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Monthly GK Mania

NATIONAL NEWS

CBSE partnered with Microsoft

To prevent paper leaks with digital solutions, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has tied up with Microsoft India. To ensure digital encryption and watermarking the question papers for Class 10 and 12 examinations, Microsoft has developed a software solution on Windows 10 and Office 365 having a two-factor authentication process. The system permits the Controller of examination to track the entire process. The overall process has been automated to download the exam papers at the examination center only 30 minutes prior to start time.

Justice VK Tahilramani :CJ of Madras HC

On August 12, 2018, Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani took oath as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court (HC) that was administered by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhavan, Tamil Nadu. The lady has succeeded Acting Chief Justice Huluvadi G Ramesh, who served the post after Chief Justice Indira Banerjee. She has become the third woman Chief Justice of the Madras HC and with her appointment, the Madras HC will continue to have the highest number i.e. 12 women judges among all the High Courts of nation.

Powar: New head coach of women's cricket team

On 14th August 2018, Former Indian spinner, Ramesh Powar has been appointed as the new head coach of the Indian women's national cricket team. He succeeded Tushar Arothe, who resigned as the coach of the women's team five months after his appointment. Now, Powar has been given full-time duties as head coach till November 30, 2018 by the BCCI. He is the third coach of women's team in the past one and a half year.

India celebrated 72nd Independence Day

On 15th August 2018, India celebrated its 72nd Independence Day by paying tribute to its previous leaders and freedom fighters. India got its independence from British Rule on August 15, 1947. Every year, India celebrates this day at Red Fort. The Army, Navy and Air Force march across the fort, while school children perform for dignitaries and audience. On this day, Prime Minister highlights over all achievements of the past year, important social issues and solutions, and further development in the country.

'Pitch to MOVE' competition launched for Startups

On 14th August 2018, NITI Aayog has launched "Pitch to MOVE", a mobility pitch competition that aims to provide budding entrepreneurs of India a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury. The aim of this competition was to identify and reward the startups offering innovative solutions for shared, connected and environment-friendly mobility. It was organised by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Invest India and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). The awards for this competition will be presented in a Summit that will take place on 7th and 8th September 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan.

Demise of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

On 16th of August, 2018, Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee died of prolonged illness at AIIMS, New Delhi at the age of 93. The deceased served as PM for three terms viz. in 1996 for just 13 days then in 1998-1999 for 13 months and then in 1999 to 2004 for 5 years. He permitted Pokhran-II nuclear test in 1998 and tried to establish peace between India and Pakistan via a Delhi-Lahore bus service in February 1999. In July 1999 operation Vijay of Kargil was done under his administration. He was a member of the Parliament for more than 40 years. He was one of the founding members of the erstwhile Bharatiya Jana Sangh. In the 1977 General Elections, he became the Minister of External Affairs in Prime Minister Morarji Desai's cabinet and as a foreign minister, he became the first person to deliver a speech in Hindi at the United

Nations General Assembly. After dissolution of the Janata Party in 1979, he carved the Bharatiya Janata Party out of the Jana Sangh in 1980. In December 2005, he took retirement from active politics. His contributions were well acknowledged with Padma Vibhushan in 1992. In 1994, he was honored with Best Parliamentarian Award, Lokmanya Tilak Award, and Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant Award. 2015 fetched him Bharat Ratna award. Besides all these, his birthday December 25th was instituted as Good Governance Day.

Announcement of gallantry awards

On 14th of August, 2018, the Defence ministry released list of gallantry awardees. Several brave Army personnel who made sacrifices in anti-terror operations in J&K. Among them, Major Aditya Kumar and Rifleman Aurangzeb of J&K were among 20 personnel identified for the Shaurya Chakra Award. Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh has been selected for the Kirti Chakra Award posthumously. Apart from them, 96 Army personnel were chosen for Sena medal and six Indian Navy women officers who participated in the expedition to orbit the globe were chosen for Nao Sena medals. Besides them, 26 army personnel were also selected for Mention-in-Despatches award. This time no Ashok Chakra was conferred.

Restricting flood in Kerala

On August 16, 2018, the apex court ordered government of Tamil Nadu to decrease the water level of Mullaperiyar dam by 3 feet i.e. 139 feet from the current maximum permitted limit of 142 feet to solve the "grave" flood situation in all the 14 districts of Kerala. The 116-year-old dam is located 2,890 feet above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala. Although it is located in Kerala on the Periyar River yet Tamil Nadu government operates and maintains it.

India tested 'HELINA'

On 19th August 2018, India has flight tested natively developed helicopter Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' from Pokhran in Rajasthan. It is one of the most advanced anti-tank weapons in the world that is guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (IIR) operating in the Lock-on-Before-Launch mode. The helicopter-launched version of NAG missile succeeded in hitting the target within the range of 7-8 km with high precision. Besides this, another natively designed and developed guided bomb, Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) was also flight tested from IAF aircraft at Chandan range in Jaisalmer.

MD Ranganath resigned from Infosys

On 18th August 2018, India's second-biggest software services exporter, Infosys Ltd accepted the resignation of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) MD Ranganath. The resignee popularly known as Ranga, was with the company for last 18 years. He was appointed as CFO in year 2015 after exit of Rajiv Bansal. Ranganath had a good comprehension of all key stakeholders that included clients, delivery teams, employee aspirations, finance, investors and governance. 16th November 2018 will be his last working day in the company.

The Re-Water Research Center

On 18th August 2018 i.e. the 68th Foundation Day of IIT Kharagpur, the announcement of establishment of 'Aditya Choubey Center for Re-Water Research' was made. The proposed centre will be seed-funded by two alumni members to replenish and rejuvenate water resources. The move will address the issue related to urban India sewage disposal and access to clean potable water. The proposed on-campus plant will convert 1.35 million litre of sewage water from the hostels to 1.2 million litre of potable water, on a daily basis.

20th August celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas

Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day was celebrated on 20th August 2018 across India to commemorate the 74th birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. On this day, Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award is presented to commemorate the contribution made by Rajiv Gandhi for promoting the communal harmony, peace and national integration. For the year 2018, Gopalkrishna Gandhi was declared as the winner of Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award. He is a retired IAS officer and was 22nd Governor of West Bengal.

FSSAI forms B. Sesikeran Committee

On 20th August 2018, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to form a 3-member committee to look into the draft of Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations 2018. The committee will be headed by B. Sesikeran, former director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The other two members of the committee are NIN director, Hemalatha and AIIMS' Nikhil Tandon. The panel will study in detail the concerns of the industry and make recommendations.

Saurabh Chaudhary wins gold in Asian Games 2018

The 16-year-old Indian shooter, Saurabh Choudhary has won gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol event at the Asian Games 2018. With this, he has become the fifth Indian shooter to win gold medal in the Asian Games. In this event, Abhishek Verma has won bronze medal. Besides this, India's Sanjeev Rajput has won silver in 50m rifle 3 positions men's event. In the total medal tally, India has won 8 medals, comprising 3 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.

IIT Kharagpur wins Chairman Award for Tech Innovation in IICDC

In August 2018, IIT Kharagpur has won the "Chairman Award" for technical innovation in Innovation Challenge Design Contest (IICDC) 2017. The prize was given on Battery Health Management System with Integrated Charger by Texas Instruments India (TI). Besides this, Sir M Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology of Bengaluru was the first runners up for their innovation, 'Underwater and Airborne Unmanned Autonomous Vehicle' and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Sardar Patel Institute of Technology of Mumbai was the second runners up on their innovation of 'Health Set'.

NTA releases schedule for various exams

On 22nd August 2018, National Testing Agency (NTA) has released the detailed schedule for exams like UGC NET, JEE Main I, JEE Main II, NEET UG, CMAT & GPAT. The agency will be conducting NEET only once and mode for NEET UG exam will remain offline. From December onwards, UGC NET will be conducted as a computer-based test. The registration process for this will take place from 1st September to 30th September. The registration for JEE Main I exam will also take place from 1st September to 30th September. The exam will be conducted from 6th January to 20th January 2019. Registration for JEE Main II will begin from 8th February and end on 7th March 2019. Examination will be conducted from April 6 to April 20, 2019. Registration for CMAT and GPAT will begin from 1st November and end on 30th November 2018. Examination will be conducted on 28th January 2019.

Naya Raipur renamed as Atal Nagar

On 21st August 2018, Chhattisgarh government has decided to rename the state's new capital city Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar in the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It has also decided to install a statue of the former Prime Minister in the state capital and district headquarters of all 27 districts. Besides this, the Bilaspur University will be called as Atal Bihari Vajpayee University while the Narrow Gauge Line will be known as Atal Path and the Central Park will be named as Atal Park.

Seven new State Governors appointed

On 21st August 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Governors for seven states including Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura. Governor Satya Pal Malik was transferred from Bihar to Jammu and Kashmir. Lalji Tandon was appointed as the Governor of Bihar. Ganga Prasad was appointed as the Governor of Sikkim. Haryana governor Kaptan Singh Solanki was transferred to Tripura, succeeding Tathagata Roy who was appointed as the Governor of Meghalaya. Satyadev Narayan Arya was appointed as the Governor of Haryana. Baby Rani Maurya was appointed as the Governor of Uttarakhand.

Kempegowda International: 2nd Fastest Growing Airport

According to RoutesOnline, a company that focuses on the quality and standards of aviation, adjudged the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) of Karnataka as the second fastest growing airport in the world in terms of actual growth in the number of passengers. It has recorded 1,58,50,352 passengers in the first half of 2018. In this list, Indira Gandhi International Airport of New Delhi has been placed sixth (with a growth of 32,76,183) and Hyderabad is placed at 17th spot (20,97,087 passengers).

