was organized by GeoSpatial Media and Communication with Directorate General of Information System as Knowledge Partners and Military Survey as Co-organisers.

# **EPIC Planet**

❖ Scientists from Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad have discovered for first time distant planet revolving around Sun-like star.





- ❖ Both the planet and the star have been named EPIC.
- ❖ The EPIC planet is six times bigger than Earth and mass is about 27 times Earth's and revolves around host about 600 light years away.
- ❖ EPIC planet is smaller in size compared to Saturn and but is bigger than Neptune. Its 60% mass may be made up of heavy elements like ice, silicates, and iron.



- ❖ The planet is unlikely to be inhabitable because of its high surface temperature of around 600°C.
- ❖ EPIC was found circling very close to the Sun-like star, going around it once in about 19.5 days
- ❖ PRL is supported mainly by the Department of Space, whose arm ISRO is.
- ❖ Significantly, the discovery was made using a PRL-designed spectrograph, PARAS, to measure and confirm the mass of the new planet.
- ❖ PARAS is first of its kind spectrograph in the country which can measure the mass of planet going around the star.
- ❖ It is integrated with 1.2-metre telescope located at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.

#### Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) Cell Technology

- ❖ 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 a nonexclusive basis in automobiles for Rs. 1 crore.
- The initiative aims to accelerate development of indigenous electric vehicle (EV) industry and reduce the dependence of imported lithium-ion cell technology.

#### Power point Does not need The advantages of Lithium prolonged charge when ion batteries new. Lithium ion cells • High energy density: This is hold their charge longer than other alternatives because lithium is a highly reactive element, and a lot of energy can It has a relatively low be stored in its atomic bonds. self-discharge rate, less This is a clear advantage over a than half that of nickellead-acid battery or a nickel-metal based batteries hydride battery Zero Maintenance Lithium ion cells can A123 SYSTEMS handle several chargedischarge cycles without any hassles





#### Glonass-M satellite

- \* Russia has successfully launched Glonass-M positioning satellite on board of Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from the Plesetsk space center.
- ❖ The GLONASS (Russian acronym for Global Navigation Satellite System) network provides real-time positioning data for surface, sea and airborne objects around the globe, at an accuracy reportedly on par with the U.S. Global Positioning System.
- ❖ With this launch, there are now 26 Glonass satellites in orbit.
- ❖ It was built by Reshetnev Information Satellite Systems (formerly NPO-PM). It has a design life of 7 years which is significantly higher than that of the previous generation of Glonass satellites.
- ❖ The heart of the satellite is Caesium atomic clock that provides accurate timing reference needed to generate navigation data.
- ❖ Glonass is Russian Satellite Navigation System considered as a counterpart to GPS of US, Galileo of European Union (EU) and Beidou of China.

#### **Remove DEBRIS**

- ❖ The first-ever satellite to test possible solutions in cleaning up space junk has been deployed by the International Space Station (ISS) and would soon begin experiments in orbit.
- ❖ The Britain-built satellite, named Remove DEBRIS mission, is one of the world's first attempts to tackle the build-up of dangerous space debris orbiting the Earth.
- ❖ It was transported to ISS via SpaceX CRS-14 launch in early April 2018.
- ❖ The satellite was designed, built and manufactured by a consortium of space companies and research institutions led by Surrey Space Centre at the University of Surrey, United Kingdom.
- ❖ The project is co-funded by European Commission.





#### **ENVIRONMENT**

## World's first fully solar energy-powered airport

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognized Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport.
- ❖ The airport has 15 MW solar power plant.
- CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999. It is the busiest and largest airport in the state of Kerala.
- ❖ It is only PPP airport in the country that has handled more than 5 million passengers in a year.

## **Extreme Weather Warnings**

- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is teaming up with state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to send extreme weather warnings to people
- ❖ The BSNL has come up with a technology.
- ❖ If the IMD sends an alert, they will pass it on to all BSNL numbers in Delhi (about an impending extreme weather event warning like a thunderstorm, dust storm, heatwave).

#### **Adventure Tourism**

- ❖ The Government is for the first time issuing guidelines for Adventure Tourism in India.
- ❖ The guidelines on Safety and Quality Norms for Adventure Tourism in India have been formulated along with the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI).
- ❖ These guidelines cover land, air and water-based adventure activities which include mountaineering, bungee jumping, trekking, paragliding, kayaking, scuba diving, snorkeling, river rafting and many other sports.

## e-waste generation

- ❖ According to a recent study by ASSOCHAM-NEC, India continues to be among the top five countries generating e-waste.
- ❖ The other countries topping the chart of e-waste generation are China, USA, Japan and Germany.





- The study was published coinciding with "Environment Day" (June 5).
- ❖ In India, Maharashtra contributes the largest e-waste of 19.8 per cent but recycles only about 47,810 TPA (tonnes per annum).
- ❖ Whereas as its counterparts' Tamil Nadu (13 per cent) recycles about 52,427, Uttar Pradesh (10.1 per cent) recycles about 86,130.

## **Blue Flag Certification**

❖ Odisha's Chandra bhaga Beach on the coast of Konark is set to become Asia's first to get the Blue Flag certification for maintaining cleanliness and environment standards.



- ❖ The blue flag certification is awarded to clean and environment-friendly beaches that strictly comply with 33 environment and tourism-related conditions.
- ❖ The standards were established by the Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985.
- ❖ As part of the 'Blue Flag Project' initiated by the Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) last year, 13 beaches across the country were selected by their respective State Governments.
- ❖ The Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICoM) is facilitating the blue flag certification process by way of developing required infrastructure on the beaches.

# 10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF)

- ❖ The 10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) was held in New Delhi, India.
- ❖ It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda.
- ❖ This is the second time India hosted a meeting of GAELF.
- ❖ Earlier in 2002, India had hosted the second meeting of GAELF.





❖ GAELF is an alliance of partners from 72 LF endemic national country Programmes, NGOs, private sectors, academic and research institutes and international development agencies that assists WHO's Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis.

# Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF)

- ☐ In 1997, the World Health Assembly resolved to eliminate lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem (WHA resolution 50.29).
- ☐ In 2000, the GPELF was launched by WHO

## Goal: Global elimination by 2020

Aim 1. Stop the spread of infection: interrupt transmission by MDA

Aim 2. Reduce the suffering caused by the disease: morbidity management and disability prevention

❖ It was formed in 2001, since then it is being held biennially.

## World's oldest Sumatran Orangutan

- ❖ The world's oldest known Sumatran orangutan has died in an Australian zoo aged 62, leaving behind 54 descendants.
- ❖ Puan, described as the "grand old lady" of Perth Zoo, was euthanized on Monday due to age-related complications.
- ♦ She had been at the zoo since 1968 and was officially recognized by Guinness World Records as the oldest of her species in 2016.
- ❖ A critically endangered species, Sumatran orangutans rarely reach age 50 in the wild.
- ❖ According to the World Wildlife Fund, there are only about 14,600 Sumatran orangutans.

## National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) Project

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) Project.
- ❖ It is country's first ever healthcare establishment census to collect data from all public and private healthcare establishments.
- ❖ NHRR Project aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizen and provider-centric services by creating robust, standardized and secured IT-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.





The census will be conducted under Collection of Statistics Act 2008.

# Koko passed away

❖ Koko, a western lowland gorilla said to have mastered American Sign Language, has died aged 46.



- others primates of who could communicate using sign language include Washoe, a female chimpanzee in Washington state, and Chantek, a male orangutan in Atlanta.
- ❖ Koko was born Hanabi-ko (Japanese for "Fireworks Child") on July 4, 1971 at the San Francisco Zoo.

# **National Wetland Committee**

- ❖ The Union government has appointed Uday Vora the Chief Conservator of Forest as the member of the National Wetland Committee.
- ❖ The National Wetlands Committee (NWC) under the chairpersonship of the secretary, MOEF&CC has been constituted.
- ❖ The Committee has been formed under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- Other than Vora,
  - HS Singh was appointed as the member of the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife and
  - CN Pandey was appointed as chairman of the 14-member Expert Appraisal Committee for Environment Clearance to Industry-I projects.





