

CA Fact Bytes

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Business Awareness
Business Appointments

Position	Personality
Head, Whatsapp, India	Abhijit Bose
MD, CEO, Paytm Payments Bank	Satish Kumar Gupta
Editor, The Hindu	Suresh Nambath
MD, IDBI Bank	Rakesh Sharma
CEO, Pepsico India	Ramon Laguarta
MD, Facebook India	Ajit Mohan
CEO and MD, Axis Bank	Amitabh Chaudhry
COO & MD, ICICI	Sandeep Bakshi
Chairman, Colgate-Palmolive India	Mukul Deoras
MD, SBI	Arijit Basu

Key Corporate Positions

Entity	Personality
Chairman, SBI	Rajnesh Kumar
CMD, SIDBI	Mohammad Mustafa
CEO, HDFC Bank	Aditya Puri
MD & CEO, Yes Bank	Ravneet Gill
CEO, Standard Chartered India	Zarin Daruwala
Chairman, Tata Sons	N. Chandrasekaran
CEO, Infosys	Salil Parekh
CEO & MD, MCX	Mrugank Paranjape
CEO, NSE	Vikram Limaye
Chairman, BSE	Sethurathnam Ravi
MD & CEO, NCDEX	Vijay Kumar Venkataraman
President, NASSCOM	Rishad Premji
President, FICCI	Rashesh Shah
President & MD, General Motors India	Sanjiv Gupta

Business Awards

Title	Category	Awardee
Forbes India Leadership Awards 2018	LifeTime Achievement Award 2018	Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro Limited
	Best CEO - Private Sector	Rajeev Jain, Bajaj Finance
	Best CEO - MNC	Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman & MD, HUL
	Entrepreneur of the Year	Vivek Chaand Sehgal, Motherson Sumi Systems
	Best Company-Public Sector	Energy Efficiency Services Limited
EY Entrepreneur of The Year Awards 2018	Lifetime Achievement Award	Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro Limited
	EY Entrepreneur of 2018	Siddhartha Lal, CEO, Eicher Motors
CNBC's 17 th Asia Business Leader Awards 2018	TBA	

Union Budget 2019 - Key points

Interim finance minister Piyush Goyal presented interim Union Budget
Individual taxpayers with annual income up to 5 lakh rupees get full tax rebate
Individuals with gross income up to 6.5 lakh rupees will not need to pay any tax if they make investments in provident funds and prescribed equities
Standard tax deduction for salaried persons raised from Rs. 40K - 50K
Gratuity limit increased from 10 lakh to 30 lakhs
Tax on notional rent on second home has been removed
To increase availability of affordable housing, benefits under Section 80-IBA of Income Tax act are extended for one more year
Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Around 12 cr beneficiary farmers with less than 2 hectares land holding ● Rs. 6000 per year per family, transferred directly to bank in 3 installments ● The landless can earn through MGNREGA, but don't qualify for PM-KISAN
Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pension Yojana for workers in unorganised sector (Monthly income up 15K) ● An assured monthly pension of 3000 Rs. per month after 60 years of age
Allocation to healthcare is Rs. 61,398 cr, i.e. 2.2% of budget

Business, economy & trade

News	Narration
Capital First Ltd merged with IDFC Bank in 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The merger has created a combined loan asset book of Rs. 1.03 lakh crore for merged entity IDFC First Bank • The bank will serve 7.2 million customers through its 203 bank branches, 129 ATMs, 454 rural business correspondent centres across the country's urban and rural geographies • V Vaidyanathan is MD & CEO of IDFC First Bank
Fortune Magazine sold to Thailand-based conglomerate for USD 150 million	Meredith Corp. agreed to sell Fortune magazine & related businesses for USD 150 million, furthering company's efforts to shed news-focused brands it acquired in buying Time Inc
Amazon acquired stake in 'More' supermarket chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon & private equity firm 'Samara' bought stake in 'More' through Witzig advisory services. This deal will intensify competition with rival Walmart that acquired Flipkart earlier • Amazon expects groceries & household products to account for more than half of its business in India in the next five years
Internet search giant Google unveiled Project Navlekha	Estimated 40 million new users come online in India every year, from rural & urban areas. The project will bring India's 135,000 vernacular publications online in a hassle-free manner
Flipkart unveiled a dedicated portal named '2Gud'	The platform offers refurbished mobile phones, tablets, laptops and other electronic accessories along with a 3-12 month warranty
Flipkart acquired AI startup Liv.ai to compete with Amazon's Alexa	The startup's technology will allow Flipkart to build voice-enabled shopping in multiple Indian languages
Paytm has partnered with Alibaba for cloud business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paytm has licensed Alibaba's technology for cloud infrastructure • This will provide Art. Intelligence tools to developers, startups and enterprises with CRM, campaign management and payment solutions
Indian Post Payment Bank launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headed by Suresh Sethi, IPPB has been set up with 100% equity owned by Indian Government • By leveraging reach of 1.55 lakh post office

	<p>branches, IPPB will go live with 650 branches & 3,250 access points co-located at post offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 11,000 postmen both in rural & urban areas will provide doorstep banking services • It will accept deposits up to Rs 1 lakh per account from individuals & small businesses • It will offer loans & insurance services through tie ups with PNB & Bajaj Allianz respectively
Bharti AXA & Airtel Payments Bank offer Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alliance will leverage Airtel Payments Bank's vast network to reach deep rural pockets & serve the under-insured • Airtel Payments Bank also becomes the first Indian payments bank to offer the Government of India-backed life insurance scheme
PhonePe partnered with IRCTC app to facilitate secure payments	The partnership will enable PhonePe's 100 million plus users to pay directly from their bank accounts using UPI, credit & debit cards and also the PhonePe wallet for travel bookings via IRCTC Rail Connect Android app
Reliance Jio partnered with SBI for digital services	MyJio platform will enable SBI YONO's digital banking features & solutions for a seamless, integrated and superior customer experience. It will also extend financial services capabilities of SBI & Jio Payments Bank
LIC Board approved proposal To Buy 51% Stake In IDBI Bank	IDBI, the government-owned lender needs capital. The preferred option for stake purchase is a preferential issue of shares, said Economic affairs secretary Subhash Garg
RIL acquired Radisys for Rs 500 crore	Radisys Corp is a US-based open telecom platform solutions provider. The deal will help Reliance Jio Infocomm (RJio) to accelerate initiatives across 5G, IoT and open source architecture
Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp finalized European steel JV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A definitive agreement to create a 50:50 joint venture will combine European steel businesses of the German & Indian giants • Combined entity will have Euro 17 billion turnover & 23 mn tonnes production capacity
India is the sixth wealthiest country	As per AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, India houses a total wealth of USD 8230

	bn. The US, China, Japan, the UK & Germany are countries ahead of India
Government appointed Uday Kotak-led 6 member board of directors to head IL&FS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Company Law Tribunal (NLCT) allowed ministry of corporate affairs to take control of ILFS, burdened by Rs. 91000 cr total debt ● Interlinkages between IL&FS, banks., mutual funds & infra players are too strong & entire structure would have collapsed, had the government not intervened
Direct tax collections rose by 17% to 9.95 lakh crore for FY 2017-18	Around 1 crore new assesses have started filing income tax returns in 2017-18. Budget Estimate for FY18 was Rs 9.80 lakh crore
FDI in India rises to USD 62 billion in 2017-18	As per Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, FDI inflow to India rose to USD 62 billion in FY 2017-18 vs. USD 60 bn in previous FY
India's global trade rose by 16% to USD 768 Billion in 2017-18	As per Commerce Department data, trade stood at USD 660 Billion in 2016-17
DoT approved Bharti Airtel and Telenor India merger	The transaction will boost Bharti Airtel's 4G spectrum holdings, fortify network capacity & augment revenue, as it braces to continue fight against Reliance Jio Infocomm

Launch news/Initiatives

News	Narration
Government launched PM-JAY app	The world's largest cashless health insurance scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), popularly known as Ayushman Bharat is active on Google Playstore. The app will help people check if they are eligible for the scheme. National Health Authority (NHA) runs PM-JAY
NSE launched online platform named 'NSE goBID' for retail investors to buy g-sec Mumbai	The platform will allow retail investors to invest in treasury bills (T-Bills) of 91 days, 182 days and 364 days and various government bonds from one year to almost 40 years.
IndusInd bank launched interactive credit card 'Nexxt'	IndusInd Bank 'Nexxt' Credit Card provides customers with flexibility of three payment options at a POS terminal - Credit, Converting Transactions

	into EMIs with 4 tenure options or using accumulated Reward Points, by simply pushing a button on the card
IIT Hyderabad launched incubator for chip design	The Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI), the first of its kind in India will focus on creating an ecosystem to groom startups in chip design
Axis bank became the first ever bank to introduce Iris Scan Authentication	Axis bank introduced this feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through micro ATM tablets. The intent is to boost bank's financial inclusion efforts by making Aadhaar authentication process hassle-free & offering easier access to digital banking for consumers, especially in rural parts of the country
India's first Mobile Open Exchange (MoX) set up in Noida	MOX will be a dedicated ecosystem for mobile industry, providing an integrated platform to mobile manufacturers, R&D and allied industries
Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & MyGov Launched 'Innovate India Platform'	The citizen centric platform aims to serve as common point for all innovation happening across the nation
Project 'Sashakt' - Bad loans resolution strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Sashakt was proposed by a panel led by PNB chairman Sunil Mehta ● 18 public sector banks, 3 private sector banks & Exim Bank signed intercreditor agreement (ICA) framework to speed up resolution of stressed assets that are under the Rs 500 crore bracket ● RBI forecasts gross non performing assets (NPAs) to cross 12% by March 2019
MCX launched India's first copper options contracts	The option contract will provide physical market participants additional instrument to hedge price risk. MCX had earlier commenced option trading in crude oil contracts
MelTY launched 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages in partnership with common service centres (CSCs)	The aim of Wi-Fi Choupals is to transform rural Internet connectivity through BharatNet. They focus on developing rural Wi-Fi infrastructure and to provide various ICT services at an affordable cost

Systems/App launches

Name	Narration
Ministry of Health introduced 'budget dashboard' portal	The portal is an internal web portal comprising information on budget, expenditure and bill payment positions. On 'dashboard budget', expenditure information is available in a snapshot and details on various categories, such as flagship schemes, central sector expenditure, are available
NETA App to rate MPs, MLAs	NETA app is a platform where voters can review & rate elected representatives & hold them accountable as well The app is developed by 27-year-old entrepreneur Pratham Mittal
SBI launched unified payment terminal MOPAD (Multi Option Payment Acceptance Device)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOPAD aims to help merchants eliminate multiple choices that they keep to facilitate transactions from cards to QR code based payments • PoS terminal, along with cards will accept payments through UPI, Bharat QR, and SBI Buddy wallet
Niryat Mitra – mobile App launched	The app developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade from the policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff, market access requirements – SPS and TBT measures.
'Rail MADAD' launched	RPGRMS (Railway Passenger Grievance Redressal and Management System) app is meant to expedite & streamline passenger grievance redressal to register complaints by passengers through mobile phone/web
"ReUnite" Mobile app launched to trace missing children	The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation launched "ReUnite" app to track & trace missing and abandoned children in India
One million people testing WhatsApp payment service	WhatsApp Pay will partner with HDFC, ICICI & Axis Banks to process transfers. SBI will join once it has necessary systems in place, in an attempt to win market share from rivals Paytm & Google Tez
PRAAPTI App and Web portal to	The Union Ministry of Power launched web portal & app namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in

transparency in electricity payments	Power procurement to bring Transparency in Invoicing of generators). Both aim to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators & Discoms
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General Awareness

Personalities

Appointments

(a) Chief Ministers	Personality
Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel (post assembly elections, heading congress government)
Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot (post assembly elections, heading congress government)
Telangana	K. Chandrashekar Rao (post assembly elections, heading TRS government)
Mizoram	Mr. Zoramthanga (post assembly elections, heading Mizo National Front government)
Madhya Pradesh	Kamal Nath (post assembly elections, heading congress government)
Karnataka	HD Kumarswamy (post assembly elections, heading JDS-Congress coalition government)

(b) Governor/Others	Personality
Director, CBI	Rishi Kumar Shukla
Governor, RBI	Shaktikanta Das (Replaced Urjit Patel)
Chief Election Commissioner	Sunil Arora (Replaced O P Rawat)
Deputy chairman, Rajya Sabha	Harivansh Narayan Singh (NDA nominated candidate)
Chhattisgarh	Anandiben Patel (Post demise of Balram Dass Tandon)
J&K	Satya Pal Malik (Replaced N N Vohra)
Odisha	Ganeshi Lal (Following completion of S C Jamir's tenure)
Tripura	Keshari Nath Tripathi (Additional charge for the West Bengal governor)
Mizoram	Kummanam Rajasekharan

(c) Union Cabinet	Personality
Information & broadcasting	Rajyavardhan Rathore (Replaced Smriti Irani)

(d) Government entities (Establishment year)	Personality
Finance secretary	Ajay Narayan Jha (Replaced Hasmukh Adhia)
Revenue secretary	Ajay Bhushan Pandey (Replaced Hasmukh Adhia)
Chief Information Commissioner	Sudhir Bhargava (Replaced A K Mathur)
Chairman, Railway Board	V K Yadav(Replaced Ashwani Lohani)
Chief Economic Advisor	Krishnamurthy Subramanian (Replaced Arvind Subramanian)
Director General, CSIR (1942)	Shekhar Mande (Following Girish Sahni's superannuation)
Director General, Border Security Force	Rajni Kant Misra
Chairman, IRDA	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
Chairman, DRDO (1958)	G Satheesh Reddy
First ever CFO at RBI (1935)	Sudha Balakrishnan
CMD, NPCI	Biswamohan Mahapatra
Central Vigilance Commissioner	Sharad Kumar
Chairman, National Green Tribunal (2010)	Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel
Chairman, NSDC	A M Naik
Chief Justice of India	Ranjan Gogoi

(e) Others	Personality
Chairman, FTII	B P Singh (Replaced Anupam Kher)
Chairman, CBFC	Prasoon Joshi

Key positions held

Government/Defence	Personality
RBI Deputy Governors	NS Vishwanathan
	Viral Acharya
	BP Kanungo
	Mahesh Kumar Jain

MD & CEO, Indian Post Payments Bank	Suresh Sethi
Economic Affairs Secretary	Subhash Garg
Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)	Sushil Chandra
Cabinet Secretary of India	Pradeep Kumar Sinha
Chairman, Press Trust of India	N. Ravi
Chairman, UIDAI	J Satyanarayana
CEO, UIDAI	Ajay Bhushan Pandey
Central Admin. Tribunal (CAT)	Justice Permod Kohli
NITI Aayog	Chairperson - Mr. Narendra Modi
	CEO - Amitabh Kant
	Vice Chairman - Rajiv Kumar
Chairman, National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC)	Justice H.L. Dattu
National Security advisor to the Prime Minister	Ajit Doval
Chief, RAW	Anil Dhasmana
Chief, Intelligence Bureau	Rajiv Jain
Director-General, CRPF	Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar
Chief of Army Staff	Lt Gen Bipin Rawat
Chief of Naval Staff	Admiral Sunil Lanba
Chief of Air Staff	Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa
Chairman, 7 th pay commission	Justice A K Mathur
Chairman, SEBI	Ajay Tyagi
President, CII	Rajesh Bharti Mittal
President, ASSOCHAM	Sandeep Jajodia
Attorney General of India	K K Venugopal
Director General, NSG (National Security Guard)	Sudeep Lakhtakia
Chairman, University Grant Commission	Dhirendra Pal Singh
Foreign secretary	Vijay Gokhale
CMD, Air India	Pradeep Singh Kharola
MD & CEO, India Post Payment Bank	Suresh Sethi
Chairman, 15 th Finance Commission	N K Singh
Chairman, Economic Advisory Committee	Bibek Debroy
Chairman, GSTN	Ajay Bhushan Pandey
Comptroller & Auditor General of India	Rajiv Mehrishi