NEET will be held only once a year

In August 2018, Government of India has changed its previous decision of conducting online National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) twice a year from 2019. Now NEET will be held annually that too in pen-paper mode. The registration for NEET 2019 will start from November 1st and the exam will be held on May 5, 2019. The decision has been taken to save rural and economically poor families from disadvantage. However, the decision of conducting Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) twice a year is still intact.

National Congress Stalwart, Gurudas Kamat passed away!

Mr. Gurudas Kamat, aged 63, the Former Union Minister and Senior Congress leader died on August 22nd, 2018 in New Delhi. Kamat was taken to Primus Hospital in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, after he complained of breathlessness early in the morning. However, he took his last breath on the way after suffering a massive heart attack. He was a lawyer by training, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs with additional responsibilities pertaining to the Communications and Information Technology ministry from 2009 to 2011.

IIT Roorkee Alumnus develops the first 'Triwizard Chess'

Mr. Aditya Nigam, (B. Tech), an Indian Institute of Technology [IIT] Alumnus has reinvented how chess is globally played. He named his invention 'Triwizard Chess,' which is a strategy based game to test one's killing and surviving instincts. He developed a unique experience via Three-player chess game board through his gaming start-up for the first time to his alma mater. The founder has handled marketing, technology and operations domain in his start-up ventures. He imagines revolutionizing the gaming industry. Triwizard Chess is his first product in this direction.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship

In August 2018, the Jawaharlal Nehru University paid tribute to late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by renaming it's the School of Management and Entrepreneurship as 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship'. The great leader had served as the Member of Parliament from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He was a member of the Parliament for more than forty years. He was elected to the Lok Sabha for ten times, and was elected twice to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house.

The Third Indian Ocean Conference

On 27th August 2018, the 3rd Indian Ocean Conference began in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated this conference to strengthen cultural connection and bond between people of the two nations.

In addition to this, she also unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the Chancery building at the Embassy of India in Hanoi. Vietnam is one of the powerful nations of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping with which India will scale up its bilateral relationship in field of maritime security and energy.

India's first manned space flight, 'Gaganyaan'

On 28th August 2018, Union minister Jitendra Singh aired announcement about sending three astronauts to space by 2022 via country's first manned space flight 'Gaganyaan'. It will be a seven-day voyage around the earth at an altitude of 300-400 km at an expected expenditure of Rs.10,000 crore which is likely to generate around 15,000 jobs. India will be the fourth country after the USA, Russia and China to send humans to space. India established its reputation as an economical space power following the 2014 launch of an unmanned Mars mission for Rs. 450 crore.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi: Next chief justice of India

According to India Legal report of 28th August 2018, Justice Ranjan Gogoi will become the next chief justice of the Supreme Court on October 2nd, 2018, after retirement of the incumbent, Justice Dipak Misra. Justice Ranjan Gogoi will have a tenure of a year, one month and 14 days and will retire on November 17th, 2019. He had joined the Bar in 1978 and was appointed as the permanent judge of the Gauhati High Court on February 28, 2001.

Scholarship programme for NRIs

In August 2018, according to Indian Embassy in Muscat, Indian government started 2018-2019 Scholarship programme for Non-Residential Indians in 66 selected countries to help the children of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) pursue undergraduate courses in Indian higher educational institutions. Leaving medical and related courses, under this scheme financial aid in tuition fees, admission fees and post admission services for specific undergraduate professional and non-professional courses will be provided. Applications for this Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children can be made at <https://www.spdcindia.gov.in/login/index.php>

TDP leader passed away

In August 2018, Telugu Desam Party leader Nandamuri Harikrishna died in a road accident. The actor was driving to Kavali in Nellore district of Telangana on Nalgonda Highway. He was the fourth son of N T Rama Rao and brother-in-law of Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu. According to Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, Harikrishna was an upright parliamentarian who expressed his opinions frankly. The Telugu Desam Party said that the deceased will be "remembered for his fiery speeches, work in the public sphere and immense contribution towards strengthening the party".

India's first rail university

On 5th September 2018, country's first rail university will begin in a 100-acre plot in Vadodara, Gujarat. The varsity is brainchild of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the beginning the university will offer two undergraduate courses viz. Bachelor of Science in Transportation Technology and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Transport Management for which 103 students have been shortlisted so far. Besides this, the university has a separate hostel facility for 17 girl students. Chairman, Railway Board, Ashwani Lohani is the Chancellor of the university.

PNB Topped in Digital Transaction

In August 2018, the Department of Financial Services rated Punjab National Bank (PNB) as number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions. The bank has also been rated as the sixth overall amongst all banks in India for digital performance. It has been given 71 score that lies in the highest category of performance and it is equivalent to 'Good' in ratings. It is worth knowing that PNB average percentage of technical declines is only 0.83% of total transactions is an achievement in itself.

TNAU has given way to Centre of Excellence in Bio-Tech

In August 2018, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has announced establishment of Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology for promotion of biotechnology research in the state at an expenditure of Rs. 430 crore. The proposed centre is part of the state government's proposal to make Tamil Nadu a knowledge capital, innovation hub and a preferred destination for global investors. Spanning in five acres, the centre will be a joint venture between the state government, NABARD, TNAU, private industries and philanthropists. It will have all the requisite infrastructure and equipment.

Jain monk Tarun Sagar passed away

On September 2018, Jain monk Tarun Sagar died of prolonged illness in New Delhi. The 51-year-old seer met his last rites in Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh. The deceased was born in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh on 26 June 1967 and was known for his bitter discourses against common practices. Tarun Sagar was a monk of the Digambara sect and had a huge following in the Jain community. He chose the life of monk at a tender age of 13 after getting inspired by the sermons of another popular monk Acharya Pushpdant Sagar.

Twenty two new AIIMS are on verge of appearance

In August 2018, Union Health Minister, J P Nadda announced establishment of 22 new AIIMS under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Surakhya Yojana across the country at the first convocation of the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. Pretty soon campus recruitment will be introduced to make up the shortage of skilled human resource in the health sector. Besides this, other initiatives like increasing the retirement age of doctors to 65 years, setting up of more medical and nursing schools are also in process.

The Beginning of IPPBs

On 1st of September, government of India achieved a significant milestone of launching India Post Payments Banks across the country to provide the benefits of a rapidly developing India to the remotest corners of the country. With this, PM's vision of an accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man for speedy attainment of the financial inclusion got materialized. The move has ensured the leverage of the vast network of the Department of Posts with more than three lakh Postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks.

IIT Madras entered into a contract

In August 2018, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a technology company, Continental for joint research in technology solutions in high computing platform and cyber security for power train applications. The proposed research will be on intrusion detection and reporting on power train applications. Fast-paced evolution of mobility technologies demands higher computational power. With high computing platforms, car manufactures will be able to compete on various innovative functions and increased flexibility on software development.

Vodafone and Idea enter into a merger!

On 31st August 2018, Vodafone India and Idea Cellular merged to create India's largest telecom service provider, 'Vodafone Idea Limited' with more than 408 million subscribers covering more than 340,000 broadband sites. The new board of directors has 12 Directors including six Independent Directors. Kumar Mangalam Birla is announced the Chairman and Balesh Sharma as the CEO of the new entity. It has pan India Revenue Market Share (AGR) of 32.2% and number one position in 9 circles. It has largest voice network with over 2,00,000 unique GSM sites.

Venkatakrishnan: CEO of Vedanta Resources Plc.

On 2nd September 2018, Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan got appointed as the CEO of Vedanta Resources Plc. He has succeeded Tom Albanese who served as the CEO from 2014-17 and the interim CEO Kuldeep Kaura.

The appointee has joined the company's board of directors and carries plan of transforming the company into a giant producer of commodities, with main focus on Africa and India. Prior to this, he has worked in capacity of CEO of AngloGold Ashanti Ltd, the world's largest emerging market gold producer.

5th September: Teachers' Day

On 5th September 2018, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu bestowed National Teachers' Awards on behalf of Ministry of Human Resources Development in New Delhi. 48-year-old teacher, Om Prakash Mishra from Odisha was among the awardees who received the award for his publications like 'Experimento', to carry out science experiments with local rural resources in absence of requisite science equipments, 'Kinetics', a 40-day practice book on logical and modular reasoning for class 8, 'Transit' and 'Transit-2' a bridge course in mathematics for students of Classes 7, 8 and 9.

Nehal Chudasama became Miss Diva Universe

In September 2018, Nehal Chudasama from Mumbai won the title of Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Universe to represent the nation at Miss Universe 2018 beauty pageant. The 22-year-old beauty struggled with series of failures before achieving this success. Aditi Hundia was crowned as Miss Diva Supranational while Roshni Sheoran became Miss Diva 2018 Runner-up. The jury comprised of Miss Universe 2017 Demi Leigh Nel Peters, Bollywood actors like Sushant Singh Rajput, Shilpa Shetty, Neha Dhupia, Lara Dutta among others.

"Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office"

In September 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book titled "Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office". Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu penned this book which has description of Naidu's tenure as Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The 245-page book has 7 chapters regarding unrealised demographic dividend, necessity for an effective ecosystem for farmers to thrive, scientific advancements to improve the life of people and public awareness about rich Indian heritage. Among them 'Retired from politics but not from public life' is the most celebrated chapter.

September came as National Nutrition Month

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development is observing September as the National Nutrition Month across India to address malnutrition problem. Awareness programs related to malnutrition ailments like stunting, under nutrition, anemia and low birth weight in children are going on everywhere. The ministry is targeting around 11 crore women and children during this month through various grass-root activities with the convergence of several ministries. The decision was taken during the second meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under the Poshan Abhiyaan which took place in July 2018.

