

Current Affairs Of December 2018

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PARA INSTITUTE

National

Indian-Origin Women In Forbes US Top 50 Females In Tech

i. Four Indian-origin technology executives have made it to the **Forbes' list of**



America's 50 women in technology space in 2018.

ii. The list includes **Neha Narkhede**, chief technology officer and co-founder of streaming platform Confluent; **Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan**, CEO, and founder of identity-management company Drawbridge; **Padmasree Warrior**, former chief technology officer (CTO) of Cisco, and **Komal Mangtani**, senior director at Uber.

HM Rajnath Singh Inaugurated 19th Hornbill Festival In Nagaland

i. Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **19th Hornbill Festival in Nagaland** on **55th Nagaland Statehood Day**. In 1963, Nagaland attains its statehood and was declared as the 16th state of the Indian Union, by Dr. Sarvapelli Radhakrishna, the then President of India.

ii. The fest aims to display the rich traditions and the vibrant culture of Nagaland through **colourful performances, crafts, sports, food fairs, games, and ceremonies**. US Ambassador to India **Kenneth I Juster** was invited as the guest of honour.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Nagaland CM: Neiphiu Rio, Governor: PB Acharya.**

South African President To be Chief Guest At Republic Day Celebrations 2019

i. South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** will be the **Chief Guest at the 2019 Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi**. The announcement was made by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **South Africa Capitals:** Pretoria (administrative), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (judicial), **Currency:** South African rand.

India's 1st Engine-Less 'Train 18' Breaches 180 kmph Speed Limit

i. India's first locomotive-less train, known as **Train 18**, has breached the **180 kilometers per hour speed limit** during a test run at Kota-Sawai Madhopur section in Rajasthan. When this indigenously designed train is made operational, **it will become the country's fastest train.**



ii. Train 18 is capable of touching 200 kilometers per hour provided the rest of the Indian Railways' system, such as tracks and signals, permit. With 16 coaches, the train will have the same passenger carrying capacity as that of the Shatabdi Express.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Developed by Chennai-based **Integral Coach Factory** in 18 months, the fully AC train is designed in such a way that passengers can see the driver's cabin.
- **'Train 18'** will commence its commercial run from January 2019.

Global Agriculture & Food Summit 2018 Held in Jharkhand

i. Union Agriculture Minister **Radha Mohan**

Singh inaugurated **Global Agriculture and Food Summit 2018** in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Seven countries, including China, Israel and Malaysia are participating in the two-day Summit.

ii. Several dignitaries attended the inaugural ceremony including **Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das** and **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Smt. Droupadi Murmu** is the present Governor of Jharkhand.



'SHOUT' Feature Introduced In The '112 India' Mobile App

i. Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** announced a pan-India single-number emergency mobile app '**112 India**' and stated that it will have a special



women safety feature 'SHOUT' to get immediate assistance from police and volunteers. It is connected to the **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)**.

ii. Under the ERSS project, people will be able to receive immediate assistance from **police, health and fire departments** as well as from other agencies using a pan-India single emergency number **112**.

Nagaland Becomes First North-Eastern State To Launch Single Emergency Number '112'

i. Nagaland became the first state in the Northeast and second in the country, after Himachal Pradesh, to launch a pan-India single-number (112) emergency mobile

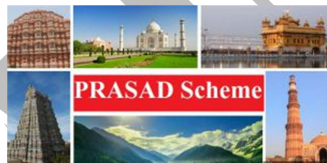


application which will have a special women safety feature for immediate assistance from police and volunteers.

ii. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh stated that a 'SHOUT' feature has been made available exclusively for women in the '112 India' mobile app which is connected to the **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)**.

Gangotri, Yamunotri Included Under PRASAD Scheme

i. The Centre included **Gangotri and Yamunotri** in Uttarakhand,



Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and **Parasnath** in Jharkhand under a central scheme to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country, a **tourism ministry** statement stated.

ii. With the new additions, the number of sites under the **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)** launched by the ministry in 2014-15 has now become **41 in 25 states**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Tourism minister of India: Shri. K.J. Alphons**, Minister of State (Independent Charge).

Kannur International Airport In Kerala Begins Operations

i. The **Kannur international Airport-KIAL** in Kerala began its operations with Union minister for civil aviation **Suresh Prabhu** and Kerala Chief minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** jointly lighting the lamp inside the terminal building, marking the inauguration of the airport.



ii. Later the first flight from the Airport to **Abu Dhabi** was flagged off. With this, Kerala became the **only state in the country with four international airports**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Kerala Governor: Palanisamy Sathasivam**, **Capital: Thiruvananthapuram**.

1st International Conference on 'Sustainable Water Management' Held in Mohali

i. The first International Conference on 'Sustainable Water Management' was held at **Indian School of Business (ISB) in Mohali, Punjab**.



ii. The conference was organized by **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)** under the aegis of the National Hydrology Project of the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

iii. The theme of the international conference is '**Sustainable Water Management**'.

HCL To Buy 7 IBM Products for \$1.8 bn In Its Biggest Acquisition

i. **Noida-based IT major HCL Technologies** will acquire seven IBM products by mid-2019 for **\$1.8 billion** (over Rs 12,700 crore) in its **biggest ever acquisition** so far.

ii. The all-cash deal entails software in areas including **security, marketing, collaboration solutions**, and represents a total addressable market of over **\$50 billion**. The deal includes the transfer of some IBM employees as well.

"The Republican Ethic" and "Loktantra ke Swar" Books Released

i. The Vice President of India **Shri M.Venkiah Naidu** released **Compilation of Selected speeches of the President, Ram Nath Kovind** titled, "The

Republican Ethic” in English and **“Loktantra ke Swar”** in Hindi at a function in Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

ii. Both the books- The Republican Ethic & Loktantra ke Swar are a collection of President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind’s selected speeches made by him in the **first year** of assuming the office. The event has been organized by the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**.

India’s Heaviest Satellite GSAT-11 Successfully Launched

i. India’s heaviest, largest and most powerful satellite GSAT-11 was successfully launched by an Arianespace rocket from the French Guiana. Blasting off from the Ariane Launch Complex in Kourou, the Ariane-5 vehicle injected the GSAT-11 into the orbit in a flawless flight lasting about 33 minutes.



ii. The satellite will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country and also be a platform to demonstrate new generation applications.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Director:** K. Sivan, **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, **Established in:** 1969.

Gender Wage Gap Highest In India, Women Are Paid 34% Less Than Men: ILO

i. According to the **Global Wage Report 2018-19** published

by **International Labour Organization**



International Labour Organization

(ILO), Women are paid the **most unequally in India**, compared to men, when it comes to hourly wages for labor.

ii. On average, women are paid **34% less** than men. This gap in wages, known as the **gender wage gap**, is the highest among **73 countries**. Overall, real wages grew just **1.8%** globally (136 countries) in **2017**. In real terms (adjusted for price inflation), global wage growth declined to **1.8% in 2017**, from **2.4% in 2016**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The ILO is a **United Nations** agency dealing with labour issues, particularly international labour standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all.

- It was established in **1919** as an agency of the League of Nations and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- India is a **founder member** of the ILO.
- At present, it has **187** members.

FAO Council Approves India’s Proposals

i. **Food and Agriculture organisation**, FAO Council has approved India’s proposal to observe an **International Year of Millets in 2023**. Agriculture Minister **Radha Mohan Singh** stated that the 160th session of the FAO Council, in **Rome** approved the proposal.

ii. The FAO Council has also approved **India’s membership to the Executive Board** of the United Nations World Food Program for **2020 and 2021**.

Annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit 2018 Held In Goa

i. The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** in the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and



the **Government of Goa**, hosted the **annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit in Goa**.

ii. The theme of the Summit was **‘Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India.’** The event showcased the Indian startup opportunity for funds from around the world.

Kolkata-Patna Becomes India’s Second Container Cargo Sector On Inland Waterways

i. **Kolkata-Patna** is India’s new **Inland Water Transport (IWT)** origin-destination pair for containerised cargo movement on the National Waterway-1.



ii. The **Ministry of Shipping** is developing **NW-1 (River Ganga)** under **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)** from **Haldia to Varanasi (1390 Km)** with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank at an estimated cost of **Rs 5369 crore**.

India To Retain Top Position In Remittances With USD 80 billion: World Bank

i. India will retain its position as the world's top recipient of remittances in 2018 with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 80 billion back home, according to the World Bank report.

ii. India is followed by China (USD 67 billion), Mexico and the Philippines (USD 34 billion each) and Egypt (USD 26 billion), according to the global lender.

iii. The Bank estimates that officially-recorded remittances to developing countries will increase by 10.8% to reach USD 528 billion in 2018.

Important Takeways from above news-

- In 2017, remittances constituted 2.7% of India's GDP.
- **World Bank President:** Jim Yong Kim, **Headquarters:** Washington, United States, D.C.,

Salman Khan Tops Forbes' Richest Indian Celebrity List 2018

i. Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is the richest Indian celebrity, according to the **2018 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list**, which he has topped for the third consecutive year. Shah Rukh Khan has fallen out of the top 10 list.

ii. Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli jumped one spot to the second rank, with total earnings of Rs 228.09 crore, a sharp increase of 116.53 percent from the previous year. Actor Akshay Kumar completed the top three, with Rs 185 crore in earnings in the period under consideration for the list.

Admiral Sunil Lanba Released Book Titled 'Blue Waters Ahoy!'

i. Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff, released a book titled '**Blue Waters Ahoy!**' – chronicling the Indian Navy's History from 2001-10.



The unveiling was a part of an At Home function held at the Navy House in the presence of Ramnath Kovind, the President of India and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

ii. The book has been authored by Vice Admiral Anup Singh, who retired as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command in 2011.

Delhi HC Bans Online Sale of Medicines Across India

i. The Delhi High Court ordered a ban on the **sale of online medicines by e-pharmacists across the country**. The court



directed both Central and state government to ensure immediate implementation of the order.

ii. The HC bench comprising **Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V K Rao** passed the judgment while hearing a PIL filed by Delhi-based dermatologist Zaheer Ahmed who complained that lakhs of medicines were being sold on the internet every day without much regulation, posing a huge risk to patients and doctors alike.

India's 1st Private UAV Factory Comes Up in Hyderabad

i. India' first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) opened at **Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad**.



ii. Built by the Adani Group and Israel-based Elbit Systems, the 50,000 square feet facility will develop Hermes 900 medium altitude long-endurance UAVs for the Indian and global markets.