#### Aldabra Giant Tortoise

- Seychelles has gifted a pair of Giant Aldabra tortoise to India as a goodwill gesture.
- ❖ They were brought to India as a gift from the President of Seychelles Danny Faure during his five-day visit to India.
- ❖ The pair was handed over to Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad after Central Zoo Authority (CZA) in New Delhi gave permission to house them.
- ❖ Aldabra Giant Tortoise (Aldabrachelys gigantea) is endemic to Aldabra Atoll in Seychelles.
- ❖ It is said to be one of the largest species of tortoises on the planet and also one of the world's longest living animals (can live above 200 years).
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified this species of tortoises as Vulnerable in its Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ Gifting or giving Aldabra tortoise on loan to friendly countries is a part of the Seychellois diplomacy.
- ❖ Earlier, in 2010, Seychelles had loaned two giant tortoises to Shanghai Zoo in China, while another pair was presented to Guangzhou Zoo in 2014.

# **STATE**

#### **New State Symbols of Andhra Pradesh**

- ❖ Four years after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the government of Andhra Pradesh has announced its state symbols.
- ❖ The state symbols were notified by the department of environment, forest, science, and technology.







- ❖ The notable change is the state bird. The state bird of undivided Andhra Pradesh was Indian Roller or Palapitta. This has been changed to Rama Chiluka or rose-ringed parakeet.
- ❖ Palapitta is now the state bird of Telangana, Odisha, and Karnataka.
- ❖ The government of Andhra Pradesh has retained blackbuck or Krishna Jinka as the state animal.
- ❖ After the bifurcation, Telangana adopted Jinka or spotted deer as its state animal.
- ❖ Neem or Vepa Chettu has been retained in the divided state.
- ❖ The Telangana government had dropped vepa and adopted Jammi Chettu.
- ❖ Though undivided AP had water lilly or Kaluva as the state flower, both divided AP and Telangana have dropped it.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has opted for jasmine as the state flower, though it does not have cultural significance.
- ❖ The motive appears to promote jasmine, which is grown commercially in Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapur and Chittoor districts.
- ❖ After dropping Kavula, the Telangana government has adopted native Tangidi Puvvu as the state flower as it is widely used in the state's famous Bathukamma festival.

#### State symbols of Andhra Pradesh

- State bird: Rose-ringed parakeet Locally known as Rama Chiluka.
- ❖ State tree: Neem Locally known as Vepa Chettu.
- ❖ State animal: Black-buck Locally known as Krishna Jinka.
- **State flower: Jasmine.**

## State symbols of Telangana

- State bird: Indian Roller or Palapitta.
- State tree: Jammi Chettu.
- State animal: Jinka or spotted deer.
- State flower: Tangidi Puvvu.

# Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana

- ❖ The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has launched 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana 'to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming System.
- ❖ This would increase soil productivity, decrease use of fertilizers and harmful chemicals and increase water infiltration.
- ❖ Moreover, the State Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the week-long 'Polythene Hatao Paryavaran Bachao' campaign.





# **Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy**

- ❖ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani released the 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy' at a high-level meeting at Gandhinagar.
- ❖ The state government planned to create water-grid, on the lines of power-grid, for reuse of the treated wastewater from urban areas.
- ❖ The policy will promote the use of treated wastewater and will see the setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP) in all major towns and cities of Gujarat.
- ❖ It also aims to reduce the state's dependence on freshwater sources like the Narmada river.

#### e-Office at UP

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has decided to bring all state government offices under the e-Office system by August 15 to minimize the use of paper.
- e-Office is a 'product suit' developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) that helps in faster clearance of files and envisions a paper-less office.

# Chandranna Bima Yojana

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu has launched the third year of Chandranna Bima Yojana.
- The schemes of
  - o Aam Admi Bima Yojana,
  - o Pradhan Manthri Jeevana Jyothi Bima Yojana,
  - o Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and
  - o The Individual Accident Bima Policy of the State government

are included in this insurance scheme.

- ❖ The entire policy amount will be paid by the State government on behalf of the labourers. The beneficiaries have to pay only Rs. 15 per annum.
- ❖ Labours in the unorganised sector whose monthly income is Rs. 15,000 are eligible for the scheme.

#### Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya BimaYojana

- ❖ Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a new Health Insurance Scheme for the journalists launched by the Odisha state government.
- ❖ This scheme provides Rs. 2 Lakh per annum health insurance cover to all working journalists of the state.





- ❖ The scheme has been named after Gopalbandhu Das a prominent social worker, reformer, political activist, journalist, poet and essayist of Odisha.
- ❖ His contribution to art, culture and society to Odisha earned him the epithet of Utkalmani (jewel of Odisha).
- ❖ In the decade of 1910, he had launched a monthly literary magazine called Satyabadi through which he tried to educate the masses.

### First-Ever Global Investor Meet

- ❖ In a bid to boost the Jammu and Kashmir economy, the Mehbooba Mufti-led government is all set to host in July-end its first ever "global investors meet", aimed at harnessing hydro power potential of 20,000 megawatts in the state.
- ❖ According to the state economic survey 2017, J&K has exploited only about 16 % of the estimated 20,000 MW of hydro-power potential even as the energy demand has been growing gradually creating a wider demand-supply gap.

# **Zero Based Natural Farming**

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government launched a Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF) scale-out scheme, aimed at benefitting around six million farmers by 2024.
- ❖ The state agriculture department also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard, with the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF).
- SIFF is an initiative with the partnership of the United Nations Environment Program, the World Agroforestry Center, and the BNP Paribas.
- The SIFF will extend financial and investment support to the farmers.

#### Paternity leave for government employees

- ❖ The Haryana government has announced a 15-day paternity leave to all male government employees.
- ❖ The move makes Haryana the first state to grant paternity leaves to its employees.
- ❖ In 2017, Congress MP Rajeev Satav had introduced the Paternity Benefit Bill, 2017 (a private member bill) in Parliament.
- ❖ As per the draft Paternity Benefits Bill, 2017, men will get a benefit of leave up to 30 days as paternity leave.





❖ At present, only the All India and Central Civil Services Rules allow Central government employees to get 15 days of paternity leave.

#### 'Urban forest - Museum of Trees'

- ❖ Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) has converted a garbage dumping ground into a "museum of trees".
- ❖ The VMC stopped dumping garbage at a landfill site at Vadasar, on the city's outskirts, in October 2016 and instead planted 12,663 tree saplings of 100 varieties spread over an area of 50,000 square meters.
- ❖ All the saplings have survived.
- This place has been named as 'Urban forest museum of trees'

## **Arunachal Rising Campaign**

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu recently launched the Arunachal Rising Campaign.
- ❖ The campaign was launched with the objective to reach out to the people throughout the state targeting remote areas and make them aware of the government initiatives, policies, and programmes.

## Sikkim's longest tunnel

❖ Minister of State for Defence Subhash Ramrao Bhamre inaugurated 578-metre-long Theng Tunnel, the longest in Sikkim.



- ❖ It is Constructed on the Gangtok-Chungthang State Highway by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- ❖ The double-lane tunnel bypasses a treacherous stretch of road between Sikkim's capital Gangtok and Chungthang.
- ❖ The tunnel would provide all-weather connectivity.





### Hyderabad - 3rd in Most Sound Polluted Cities

- ❖ Telangana's Hyderabad ranks number 3 in the list of sound polluted metropolitan cities.
- ❖ Earlier, The 'city of Nawabs', which houses a major tech industry, was listed on the top 10 most air-polluted metropolitan cities.
- ❖ According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in 2017 Chennai had the maximum night sound levels followed by Lucknow, Kolkata, and Mumbai.

#### 'Business First Portal'

- ❖ The Punjab Government has launched a 'Business First Portal' to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in the state.
- ❖ The portal aims to be a one-step solution for industrialists. Regulatory clearances of all departments would be integrated in the portal.
- ❖ Further, it would provide self-access facility to the traders for the first time. The facility would enable the applicants to examine their application and enclosed documents.
- ❖ The Punjab state government would also ensure 100 per cent VAT refund to the industrialists by the end of 2018.

## 'Sanskar'

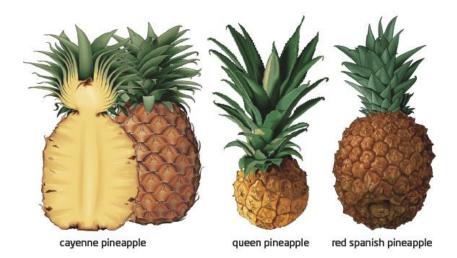
- ❖ The state government of Assam plans to introduce an awareness programme called 'Sanskar' in all its development blocks and panchayats.
- ❖ It comes in the wake of incidents triggered by superstition and ignorance including the lynching of two people in Karbi Anglong district.
- ❖ Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) would be the nodal agency of the programme.