Delhi government felicitated Asian Games medalist

On September 4th, 2018, Government of Delhi announced increment in prize money for medalists who won medals at 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia. The prize money for gold medalists has been made 1 crore, for silver medalists it is Rs 75 lakh and the bronze medalist will be getting Rs 50 lakh. Besides these, the government has also doubled cash incentive for trainers to Rs 6 lakh from earlier Rs 3 lakh. Apart from this, government is also planning to deploy the medalists in various employments.

Justice Goswami : The Acting CJ of Gauhati High Court

On September 4th, 2018 Justice Arup Kumar Goswami has been appointed as the acting chief justice of the Gauhati High Court. He has replaced Chief Justice Ajit Singh. President has made this appointment under article 223 of the Constitution of India. The Gauhati High Court can have strength of 24 judges, but presently there are only 17 judges. The court still has shortage of seven judges. He got enrolled as an Advocate in 1985 and was designated a Senior Advocate in 2004. In 2011, he got appointed as an Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court.

B Srinivas became new Intelligence chief of JK police

On September 4th, 2018, the 54-year-old 1990 batch officer, B Srinivas got appointed as the new Intelligence chief of JK police. He has succeeded Abdul Gani Mir. He has rich experience of handling sensitive assignments as police chief in various districts of the Valley. He has served in capacities of inspector general as well as intelligence head during several operations in the state.

Financial aid for Indian Kho Kho team

In September 2018, the Union Sports Minister, Rajyavardhan Rathore sanctioned grant for the Kho Kho team which will be participating at the first International Kho Kho championship in England. Earlier, the traditional game of the nation was categorized as 'others' which kept it away from purview of financial aid but now this decision has been taken to encourage the game and include it in multi-disciplinary sporting events like the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympics and others.

Demise of renowned Gujarati author Bhagwati Kumar Sharma

On September 5, 2018, 84 year old Gujarati author, journalist and poet Bhagwati Kumar died of prolonged illness. 'Aarti ane (1957), 'Man Nahi Mane' (1962), 'Rikta'(1968), 'Vyaktamadhya'(1970), 'Samaydvi' (1974), 'Urdhvamool' (1981), 'Asooryalok'(1987), Dwar Nahi Khule, Premyatra, Viti Jashe Aa Rat?, Padchhaya Sang Preet (1963), story collection Bhagavatikumarni Shresth Vartao (1987), essay collection 'Shabdteet' (1980), 'Bistantu' (1988), 'Hriday Sarasa' (1995), 'Dandiyaa Dool' (2005), 'Jadabatod' (2006), 72 Sonnet collection 'Atmasaat' are some of his incredible work for which he was acknowledged with several prestigious awards.

Supreme Court decriminalized Section 377

On 6th September 2018, the Apex Court of India delivered a historic verdict of decriminalizing Section 377 which considered carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal as a punishable offence. The Court decriminalised this Section of the IPC by partially striking down some of its provisions. The bench said, "Consensual sex between adults in a private space, which is not harmful to women or children, cannot be denied as it is a matter of individual choice. Section 377 results in discrimination and is violative of constitutional principles." So now this permission of gay sex is a victory of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community.

India's First Global Mobility Summit 2018 'MOVE'

On 7th September 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Global Mobility Summit, 'MOVE' that has been organized by NITI Aayog at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Global Mobility Summit is the first of its kind, with more than 2200 participants from worldwide including representatives from several intergovernmental Organizations aiming to revolutionise the travel experience of people in India and make mobility more connected, shared and perfect.

87th Izmir International Tradeshow

On 7th September 2018, the 87th Izmir International trade show began in Izmir, Turkey. India is the Partner Country in this tradeshow and it will be launching a mega business pavilion 'Source India' hosting 75 Indian companies with the aim of partnerships to increase Indian exports to Turkey. It is part of a series of 'Source India pavilions' that the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) is hosting in key tradeshow worldwide for promoting India's exports. TPCI is the trade and investment promotion organisation of the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

University of Toronto's centre will now be in India

On 6th September 2018, Canada's premier academic institution, the University of Toronto announced to set up a centre in Mumbai or Bengaluru in India in partnership with Tata Trust to foster urban research and serve

as an entrepreneurship hub. Manoj Kumar, head of institutions, innovation and entrepreneurship at Tata Trust, among India's leading philanthropic organisations broke this news at the second India Invest Conference in Toronto. The proposed centre will translate academic research into high-impact solutions for low-resource settings and address issues that have socio-economic and environmental importance.

The Sixth edition of Bengaluru Space Expo

On 6th September 2018, ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan inaugurated the sixth edition of the biennial Bengaluru Space Expo. The three day event will witness industry participation in Indian space programme. India and France are strategic partners in the space programme and are working together for development of space missions. France has promised to provide space medicines for Indian astronauts who will be part of India's first Manned Space Mission 'Gaganyaan'. Rs. 10400 crore has been sanctioned for manufacturing of PSLV launch vehicle out of which Rs. 9000 crore worth production has been assigned to private industries.

Aadhaar will be necessary for organ transplant

In September 2018, Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) declared Aadhaar mandatory for Indian patients to get registered in the Tamil Nadu Network for Organ Sharing. And foreigners will require to submit a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the respective Embassies for the same. The move will streamline the deceased donor transplant programme and will also validate donor's arrival to the State for organ transplantation. TRANSTAN has introduced a single unique ID for a patient, irrespective of the number of organs he or she registers for.

Dilbagh Singh- The New DGP of J&K

On September 6th, 2018, Dilbagh Singh got appointed as the Director General of Police (DGP) of J&K for a while, till a regular arrangement is made. The appointee is already serving as Director General (Prisons). He will have a regular appointment only after his name gets cleared by the UPSC. He has succeeded Shesh Paul Vaid. This 1987-batch officer has held key positions in Jammu and Kashmir Police that includes the intelligence chief of the state. He began his career as the Additional Superintendent of Police in Kupwara district.

25th Raising Day of Delta Force

September 6th, 2018 was celebrated as 25th Raising Day of Delta Force. This counter insurgency force of the Indian Army was raised on September 6, 1994. It played an instrumental role in eliminating terrorism from the Chenab Valley and establishing peace in the region. On this day a wreath laying ceremony was organised at the Delta Force headquarters as a tribute to those who sacrificed their lives during performance of their duty. Since its constitution, the force has been honoured with 1,380 Gallantry Awards.

Seven new IIMs will have permanent campuses

In September 2018, the Union Cabinet gave nod to the establishment and operationalisation of permanent campus of seven new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at a total expenditure of Rs. 3775.42 crore. Among them IIM Amritsar has been granted Rs. 348.31 crore, IIM Bodh Gaya (Rs. 411.72 crore), IIM Nagpur (Rs. 379.68 crore), IIM Sambalpur (Rs. 401.94 crore), IIM Sirmaur (Rs. 392.51 crore), IIM Visakhapatnam (Rs. 445.00 crore) and IIM Jammu (Rs. 424.93 crore).

'Nai Talim' is all set to flood the book stores

In September 2018, Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar unveiled a book titled 'Nai Talim', which is a joint effort of the universities in the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE). The book has experiential learning and basic principles of Mahatma Gandhi along with the work and education curriculum for Schools' D.Ed., B.Ed. and faculty development programmes for teachers. It is available in 13 languages viz. Assamese, Tamil, Bengali, Odia, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi, Marathi, Telugu, Gujarati, Urdu, Hindi, and English.

Anshula Kant: The New MD of SBI

In September 2018, Anshula Kant got appointed as the Managing Director of State Bank of India. Kant will be on the post till the date of her attaining the age of superannuation (September 30, 2020) or until further orders, whichever comes earlier. Before this appointment, she was the bank's Deputy Managing Director. With her appointment, now SBI has total four MDs including PK Gupta, DK Khara and Arijit Basu. She has succeeded B Sriram, who took over as the MD and CEO of IDBI Bank.

Bengaluru is again ready to host 'Aero India' 2019

In September 2018, Defence Ministry aired an announcement that Bengaluru will host the upcoming biennial air show 'Aero India' from 20th to 24th February 2019. The five-day event will combine a major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows. The event is likely to witness major global leaders, big investors from aerospace industry as well as think-tanks from across the globe. Yelahanka Air Force station of Bengaluru has hosted all the 11 editions of Aero India and has emerged as a premier air show in Asia.

Akshay Kumar became honorary ambassador

In September 2018, Bollywood actor and a vocal supporter of the Indian Armed Forces as well as the farmer community, Akshay Kumar has been made an honorary ambassador for Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation which was founded by the family of India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri. The actor is indeed living Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan 'Jai jawan jai kisan' motto for our country. On this occasion he posted his picture with Vinamra Shastri, the grandson of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Hima Das: Sports Ambassador of Assam

In September 2018, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal of Assam appointed Asian Games medalist, Hima Das as Sports Ambassador of the state at a function in Guwahati. He felicitated her with a cheque worth 1.6 crore rupees. This proves success of the Khelo India initiative. The Chief Minister also announced development of 500 village stadiums in the state. In the recently concluded Asian Games, Hima scripted national record by clocking 50.79 seconds to win silver and it became India's first medal in women's 400m race since Manjeet Kaur won a silver at 2006 Doha edition.

Amitabh Chaudhry, The new CEO & MD of Axis Bank

In September 2018, Amitabh Chaudhry of HDFC Life got selected to play CEO & MD of Axis Bank. He will succeed Shikha Sharma. He will take over as MD & CEO for 3 years from January 1st, 2019 till December 31st, 2021. Amitabh holds a proven track record and is well-equipped to lead Axis Bank in carrying out its growth ambitions balanced with a strong emphasis on risk and compliance management. He has been with HDFC Standard Life since January 2010 and is widely acknowledged for the insurance company's successful IPO earlier this year.