CEO, IGCAR	U. Kamachi Mudali
Chairperson, Competition Commission of India	Ashok Kumar Gupta
Chairperson, National Commission for Women	Rekha Sharma

Science Related (Estb year)	Name
ISRO	K Sivan
TIFR (1945)	Sandip Trivedi
BARC (1954)	Director – K N Vyas
Atomic Energy Commission of India	Chairman – Sekhar Basu
DRDO (1958)	Director General - Sanjay Mitra (Additional responsibility, following retirement of S Christopher)
Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (1963)	S Somanath

Deaths

Name	Narration
George Fernandes	He was Former Defence Minister of India. He oversaw Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998 & Kargil war in 1999. During his tenure as Union Minister, he ordered American multinationals IBM and Coca-Cola to leave the country, due to investment violations in 1977. In 1976, he was arrested and tried in the infamous Baroda dynamite case.
Mrinal Sen	He was National Award-winning director and recipient of Padma Bhushan award
Ananth Kumar, Union Minister & BJP MP	Ananth Kumar (BJP) served as Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs in NDA government from 2014 till his death. He was Lok Sabha MP for over two decades, having been elected from Bangalore
Alyque Padamsee, iconic Ad Guru and Actor	Alyque Padamsee, often referred to as the Father of Modern Indian advertising. He was the former Chief Executive of advertising firm Lintas in India. He will be best remembered for iconic campaigns such as 'Lalitaji' for Surf, 'Cherry Charlie' for Cherry Blossom Shoe Polish, MRF's 'Muscle Man', the Liril girl in the waterfall and

	'Hamara Bajaj' for the auto major.
Stan Lee, an American comic book writer, editor, and publisher	He co-created numerous popular fictional characters, including superheroes like Spider-Man, the X-Men, Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, the Fantastic Four, Black Panther, Daredevil, Doctor Strange, Ant-Man and so on
Jamal Khashoggi, a US based senior Saudi journalist	Khashoggi was murdered in Istanbul, supposedly because of his open criticism in the press, of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's authoritarian tactics & involvement in starting brutal war in Yemen
Annapurna Devi, a legendary Hindustani classical musician	A Padma Bhushan awardee & an exponent of Senia-Maihar gharana was a sitar & surbahar maestro
Kalpna Lajmi, Indian film director, producer and screenwriter	Kalpna directed critically acclaimed movies like Rudaali, Darmiyaan & Daman
Veteran journalist Kuldeep Nayar	The former Rajya Sabha member was journalist, an author & India's high commissioner to the UK. He authored famous books like 'Between the Lines', 'Scoop! - Inside stories from Partition to the present', 'Distant Neighbours: A tale of the Subcontinent', among others
Former PM & 'Bharat Ratna' Atal Bihari Vajpayee	One of the founder members of BJP, Atal Bihari Vajpayee thrice served as the Indian Prime Minister. He was conferred the Bharat Ratna in 2015
Former TN chief minister & DMK supremo M. Karunanidhi	Affectionately called 'Kalaigarnar' meaning artist in Tamil, he was a Indian writer, director, actor turned politician & a long-standing leader of the Dravidian movement
Somnath Chatterjee	Ex-speaker of Lok Sabha (2004-2009) & an active CPI (M) leader
Former Indian cricket captain Ajit Wadekar	During his tenure as the captain, India won first-ever Test series in West Indies and England. He made his debut in 1966 at Mumbai against West Indies and went on to play 31 Tests, scored one hundred and 14 fifties before calling it quits in 1974
Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan	He served at the UN from 1997 to 2006 and was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
England-born author of Indian origin 'Sir' V S	The Nobel awardee in 2001 authored famous books like India trilogy—An Area of Darkness, A Wounded

Naipaul	Civilisation, A Million Mutinies Now
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People in news

Name	Narration
Eliud Kipchoge and Ibarguen won 'IAAF Athletes of the Year' award in 2018	Eliud Kipchoge created world record in Berlin marathon, with a record time of 2:01:39, the Kenyan posted a time less than 2 hour, 2 min for the first time in the marathon history Ibarguen became the first jumper ever to complete a triple jump/long jump Diamond League title sweep in 2018
Vijay Mallya is first ever Fugitive Economic Offender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court declared Vijay Mallya a Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO) under newly enacted Fugitive Economic Offenders' Act, 2018. His properties can now be confiscated by the government ● Person is declared as FEO if - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) arrest warrant has been issued against him for specific offenses involving Rs. 100 cr value & (b) he has left the country & refused to return to face prosecution
SBI roped in Asian Games gold medalist Swapna Barman as brand ambassador for digital app YONO	Swapna won gold medal in Heptathlon in Jakarta Asian Games with a score of 6026 and is looking to break the 6200 score barrier to qualify for Tokyo 2020 Olympics. YONO, the bank's digital platform that makes both lifestyle and banking available through a single app, was launched in 2017.
Gautam Gambhir announced retirement from all formats of cricket	In ODI's he scored 5,238 runs and was India's top scorer in the 2011 World Cup final. Gambhir made 58 test appearances for India, scoring 4,154 runs at an average of 41.95 and was a key member of the team that rose to number one in the test rankings in 2009.
Wasim Jaffer became the first Indian to score 11000 runs in Ranji Trophy	Wasim Jaffer reached the milestone when he was on 97 runs vs Baroda, Next to Jaffer in the list of highest Ranji Trophy scorers is Amol Muzumdar with 9,202 runs. Jaffer has played 31 Tests for

	India, scoring five hundreds and 11 fifties
Flipkart Group CEO Binny Bansal, recently resigned after allegations of personal misconduct	Binny Bansal co-founded Flipkart with Sachin Bansal in 2007. Walmart recently acquired a majority stake in Flipkart after closing a \$16 billion deal.
Harmanpreet Kaur became the first ever Indian woman to hit century in T20 international cricket	Her century came off just 49 balls, which included seven 4's and eight 6's. The amazing feat came in Match 1 of Group B in the ICC Women's World T20 in Guyana.
Indian cricketers Virat Kohli scored the fastest 10,000 runs in ODI matches	He achieved this record while playing against West Indies in October 2018.
Alok Verma and Rakesh Asthana were divested of all duties due to the feud between the two in the context of alleged corruption charges	Alok Verma, Director and Rakesh Asthana Special Director of CBI both were sent on leave by the appointment committee lead by PM Modi. Joint Director M Nageswar Rao, was appointed to look after the "duties and functions" of the director with "immediate effect" as an "interim measure"
M J Akbar resigned on account of sexual harassment charges	The Minister of state for external affairs & The former editor of newspapers like The Telegraph and the Asian Age was named by various women journalists as part of growing #MeToo movement, accusing him of sexual harassment
Yusaku Maezawa Japanese billionaire became the first private passenger on SpaceX's Lunar Big Falcon Rocket Mission	Yusaku has purchased the first ticket to lunar orbit aboard the company's giant rocket, affectionately known as the BFR
Varun Dhawan & Anushka Sharma appointed as ambassadors of Skill India Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Through the film 'Sui Dhaaga - Made in India', both actors are saluting India's entrepreneurs and skilled workforce, especially homegrown artisans, craftspeople and weavers, who are making the country proud the world over ● Both have partnered with Skill India and plans to dedicate time to promote India's skilled talent and their fine work by engaging with them across different parts of the country
Commander Abhilash Tomy	Abhilash was participating in Golden Globe Race,

rescued after being stranded in Indian ocean due to rough weather & sea conditions	which posts global non-stop circumnavigation challenge, with his boat 'Thuriya'. He was rescued by a French shipping vessel 'Osiris'
Eliud Kipchoge created world record in Berlin marathon	With a record time of 2:01:39, the Kenyan posted a time less than 2 hour, 2 min for the first time in the history of marathon
BSNL roped in boxer Mary Kom as brand ambassador	BSNL will run television commercials, print ads & tariff plan endorsement with Mary over 2 years
Hima Das appointed as the Sports Ambassador of Assam	India's ace sprinter's appointment is meant to inspire budding players to aim big & young generation to take up sports seriously
Sardar Singh announced retirement from International Hockey	Sardar Singh made his senior debut for India against Pakistan. He made over 350 international appearances for India & captained the national team for eight years. He was also the youngest player to captain the Indian team, when he led the side at the 2008 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup
Jhulan Goswami became the first player to take 300 wickets in International Women's Cricket	Jhulan, an all round cricketer & former captain of India national women's cricket team took 300 th wicket in international cricket in September 2018 against Sri Lanka
The Maharashtra State Police arrested Gautam Navlakha, Sudha Bharadwaj, Varavara Rao, Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira, who are prominent left-wing activists	They were arrested under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) alleging that they were associated with Maoists, linked to the clashes between the Marathas and Dalits in Maharashtra & in the conspiracy to assassinate the PM Narendra Modi
Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami announced retirement from International T20	Jhulan is the world's highest T20 wicket-taker with 200 scalps from 169 games. She will continue to play ODIs cricket
Actor Akshay Kumar became Brand Ambassador for road safety campaigns	As part of the campaign "Sadak Suraksha – Jeevan Raksha", three short films starring Akshay as traffic police inspector have been released to generate public awareness towards road safety
Indra Nooyi resigned as CEO of PepsiCo	After 24-years of service, the 62-year old decided to move on. She will join ICC Board as its first independent female director
Fakhar Zaman is the quickest to reach ODI 1000 runs	The Pakistan batsman achieved the feat in 18 matches. Viv Richards, Kevin Pietersen & others

	achieved the feat in 21 matches. He was the first ODI double century scorer from his country
Sherpa guide Kami Rita, 48, climbed Everest record 22 nd time	Lakpa Sherpa, 44, the world's most successful female Everest climber, recently made her ninth climb to the top of the mountain breaking her own record set last year
Dipa Karmakar clinched gold medal at gymnastics World cup	Dipa created history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to win gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastic World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey
Pakistan ex-PM Nawaz Sharif given 10-year jail term	A Pakistani court sentenced former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to 10 years in prison on corruption charges related to Avenfield Corruption case
Aaron Finch hit record 172 T20 international score against Zimbabwe	The Australian captain broke his own record for the highest T20 international score by hitting 172 from 76 balls against Zimbabwe in Harare
England posted the highest ever world record ODI total of 481 against Australia	During third ODI of five-match series against Australia at Trent Bridge, England team surpassed their own score of 444 against Pakistan
Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian resigned	Arvind quit due to family reasons & will shift base to the US
Ayan Gogoi Gohain is the 'Youngest author of India'	The India Book of Records has bestowed the title to the Assamese boy for his book titled 'Honeycomb'
ICICI chief executive Chanda Kochhar sent on forced leave	Till the time enquiry is on about vested interests of her husband Deepak Kochhar in giving 3250 cr loan given to Videocon group company, most of which was declared as NPA in 2017, Sandeep Bakshi, CEO of ICICI Prudential Life will take over as MD & COO of ICICI bank
Sebastian Vettel recorded 50 th career win & F1 championship lead in Canada	Vettel reclaimed the lead of 2018 world championship, when he ended Lewis Hamilton's run of supremacy at Canadian Grand Prix
Shivangi Pathak became the youngest Indian female to climb mount Everest	The teen climber from Haryana's Hisar district peaked the mountain from Nepal side, completing her over one-month trekking
Navika Sagar Parikrama completed circumnavigation	Indian Navy's six-member all-women Navy crew onboard of INSV Tarini vessel reached Goa after

	global circumnavigation in 254 days. The crew sailed across four continents, three oceans, covered 21,600 nautical miles, visited five countries & crossed Equator twice
Mithali Raj became the first Indian to score 2000 runs in International T20 matches	Captain of Indian women's cricket team became the first Indian to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket. She achieved the feat during India's Women's T20 Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur
AB de Villiers quit International cricket	South African Cricketer AB de Villiers retired from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect
Sunil Chhetri is the second highest international goal scoring footballer	India's football captain took his goals tally to 64 and joined Argentina star Lionel Messi as the second highest international goal-scorer among active players

Entities in News

Name	Narration
India's longest single-lane steel cable suspension bridge inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh	It is longest 300-metre single lane steel cable suspension bridge. It is expected to benefit 20,000 people on either banks of Siang river, besides bolstering the defence preparedness.
Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2019 was celebrated in January 2019 in Varanasi	The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth was the chief guest of the event. Three Indians won the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2019
Amaravati is being developed as India's first 'Justice City	The Andhra Pradesh government is building India's first 'Justice City' in Amaravati with the vision to provide a state-of-the-art ecosystem built on latest technology to support judicial system in the state.
Train 18, India's first engineless train became operational in December 2018	Train 18 (later renamed Vande Bharat Express), India's fastest engineless train. It runs on the Delhi-Varanasi route. It was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai under the Indian government's Make in India initiative over a span of 18 months.

Tamil Nadu's Jallikattu event enters world record in 2019	The event saw participation of 1,354 bulls and 424 tamers, double than the previous record
India's first private-sector Howitzer gun-manufacturing plant became operational in Surat	L&T has set up the Armoured Systems Complex at Hazira, around 30 km from Surat, to manufacture & integrate advanced armoured platforms, such as self-propelled artillery Howitzers, future infantry combat vehicles, future-ready combat vehicles and future main battle tanks.
Tripura won the 'Best Tableau award' at Republic Day event in 2019.	Tripura's theme was 'Empowering Rural Economy the Gandhian Way'. The second position was bagged by J & K while Punjab was placed in the third spot.
Maharashtra topped the Khelo India Youth Games 2019	Maharashtra won total 228 medals, while Haryana and Delhi followed with 178 and 136 respectively.
Bengaluru Bulls won the Pro Kabaddi league season six.	Bengaluru Bulls defeated Gujarat Fortune giants 38-33 in the final to win maiden Pro Kabaddi League 2018-19.
India record maiden test series win in Australia	India won the first-ever cricket Test series after 71 years in Australia.
Andhra Pradesh topped India Skills Report 2019	Andhra Pradesh is one of the preferred hiring destinations in India, which offers equal space to both male and female workers. AP was followed by Rajasthan & Haryana
The world's tallest statue of Sardar opened for public in October 2018	182-meter tall 'statue of unity' has been built on Sadhu Bet near Sardar Sarovar dam on Gujarat's Narmada river is the tallest monument in the world 153-meter Spring Temple Buddha in China is the second tallest monument in the world
Bihar's Shahi litchi received Geographical Indication tag	Shahi Litchi which famous for its sweet, juicy, unique flavour and aroma is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur and adjoining areas of East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur and Begusarai districts of state. Bihar produces 40% of the litchis grown in India on 38% of

	the area.
IIT Mumbai topped the first ever QS India ranking of 2019 of 75 premier institutes	IIT Mumbai was the highest scorer for both academic & employer reputation. 7 IITs, University of Hyderabad, University of Delhi ranked among top 10 institutes
Alphonso Mango from Konkan, Maharashtra got GI tagged	Alphonso the king of mangoes, better known as 'Hapus' from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra, received a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in 2018 It is one of the world's most popular fruit and is exported to various countries including Japan, Korea and Europe.
IISC, Bengaluru topped the Indian universities in World University Rankings 2019	IISc held 251 st position. 49 Indian institutes figured among 1250 global universities & 33 featured among Top 1000
India's first inter-state connected wind power project commissioned in Bhuj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy announced India's first inter state transmission system (ISTS) auction ● 126 MW wind power capacity project project marked the beginning of capacity additions in wind power based on market discovered tariffs, in line with the Government's plan of having 175 GW renewable energy by 2022
SpiceJet operated India's first biofuel flight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India's first-ever test flight powered by biojet fuel was successfully operated by SpiceJet between Dehradun & Delhi ● The biojet fuel, made from Jatropha crop, has been developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) & Dehradun based Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) ● Biojet fuel reduces carbon emission and enhances fuel efficiency
Kerala ranked as the best governed state in Public Affairs Index 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Released annually since 2016, the index examines governance performance in the states through a data-based framework,