## **State Fruit of Tripura**

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit.
- Queen pineapple is spiny, golden yellow in color. It has pleasant aroma and flavor
- ❖ It had received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015 and was helped by North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation, a central public sector unit in getting it.







- ❖ President also dedicated 73.71km stretch of National Highway 8 (NH-8) from Mata Tripurasundari temple in Udaipur of Gomati district to Sabroom in South Tripura.
- ❖ The NH-8 connects Tripura with the rest of the country via Assam and Meghalaya.

# **Auto-disable syringes**

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh is set to become the first state in India to use auto-disable syringes for all clinical purposes to prevent infection.
- ❖ The state will enforce this decision from the World Hepatitis Day, observed every year on July 28.
- ❖ It will help in strengthening and lowering burden of infections by breaking the cycle of cross infection.

### 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana'

- ❖ Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced a health assurance scheme 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana' that will benefit around 3.5 crore people belonging to over 70 lakh families in the state.
- Under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, up to 5 lakh worth of secondary and tertiary cashless healthcare assistance will be provided per family, per annum
- ❖ The assistance of Rs 500 would be provided to all pregnant women and infants who visit public health facilities.







# Mukhbir Yojana- Jharkhand

- Jharkhand govt. is going to launch Mukhbir Yojana to curb child marriage.
- ❖ Under this scheme, people who give information regarding the child marriage plan to the authorities and becomes a spy of govt. will get a cash reward of Rs. 1,000.
- ❖ Moreover, all the village panchayats with no case of child marriage in a single year will get Rs. 50,000.
- ❖ In India, Jharkhand alone reports around 38% of total cases of child marriage.

### 'Paree Pain Katha Tiye'

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched 'Paree Pain Katha Tiye' (A word for the little angel), a State-wide awareness campaign against child sexual abuse.
- ❖ UNICEF and the State police have joined hands for the campaign to create awareness on the importance and role of every member of society in preventing child sexual abuse, need for reporting and need for trauma care.
- ❖ Fifteen vans modified as 'Paree Express' flagged off by the CM.





❖ In each district, the campaign will be led by the Superintendent of Police and District Collector.

# 'I-Hariyali' Mobile App

- ❖ The Punjab Government has launched a mobile application named 'i-Hariyali' aimed at increasing the state's green cover.
- ❖ The mobile application would enable the users to order free plant saplings (a maximum of 25 per person).
- The 'i-Hariyali' app, under 'Mission Tandarust Punjab' can be downloaded from the app store for free.

# **Chief Ministers Subgroup**

- ❖ The Union Government has constituted Chief Ministers Subgroup to coordinate policy approaches for the agriculture sector and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be its convener and CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim along with Member NITI Aayog, Ramesh Chand as its members.
- ❖ It will suggest a wider choice of State-specific interventions both for presowing and post-harvest to improve thrust on incomes, waste to wealth and water conservation.

### 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme

- ❖ Haryana Government has launched 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme to give star rankings to its panchayats on the basis of seven social parameters.
- Ambala has topped star ranking followed by Gurugram and Karnal.
- ❖ Gram panchayats scoring maximum in all parameters will be recognized as Indradhanush Gram Panchayats.
- ❖ Villages winning six stars will be entitled to get additional developmental works worth Rs 20 lakh. Villages with 5 stars rating will get additional developmental works worth Rs. 15 lakhs.
- ❖ Villages with 4 stars will get additional developmental works worth Rs 10 lakh.



Pink star	It will be awarded to those panchayats that make an outstanding performance in improving sex ratio.			
Green star	❖ It is for protection of the environment			
White Star	<ul> <li>Cleanliness</li> </ul>			
Saffron star	❖ It is for crime-free villages.			
Sky color star	It will be awarded to the village that will have no dropout.			
Golden star	❖ It is for good governance.			
Silver star	It will be awarded for participation in the development of villages.			

- ❖ Villages for achieving each parameter will be rewarded Rs 1 lakh. Villages having equal or more girl population will be given Rs 50,000 as a bonus with their reward money.
- ❖ Similarly, villages which adopt Swachhta Mission will be given additional Rs 50,000 as reward.

# Gujarat launches Suryashakti Kisan Yojana

- ❖ Gujarat government has launched Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY), solar power scheme for farmers.
- ❖ It will enable them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck.



- ❖ It is claimed to be first such scheme in the country, where the farmer will produce his power and sell the surplus to State power utility.
- ❖ The State and Central governments will give 60% subsidy on the cost of the project.
- ❖ The farmer is required to take 5% cost, while 35% will be provided to him as an affordable loan with interest rates of 4.5 to 6%.





# Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018

- ❖ The Gujarat government has announced its wind-solar hybrid power policy -2018 to promote setting up of wind as well as solar power projects at one location.
- ❖ The 'Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018' will remain in force for five years.
- ❖ The key objective of the policy aims to make optimum utilization of land and grid lines.
- ❖ The policy would enable the developer of an existing solar project to use the same land for setting up wind and solar power units.

# A.P. Medical and Rehabilitation Tourism (AMRIT)

- ❖ The Chief Minister inaugurated the A.P. Medical and Rehabilitation Tourism (AMRIT) as part of the ongoing Andhra Pradesh Health Festival, at Rushikonda.
- ❖ The A.P. Health Care System would be strengthened with the financial assistance from the World Bank.
- ❖ The State Government is leveraging technology to improve public health and to take health and medical services even to remote areas.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

## **India Innovation Award 2018**

- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and IIT Bombay have been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Academic Institutions category at the 2018 India Innovation Conference in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The award places IIT Bombay in the top 12 innovators in India.
- ❖ Under the Government Research Organizations category, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018.

#### Man Booker International Prize 2018

- ❖ Polish author Olga Tokarczuk (56) was awarded Man Booker International Prize 2018 which makes her first writer from Poland to win this prestigious English-language literary award.
- ❖ She won a prize with English translation of her novel Flights.





- ❖ It was first published in the Polish language in 2007 and was translated into English in 2017 by Jennifer Croft.
- Her literally work has won several awards, both in her home country Poland and also abroad, including Poland's most prestigious 'Nike Literary Award' twice.

## Venture Capital Symposium 2018

- ❖ NITI Aayog has organized the Venture Capital Symposium 2018 in New Delhi. It was organized in collaboration with the Vision India Foundation.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen the economic relationships between India and France.
- ❖ The Venture Capital Symposium 2018 opens doors for French investors to explore Indian market and Indian start-ups to attain global outreach.

#### **CEAT Awards**

- ❖ India skipper Virat Kohli won the International Cricketer of the Year Award at the CEAT Cricket Rating awards
- ❖ India opener Shikhar Dhawan was presented the International Batsman of the Year Award, while New Zealand pace special Trent Boult won the International Bowler of the Year Award.
- ❖ Afghanistan's leg-spinner Rashid Khan was presented with the T20 Bowler of the Year Award.
- ❖ New Zealand's opening batsman Colin Munro won the T20 Batsman of the Year Award.
- ❖ Indian cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur won the Outstanding Innings of the Year Award.
- ❖ Mayank Agarwal was given the Domestic Player of the Year Award.





- Eighteen-year-old Shubhman Gill was the U19 Player of the Year.
- ❖ West Indian batsman Chris Gayle was presented with the Popular Choice Award.
- ❖ The Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed on former India stumper Farokh Engineer.

#### Linnean Medal

- ❖ Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa received the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany from the Linnean Society of London.
- ❖ He was the President of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE).



- ❖ Dr. Bawa is the first Indian to win the award ever since it was first constituted in 1888.
- ❖ He is being recognized for his pioneering research on the evolution of tropical plants, tropical deforestation, non-timber forest products and for decades of work on the biodiversity of forests in Central America, the Western Ghats, and the Eastern Himalaya.
- ❖ His best efforts were seen in establishing the open-access interdisciplinary journal Conservation and in 2003, the online citizen-science repository India Biodiversity Portal' and ATREE (ranked second in Asia and 18th globally among the world's environment think tanks)
- \* It is a good recognition of our work on conservation and sustainability.
- ❖ It is awarded to a biologist every year by the Linnean Society of London.
- ❖ The world's oldest active biological society was founded in 1788 and named after famous Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus who gave us one of the systems of naming plants and animals.





❖ Incidentally, the first scientist to receive the Linnean Medal was Sir Joseph D. Hooker who compiled the monumental seven-volume Flora of British India, the first ever comprehensive account of India's plants.