Triple Jumper Arpinder Singh won IAAF Continental Cup

In September 2018, the triple jumper Arpinder Singh won a bronze medal at IAAF Continental Cup in Ostrava, Czech Republic. With this, he has scripted history by becoming the first Indian to receive a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup. He also represented the Asia-Pacific team in the meet, which is held once every four years. It is worth knowing that no Indian has ever won a medal in the Continental Cup which was known as the IAAF World Cup before 2010.

Model International Center for Transformative AI

In September 2018, NITI Aayog, Intel and TIFR entered into a contract for establishment of Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI). The proposed research centre will help in development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence-led application-based research projects.

It will address major challenges in India and will concentrate on application-based AI research in healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility. Besides these, it will collaborate with industry leaders, startups, AI services and product companies to productize technologies that will be developed at the model ICTAI.

Haryana Assembly approved two Bills

On 10th September 2018, Haryana Assembly passed two Bills viz. YMCA University of Science and Technology, Faridabad (Amendment) Bills, 2018 and the Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University (Amendment) Bills, 2018. The former is about changing the name of the YMCA University to ‘J C Bose University of Science and Technology’, YMCA, Faridabad. And the latter is about changing the name of Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University to ‘Shri Vishwakarma Skill University’, Haryana. However, another bill, the Haryana Pond and Waste Water Management Authority Bill, 2018 has been postponed for further discussions.

CAREER FLITE

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

‘Women Who Changed The World’

In August 2018, BBC History Magazine issued ‘Women Who Changed The World’ List after conducting a reader's poll. Marie Curie topped this list followed by Rosa Parks, Emmeline Pankhurst, Ada Lovelace and Rosalind Franklin. Curie founded the new science of radioactivity and her discoveries launched effective cures for cancer. Rosa Parks fought against race segregation in America; Emmeline fought for the parliamentary vote for women in Britain; Ada was a gifted mathematician and was the first computer programmer; Rosalind was expert crystallographer who pictured a dark cross of dots on double helix of DNA via X-Ray.

BIMSTEC Summit Preparations

On 11th of August, 2018, a special meeting of Senior Officials of the Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held in Kathmandu for the upcoming 4th BIMSTEC Summit scheduled to take place on August 30 and 31, 2018. BIMSTEC is a regional economic bloc comprising seven member nations viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. BIMSTEC structure, mechanisms and procedures, establishment of a BIMSTEC Development Fund were the agendas of this meeting.

Marine reefs could survive global warming

In August 2018, researchers found that the marine reefs could survive global warming as the combination of coral reefs and the mutualistic micro-algae withstood various climate change events since the Mesozoic era. The micro-algae is commonly known as zooxanthellae. It permits them to procure energy from sunlight and to build the massive, economically valuable reef formations upon which countless marine organisms rely for habitat. After some genetic tests and classical morphological techniques scientists observed that the algae family is far more diverse and comprises of 15 genera.

India- Singapore maritime bilateral exercise

Indian High Commissioner, Jawed Ashraf in Singapore informed media that India and Singapore will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the maritime bilateral relations between the two countries via a maritime bilateral exercise in September 2018. The upcoming bilateral naval exercise will be India's longest uninterrupted naval exercise with any country across the globe. The duo enjoyed excellent defence relationship reflecting deep mutual trust and a shared vision for the region. They have been working together in the fields of technology and innovation solutions for the weak and vulnerable.

Mario Abdo Benitez: The New President of Paraguay

On August 15, 2018, Colorado Party's Mario Abdo Benitez took oath as the new President of Paraguay for a five-year term in the capital Asuncion. He defeated Efrain Alegre of the liberal opposition alliance, by 4% points in the nation's elections of April 2018. The 46-year-old has succeeded the conservative, Horacio Cartes of Colorado Party. This son of a close aide to ex-military dictator Alfredo Stroessner, has promised to bridge the rift within his ruling Colorado party, which has been in power almost continuously since 1947.

‘Nihal Sarin’ the 53rd chess Grandmaster from India

On 15th August, 2018, the 14-year-old, International Master Nihal Sarin of Kerala tallied 5.5 points out of 9 and became the 53rd Grandmaster of India. He got defeated by Richard Rapport of Hungary in the final round of Abu Dhabi Masters. Daniil Dubov of Russia won one of the strongest Asian Open with a splendid score of 7.5 points out of 9. Anton Korobov of Ukraine and A R Salem Saleh of Uae matched Dubov on points but the Russian managed to proceed ahead as the tie was resolved.

Death of US singer Aretha Franklin

In August 2018, US singer Aretha Franklin died of cancer at the age of 76. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, the "Queen of Soul" made her debut in 1961. Her style in hits like "Respect" and "Natural Woman" popularized her across the globe. She was honored with the Grammy Award 18 times and was the first female vocalist permitted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. She had also performed at the inaugurations of three US Presidents viz. Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama.

Egypt unveiled world's oldest cheese

According to August 2018 publication of journal Analytical Chemistry, archaeologists discovered world's oldest 3,200-year-old cheese in Egyptian tomb of Ptahmes, a 13th century BC mayor of Memphis, Egypt. It is probably the most ancient solid cheese ever discovered. Along with the cheese, the archaeologists also found biomolecular evidence of bacterium responsible for deadly disease brucellosis (undulant fever) which spreads from intake of unpasteurised milk of animals. Brucellosis is still prevalent in Australia.

Imran Khan : The 22nd PM of Pakistan

On 18th of August, 2018 Imran Khan, Chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) took oath as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan at the President House in Islamabad. The newly-elected members of the National Assembly of Pakistan favoured him with 176 votes in the elections, while his opponent and Chief of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shahbaz Sharif managed to secure just 96 votes. The PTI came up as the single largest party with 116 seats in the elections which were held on July 25, 2018.

11th World Hindi Conference is in session

On 18th August 2018, 11th edition of three days World Hindi Conference began in Mauritius on 'Hindi World and Indian Culture' theme. Prime Minister of Mauritius, Praveen Kumar Jagannath inaugurated it in Port Louis. The conference is on purpose of expanding the reach of the Hindi language at a global level. This is the first time that representatives from all 29 states and Union Territories of Delhi, Chandigarh and Puducherry are attending the conference. Mauritius is hosting this conference for the third time. Prior to this it did so in 1976 and then in 1993.

International Nitrogen Initiative chose its Chairman

In August 2018, Global policy making initiative, International Nitrogen Initiative chose Indian scientist and academician Nandula Raghuram as its Chair. Raghuram has succeeded Mark Sutton and with this appointment, he has become the first Indian and Asian to get elected as the Chair. Raghuram is a professor at the GGS Indraprastha University, New Delhi. Specialized in the biological determinants of nitrogen use efficiency in crops, he has co-founded Indian Nitrogen Group. He will support the International Nitrogen Management System in regional centres of Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Europe and Latin America.

World's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics

Researchers of the City University of Hong Kong (City U) have developed the world's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics that will be used in making complex, high strength, self shape-changing objects. For making high compressive strength-to-density ratio ceramics, researchers used elastic energy of precursors which were available in large sizes. 4D printing is actually conventional 3D printing that is combined with the additional element of time as the fourth dimension, where the printed objects re-shape or self-assemble themselves over time when exposed to external stimuli like mechanical force, temperature, or a magnetic field.

Pakistan's Prime Minister announces 21-member Cabinet

On 20th August 2018, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan has announced 21 members of his cabinet. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) Vice-chairman, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi is the country's new Foreign Minister. Pervez Khattak has been given the Defence Ministry.

PTI's Asad Umar has been appointed as the Minister for Finance and Revenue whereas the portfolio of the Information and Broadcasting has been given to PTI's information secretary Fawad Chaudhary. Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiyar has been made the Minister for Water Resources.

Ice present on Moon

On 20th August 2018, scientists have found frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's Polar Regions. For this, scientists used data from NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) instrument aboard the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, launched in 2008 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). As per the study published in the journal PNAS, the ice deposits are patchily distributed and could possibly be ancient. Most of the new found water ice lies in the shadows of craters near the poles, where the warmest temperatures never reach above minus 156 degrees Celsius.

Maxxis will launch 5 tyre units in India

On 21st August 2018, Maxxis, Taiwan based company has announced to launch 5 new manufacturing plants in India. The company had been supplying Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) tyre fitments to HMSCI through the Vietnam facility since 2016. But recently, it rolled out its first two-wheeler tyre consignment from its Sanand facility, Gujarat to Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSCI), Gurgaon. Currently, the Sanand facility is manufacturing two-wheeler tyres and tubes. It has a capacity to produce about 20,000 tyres and 40,000 tubes a day.

Exercise Pitch Black 2018 concludes

Exercise Pitch Black 2018, a biennial multinational large force employment warfare exercise, was hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) from 24th July 2018 to 18th August 2018 in Darwin, Australia. In this exercise, 16 countries and more than 140 aircrafts had participated. For the first time Indian Air Force contingent participated in this multinational air exercise. The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent consisted of 145 personnel, including four Sukhoi Su-30 MKIs, an Ilyushin tanker, an Ilyushin Il-78 tanker, a Lockheed Martin C-130J-30 Super Hercules, and a Boeing C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft.

Autobiography of Warne 'No Spin' in October

Spin legend of Australia, Shane Warne will talk about his outstanding cricketing career and his life off the pitch besides unveiling several unknown facts in his autobiography titled 'No Spin' which will be published in October 2018. The book is the true story behind the headlines, in Warne's own voice, and challenges some of the enduring myths that surround him. The book is written by former cricketer and TV presenter, Mark Nicholas. Warne was born on 13th September 1969. He played his first Test match in 1992, and took over 1,000 international wickets. He officially retired from all formats in 2013.

Scientists develop "in-body GPS" system

In August 2018, scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Massachusetts General Hospital in the United States have developed a wireless 'in-body GPS' system that can track tumours and spot the location of ingestible implants inside the body. First tests were conducted on animals, the system called 'ReMix' was found to be able to easily track the implants with centimeter-level accuracy. To track its movement, the scientists used a wireless device that reflects radio signals of the patient. The 'ReMix' can be potentially used in proton therapy, a type of cancer treatment that involves attacking tumours with beams of magnet-controlled protons.

George Clooney: World's highest paid actor

In August 2018, Forbes has put out list of world's highest paid actors in which George Clooney emerged as topper with \$239m amount. The Ocean's Eleven Star was followed by Dwayne Johnson (\$119m), Robert Downey Jr (\$79m), Chris Hemsworth (\$64.5m), Jackie Chan (\$45.5m), Will Smith (\$42m), Akshay Kumar (\$40.5m), Adam Sandler (\$39.5m), Chris Evans (\$34m), Salman Khan (\$33.5m).

Diageo purchased Clooney's company Casamigos Tequila in \$1 billion that made him earn a paycheck of \$239 million. Besides that he earned additional income from endorsements and older movies.

Scott Morrison to be designated as Australia's new PM

Scott Morrison, the Australian Treasurer, is now going to be the country's sixth Prime Minister in just over a decade. Malcolm Turnbull has been evicted as Prime Minister. Mr. Morrison will lead the conservative party (also known as the liberal party) after winning the Liberal party leadership vote on Friday. Mr. Morrison won an internal ballot 45-40 over former Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton. Josh Frydenberg, the current environment and energy minister, was chosen as the deputy Liberal leader.

The Mountain Echoes Literature Festival began in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Annual four-day Literature Festival, Mountain Echoes began in Bhutan. This year the fest began, on August 23rd, 2018, with a tribute to the former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, for his animated style of poetry recitations. Ms. Namita Gokhale, the festival coordinator, enunciated the fondness for Mr. Vajpayee's poetry which was loved beyond any language barriers. 75 noted speakers participated in the festival for discussing a wide range of topics like environment, music, theatre, and art. The festival also celebrated 50 years of successful Indo-Bhutanese relations.

AESF-IV began in Sri Lanka

On 27th August 2018, the fourth Asian electoral stakeholder's forum (AESF-IV) started in Colombo. The two-day forum is about the state of elections and democracy in the region with its theme 'Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together'. It is being organized by the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and the Asian network for free elections (ANFREL). More than 250 delegates from 45 countries are participating in this event. Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra, Ashwini Kumar is representing India in this event.

Aeolus: the world's first wind-sensing satellite

In August 2018, European Space Agency (ESA) has launched world's first wind-sensing satellite 'Aeolus' through Vega rocket from French Guyana. This wind-sensing satellite will map Earth's tropical winds on global scale. Named after guardian of wind in Greek mythology, the satellite has been placed at altitude of 320km above the Earth. It is part of the Copernicus project, a joint initiative of European Union and European Space Agency (ESA) to track environmental damages and assist in disaster relief operations.

Resignation of Hanif Atmar

In August 2018, Afghanistan's national security adviser Hanif Atmar resigned from his post. President Ashraf Ghani accepted his resignation and appointed Hamdullah Mohib in his place who is currently serving as Afghan ambassador to United States. Although the resignee did not give any reason for his departure yet it is being assumed that he did so in wake of serious differences over policies and principles with government leadership. This could be his first move in a plan to run for the presidency in next year's elections.

Sir Donald George Bradman's 110th birth anniversary

27th August 2018 was 110th birth anniversary of legendary Australian cricketer Sir Donald George Bradman. The legend still holds the record of scoring the 'Highest Individual Test Batting Average' of 99.94. Bradman scored 6996 runs in 52 Test matches at the mentioned mind-boggling average. Besides this he continues to hold a number of records of highest career batting average, highest series batting average, highest ratio of centuries and double centuries per innings played. In addition to this, he was the first batsman to score a Test triple century (304) at number 5 position.

WhatsApp will be on fake message probe

On 28th August 2018, WhatsApp CEO Chris Daniels promised "working out a technological solution" for locating the source of fake messages and complying with Reserve Bank of India rules on local storage of financial data (for its payments service). In addition to this, the Facebook-owned messaging app will appoint a local grievance officer and register a corporate entity in India. WhatsApp had earlier expressed its inability to trace messages saying that would mean decryption, which will be equivalent to violation of privacy.

Suspension of Premium Processing For H-1B Visas

On August 28th, 2018, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have extended the temporary suspension of premium processing for H1-B visas as part of its efforts to clear the backlog. It is worth knowing that premium processing is a feature that shortens the usual processing time of H-1B visa petitions from an average of six months to 15 calendar days for a fee of \$1,225 (Rs 86,181). The suspension is expected to last until February 19th, 2019.

The First SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum

On August 28th, 2018, the first edition of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum began in Kathmandu, Nepal. 'Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' is the theme of this three day event. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Asian Farmers' Association in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development organized this event to obtain the Sustainable-Development-Goals in South Asia. The representatives from both governmental and non-governmental entities from regional and international organizations are participating in this forum.

French Environment Minister resigned

On 28th August, 2018, French Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot resigned on account of his failure in achieving climate goals and nuclear energy policy, dealing a major blow to President Emmanuel Macron's already tarnished green credentials. Hulot was among the first ministerial appointments that Macron made after his landslide election victory in May 2017. It is being said that the centrist President has watered down a series of campaign pledges on the environment that included a commitment to cut the share of nuclear power in French electricity to 50% by 2025 and boost renewable energy.

Multination maritime exercise KAKADU 2018

On 29th August 2018, Multination maritime exercise KAKADU 2018 began in the Port of Darwin in Australia to enhance interoperability. 23 warships, 1 submarine, 45 aircraft, 250 marines and approximately 52 foreign staff from more than 25 different countries are participating in this event which will continue upto September 18th 2018. The INS Sahyadri is representing Indian Navy in this exercise. Began in year 1993, exercise KAKADU is a premier multilateral regional maritime engagement which is hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

The Eighth Colombo Defence seminar

On 30th August, 2018, Sri Lankan Prime minister Ranil Wickremsinghe opened the 8th Colombo Defence seminar to address contemporary security issues against multi-dimensional global disruptive forces which can weaken the state. The PM emphasized on necessity to identify gaps to meet such challenges especially in view of rapid change in science and technology. Around 38 nations are participating in this event. Former chief of Indian army General Bikram Singh is representing India in this event.

Mohammad Nabi scripted history

Afghanistan's all-rounder Mohammad Nabi became the first-ever cricketer in history to participate in each of his team's first 100 One Day Internationals.

He attained this milestone in the second One Day International against Ireland on 29th August 2018. It is worth noting that Nabi had made his debut in Afghanistan's first-ever One Day International on 19 April 2009 and since that time he played in Afghanistan's every One Day International. No other player has played even in each of his country's first 50 One Day International matches.

Beginning of a new India-Myanmar check post

On 31st August 2018, India inaugurated Zokhawthar land immigration check-post in Mizoram along Myanmar border. It will act as authorised immigration centre for valid entry and exit of passengers between both the nations. This will be the second immigration check-post in Mizoram along Myanmar border after Zorinpui check-post in Lawngtlai district which was inaugurated in September 2017. It is worth knowing here that India shares 1,643 km-long border with Myanmar which touches Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.

Where did the UN Team go wrong?

On 1st September 2018, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega ordered expulsion of a team from the UN Commission for Human Rights to leave as it had overstepped its authority and was violating Nicaragua's national sovereignty. Flashback says triggered by cuts to the country's social security system, a protest started in mid-April. Although Ortega had tried reversing the cuts yet the demonstrations had quickly bloomed to turn him down from the post. Ortega termed the protesters as "terrorists" working in coordination with domestic and foreign interests which wished to remove him from office.

Myanmar freed 75 child soldiers

According to 1st September 2018 report of UN child protection agency UNICEF, Myanmar's military or the ethnic rebel armies, released 75 child soldiers as first discharge as part of a gradual process to end years of forced recruitment of underage fighters. The state's army has released children and young people from its ranks after signing a deal with the United Nations. The released child soldiers will attend reintegration programmes to resume a civilian life and this process will manifest peace in Myanmar.

Rikako Ikee emerged as Most Valuable player of Asian Games 2018

On 2nd of September 2018, Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee who won six gold medals in events at the Asian Games became first female to get adjudged as Most Valuable player. She had come to participate in Jakarta after winning a gold, two silvers and a bronze at the Pan Pacific championships. Japan had finished the Games with 75 gold, 56 silver and 74 bronze for a total haul of 205 medals. Japan had tied China on 19 swimming gold medals in Jakarta.

It is Mauritius again at India's FDI chart's top

According to latest released data of RBI, Mauritius has kept its top position intact in India's foreign direct investment (FDI) followed by Singapore for year 2017-18. As per the data the total FDI stood at \$37.36 billion in the financial year, a marginal rise over the \$36.31 billion recorded in the previous fiscal. The recorded FDI from Mauritius was found to be \$13.41 billion as against \$13.38 billion in the previous year and that from Singapore rose to \$9.27 billion from \$6.52 billion.

Mark Read became WPP CEO

On 3rd September, 2018, the world's largest communication services group, WPP Plc appointed Mark Read as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Director (ED) of board. He has replaced Martin Sorrell who resigned from WPP, 33 years after founding the company on account of allegations of personal misconduct and misuse of company assets. Read has been assisting the world's largest ad company as interim co-chief operating officer since Sorrell's sudden April departure. WPP is a vast network of hundreds of ad agencies including J. Walter Thompson and Ogilvy.