India Sets World Record In Nuclear Plant Operation

i. The indigenously developed **Kaiga Atomic Power Station in Karnataka** has set a new world record, with one of its units operating uninterrupted for more than 940 days. This is a **record for all kinds of nuclear power-generating units**, including advanced gas-based reactors in the world.



ii. The record was earlier held by Unit 2 of Heysham of the United Kingdom, which operated non-stop for 940 days.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Kaiga Generating Station is a nuclear power generating station situated at Kaiga, **near the**

river **Kali**, in Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka.

- The plant has been in operation since March 2000.

Jammu and Kashmir Becomes 1st State To Bring Law Against 'Sextortion'

i. Jammu and Kashmir has become the **first state in the country** to enact a law **banning sexual exploitation of women** “by

those in positions of authority, having a fiduciary relationship or a public servant”, Under Section **354E** of the **Ranbir Penal Code (RPC)**.

ii. Any person committing the offence of sextortion shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term not be less than **three years**, but may extend to **five years** and with fine. The offence is “**non-bailable**” and “**not compoundable**”.



ISRO Launched GSAT- 7A Communication Satellite

- The **GSLV F 11** carrying **GSAT 7A** was successfully launched from the **Space research Centre Sriharikota** by **ISRO**.
- The last launch of this year is a dedicated mission for updating and increasing the capability of the Country's defence forces. **GSLV F 11** carries the **2250 kilogram GSAT 7A from Sriharikota**.
- The rocket spewed out the satellite within 20 minutes after lift off from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **ISRO Director:** K. Sivan, **Headquarters:** Bengaluru.
- The rocket, **GSLV F 11** is the fourth generation launch vehicle with three stages.

WEF Gender Gap Index 2018: Iceland Tops, India Ranks 108th

i. India has been ranked **108th** in **World Economic Forum (WEF) gender gap index 2018**, same as 2017 while recording improvement in wage equality for similar work and fully closing its tertiary education gender gap for the first time.

ii. As per the WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2018, Iceland topped the list having closed more than

85.8% of its overall gender gap. The Report was published for total **149 countries**. **Norway and Sweden** were on **2nd and 3rd position**, respectively.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **The founder and Chairman of WEF-** Klaus Schwab.
- **WEF Headquarters** in Switzerland.

Surrogacy Bill Passed In Lok Sabha

i. Lok Sabha has passed the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016** which is aimed at prohibiting commercial surrogacy and unethical practices relating to it. The Bill has provisions to constitute **National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards, and appointment of appropriate authorities for regulation of surrogacy.**

ii. It permits surrogacy only for **couples who cannot conceive a child**. The intending couple must be **Indian citizens** and married for **at least five years** with **at least one of them being infertile**. The surrogate mother has to be a **close relative** who has been married and **has a child of her own**.

India's Largest Cancer Institute Launched At AIIMS' Jhajjar Campus

- India's largest cancer institute**, the **National Cancer Institute (NCI)** has been soft launched at **Haryana's Jhajjar** area. The institute was finalised at a cost of **Rs 2,035 crore** and the project was approved by the cabinet committee in **2013**.
- The aim isto strengthen research and also bring down the patient load at All India Institute of Medical Sciences' (**AIIMS**) cancer centre. The hospital will be fully functional by **December 2020**.

Capital First Merged With IDFC Bank to Create IDFC First Bank

i. IDFC Bank and non-banking financial company (NBFC) Capital First has announced the **completion of their merger**, creating a combined loan asset book of **Rs 1.03 lakh crore** for the merged entity **IDFC First Bank**. The merged entity to be called **IDFC First Bank**, subject to shareholders' approval.

ii. Following the merger, the board of IDFC Bank approved the **appointment of V**



Vaidyanathan, founder and chairman of Capital First Ltd, as **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** of the merged entity.

Important Takeways from above news-

- IDFC Bank Headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Book 'Changing India' By Manmohan Singh Released

i. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released his book titled "Changing India" at an event in **New Delhi**.

ii. In the book, the Congress leader narrated his journey from an economist to a politician and shared anecdotes from his life.

India, China Hold First People-to-People Exchanges Meeting

i. External Affairs Minister Sushma

Swaraj and her Chinese counterpart **Wang Yi** co-chaired the **first-ever**

meeting of India-China High-Level Mechanism on **Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges** in **New Delhi**.

ii. India and China had decided to set up people to people mechanism during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit** in **China**.



FAA Retains Highest Aviation Safety Ranking For India

i. The US regulator **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** has retained the **highest aviation safety ranking** for **India**.



The Federal Aviation Administration carried out an audit of the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** in July 2018.

ii. FAA formally confirmed that India's **International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA)** rating remains '**Category 1**'.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Category 1 means the carriers from the assessed state may initiate or continue service

to the US in a normal manner and take part in reciprocal code-share arrangements with American carriers.

India's Vedangi Kulkarni Becomes Fastest Asian to Cycle The Globe

i. The 20-year old Indian woman Vedangi Kulkarni (Pune) becomes the fastest Asian to cycle the globe.

ii. She had completed **29,000 kilometres'** distance required to qualify as bicycling across the globe. Vedangi spent 159 days peddling up to 300 kilometers a day in 14 countries.



Important Takeways from above news-

- British adventurer Jenny Graham (38) became the fastest woman to have cycled the globe in 124 days in 2018, which was three weeks faster than the previous record.

India Successfully Test-Fires Nuclear-Capable Agni-IV Missile

i. India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable long-range ballistic missile Agni-IV, with a strike range of **4,000 km**, as part of a user trial by the Army.



ii. The strategic **surface-to-surface Agni-IV missile** was flight tested from launch complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Dr Abdul Kalam Island, earlier known as Wheeler Island.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The indigenously developed sophisticated Agni-IV having 4,000 km strike range is a two-stage missile.
- It is 20 meters long with a weight of 17 tonnes.

10 Monuments Adopted Under 'Adopt A Heritage' Project

i. The '**Adopt A Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan**', scheme is a collaborative effort by Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), to enhance tourism potential and cultural importance in a planned and phased manner.

ii. No fund is given by Ministry of Tourism. The list of monuments/sites identified and adopted by companies (monument-wise, company-wise and state-wise) under the adopt a heritage scheme are:

Sl. No.	Agency/Monument	Sl. No.	Name of Monument	State
1.	Dalmia Bharat Ltd.	1.	Red Fort	Delhi
		2.	Gandikota Fort	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Adventure Operators Association of India	3.	Area surrounding Gangotri Temple and Trail to Gaumukh	Uttrakhand
		4.	Mt. Stok Kangri Trek, and Lakakh	Jammu and Kashmir
3.	Apeejay Hotels	5.	Jantar Mantar	Delhi
4.	Bliss Inns (V-Resorts)	6.	Surajkund	Haryana
5.	Yatra Online	7.	Qutub Minar	Delhi
		8.	Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra
		9.	Leh Palace, Leh	Jammu & Kashmir
		10.	Hampi (Hazara Rama Temple)	Karnataka

NITI Aayog Releases SDG India Index: Baseline Report 2018

i. The NITI Aayog released the **Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index**, which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets.

ii. The SDG India Index, which was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Global Green Growth Institute and United Nations in India, was launched by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar.

iii. **Overall Findings:**

Particular	State	UT
SDG India Index Score Range	42-69	57-68
Top Performer/s	Himachal Pradesh & Kerala	Chandigarh
Aspirant	Uttar Pradesh	Dadra & Nagar Haveli

PM Releases Commemorative Rs 100 Coin In Honour Of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases a **100 rupees commemorative coin** in honour of former **Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

ii. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary, which falls on 25th December, is celebrated as '**Good Governance Day**'. He was conferred with the Bharat Ratna was in 2014.

NABCB Accreditation Secures Recognition in Asia-Pacific Region

i. The **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)**, India's national accreditation body, has secured equivalence for its accreditation programme for **Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) Certification Bodies in Asia-Pacific region**.

ii. **NABCB is the third accreditation body in the Asia Pacific Region** to become internationally



equivalent in the region, the other two being the accreditation bodies of **Hong Kong and Mexico**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- NABCB, a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India, is responsible for accreditation of certification/inspection bodies as per applicable international standards under an international system of equivalence.

3 States Among Best Performing States Under Maternity Benefit Programme: WCD

i. Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were the top three performing states under the maternity benefit programme Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

ii. Minister of State for the Women and Child Development Ministry Virendra Kumar stated PMMVY is a centrally-sponsored scheme under which the cost-sharing ratio between the Centre, states and the Union Territories with the legislation is 60:40.

GST Council Cuts Rates on 23 items, Rationalises 28% Slab

i. In a relief to the common man, the **GST Council cut rates on 23 commonly used goods and services, including TV screens, movie tickets and power banks.**

ii. As per the announcement made by **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley**, the annual revenue implication of the rate cuts would be Rs5,500 crore.

iii. Now, the **28% slab is restricted to only luxury and sin goods**, apart from auto parts and cement — tax rates on which could not be cut due to the high revenue implication.

iv. GST on movie tickets costing up to Rs100 was cut to 12% from 18%, while tickets over Rs100 will attract 18% tax, against 28% earlier. This will have a revenue implication of Rs 900 crore.

HM Rajnath Singh Releases The List Of Best Performing Police Stations

i. Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** released the list of best-performing police stations across the nation during the ongoing DGP



conference. On the top of the rank-list stands **Kalu police station of Rajasthan**.

ii. Singh awarded trophies to the police officers of the **top three police stations** of India in 2018 at the conference. The top three police stations in India for 2018 are:

1. **Kalu** (Bikaner, Rajasthan).
2. **Campbell Bay** (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
3. **Farakka** (Murshidabad, West Bengal).

PM Modi Inaugurated Bogibeel Bridge in Assam
PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bogibeel bridge in Assam. The 4.94-kilometer long Bogibeel bridge **on Brahmaputra river** will connect the two northeast states of **Assam and Arunachal Pradesh**.

This Bogibeel Bridge on Brahmaputra river marks a historic milestone towards achieving the goal of New India. It was in 2002, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee commenced the construction of the double-decker bridge in Dibrugarh of Assam.

Important Facts about the Bogibeel bridge:

1. The 4.9 km-long Bogibeel Bridge on the Brahmaputra river is India's only fully welded bridge for which European codes and welding standards were adhered to for the first time in the country.
2. The bridge reduces travel time from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh to four hours and will cut out the detour of over 170 km via Tinsukia.

Bhutanese PM Dr. Lotay Tshering On 3-day Visit To India

i. Prime Minister of Bhutan **Dr. Lotay Tshering** arrived in New Delhi on a three-day official visit to **India**.

ii. The visit of the Bhutanese Prime Minister is taking place during the Golden Jubilee year of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.