#### Chief of the DRDO

❖ Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra has been given additional charge as Chief of the Defence Research and Development Organisation for a period of three months with effect from May 29, 2018.



- ❖ He will take over from current chief Dr. S. Christopher whose term ended recently.
- Christopher was given one year's extension beyond the prescribed age last year.
- Christopher took over as the head of DRDO in May 2015 for a two-year term.

## Barron's list of Top 30 Global CEO

- ❖ For the third consecutive year, HDFC Bank managing director Aditya Puri has been included in the list of worlds' 30 best CEOs by premier financial magazine Barron's.
- ❖ Puri is the only Indian CEO to feature in the list.
- ❖ In its fourteenth edition, the list also includes Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway, Jamie Dimon of JP Morgan Chase, Larry Page of Alphabet, Reed Hastings of Netflix, Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook.
- Out of the three categories divided by the magazine for CEOs, Aditya Puri has been featured in the 'Growth Leaders' category.
- ❖ The other two categories are Visionary Founders and Turnaround Experts.





❖ The 67-year old Aditya Puri has been the Managing Director of HDFC Bank since its inception in 1994.

# PM of Italy

- ❖ Italy's president Sergio Mattarella appointed former International Monetary Fund official Carlo Cottarelli as interim prime minister on May 28.
- ❖ The euro zone's third-largest economy has been seeking a new government since inconclusive March elections.
- ❖ However, after few days, the Five Star Movement and the League reached an agreement and a new government, led by Giuseppe Conte, was formed.
- ❖ He has replaced Paolo Gentiloni, the founding member of the Democratic Party.

# 'Most Inspiring Icon of the Year for Social Welfare'

Indian star cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been awarded the 'most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare" award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare.



- ❖ Yuvraj, who was a member of India's 2011 World Cup winning squad, was diagnosed with cancer (mediastinal seminoma) shortly after the World Cup.
- ❖ Post his diagnosis, Yuvraj opened his foundation 'YouWeCan' that focuses on creating cancer awareness and helping educate the cancer survivors kids.





#### **World Press Cartoon award**

- ❖ Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony has won an international award, in the best caricature category.
- ❖ Antony is currently working as Executive Artist of Malayalam daily 'Metro Vaartha'



- ❖ He is among the nine winners at the 13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards, instituted by an organization based in Lisbon, Portugal.
- ❖ Antony is the lone cartoonist selected from Asia selected for the prize.

## Bengal's Chau mask acquires GI

❖ The Chau mask of Purulia, the wooden mask of Kushmandi, the Patachitra, the Dokras of Bengal, and Madhurkathi (a kind of mat) have been presented with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India.



- ❖ During 2017-18, The Registrar of Geographical Indications awarded GI tags to 25 products, of which nine were from West Bengal.
- ❖ While 500 families were involved in the making of large and colorful Chau masks used in the Chau dance, around 200 families in Kushmandi make the wooden masks used for the Mukha dance.





❖ In Paschim Medinipur, a few hundred families in Pingla village make the beautifully painted scrolls called Patachitra, and 3,000 families in two districts were into making Madurkathi.



### Kendrick Lamar - Pulitzer Prize

❖ Kendrick Lamar won the Pulitzer Prize for music, making history as the first non-classical or jazz artist to win the prestigious prize for Music.



❖ Kendrick Lamar won this prize for 'DAMN', he also won Grammy award for this album.





## **National Spelling Bee Winner 2018**

Karthik Nemmani of Texas, was declared champion of the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee.



❖ The Karthik Nemmani emerged as a top speller from record-shattering 515 contestants at the national Spell bee, compared with 291 last year.

## Santokbaa Humanitarian Award

President Ram NathKovind presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and to space

scientist A S Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- The Santokbaa Humanitarian Award was instituted by Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF).
- SRKKF confers the award every year for humanitarian contributions by individuals whose life and work are characterised by their selfless and inspiring service.
- ❖ The award was first presented in 2007 and since then, the award has honoured various eminent personalities

SRK Knowledge Foundation Presents

SANTOKBAA
AWARD

Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar
Distinguished Space Scientist
and Astrophysicist

PRESIDENT OF INDIA
Hon'ble Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Shri Kailash Satyarthi
Children's Rights Activest
and Education Advocate

including Ratan Tata, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Bhikhu Parekh, Dr Verghese Kurien, Gandhian Narayan Desai and Sam Pitroda.





# World's highest-paid athlete -Forbes

- ❖ Boxing champion Floyd Mayweather has been named the world's highestpaid athlete by Forbes for the fourth time in seven years with \$285 million in earnings.
- ❖ Cristiano Ronaldo, who stood first the last two years, slipped to third with Lionel Messi grabbing the second spot.



- ❖ Kohli, the only sportsperson from India to be featured in the list, is ranked 83rd with earnings of USD 24 million.
- Others on the list are American basketball player LeBron James (6), Tennis star Roger Federer (7), golfer Tiger Woods (16), tennis player Rafael Nadal (20).

### Youngest Author of India

- ❖ Four-year-old Ayan Gogoi Gohain of North Lakhimpur district, Assam was honoured with the 'Youngest Author of India' by The India Book of Records.
- ❖ Ayan Gogoi Gohain has been honoured with this title for his book 'Honeycomb'. The book was published in January 2018.





# Apple design award

- ❖ A Chennai-based developer has won a design award for his app "Calzy 3" at the Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2018.
- ❖ Developed by Raja Vijayaraman, "Calzy 3" is a highly customisable calculator that uses iOS technologies to offer features like Multitasking, Face ID and Touch ID.
- ❖ The Apple Design Awards recognise the creative artistry and technical achievements of developers who reflect the best in design, innovation and technology on Apple platforms.

#### **Home Fire**

- ❖ Renowned British Pakistani author Kamila Shamsie's book "Home Fire" has won the Women's Prize for Fiction, 2018.
- ❖ The book was also longlisted for last year's Man Booker Prize.



❖ The novel is about love, radicalism and conflicting loyalties in the post-9/11 era.





❖ Founded in 1996, the annual British award recognizes and celebrates the excellence, originality, and accessibility in writing by women across the world.

#### Kamila Shamsie

- ❖ Kamila Shamsie is a fellow of the London-based Royal Society of Literature and was named a Granta Best of Young British Novelist in 2013.
- ❖ Her previous work "God in Every Stone" (2014), was shortlisted for the Baileys Prize, the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction and the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature.

# **EPS- Independent Director**

❖ Electronic Payment Services (EPS) has announced the appointment of Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as Independent Director to its Board of Directors.



❖ He was a Deputy Governor at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for three years from 2014 to 2017.

### World Economic Forum - Managing Board

- ❖ Sarita Nayyar has been appointed to the Managing Board of the World Economic Forum.
- Nayyar, who is the Chief Operating Officer of World Economic Forum, will help lead the international expansion of the Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network.
- She will also lead the Forum's international expansion with new centres opening in India, Japan and China.
- ❖ Nayyar joined WEF in 2007, where she has held various directorships including responsibility for engagement with the consumer industries, MD and COO of WEF and Deputy Head of Industries.





## 'National Gopal Ratna' award

❖ Dhiraj Ram Krishna, a young engineer from Coimbatore, has won the 'National Gopal Ratna' award from the Central Government for cattle rearing and dairying.



He received the award from the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh in New Delhi for 'upkeep of the best dairy animals of indigenous breeds'.

### **BCCI Awards**

❖ The Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli received the Polly Umrigar Award (Best International Cricketer) for his stupendous performances in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons.



❖ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) bestowed the award on the skipper at their annual BCCI awards ceremony in Bengaluru.





- ❖ In the other category, Indian women cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and opener Smriti Mandhana received the maiden Best International Cricketer (Women) award for their stellar 2016-17 season.
- ❖ The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) was adjudged the best state association owing to their consistent performances in the BCCI domestic tournaments for the 2016-17 season
- ❖ The Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) was adjudged the best state association for the 2017-18 season.
- ❖ It is for the first time, an award category for the best International Cricketer (Woman) has been introduced.

#### **Lumiere Award**

❖ American activist Jane Fonda will receive this year's Lumiere Award in Lyon, France.



- ❖ She is also a two-time Academy Award winner, two-time BAFTA Award winner, and four-time Golden Globe Award winner.
- ❖ The Lumières Award is a French film award presented by the Académie des Lumières to honor the best in the French-speaking cinema of the previous year.
- ❖ The awards ceremony is organized by the Académie des Lumières which consists of over 200 representatives of the international press based in Paris.