The World Coconut Day

On 2nd September 2018, globe observed World Coconut Day (WCD) to promote coconut farming with focus on productivity and product diversification. “Coconut for Good Health, Wealth & Wellness” was the theme for this year. The occasion coincided with commemoration of the formation day of Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) which is an inter-governmental organisation of 18 member nations mandated to enhance coconut developmental activities of the Asian Pacific region to gain maximum economic development. In India, Coconut Development Board (CDB) carried out celebration in coconut growing states across the country.

The International Aviation Summit

On 4th September 2018, the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA) together conducted the International Aviation Summit in New Delhi, India. India is expected to surpass Germany, Japan, Spain and the UK in upcoming ten years to become the world's third largest air passenger market with its ‘Vision 2035’ under which it plans to build 100 new airports at an expenditure of USD 60 billion across India. The country achieved a unique milestone of 50 months of double-digit growth in the Indian Aviation sector.

Arif Alvi emerged as the new President of Pakistan

In September 2018 presidential elections of Pakistan, Arif Alvi of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party got elected as the 13th President of Pakistan. He defeated Aitzaz Ahsan of Pakistan People's Party and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, a pro-Taliban, anti-U.S. radical Islamist. Alvi is a senior member of Khan's party from the southern Sindh province. He will succeed President Mamnoon Hussain, who will complete his five-year term on September 9th, 2018.

International Day of Charity 2018

On 5th September 2018, globe observed death anniversary of Mother Teresa as International Day of Charity to recognise the role of charity and charitable organisations in reducing the human suffering within and among nations. In 1950, she had founded the Order of Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata that was dedicated in service of poor and the dying in that city. She had won Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and passed away on September 5, 1997 at 87 years of age. On September 4th, 2016 Pope Francis had conferred status of saint upon her.

The Afghan peace conference got postponed

The Afghan peace Conference which was about to take place on 4th September 2018 in Moscow got postponed as several nations including India denied Russia's invitation for the same. Moreover, Afghanistan itself withdrew from attending the conclave which became India's reason for not attending the event. It should be noted that India has always been favouring an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process to bring peace and stability in that country. From 2002, India has committed around USD 2 billion for the socio-economic development of the country.

Mars Mission “HOPE” of UAE

In September 2018, United Arab Emirates broke the news of its upcoming Mars Mission “HOPE”. It is planning to launch this mission by 2020 and with this, mission will become the first mission to planet Mars by any Arab or Muslim country. UAE aspires to study various aspects of the red planet like the Martian atmosphere for learning the causes of the corrosion of its surface that ended all the possibilities of existence of water on the planet as well as weather phenomena among others.

The Beginning of 'SLINEX-2018'

A joint exercise 'SLINEX-2018' between Indian and Sri Lankan navies began from 7th September 2018 at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. This week long annual exercise which was initially biannual carries purpose of enhancing cooperation in the maritime domain and to further strengthen mutual trust and interoperability between the two navies. Three ships, two maritime patrol aircraft's and one helicopter from the Indian side are participating in the Harbour and Sea Phases of this exercise. It is worth noting that Sri Lanka Air Force personnel have also joined the exercise for the first time.

India- US 'two plus two' dialogue

On September 6, 2018, the first-ever 'two plus two' dialogue between India and the United States began in New Delhi. The foreign and defence ministries of the two nations had high-level talks on increasing trade, ensuring a safer, secure, prosperous and free Indo-Pacific region, counter terrorism and India's concerns about the Trump administration's decision to make changes in the H1B visa programme. Besides these, the duo also discussed US sanctions on the import of Iranian crude oil and promotion of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as well as India's missile defence system purchase from Russia.

Dr. Poonam Singh continues to be Regional Director

In September 2018, Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh got unanimously re-elected as Regional Director of World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia for another five-year term beginning from February 2019. WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "As the first woman to become Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region, she has provided dynamic leadership in a Region that accounts for one quarter of the world's population, but a disproportionate burden of its diseases."

International Literacy Day

Globe celebrated 8th September as International Literacy Day on 'Literacy and skills development' theme. The theme emphasized integrated approaches that simultaneously support the development of literacy and skills for improvement of people's lives and work and contribution towards equitable and sustainable societies. The day advocated inculcation of skills and competencies required for employment, careers, and livelihoods, especially technical and vocational skills, along with transferable skills and digital skills. Governments, civil societies and stakeholders used the occasion to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and reflected over world's remaining literacy challenges.

'Dataset Search', Google's new search engine

On 6th September, 2018, Google launched a new search engine 'Dataset Search' for scientific community. The dataset providers will describe their data in such a way that will make the comprehension of the content of their pages easy. Dataset Search will simplify the discovery of datasets wherever they're hosted, whether it's a publisher's site, a digital library, or an author's personal web page. The new search engine equipped with multiple languages will enable scientific community, data journalists and geeks to find the requisite data for their work, stories or to satisfy their intellectual curiosity.

Chicago hosted World Hindu Congress

On 9th September 2018, the three-day World Hindu Congress got concluded in Chicago. The theme for this year's edition was 'think collectively, achieve valiantly'. More than 2000 delegates worldwide participated in this mega event. On this occasion, RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, joint general secretary Dattatreya Hosbale and six other top Hindu religious leaders talked about collective efforts for Hindu resurgence in this Congress. Bhagwat emphasized on the necessity of co-existence of individuals, society and healthy environment to obtain the goal of ultimate truth.

Demise of Miss Universe 1995

On 9th September 2018, American actress, singer, television host, and beauty pageant titleholder who became Miss USA 1995 and Miss Universe 1995, Chelsi Mariam Pearl Smith died of liver cancer. She was also Miss Galveston County in 1994. She succeeded Miss Universe 1994, Sushmita Sen. Her family said, "After retiring her crown, she set the bar for intelligent and enlightened women around the world." Sushmita Sen mourned saying, "I loved her smile and that generous spirit. Rest in peace my beautiful friend, Chelsi Smith. Miss Universe 1995".

Indo-US 'Yudh Abhyas 2018'

The 14th edition of the joint military exercise between India & USA, 'Yudh Abhyas 2018' will begin from September 16 to 29, 2018 in Himalayas at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand. The two-week exercise is a series of one of the longest running joint military training and a major ongoing bilateral defence cooperation effort between the two nations. Under the aegis of Headquarter Central Command, around 350 personnel of the US Army and similar strength of Garud Division of the Indian Army will participate in this event.

Evacuation of more than 1 million people

In September 2018, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster ordered evacuation of more than one million people on pretext of impending 'Hurricane Florence' on the state's eastern coast which is expected to knock on September 13, 2018. While the governor of neighbouring North Carolina ordered an evacuation of the Outer Banks, a popular tourist destination. President Trump has already declared state of emergency in Virginia. Belonging to category 4, Hurricane Florence is said to be a powerful storm, packing winds of 220 Km/hour and having the potential of bringing catastrophic floods in the eastern United States.

The golden funeral mask of Peru

In September 2018, Peru celebrated the return of an ancient 8th century funeral mask made of gold after twenty year old long legal battle to get back the smuggled museum piece from Germany. Recently the Sican mask was showcased for the first time at a ceremony in the presidential palace since its return to the South American nation. The mask made of hammered gold alloy with silver eyes depicts a pre-Incan deity was seized in Germany in year 1999 from a Turkish art dealer. It was handed over to Peru's embassy in Berlin last week.

Sports News

Nadal lifted Rogers Cup

On 12th August, 2018, 17-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal got edge over Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets to win his fourth Canadian Masters 1000 title at the Rogers Cup here in Toronto. He defeated Tsitsipas by 6-2, 7-6 in a thrilling summit clash of the men's singles event that carried on for one hour and 41 minutes. With the win, Nadal achieved his 80th ATP World Tour title and fifth victory of the year. Besides this, Nadal has secured his record-extending 33rd Masters 1000 title.

Vietnam Badminton Open 2018

The Vietnam Badminton Open 2018 officially called as YONEX-SUNRISE Vietnam Badminton Open 2018 was held at Nguyen Du Cultural Sports Club in Ho Chi Minh. Total Prize money for the event was \$75,000. In the Men's Singles event, Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia has won the gold medal. Yeo Jia Min of Singapore has won the gold medal in Women's Singles event. Besides this, Women's doubles was won by Misato Aratama and Akane Watana of Japan and the Men's Doubles was won by Ko Sung-hyun and Shin Baek-cheol of South Korea.

The Beginning of Asian Games

Jakarta in Indonesia is all set to host the 18th edition of the Asian Games. Around 11,000 athletes from 45 nations will compete in 40 sports and 67 disciplines including 28 Olympic sports, 4 new Olympic sports, and 8 non-Olympic sports. The event will witness eSports (a form of competition using video games) and canoe polo as demonstration sports for the very first time. Led by flag-bearer Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra, Indian contingent will have more than 570 Indian athletes vying for top honours in 36 sports.

Five gold medalist of IPhO 2018

Five Indian students gave tough competition to Chinese team and won gold medals in the 49th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2018. In the physics team, Lay Jain and Pawan Goyal from Kota, Bhaskar Gupta from Mumbai, Nishant Abhangi from Rajkot and Siddharth Tiwary from Kolkata won gold medals. They competed with 396 candidates from 86 other nations. Besides this, Indians also coined two gold and two silver medals at Chemistry Olympiad as well as four silver medals at International Biology Olympiad.

Sunil Chhetri: Best Sportsperson of India

In August 2018, Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club presented awards to sportspersons. Among the awardees, 34-year-old, Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri was adjudged as the 'Best Sportsperson of India'; Ishan Porel received the 'Best Junior Sportsperson of the Country'; Aroon Ghosh, Arun Lal and Akhtar Ali achieved Lifetime Achievement awards; Safiqul Mondol clinched 'Best athlete' (men) and Bhairabi Roy lured 'Best athlete' (women) award. Besides these, special awards were conferred upon Hima Das for winning the 400m gold in the under-20 world championship and Dipa Karmakar for topping in her comeback event in Turkey.

Asian Games 2018: Shooter Sarnobat wins gold medal

On 22nd August 2018, Indian shooter Rahi Sarnobat has won gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at Asian Games 2018. With this, she has become the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in shooting at the Asian Games. In the total medal tally, India has won 11 medals, comprising 4 gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze medals. 2

018 ICC All Time Test rankings

As per the ICC Test rankings all time list, Don Bradman with 961 rating points topped the list. He was followed by Steve Smith (947), Len Hutton (945), Jack Hobbs and Ricky Ponting (both on 942), Peter May

(941), and Gary Sobers, Clyde Walcott, Vivian Richards and Kumar Sangakkara (all on 938 points). After the phenomenal game show in the second innings of the Trent Bridge Test against England, the Indian captain, Virat Kohli reached 937 rating points. He is now just one point outside the top 10 all time list.

News from 18th Asian Games

On 26th of August 2018, India coined four silver and two bronze medals in the ongoing 18th Asian Games in Indonesia. In horse riding sport, Equestrian, Indian team of Fouaad, Jitender Singh, Ashish Malik and Rakesh Kumar, claimed Silver in the Team category of the event. Fouaad Mirza also won a silver medal separately in Individual category. In Athletics, Hima Das won silver in Women's 400 metre final while Muhammed Anas Yahiya gained silver in Men's 400 metre final. Besides these, India also managed two bronze medals in Men's Team and Mixed team event in Bridge.

Asian Games 2018 : PV Sindhu settled for Silver

On 28th of August 2018, star Badminton player PV Sindhu lost the final of the women's singles category to World No.1 Tai Tzuying of Taiwan in the two straight games. But still she scripted the record by becoming first Indian to win silver medal at Asian games in this category. Besides her, India also coined silver in women's compound team archery event. India women lost 228-231 to Korea in the summit clash at GBK Archery Field. Apart from them, Indian athletes, Dutee Chand and Hima Das got qualified for the women's 200 metres semi-finals.

Anjum & Apurvi secured berth for 2020 Olympics

In September 2018, Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela became the first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for the 2020 Olympics. Shooter Moudgil won a silver in the women's 10m air rifle event of the International Shooting Sport Federation's World Championship in Changwon, South Korea on 3rd September 2018. While Chandela although came fourth in the same event yet managed to avail place in Olympic quota. Asian Games medalist Deepak Kumar also cleared the qualification although he finished sixth in the highly competitive final air rifle event that was dominated by Russia and Croatia.

India lost the fourth test match

On 3rd September 2018, England defeated India by 60 runs in the fourth cricket test match in Southampton. With this, England got unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series. England bowled India out for 184 to claim the fourth test match. The gritty 101-run partnership between Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane failed in fetching victory for India. Now the inconsequential final Test will be played at the Oval from September 7th, 2018.

18th Asian Games got concluded

On 2nd September 2018, the 18th edition of Asian Games met an end witnessing China as the topper with 132 gold medals in its name. India ended its campaign with the biggest ever medal tally with a total of 69 medals which included 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze medals. India finished at the 8th spot. Rani Rampal, Indian women hockey captain was the flag bearer of the Indian Contingent at the closing ceremony. Rahi Sarnobat became gold medalist in sepaktakraw. Amit Panghal won the gold medal in 49 kg category in boxing. Indian team won gold in Men's Quadruple Sculls in rowing. In Athletics, Neeraj Chopra and Swapna Barman won gold medals in javelin throw and heptathlon went alongside India's continued dominance in women's team relay (gold). Jinsons Johnson won gold in 1500m while Manjit Singh's 800m gold and Arpinder Singh won gold in triple jump. Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in 10m Air Pistol and Rahi Sarnobat also won gold medal for India in Women 25m pistol event. Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won the men's doubles gold medal. Bajrang Punia won gold in freestyle wrestling (65kg) and Vinesh Phogat also won gold in Freestyle 50 kg wrestling. India won gold in Men's Pair in Bridge. India's women's team won a Silver in Compound Archery. PV Sindhu won silver in women's singles event in badminton.

Alastair Cook announced retirement

Former captain of England's national cricket team, Alastair Cook aired announcement about his retirement from International cricket after the fifth and final match against India at the Oval which is about to begin on September 7th, 2018. The 33-year-old has been the highest run-scorer for the nation in tests and stands 6th on the all-time list of Test run-scorers, after Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis, Rahul Dravid and Kumar Sangakkara. In 2016, Cook became the first England batsman to reach 10,000 Test runs among his several accomplishments.

India won KAKADU-18 Cup

In September 2018, INS Sahyadri of Indian Navy won the KAKADU 18 Cup that involved swimming, running, crossing water and land obstacles in the multilateral maritime exercise involving 27 navies organized by Australian Navy. Started in 1993, KAKADU is a biannual joint exercise that takes place both ashore and at sea off the coast of Darwin. This year's exercise witnessed more than 3000 personnel that represented the largest military commitment to the exercise since its beginning. Prior to this, INS Sahyadri took part in multinational exercises MALABAR 18 at Guam and RIMPAC 18 at Hawaii.

Young Indian shuttlers won titles in Ukraine

On September 3, In Kharkiv International challenge in Kharkiv, Ukraine 2018, Krishna Prasad Garaga and Dhruv Kapila defeated Germany's Daniel Hess and Johannes Pistorius by 21-19, 21-16 in men's doubles event. Besides them another pair of Indian shuttlers Anoushka Parikh and Saurabh Sharma also defeated Poland's Pawel Smilowski and Magdalena Swierczynska, in the mixed doubles summit clash. On the other hand, women's doubles pair lost in the semifinals and the mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg failed to qualify the quarterfinals.

Hriday Hazarika Won Gold at ISSF World Championship

In September 2018, Indian shooter Hriday Hazarika coined a gold medal in the 10 m air rifle junior men's event at the ISSF World Championships in South Korea. With this he became the lone Indian to qualify for the final with a score of 627.3 and was tied with Iran's Mohammed Amir Nekounam on 250.1 once the field was pruned to the regulation top eight. Besides this, the Indian team of Hazarika, Divyansh Panwar and Arjun Babuta, secured the fourth spot with a combined total of 1872.3.

The Four Grand Slams Of 2018 got over

The most important annual tennis events got concluded for this year. The Australian Open was held in mid-January 2018 in Melbourne, Australia, witnessed success of Roger Federer of Switzerland in the Men's Singles and Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark in Women's Singles category. Next, the 122nd edition of French Open also known as Roland Garros occurred in May and June 2018 in Paris, France. Rafael Nadal of Spain won in Men's Category and Simona Halep clinched her first Grand Slam title. The 132nd edition of Wimbledon took place in July 2018 in Wimbledon, United Kingdom. Novak Djokovic won the Men's Singles Title for the fourth time and Angelique Kerber won the Ladies' Singles title. The 138th edition of US Open 2018 was organized at New York City. Novak Djokovic of Serbia won in Men's category and Naomi Osaka of Japan has defeated Serena Williams to win the US Open title.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. In August 2018, Google has tied up with which of the following banks for providing instant loans online?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank
(c) Kotak Mahindra Bank (d) Federal Bank (e) All of the above
2. On 28th August 2018, athlete of which nation won gold in men's 800m final?
(a) Qatar (b) Singapore (c) India
(d) Jordan (e) Indonesia
3. Michelle Bachelet, the former President of _____, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner for Human Rights.
(a) Cuba (b) Chad (c) Chile
(d) Eritrea (e) Colombia
4. The 76th anniversary of _____ was observed across India on 8th August 2018.
(a) Quit India movement (b) Civil Disobedience Movement
(c) Non Violence Movement (d) Dandi March (e) None of above
5. In August 2018, which Indian biosphere reserve became the 11th biosphere reserve to be added in UNESCO's WNBR list?
(a) Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (b) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
(c) Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve (d) Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve
(e) Similipal Biosphere Reserve
6. In August 2018, which Indian-American has won the International Geography Bee World Championship?
(a) Avinash Goel (b) Ankit Goel (c) Avi Goel
(d) Aryan Sharma (e) Akash Saxena
7. In August 2018, Justice Rajendra Menon has been appointed as the Chief Justice of which High Court?
(a) Delhi High Court (b) Bombay High Court
(c) Allahabad High Court (d) Indore High Court
(e) Lucknow High Court
8. Who has won the Hindu Playwright award 2018?
(a) Girish Karnad (b) Mahesh Dattani (c) Keval Arora
(d) Annie Zaidi (e) Swetanshu Bora
9. Which language has become the first Indian tribal language to get its own Wikipedia edition?
(a) Lushai (b) Mishing (c) Santali
(d) Mara (e) Monpa
10. India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations has been inducted in _____.
(a) Lucknow Police (b) Hyderabad Police (c) Kochi Police
(d) Allahabad Police (e) Delhi Police