Andhra Pradesh Gets New High Court in Amaravati

i. The separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh will start functioning from January 1. Ministry of Law and Justice notified the **constitution of the High Court in Amaravati.**



ii. Andhra Pradesh High Court will be the **25th High Court in the country.** The Hyderabad High Court has been functioning as common high court till now after bifurcation of undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Telangana was carved out of the state in 2014, with Hyderabad as its capital.
- The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act 2014 provided for a separate high court for the state after division.

National Children's Science Congress Begins In Bhubaneswar

i. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 26th edition of **National Children's Science Congress in Bhubaneswar** in which as many as 800 students from ten Asian and seven Gulf countries are participating.

ii. This year's theme is 'Science, Technology and Innovations: For clean, green and healthy nation'.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Ganeshi Lal is the present Governor of Odisha.

Cabinet Approves Amendment in POSCO Act, 2012

i. The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.** The changes prescribe stringent punishment, including the death penalty for aggravated penetrative sexual assault of children.

ii. Further, hefty fine would be imposed for not deleting, not destroying child pornographic material or not reporting child pornography. Attempt to inject hormones in children to make them major has been made an aggravated offence under Section 9 of the POCSO Act.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Ravi Shankar Prasad is the present Minister of Law and Justice in India.

42nd Indian Social Science Congress Inaugurated in Odisha

i. The 42nd Indian Social Science Congress was inaugurated by **Manipur governor DrNajma Heptulla** at KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



ii. The theme of the Congress was **'Human Future in Digital Era.'**

PM Modi Renames 3 Islands of Andaman & Nicobar

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled 150-foot tall tricolor to mark Netaji's hoisting of the national flag 75 years ago **in Port Blair.** The Prime Minister also released a commemorative stamp, its first-day cover and a Rs-75 coin on this special day.

ii. The three renamed islands of Andaman and Nicobar are:

1. Ross renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep
2. Neil renamed as Shaheed Dweep
3. Havelock renamed as Swaraj Dweep.

Swachh Surveksahan Award For GHMC

i. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation was awarded **Best Capital City** in the **Solid Waste Management** in the **Swachh Survekshan 2018 rankings.**

ii. The GHMC was also at the **27th place** among **4,041 cities.**

Book 'Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From' By Tony Joseph Released

i. The book titled "Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From" written by **Tony Joseph** was released.

ii. The book talks about the migration of the First Indians also known as 'Aryans' who arrived here 65,000 years ago.

NITI Aayog Releases 2nd Delta Ranking of Aspirational Districts

The NITI Aayog released the **Second Delta ranking for the Aspirational Districts** which measures the incremental progress made by them between June 1, 2018 and October 31, 2018, across six developmental

areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion, Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure. The Second Delta Ranking was released by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.

In the overall ranking, the **most improved districts** are as follows:

Rank	District	State
1	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu
2	Nuapada	Odisha
3	Siddharthnagar	Uttar Pradesh

The Second Delta ranking also details the following districts as **Least Improved** over the period of June – October 2018:

Rank	District	State
109	Chatra	Jharkhand
110	Hailakandi	Assam
111	Pakur	Jharkhand

Paisabazaar.com Launches India's First 'Chance of Approval' Feature

i. **Paisabazaar.com**, India's largest online marketplace for financial products has launched an **industry-first feature** that will help loan applicants choose their most-suited lender on its platform. Named '**Chance of Approval**', this advanced predictive algorithm has been created by Paisabazaar.com by using the last **four years of lending data**.

ii. While this is the **first such initiative in India**, globally a few leading players, like **Credit Karma** in the US, have developed similar features to improve the acceptance rate on their platforms.

International

Israel Becomes Permanent Member of Financial Action Task Force

i. Israel became a full member of the Financial Action Task Force

(FATF), an international body set up to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other threats to the international financial system.



ii. The Jewish state has now taken its place alongside 37 other members including most of the G20, the world's 20 leading industrialized and emerging economies just 16 years after being blacklisted by the organization.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- **Israel Capital:** Jerusalem, **Currency:** Israeli new shekel.

ECB Launched TIPS Instant Payment System

i. The **European Central Bank** launched a new system aimed at letting banks settle payments instantly across Europe, helping them to compete with PayPal and other global tech giants.



ii. Developed in just over a year, the ECB's **TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS)** system will let people and companies in Europe transfer euros to each other within seconds and regardless of the opening hours of their local bank.

Important Takeways from above news-

The ECB's President is Mario Draghi and the Vice-President is Luis de Guindos

Second Largest Ebola Outbreak Spreads In Congo

i. The **second-largest Ebola outbreak** in history has spread to a major city in



eastern **Congo. Butembo**, with more than one million residents, is now reporting cases of the deadly **hemorrhagic fever**.

ii. The outbreak declared in August is now second only to the devastating **West Africa outbreak** that killed more than 11,300 people a few years ago. The **Ebola virus** spreads via **bodily fluids** of those infected, including the dead.

Australia Become 1st Country To Recognise 'Orphanage Trafficking' As Slavery

i. **Australia** has become the first country in the world to recognise '**orphanage trafficking**' as a **form of modern slavery**. Children from smaller countries are recruited



in orphanages in the West for the purpose of profit through foreign aid.

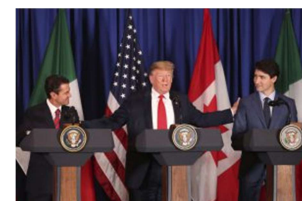
ii. According to the US State Department, "many orphanages use the children to raise funds by forcing them to perform shows for or interact and play with potential donors to encourage more donations". As per estimates, **80%** of children living in the world's orphanages have **at least one living parent**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Australia Capital:** Canberra, **Currency:** Australian Dollar.

US, Mexico And Canada Sign USMCA To Replace NAFTA

i. US President **Donald Trump**, Mexican President **Enrique Peña Nieto**, and Canadian PM **Justin Trudeau** signed the new **US-Mexico-Canada**



Agreement (USMCA) which will replace the **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**.

ii. USMCA will govern over a trillion dollars worth of trade between the three countries. They signed an authorization for the deal in **Buenos Aires** on the sidelines of the **Group of 20 summit**. The deal requires ratification by all three countries' legislatures before taking effect.

Asia Pacific Summit-2018 Begins in Kathmandu

i. The Asia Pacific Summit-2018 began

in **Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal**. The theme of two-day Summit is “**Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values**”.



ii. Around 1500 participants from 45 countries, including India, attending the summit. They will discuss various global issues, including peace, development, good governance and role of parliamentarians, climate change and role of media.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli** is the current Prime Minister of Nepal.
- **Bidya Devi Bhandari** is the current President of Nepal and commander in chief of Nepalese Army.

G-20 Summit Buenos Aires 2018: Complete Highlights

i. The **G-20 Summit 2018** was held in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. G-20 is a grouping of the world's 20 major economies. This year, the theme of the summit was '**Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development**'.



ii. **Climate change:** G20 signatories to the Paris Agreement on climate, which is all of them except the US, pledged the “full implementation” of the pact, which they called “irreversible.” They also took note, without further pledges, of UN scientists’ call for a more ambitious target of reducing warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels

Katowice Climate Change Conference 2018 Held in Poland

i. The UN climate summits, i.e. so called **COP (Conference of the Parties)** are global conferences, in the course of which action for climate policy is negotiated. The **Climate Change Conference 2018 was held in Katowice, Poland**.

ii. For the first time, the climate summit took place in Katowice. This year's summit included: 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), 14th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

(CMP 14) and the 1st Conference of Signatories to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1).

Qatar To Leave OPEC From January 2019

i. **Qatar** has announced its decision to leave the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** from January 2019 and focus more



on the production of natural gas. The announcement was made by **Qatar’s new energy minister, Saad al-Kaabi**.

ii. Qatar is the world’s largest exporter of LPG. Qatar also wants to raise its oil production from 4.8

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- **HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo** is the Secretary General of OPEC.
- OPEC headquarters in **Vienna, Capital of Austria**.

SpaceX Launches 64 Satellites Aboard Reusable Rocket

i. **SpaceX successfully launched 64 small satellites**, including India’s **ExseedSAT-1** in the company’s largest-ever “rideshare” mission on a twice-reused Falcon 9 rocket that lifted off from a California launchpad.



ii. The Falcon 9 rocket carried 15 micro-satellites and 49 CubeSats belonging to 34 different clients including public, private and university sources from 17 different countries across the world including South Korea, France and Kazakhstan.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Space Exploration Technologies Corp., doing business as SpaceX, is a private American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation services company headquartered in Hawthorne, California.

- Elon Musk is the founder of SpaceX.

UAE Passport Ranked Most Powerful Globally: Arton Capital

i. The UAE now has the world's most powerful passport, achieving the top ranking in an achievement hailed as a tribute to the legacy of the **Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed**, and the country's diplomacy.

ii. The index, compiled by Arton Capital, ranks national passports based on the number of countries a holder can enter without a visa or by obtaining one on arrival. India was ranked 140th in the list.

iii. Top 3 countries on **INDIVIDUAL PASSPORT POWER RANK** are:

1. The UAE
2. Singapore
3. Germany

Luxembourg To Become First Country To Make Public Transport Free

i. Luxembourg is set to become the first country in the world to make all public transport free, implementing the move in 2020.

ii. The move is aimed at addressing environmental issues and the problem of traffic congestion. Earlier, Luxembourg introduced free transport for all people under the age of 20.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Luxembourg Capital:** Luxembourg
City, Currency: Euro.



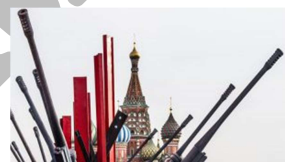
Russia Emerges As World's No. 2 Arms Producer: SIPRI Report

i. A Swedish think tank **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** announced that Russia has emerged as the world's second-largest arms producer after the United States.

ii. Russia surpassed Britain, which had held that spot since 2002 and remains Western Europe's No. 1 arms maker.

Important Takeways from above news-

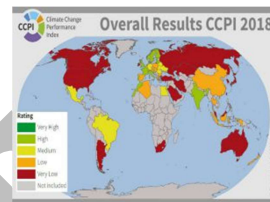
- **Russia Capital:** Moscow, **Currency:** Russian ruble.



Climate Change Performance Index 2019: India Ranks 11th, Sweden Tops

i. The **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2019** was released on the sidelines of a UN summit on global warming. As per the Index, **Sweden has topped the list while India was on 11th position.**

ii. The European Union as a whole rose from 21st to 16th place, but its biggest economy, Germany, fell from 22nd to 27th because of its reliance on lignite coal, a big source of greenhouse gas emissions. Saudi Arabia came last, in 60th place, partly due to its obstructive role during international climate negotiations.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **Sweden Capital:** Stockholm, **Currency:** Swedish krona.