#### Chief financial officer of General Motors

- ❖ America's largest automaker General Motors has named Indian-American Dhivya Suryadevara its next chief financial officer.
- ❖ Chennai-born Suryadevara, currently the vice president of corporate finance, will take over from current CFO Chuck Stevens.





❖ G Barra and Suryadevara are the first women in their respective positions in the auto industry, as no other major global automaker has a female CEO, nor a CEO and CFO who are both female.



# NASA's record-breaking spacewoman

❖ NASA's record-breaking spacewoman, Peggy Whitson (58) has announced her retirement as astronaut less than a year after returning from her last and longest spaceflight.



- ❖ During her career, she had racked up a total of 665 days in space more than any other NASA astronaut, and record for women worldwide.
- ❖ She is world's most experienced female spacewalker, with 10 under her spacesuit belt with a record-setting total time of 60 hours and 21 minutes.
- ❖ She was the first woman to command International Space Station (ISS), holding the position twice. She was the oldest woman ever to fly in space.





❖ She was the first and only woman (and first non-military person) to serve as chief of NASA's male-dominated astronaut corps from 2009 to 2012.

# First woman Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter pilot from South India

- ❖ Flying Officer Meghana Shanbough MR, an engineering graduate, has become the sixth female fighter pilot to join the ranks of Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ❖ She is the first Woman from Karnataka and South India. She graduates from the Air Force Academy (AFA) in Dundigal.
- The other fighter pilots
  - o Avani Chaturvedi from Madhya Pradesh,
  - Bhawana Kanth from Bihar and
  - o Mohana Singh from Rajasthan

have already scripted history by becoming the first-ever women to undergo fighter pilot training in IAF at Hakimpet Air Force station in Hyderabad.

#### Star Pick Brand Ambassador

- Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri was named brand ambassador of online fantasy sports platform StarPick.
- ❖ StarPick also announced the launch of the 2018 Football World Cup online platform, offering prizes worth Rs 20 crore.

#### Miss India 2018

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Anukreethy Vas was named Miss India at the 55th Femina Miss India 2018 in Mumbai.
- ❖ Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar, who won the title last year, crowned Anukreethy, who will go on to represent India at Miss World.
- ❖ Haryana's Meenakshi Chaudhary stood second while Andhra Pradesh's Shreya Rao Kamavarapu ranked third.
- ❖ The panel of judges for the evening included cricketer Irfan Pathan, K.L. Rahul along with Bollywood actors Malaika Arora, Bobby Deol and Kunal Kapoor.
- The judges' panel also included
  - o Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar, who along with
  - o Miss United Continents 2017 Sana Dua, and
  - o Miss Intercontinental 2017 Priyanka Kumari





crowned their respective successors.

❖ The two runners-up will represent the country at Miss Grand International 2018 and Miss United Continents 2018 respectively.

### **Polar Music Prize**

- ❖ Legendary rock band Metallica has been honored with the prestigious Polar Music Prize in Sweden.
- ❖ The American heavy metal band was founded by drummer Lars Ulrich.



- The international prize was founded in 1989 by Stig 'Stikkan' Anderson the manager of pop legends ABBA - and recognizes "significant achievements in music".
- ❖ It is awarded to one contemporary and one classical musician each year.
- ❖ Previous winners of the prize include Paul McCartney, Ray Charles, Joni Mitchell, Bruce Springsteen and Stevie Wonder.

## **India Smart Cities Award**

- ❖ India Smart Cities Award were launched on 25 June 2017 with an objective to reward cities, projects and innovative ideas, promoting sustainable development in cities
- ❖ There are 3 categories of awards
  - 1. Innovative Idea Award
  - 2. City Award
  - 3. Project Award





#### Innovative Idea Award

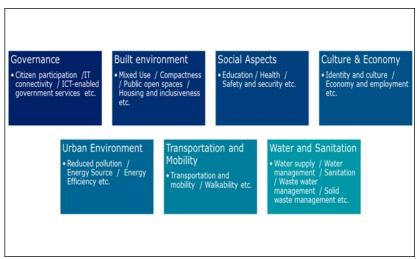
❖ Joint winners in this category are Bhopal for their Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) and Ahmedabad for Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project.

#### City Award

❖ The city award is being given to Surat for showing great momentum in the implementation of projects especially in the categories of urban environment, transport and mobility and sustainable integrated development.

#### **Project Award**

❖ The Project awards are being given to most innovative and successful projects in seven categories that have been completed by April 1, 2018.



- ❖ The Projects selected are
- 1. PMC Care from Pune under 'Governance' category,
- 2. Smart Place Making from Pune under 'Built Environment',
- 3. Smart Classrooms from NDMC and Jabalpur, Smart Campus from Visakhapatnam, Lighthouse from Pune under 'Social Aspects' category,
- 4. B Nest Incubation Centre from Bhopal and Conservation of Rajasthan School of Arts from Jaipur under 'Culture and Economy' category,
- 5. Public Bike Sharing from Bhopal, Pune, Coimbatore, and Waste to Energy Plant in Jabalpur under 'Urban environment' category,
- 6. Integrated Transit Management System (TMS) from Ahmedabad and Surat under 'Transport and Mobility' category and
- 7. Smart Water Management through SCADA from Ahmedabad under 'Water and Sanitation' category.





#### PM awards

- ❖ The Ayush Ministry announced that Vishwas Mandlik of Nashik and The Yoga Institute in Mumbai are the recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution to promotion and development of yoga.
- ♦ Mandlik won the award in the category Individual National and The Yoga Institute won in the category Organisation National.
- Mandlik set up Yoga Vidhya Gurukul in 1983 for yoga education. Yoga Chaitanya Seva Pratisthan, a trust, was set up by him in 1994 to propagate yoga in remote parts of India.
- ❖ The Yoga Institute in Mumbai, set up in 1918 by Yogendraji, has completed 100 years producing more than 50,000 yoga teachers and has over 500 publications to its credit.

## Water Resources Management Report - Rajasthan

- NITI Aayog has ranked Rajasthan at first place among states in water conversation as it registered a significant increase in the level of groundwater.
- ❖ The NITI Aayog in its composite water resources management report has appreciated the efforts made by Rajasthan government and people participation in conservation of surface water.
- ❖ The state has restored 80% irrigation potential of identified bodies largely through community managed ponds and tanks.

### UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan awarded

- ❖ The Indian Army contingent comprising of 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry Battalion Group was awarded United Nations Medal for "selfless service".
- ❖ The contingent is part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in South Sudan.
- ❖ India, with 2,237 troops, is the highest contributor in terms of troops to UNMISS.

#### World's Richest Man

❖ The Forbes World's Billionaires list showed that Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos has become the richest man in the world with a net wealth of USD 141.9 bn.





- ❖ Bill Gates, the principal founder of Microsoft Corporation, is the second-richest man in the world with USD 92.9 bn.
- ❖ Warren Buffet, one of the most successful investors in the world, trailed in the third place with a total wealth of USD 82.2 bn.

## Peter Thomson passes away

- ❖ Australian golfing great Peter Thomson, who won the British Open five times, died at 88 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.
- ❖ The World Golf Hall of Fame called him "the thinking man's golfer".



❖ Thomson was the first Australian to win the British Open, claiming the famous claret jug on five occasions between 1954 and 1965, including three consecutive wins.

#### International Chamber of Commerce Chairman

❖ Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, will succeed Sunil Bharti Mittal as Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).





- ❖ Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder, and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises will step down ICC Chairman, following the completion of his 2-year tenure.
- ❖ Mittal will assume the role of ICC Honorary Chair from July 1, 2018.
- ❖ Ajay Banga, President and CEO MasterCard, has been appointed as the next ICC 'First Vice-Chair'.

# **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**

- ❖ The International Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1919 to serve world business by promoting trade and investment, open markets for goods and services, and the free flow of capital.
- ❖ The organization's international secretariat was established in Paris and the ICC's International Court of Arbitration was created in 1923.
- ❖ ICC's first chairman was 20th-century French Minister of Finance Etienne Clémentel.
- ❖ ICC was the first organization granted general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and UN Observer Status.