11. In September 2018, India and Asian Development Bank have signed \$346 million loan agreement to improve State highways in _____.
- (a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Gujarat (e) Uttar Pradesh
12. Who has won gold medal in the 57-kilogram category boxing event at the World Youth Boxing championship 2018?
- (a) Nikolina Cacic (b) Manisha Narwal (c) Anamika Hudda
(d) Sakshi Choudhary (e) Astha Pahwa
13. Sunil Mehta has been elected as the new _____ of the Indian Banks Association (IBA).
- (a) Manager (b) Chairman (c) Vice-Chairman
(d) Director (e) None of above
14. In September 2018, who has been appointed as the new Secretary of Ministry of Steel?
- (a) Aruna Sharma (b) Raghav Jain (c) K.L Manoj
(d) Binoy Kumar (e) None of above
15. In September 2018, Justice Tahira Safdar has been sworn-in as first woman Chief Justice of which country's High Court?
- (a) Bangladesh (b) Iran (c) Pakistan
(d) Indonesia (e) Iraq
16. Emmerson Mnangagwa was sworn-in as the new President of which country?
- (a) Zambia (b) Uruguay (c) Turkey
(d) Togo (e) Zimbabwe
17. In August 2018, India has signed a \$375 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve irrigation in which state?
- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Bihar
(d) Rajasthan (e) Madhya Pradesh
18. India has won total how many gold medals in the Asian Games 2018?
- (a) 12 (b) 14 (c) 15
(d) 16 (e) 17
19. Which football player has been honored with the UEFA Player of the Year (2017-2018)?
- (a) Luka Modric (b) Cristiano Ronaldo (c) Lionel Messi
(d) Neymar (e) Arjen Robben
20. Who has been named as the Asiad's Most Valuable Player in the Asian Games 2018?
- (a) Hima Das (b) P. V. Sindhu (c) Wei Jizhong
(d) Rikako Ikee (e) Vinesh Phogat
22. As per latest RBI data, which country topped the India's FDI chart in FY18?
- (a) Singapore (b) Mauritius (c) Netherlands
(d) Malaysia (e) Japan

23. Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi has been elected as the new President of which country?
(a) Iraq (b) Iran (c) Indonesia
(d) Libya (e) Pakistan
24. Who has been honored with the Asia Society's Game Changer of the Year award for 2018?
(a) Indra Nooyi (b) Shand Panesar (c) Sanjeev Gupta
(d) Guruswamy Jayaraman (e) Kailash Satyarthi
25. Who among the following wrote the book "Atal Ji Ne Kaha"?
(a) Bipin Chandra (b) Shashi Tharoor (c) Chitra Banerjee
(d) Brijendra Rehi (e) Rajiv Malhotra
26. G. Satheesh Reddy has been appointed as the new _____ of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
(a) Managing Director (b) Chairman (c) Vice-Chairman
(d) Director (e) None of above
27. Which month is observed as the National Nutrition Month all over the India?
(a) July (b) August (c) September
(d) November (e) December
28. Who among the following wrote the book "Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office"?
(a) Anand Sharma (b) M. Venkaiah Naidu (c) Arun Jaitley
(d) Rajnath Singh (e) Amitabh Kant
29. Who has won gold medal in the 50m pistol event at the ISSF World Championship 2018?
(a) Saurabh Chaudhary (b) Ravi Kumar (c) Jitu Rai
(d) Om Prakash Mitharwal (e) Shahzar Rizvi
30. Which country's Navy team has won the KAKADU Cup 2018?
(a) Russia (b) Australia (c) India
(d) China (e) Pakistan

ANSWERS

- 1.(e)** In August 2018, Google has tied up with all these four banks- HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank for providing instant loans online to get edge over its competitors for \$1 trillion digital finance market.
- 2.(c)** Manjit Singh of India won gold medal in men's 800m race on 28th August 2018. Another Indian athlete Jinson Johnson won silver and Qatar's Abubaker won bronze medal in the same event.
- 3.(c)** Michelle Bachelet, the former President of Chile, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner for Human Rights. She succeeded Jordan's Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein. Bachelet who ranks among the world's most powerful women in politics, also served in 2010 as the first director of UN Women.
- 4.(a)** The 76th anniversary of Quit India movement was observed across India on 8th August 2018. On this day, in 1942, father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi gave the famous clarion call of 'Do or Die' to all Indians to drive the British away from the country. The movement is also known as the August Kranti Diwas.
- 5.(d)** The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve of Sikkim became the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). After including Khangchendzonga, there are 18 biosphere reserves in India.
- 6.(c)** Indian-American high school student Avi Goel has won the International Geography Bee World Championship 2018. He won a gold medal in seven out of the 10 medal events, and a silver medal in two of the events. He also bagged the top spot in all the three events: the International Geography Exam, the International Geography Showdown, and the International Geography Bee.
- 7.(a)** Justice Rajendra Menon has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. He succeeded Justice Gita Mittal. Prior to this, Menon was the Chief Justice of Patna High Court.
- 8.(d)** Annie Zaidi, the famous Indian author has won the Hindu Playwright Award 2018 for her play 'Untitled'. The award was presented by Ratna Pathak Shah, actor and director. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2 Lakhs.
- 9.(c)** Santali has become the first Indian tribal language to get its own Wikipedia edition. Currently, it has content of about 70,000 words. Santali language is written in Ol Chiki script and spoken by 6.4 million people. This language is mostly used in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam.
- 10.(e)** India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team for anti-terrorist operations has been inducted in Delhi Police. The 36 elite women commandos, hailing from north-eastern states, have undergone rigorous training for around 15 months from specialists all across India and abroad to handle urban situations as well as jungle operations.
- 11.(a)** In September 2018, India and Asian Development Bank have signed \$346 million loan agreement to improve State highways in Karnataka. It will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.

- 12.(d)** Indian boxer, Sakshi Choudhary has won gold medal in the 57-kilogram category boxing event at the World Youth Boxing 2018. In the final, she defeated Nikolina Cacic of Croatia. Besides this, Manisha and Anamika won silver medals in the 64 kg and 51 kg categories respectively.
- 13.(b)** Sunil Mehta, the MD & Chief Executive of Punjab National Bank (PNB), has been elected as the new Chairman of the Indian Banks Association (IBA) for year 2018-19. Besides this, Dinabandhu Mohapatra, MD & CEO of Bank of India (BOI) has been elected as the Deputy Chairman of IBA.
- 14.(d)** Binoy Kumar, 1983 batch IAS officer of Telangana cadre, has been appointed as the new Secretary of Ministry of Steel. He succeeded Aruna Sharma. Prior to this, he was Special Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
- 15.(c)** Justice Tahira Safdar has been sworn-in as the first woman Chief Justice of Pakistan's Balochistan High Court. She will remain in this post until 4 October 2019. Previously, she created history in 1982 when she became the first female civil judge in Balochistan.
- 16.(e)** Emmerson Mnangagwa was sworn-in as the new President of Zimbabwe. It was the country's first election since the ousting of strongman Robert Mugabe. The President is the head of government, as the office of Prime Minister was abolished in 1987.
- 17.(e)** In August 2018, India has signed a \$375 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve irrigation in Madhya Pradesh. The objective of the agreement is to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency. The project will focus on two large irrigation systems: Kundalia Irrigation Project & Sanjay Sarovar Irrigation Project.
- 18.(c)** India ended its campaign with the biggest ever medal tally with a total of 69 medals which included 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze medals. India finished at the 8th spot. China topped the medal tally with 132 gold medals.
- 19.(a)** Luka Modric of Real Madrid and Croatia has been honored with the UEFA Player of the Year (2017-2018). The 32-year-old Modric helped Real Madrid to win the Champions League for a third season and then led Croatia to the World Cup final.
- 21.(d)** Japanese swimmer, Rikako Ikee has been named as the Asiad's Most Valuable Player. She won six gold medals and two silver medals in the Asian Games 2018. She has become the first female athlete to bag the award in the history of Asian Games. Ikee also received a cheque of \$ 50,000 (Rs.35.5 lakh).
- 22.(b)** As per latest RBI data, Mauritius remained the top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18. FDI from Mauritius totaled \$13.41 billion. The list is followed by Singapore and Netherlands. The total FDI in the financial year stood at \$37.36 billion.
- 23.(e)** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi has been elected as the 13th President of Pakistan. He will succeed President Mamnoon Hussain. A total of 430 votes were cast in the National Assembly and the Senate, with Alvi bagging 212 of them. He will take oath on 9th September 2018.

- 24.(a)** Indra Nooyi, the PepsiCo Chairman and CEO, has been honored with the Asia Society's Game Changer of the Year award for 2018 in recognition of her pioneering business achievements, humanitarian record, and advocacy for women and girls around the world.
- 25.(d)** The book "Atal Ji Ne Kaha" is written by Brijendra Rehi, Doordarshan producer & senior journalist. The book is based on the BJP patriarch and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The book has 26 chapters based on former Prime Minister's speeches which are on economy, policies, small industries, social development, nuclear programme, science and technology, and terrorism.
- 26.(b)** Renowned aerospace scientist Dr. G Satheesh Reddy has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for a period of 2 years. He will also be secretary in the Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D) for the same period.
- 27.(c)** September is observed as the National Nutrition Month all over the India to mark the fight against malnutrition. During this month, several programs have been organized by the Women and Child Development Ministry to spread broad awareness on the issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under nutrition, anemia and low birth weight in children.
- 28.(b)** The book "Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office" has been written by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu. The book was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The book is based on Naidu's tenure as Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- 29.(d)** Indian Shooter Om Prakash Mitharwal has won a gold medal in the 50m pistol event at the ISSF World Championship 2018. He shot a score of 564 to bag the top prize. In the event, Damir Mikec of Serbia and Daemyung Lee of South Korea won the silver and bronze medals respectively.
- 30.(c)** Indian Navy team has won the KAKADU Cup 2018 by defeating 22 other countries. INS Sahyadri had participated in the KAKADU Cup 2018 which involved swimming, running, crossing water and land obstacles. The event was organised in Australia.