	<p>ranking them on social & economic development they provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kerala, TN, Telangana, Karnataka & Gujarat were top five states delivering good governance, as per report released by think tank Public Affairs Centre. MP, Jharkhand, Bihar ranked the lowest ● Among smaller states, HP topped the list
Tellapur gram panchayat is the 'best village' in the country	Under Mission Antyodaya, the Ministry of Rural Development has compiled data and rankings for around 1.22 lakh gram panchayats. There are 128 villages in the top 10, of which 36 are in AP, TN has 22 & Gujarat has 12
India becomes the 6 th largest economy as per 2017 GDP	As per World Bank ranking, India pushed France to the 7 th rank with 2017 GDP amounting to USD 2.597 trillion vs USD 2.582 trillion of France
Wings: BSNL launched India's first internet telephony service	Through this app, BSNL customers will be able to make calls to any phone number, domestic or international
Andhra Pradesh topped the Ease Of Doing Business Ranking	With a score of 98.42 per cent, AP topped ease of doing annual business ranking of states and Union Territories, prepared by the World Bank and Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion
PM Modi and Moon Jae-in inaugurated world's largest mobile factory in Noida	Spread over 35 acre plant, Samsung is expected to manufacture 12 crore phones a year. The Samsung's new unit is also expected to create employment for more than 5000 people
Mumbai's Victorian Gothic & Art Deco buildings received UNESCO's world heritage tag	<p>At 42nd session of UNESCO world heritage committee held at Bahrain, these two were declared as India's 37th world heritage site</p> <p>The Victorian Gothic & Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai include Victorian buildings like the City Civil & Sessions Court, Western Railway Headquarters, Chhatrapati Shivaji</p>

	Maharaj museum & the Eros & Regal cinema halls
Shillong was selected as the 100 th city under Smart Cities Mission	As per Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry, Shillong was selected as 100 th city to receive funding under Centre's Smart Cities Mission
The ICC included 4 new teams in ODI rankings list	ICC included Nepal, Netherlands, Scotland & the UAE in ODI rankings list apart from 12 existing countries
Afghanistan cricket team made the test match debut	In their first ever test match, Afghanistan team played with India at Bengaluru from 14-18 June
Guwahati is India's first fully solar-powered railway station	The Guwahati railway station building has grid-connected rooftop solar panels totalling 700 KW capacity that will cater to electricity needs of the station
Sikkim's Pakyong airport became 100 th functional airport in India	Sikkim was the only state without airport in the country. Low-cost airline SpiceJet has been granted permission to fly to Pakyong from Kolkata under civil aviation ministry's regional connectivity scheme
UNEP recognised Cochin International Airport as world's first fully solar energy-powered airport	The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recognised CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public- private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999. It is the busiest & largest airport in Kerala
TCS became the first company to achieve 7 lakh crore market cap	TCS is country's most valued firm, followed by Reliance Industries with a market capitalisation of Rs 5.8 lakh crore, HDFC Bank (Rs 5.2 lakh crore), HUL (Rs 3.4 lakh crore) & ITC (Rs 3.3 lakh crore) in top 5 list
India among top five countries in e-waste generation: ASSOCHAM-NEC study	India continues to be one of the top five electronic waste or e-waste producers in the world with Maharashtra contributing a maximum of 19.8% e-waste in the country

Book Releases & Authors

Book	Author
We are Displaced	Malala Yousafzai
The Accidental Prime	Sanjaya Baru(adapted into a Hindi movie 'The

Minister: The Making and Unmaking of Manmohan Singh	Accidental Prime Minister' released in 2019)
The Changing India	Manmohan Singh
Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of A.R. Rahman	Krishna Trilok
The Paradoxical Prime Minister	Shashi Tharoor
The Rule Breakers	Preeti Shenoy
The Beauty of All My Days: A Memoir	Ruskin Bond
Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office	Venkaiah Naidu (The Vice-President of India)
No Spin	Shane Warne (Australian spin bowling legend)
281 and Beyond	Indian cricketer VVS Laxman
Calling Sehmat	Harinder Sikka (The spy thriller novel was re-published in 2018 & adapted into a Hindi film titled 'Raazi')

Sports

Event	Highlights
FIFA World Cup 2018 (Russia)	Participating countries - 32
	Official mascot - Zabivaka, the wolf (Means 'the one who scores' in Russian)
	Result predictor - Achilles the Cat
	The most valuable player - Harry Kane (England)
	Russia won the inaugural match 5-0 against Saudi
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 100th goal in the FIFA World cup was scored by Lionel Messi (Argentina) against Nigeria, on 12th day of the tournament ● Neymar struck the century goal in 2014 world cup (Brazil) & Andres Iniesta made it triple figures in 2010. All three have been players of Spanish club Barcelona ● 12 own goals were scored by various teams. Mario Mandzukic (Croatia) scored the first ever own goal in any FIFA final ● France won the second FIFA world cup title (After 1998) by beating Croatia by 4-2 in the finals
	Golden Boot - Harry Kane (England) Golden Ball - Luka Modric (Croatia)

	Golden Glove award - Thibaut Courtois (Belgium) FIFA Young Player award - Kylian Mbappe (France) FIFA Fair Play Award - Spain
	● Qatar will host 22 nd FIFA world cup in 2020

Event	Highlights
Asian Games 2018 Palembang (Jakarta, Indonesia)	<p>572 Indian athletes participated in 36 sports categories</p> <p>Motto: Energy of Asia</p> <p>Mascots:</p> <p>(a) Bhin Bhin – a greater bird of paradise (b) Atung – a Bawean deer (c) Kaka – a Javan rhinoceros</p> <p>Neeraj Chopra - Indian contingent flag bearer during opening ceremony</p> <p>Rani Rampal - Indian women’s hockey team’s captain - Flag bearer during closing ceremony</p> <p>Rikako Ikee (Japan) - Most valuable player Teenage swimming sensation won 6 gold medals</p> <p>Final tally -</p> <p>China - 289 (132 Gold, 92 Silver, 65 Bronze) Japan - 205 (75 G, 56S, 74 B) South Korea - 177 (49G, 58S, 70B)</p> <p>India - 69 (15 Gold, 24 Silver, 30 Bronze) India’s best ever performance in any Asian Games in terms of total medals</p> <p>Gold medalists (15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bajrang Punia - First gold for India (65 kg Wrestling) - Vinesh Phogat - Wrestling gold in 50kg women’s category - Rahi Sarnobat - Shooting gold in 25m pistol - Saurabh Choudhary - men’s 10m air pistol - Rohan Bopanna & Divij Sharan -Tennis doubles - Men’s quadruple sculls - Rowing - Tajinder Pal Singh Toor - Shot put - Neeraj Chopra - Javelin throw

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manjit Singh - Men's 800m running - Arpinder Singh - Men's Triple jump - Swapna Barman - Heptathlon - Jinson Johnson - Men's 1500m running - Women's Team - 4 x 400m relay - Amit Panghal - 49kg Boxing - India Men's Bridge Team (Pranab Bardhan & Shibnath Dey Sarkar)
Asian Para Games 2018 (Jakarta, Indonesia)	<p>Motto - The Inspiring Spirit and Energy of Asia</p> <p>Mascot - Momo, a Bondol eagle</p> <p>Indian contingent flag bearer - Thangavelu Mariyappan</p> <p>India - 72 (15 Gold, 24 Silver, 33 Bronze)</p>

Event	Highlights
Youth Olympic Games 2018 (Buenos Aires, Argentina)	<p>Motto - Live the future</p> <p>Mascot - Pandi</p> <p>Manu Bhaker - Indian contingent flag bearer during opening ceremony</p> <p>Jeremy Lalrinnunga - Indian contingent flag bearer during closing ceremony</p> <p>India - 13 (4 Gold, 9 Silver, 0 Bronze)</p> <p>Gold medalists (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jeremy Lalrinnunga - men's 62kg Weightlifting Saurabh Choudhary - men's 10m air pistol - Manu Bhaker - women's 10m air pistol - Lakshya Sen - Mixed team Badminton

Event	Highlights
2018 ISSF World Championship (Changwon, Korea)	<p>A total of 1806 athletes competed in 59 shooting sport events and four disciplines, representing 90 nations and piling up 3457 starts</p> <p>Final tally -</p> <p>China - 43 (20 Gold, 15 Silver, 8 Bronze)</p>

	<p>Korea - 36 (11 G, 14S, 11B) India - 27 (11 Gold, 09 Silver, 07 Bronze)</p> <p>Gold medalists (11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50m Pistol Men - Mitharwal Om Prakash Double Trap Men - Mittal Ankur 10m Air Rifle Men Junior - Hazarika Hriday 10m Air Pistol Men Junior - Saurabh Chaudhary - 25m Standard Pistol Men Junior - Sidhu Vijayveer - 50m Pistol Men Junior - Cheema Arjun Singh - 25m Pistol Men Junior - Sidhu Udhayveer - 25m Standard Pistol Men Junior Team - 25m Pistol Men Junior Team - 50m Pistol Men Junior Team - 10m Air Rifle Women Junior Team
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Individual Sports

Boxing

Event	Location	Highlights
Women's World boxing championship	New Delhi	Mary Kom won her record sixth gold medal in the the light flyweight 48 kg category after outclassing Ukraine's Hanna Okhota

Hockey

Event	Location	Highlights
2018 Men's Hockey World Cup	Odisha, India	Belgium defeated Netherland to win maiden Hockey World Cup title (Nov-Dec 2018) Best Player: Arthur Van Doren of Belgium Goalkeeper of the tournament: Primin Blaak of Netherland Young player of the tournament: Thijs van Dam of Netherland Top goalscorer: Blake Govers of Australia and Alexander Hendrickx of Belgium
14 th Women's Hockey World	London, England	Defending champions the Netherlands recorded a stunning 6-0 victory over Ireland. They have been

Cup 2018		crowned the world champions for record 8 th time
Champions Trophy 2018	Netherlands	Indian team lost to Australia in the finals 1-3 (shootout)
5 th Asian Women's Hockey Champions Trophy 2018	South Korea	South Korea defeated defending champions India 1-0 in the finals to lift the trophy

Kabaddi

Event	Location	Highlights
Pro Kabaddi League 2018 (Season 6)	Multiple venues	Most expensive player - Monu Goyat (1.5 cr, Haryana Steelers)

Tennis

Event	Location	Highlights
Australian Open 2019	Australia	Men's singles - Novak Djokovic(world no 1) from Serbia won 2019 Australian Open title of tennis in men's singles category by defeating Spanish Rafael Nadal (world no 2) Women's singles - Japan's Naomi Osaka(world no. 1) won 2019 Australian Open title of tennis in women's singles category by defeating Czech's Petra Kvitová
Davis Cup 2018	London	Croatia defeated France in the finals by 3-1
Wimbledon 2018 Men's Singles	London	Novak Djokovic (Serbia) won his fourth Wimbledon title & 13 th Grand slam by beating Kevin Anderson (South Africa) in finals 6-2 6-2 7-6 (7-3)
Wimbledon 2018 Women's Singles		Angelique Kerber beat seven-time champion Serena Williams to win her first Wimbledon title
US open 2018	New York	Men's singles - Former world number one Novak Djokovic from Serbia won 2018 US Open title of tennis in men's singles category by defeating Argentina's Juan Martín Potro (world no 3) Women's singles - Serena Williams lost(6-2, 6-4) to Japan's Naomi Osaka in the final of US

		Open Tennis tournament 2018. She is the first Japanese women to win the title.
French open 2018	Paris	<p>Men's singles title - Rafael Nadal (Spain) won his 11th French open title by defeating Dominic Thiem (Australian). He is the only second player in history to win same Grand Slam on 11 occasions after Margaret Court (11 Australian Open titles)</p> <p>Women's single title - Simona Halep (Romania) won her first grand slam title by defeating</p>

Cricket

Tournament	Location	Narration
Ranji Trophy 2018-19	India	Vidarbha defeated Saurashtra to win the trophy
2018 ICC Women's International T20 world cup	West Indies	<p>Australia beat England by 8 wickets in the finals. India finished fourth</p> <p>Alyssa Healy was awarded as the player of the tournament</p>
Vijay Hazare Trophy 2018-19	Multiple	Mumbai defeated Delhi to win the trophy
Deodhar Trophy 2018	Delhi	India B defeated Karnataka in the final by 6 wickets to win the trophy
India won U-19 Asia Cricket Cup 2018	Dhaka	<p>Chasing 304 scored by India in the first innings, Sri Lanka was bold out for 160. This was India's 6th U-19 Asia cup title</p> <p>Yashasvi Jaiswal - Player of the tournament & scored the highest runs (318)</p>
Men's Asia Cup 2018	Dubai	India beat Bangladesh by 3 wickets in a thrilling final to win their record seventh Asia cup title
Women's Asia Cup T20 2018	Kuala Lumpur	The Bangladesh team won Asia Cup T20 world cup by beating Indian team. They successfully chased a target of 113 runs on the last ball

Badminton

Event	Location	Narration
2019 Indonesia	Jakarta	Saina Nehwal won 2019 Indonesia Masters

Masters title		title. She got a walkover since her opponent Carolina Marin suffered from an injury in the final match
BWF World Tour Final Tournament 2018	China	PV Sindhu defeated Nozomi Okuhara(21-19, 21-17) in straight games to clinch her maiden BWF World Tour Finals title. She is the first Indian to win gold in the tournament.
2018 China open Badminton Championships	China	Carolina Marin defeated Chen Yufei in women's singles final of 2018 China open Badminton Championships
2018 Badminton World Championships	China	PV Sindhu lost (19-21, 10-21) to Spain's Carolina Marin in women's singles final of BWF World Badminton Championships 2018
Asia Badminton Junior Championship 2018	Indonesia	Lakshya Sen won historic men's singles gold by beating top-seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand 21-19, 21-18 in the final
Thailand Open 2018	Bangkok	PV Sindhu lost 15-21, 18-21 To Nozomi Okuhara (Japan) in Finals

Athletics

Event	Location	Winner
Athletics Meet 2018	Sotteville, France	Javelin-thrower Neeraj Chopra won gold medal with throw of 85.17m
World U-20 Championships 2018	Finland	Hima Das (Assam) is the first Indian track athlete to win a medal at any global event. She won gold medal in women's 400m event, clocking a time of 51.46 seconds

Shooting

Event	Location	Winner
ISSF Shooting World Championship	Changwon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Saurabh Chaudhary won 10m Air Pistol Junior gold & set a new junior world record ● India won a total of 7 medals (2G, 4S, 1 B)

Formula One

Event	Winner
2018 German Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton

2018 Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton
2018 Monaco Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo
2018 Australian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen

Upcoming events	Location
46 th Copa America 2019	Brazil
12 th Cricket World Cup 2019	England & Wales
37 th National Games 2019	Andhra Pradesh
Summer Olympics 2020	Tokyo
37 th Men's Hockey Champions Trophy 2018	Netherlands
13 th South Asian Federation Games 2019	Kathmandu

Awards

The Lokmat Parliamentarians	Awardees	Role
Best woman parliamentarian in the Rajya Sabha	Kanimozhi	DMK leader
Best woman parliamentarian	MP Rama Devi	Lok Sabha MP
Best work by first time MP	Hema Malini	Actor turned politician
Best debut woman parliamentarian	Chhaya Verma	
Best Parliamentarian Award	Ghulam Nabi Azad	Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha
	Nishikant Dubey	BJP MP
Lifetime Achievement	Sharad Pawar	NCP chief
	Murli Manohar Joshi	BJP Leader

General Awards	Awardees	Achievement
Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018	Cleanest state	Haryana
	Cleanest District	Satara
National Tourism	Andhra Pradesh	Best State/UT for comprehensive

Awards 2016-17 (Presented in 2018)		tourism development (Rest of India)
	Rajasthan	Most Innovative use of IT - Social Media /Mobile App/Website
	Wayanad, Kerala	Most Responsible Tourism Project/Initiative
	Ahmedabad, Mandu	Best heritage cities
Dr BC Roy National Award 2018 (Eminent Medical Person of the Year category)	Dr. Basant Kumar Mishra	For the remarkable work in Neurosurgery and Gamma Knife Radiosurgery
Chief Minister of the 2018 Award	Vasundhara Raje (Rajasthan)	For remarkable work in e-governance. The award was given at the 52 nd Skoch Summit held in New Delhi
Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award 2018	Gopalkrishna Gandhi	Former West Bengal Governor & the Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi received this for outstanding contribution to promote communal harmony, peace & goodwill

International	Awardee	Role
Gandhi Peace Prize 2018	Yohei Sasakawa	For the remarkable work in Leprosy Elimination
UN Human Rights Prize 2018	Ms. Rebeca Gyumi	Activist for the rights of women and girls (Tanzania)
	Ms. Asma Jahangir (posthumously)	Human rights lawyer (Pakistan)
	Ms. Joênia Wapichana (Joênia Batista de Carvalho)	Activist for rights of indigenous communities (Brazil)
	Front Line Defenders	Organization advocating and working for the protection of human rights defenders (Ireland)
International	The March For	David Hogg, Emma González,

Children's Peace Prize 2018	Our Lives	Jaclyn Corin & Matt Deitsch, The March for Our Lives initiators, started the American mass youth movement for safer schools and communities and against gun violence
The UN's highest environmental honour 'Champions of the Earth'	Narendra Modi & Emmanuel Macron (French President)	They have been jointly recognised in the Policy Leadership category for pioneering work in championing International Solar Alliance and promoting new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action, including Macron's work on the Global Pact for the Environment and Modi's unprecedented pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022
World Food prize 2018 (Dubbed Nobel Prize for food and agriculture)	Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro	In recognition of their individual but complementary global leadership in elevating maternal & child undernutrition within food security
2018 Seoul Peace Prize	Narendra Modi	In recognition of his dedication for improving international cooperation, raising global economic growth, accelerating Human Development of people in India by fostering economic growth and furthering development of democracy through anti-corruption and social integration efforts
First World Agriculture Prize 2018	Prof. M.S. Swaminathan	Known as 'Father of Green Revolution in India', he is globally renowned for basic & applied research in genetics, cytogenetics, radiation &

		chemical mutagenesis, food and biodiversity conservation
Ramon Magsaysay 2018 (Dubbed as Asian version of Nobel prize)	Philanthropic service	Bharat Vatwani - Leading the rescue of thousands of mentally ill street paupers to treat & reunite them with their families Sonam Wangchuk - Contribution in harnessing nature, culture and education for community progress
45 th Tyler Prize for environmental achievement 2018	Dr. James McCarthy and Dr. Paul Falkowski	For their contributions to research and science policy work which has informed global importance and risks of the climate crisis

Beauty Pageants	Winner
Miss World 2018	Vanessa Ponce de Leon (Mexico)
Miss India World 2018	Anukreethy Vas (Chennai)
Miss Universe 2018	Catriona Gray (Philippines)
Miss International 2018	Mariem Velazco(Venezuela)
Miss Supranational 2018	Valeria Vazquez(Puerto Rico)
Mr. Supranational 2018	Prathamesh Maulingkar

Movie Awards	Category	Winners
64 th Filmfare Awards 2018	To be announced	
91 st Academy Awards	To be announced	
71 st Cannes' Film Festival, 2018	Palme d'Or	'Shoplifters' (Japanese film by Hirokazu Kore-eda)
	Grand Prix	'Black Klansman' by Spike Lee
11 th Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2018, Brisbane	Best Actor	Nawazuddin Siddiqui(Manto)
	Best feature film	'Shoplifters' (Japan) by Hirokazu Kore-eda'
49 th IFFI 2018, Goa	Best Foreign Language Movie	Donbass (From Ukraine)

	(Golden Peacock)	
	Best Director	Lijo Jose Pellissery ('Ee Ma Yau' - A Malayalam movie)
19 th IIFA awards 2018, Thailand	Best Actor	Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
	Best Actress	Sridevi (Mom, posthumous)
	Best Movie	Saket Chaudhary (Hindi Medium)
	Best Film	Tumhari Sulu
India's official entry to Oscars 2019		Village Rockstar (Directed by Rima Das, the Assamese movie, won the Best Feature Film 'Swarna Kamal' award at 65 th National Film Awards)

Music/Theatre	Awardee	Achievement
61 st Grammy Awards 2019	Kacey Musgraves	Album of the Year - Golden Hour
	Childish Gambino	Record of the Year - This is America
	Donald Glover, Ludwig Göransson & Jeffrey Lamar Williams (songwriters)	Song of the Year - This is America
Pulitzer Prize 2018	Kendrick Lamar	Kendrick Lamar won the award for album "Damn." He is the first rapper in history to be given the award
Tansen Samman 2018	Manju Mehta	For her contribution in the field of Hindustani Classical Music.
Kalidas Samman 2018 (Visual Arts)	Anjolie Ela Menon	The award was conferred in recognition of her insightful and sensitive portrayal of the identity and spirit of women through her meaningful paintings in a variety of media.

Sports Awards (Inception Yr)	Awardee	Narration
ICC Awards 2018	Virat Kohli	Cricketer of the Year, Test Player of the Year & ODI Player of the Year
	Rishabh Pant	Emerging Player of the Year

	Aaron Finch (Australia)	Twenty20 International Performance of the Year
	Smriti Mandhana	Women's Cricketer of the Year & Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year
2018 Indian Sports Honour	To be announced	
2018 Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award	Sir William Mark Tully	BBC India correspondent
ATP World Tour Awards 2018	Novak Djokovic	Player of the Year
	Novak Djokovic	Comeback Player of the Year
	Roger Federer	Fans' Favorite
Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2018	Satyadev Prasad	Archery
	Bharat Kumar Chetri	Hockey
	Bobby Aloysius	Athletics
	Dadu Chougale	Wrestling
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (1991)	S. Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting
	Virat Kohli	Cricket
Arjuna Awards (1961)	20 awardees	Key names - Neeraj Chopra (CWG & Asiad gold medalist javelin thrower) Hima Das (Asiad double medalist sprinter) Smriti Mandhana (Indian cricketer)
Dronacharya Award (1985)	1. Subedar Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa	Boxing
	2. Vijay Sharma	Weightlifting
	3. A. Srinivasa Rao	Table Tennis
	4. Sukhdev Singh Pannu	Athletics
	5. Clarence Lobo (Hockey)	Lifetime Achievement
	6. Tarak Sinha (Cricket)	
	7. Jiwan Kumar Sharma (Judo)	
	8. V.R. Beedu (Athletics)	
Polly Umrigar award	Virat Kohli (2016-17,	2016-17 - 1332 runs (13 tests),

	2017-18)	1516 runs (27 ODI) 2017-18 - 896 (6 tests)
BCCI's best international cricketer (women)	Harmanpreet Kaur (2016-17) Smriti Mandhana (2017-18)	--
European Golden Shoe Award 2018	Lionel Messi picked his 5 th Golden shoe award	The Barcelona forward finished domestic league campaign with 34 goals
C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Awards	To be announced	
BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award (women)	To be announced	
BCCI special award	To be announced	
Time of India Sports Awards 2018	To be announced	
Best player in Europe by UEFA for 2017/18	Luka Modrić - Croatian, Real Madrid midfielder	
Player of the Year – World Soccer Awards 2018	FIFA Women's Player of the Year	Marta – Brazil and Orlando Pride
	FIFA Men's Player of the Year	Luka Modrić – Croatia and Real Madrid
Ballon d'Or award 2018	Luka Modrić	Croatia and Real Madrid
IAAF World Athlete of the Year 2018	Eliud Kipchoge and Caterine Ibarguen	

Civilian Gallantry Awards 2019	Awardees
Ashok Chakra	Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani(posthumously)
Kirti Chakra	Major Tushar Gauba & Sowar Vijay Kumar (posthumously)
Shaurya Chakra	Lt Col Vikrant Prasher, Maj Amit Kumar Dimri & 7 others

Literature (Inception year)	Awardees	Piece of work
54 rd Jnanpith Award 2018 (1962)	Amitav Ghosh	Noted English writer is known for for a series of novels such as "Shadow Lines", "The Glass Palace", "The Hungry Tide", and Ibis Trilogy
FT & Mckinsey business book award 2018	John Carreyrou	Bad Blood, is the riveting account of the rise and scandalous fall of Theranos, the blood-testing company
UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2018	Aid Afghanistan for Education in Afghanistan	Accelerated Education for Marginalized Women and Girls' programme
	Ministry of Education and Culture in Uruguay	Permanent Learning program
UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy 2018	Literacy Movement Organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran	Consolidated teaching of literacy and ICDL basic computer skills
	Nigerian Prisons Service in Nigeria	National Open University of Nigeria - Prison Study Centres and Inmates General Education Programme
	Foundation Elche Acoge in Spain	Spanish as a second language for adult immigrants' programme
Man Booker Prize 2018	Anna Burns	'Milkman' is an experimental novel about a bookish 18-year- old girl harassed by a paramilitary figure called the milkman during the Troubles in Northern Ireland
The Man Booker International 2018	Olga Tokarczuk	Novel 'Flights' authored by the Polish, was translated by Jennifer Croft. The prize money is split evenly between the writer &

		translator
Saraswati Samman, 2018 (1991)	Sitanshu Yashaschandra	The Gujarati poet, for his poetry collection "Vakhar"
31 st Moortidevi award 2018	To be announced	
2018 Mathrubhumi Literary award	To be announced	
Vyas Samman 2018	To be announced	
Commonwealth short story prize 2018	Lynda Clark	British writer Lynda Clark for "fresh and unusual" tale on mental illness

Journalism	Awardee	Achievement
UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2018, Helsinki	Abu Zeid	The jailed Egyptian photographer won the prize that recognizes a person, organization or institution for an outstanding contribution to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger

Nobel Prizes 2018

Subject	Winners
Physics	Arthur Ashkin, Donna Strickland & Gérard Mourou (Development of optical tweezers and ultrashort, high-intensity laser pulses)
Physiology or Medicine	James P Allison and Tasuku Honjo (Discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation)
Chemistry	George P. Smith, Frances Arnold, Greg Winter (Use of evolutionary biology to design molecules with a range of practical uses)
Literature	Postponed due to sexual harassment allegation within Nobel prize committee
Peace	Denis Mukwege (Congo), Nadia Murad (Iraq) (Efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon in war)
Economics	William Nordhaus & Paul Romer (for work on climate change, and the endogenous growth theory)

Alternative Nobel Prize 2018 (Right Livelihood Award)

Winners	Narration
Honorary awards Thelma Aldana (Guatemala), Iván Velásquez (Colombia)	Anti-corruption champions - Innovative work in exposing abuse of power and prosecuting corruption, thus rebuilding people's trust in public institutions
Cash awards 1. Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al- Qahtani, Waleed Abu al-Khair (Saudi A) The civil and human rights defenders	Visionary & courageous efforts, guided by universal human rights principles, to reform totalitarian political system in Saudi Arabia
2. Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso), a farmer	Turning barren land into forest and demonstrating how farmers can regenerate their soil with innovative use of indigenous and local knowledge
3. Tony Rinaudo (Australia), an ergonomist	Demonstration on a large scale how drylands can be greened at minimal cost, improving the livelihoods of millions of people"
4. Mary Conde(Guadeloupean), Historical fiction author	She is the author of some 20 novels, including Desirada, Segu and Crossing the Mangrove. She is considered as grand storyteller who belongs to world literature. Her writings mostly describes ravages of colonialism and post-colonial chaos in language which is both precise and overwhelming

Civilian Awards 2019	Awardees	Field
Bharat Ratna	Pranab Mukherjee	Mukherjee is an Indian politician who served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017.
	Dr. Bhupen Hazarika (posthumously)	Bhupen Hazarika was an Indian playback singer, lyricist, musician, singer, poet and film-maker from

		Assam, widely known as Sudhakantha.
	Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously)	Nanaji Deshmukh (11 Oct 1916 – 27 Feb 2010) was a social activist from India. He worked in the fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance. He was a leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and also a member of the Rajya Sabha.
Padma Vibhushan	Teejan Bai	Arts
	Ismail Omar Guelleh	Public Affairs
	Anil Manibhai Naik	Trade & Industry
	Balwant Moreshwar Purandare	Arts
Padma Bhushan	Mohanlal	Acting
	Bachendri Pal & 12 others	Sports
Padma Shri	There are total 94 awardee. some of awardee are Sunil Chetri, Gautam Gambhir, Prabhu Deva, Kader Khan	

Honours

Personality/Entity	Honour
Sonam Kapoor named India's 'Person of the Year' by PETA in 2018.	Sonam Kapoor past animal advocacy efforts include urging the Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change not to revoke the ban on classroom dissection for university life science and zoology students; calling for a Maharashtra-wide ban on glass-coated manja that can entangle and kill birds; and donating "kind kites" to children to help prevent injuries from manja