## **WCD Ministry Received SKOCH Award**

- SKOCH, a New Delhi-based think-tank, has conferred the 'Best performing Social Sector Ministry' award on the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ It has been awarded to the ministry in recognition of the achievements and initiatives of the ministry, such as
  - o Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
  - o six months' maternity leave,
  - o Sexual harassment at Work Place Act,





- o SHe-box, one-stop centers,
- o universal women helpline (181),
- o 33 percent reservation in the police.

have achieved huge success within a very short period of time.

#### 'Chief Minister of the Year' award

\* Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was conferred the 'Chief Minister of the Year' award for her remarkable work in e-governance.



❖ The award was given at the 52nd Skoch Summit held in New Delhi.

### India's first 'Tribal Queen'

- ❖ Pallavi Durua of Odisha's Koraput district was crowned as the first 'Tribal Queen' at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ Panchami Majhi of Titlagarh and Rashmirekha Hansdah of Mayurbhanj were declared as the first and second runners-up, respectively.
- ❖ The trio will star in a short movie on tribal culture, produced by a Mumbai-based producer.





## **SPORTS**

### **Monaco Grand Prix 2018**

- ❖ Australian Formula One racer Daniel Ricciardo handed Red Bull a victory in their 250th race in the Formula One at Monaco Grand Prix.
- ❖ Daniel Ricciardo won the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix from Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton.

## Thomas Cup 2018

- ❖ China emerged as the winner of the 2018 Thomas Cup and brought home the trophy for the 10th time after defeating Japan by 3-1 in Bangkok (Thailand).
- ❖ The Thomas Cup, sometimes called the World Men's Team Championships, is an international badminton competition.



- ❖ It is played among teams representing member nations of the Badminton World Federation (BWF), the sport's global governing body.
- ❖ The championships have been conducted every two years since the 1982 tournament, before that, it was conducted every three years since the first tournament held in 1948–1949.

### **ITTF Oman Open**

- ❖ India's Suhana Saini claimed the gold medal in the Oman Junior and Cadet Open, an International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Premium Circuit event.
- ❖ The 12-year-old from Haryana beat Egypt's Hana Goda in the Hopes Girls singles final 3-1 to annex the coveted title.





# Maharashtra's youngest International Master

- ❖ Raunak Sadhwani of Nagpur has secured the title of International Master (IM) at a young age of 12.
- \* Raunak is the youngest International Master (IM) from Maharashtra and the second IM from Nagpur.
- ❖ The title of International Master is awarded to strong chess players. It is a lifetime title
- ❖ To get an International Master title, a player requires to clear three norms and maintain an international rating of 2400 'Elo' points.



## Women's Asia Cup T20

❖ Bangladesh defeated India in final of the Women's Asia Cup T20.



❖ Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur was declared the Player of the Tournament for her consistency with batting.





#### Shakib Al Hasan

Bangladesh veteran Shakib Al Hasan has become only the third all-rounder in the history of international cricket to complete the rare double of 10,000 runs and 500 wickets.

Player	<b>Format</b>	Runs	Wickets	<b>Fifty-plus Scores</b>	<b>Five-wicket Hauls</b>
Jacques Kallis	Tests	13,289	292	103	5
	ODIs	11,579	273	103	2
	T20Is	666	12	5	0
	Combined	25,534	577	211	7
Shahid Afridi	Tests	1716	48	13	1
	ODIs	8064	395	45	9
	T20Is	1416	98	4	0
	Combined	11,196	541	62	10
Shakib Al Hasan	Tests	3594	188	27	17
	ODIs	5243	235	44	1
	T20Is	1265	77	6	0
	Combined	10,102	500	87	18

❖ The 31-year old attained the milestone during the third T20I against Afghanistan at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Dehradun

# Rohan Bopanna - IOC's icon

- ❖ Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) felicitated sportspersons associated with it during Sports Conclave 2018.
- ❖ Rohan Bopanna received the "Sports Icon of Year" award.



## Most valuable player - FIFA World Cup 2018

- ❖ The lead striker from the English National Team, Harry Kane is named as the most valuable player for the upcoming FIFA World Cup
- ❖ Kane managed to beat global icons like Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, and Neymar to top this list.
- ❖ In the list, Kane is followed by Brazilian ace player Neymar and French Kylian Mbappé of France.







## **Asian Junior Athletics**

- ❖ Indian track and field athletes clinched four medals, including a gold, as they got off their campaign at the 2018 Asian Junior Championships held at Japan.
- ❖ On the opening day, Indian athlete Ashish Jakhar has set Junior national record (76.86m) en route to winning a gold medal in the men's hammer throw event.
- ❖ Damneet Singh clinched the silver medal in the men's hammer throw event.
- ❖ Priyadarshini Suresh and Poonam Sonune won bronze medals in women's triple jump and women's 5000m race respectively.

# **Umakhanov Memorial Boxing Tournament**

- ❖ Indian boxers bagged one Gold and two Silver medals at the Umakhanov Memorial Tournament in the Russian city of Kaspiysk.
- ❖ Saweety Boora won the coveted yellow metal in the Women's 75 kg category after beating Anna Anfinogenova (Russia) in the Final.





- ❖ In the Men's section, Brijesh Yadav in the 81 kg division and Virender Kumar in 91 kgs lost their Final bouts to settle for Silver medals.
- **&** Earlier, India had claimed four Bronze medals in the Tournament.

## Bid to host 2026 Football World Cup

- ❖ FIFA's congress voted USA, Canada, and Mexico to host 2026 Football World Cup.
- ❖ The 2026 tournament will be the first expanded tournament featuring 48 teams, up from the current 32-team tournament, which begins in Russia
- ❖ The U.S hosted the World Cup previously in 1994 while Mexico hosted it in 1970 and 1986. Canada has never hosted a men's World Cup but held the women's tournament in 2015.
- ❖ The 2022 tournament will be hosted by Qatar while the 2018 edition kicks off in Moscow.

### Historic India-Afghanistan Test

- ❖ India hosts Afghanistan's maiden one-off Test contest, which has been named as the Indo-Afghanistan Friendship Series, in Bengaluru
- ❖ Afghanistan earned their Test status alongside Ireland in June last year.
- ❖ Their respective boards were made full members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in June, becoming the sport's 11th and 12h Test-playing nations.





## **India's Highest Football Scorer**

❖ India's football team captain Sunil Chhetri (33) became joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentine superstar footballer Lionel Messi.



- ❖ He achieved this feat after he scored his 64th goal in a match between India and Kenya in Intercontinental Cup summit clash in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- In this match, Chhetri scored two goals.
- ❖ It was Chhetri's 102nd international match, making him only the second Indian to feature in 100 international matches after former skipper Bhaichung Bhutia.
- ❖ In terms of goals scored, he and Messi are behind Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo who has 81 goals on his name from 150 matches.
- ❖ Chhetri and Messi are currently in joint 21st position in all-time list of goal scorers.

### Century before lunch

❖ Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan has become the first Indian opener to have scored a century before lunch on the first day of the one-off test against Afghanistan in Bengaluru.





Batsman	Country	Venue	Year
VT Trumper	Australia	Manchester	1902
CG Macartney	Australia	Leeds	1926
DG Bradman	Australia	Leeds	1930
Majid Khan	Pakistan	Karachi	1976-77
David Warner	Australia	Sydney	2016-17
Shikhar Dhawan	India	Bengaluru	2018

- ❖ The first batsman to do so was Australia's V.T. Trumper against England in 1902.
- ❖ The other four batsmen are Australia's C.G. Macartney, Don Bradman, David Warner and Pakistan's Majid Khan.

## 2018 Gouden Spike meeting

- ❖ Gavit Murali Kumar clinched gold in men's 10,000-metre race at the Gouden Spike meeting in Leiden, The Netherlands.
- ❖ The 21-year-old Kumar, hailing from Gujarat, clocked a personal best of 28 minutes 43.34 seconds. It was the best by an Indian in the ongoing season.
- ❖ It was also the second-fastest time by an Indian ever in the distance race. Before him, Surendra Singh set a national record (28 minutes 02.89 sec) at Vigo, Spain in 2008.
- ❖ The Gouden Spike is one of the top meetings in The Netherlands.

## Kia Super League

❖ Smriti Mandhana will become the first Indian player to appear in the Kia Super League, the women's cricket super league in England.







Smriti was signed by Western Storm and will represent the side in the upcoming edition of the tournament.

# **Stuttgart Open**

- ❖ Twenty-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer clinched his 98th career singles title by defeating Canada's Milos Raonic in the Stuttgart Open final.
- ❖ The 36-year-old has now won 18 singles titles on grass.



## **Indian Sports Honours**

- ❖ The Commonwealth Games 2018 gold-medal winning shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, was adjudged as the Sportsperson of the Year for 2017 by the Sports Illustrated India magazine.
- ❖ The eight annual Sportsperson of the Year awards took place at the Roseate House, Aerocity in New Delhi.
- ❖ Other winners include,

Team of the Year	Women's Cricket Team
Coach of the Year	Stephen Constantine
Editor's Choice for Excellence (Team)	Aizawl FC
Editor's Choice for Excellence (Male)	Jitu Rai
Young Sportsperson of the Year	Manav Vikas Thakkar
Community Development in Sport	Sailen Tudu



Comeback of the Year	Sushil Kumar
Gamechanger of the Year	Shubhankar Sharma
Outstanding Contribution to Sport	Leander Paes
Lifetime Achievement Award	Dhanraj Pillay
Special Award Living Legend	Balbir Singh Sr.

## England records highest ODI score

- ❖ England broke their own all-time record for the highest ODI score in men's cricket when they hammered 481/6 off 50 overs against Australia at Trent Bridge, Nottingham.
- ❖ This is now the second-highest total ever in ODIs.
- ❖ The highest score belongs to New Zealand's women's team, who had amassed 490/4 against Ireland on June 8, 2018.

## Salt Lake World Cup

❖ Archer Deepika Kumari won her first individual gold medal in six years at the Salt Lake World Cup, in the USA.



- ❖ She defeated Germany's Michelle Kroppen in the recurve final.
- ❖ The win ensured Deepika will represent the country at the season-ending Archery World Cup Final in Samsun, Turkey in October 2018.
- ❖ In six appearances at the Archery World Cup, Deepika had come back with silver medals in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015 but this time she finally got the Gold.





### 2nd youngest Grandmaster

❖ Chennai lad R Praggnanandhaa created history as he became India's youngest and world's second youngest Grandmaster (12 years and 10 months) after he made it to the final round of the Gredine Open in Italy.



- ❖ Sergey Karjakin of Ukraine had become the youngest Grandmaster at 12 years, 7 months back in 1990.
- ❖ Praggnanandhaa had already achieved his first GM norm in the World Juniors 2017, and he achieved his second GM norm at a closed round-robin tournament in Greece.
- ❖ It takes three norms and an Elo rating of 2500 to become a Grandmaster.

## **Singapore National Swimming Championships**

❖ Indian swimmer Sandeep Sejwal put up an impressive performance to clinch the gold medal in men's 50m breaststroke event at the Singapore National Swimming Championships in Singapore.





- ❖ Sandeep broke the Singapore meet record with a timing of 27:59 seconds to win the gold.
- ❖ Besides, Virdhawal Khade grabbed a creditable silver medal in the 50m freestyle event with a timing of 22.68 seconds.

#### French Grand Prix

- ❖ Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the French Grand Prix from pole position to retake the lead of the Formula One title race in Le Castellet, southern France.
- ❖ It was Hamilton's 65th career win. Only Michael Schumacher has more victories with 91.

### **Ulaanbaatar Cup for Boxing**

- ❖ The Indian contingent amassed a total of nine medals one gold, four silver and four bronze medals at the Ulaanbaatar Cup in Mongolia.
- ❖ Mandeep Jangra (69kg) was the lone Indian boxer to claim a gold medal among the five finalists
- ❖ The silver medals went to both the women finalists Sonia Lather (57kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Himanshu Sharma (49kg) and Etash Khan (56kg).
- ❖ Shiva Thapa (60kg), debutant Vanhmlimpuia (75kg), Ashish (64kg), and Bina Devi Koijam (48kg) ended the tournament with bronze medals.





#### **World Para Athletics Grand Prix**

- ❖ India's Amit Kumar Saroha has clinched the gold medal in the men's club throw F51 event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Tunisia.
- ❖ The Haryana para-athlete, a world silver medallist, produced the season's best performance of 29.42m to bag the gold.
- ❖ At the 2014 Asian Para Games, Amit won two medals -- a gold in club throw and a silver in the discus throw.

## **Chemistry World Cup of Olympic Boxing 2018**

- ❖ The fast-rising Gaurav Solanki (52kg) notched up his second successive international gold medal, along with Mohammed Hussamuddin (56kg) as India ended a strong campaign with six medals at the Chemistry Cup in Halle, Germany
- ❖ The Indian contingent picked up two gold, a silver and three bronze medals in all.
- ❖ The bronze medals were claimed by Commonwealth Games silver-winner Amit Panghal (49kg), another Army man, Dheeraj Rangi (64kg), and Narender (+91kg).

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### World No Tobacco Day - May 31

- ❖ World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed around the world every year on 31 May.
- ❖ The member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) created World No Tobacco Day in 1987.







- ❖ The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2018 is "Tobacco and heart disease."
- ❖ A Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2) report shows that India is the second largest consumer of tobacco products with 28.6 percent of the population addicted to it in any form.

### World Milk Day - June 01

- ❖ In 2001, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) selected June 1st as World Milk Day
- ❖ It celebrates the important contributions of the dairy sector to sustainability, economic development, livelihoods, and nutrition.
- ❖ The Global Dairy Platform is coordinating global celebrations on June 1, 2018.
- Celebrations this year has a special campaign carried out by the Global Dairy Platform called "Raise a Glass" and a campaign hashtag: #WorldMilkDay.

### Global Day of Parents - June 01

- The Global Day of Parents is observed on the 1st of June every year.
- ❖ The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012 with resolution and honors parents throughout the world.

# Telangana formation day - June 02

- ❖ On March 4 2014, the Government of India declared June 2 2014 as the Telangana Formation Day.
- ❖ In February 2014, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 bill was passed by the Parliament of India for the formation of Telangana state comprising ten districts from north-western Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ As per the Act, Hyderabad would be the capital of Telangana, while the city would also remain the capital of the residual state of Andhra Pradesh for not more than ten years.

### World Bicycle Day - June 03

- ❖ On June 3, 2018, the first official World Bicycle Day was celebrated.
- ❖ World Bicycle Days encourage a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation.
- ❖ The declaration invited all Member States and relevant stakeholders to celebrate and promote awareness of the bicycle.





❖ The campaign to create a World Bicycle Day was a goal of the World Cycling Alliance and the European Cyclists' Federation.

## World Environment Day - 05 June

❖ The World Environment Day was observed every year across the world on June 5 with an aim to increase worldwide awareness and encourage actions for the protection of environment.



- ❖ The Day was first celebrated in 1974.
- ❖ The theme of the World Environment Day 2018 was 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
- ❖ Every World Environment Day has a different global host country, where the official celebrations take place. In 2018, it is India.
- ❖ For the year 2017, Canada was the Global Host country for the celebrations of World Environment Day.

#### World Brain Tumour Day - 08 June

- ❖ World Brain Tumour Day is celebrated annually on June 8 across the world to raise awareness about brain tumor to the public by educating them on the condition, including its signs and symptoms, management, and treatment.
- This day first observed by German Brain Tumour Association. This is a non-profit organization which raises public awareness and educates people about brain tumor.

### World Oceans Day - 08 June

❖ The World Oceans Day is being observed every year on 8th June to raise global awareness of current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans.





- ❖ The day also seeks to provide unique opportunity to honor, protect, and conserve the world's oceans.
- ❖ The focus of World Oceans Day 2018 is on 'Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean'.



- ❖ It also coincided with the theme of World Environment Day 2018- 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had designated 8 June as the World Oceans Day in 2008 by passing its resolution.

### World Day against Child Labour - 12 June

❖ The World Day against Child Labour is observed every year across the world on June 12 with an aim to raise awareness against child labour.



- ❖ This year's theme is 'Generation Safe & Healthy'.
- ❖ The World Day Against Child Labour was launched by International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002.

## International Albinism Awareness Day – 13 June

- ❖ International Albinism Awareness Day was observed on 13th June all over the world.
- ❖ The theme for International Albinism Awareness Day 2018 is: "shining our light to the world".





- ❖ The International Albinism Awareness Day is observed to preserve the rights of persons with albinism and take efforts to ensure equal access for them in employment, education, justice, and good health.
- ❖ Albinism is a genetic condition that causes very little or no pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes.
- ❖ In 2014, the UN General Assembly declared 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day with effect from 2015.

## World Blood Donor day - 14 June

❖ The World Blood Donor Day is being observed across the world on 14 June to raise the public awareness about the need for safe blood donation.