World's 1st Floating Nuclear Plant Operational In Russia

i. **Akademik Lomonosov**, the world's first "floating" nuclear power plant (FNPP) for installation in remote areas, has been started and brought to 10% of its capacity, Russian state-run atomic energy corporation Rosatom announced.

ii. An FNPP is basically a mobile, low-capacity reactor unit operable in remote areas isolated from the main power distribution system, or in places hard to access by land.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Russia Capital:** Moscow, **Currency:** Russian ruble.

39th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit Held In Riyadh

i. The **39th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit** was inaugurated by the **King Salman** of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh. It was announced at the conclusion of the summit that the **40th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit** will be held in the United Arab Emirates.

ii. The summit was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on December 11-12, 2018. The King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud presided over the summit. The summit discussed various regional and international issues, including the situation in Yemen and the Middle East. The summit also discussed the upcoming 40th GCC summit, which will be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2019.



ii. The presidency of GCC shifts among the six members based on the Arabic alphabet. Although the 39th summit was held in Riyadh upon a request from Oman, Oman will be the president for the next 12 months.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The **Gulf Cooperation Council** was established in 1981 in Abu Dhabi.
- The GCC comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

UN Climate Conference 2018 Held in Poland

i. The **UN Climate Conference 2018** was held recently in **Katowice, Poland**. In the meeting ministers of 200 nations finally reached consensus on rules to **implement the 2015 Paris climate agreement**.

ii. The Paris accord aims to limit the rise in global atmospheric temperature to well below **2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial revolution levels**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Michal Kurtyka** was the president of COP24.
- **Poland Capital:** Warsaw, **Currency:** Polish zloty.

UAE Declares 2019 As the Year Of Tolerance

i. **UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan** declared **2019** as the **Year of Tolerance**, an extension of the **Year of Zayed** which has run this year.



ii. The leader stated that 2019 would highlight the UAE as a global **capital for tolerance, instilling the values of co-existence and peace in local, regional and international communities**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **UAE Capital:** Abu Dhabi, **Currency:** United Arab Emirates Dirham.

Burundi Names Gitega As New Capital

i. **Burundi** declared the small central city of **Gitega** the country's new **political capital**, in line with a presidential promise, made a decade ago.



ii. A government spokesman named Gitega while also stating that the previous capital Bujumbura, on the

north-eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, would in future function solely as the country's economic centre.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Burundi President:** Pierre Nkurunziza.

India Takes Over Operations Of Chabahar Port In Iran

i. Indian firm **India Ports Global Limited** formally took over the operations of **Chabahar's Shaheed Behesti port** in Iran, which opens a trade route



between **India and central Asia** bypassing Pakistan.

ii. The company opened its office following the first meeting of the follow-up committee for implementation of the **trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Iran, and Afghanistan**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Iran President:** Hassan Rouhani, **Capital:** Tehran, **Currency:** Iranian rial.

Japan Formally Announces IWC Withdrawal To Resume Commercial Whaling

i. In a landmark policy shift, **Japan** formally announced that it would **withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC)** and resume commercial whaling in its territorial waters next year for the first time in more than 30 years.



ii. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga announced Japan will restart commercial whaling in July 2019 — its first such excursion since 1988 — but limit its hunting activities to its own territorial waters and exclusive economic zone.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The IWC was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling which was signed in Washington DC on 2nd December 1946.
- The IWC has a full-time Secretariat with headquarters located in the City of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

- Dr. Rebecca Lent is the Executive Secretary of IWC.

Chang'e-4: China Launches 1st Mission to Land on the Far Side of the Moon

i. China launched the **first-ever spacecraft, Chang'e 4**, that will attempt landing on the **far side of the Moon**, which always shows the same face to Earth as it's close enough to be locked by the planet's gravitational field.

ii. The Chang'e-4 mission will see a static lander and rover touch down in **Von Kármán crater**, located on the side of the Moon which never faces Earth. The payload blasted off atop a **Long March 3B** rocket from **Xichang Satellite Launch Center**.

Turkmenistan Launches First Messaging App

i. Turkmenistan has launched its **first messaging**

app BizBarde. The privately developed BizBarde app will allow the exchange of messages, files, photos and videos, the state Yaslyk television station announced.



ii. One of the world's most isolated regimes, the **ex-Soviet republic** has **blocked** Western services including Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp, and Viber, along with popular Russian networks **Odnoklassniki** and **Vkontakte**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Turkmenistan Capital: Ashgabat, Currency: Manat.

Nepal Caps Expenditure Of Its Citizens In India

i. Nepal imposed a **monthly limit** on the amount of **Indian currency** its citizen can spend in India. A spokesperson of the **Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)** stated



that a Nepali citizen would be unable to spend more than **INR 1 lakh per month** while paying for goods and services in India.

ii. The decision was taken to address the **country's current account deficit**. The policy applicable to **prepaid, credit and debit cards** of Nepali banks came into effect.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu, Currency: Nepalese rupee.

US Adventurer Completes 1st Unaided Solo Trek Across Antarctica

i. A **33-year-old man Colin O'Brady** from the **United States** has become the **first person** to complete a solo trek across Antarctica without any assistance.



ii. He finished the **1,500km** journey across the frozen continent in **54 days**, lugging his supplies on a sledge as he skied in bone-chilling temperatures from north to south.

Sheikh Hasina Wins 3rd Consecutive Term As PM of Bangladesh

i. Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina's** alliance won **Bangladesh's** election with a thumping majority, the country's Election Commission announced. It gave her a third straight term following a vote that the opposition rejected as rigged.



ii. The win consolidated Hasina's decade-long rule over Bangladesh. There are **300** constituencies in the country. The main opposition **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)**, which boycotted the last poll in 2014, won just six seats.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka, Currency: Bangladeshi Taka.

Pakistan Cabinet Approves Issuance Of 'Panda Bonds' In Chinese Currency

i. Pakistan's cabinet has approved the issuance of **first-ever renminbi-denominated 'Panda Bonds'** to raise loans from China's capital markets, as the country moved a step forward to give the Chinese currency status at par with the US dollar.



ii. The Finance Ministry did not seek the Cabinet's nod for the size of the bond, but it expects to raise **\$500 million to \$1 billion** in various tranches.

Defence

Bilateral Air Exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 Held In Agra

i. The Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) held a bilateral air exercise SHINYUU Maitri-18 with Indian Air Force at A F Station Agra.



The theme of the exercise is **joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft.**

ii. IAF participated with An-32 and C-17 aircraft with aircrew & observers. The focus of the exercise was the IAF and JASDF crews to **undertake Joint Mobility/HADR operations.**

Indian Coast Guard Conducts Exercise 'Clean Sea-2018' At Sea Off Port Blair

i: The Indian Coast Guard has conducted the **Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response**



Exercise titled 'Clean

Sea - 2018' at sea off **Port Blair**. Coast Guard ships Viswasth, Vijith, Rajveer, Rajshri, 4 interceptor boats, and its air assets Dornier and Chetak helicopters participated in the exercise.

ii: The preparedness of all agencies during the exercise was conducted under observation of Inspector General **Maneesh V Pathak**, Commander Coast Guard Region, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

4th Ex Cope India-2018 Starts In West Bengal

i. **Ex Cope India-18** is the fourth edition in the series of Bilateral Joint exercise held between IAF and USAF, which is conducted in India. This is the first time, the exercise is being planned at **two Air Force bases, Kalaikunda, and Panagarh (West Bengal).**



ii. USAF is participating with 12 X F15 C/D and 03 X C-130. IAF is participating with the Su-30 MKI, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, C-130J & AWACS aircraft. The aim of the exercise is to provide operational exposure

and undertake a mutual exchange of best practices towards enhancing operational capability.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Birender Singh Dhanoa** is the present chief of Air Staff of Indian Air Force

India Successfully Test-Fires Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Agni-5

i. The **indigenously built Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Agni-5** has been test-fired successfully from **Abdul Kalam island under Chandipur Interim Test Range**. It can carry both nuclear and traditional weapons.



ii. This is the fourth successful test of this missile. Previously the test of Agni 4 was unsuccessful. **Having 17 meters length and 2 meters diameter** the missile can hit the target from a distance of **5 thousand kilometers.**

Sino-India Joint Exercise Hand-in-Hand 2018 Held in China

i. The opening ceremony for the **7th Sino-India joint exercise Hand-in-Hand 2018**, was held at **Chengdu, China**. Company size contingents of 11 SIKHLI from Indian Army and a regiment from Tibetan Military District of People's Liberation Army participated in the exercise.

ii. The aim of the exercise is to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries and to enhance ability of the joint exercise commander to take military contingents of both nations under command.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **China Capital: Beijing, Currency: Renminbi.**

Appointments or Resign/Retired

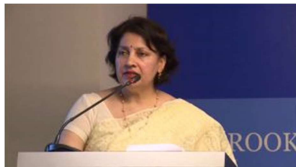
Government Appoints Krishnamurthy Subramanian As New Chief Economic Advisor

i. The government appointed **Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian** as the new **Chief Economic Advisor**. Dr. Subramanian will have a tenure of **three years**. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has cleared his name. He is currently working as an Associate Professor at the **Indian School of Business, Hyderabad**.

ii. A Ph.D. from the University of **Chicago Booth School of Business** and a top-ranking **IIT-IIM alumnus**, Subramanian is one of the world's leading experts in banking, corporate governance and economic policy.

Preeti Saran Elected To UN's Socio-Economic Cultural Panel

i. A former senior Indian diplomat, **Preeti Saran**, has been elected unopposed to an **Asia Pacific seat** on the **UN's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)**.



ii. Saran was elected to the CESCR for a **four-year term** beginning on the 1st of January 2019. All States are obliged to submit regular reports to the committee on **how the rights are being implemented**.

Trump Names Heather Nauert As US Ambassador To United Nation

i. US President **Donald Trump** nominated State Department spokeswoman **Heather Nauert** as the **US Ambassador to the United Nations**. The former Fox



News presenter's appointment to the UN role will have to be approved by the US Senate.

ii. Nauert will replace **Nikki Haley**, who will be leaving the post by the end of 2018. She became the State Department's spokeswoman in **April 2017** and was named as the acting undersecretary for **public diplomacy and public affairs** in early 2018.

RBI Governor Urjit Patel Resigns

i. A day before the results of polling in the five states, **Reserve Bank of India governor Urjit Patel stepped down from his post**.

ii. Patel, who cited "personal reasons" behind his decision, was in a conflict with the Union finance ministry over matters related to the monetary policy.

Myntra's CEO Ananth Narayanan Resigns

i. **Flipkart-owned Myntra's CEO Ananth Narayanan** has resigned from his role with his position set to be abolished. Flipkart's **Amar Nagaram** has been given the responsibility to head Myntra.



ii. Key Myntra leaders such as Chief Revenue Officer **Mithun Sundar** and human resources head **Manpreet Ratia** have also resigned.