Fortune India's Most Powerful Women list for 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zia Mody 2. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, 3. Sunita Reddy 4. Alice Vaidyan 5. Mallika Srinivasan
Forbes world's 100 most powerful women	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany. 2. Theresa May, PM of the UK 3. Melinda Gates, Co-founder of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. 4. Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook 5. Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors <p>Few Indian appeared in the list...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Roshni Nadar Malhotra b. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw c. Shobhana Bhartia d. Priyanka Chopra
Kartik Aaryan & Anushka Sharma won PETA 'India's hottest vegetarians of 2018' award	Anushka Sharma and Kartik Aaryan are saving animals by keeping them off their plates, and by sharing their commitment to being meat-free with the world. Their compassion makes them as beautiful on the inside as they are on the outside, and that makes them winners.
Jamal Khashoggi named 'Time Magazine's Person of the Year' 2018	Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi was a Saudi Arabian Islamist activist, dissident, author, columnist for the Washington Post, and a general manager and editor-in-chief of Al-Arab News Channel who was assassinated at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul on 2nd October 2018 by agents of the Saudi government
Salman Khan topped 2018 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list	Virat Kohli is the second richest celebrity in the list, followed by Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone & cricketer MS Dhoni
World's Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2018 list topped by Serena Williams	Serena topped the list with USD 18.1 million wealth. PV Sindhu (USD 8.5 million) is the only Indian in Forbes' list with 7 th rank
Seven Indian firms named	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Walmart tops the latest Fortune listing

in Fortune 500 list, IOC remains top ranked Indian company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indian companies - 1) IOC - 137, 2) Reliance - 148, 3) ONGC - 197, 4) SBI - 216, 5) Tata Motors - 232, 6) BPCL - 314, 7) Rajesh Exports - 405 ● Reliance was the most profitable Indian firm on the list. On globally most profitable list, it secured 99th position. The most profitable company list was topped by Apple
Forbes 2018 Celebrity 100 List of The World's Highest-Paid Entertainers	Floyd Mayweather (American boxer) tops the list. Akshay Kumar & Salman Khan are the only Indians in the list
Mukesh Ambani is Asia's richest person	With an estimated wealth of USD 44.3 billion, Mukesh overtook Alibaba founder Jack Ma
Rahul Dravid is only the 5 th Indian player inducted in ICC Hall of Fame in July 2018	Other four Indians have been Bishan Singh Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev & Anil Kumble
Kalki Koechlin honoured with French distinction Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters	She was on honoured for her contribution to enhancement of Indo-French ties through cinema, portrayal of wide range of stellar characters on screen & commitment to social causes like child abuse and women empowerment
Two Indian actors ranked at top 10 position in the Forbes world's 100 highest-paid Actors	Akshay Kumar(USD 40.5 million) ranked at 7 th position and Salman Khan(USD 38.5 million) ranked at 9 th position. American Actor George Clooney ranked at the top position in 2018 world's highest-Paid Actor list
Scarlett Johansson became the world's highest paid female actor with USD 40.5 million	She is an American actress & singer, has made multiple appearances in the Forbes Celebrity 100 Angelina Jolie (2 nd) – USD 28m Jennifer Aniston (3 rd) – USD 19.5m
The 'World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2018' list topped by Mayweather	American boxing champion Floyd Mayweather topped the list. Virat was the only Indian in the list, ranked 83 rd with earnings of USD 24 million

Government Schemes

Name	Narration
Farmer assistance schemes in Odisha & Telangana	Rythu Bandhu scheme (Telangana) provides income support worth Rs. 4000/acre to landowners

	Krishak Assistance for Livelihood & Income Assistance (KALIA) scheme of Odisha proposes to transfer Rs. 5000 per season to 30 lakh marginal farmers & Rs. 12,500 each to 10 lakh landless households
PAHAL scheme (Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh) Led by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	Under the modified scheme, LPG consumer can receive subsidy in his bank account by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
Ayushman Bharat Scheme (National Health Protection Scheme or NHPS) Led by Union Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The biggest health financing scheme in the world with an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh ● 1.5 lakh wellness centers will be opened across the country for about 55 crore beneficiaries from 10 crore poor families
'IMPRINT-2' scheme Led by Ministry of HRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Central Government approved 122 new research projects of Rs 112 crore under Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) initiative ● The initiative aims to advance research in energy, security, and healthcare domains in the high education institutions
Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana Led by Ministry of Women and Child Development	The Government of India reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana from Rs. 1,000 to 250
SAFAR: Most advanced System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting inaugurated in Delhi Led by Ministry of Earth Sciences	State-of-the-art Air Quality & Weather Forecast System– SAFAR (System of Air Quality & Weather Forecasting) will monitor all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed & wind direction
Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan 2.0 Led by Ministry of HRD	The scheme aims to link higher education institutions with set of at least five villages, so that they can contribute to economic & social betterment of these village communities. 748 institutions are participating under scheme as on date
ABY (Atal Bhoojal Yojana)	ABY is a underground water conservation

Led by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation	scheme with an objective to recharge ground water and create sufficient water storage for agricultural purposes in rural areas
Kifayati Aawas yojna Led by Union Government	The Central Government will create a dedicated affordable housing fund in National Housing Bank. The government has planned that by the end of 2022, everyone will have their own house
Kisan Credit Card to Fishermen	On the lines of the Kisan Credit Card, the Finance Minister has announced a card to fishermen and cattle owners. This will make enable them to avail the easier loans
National Bamboo Mission	An amount of Rs. 1,290 crore will be allocated under this scheme. This will help in the development of bamboo production as an industry & help tribals
Eklavya School	The Eklavya schools will be established for scheduled caste students by 2022 along the lines of Navodaya schools Eklavya model residential schools will be set up in each Block having more than 50% tribal areas and 20,000 tribal people. These schools will be part of Navodaya Vidyalayas and besides training in sports and skill development, there will also be special facilities for preserving local art and culture
Operation Green	The goal of the scheme is to double the farmers' income by end of the year 2022. An amount of Rs. Rs. 500 crore will be allocated under this scheme. The scheme was launched to reduce fluctuation in pricing of Onion, Tomatoes and Potatoes
Prime Minister Fellowship Scheme	Under this, 1000 B.Tech students will be given the opportunity to do Ph.D. in IIT and IISc
Expansion of Ujjwala Scheme	Government has set a target to provide 8 crore free LPG connections to poor families under Ujjwala scheme

Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)	The RISE scheme will be financed via a restructured higher education financing agency (HEFA) that is functioning for the last two months as a non-banking financial company. It aims to lend low-cost funds to government higher educational institutions
Gobar-Dhan Yojna (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resource Fund Scheme)	It aims to improve the lives of the villagers. Under this scheme, the solid waste of dung and fields will be changed into compost, biogas and bio-CNG
KUSUM (Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan)	The scheme will promote solar power production, i.e. solar farming up to 28,250 MW to help farmers. KUSUM scheme will distribute 17.5 lakh off-grid agricultural solar pumps & build 10,000 MW solar plants on barren lands for solar farming
Development of solar cities Led by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)	Scheme aims at reducing minimum 10% in projected demand of conventional energy at end of five years, through combination of enhancing supply from renewable energy sources in city and energy efficiency measures The ministry has sanctioned development of 60 Solar Cities including 13 Pilot and 5 Model Cities up to 12 th Five-year Plan period (2012–2017)
PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) Led by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	The scheme was launched in 2015 to ensure housing for all by 2022. The Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has announced that 30.76 lakh houses for the urban poor have been sanctioned. 15.65 lakh houses are at various stages of construction and 4.13 lakh houses have been constructed
Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – “Saubhagya” Revived by Ministry of Power	The Saubhagya Scheme is an Indian government project to provide electricity to all households. The project was announced in September 2017 by PM Narendra Modi. Its aim was to complete electrification process by December 2018. The total outlay of the

	project is Rs.16, 320 crore while the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) is Rs. 12,320 crore. The outlay for the rural households is Rs. 14,025 crore while the GBS is Rs. 10,587 crore
Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat scheme Led by The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (September 2017)	LPG Panchayat scheme aims at spreading awareness among LPG users about how to properly use clean fuel and its benefits
AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) Led By Ministry of Urban Development (June 2015)	Providing basic services, including water supply, sewerage, urban transport & building of amenities in cities to improve quality of life. It aims to transform 500 cities and towns into efficient urban living spaces over a period of five years. 20 cities were selected in 1 st round, 13 in 2 nd round
PMUY (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana) Led by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	Replacing the unclean cooking fuels mostly used in the rural India with the clean and more efficient LPG (Tagline – ‘Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan’) Targets 5 Crore LPG connections to be distributed to BPL households over 3 yrs
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Crop insurance) Led by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) (2016)	Replaced existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS (MNIAS) Farmers will have to pay a uniform premium of 2% for kharif crops, 1.5% for rabi crops, 5% for annual commercial & horticultural crops The remaining share of the premium will continue to be borne equally by the Centre & respective state governments
Sagarmala Project Led by Ministry of Shipping (2015)	Transforming existing Ports into modern world class ports. Integrating port development, the Industrial clusters & hinterland and efficient evacuation systems through road, rail, inland and coastal waterways

<p>Namami Gange – National Mission for Clean Ganga</p> <p>Led by Ministry of water resources</p>	<p>231 projects have been launched under Namami Gange programme. The idea is to maintain minimum ecological flows in the river Ganga with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally sustainable development</p>
<p>Skill India</p> <p>Led by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Aim to train 40 crore Indians in different skills by 2022. It includes various initiatives like National Skill Development Mission, National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) & the Skill Loan scheme</p>
<p>PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana)</p> <p>Led by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Encourage aptitude towards employable skills & increase working efficiency of probable & existing daily wage earners, with monetary awards & providing them quality training. Average award amount per person has been kept as Rs.8,000</p>
<p>PMYY (Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana) for entrepreneurs</p> <p>Led by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)</p>	<p>Scheme will span over 5 years (2016-17 to 2020-21) with a project cost of 500 crores It will provide entrepreneurship education and training to over 7 lakh students in 5 years through 3,050 institutes (Include higher learning schools, ITIs, schools and entrepreneurship development centres)</p>
<p>Swadesh Darshan</p> <p>Led by Ministry of Tourism</p>	<p>Theme based tourism circuits (e.g. Religion, culture, ethnicity, niche etc) are identified for infrastructure development across the country</p>
<p>JIGYASA</p> <p>Led by CSIR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student- scientist connect programme has been launched by the government in New Delhi. The programme would be implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan • The main focus of the programme is to connect school students and scientists as

	well as to extend student's classroom learning to a very well-planned research laboratory based learning
<p>UDAN RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme)</p> <p>Led by Ministry of Civil Aviation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCS phase-1 started with operationalisation of 128 new regional routes by the Airports Authority of India from 70 airports, including 27 currently served major airports in big cities, 31 unserved and 12 under-served regional airports in the smaller regional cities, with various new flights routes progressively commenced on 27 April 2017
<p>Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana</p> <p>Led by LIC of India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union Finance Ministry has launched Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), a pension scheme exclusively for senior citizens aged 60 years and above • Senior citizens will get a guaranteed interest of 8% for 10 years depending upon the investment made by them • The budget 2018-19 proposed to open this scheme for investment till March 2020. • Apart from extending scheme's investment duration, the investment limit is increased to Rs 15 lakh from 7.5 Lakh per person
<p>Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme is an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to prepare a physical Health & Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students
<p>UJALA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power, Government of India has launched UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme in the State of Melaka, Malaysia • Under this scheme, each household in Melaka will get 10 high quality 9-watt LED bulbs at a cost of only RM 10, which is a

	special price and is almost half of what in begin offered in the market
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Government News

News	Narration
Kerala is the first state to monitor drug price overcharging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price monitoring & research unit will track pricing violation of essential drugs & medical devices under Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO) • National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA) had proposed such a system five years back
Government spend on subsidies could be 9.83% of total expenditure for FY 2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising LPG prices and higher subscribers have led to government's subsidy expenditure over the last two years reversing a declining trend established in the previous six years • While increase in the food subsidy allocation is a reflection of increase in Minimum Support Prices hiked across the board, the reason behind increase in petroleum subsidy is due to an increased allocation for Direct Benefit Transfer scheme for LPG
100% VVPAT will be used during Lok Sabha 2019 elections	100% use of the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) will lead to voter confidence gain. VVPAT allows every voter to see a printed slip for seven seconds to verify and confirm that the vote cast had gone to the candidate of his or her choice
Domestic aviation traffic recorded the fastest global Y-o-Y growth for fourth year in a row	According to global aviation body IATA, annual domestic passenger demand rose by 18.6% in 2018 over the previous year. Government's UDAN scheme aiming to enhance connectivity to tier 2 & 3 towns has apparently contributed to this growth
J&K grants divisional status to Ladakh region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ladakh division will comprise Leh and Kargil districts with its headquarters at Leh • For almost last three decades, Ladakh region has been demanding for Union Territory status with a proper legislation. The divisional status is considered as a step towards the same
RBI appointed expert committee to review long term solutions to MSME	Eight member committee headed by former SEBI chairman U K Sinha will review & propose long term solutions to revive micro, small & medium

sector	enterprises (MSME) sector, which has been stress due to demonitization & GST implementation
HRD ministry started 70-point grading index to assess quality of school education	HRD Minister, Prakash Javadekar introduced a 70-point grading index to assess quality of school education offered by states. A state performance grading will be done wherein the states will be marked out of 1,000 scores on 70 parameters
Cabinet approved 10% Quota for economically backward general category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision effectively means that those who are economically backward and fall under general category will now be able to enjoy benefits of reservation in government jobs • The Supreme Court, in its 1992 ruling in the Indra Sawhney Etc vs Union Of India And Others case, had set the cap for reservations at 50%
NITI Aayog introduced sustainable development index 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline Report 2018 highlights progress being made by States and UTs by presenting a comprehensive picture from 62 indicators across economic, social and environmental dimensions • HP, Kerala, TN (States) & Chandigarh, Puducherry (UT) emerged as top performers
North Western Railway zone was ranked at No.1 position in Indian Railways Cleanliness Survey Report 2018	<p>Among 407 stations surveyed, the best ranked stations were -</p> <p>A1 category - Jodhpur (1st), Jaipur (2nd) of North Western Railway. Tirupati (3rd - South Central Railway)</p> <p>A category - Marwar (1st), Phulera (2nd) of North Western Railway. Warangal (3rd - South Central Railway)</p> <p>Zonal Railway rankings: 1st: North Western Railway 2nd: South Central Railway 3rd: East Coast Railway</p>
GST exemption limit doubled for small businesses	The government has increased GST exemption limit from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh for the North-eastern States, and from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh for the rest of the country to give relief

	to small businesses with effect from 1st April 2019.
The world's largest hospital with 5000+ beds coming up in Bihar	Patna Medical College and Hospital is being revamped as the world's largest hospital with 5000+ beds.
J&K came under President's rule from 20 th December 2018	Jammu and Kashmir was put under Governor Satyapal Malik's rule on June 20 after the Mehbooba Mufti-led coalition government was reduced to minority following withdrawal of support by the 25-member BJP in the state. The governor's rule comes to end after the completion of 6 months
Gujarat, Bihar and Chhattisgarh emerged as the largest beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat	Ayushman Bharat is targeted to benefit more than 50 crore people. It is benefiting more than 10,000 people daily at present. The scheme seeks to improve access to healthcare facilities for the poorer sections of the society.
Bogibeel Bridge, India's longest rail-cum-road bridge be opened over the Brahmaputra river in Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4.94-km-long double-decker bridge connects Dibrugarh on the Brahmaputra's south bank to Dhemaji on the north bank ● The bridge is expected to significantly enhance India's defence capability by ensuring faster movement of troops & supplies to Arunachal Pradesh
NITI Aayog changed GDP calculation base year to FY 12 & did back-series calculation from 2004-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As a result, four years of the current government show higher average growth than that achieved during the UPA under the recalibrated national accounts ● The back-series calculation done by Central Statistical Office (CSO) under Ministry of statistics and programme implementation led to major opposition dismay ahead of 2019 general elections
Kartarpur corridor inaugurated between India & Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The groundbreaking ceremony of proposed 4.7 km Kartarpur corridor took place in Pakistan. The corridor will allow Indian devotees to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur without visa ● The corridor will reportedly be completed before the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev

	in November 2019
RBI & finance ministry reach a cease fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RBI autonomy was at stake when government sought Rs. 3.6 lakh cr amount to be transferred from RBI to support banks burdened under bad debt. Government desisted from use of Section 7 for this purpose, which would have increased tensions ● RBI needs to maintain sufficient contingency fund to absorb losses due to exchange rate & gold price fluctuation
Cyclone 'Gaja' severely impacted many districts of TN	Over three lakh people were forced onto the streets across Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts
AP & West Bengal governments revoked 'general consent' to CBI entry in the state	The reason cited for revoking consent is that the CBI has been reduced to an entity takes instruction only from the BJP-led centre. CBI officers will now have to seek permission from the respective state government every time they wish to enter into the state for official work
The first ever bus service has started between Bihar and Nepal	The service will link Bodh Gaya and Patna in Bihar to Kathmandu and Janakpur in Nepal
'Titli' cyclone hits Odisha	Heavy rains pounded Odisha over in Mid October, following the cyclone Titli's landfall on Gopalpur in the southwestern part of the state. Thousands have been shifted to relief camps
Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018	<p>Top 3 states - Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra</p> <p>Top 3 districts - Satara (Maharashtra), Rewari (Haryana), Pedapalli (Telangana)</p> <p>Top 3 states with max. citizen participation - UP, Gujarat, Maharashtra</p>
Government launched Financial Inclusion Index (FII) 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FII would rate states on their performance on last-mile banking services availability ● It would be a measure of access to & usage of basic formal financial products & services including savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products, within the states