- ❖ The theme for Blood Donation Day in 2018 is 'Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life'
- ❖ World Blood Donor Day is being celebrated annually since 2004. It is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the WHO.





### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - 15 June

- ❖ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day has been observed every year on June 15.
- ❖ The day aims to focus global attention on the problem of physical, emotional, and financial abuse of elders.
- ❖ The first WEAAD was observed in 2012, and was marked by meetings and conferences at the UN headquarters in New York.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly has designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

### International Day of Family Remittances - 16 June

- ❖ The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is observed every year on 16 June across the world.
- ❖ It is aimed at recognizing significant financial contribution migrant workers make to the well-being of their families back home and to the sustainable development of their countries of origin.
- ❖ The IDFR was unanimously proclaimed by all 176 member states of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s Governing Council at its 38th session in February 2015.
- ❖ Later it was adopted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in June 2018 through a resolution. The first IDFR was celebrated on 16 June 2015.

### World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - 17 June

- ❖ The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD) is observed every year on June 17 across to world to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
- The day aims to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and cooperation at all levels.
- ❖ The 2018 Theme of WDCDD is "Land has true value invest in it."
- ❖ The global observance of WDCD2018 was hosted by Government of Ecuador.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had designated June 17 as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought in 1994 through resolution.
- ❖ It was observed for the first time in 1995. The date marks adaptation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by UNGA in 1994.





### World Sustainable Gastronomy Day - 18 June

- ❖ The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed every year on June 18 across the world.
- Gastronomy is a study of the relationship between food and culture.
- ❖ The day acknowledges gastronomy as cultural expression related to the natural and cultural diversity of the world.
- The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting a resolution in December 2016.

## Goa Revolution Day - 18 June

- ❖ Goa, an erstwhile Portuguese colony, will celebrate Goa Revolution Day on June 18 to commemorate the saga of the struggle of the people of Goa for freedom.
- On 18 June 1946, freedom fighter Ram Manohar Lohia gave a clarion call to the people of the state to resist the oppressive policies of the colonialists in 1946.
- ❖ Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule on December 19, 1961 after 450 years.

### World Refugee Day - 20 June

- ❖ The World Refugee Day is observed every year June 20 to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.
- Observance of this day seeks to draw attention to the plight of refugees and also to celebrate their courage and resilience and renew commitment to solving refugee problems.



❖ The theme for World Refugee Day 2018 is "Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees."





- ❖ The World Refugee Day was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by passing Resolution on 4 December 2000.
- ❖ The resolution was passed to mark the 50th anniversary of UN Refugee Convention, 1951. Since then it is observed annually with different themes.

# International Yoga Day - June 21

- ❖ International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015.
- ❖ An international day for yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ June 21 is chosen as International Yoga Day as is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares special significance in many parts of the world.
- ❖ This year, the national event was held at Dehradun's Forest Research Institute with the participation of Prime Minister.
- A Rajasthan created a world record bringing over a lakh of people together at a yoga session to mark the International Day of Yoga.
- ❖ The theme for 2018 was "Yoga for Peace."

### Fête de la Musique - June 21

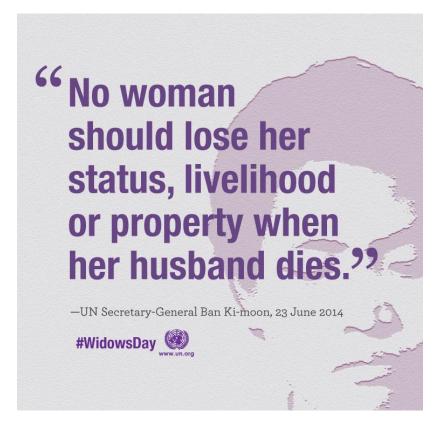
- ❖ The Fête de la Musique, also known as Music Day, Make Music Day or World Music Day.
- ❖ It is an annual music celebration that takes place on 21 June.

### International Widows' Day - 23 June

- ❖ International Widows Day is a global awareness day that takes place annually on 23rd June.
- ❖ The day was launched by the United Nations in 2010 to raise awareness of the violation of human rights that widows suffer in many countries following the death of their spouses.







The day is an opportunity for action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows, who have been living with an invisible status for too long invisible.

### United Nations Public Service Day - 23 June

- ❖ Every year 23 June is being observed as the United Nations Public Service Day by the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ The United Nations Public Service Day was instituted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by passing a resolution on December 20, 2002.
- ❖ The day seeks to mark the invaluable contributions of public servants and administrators to build a better world for all.

### International Olympic Day - 23 June

- The International Olympic Day was celebrated on 23 June annually
- ❖ The International Olympic Day was initiated in 1948 for commemorating the commencement of modern Olympic Games on 23 June 1894 at Sorbonne in Paris.
- ❖ There are three main pillars of the International Olympic Day discover, learn and move.







❖ These three pillars of the sports event are deployed by the National Olympic Committees into sports, educational and cultural activities.

# Day of the Seafarer - 25 June

- ❖ The Day of the Seafarer is being observed every year on 25 June across the globe as an expression of thanks to the seafarers for their contribution to the economy and civil society of the world.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2018 is 'Seafarers wellbeing'. It highlights issues of seafarers wellbeing, particularly mental health.



- ❖ The Day of the Seafarer was designated by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 2010.
- ❖ It was established in a resolution adopted by 2010 Diplomatic Conference in Manila to adopt revised Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW)Convention, 1978.





❖ For the first time it was observed in 2011 and since then it is observed annually. It has also been included in the list of observances by United Nations.

### International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - 26 June

- ❖ The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on June 26 across the world to raise awareness of a major problem that illicit drugs.
- ❖ The day was officially instituted by UN after UN General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting a resolution in December 1987.
- ❖ The date was chosen to commemorate Lin Zexu's (Chinese scholar and official of the Qing dynasty) dismantling of the opium trade in Humen, Guangdong, just before the First Opium War in China (1839–42).

## UN MSME Day - 27 June

- ❖ The Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), will organize a National Conclave (UdyamSangam) on 27th June 2018 on the occasion of UN MSME Day.
- ❖ The purpose of the Conclave is to encourage dialogue and partnership among various stakeholders of the MSME ecosystem and for promoting innovation and knowledge sharing on MSME related issues.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly in its 74th Plenary held on the 6th April 2017 declared 27th June as Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day, recognizing the importance of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM)**

- United States has renamed its oldest and largest strategically important military command US Pacific Command (PACOM) to Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM).
- ❖ The decision was taken in recognition of growing importance of Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking.
- ❖ The Trump administration already has renamed the Asia Pacific as Indo-Pacific and identified India as one bookend of the region.
- ❖ Now renamed INDOPACOM will now extend its reach from the Pacific Ocean to Indian Ocean Region.





### **Birmingham International Dance Festival**

- ❖ Birmingham International Dance Festival organised by Dance Xchange, a Birmingham-based dance organisation, has been started.
- Birmingham International Dance Festival (BIDF) is a biennial festival presenting programmes of international dance in public spaces across Birmingham.
- ❖ This festival is started in 2008.

### European Union Film Festival (EUFF) 2018

- ❖ The 23rd edition of European Union Film Festival (EUFF) will premiere in New Delhi at the Siri Fort Auditorium.
- ❖ The European Union Film Festival is organized by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India partnering with the Delegation of the European Union and embassies of EU Member States.

# McKinsey Report - India

- ❖ According to a new McKinsey report, Indian cities fare poorer than even their Latin American and African counterparts when it comes to adoption of technology for smart cities
- ❖ McKinsey Global Institute measured "smartness" by the adoption levels of technology-led infrastructure.
- ❖ The 50 major cities around the world measured on their smart progress included three Indian cities in the report.
- ❖ With a maximum of 37 points for the strength of smart city technology base, Jaipur scored only 2.7 (lowest among the cities studied), Pune 6.4 (at par with Nairobi) and Mumbai 8.8, even below Cape Town, Mexico City and Tel Aviv.
- ❖ The smart cities mission was launched in 2015 in Pune.

### 'World's first space nation'

- \* Russian billionaire and scientist Igor Ashurbeyli officially declared himself as the leader of the world's first space nation 'Asgardia'.
- ❖ Ashurbeyli's brainchild Asgardia aims to be an independent space nation, with its own government, currency, justice system and calendar.





❖ Focused towards establishing a permanent settlement on the moon in 25 years, Asgardia already has 2 lakh citizens.

------