RLSP Chief Upendra Kushwaha Quits As Union Minister

i. **Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) Chief Upendra Kushwaha** resigned as **Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development**.



ii. This comes a day ahead of the start of the Parliament's Winter Session, triggering a realignment of political equations in Bihar.

Atul Sahai Appointed CMD Of New India Assurance

i. **Atul Sahai** has been appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the country's largest general insurance company **New India Assurance**. The post had been lying vacant since July 2018 after former chairman and managing director **G Srinivasan** retired.

ii. The appointments committee of the cabinet announced that Sahai who is the General Manager at **Oriental Insurance** will be appointed for a period of **five years**.

Leftist leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador Sworn in as Mexico President

i. **Leftist leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador** has been sworn in as the new **Mexican President** following his landslide



victory in the July 2018 presidential election.

ii. Lopez Obrador, 65, took oath before a crowd that included world leaders and a strong majority in both houses of Congress.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Mexico** Capital: Mexico
City, Currency: Mexican peso.

State Bank of India Ropes in Swapna Barman As Brand Ambassador For YONO

i. State Bank of India has roped in Asian Games gold medalist Swapna Barman as brand ambassador for its digital app



YONO. YONO, the bank's digital platform that makes both lifestyle and banking available through a single app, was launched exactly a year back.

ii. Swapna won Gold medal in Heptathlon in Jakarta Asian Games with a score of 6026 and is looking to break the 6200 score barrier to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Raninder Singh Becomes 1st Indian to Be Elected ISSF's Vice-president

i. Raninder Singh has become the first Indian to be elected one of the four vice-presidents of the International Shooting Sport Federation.

ii. The 51-year-old Raninder also heads the National Rifle Association of India. The former trap shooter bagged 161 votes to occupy the coveted post. In 2017, Raninder was re-elected president of the NRAI for a four-year term with an overwhelming mandate in Mohali.

Jon Ridgeon Appointed CEO of IAAF

i. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) announced the appointment of Jon Ridgeon as its new CEO following approval by the IAAF Council on the first day of its 215th Council Meeting in Monaco.

ii. Ridgeon will take up the new role in March 2019.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **International Association of Athletics Federations** Headquarters in Monaco.

Pawan Singh First Indian To Be Elected In ISSF's Judges Committee

i. Pawan Singh has become the first Indian to be elected one of seven member's of the Judges Committee of the International Shooting Sports Federation



(ISSF). Mr. Singh also holds the post of the Joint Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

ii. Mr. Singh got elected onto the seven members' Judges Committee for which 22 candidates from all over the world were in the fray. Members of the administrative council of ISSF voted to select the committee during the elections held at Munich.

AN Jha Appointed New Finance Secretary

i. Ajay Narayan Jha, the Secretary of Department of Expenditure, has been appointed as new Finance Secretary to succeed Hasmukh Adhia who retired on November 30.

ii. Fifty-nine-year-old Jha is a 1982-batch IAS officer of Manipur Tripura cadre. An alumnus of St Stephens College, he passed with first class in Graduation and Post Graduation in History.

RBI Appoints Shaktikanta Das As New Governor

i. The government has appointed Shaktikanta Das as the new RBI governor, a day after Urjit Patel resigned as RBI Governor. He is the 25th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.



ii. A former economic affairs secretary from 2015 to 2017, Das worked closely with the central bank. He is currently a member of the Finance Commission of India, and the government's representative at the Group of 20 summits.

Kamal Nath To Be New CM of Madhya Pradesh

i. Congress party has chosen MP statue unit president Kamal Nath as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. He will replace outgoing Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.



ii. A one-line resolution has been passed at the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting in Bhopal

to choose the Madhya Pradesh chief minister. Congress party high command will now take the final decision.

K Chandrasekhar Rao Sworn in As Telangana CM

i. Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) Chief K

Chandrasekhar Rao was sworn in as the **Chief Minister of Telangana**, for the second time. A few ministers will also swear-in on the occasion at a ceremonial programme to be held at the Raj Bhavan.



ii. The TRS leaders also submitted a letter about electing Mr. Rao as the party Legislature Party leader to **Governor ESL Narasimhan**.

Zoramthanga To Be Sworn In As Mizoram CM

i. In Mizoram, the new government of **Mizo National Front (MNF)**, headed by **Mr. Zoramthanga** will be sworn in on 15th December.

ii. It was decided at a meeting between **Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan** and a delegation of the MNF party led by Zoramthanga at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Mr. Zoramthanga will replace Lal Tanhawla.**
- He was the state chief minister for two terms earlier from 1998 to 2008.

CAG Rajiv Mehrishi Appointed Vice-Chair of UN Panel of Auditors

i. CAG has announced that **Comptroller and Auditor General Rajiv Mehrishi** has become the **Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of Auditors**. The



United Nations Panel of Auditors consists of External Auditors of the United Nations and its agencies.

ii. Currently, the panel is chaired by the **Comptroller and Auditor General of the UK, Sir Amyas Morse**. The panel also elected the Comptroller and Auditor General of the UK as Chair of the Panel for another term (2019).

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Presently, the UN Panel of Auditors consists of 11 countries** - India, Germany, Chile, Canada, France, Italy, Philippines, Ghana, Indonesia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Ashok Gehlot To Be New Chief Minister of Rajasthan

i. The Congress party has picked old guard **Ashok Gehlot over Sachin Pilot as Chief Minister of Rajasthan**. Pilot will be the deputy CM of Rajasthan and will also continue as the state Congress chief.



ii. India's Grand Old Party won **99 seats of the 199** in the Rajasthan Assembly, just one short of the halfway mark to form the government.

Brijendra Pal Singh Appointed New FTII Chairman

i. **Producer-director Brijendra Pal Singh** was appointed as the **new president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** and chairman of the institute's governing council by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

ii. Mr Singh, best known as the producer-director of popular TV series 'CID', is currently the vice-chairman of the FTII governing council. **He succeeds veteran actor Anupam Kher.**

Yes Bank Names Brahm Dutt As Interim Chairman

i. **Yes Bank Ltd** has named one of its **independent directors Brahm Dutt** as the **bank's part-time non-executive independent chairman** after former Finance Secretary **Ashok Chawla** resigned from the position.

ii. Brahm Dutt is a former bureaucrat and is one of the oldest members of Yes Bank's board.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **YesBank Headquarters:** Mumbai, **CEO:** Rana Kapoor.
- **R. Chandrashekhar**, an independent director at **Yes Bank Ltd** has recently resigned.

Sri Lankan PM Rajapaksa Resigned

i. In Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa

resigned to pave the way for the formation of new government under ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

ii. The political crisis began in the country on October 26 when the President appointed Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Prime Minister replacing Wickremesinghe.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Sri Lanka Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee, **President:** Maithripala Sirisena.

Ranil Wickremesinghe Sworn In As PM Of Sri Lanka

i. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as Prime minister of Sri Lanka by President Maithripala Sirisena thus bringing an end to the weeks-long political crisis in the country.

ii. Mr. Wickremesinghe was removed as Prime minister in October and was replaced by Mahinda Rajapaksa who resigned after failing to garner a majority in Parliament.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Sri Lanka Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee, **President:** Maithripala Sirisena.

Ramphal Pawar Appointed Director of NCRB

i. The Government appointed Ramphal Pawar

as the new Director of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB). An IPS officer from the West Bengal cadre, Mr Pawar was Joint Secretary in NATGRID.

ii. He will be joining NCRB against existing vacancy from the date of joining the post and up to tenure extendable as per IPS Tenure Policy or till further orders, whichever is earlier.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **NCRB was set-up in 1986** to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals.



Madhavi Divan Appointed As Additional Solicitor General

i. The Central government has appointed advocate Madhavi Divan as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) to represent it in the Supreme Court. Divan is the third woman to be appointed as ASG in the top court.

ii. She has represented two state governments, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, in the apex court. She will hold the office till June 30, 2020. Senior advocate Indira Jaising was the first woman to be appointed as the ASG.

Uday Shankar Elected As Vice President Of FICCI

i. Star India's Chairman and CEO Uday Shankar has been elected Vice President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for 2018-19.

ii. He was recently appointed Star and Disney India's Chairman and President of The Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific. Shankar is the first-ever Indian media and entertainment executive to assume the leadership position in a national industry chamber.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **FICCI President:** Sandip Somany, **Headquarters:** New Delhi.

Government Appoints Interim CBI Head Nageswara Rao As Additional Director

i. CBI's Joint Director M Nageswara Rao, who is currently the interim CBI Director, was promoted to the rank of Additional Director by

the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

ii. Before being appointed interim chief, Rao was No. 3 in the pecking order and was handling the Chandigarh branch along with certain branches in South India.



Belgium Prime Minister Charles Michel Resigns

i. Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel

has resigned amid pressure on his government over his support for the UN global compact on migration.



The pressure increased after his biggest coalition partner, the right-wing N-VA party, quit the government over the issue.

ii. Michel lost the backing of the party over his support for the UN migration pact, a cause celebre for European anti-immigration parties. Belgium holds the **modern European record** for going the longest time without a government, a whopping **541 days** in 2010-2011.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Belgium Capital:** Brussels, **Currency:** Euro.

Pranab K Das Appointed New Chairman of CBIC

i. Senior bureaucrat **Pranab Kumar Das** has been appointed as **chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes.

ii. Das, special secretary and member (customs) at **CBIC**, will succeed **S Ramesh**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- CBIC is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla Appointed India's Ambassador to The US

i. The Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA) appointed **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** as the new **Ambassador of India to the United States of America**.



ii. Shringla is currently serving as the High Commissioner in Bangladesh. He would be **succeeding Navtej Singh Sarna**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Smt. Sushma Swaraj** is the present External Affairs Minister of India.

WV Raman Appointed India Women's Cricket Team Coach

i. **W V Raman** has been appointed the new **coach of the Indian women's cricket team**. Raman is a vastly-experienced coach having been in charge of Tamil Nadu and India U-19



teams in the past.

ii. Former **India captain Kapil Dev** and Anshuman Gaekwad, along with Shanthan Rangaswamy, who are all part of the **three-member selection panel**, had suggested the two names to the apex body of Indian cricket including that of former India men's cricket team coach **Gary Kirsten**.

Trump Replaces Defence Head Mattis With Deputy Patrick Shanahan

i. US President **Donald Trump** announced that he would replace **Defence Secretary Jim Mattis** with his deputy **Patrick Shanahan** as acting Pentagon chief. Shanahan will assume charge of Acting Secretary of Defense from 1 January, 2019.

ii. Mattis resigned in protest after Trump announced the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria over the strong objections of Mattis and others on the national security team.

BVP Rao Elected Archery Association of India President

i. **BVP Rao** has been elected as the **president** of the **Archery Association of India** in the polls held under a High Court-appointed administrator.

ii. Rao, who represented Archery Association of Assam, beat **Rupak Debroy** of **Tripura** at the elections held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in **New Delhi**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Archery Association of India came into existence in 1973.
- Honorary Life President: Prof Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

CA Kuttappa Appointed As India's Chief Boxing Coach

i. **Dronacharya awardee C A Kuttappa** has taken over as **India's chief boxing coach** at the ongoing national camp. He took over from veteran coach **SR Singh** at the beginning of the camp.



ii. The 39-year-old Kuttappa is credited with shaping some of the country's most successful boxers such as **Vijender Singh, M Suranjoy Singh, and Shiva Thapa**, among others.



Bimal Jalan to Lead Panel on RBI's Excess Reserves

i. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed former governor Bimal Jalan as the chairman of the Economic Capital Framework (ECF)



committee formed to address the issue of excess reserves with the central bank.

ii. Former RBI deputy governor Rakesh Mohan has been appointed the vice-chairman of the committee.

iii. The committee will decide whether RBI is holding provisions, reserves, and buffers in the surplus or deficit of the required levels. It will submit its report within 90 days of the first meeting.

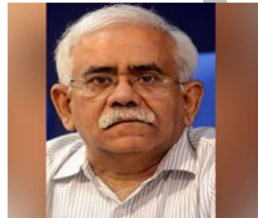
Important Takeways from above news-

- **RBI 25th Governor:** Shaktikanta Das, **Headquarters:** Mumbai, **Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

Sudhir Bhargava Appointed New Chief Information Commissioner

i. The government has appointed Sudhir

Bhargava as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), along with four information commissioners. Mr. Bhargava was Information Commissioner in the CIC.



ii. An alumnus of St Michael's High School in Patna and St Stephen's College in Delhi, Mr. Sinha is a 1981-batch Indian Foreign Service officer who was the High Commissioner of India in the United Kingdom.

Honours/ Awards

Manika 1st Indian to Win 'Breakthrough Table Tennis Star' Award

- i. **Manika Batra** won the 'Breakthrough Table Tennis Star' award at the prestigious **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Star Awards in Incheon, South Korea**.
- ii. India coach **Massimo Costantini** won **Table Tennis Star Coach** award.

Naomi Osaka's Coach Sascha Bajin Becomes 1st Ever WTA Coach Of The Year

- i. **Sascha Bajin**, coach of the world number five **Naomi Osaka**, has become the **first-ever recipient of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award**.



- ii. WTA Coach of the Year Award is given to the coach with not only success on-court, but also who serves as an ambassador of the sport and brings coaching to the forefront of the game.

Mary Kom Honoured With 'Meethoileima' Title

- i. **Manipur Government** honored **AIBA World Women Boxing Gold medalist MC Mary Kom** with the title "**Meethoileima**" (par excellent queen) at a function in **Imphal, Manipur**.
- ii. On the occasion, State Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** handed over a **cheque of ten lakh rupees** to her. The Chief Minister also declared that the **Imphal West DC Road** towards Game Village will be named as **MC Mary Kom Road**.

Slain Journalist Khashoggi Named Time Magazine's "Person of the Year"

- i. **Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi**, who was murdered in **October 2018** at his country's **Istanbul consulate**, has been named **Time magazine's "Person of the Year"** alongside several other journalists.



- ii. The magazine has also honoured **Philippine journalist Maria Ressa**, **Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo** — currently imprisoned in **Myanmar** and the staff of the **Capital Gazette** in **Annapolis,**

Maryland, including five members killed in a **June shooting**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Time awards the "Person of the Year" title annually since 1927.
- It is the first time someone has been chosen posthumously for the prestigious cover.
- US President **Donald Trump** was the 2016 "Person of the Year".

Myanmar Leader Suu Kyi To Be Stripped Of Freedom Of Paris Award

- i. The city of **Paris** will strip **Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi** of her honorary **freedom of the Paris** award over her failure



to speak out against a crackdown on **Rohingya Muslims**. She has already been stripped of her **honorary Canadian citizenship** and her **Amnesty International's "Ambassador of Conscience Award"**.

- ii. She would be the **first person** to lose the **freedom of Paris** award. More than **700,000 Rohingya** fled violence in the **Buddhist-majority** country last year, mostly to neighboring **Bangladesh**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Myanmar (Burma) Capital: Naypyidaw, Currency: Burmese kyat.**

Abhinav Bindra Conferred With Shooting's Highest Honour By ISSF

- i. India's Olympic and world champion shooter **Abhinav Bindra** has been conferred the sport's highest honour for his outstanding services as the chairman of the **International Shooting Sport Federation's Athletes Committee**. He was a member of the **ISSF Athletes Committee** from 2010 to 2014 and chairman from **2014 to 2018**.



- ii. The **36-year-old Bindra**, who remains India's lone **individual Olympic gold medallist**, has been bestowed with the **Blue Cross**, the **ISSF's highest award**. Bindra was succeeded in the post by the legendary American shooter **Kimberly Rhode**.

Luka Modric Wins Ballon d'Or 2018

i. Real Madrid and Croatia midfielder Luka

Modric won Ballon d'Or

2018 in Paris. In the process, he broke the decade-long duopoly over the award held by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.



ii. The 33-year old Croatian was awarded the FIFA's World Cup 2018 MVP, UEFA's Player of the Year 2018, Best FIFA Footballer of the Year and the number one player by International Federation of Football History and Statistics.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The 19-year-old Mbappe (the youngest player to score in a World Cup final) won the Raymond Kopa Trophy awarded to the best young player.
- Ada Hegerberg became the first women to win Ballon d'Or.
- The last player to win the award outside of Ronaldo and Messi was **Brazilian great Kaka in 2007.**

Delhi Minister Imran Hussain Gets PETA 'Hero to Animals' Award

i. Delhi Minister of Food Supplies, Environment and Forest and Elections Imran Hussain was awarded by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals



(PETA)-India for banning the Chinese Manjha, or the glass-coated kite strings, across Delhi.

ii. The award, named '**Hero to Animals,**' was also given to three other individuals and companies that have pushed animal rights forward. Other winners of Hero to Animals Award 2018

World's 1st 3D-Printed Functional e-Bike Made In Germany

i. German firm BigRep claims it has produced the world's first fully functioning e-motorbike NERA using a 3D printer. According to the company, NERA has



groundbreaking features like airless tires, embedded electronics, and forkless steering.

ii. The bike was conceptualized and developed in 12 weeks and includes 15 parts, which are all **3D printed** except its motor and battery. The name is derived from the slogan "New Era".

Important Takeways from above news-

- "3D printing" has applications in fields like Preparation of confectionery items, Manufacture of bionic ears, Automotive industry, Reconstructive surgeries, Data processing technologies.

Ministry Of New and Renewable Energy Conferred Skoch Award

i. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India has been conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance at an event held recently in New Delhi.

ii. The award has been conferred on the Ministry considering its purpose and critical role played in installing about 73 GW renewable energy capacity in the country.

Important Takeways from above news-

- India ranks **4th** in the world in wind energy capacity and **5th** in solar & total renewable energy capacity installed in the world.

Mexico's Vanessa Poncede Leon Wins Miss World 2018 Crown

i. Mexico's Vanessa Ponce de Leon won the coveted Miss World 2018 crown at a grand event held in the Chinese city, Sanya. Thailand's Nicolene Pichapa Limsnukan was declared the runner-up.



ii. Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar (India) presented the crown to the new winner during the pageant in which 118 contestants participated.

Asian Academy Creative Awards 2018 Announced: Complete List of Winners

The Asian Academy Creative Awards (AAA's) have been established to serve the creative industries as the pinnacle of their achievement in content creation and media production. The award ceremony was held in Singapore.

Here is the complete list of winners of Asian Academy Creative Awards 2018:

Sl. No.	Category	Show	Winner
Indian Winners			
1.	Best entertainment host/presenter	Bigg Boss	Salman Khan
2.	Best direction (fiction)	Netflix's original series Sacred Games	Anurag Kashyap
3.	Best Editing	Sacred Games	Aarti Bajaj
4.	Best comedy program	Queens Of Comedy	Discovery Communications India
5.	Best Drama	Miss Sherlock	Miss Sherlock
Winners from Other Asian countries			
6.	Best actress	Critical Eleven	Adinia Wirasti of Indonesia
7.	Best Actor	The Hunter	Yu Hwei of China
8.	Best Supporting Actor	Kenapa Harus Bule	Michael Kho of Indonesia
9.	Best Supporting Actress	Roseki	Candy Yang of Taiwan

Author Amitav Ghosh Honoured With 54th Jnanpith Award

i. Noted English author Amitav Ghosh has been honoured with **Jnanpith Award for 2018**, an award for outstanding contribution to literature. The decision was taken in a meeting of Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by eminent **novelist, scholar and Jnanpith laureate Pratibha Ray**.



ii. Ghosh, one of the most prominent contemporary Indian writers, is known for a series of novels such as "Shadow Lines", "The Glass Palace", "The Hungry Tide", and Ibis Trilogy -- "Sea of Poppies", and "River of Smoke".

Important Takeways from above news-

- The first President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the first Chairman of the Jnanpith Selection Board.
- Krishna Sobti was awarded the 53rd Jnanpith award in Hindi Language.
- **Amitav Ghosh** has become the **first English author to be honoured with the award**.

Jharkhand Gets 'Krishi Karman' Award In Rice Category

i. Jharkhand has been selected for "**Krishi Karman**" award in the rice category from the **Union Ministry of Agriculture**.

ii. The award to be given away in February 2019 carries a cash prize of Rs 2 crore and a citation.

Shree Saini From USA Crowned Miss India Worldwide 2018

i. Indian-American Shree Saini has been crowned **Miss India Worldwide 2018** at a pageant held in the **Fords City of New Jersey**.



ii. Sakshi Sinha from **Australia** and **Anusha Sareen** from the **United Kingdom** were respectively declared first and second runner-ups in the 27th annual global pageant for people of Indian origin.

India's **Mandeep Kaur Sandhu**, who hails from **Haryana**, was crowned **Mrs. India Worldwide 2018**.

Lokmat Parliamentary Awards Announced: Complete List of Winners

Eight parliamentarians were honoured by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu for their contribution in strengthening parliamentary democracy. Naidu, while conferring the **Lokmat Parliamentary Award**, urged political parties to evolve a code of conduct for its members and not disrupt Parliament proceedings.