<p>The PM launched PMJAY in Ranchi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Touted as the world’s largest healthcare scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana falls under Ayushman Bharat umbrella ● The scheme became operational on 25 September, which marked birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay & intends to cover beneficiaries in 444 districts in 30 states/UTs
<p>Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education increased to 25.8% in 2017-18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GER is the index of the proportion of citizens between 18 & 23 years in every sample size of 100, who have structurally secured entry into tertiary education, while exit figures are unaccounted for ● As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2017-18 target was achieved due to factors like Issuing of new UGC regulation for Open and Distance Learning that allows entry of reputed institutions to offer education on the distance mode & Use of ICT technology- SWAYAM portal to reach out of people and allow them to secure good quality education
<p>Government decided to blend methanol with LPG to cut subsidy bill by 30%</p>	<p>Mixing 20% methanol with LPG, as is done in several countries, is estimated to bring down the cost of cooking gas for household consumption by Rs 100 a cylinder. Methanol % in the mix could be scaled up further as India enhances production of methane from coal</p>
<p>Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of “2018 Ease of Living Index” ranking</p>	<p>Odisha & MP bagged second & third best performing awards. Launched by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affair under AMRUT, the Index aims to help cities assess their liveability vis-a-vis global & national benchmarks and encourage them to move towards ‘outcome-based’ approach to urban planning & management</p>
<p>Supreme Court allowed all-Women entry into Sabarimala temple</p>	<p>While temple authorities considered female non-entry as a matter of deep religious faith & sentiment, court verdict said the temple rule violated women’s right to equality & worship</p>
<p>Government approved National Digital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aim to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen, 1

Communications Policy (NDCP 2018)	<p>Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 & 10 Gbps by 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intent to attract investments of USD 100 billion in Digital Communications Sector & expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices
Political debate heated up further on Rafale fighter jet offset deal	<p>Opposition is blaming NDA government for overvaluation of Rafael deal. Suspicion has increased since Reliance Defence, a relatively new player was chosen as offset partner of French company Dassault Aviation, instead of 70-year old HAL, possibly a result of crony capitalism</p>
Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank merger announced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The merger will make banks stronger, sustainable & increase their lending ability ● Merged entity will be India's third-largest bank with a business book of 14.8 lakh crores
TRS government prematurely dissolved Telangana assembly	<p>The governor approved the decision of the Telangana cabinet & requested TRS President & state chief minister K. Chandrashekhra Rao to continue as a caretaker CM till new government is formed in the state</p>
Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prohibited manufacture, sale, distribution of 328 Fixed Dose Combinations for human use with immediate effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many of the banned drugs are combinations of basic flu drug paracetamol with other unnecessary chemicals ● Among these drugs is a combination of propyphenazone, paracetamol and caffeine, which is composition of pain reliever 'Saridon' ● Several other banned drugs are combinations of the antibiotic amoxicillin with other unessential chemicals. Another major set of banned FDCs are combinations of diabetic drug Metformin with other redundant chemicals.
Highest ever rains since many decades devastate several districts in Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The state experienced the worst ever flood since 1924. Disaster recovery work is in full swing, but entire damage will take a few months to recover ● The regions worst hit by the rains were marked out by Gadgil committee report submitted in 2011 as 'ecologically sensitive', but the report

	<p>recommendations were not implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Illegal mining, deforestation on mountain slopes & wrong timing of water release from overflowing dams are by and large considered to be man-made reasons for this devastation
Pune emerged as the 'easiest city to live in India' as per Ease of Living Index 2018	According to index released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Pune, Navi Mumbai & Mumbai emerged as top 3 cities to live in India
Project 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) was launched by HRD Ministry	It aims to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses. The main objective is to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost
Government plans 'Deep Ocean Mission'	The Union Earth Sciences Ministry unveiled 'ISRO-like' mission to set up an offshore desalination plant to work with tidal energy & develop a submersible vehicle that can go to a depth of 6,000+ metres with 3 people on board
India Post Payments Bank to start operations soon with 650 branches	India Post Payments Bank is expected to go live with 650 branches and 17 crore accounts in August, following clearance from RBI to start operations
40 Lakh out of Assam Citizen list	More than 40 Lakh of the 3.29 crore applicants in Assam were left out of the complete draft National Register of Citizens, which was published by Registrar General of India and NRC State Coordinator in the presence of Joint Director (Northeast) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
NDA government won 'No Confidence' motion moved in Lok Sabha	No Confidence motion was moved by a former NDA ally Telugu Desam Party. BJP-led NDA bagged 325 votes against motion, while 126 members voted in favour
HRD Ministry granted Institution of Eminence (IoE) status to six educational institutions	<p>List includes 3 Public sector Institutions -</p> <p>a) IISc, b) IIT-B, c) IIT-Delhi</p> <p>List includes 3 from Private Sector -</p> <p>a) BITS Pilani</p> <p>b) Manipal Academy of Higher Education</p>

	c) Jio Institute of Reliance Foundation (Proposed in Pune)
Telecom Commission approved TRAI recommendations on net neutrality	By endorsing steps that call for amendments to access services licences for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Telecom Operators, the Commission has made it clear that any violation of net neutrality will be treated as a violation of the licence conditions
The government proposed to replace UGC with HECI	The draft Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Act, 2018, takes away funding powers from proposed regulator and gives it powers to ensure academic quality & even close down bogus institutions
Govt sets up task force to suggest ways to reduce import dependence	Led by Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha, the task force includes secretaries from departments of commerce, industrial policy and promotion, skill development, revenue, defence production, steel, petroleum, electronics and telecommunications
J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti resigned after BJP announced to pull out of an alliance	Unhappy with the way PDP-led coalition government has been handling law & order situation in J&K, BJP has withdrawn state government's support. President's rule was recommended by the governor N N Vohra & the President affirmed it
PM approved a proposal to set up a committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems in the country	The committee will be headed by E Sreedharan, also known as the "Metro Man". This will bring down costs and also give a boost to the government's Make in India policy
'Benami Transactions Informants Reward' scheme launched	Under the new rewards scheme, IT dept would reward up to Rs 1 crore would be given to those who can give specific information
Ten new Swachh iconic places added to the list	Addition to the list of 20 places takes the count to 30. Under the scheme, the government would take up initiatives like improved sewage infrastructure, drainage facilities, installation of sewage treatment plant, improved sanitation facilities & water ATMs
National Health Profile	As per recent release by the Central Bureau of

2018 released	<p>Health Intelligence (CBHI),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Government spends just 1.3% of the GDP for public healthcare (Rs. 3 per day) ● One doctor serves a population of 11,000 ● The infant mortality rate at the national level stands at its lowest i.e. 34 per 1,000 live births ● National maternal mortality rate stands at a rate of 167 per 1,000,000 births ● Rabies is the most lethal communicable disease
UIDAI disagreed to share AADHAAR data for criminal investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The use of or access to Aadhaar biometric data for criminal investigation is not permissible under Section 29 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 ● "Very limited" exception to this, said UIDAI, is under Section 33 of the Aadhaar Act, that permits use of or access to Aadhaar biometric data in cases involving national security only after pre-authorisation by an oversight committee headed by the cabinet secretary
4 th International Yoga Day celebrated on 21 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2018 theme - 'Yoga for peace'. The day's celebration in India was led by PM Narendra Modi from Dehradun, Uttarakhand ● 1.6 lakh people in Kota set Guinness World Record for 'largest number of people performing yoga at one place at the same time
Govt mulls merger of Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, Oriental Bank, Central Bank	<p>Triggered by rising bad loans, four banks are under pressure with combined loss of Rs 21,646.38 crore in the FY 2017-18. The merger will allow the weak banks to sell assets, reduce overheads and shut money-losing branches</p>
Asia's longest bidirectional road tunnel inaugurated in Leh	<p>PM Mr Modi inaugurated 2-lane, bidirectional single tube tunnel with parallel 14 km long escapes. 'Zojila' tunnel project is based in Leh, J&K</p>
IT Department launched new Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018	<p>The IT Department issued a new reward scheme titled "Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018" to seek people's participation in the IT Department's efforts to unearth black money and to reduce tax evasion</p>
Swachh Sarvekshan 2018 – Jharkhand is best	<p>Released by Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Sarvekshan also ranked</p>

performing state, Indore is the cleanest city	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indore is the cleanest city, followed by Bhopal & Chandigarh 2. Ranchi at the top, for being the best capital city for 'citizens feedback', followed by Maharashtra & Chhattisgarh 3. Survey was conducted among 4200 cities
Eastern Peripheral Expressway: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first smart and green highway	Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first smart and green highway-135 km long Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal (KGP) Expressway also known as Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE). The expressway was completed in record time of about 500 days against target of 910 days at a cost of nearly Rs 11,000 crore
Gujarat topped Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) report of NITI Aayog	CWMI system was based on nine sectors & ranked Indian states on the basis of 28 different indicators reflecting their composite water management. Rajasthan was ranked the lowest on the index
India's first ever Disaster Risk Index 2018 released	Launched by the union home ministry with support from UNDP, the national disaster risk index mapped hazards & vulnerabilities across 640 districts & ranked Delhi (UT) & Maharashtra (state) at the top in their respective categories

Science & Hi-Tech

News	Narration
'SpiNNaker', the world's largest brain-like supercomputer built in The University of Manchester's School of Computer Science	'SpinNaker' has been designed to work in the same way as the human brain. It is capable of completing more than 200 million actions per second, with each of its chips having 100 million transistors
Kilogram measurement re-defined to complete metric system overhaul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New system completely upends historical methods for setting standards using physical objects. The units are instead based on fundamental constants of nature. e.g. 'meter' has been defined in terms of the speed of light ● The redefinition involved a complicated machine called 'kibble balance'

CSIR developed less Polluting Firecrackers named – SWAS, SAFAL and STAR	Green crackers are so named because they do not contain harmful chemicals that would cause air pollution. These crackers are 15-20% cheaper than the conventional ones. SWAS stands for safe water releaser, SAFAL stands for safe minimal aluminum and STAR stands for safe thermite cracker
Bangalore Airport became the first airport in Asia to announce introduction of face recognition based passage system technology from 2019	The face recognition based passage system will allow passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport using automatic biometric boarding procedure instead of manual boarding passes verification. This will enable paperless journey from registration to boarding
Google officially launched an Android 9.0 named Pie	It will be initially available on Google's Pixel phones starting 7 th Aug 2018. Android 9.0 'Pie', which was first unveiled at Google's annual developer conference in May, will use artificial intelligence to adapt to how you use the device
NASSCOM launched CoE for data science & AI center in Bangalore	The centre was set up in collaboration with the Karnataka government. The centre aims to support small and mid-sized businesses by fast-tracking their product developing and providing market access

Aerospace & Defence

News	Narration
Indian navy's Project-75I approved under strategic partnership model	Six advanced submarines worth Rs. 40,000 crore will be bought through Strategic Partnership (SP) model of the Defence Procurement Procedure
Boeing delivered first batch of Chinook military helicopters to IAF	CH-47F (I) or Chinook is a multi-role, vertical-lift platform, used for transporting troops, heavy artillery, equipment & fuel to high altitude areas. It is also used for humanitarian and disaster relief operations and in missions like transportation of relief supplies and mass evacuation of refugees
NASA's satellite TESS discovered a new planet (HD 21749b)	NASA's satellite TESS discovered a new planet (HD 21749b), which is 3 times that of the Earth. It is 53 light years away is it from the Earth
ISRO launched 'Microsat-	PSLV-C44 placed the 740-kg primary satellite

R', a military imaging satellite & students-built nano-satellite "Kalamsat" into space using a vehicle PSLV C44 in January 2019.	'Microsat-R' for DRDO in a 274-km polar sun synchronous orbit. 'Kalamsat' is said to be the lightest satellite of India
ISRO's GSLV-F11 successfully launched GSAT-7A in December 2018	GSAT-7A is a communication satellite launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota
India successfully test fired nuclear capable Agni-5 missile in December 2018	Agni-5 is a three-stage missile and is 17 metre tall and 2 metre wide. It is capable of carrying 1.5 tonne of nuclear warheads. It is the latest and most advanced variant in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine
SpaceX launched India's first privately built satellite ExseedSAT along with 63 other satellites from 18 countries	ExseedSAT 1 is a mini communication satellite weighing just a kg with double the size of a Rubik's cube is made up of aluminium alloy. ExseedSAT 1 has been built at a cost of less than Rs 2 crore.
India's heaviest made-in-India satellite GSAT-11 (The Big Bird) launched	ISRO's heaviest made-in-India satellite till date, weighing 5,854 kg was launched using imported ariane-5 heavyweight rocket from French Guiana
ISRO launched India's first hyper spectral imaging satellite 'HysIS'	30 foreign satellites from 8 countries & hyperspectral imaging (HysIS) satellite PSLV C-43 were launched from Sriharikota. HysIS is an advanced earth observation satellite
Chang'e-4 lunar probe made soft landing on the far side of the moon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The robotic probe from China landed in the unexplored South Pole-Aitken basin, the biggest known impact structure in the solar system ● The mission was follow up to Chang'e-3, the first Chinese landing on the moon
ISRO successfully launched GSAT-29 satellite from Sriharikota	ISRO's heavy-lift rocket GSLV-MkIII-D2 has successfully injected into orbit of the latest communication satellite GSAT-29. It is intended to meet the communication needs of people in remote areas in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir.
India to buy S-400 missile systems from Russia	Surface-to-air triumph missiles will give India's military a much-needed boost, which would act as

	a deterrent against China's growing presence in the region and a superior edge over Pakistan
IAF test fired Astra missile from Sukhoi-30 aircraft	Indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) Astra was launched from Kalaikunda Air Force station
DRDO successfully tested 'Prahaar' missile from Odisha	The indigenously developed surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile was flight tested at Chandipur
India clears way for USD 2.2-billion frigates deal with Russia	The long-pending deal, to procure Project 11356 or advanced Talwar-class frigates, will be fitted with Brahmos missile system & have several Indian-made equipment onboard, including sensors and communication
Indian Air Force successfully carried first-ever mid-air refuelling of LCA Tejas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LCA Tejas has been built by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) & HAL ● Success of these trials will be major leap for indigenous fighter that will help in enhancing mission capability with better range & payload ● Ability to carry out air-to-air refuelling is also one of critical requirements for LCA Tejas to achieve final operational clearance
ISRO to send first Indian into Space by 2022	The programme will make India fourth nation in the world to launch 'Gaganyaan', a Human Spaceflight Mission after the US, Russia & China by 2022 or sooner
A marine hydraulic system will be installed on INS Vikramaditya by May'19	The system installed on India's first ever aircraft carrier will give an edge to the air-capable wing of the ship
NASA space agency has confirmed presence of ice on Moon using data from the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft	Scientists have found frozen water deposits in the darkest & coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions using data from Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, launched by India ten years ago
Aditya – L1: First Indian mission to study the Sun to be launched in 2019	ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission, India's first mission to study solar corona, is planned to be launched in 2019-2020, by launch vehicle PSLV-XL from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
NASA's Parker Solar Probe sets off	The world's first mission to touch the Sun was launched from Space Launch Complex 37 at Cape