Here is the complete list of winners of Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2018:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Lifetime achievement award	Rajya Sabha MP Sharad Pawar
		Murli Manohar Joshi
2.	Best Parliamentarian Award	Ghulam Nabi Azad
		BJP MP Nishikant Dubey
3.	Best debut woman parliamentarian (Lok Sabha)	Hema Malini
4.	Best woman parliamentarian	Lok Sabha MP Rama Devi
5.	Best woman parliamentarian in the Rajya Sabha	DMK leader Kanimozhi
6.	Best debut woman parliamentarian (Rajya Sabha)	Chhaya Verma

French Government Honours Producer Ashok Amritraj

i. Producer Ashok Amritraj was honoured with the **French Knight of the National Order of Merit**.

ii. The former CEO of National Geographic Films and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador was lauded for his contribution to the world of cinema and **Indo-French film industry**.

Philippines' Catriona Gray Crowned Miss Universe 2018

i. Philippines' Catriona Gray has been crowned **Miss Universe 2018**, becoming the fourth woman from the country to win the title. **Tamaryn Green** from **South Africa** was



named the first runner-up while **Miss Venezuela Sthefany Gutiérrez** stood third at the pageant which was held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

ii. The 24-year-old Gray was born in **Australia** and studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. India was represented by 22-year-old **Nehal Chudasama**.

Indian Film 'Period. End of Sentence' Made It To Oscars Shortlist

i. 'Period. End of Sentence' has made it to the **Oscar shortlist** in the **Documentary Short Subject category**.



ii. This is a film about women in India fighting against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation and delving upon the work of real-life 'Pad Man' **Arunachalam Muruganantham**. India's entry for the **Foreign Language Film Category**, **Village Rockstars** is out of the Oscar race.

Star Screen Awards 2018 Announced: Complete List of Winners

Star Screen Awards 2018 were announced recently in Mumbai. The hosts of the night were **Ayushmann Khurrana** and **Vicky Kaushal**. **Alia Bhatt** won **Best Actor** for her performance in **Raazi** and **Ranveer Singh** was given **best actor award** for **Padmaavat**.

Here is the complete list of winners of **Star Screen Awards 2018**:

Sl. No	Category	Winners
1.	Best Actor	Ranveer Singh for Padmaavat
2.	Best Actress	Alia Bhatt for Raazi
3.	Best Director	Sriram Raghavan for Andhadhun
4.	Best Actor (Critics)	Gajraj Rao for Badhaai Ho
5.	Best Actress (Critics)	Neena Gupta for Badhaai Ho
6.	Best Film	Stree
7.	Best Film (Critics)	Mulk

Sonam Kapoor Named PETA India's 2018 Person of the Year

i. Actress Sonam Kapoor, a vegan, has been named **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2018**.

ii. Sonam has been feted as she sings in praise of vegan eating and because she keeps animal skins out of her handbag line for her fashion brand Rheson, apart from taking other action for the welfare of animals.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Delhi Minister Imran Hussain has been recently awarded PETA 'Hero to Animals' Award.

Luka Modric Wins Balkan Athlete of The Year Award 2018

i. Croatia captain Luka Modric was named **Balkan Athlete of the Year**, becoming only the second soccer player to scoop the prize after Bulgaria's former European Footballer of the Year Hristo Stoichkov in 1994.

ii. Ballon d'Or winner Modric won the Champions League and the FIFA Club World Cup with his Spanish club Real Madrid as well as being instrumental in helping Croatia reach the World Cup final in Russia.

Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep Announced As 2018 ITF World Champions

i. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that **Serbia's Novak Djokovic and Romania's Simona Halep** have been



named the **2018 ITF World Champions**. Djokovic receives the honour for the sixth time, while it is the first year Halep has been recognised.

ii. Djokovic's won four titles including **Wimbledon and the US Open** and secured the year-end world No. 1 position. Halep also enjoyed Grand Slam success in 2018, claiming her maiden major title at Roland Garros and reaching the final at the Australian Open.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The ITF World Champions will receive their awards at the 2019 ITF World Champions Dinner on 4 June, in Paris, during Roland Garros.

Union Minister Suresh Prabhu Confers Skoch Golden Jubilee Challenger Award

i. Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has conferred the **Skoch Golden Jubilee Challenger Award at the 55th Skoch Summit in New Delhi**. The Skoch Challenger Awards are the highest independently instituted civilian honours. A book titled '**India 2030**' was also released on the occasion.

ii. For its inclusive banking and expansion in rural areas with the establishment of 35 easy payment units in Himalayan district of Leh in Jammu and Kashmir, **J&K Bank** was conferred with **SKOCH Award in 'Banking and Finance (B&F) Silver Category'**.

iii. Other Awards Conferred:

1. **Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award:** Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee.
2. **SKOCH Sprinter of the Year:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu

Indian Railways Bags 17 Awards For Energy Conservation

i. Indian Railways bagged 17 awards at the 'National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2018' held in New Delhi.

ii. The awards are given by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** under the **Ministry of Power** to various institutions for adopting energy efficiency measures.

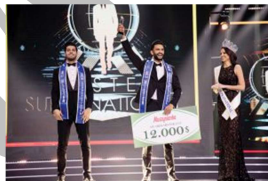
- Under '**transport**' category, Indian Railways obtained 10 awards for the subsector railway station. **Vidisha** railway station in Madhya Pradesh won the **first prize**.
- Under '**building**' category, Indian Railways got three awards for subsector Railway hospitals. Railway hospitals of **Izzatnagar division** won the **first prize**.
- Under '**institution**' category, Indian Railways bagged four awards for subsector state PWD, CPWD and PHED. **Passenger reservation system** complex building of **Secunderabad** division won the **first prize**.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- **John Mathai** was the **first railway minister** of independent India.
- **Mr. Piyush Goyal** is the present railway minister of India.

India's Prathamesh Maulingkar Wins Mister Supranational 2018

i. Goa's **Prathamesh Maulingkar** has created history by becoming the **first Asian/Indian** to win **Mister Supranational** title in a competition held at **Krynica-Zdroj, Poland**.



ii. At the same pageant, **Mister Supranational Poland** was adjudged first **runner-up**, **Mister Supranational Brazil** was adjudged second runner-up and **Mister Supranational Thailand** was announced as the third runner-up.

Sitarist Manju Mehta Gets 'Tansen Samman'

i. Noted sitar player **Manju Mehta** has been conferred with the '**Tansen**

Samman' for 2018 by the **Madhya Pradesh government** for her contribution in the field of music.



ii. The '**Raja Mansingh Tomar Honour**' was given to the **Sankat Mochan Pratishthan** in **Varanasi** for 2017 and the **Natrang Pratishthan** of **New Delhi** for 2018. The award is given to institutions for **nurturing good music**.

Madhya Pradesh's Divya Patidar Joshi Crowned Mrs. India 2018 Title

i. The **Mrs. India My Identity Beauty Pageant 2018** finale was held in Delhi and **Divya Patidar Joshi** was crowned with the prestigious honor.



ii. Hailing from Madhya Pradesh's **Ratlam**, **Divya** won the crown of **Mrs India** this year from among 24 promising contestants.

Sports

SAIL Hockey Academy Wins Aga Khan Gold Cup Tournament

i. Steel Authority of India's Hockey Academy beat Army XI Danapur to clinch the 115th All India Aga Khan Gold Cup hockey tournament held at Major Dhyana Chand hockey stadium in New Delhi.

ii. Jay Prakash Patel scored the match-winning goal for the SAIL Hockey Academy (SHA) in the final match. SHA is SAIL's Rourkela Steel Plant.

Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik Win Gold At Wrestling Nationals

i. Indian star wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi

Malik successfully emerged champions in the 57 kg and 62 kg title respectively in the Tata Motors Senior Women's National Championship.



ii. Vinesh Phogat bagged her sixth National title. She had earlier won five Nationals in a row from 2012 to 2016. The event was hosted by Uttar Pradesh.

Ullas Narayan Wins India's 1st International Medal in Ultra Running

i. Ullas Narayan became the first ever Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra running event by



clinching a bronze in the 2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in Taipei.

ii. Japan won the team event gold with a distance of 756 km and Australia (684 km) got the silver.

Eliud Kipchoge And Caterine Ibarguen Named IAAF Athletes Of The Year

i. Kenyan distance runner Eliud

Kipchoge and Colombian long and triple jumper Caterine Ibarguen have been named male and

female world athletes of the year. The pair were honoured by the IAAF (The International Association of Athletics Federations) at a ceremony in Monaco.

ii. Sweden's 19-year-old pole vaulter Armand Duplantis won the men's rising star award while the

women's award went to American 400m runner Sydney McLaughlin.

Italy Wins Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta 2018

i. Team Italy won

the Admiral's Cup 2018. The ninth edition of 'Admirals Cup' Sailing Regatta

(2018) concluded with a glittering closing ceremony at Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala.



ii. Team Singapore was the Runners-Up and Team USA came third. The host country team (Indian Naval Academy) finished fourth in the overall position of Admiral's Cup 2018.

Khelo India Youth Games To Be Held In Pune

i. Khelo India Youth Games-2019 will be held in Pune of Maharashtra

in January. Sports Minister Col Rajyavardhan Rathore

announced that 9000 youth will participate in this edition of the game.



ii. Under Khelo India programme, the government is providing scholarships to 1500 students from across the country. Last year around 3500 school children had participated in the event. In this edition of Khelo India Youth Games university players will also take part.

Gautam Gambhir Announces Retirement From All Forms Of Cricket

i. Gautam Gambhir has announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket. The 37-year-old announced his retirement on social media. A 12-year international career fetched over 10,000 runs for the country; 4,154 in 58 Tests, 5,238 in 147 ODIs and 932 in 37 T20Is.

ii. Gambhir, who last donned India colors in a Test against England in November 2016, was part of Indian title-winning teams at both the 2007 World T20 and the 2011 World Cup top-scoring for India in the finals of both events.

Belgium Beat Netherlands to Win FIH Hockey World Cup 2018

i. In Hockey, Belgium has claimed their first ever World Cup title. They defeated the Netherlands in a

dramatic shoot-out in the final of the Men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

ii. Both the teams, goalless at full time, were at level 2-2 after five penalties. This is Belgium's first ever World Cup title. Earlier, the last edition champions Australia secured a consolation bronze medal.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Belgium** Capital: City of Brussels, Currency: Euro.

PV Sindhu Becomes 1st Indian To Win BWF World Tour Finals

i. PV Sindhu made history, becoming the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals tournament.

ii. Sindhu came up against a familiar foe in Nozomi Okuhara in the title clash but unlike her previous meetings, the Indian superstar showed much more patience in her gameplay against the Japanese.

BWF World Tour 2018 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

BWF World Tour 2018 was concluded recently in Guangzhou, China. It was the final tournament of the **2018 BWF World Tour**. The total Prize of the Championship is **USD1,500,000**.

Here is the complete list of winners of **BWF World Tour 2018**:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's Singles	Shi Yuqi (China)	Kento Momota (Japan)
2.	Women's Singles	P. V. Sindhu (India)	Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)

37th Senior National Rowing Championship Begins in Pune

i. The **37th Senior National Rowing Championship** began in the **Army Rowing Node in Pune**. Around 500 rowers and coaches from various rowing associations across the country are taking part in the Championship.

ii. The Rowers for the World Championships-2019 will be selected from this event. World Championship -2019 is the first qualifying Championship for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Kabaddi Player Anup Kumar Announces His Retirement

i. **Renowned Kabaddi Player, Anup Kumar** announced his **retirement from Kabaddi** ending a 15-year iconic career. The **35-year-old** had led **India** to a memorable **Kabaddi World Cup title triumph in 2016**.

ii. A sports veteran, Arjuna awardee Anup began his international career in 2006 at the South Asian Games in Sri Lanka.

Real Madrid Beats Al Ain 4-1 To Win Club World Cup

i. **Spain's Real Madrid** won the Club World Cup for a **third consecutive year**, and record **fourth** in total, by beating Abu Dhabi side **Al Ain** in the final.

ii. Real now hold the record for **most victories** in the competition, which was first held in **2000**, moving one clear of Spanish rivals Barcelona.



Ricky Ponting Inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

i. **Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting** was formally inducted into the **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**.

ii. Ponting was named in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame along with former India captain Rahul Dravid and England woman wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor during the ICC Annual Conference in Dublin.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Ponting is a three-time ICC Cricket World Cup winner including two times as captain.
- He is the 25th Australia cricketer to be formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.



3rd Edition of Women's National Boxing Championships Begins

i. The third edition of women's national boxing championships begins in Vijayanagara, Karnataka. Country's top boxers will be vying for top honors as the tournament will be held at the JSW Sports-owned Inspire Institute of Sport.

ii. World Championship silver and bronze medallists boxers, Sonia Chahal, Lovlina Borgohain, Pinky Jangra and Nikhat Zarin will be trying to upstage one another in the race to claim the top honors.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Ajay Singh is the President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

Smriti Mandhana Named ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year

i. India's stylish opener Smriti Mandhana has been named as the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Cricketer of the Year.** The 22-year-old, who



has also been named as the **ICC Women's ODI Player of the Year**, achieved the feat by giving some exceptional performances throughout the year.

ii. She is currently ranked fourth in the ICC Women's Players Rankings for ODI Batters and 10th in the ICC Women's Players Rankings for T20I Batters.

iii. Other Awards Conferred are:

- Smriti Mandhana has won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year.
- Australia's wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy voted ICC T20I Player of the Year.
- England's Sophie Ecclestone named ICC Emerging Player of the Year.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The left-hand batter becomes only the second India woman player to win an ICC award after fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, who was named the ICC Women's Player of the Year in 2007.

Obituaries

Former US President George HW Bush Passes Away

i. The 41st President of the US, George HW Bush has passed away on at the age of 94. His son, George W Bush also served as 43rd US President. Bush, the last veteran of World War II to serve as President, was officially the longest living President in US history.

ii. He had also served as the US Vice President for eight years.



Senior Journalist Jagdish Thakkar Passes Away

i. Public Relations Officer (PRO) in the prime minister's office and senior journalist Jagdish Thakkar passed away in New Delhi.

ii. Thakkar, 72, who was unwell for some time, passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Padma Shri Historian Mushirul Hasan Passes Away

i. Professor Mushirul Hasan, a renowned historian, and former vice-chancellor Jamia Millia of Islamia, passed away at the age of 71. Hasan was also formerly the director general of the National Archives of India.



ii. Hasan won a number of awards for his work, including the Padma Shri in 2007 and the Ordre des Palmes Académiques. The books he authored include India Partition: The Other Face of Freedom, When Stone Walls Cry, Partners in Freedom: Jamia Millia Islamia (co-authored with Rakshanda Jalil) and From Pluralism to Separatism: Qasbas in Colonial India.

Former Prime Minister of Nepal Tulsī Giri passes away

i. Former Prime Minister of Nepal Tulsī Giri has passed away in Kathmandu. He was 93. Giri was suffering from liver cancer for a long time.



ii. He twice served as the prime minister of Nepal first from 1962 to 1964 and again from 1975 to 1977.

Important Takeways from above news-

- President of Nepal and commander in chief of Nepalese Army: **Bidhya Devi Bhandari**.
- **Nepal** Capital: Kathmandu, Currency- Nepalese Rupee, PM: KP Sharma Oli.

'Nightingale of Assam' Dipali Borthakur Passes Away

i. **Legendary Assamese singer Dipali Borthakur** popularly referred to as the "Nightingale of Assam" passed away. She was 77.

ii. For her outstanding contributions to the field of arts, Borthakur was honored with the **Padma Shri award in 1998**.

Padma Shri Awardee Sulagitti Narasamma Passes Away

i. **Social worker and Padma Shri awardee Sulagitti Narasamma** passed away in Bengaluru. She was 98 years old.



ii. Narasamma had helped deliver more than 15,000 babies, free of charge, in Krishnapura, a remote village in Pavagada Taluk in Karnataka.

Veteran Filmmaker Mrinal Sen Passes Away

i. **Legendary filmmaker Mrinal Sen** passed away at the age of 95 in Kolkata. He was a Padma Bhushan and Dada Saheb Phalke awardee.

ii. A recipient of 12 international film awards including **Cannes Film Festival**, Mrinal Sen was also a member of the **Indian People's Theatre Association**.

Norman Gimbel, Grammy and Oscar Winning Lyricist Passes Away

i. **Norman Gimbel, the Oscar and Grammy-winning lyricist**, has passed away at the age of 91. Gimbel's work included **Killing Me Softly With His Song** - recorded by Roberta Flack, **the Fugees** and others - and the theme to TV series Happy Days.

ii. Norman Gimbel was born in Brooklyn. **In 1984 Gimbel was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame**.

Important Days with theme

World AIDS Day: 1 December

i. World AIDS Day is designated on 1 December every year

since 1988. The day provides an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.

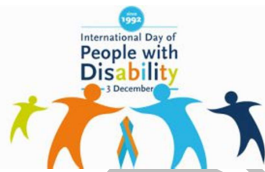
ii. More than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history. The theme for the World AIDS Day 2018 is "Know Your Status".



International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 3 December

i. Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been annually observed on 3 December around the world.

ii. The theme for this year's IDPD is "Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".



Indian Navy Day: 4 December

i. Navy Day is being celebrated in India on 4th December.

The day is celebrated in honour of the maritime force's role during the war with Pakistan in 1971 when Indian warships attacked Karachi port and successfully hurt Pakistani operations in the western coast.

ii. The Day is also celebrated to highlight the role the Navy plays in securing the country's marine borders during peacetime and carrying out humanitarian missions



Important Takeways from above news-

- Admiral Sunil Lanba is the present Chief of Naval Staff.

Armed Forces Flag Day: 07 December

i. Since 1949, 07 December is observed as Armed Forces Flag Day throughout India to honour the martyrs as well as men and women in uniform, who valiantly fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour.

ii. The 'Armed forces Flag Day Fund' (AFFDF) has been constituted by the Government of India for the welfare and rehabilitation of the Ex-Servicemen (ESM) community. The fund collection throughout the country is managed by local arms of the Kendriya Sainik Board, which is part of the Ministry of Defence.



Human Rights Day: 10 December

i. Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. On this day, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

ii. This year, Human Rights Day marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. #StandUp4HumanRights is the global campaign launched on for year 2018.

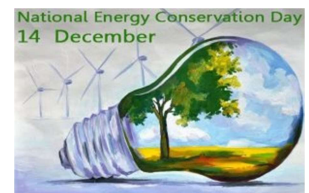
Important Takeways from above news-

- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- The UN Headquarters in New York, United States.
- The UN was established on 24th October 1945.

National Energy Conservation Day: 14th December

i. National energy conservation day is celebrated every year by the people all over India on 14th of December.

ii. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency is a constitutional body which comes under Government of India and helps in the development of policies and strategies in order to reduce the energy use.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Raj Kumar Singh is the Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- The Energy Conservation Act in India was executed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in the year 2001.

International Migrants Day: 18 December

- The UN's (United Nation) **International Migrants Day (IMD)** is observed every year on **18th December** to protect the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.
- The theme for this year's IMD is '**Migration with Dignity**'.

International Human Solidarity Day: 20 December

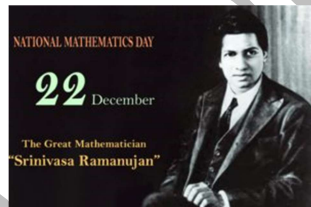
i. International Human Solidarity Day is organized across the world on **20th December**.

ii. It is a day to celebrate our unity in diversity and also a day to remind governments to respect their commitments to international agreements.



National Mathematics Day: 22nd December

i. Every year, the country celebrates **National Mathematics Day** on **December 22** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan**.



ii. In his memory, the Government of India marked 2012, the 125th year of his birth, as National Mathematics Year and declared 22nd December as annual National Mathematics Day.

National Farmers' Day: 23rd December

i. National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) 2018 was celebrated all over India on 23rd of December. It is celebrated in the honour of the former Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Charan Singh with the focus on the upliftment of the status of farmers.

ii. In Lucknow, a program was organised by Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He also unveiled a statue of Sri Chaudhary Charan Singh in Ghaziabad and announce the allocation of **Rs. 325 crore for the development of the city and rural areas**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Chaudhary Charan Singh who was the **fifth Prime Minister of India**.
- He served the country as Prime Minister for a very short tenure starting from **28th of July 1979 till 14th January 1980**.

National Consumer Day: 24th December

- Every Year **24th December** is observed as **National Consumer Day** with a specific theme in India.
- This year the National Consumer Day is celebrated with the theme "**Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints**".

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Consumer Protection Act aims to provide consumers with effective safeguards against different types of exploitation such as defective goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade practices.

Good Governance Day: 25 December

i. Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari**

Vajpayee's birthday is celebrated as **Good Governance Day** across the country on **25 December**.

ii. The **Samadhi** of Bharat Ratna and Former Prime Minister **Atal Behari Vajpayee Sadaiv Atal** was dedicated to the Nation.

iii. The Samadhi has been completed by CPWD at a cost of over **ten crore rupees** and the entire cost of construction has been borne by the **Atal Smriti Nyas Society**.