	Canaveral Air Force Station, in the US
India will procure (NASAMS-II) from the US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India is deploying multi-tiered air defence network to fully secure its airspace from incoming fighter aircraft, missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles ● National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II, an advanced air defence system will be procured at USD 1 billion to defend National Capital Region from aerial attacks
SpaceX launched world's heaviest communications satellite	Elon Musk-led space startup SpaceX launched the Telstar 19 Vantage satellite, the world's heaviest commercial communications satellite weighing over 7,000 kg, through its Falcon 9 rocket.
ISRO conducted first crew escape test for India's manned mission to space	ISRO successfully tested a capsule that will carry an Indian astronaut to space in future. The experiment on 'Pad Abort' or crew bailout system was conducted at a test facility in Sriharikota
Dhanush, India's first indigenous long-range artillery gun ready for induction	India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun "Dhanush" passed its final test at Pokhran, paving the way for its induction into the Army. Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun and is also called the "desi Bofors"
India & Russia conclude purchase negotiations for S-400 missile air defense systems	India decided to proceed with the long-anticipated USD 5.5 billion deal to purchase Russia's S-400 surface-to-air missile units despite the US saying the purchase may affect the relations between Washington and New Delhi
SpaceX rocket launched a powerful communications satellite named SES	SpaceX launched a Falcon-9 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The rocket carried SES satellite to a Geostationary Transfer Orbit. SES satellite will allow telephone companies, mobile network operators & internet service providers to deliver more reliable cellular backhaul & faster broadband
Scientists from Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) discovered 'EPIC' planet	With this discovery, India joins handful of countries that have discovered planets around stars. Planet has been named as K2-236b & host star as K2-236. The EPIC planet is 6 times bigger than Earth & revolves around host about 600 light

	years away
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Military & Naval Exercises

Exercise	Narration
Chief of Naval Staff commissioned the new base christened 'INS Kohassa'	Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned the new base christened 'INS Kohassa' in Andaman and Nicobar islands in January 2019
India-Myanmar bilateral army exercise, 'IMBEX 2018-19' was held in Chandigarh in January 2019	The aim of the joint training event is to train the Myanmar delegation for participation in UN peacekeeping operations.
Vajra Prahar: India & the US military exercise held in Jaipur	The aim of the Vajra Prahar exercise is to promote military relations between two countries by enhancing interoperability and mutual exchange of tactics between Special Forces
Konkan 18: India & UK naval exercise held in Goa	The naval exercise 'Konkan 18' between India & UK was held in Goa from 28 November to 6 December 2018. The exercise is aimed at deriving mutual benefit from each other's experiences and is indicative of continuing cooperation between two countries
The first-ever bilateral naval exercise 'Samudra Shakti 2018' between Indian & Indonesian navies	The aim of the exercise is to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime co-operation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.
India-Japan military exercise Dharma Guardian-2018 was held in Mizoram from November 1 to 14, 2018	The exercise is aimed at developing mutual understanding and respect between militaries of both countries, as also facilitate in tracking worldwide phenomenon of terrorism
Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-18) held at Visakhapatnam	Its main objective is to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe best practices between navies of two countries.
Exercise Aviaindra-18: Joint Air Force exercise of India and Russia commenced at Lipetsk, Russia	Its main objective is to work on anti-terrorist operations in a bilateral scenario. The exercise would further enhance the cooperation and understanding each other's

	Concept of Operations.
MILEX 2018: First military exercise of BIMSTEC countries held in Pune	Nepal refuse take part in the BIMSTEC joint military exercise. The theme of exercise includes counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search. The main aim of this military exercise is to promote strategic alignment among the member-states and to share best practices in the area of counter-terrorism
India & Sri Lanka joint naval exercise SLINEX-2018 held at Sri Lanka	SLINEX exercise is continuation of ongoing operational interaction between both navies wherein regular ships visits are being undertaken between the two countries. The exercise was conducted in two phases, namely Harbour and Sea Phase. These exercises involved joint training, exchange of expertise, helicopter and maritime patrol aircraft operations, search and rescue, and maneuvers at sea.
KAZIND 2018: Indo-Kazakhstan joint military exercise held in Otar region, Kazakhstan	This was third joint military exercise between two countries which have history of extensive cooperation in defence arena. The aim of exercise is to build & promote bilateral army to army relations and exchange skills and experiences between armies of both countries.
Ukraine has launched annual joint military exercise named Rapid Trident 2018 with US & other NATO	It held in Ukrainian village of Starychi from 2-15 September 2018 Its main goal is to practice countering armed aggression in conditions of the hybrid war. It is being conducted week before Russia holds its biggest military exercise Vostok-2018 since Cold War, in eastern part of the country and with participation of China and Mongolia
India & Mongolia joint exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' 2018 commenced at Ulaanbaatar	The exercise was centered around lecture & demonstration on aspects of mobile check post, contemporary security issues & threat involving non-state elements
Maitree 2018 is a joint military exercise between	It was conducted in Thailand from 6-19 August 2018. It has contributed in developing a mutual

the Indian Army and Royal Thai Army	understanding & bonhomie between armies of both the countries
Indian, Bangladeshi navies launched joint anti-crime maritime patrol	The navies of India and Bangladesh launched the first joint coordinated patrol (CORPAT) along their maritime boundaries against terrorism, piracy, human trafficking, smuggling and illegal fishing
Assumption Island: Seychelles denied joint project with India to develop naval base	Seychelles will develop military facilities at the island on its own. This statement came after growing political opposition in Seychelles to agreement that was signed with India in 2015 to develop a naval facility at Assumption Island which would have given India strategic advantage in Indian Ocean Region
India-Nepal joint battalion level exercise Surya Kiran-XIII began at Uttarakhand	A joint military exercise between India & Nepal began at Pithoragarh with soldiers from both the countries sharing experiences of counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations
US, India, Japan started Malabar Exercise in Guam in June 2018	For the first time, India, Japan & the US will hold annual Malabar exercises off the US territory of Guam, to improve cooperation amid increasing focus on Indo-Pacific region

India's Global Rankings

Rating/Index	Released by	India's Ranking
Global Climate Risk Index 2019	Germanwatch, an independent German NGO and Climate Action Network, Europe	14 (6 in 2018)
Global Terrorism Index 2018 – Countries Most Hit by Terror	Institute for Economics & Peace, a Sydney-based think-tank	7 (8 in 2017)
EIU Democracy Index 2018	Economic Intelligence Unit	41/167 countries (42 in 2017)
Global Trust Index 2019	Communications marketing	Trust in government - Fourth position behind

	firm 'Edelman'	Indonesia, UAE & China
Global Retirement Index 2018	Natixis Global	India - 43 Rank 1 - Panama
Human Capital Index 2018	World Economic Forum	115/157 countries
International IP Index 2019	Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of US Chambers of Commerce	36/50 global economies (44 in 2018) Rank 1 - The US
Ease of Doing Business ranking 2019	World Bank	77/190 (100 in 2018) Rank 1 - New Zealand
Human Development Index 2018	UN Development Programme	130/189 (131 in 2017) Rank 1 - Norway
IMD World Talent Ranking 2018	IMD	53/63 (55 in 2017) Rank 1 - Switzerland
Global Hunger Index 2018	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	103/119 (100 in 2017)
2018 Logistics Performance Index	The World Bank	44/160 (35 in 2017)
2018 FDI Confidence Index	AT Kearney	11 (8 in 2017)
Global Innovation Index 2018	WIPO, Cornell University and INSEAD	57/126 countries (60 in 2017)
End of Childhood Index 2018	Save the Children	113/175 countries (116 in 2017)
Global Peace Index 2018	Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)	137/163 countries (141 in 2017)
Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2019	Yale University and Columbia University in collaboration with the WEF & the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission	177/180 countries (141 in 2017)
World's most valuable nation brands list 2018	Brand Finance	9 (With USD 2159 billion valuation)
Global Gender Gap Index 2018	World Economic Forum	108/144 countries
World Economic Freedom Index 2018	Centre for Civil Society, a public policy think tank	96/162 (98 in 2017)

	along with Canada's Fraser Institute	
WEF Global Manufacturing Index 2018	World Economic Forum	To be announced
Travel & Tourism competitiveness Index 2018	World Economic Forum	To be announced
Global Competitiveness Index 2017-18	World Economic Forum	58/140 countries (53 in 2017)
Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2019	Adecco, INSEAD Business School & Tata Comm.	80/125 (79 in 2018)
World Digital Competitiveness Index 2018	The IMD Digital	48/63 (51 in 2017)
Corruption Perception Index 2018	Transparency International	78/180 countries
Global Peace Index 2018	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)	137/163 (141 in 2017)
World Press Freedom Index 2018	Reporters Without Borders (NGO)	138 (136 in 2017)
The Inclusive Development Index 2018	World Economic Forum	To be announced
A T Kearney Global Retail Development Index (GRDI) 2018	GRDI	To be announced
World Investment Report 2018	UNCTAD	To be announced
World Disaster Risk Index 2017	UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)	To be announced
ICT Development Index (IDI) 2018	UN International Telecommunication Union	To be announced
2018 Inclusive Growth & Development Index	World Economic Forum	To be announced

Global e-Waste production ranking	Assocham-KPMG joint study	To be announced
Global Energy Architecture Performance Index (EAPI) 2018	World Economic Forum & Accenture strategy	To be announced
Sustainable Development Goals Index 2018	Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung	To be announced
Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2018	UN telecom agency International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	To be announced

International News

News	Narration
'Green New Deal' resolution has been introduced in the US Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four part programme authored by New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez & Senator Edward Markey is designed to move America quickly into a secure, sustainable future • The title is inspired by the Ex-President Franklin Roosevelt's famous New Deal, which was a series of economic & social measures introduced to end the Great Depression • The plan intends to meet power demand of all of the US from clean, renewable & zero emission energy sources by 2030. A job guarantee is also part of the ambitious proposal
The US withdrew from the INF treaty with Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty was signed in 1987 by Ronald Reagan & Mikhail Gorbachev & barred both countries from deploying lan-launched cruise missiles in 500-5500 km range • Trump administration has argued that Russia has not been complying with the pact since 2014 and that it puts the US at a military disadvantage against China, which is not bound by the treaty
Rio de Janeiro has been	According to UNESCO, the World Capital of

named as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020 by the UNESCO	Architecture will serve as an international annual forum to discuss global problems through the lenses of culture, heritage, urban, planning, and architecture. Throughout 2020, Rio de Janeiro will host a series of events organized under the theme: "All the worlds. Just one world."
The 7 th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers was held in Vietnam in January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Union Tourism Minister of India, K J Alphons co-chaired Tourism Ministers' meeting with the Vietnamese minister, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thien ● The Ministers' meeting agreed to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in tourism under the framework of '2012 MoU between ASEAN and India on strengthening tourism cooperation with intensified efforts & activities
PM Theresa May survived no vote confidence in the Brexit deal in the UK parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 325 conservative MPs rejected no-confidence motion, tabled by opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn, and 306 MPs (Including 251 labour party MPs) voted in favour ● Following the vote, May said her government would continue to work to deliver on Brexit & said it was their duty to find a way forward that was approved by the House ● The Labour Party, liberal democrats & the Green party had voted against Brexit deal earlier
In December 2018, Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn in the Sri Lankan PM	Ranil Wickremesinghe was re-appointed after the end of the weeks-long political crisis in the island nation. He belongs to United National Party and has served as its leader since 1994
The US pulled out troops from Syria	After defeating ISIS, the US president felt there was no reason to keep US troops in Syria. The Defense Secretary James Mattis resigned in protest
Emmanuel Macron has declared a state of emergency in France and vowed to take action	To placate "yellow vest" anti-government protesters who wreaked havoc in Paris in December 2018.
Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is the new President of Mexico	He started his six-year term, took 53 per cent of the vote in a three-way race. He is the first leftist president of Mexico in decades.
24 th UN Climate Change	The conference aimed to finalise practical

Conference of Parties (COP24) held in Poland in December 2018	implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement, part of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
Sri Lankan parliament voted against Mahinda Rajapaksa's appointment in October 2018	Mahinda was appointed as the PM in place of Ranil Wickremesinghe by president Maithripala Sirisena, who still reserves the power to choose the next PM
G20 summit concluded in Buenos Aires, Argentina	World leaders signed off on an agreement that reaffirms a basic commitment by the biggest economies to multilateral trade and a "rules-based international order". G20 recognized WTO is currently falling short of meeting its objectives and that it's in need of reform
Ukraine claimed that Russia opened fire on its naval vessels near Crimea	The incident happened around Kerch Strait, a key waterway in Azov sea that holds strategic importance for both countries & marks a major escalation in tensions between the two former Soviet Republics
China has built an 'artificial sun'	The artificial Sun reached 100 million °C, 6 times the temperature of Sun's core of 15 million °C. It is designed to replicate the processes of the sun as part of a project to turn hydrogen into cost-effective green energy
'Toxic' is Oxford English Dictionary's '2018 Word of the year'	The adjective toxic is defined as 'poisonous' and first appeared in English in the mid-seventeenth century from the medieval Latin toxicus, meaning 'poisoned' or 'imbued with poison'
Tesla appointed Robyn Denholm as the chairman	Denholm was the CFO of Australian telecoms company Telstra. She replaced billionaire founder Elon Musk. Elon Musk was forced to step down over a charge of securities fraud; but remains Tesla CEO
US agreed to India, 7 other Nations to keep buying Iran Oil after it imposed sanction	The US has allowed India and China, along with South Korea, Japan, Italy, Turkey, Greece and Taiwan to temporarily keep buying Iranian crude oil despite sanctions against Tehran, calming fears of a possible jump in fuel prices if supplies from the OPEC country were completely choked
Kim Jong Yang of South	Kim replaced Meng Hongwei, Deputy Minister of

Korea is new interpol president	Public Security of China, who is alleged to have resigned in October 2018 after his detention and disappearance by Chinese authorities on corruption charges
Jair Bolsonaro has been elected as the President of Brazil	He won 55% of the vote in the second-round vote and defeated PT candidate Fernando Haddad
Lotay Tshering is Bhutan's new PM	Lotay, the president of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) party won the third elections held since 2008 in the Himalayan country. His party won 30 out of 47 seats
India elected to UNHRC with record no. of votes	Against selection criteria of minimum 97 votes, India received 188 votes, the highest polled by any of the 18 countries elected in the voting
NAFTA agreement revised to USMCA	The US & Canada struck a deal on trade and announced framework for a new, revised NAFTA, now known as US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA. Deal is supposed to help Canada & Mexico against protectionist duties imposed by the US
Earthquake & Tsunami shatter Indonesia	Indonesia was hit by 7.5 magnitude earthquake & 3-meter high wave-Tsunami in September. Official death toll surpassed 800 & actual extent of casualty could be much higher
The US imposed 10% tariff on Chinese goods worth USD 200 bn	Air conditioners, TV sets, food, furniture, toys & raw materials are some of the items in a long list. China retaliated by imposing taxes worth USD 60 bn
Landmark defence pact COMCASA inked during Indo-US 2+2 dialogue	The Communications, Compatibility, Security Agreement (COMCASA) will give India access to advanced new defence systems like armed drones and will enable the armed forces to exploit existing US-origin platforms much more efficiently. These include an assurance that full access will be maintained for all equipment supplied by the US, it would not disrupt communications, shut the systems down or shared system related information with third party without an advance notice
BIMSTEC 2018 summit	Theme of 4 th BIMSTEC summit - 'Towards a

was held in Kathmandu	Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region'
Macau set to overtake Qatar as world's richest place by 2020	According to IMF, Macau is set to overtake Qatar as 'World's richest place' with the highest per-capita GDP of any country, by 2020
Pakistan elections 2018 - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won maximum seats	Headed by the cricket star turned politician Imran Khan, PTI won more seats than key opposition parties, i.e. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) & The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). These & many other parties complained of rigging in vote count
Israeli Parliament passed contentious Jewish nation law	Israel's Parliament a controversial piece of legislation that defines the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people. Arab MPs called the legislation 'racist' and a 'form of apartheid aimed at creating two systems within one country'
NATO summit concluded in Brussels, Belgium on 11-12 July	The US President Donald J. Trump criticized the alliance's inability to meet collective defense spending targets and questioned its relevance
India joined EBRD as 69 th member	Indian membership of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), paves the way for more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation
Erdogan was re-elected as the president of Turkey	Tayyip Erdogan won 52.68% of the vote and his Justice and Development Party received 53.69% of the vote, a comfortable majority in Parliament.
The US withdrew from UNHRC	Standing with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley accused UNHRC of a "chronic bias against Israel"
India & China discussed to form 'oil buyers' club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Production cuts by the oil producers' cartel OPEC have led to major price hike in recent months. OPEC supplies almost 60% of India's oil needs ● India discussed with China the possibility of forming an 'oil buyers club' that can negotiate better terms with sellers & get more US crude oil to Asia to cut dominance of the oil block
The US slapped stiff 25% tariff on USD 50 billion worth of Chinese goods	It has accused China of intellectual property (IP) theft and unfair trade practices. This decision has triggered full-fledged trade war between world's

	two largest economies
The US revoked China's invitation to RIMPAC 18	<p>The US feels that China's continued militarization of disputed features in the South China Sea raises tensions and destabilizes the region</p> <p>The largest naval exercise saw participation of 26 nations, 47 surface ships, five submarines, 18 national land forces, 200+ aircraft & 25,000 personnel in the biennial exercise (27 June- 2 Aug)</p>

Global Superlatives

News	Narration
India has replaced Japan as world's second largest steel producing country	According to World Steel Association report, India's steel production was at 106.5 MT in 2018. It went up by 4.9 % from 101.5 MT in 2017. Japan produced 104.3 MT in 2018, down 0.3 % compared to 2017. China is the largest producer of crude steel accounting for more than 51% of production
The world's largest cricket stadium is being built in Ahmedabad.	Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad is being revamped as the world's largest cricket stadium with a capacity of 1,10,000 people.
The world's longest 3D-printed concrete bridge was opened in China	The world's longest 3D-printed concrete pedestrian bridge, which is 26.3 metre-long and 3.6-metre-wide, was opened in China in 2019
Dubai International airport became the world's busiest airport for international passengers in 2018	Dubai retained the position as the world's busiest airport for the fifth consecutive year in a row in 2018 with Indian travellers emerging as the largest source of traffic for the airport which registered a record footfall of over 89 million
World's first Hyperloop passenger capsule unveiled	The 32-metre "Quintero One" passenger capsule was unveiled in Spain. After additional assembly & integration into the system, it will be put to commercial use
China opened the world's first underground hotel	The 'InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland' was been opened in quarry in Shanghai, after a decade of construction
China built the world's longest sea bridge	The world's longest sea bridge links Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau, with total length of 55 km. The new sea bridge will connect the east & west

	sides of Pearl River Delta of South China Sea, connecting two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong & Macau with Zhuhai i.e. mainland China
Century's longest lunar eclipse seen in July 2018	'Blood Moon 2018' was seen for 1 hr 43 min It was majorly seen in Eastern Hemisphere including Central Asia, Eastern Africa & Southeast Asia on 27-28 July
New Zealand scientists performed the world's first 3D colour X-ray on human body	With the support of CERN Physics lab, The new colour X-ray imaging technique is able to produce clearer & more accurate images that would help doctors to get more accurate diagnoses
The US scientists unveiled 'summit', the world's fastest scientific supercomputer	The US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) supercomputer called 'Summit' can complete over 200,000 trillion calculations per second – providing unprecedented computing power for research in energy, advanced materials and artificial intelligence
Germany launched the world's first ever hydrogen-powered train	European railway manufacturer Alstom has launched the Hydrogen powered train. Coradia iLint uses fuel cells that turn hydrogen and oxygen into electricity, and can travel up to 140 kmph
World's smallest house by French scientists	The house made using nanorobotics measures only 20 microns (millionths of a meter) across, which is about one-fifth the width of a human hair
Russia launched world's first floating nuclear plant	"Akademik Lomonosov", the newly established power station will be primarily used to power oil rigs in remote areas of Arctic region where Russia is pushing to drill for oil and gas
Scientists create world's first 3D-printed human corneas	Scientists from Newcastle University, UK have created world's first 3D printed human corneas (3D printed thin protective film over eye) that could solve problem of shortage of available eye donors and help millions of blind people gain sight again
Colombia is first ever Latin American nation to join NATO as 'global partner'	Colombia will join as a "global partner", which means it will not necessarily have to take part in military action & will be fully accredited in Brussels

International Appointments

Personality	Narration
Gita Gopinath is IMF's chief economist	The Harvard economist is second Indian after former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, to hold this position
Stefan Lofven elected as Sweden Prime Minister	Stefan Löfven, the leader of the Social Democrats won the election with support of the coalition partner, the Green Party.
Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was elected as the 7 th President of Maldives	Ibrahim Solih of the Maldivian Democratic Party received over 58% votes. He defeated Incumbent president Abdulla Yameen of the Progressive Party of Maldives
Scott Morrison was sworn in as Australian prime minister	He succeeded Malcolm Turnbull, who was forced out by party rivals in a bruising leadership contest
Pinelopi Goldberg appointed as World Bank's Chief Economist	The World Bank appointed Pinelopi Goldberg, a Yale professor specialising in the effects of trade liberalisation on developing countries, as a new chief economist in place of Paul Romer who had resigned earlier
Pedro Sanchez was sworn in as Spanish PM	Pedro Sanchez was sworn in after success of a motion of no confidence against former PM Mariano Rajoy
Giuseppe Conte was sworn-in as prime minister of Italy	He was sworn in as the PM of Italy's new populist government after a last-ditch coalition deal ended months of political deadlock & narrowly avoided snap elections in the eurozone's third largest economy
Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was sworn in as the PM of Egypt	The President was sworn-in for a second four-year term in office as the country faces major economic and security challenges

World Forums

Organization (Established in)	HQ	Headed by	2018 convention
United Nations (1945)	New York	Secretary General – Antonio Guterres	Multiple conventions
UN General Assembly	New York	President - H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (Ecuador)	73 rd session, (September 2018)
UNFCCC	Bonn,	Michał Kurtyka	Conference of Parties

	Germany		(COP) 24, Poland
International Court of Justice (1945)	Netherlands	Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf	---
World Bank (1945)	Washington D.C	President - Jim Yong Kim	---
IMF (1945)	Washington D.C	MD - Christine Lagarde	---
UNESCO (1945)	Paris, France	Director-General - Audrey Azoulay	
UNCTAD (1964)	Geneva, Switzerland	Secretary General – Mukhisa Kituyi	---
World Economic Forum (1971)	Geneva, Switzerland	Executive Chairman –Klaus Schwab	
Commonwealth of Nations (1949)	London, UK	Secretary General – Patricia Scotland	
World Intellectual Property Organization (1967)	Geneva, Switzerland	Director-General – Francis Gurry	---
New Development Bank (2015)	Shanghai, China	K V Kamath	---
BRICS (2009)	Shanghai, China	---	Johannesburg, South Africa (July 2018)
BIMSTEC (1997)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Secretary General – Shahidul Islam	Kathmandu, Nepal (2018)
WHO (1948)	Geneva, Switzerland	Director General – Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	---
ASEAN Summit (1967)	Jakarta, Indonesia	Secretary General – Lim Jock Hoi (Brunei)	32 th & 33 rd summits, Singapore (April & Nov 2018)
UNICEF (1946)	New York	Exec Director - Henrietta Fore	---
OPEC (1960)	Vienna, Austria	Secretary General –Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo	---

		(Nigeria)	
NATO (1949)	Brussels	Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg	Belgium (July 2018)
SAARC (1985)	Kathmandu	Secretary General –Amjad Hussain B. Sial (Pakistan)	Sri Lanka (2018)
NAM (1961)	Jakarta	Secretary General – Nicolás Maduro	---
G7/G8 (1976)	----	----	44 th summit, Canada (2018)
G20 (1999)	----	Mauricio Macri (2018)	13 th Summit, Buenos Aires, Argentina
SCO (2001)	Beijing	Secretary General – Rashid Olimov	Qingdao, China (2018)
International Maritime Organization (1948)	London, UK	Secretary General – Kitack Lim (South Korea)	---
International Labour Organization (1919)	Geneva, Switzerland	Director General – Guy Ryder (UK)	107 th Session, Switzerland (2018)
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum (1989)	Singapore	Executive Director – Alan Bollard	25 th summit, Papua New Guinea (2018)

Important Days
Global Days

Description	Date	About it
World Leprosy Day	Last Sunday of January	Observance of the day focuses on target of zero cases of leprosy-related disabilities in children 2019 Theme – “Ending discrimination, stigma and prejudice”
World Cancer Day	4 February	2019 Theme – “I Am & I Will,” is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the future

World Radio Day	13 February	On this day in 1946, UN Radio broadcasted first call sign 2019 Theme – “Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace”
International Mother Language Day	21 February	2019 Theme – “Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation”
World Wildlife Day	3 March	2019 Theme – “Life below water: for people and planet”
International Women’s Day	8 March	2019 Theme - “Balance for better”
PI Day	14 March	3,1,4 are significant digits of PI, i.e. 3.14), so 14/03, i.e. 14 March
World Consumer Rights Day	15 March	The day is observed to pay solidarity with the international consumer movement and give more attention to promote basic rights of consumers 2019 Theme – “Trusted Smart Products”
International Day of Happiness	20 March	The International Day of Happiness (“Happiness Day”) was founded by UN adviser Jayme Illien on June 28, 2012 2019 Theme - “Share Happiness - focusing on importance of relationships, kindness and helping each other”
World Water Day	22 March	The day focuses attention on the importance of fresh water & advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources 2019 Theme – “Leaving no one behind”
World Meteorological Day	23 March	It marks establishment of World Meteorological Organization 2019 Theme – “The Sun, the Earth and the Weather”
World Tuberculosis Day	24 March	WHO has placed special focus on uniting efforts to “Leave no one behind” including actions to address stigma, discrimination,

		marginalization and overcome barriers to access care 2019 Theme – “It’s time”
World Health Day	7 April	2019 Theme – “Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere”
World Earth Day	22 April	2019 Theme – “Protect our species”
English Language Day/World Book Day	23 April	Birth anniversary of William Shakespeare World Book Day 2019 Theme – “Share a story”
World Malaria Day	25 April	2019 Theme – “End Malaria for Good”
World Intellectual Property Day	26 April	2018 Theme – “Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity”
World Press Freedom Day	3 May	2018 Theme – “Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law”
World Information Society Day	17 May	Marks foundation of International Telecommunication Union on 17 May 1865
No Tobacco Day	31 May	2018 Theme – “Tobacco and heart disease”
World Milk Day	1 June	The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector
The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	4 June	The day acknowledges the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse
World Environment Day	5 June	2018 Theme – “Beat Plastic Pollution”
World Oceans Day	8 June	2018 Theme – “Clean Our Ocean”
World Day Against Child Labour	12 June	2018 Theme – “Generation Safe & Healthy”
International Yoga Day/World Hydrography Day	21 June	21 June – The longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere 2018 Theme: “Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways”
World Population	11 July	World’s population reached almost five

Day		billion people on 11 July 1987 2018 Theme – “Family Planning is a Human Right”
International Youth Day	12 August	2018 Theme – “Safe Spaces for Youth”
World Humanitarian Day	19 August	----
International Literacy Day	8 September	2018 Theme - ‘Literacy and skills development’
International Day of Peace	21 September	2018 Theme - “The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70. “
World Tourism Day	27 September	2018 Theme - “Tourism and the Digital Transformation”
International Day of Older Persons	1 October	2018 Theme - “Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions”
World Teachers Day	5 October	2018 Theme - “The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher”
World Sight Day	13 October	2018 Theme – “Universal Eye Health”
World Standard day	14 October	2018 Theme - ‘International Standards and the Fourth Industrial Revolution’
World Food Day	16 October	2018 Theme-“Our action are our future. A #Zero Hunger World by 2030 is possible”
World Anaesthesia Day	16 October	----
World Statistics Day	20 October	----
United Nations Day	24 October	-----
World Toilet Day	19 November	2018 Theme–“When Nature Calls”
Universal Children’s Day	21 November	2017 Theme - “Families ,Education Well-being”
World AIDS Day	1 December	2018 Theme - ‘Know Your Status’
World Computer Literacy Day	2 December	-----
International Day of Persons with Disabilities	3 December	2018 Theme – ‘Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality’

World Soil Day	5 December	2018 Theme – ‘Be the Solution to Soil Pollution’
Human Rights Day	10 December	2018 Theme – ‘Stand Up For Human Rights’
International Migrants Day	18 December	2018 Theme – ‘Migration with Dignity’

Indian Days

Day	Date	Narration
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	7-9 January	The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915
National Youth Day	12 January	It marks birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda
National Voters Day	25 January	Marks Election commission’s foundation on 25 January 1950
National Science Day	28 February	Marks discovery of Raman Effect. 2018 theme - "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future"
National Maritime Day	5 April	On this day in 1919, navigation history was created when SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd, journeyed to the UK
National Civil Services Day	21 April	All officers of Central and State Governments are honoured for excellence in public administration by the Prime Minister. The 'Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration' is presented
National Statistics Day	29 June	Birth anniversary of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, an Indian scientist and applied statistician 2018 theme is “Quality Assurance in Official Statistics”. It underscores importance of compliance with essential parameters of quality in statistical systems and products
National Doctors Day	1 July	Birth anniversary of Dr Bidhan

(India)		Chandra Roy, the legendary physician
National Handloom Day	7 August	Union Minister of State, Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta celebrated this at Guwahati
National Sports Day	29 August	Birth anniversary of Dhyan Chand, the Olympic Gold medallist hockey player by organizing friendly hockey matches in New Delhi
National Hindi Divas	14 September	On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India
Engineer's Day (India)	15 September	Birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Visvesvaraya. He is known as India's greatest engineer of all times
World Student Day	15 October	This day marks birth anniversary of Dr A P J Abdul Kalam
Rashtriya Ekta Diwas	31 October	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was introduced by the Government of India and inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 for celebrating Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
National Education Day	11 November	Birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India
National Constitution Day, National Milk Day	26 November	Birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, Father of the White Revolution
National Mathematics Day	22 December	Birth anniversary of the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan
Good Governance Day	25 December	Marks birth day of India's Ex-Prime Minister Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee

