

Monthly Digest May -2018

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in a month of **May 2018**. We have compiled important & expected questions, which can be asked in upcoming **Banking interviews** and all upcoming **Banking & Insurance exams**.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. ICICI Bank's board has appointed an additional (independent) director of the bank for five years -- **Radhakrishnan Nair**.
Note: According to ICICI Bank, the appointment is the subject to approval of shareholders. Mr. Nair is also an independent director of three subsidiaries of the bank 'ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company', 'ICICI Prudential Trust' and 'ICICI Securities Primary Dealership'.
2. **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has unveiled with a detailed framework for risk based Know Your Client (KYC) documentation of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).
Note: In an FPI structured as a company, a person owning 25% stake would be considered the beneficial owner (BO). If it originates from a high-risk authority, any person owning 10% stake or more in such FPI would be considered a BO. All investors from such jurisdictions would have to comply with the KYC requirement for category-III FPIs.
3. India has slipped by three spots to 11th position in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 of global consultancy firm -- **A T Kearney**.
Note: The US remained in the top position for investment intentions with Canada rising to the second position while Germany fell to the third. India fell out of the top 10 for the first time since 2015.
4. Former chief economic adviser **Ashok Lahiri** has been appointed as full-time member of the 15th Finance Commission.
Note: He will be accorded the status of the Minister of State. In November 2017, The Fifteenth Finance Commission of India (XV-FC) has been constituted to give recommendations for five fiscal years commencing on 1 April 2020. The main tasks of the commission were to "strengthen cooperative federalism, improve the quality of public spending and help protect fiscal stability".
5. The 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in **Manila, Philippines**.
Note: The meeting attended by the Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegations from the SAARC member states. The Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation briefed the meeting about the current status of economic progress achieved by their countries.
6. EPFO Introduces 'View Pension Passbook' Service through -- **Umang App**.
Note: On clicking 'View Passbook' option, it requires PPO Number and Date of Birth information to be entered by the pensioner. The facility to download the financial year wise complete pass book details is also available.
7. **Uday Kotak** has been redesignated as **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
Note: Earlier Mr. Kotak was executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director (MD). Kotak Mahindra Bank is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. In February 2003, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave the licence to Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd. to carry on banking business.
8. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected India **7.3%** to remain the fastest growing Asian nation in 2018-19.
9. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India will be the fastest-growing major economy in 2018 with a growth rate of **7.4%**.
Note: The IMF's Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook report, India was recovering from the effects of demonetization and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The recovery is expected to be underpinned by a rebound from transitory shocks as well as robust private consumption.
10. US retail giant **Walmart** will buy 77% controlling stake in India's largest e-commerce startup 'Flipkart' for USD 16 billion.
Note: It will be the country's largest acquisition and the world's biggest purchase of an ecommerce company. This

acquisition will be the country's largest acquisition and the world's biggest purchase of an ecommerce company at a reported amount of USD 20.8 billion (Vodafone-Idea merger valued USD 23 billion).

11. The 15th Finance Commission has constituted 6-member advisory council to advise and assist the commission headed by **Arvind Virmani**.

Note: The role and functions of the council will be to advise the commission on any issue or subject related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission.

12. As per latest Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR), India's rank **6th** on the Global Optimism Index (GOI) in the first quarter of 2018.

Note: The report says the business optimism in India has deteriorated while entering the last year of the current regime. Austria topped the index followed by Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands, and the US. The report was prepared on a quarterly global business survey of 2,500 businesses in 37 economies

13. According to Credit rating agency 'Fitch', India's economic growth **7.3%** will accelerate in the current financial year.

Note: The growth rate will accelerate as money supply has recovered to its pre-demonetization level and disruptions related to the rollout of GST have diminished. Fitch Ratings Inc. is one of the big three credit rating agencies (other two -Moody's and Standard & Poor's). Fitch Ratings is dual-headquartered in New York (US) and London(UK).

14. According to the 'RemitSCOPE' report, India became the largest remittance-receiving country in the world in 2017
Note: India has become the largest remittance-receiving country in the world in 2017, with migrant workers from the country sending home 69 billion US dollars.

15. The Government of India signed a loan deal worth with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan) __ **USD 200 million**.

Note: The loan would help the Government of India in achieving its goal of reducing stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022. POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year.

16. The Indian Railways will spend **Rs. 5,000 crores** on modernizing 68 major stations for the redevelopment project.

Note: The stations to be upgraded include Pune, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Shimla, Mathura, Valsad, Ambala,

Varanasi, and Dehradun. Most of the money to be spent on every station would go towards installing elevators, flooring the platforms, and refurbishing the walls, along with constructing a modern facade at the station entrances to make them look as swanky as airports.

17. Chinese bank **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** has launched the country's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund for investing in India__

Note: The ICBC Credit Suisse **India Market Fund** will invest in exchange-traded funds listed on more than 20 exchanges in Europe and the US that are based on the Indian market. The fund will invest in the future of the Indian economy and track the distribution of the industrial structure across the Indian market.

18. According to data released by the Commerce Ministry, Inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in April -- **3.18%**.

Note: Inflation in food articles was at 0.87% in April 2018, as against a deflation of 0.29% in the preceding month. The Wholesale Price Index focuses on the price of goods traded between corporations, rather than goods bought by consumers, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index. The purpose of the WPI is to monitor price movements that reflect supply and demand in industry, manufacturing, and construction.

19. The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has posted largest ever quarterly loss of Rs 13,416.91 crore for January-March period, mainly due to high provisioning for bad loans.

Note: The bank had reported a staggering standalone profit of Rs. 261.90 crore in the fourth quarter of 2016-17. Total income for the fourth quarter also declined to Rs 12,945.68 crore from Rs. 14,989.33 crores in the year-ago period.

20. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a penalty of Rs. 50,000 on Universal Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, Mancherial, West Bengal with respect to violations on loans and advances.

Note: The Cooperative Bank had violated its directive and guidelines on loans and advances to directors and their relatives.

21. The Reserve Bank has advanced the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on 4th June this year.

Note: It is for the first time that the MPC will meet for three days instead of the usual two. Now, the Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy meeting for 2018-19 will be

- held on 4th to 6th June instead of 5th to 6th June. The MPC was set up by amending the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, through the Finance Act 2016.
22. India's first railway station to run fully on solar energy -- **Guwahati station.**
Note: In April 2017, a 700 KWp solar power plant was set up over the roof of the Guwahati railway station. The plant has generated (Between April 12, 2017 and May 10, 2018) 7,96,669 KWh of power (saved Rs 67,71,687 worth of electricity) while the average output daily is about 2,048 KWh. As per Indian Railways, the project cost is estimated to be Rs 6.7 crore.
23. According to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of **USD 8,230 Billion.**
Note: The US is the wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of 62,584 billion dollars. China stood at the second place with 24,803 billion dollars, while Japan is at the third place with 19,522 billion dollars.
24. The union Government claimed that more than **31.56 crore accounts** have been opened so far under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY).**
Note: According to the Finance Ministry, 59% of Jan Dhan Accounts have been opened in the rural areas whereas 53% of accounts belong to women. The balance in the accounts on 2nd May 2018 was 81,3017 crores rupees.
25. The finance ministry has tied up with **40 entities** for extending loans to small entrepreneurs under the Mudra scheme.
Note: The ministry will organize an event in Mumbai on 23rd May 2018 to extend loan under the scheme. These companies will identify people who need loans under Mudra Yojana, underwrite them and we will extend loans under the scheme. PMMY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015, for providing loans of up to Rs 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.
26. Airtel Payments Bank has appointed its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) -- **Anubrata Biswas.**
Note: Earlier, Mr. Biswas was the Joint General Manager and Retail Business Head - South India for ICICI Bank. Airtel Payments Bank was the first payments bank to start operations in India. It is a fully paperless and digital bank aiming to take convenient banking services closer to customers by leveraging a vast distribution network of over five-lakh banking points.
27. The union govt. has appointed non-executive chairpersons at Punjab and Sindh Bank, **Dena Bank** and Central Bank of India respectively -- **Charan Singh, Anjali Bansal, and Tapan Ray.**
Note: Charan Singh has served at IMF as senior economist and at Reserve Bank of India as director. Anjali Bansal is founder of Spencer Stuart's India and had worked with McKinsey and Company. Tapan Ray has served as Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
28. **Sudha Balakrishnan** has been appointed the first ever chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of three years.
Note: CFO would be responsible for the Central Bank's budgetary process and its financial activities and performance. Earlier she was vice-President at National Securities depository Ltd., NSDL (India's first and largest depository).
29. According to a Lancet study, India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare.
Note: According to the study, India performed poorly in tackling cases of tuberculosis, rheumatic heart diseases, strokes, colon cancer and chronic kidney disease among others. In 2016, India's healthcare access and quality scored at 41.2 (up from 24.7 in 1990).
30. In a first in India, The **HDFC Bank** has launched its Digital Loan against Mutual Funds (LAMF).
Note: Customers can pledge mutual fund assets online and get overdraft limit set in their account in under 3 minutes. Customer can now avail of this product through the HDFC Bank website in 3 easy steps.

Obituaries

1. The renowned Malayalam detective novelist **Kottayam Pushpanath** has passed away.
Note: He expanded the world of horror fiction in Malayalam literature and wrote over 100 detective and horror novels in Malayalam. His original name was Pushpanathan Pillai.
2. Renowned artist-philosopher **Ravinder Sharma (Guruji)** passed away at his residence due to cancer.
Note: He was the founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram. In 2014, he had received the Kala Ratna by the Andhra Pradesh State government. He was also awarded the D. Litt (Honoris Causa) by the SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana.

3. Former Chief of Air Staff 'Air Chief Marshal **Idris Hasan Latif** passed away in Hyderabad after a brief illness.
Note: Air Chief Marshal Latif was appointed as the Chief of Air Staff on 31 August 1978 and he remained in saddle till 1981 when he retired. He has also become the first Muslim Chief of Air Staff of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
4. Former President of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) **P P Lakshmanan** passed away after a brief illness.
Note: Mr. Lakshmanan was the first Indian to be chosen as the member of FIFA's appeal committee (Germany 2006 and South Africa 2010 editions). He had also served as Kerala Football Association president.
5. Sri Lankan govt. has declared a day of mourning in respect of late film maker **Dr. Lester James Peiris** who passed away recently.
Note: A veteran filmmaker of Sinhala cinema since 1949, he was involved in over 28 films, including short films and documentaries. His films often dealt with Sri Lankan family life in rural settings and conflicted characters and helped create an authentic expression of Sinhala Cinema.
6. Eminent economist and Marxist politician **Ashok Mitra** passed away in Kolkata.
Note: Mitra left his job as chief economic adviser (CEA) to the government of India in 1972 and joined as the first finance minister of the Left Front government in 1977. Mitra authored the "Calcutta Diary" in Economic and Political Weekly and "Terms of Trade and Class Relations".
7. Veteran Marathi singer **Arun Date** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: Mr. Date was very famous for non-film 'bhavgeet' (lyrical poetry) songs & "Shukratara" duet with Sudha Malhotra that released in 1962. He was the first recipient of the state government's 'Gajananrav Vatave Puraskar'.
8. Former Delhi cricketer passed away in Dehradun, Uttarakhand__ **Rajinder Pal**.
Note: Mr. Pal is the right-arm medium pacer played his only Test match against England (then known as MCC) during the 1963-64 series at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.
9. Former Madhya Pradesh minister **Dr. Nirmal Hirawat** has passed away.
Note: He was a member of former Chief Minister Shyama Charan Shukla's cabinet.
10. Eminent Indian-American theoretical physicist **Dr. Ennackal Chandy George Sudarshan** passed away in Austin, Texas.
Note: Sudarshan (Professor at the Texas University) specialized in Quantum Optics and linked Vedanta with modern physics.
11. Malayalam Actor **Kalasala Babu** passed away at a hospital in Kochi.
Note: Kalasala Babu was associated with the entertainment industry for about 45 years. He acted in plays mostly produced by Kalidasa Kala Kendram.
12. Popular Odia film and veteran TV actress **Anita Das** passed away due to a cardiac at her residence.
Note: Anita Das won the hearts of many with her powerful roles in films like Suna Chadhei and Naga Phasa to name a few. She has acted in over hundred movies making her feature film debut with Jajabar in 1975.
13. Noted artist **Jivya Soma Mashe** passed away after a prolonged illness.
Note: He had received the Padma Shri in 2011 for his contribution towards the Warli painting. In 1976, he had got the National Award for the Tribal Art.
14. Popular Telugu novelist **Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani** passed away at California in USA.
Note: Sulochana Rani along with her women counterparts Arikepudi Kousalya Devi and Ranganayakamma, heralded a new era in Telugu fictional literature since the 1950s. Some of Sulochana's famous novels include Murali Krishna, Radha Krishna, Jeevana Tarangalu, Premalekhalu, Secretary, Aathmeeyulu to name a few.
15. Veteran film and theatre actor **Dr. Hemu Adhikari** passed away due to a lung ailment in Mumbai.
Note: He was known for his cameo in Rajkumar Hirani's 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai' (2006). He acted in Sai Paranjpe's 'Katha' and Marathi films like 'Dhyaas Parya' and 'Harishchandrachi Factory'.
16. Maharashtra Agriculture Minister **Pandurang Phundkar** passed away due to massive heart attack.
Note: He was a member of 9th, 10th, and 11th Lok Sabha from Akola (Lok Sabha constituency) from Maharashtra. On July 8, 2016 he was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister in Devendra Fadnavis government.
17. Veteran Bollywood actor **Geeta Kapoor** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: Geeta acted in around 100 films such as in Kamal Amrohi's "Pakeezah" and "Razia Sultan".
18. The fourth man to walk on the moon passed away -- **Alan Bean**.

Note: Alan Bean flew twice into space, first as the lunar module pilot on Apollo 12, the second moon landing mission, in November 1969. In July 1973 he was

commander of the second crewed flight to the United States' first space station, Skylab.

New Appointments

1. Former Karnataka Chief Secretary '**Subhash Chandra Khuntia**' has been appointed as Chairman of **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** for three years.
Note: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory body tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. IRDAI is a 10-member body including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the government of India.
2. **Mr. Sitanshu Ranjan Kar** is the 27th Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India and **Director General (DG)** of Press Information Bureau (PIB).
Note: He succeeds Mr. Frank Noronha. Mr. Kar has worked in key positions in various Media Units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. In 1988, he became the first Indian to win the prestigious Visnews Fellowship of London in a world-wide competition.
3. Indian-American woman **Deepa Ambekar** has been appointed as the interim judge to a US civil court of New York City.
Note: She has become the second Indian-American woman judge in the city after Raja Rajeswari (Chennai-born).
4. **Mallikarjun Kharge** has been re-appointed chairman of the 22-member Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament.
Note: It is the oldest parliamentary committee that examines the accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for expenditure of Government of India and such other accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies.
5. **Justice A.K. Mittal** has been appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court.
Note: The post is vacant due to Justice S.J. Vazifdar's retirement.
6. **Jagdish Mukhi** sworn in as the acting governor of Manipur.
Note: Mr. Mukhi will hold office in the absence of Governor Najma Heptullah.
7. The new Cabinet Secretary of India -- **Pradeep Kumar Sinha**.
Note: The cabinet secretary is the ex-officio head of the Civil Services Board, the Cabinet Secretariat, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and head of all civil services under the rules of business of the government.
8. Russian President Vladimir Putin has chosen **Dmitry Medvedev** to retain as prime minister for his new term.
Note: Medvedev has held the premiership since 2012 when Putin started his 3rd term as President. The Russian Prime Minister is considered the second highest position in the government, after the President.
9. **Carlos Alvarado** has been sworn in as Costa Rica's president.
Note: In April 2018, He swept to victory in a controversial election against conservative Protestant singer Fabricio Alvarado Munoz. The President of Costa Rica is the head of state and head of government of Costa Rica.
10. The new Prime Minister of Armenia -- **Nikol Pashinian**.
Note: He has been the leader of the ongoing 2018 Armenian non-violent protests which forced Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan and his government to resign.
11. The country head for Google Cloud business in India -- **Nitin Bawankule**.
Note: Nitin has been with Google India for over six years as sales head for multiple verticals including e-commerce, retail, classifieds, and education.
12. Senior IAS officer **Pawan Kumar Agarwal** has been given three months extension as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
Note: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, headquarters at New Delhi.
13. Former Malaysian Prime Minister **Mahathir Mohamad** has scored a historic victory in the country's general elections.

- Note:** Mahathir Mohamad defeated the governing Ba Parliament risan Nasional (BN) coalition (79-seats), which has been in power for more than 60 years.
14. Former deputy chief minister of J&K **Nirmal Singh** has been elected as the speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.
Note: In a one-day special session of the state Assembly, Mr. Singh (MLA from Billawar constituency) was elected as the speaker by a voice vote. The Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir is the lower house of the bicameral legislature of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.
15. The Sikkim govt. has nominated Bollywood singer **Mohit Chauhan** as the Green Ambassador of the state.
Note: Earlier this year, the state government had roped in 'AR Rahman' as its ambassador to promote tourism in Sikkim.
16. In a cabinet reshuffle, The Prime Minister has given the additional charge of Finance Ministry -- **Piyush Goyal**.
Note:
 - **Rajvardhan Rathore:** Information and Broadcasting Ministry (Independent charge)
 - **SS Ahluwalia:** Electronics Ministry
 - **KJ Alphons:** Tourism Ministry
 - **Smriti Irani:** Textiles Ministry
17. Senior advocate **Mukul Rohatgi** has been appointed as 'eminent jurist' in the high-profile Lokpal selection committee led by the Prime Minister.
Note: In May 2014, Rohatgi was appointed the Attorney General of India and resigned from the post in June 2017. The post of eminent jurist in the Lokpal selection panel was lying vacant since the death of senior advocate P P Rao (11th September, 2017).
18. Former BCCI President **Shashank Manohar** to serve 2nd term as ICC's chairman for two years.
Note: He served as the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) from November 2015 to March 2017. Mr. Manohar was the sole nominee for the position, Edward Quinlan (independent Audit Committee Chairman) overseeing the election process, declared the process complete.
19. Eminent artist and sculptor **Uttam Pacharne** has been appointed as the regular Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi for three years.
Note: The Lalit Kala Akademi is India's national academy of fine arts established in New Delhi in 1954 by Government of India to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, in and outside the country
20. **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been elected as the Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC).
Note: The Badminton Asia (or, Badminton Asia Confederation) is one of the 5 continental bodies under the flag of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) to govern Badminton in Asia, headquartered in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
21. The new Chief Justice of Manipur High Court -- **Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar**.
22. Who has been given additional charge of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) chairman -- **Yudhvir Singh Malik**.
Note: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is an autonomous agency of the Government of India, responsible for management of a network of over 50,000 km of National Highways out of 1,15,000 km in India.
23. The U.S India Business Council named its head for India - **Ambika Sharma**.
Note: Ms. Sharma was Director General for International at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Sharma is the highest ranked female executive of an Indian industry body as Director General of FICCI.
24. The US Senate confirmed the first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)-- **Gina Haspel**.
Note: Gina Haspel's confirmation in a 54-45 vote follows a partisan fight among senators about the CIA's Bush-era use of techniques such as waterboarding.
25. Venezuela's President was re-elected for a second six-year term in presidential elections -- **Nicolas Maduro**.
Note: The President of Venezuela is the head of state and head of government of Venezuela.
26. **Anil Kumar Jha** has been appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of Coal India Limited.
Note: Mr. Jha (CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.) had replaced Coal Ministry's Additional Secretary 'Suresh Kumar'. The Coal India Limited (CIL) is an Indian state-controlled coal mining company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal, India.
27. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) has named its first female chief in the history of the 226-year-old exchange - **Stacey Cunningham**.
Note: She replaces Tom Farley.

- 28. HD Kumaraswamy** takes oath as Karnataka chief minister.
Note: Congress Leader G. Parameshwara was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister. Earlier, Kumaraswamy (son of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda) had served as the chief minister of the state from (Feb 2006 to Oct 2007).
- 29.** Former Supreme Court Judge **C K Prasad** has been appointed as the chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI).
Note: The Press Council of India is a statutory body with a mandate to act as a watchdog to oversee the conduct of the print media. The Press Council of India (PCI) was constituted as an autonomous, statutory, quasi-judicial body, and started functioning from 16th November 1966.
- 30.** The Defense Secretary **Sanjay Mitra** to hold additional charge of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) chief.
Note: DRDO was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defense Science Organization.
- 31. Justice R K Agrawal** has been appointed as the President of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
Note: He replaced Justice D.K. Jain. The NCDRC deals with consumer rights and addresses their disputes and grievances, is a quasi-judicial commission set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
- 32.** Bollywood actor **Diya Mirza** flag off the 'Gaj Yatra' as brand ambassador of the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) at an event organized in Meghalaya.
Note: WTI and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, formally launched the unique campaign the Gaj Yatra in Meghalaya. 'Gaj Yatra', a "journey celebrating India's national heritage animal", aims at securing 100 elephant corridors across India.
- 33. Pankaj Saran** has been appointed deputy National Security Advisor for a period of two years.
Note: The National Security Adviser (NSA) is the chief executive of the National Security Council (NSC), and the primary adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national and international security.
- 34.** Pakistan's former chief justice **Nasir ul Mulk** named as the caretaker Prime Minister until general elections on July 25, 2018.
Note: The caretaker government will remain in office until a new government is elected. The interim administration usually does not make any major decisions until the new government is elected, though it may be forced to act to shore up the economy amid a worsening macroeconomic outlook.
- 35. Ganeshi Lal** has been appointed as Governor of Odisha.
- 36. Kummanam Rajasekharan** has been appointed as Governor of Mizoram.
Note: He will be replacing Lt. General (Retd.) Nirbhay Sharma.
- 37. Sushil Chandra** will continue to be Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for one more year as he gets one-year extension.
Note: CBDT is the top policy-making body for personal income tax and corporate tax and is part of the Finance Ministry.

Important News - India

- The union govt. has launched a nationwide Karyashala for farmer outreach as part of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan -- **Kisan Kalyan Karyashala**.
Note: The workshops are part of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, a rural-centric campaign that started on the 14th of last month, the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar.
- The "2018 Vijay Prahar" exercise of Indian Army has started in **Rajasthan**.
Note: The "2018 Vijay Prahar" exercise of Indian Army's South Western Command has started near Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
- The three-month Swachh Bharat Summer Internship commences from 1st May this year and ends on **31st July 2018**.
Note: The objective of the programme to encourage millions of youngsters across the country to the Swachh Bharat Mission in the spirit of a true Jan Andolan. Under the internship, all interns who complete at least 100 hours of sanitation related work in villages would be given a Swachh Bharat certificate.
- According to the Airports Council International (ACI) traffic forecast, India has been projected to be growing country in the world for air passenger traffic -- **second**.

- Note:** ACI has put Vietnam at the top position with an 8.5% growth rate, followed by India at 7.5% and Iran at 7.3%. China has been placed at the 8th position with 5.9% growth rate. Airports Council International (ACI) (Established in 1991) is the only global trade representative of the world's airport authorities.
5. According to the WHO released data, **Delhi and Varanasi** are among the 14 Indian cities that figured in a list of 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2016.
Note: India accounts for 34% or 2.4 million of the seven million premature deaths caused by household and ambient air pollution together globally every year. The PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulfate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health. WHO's global urban air pollution database measured the levels of fine particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) from more than 4,300 cities in 108 countries.
6. The two-day national workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database successfully concluded in --**New Delhi**.
Note: It has set the stage for the creation of a national-level disaster database. Developing the integrated database with locally obtained and validated data is crucial for tracking the risks and progress towards resilience without which India will not be able to meet its developmental goals.
7. The three-day event to disseminate information about the schemes, grants and projects of the Central Government was held in Guwahati, Assam -- **Vibrant North East 2018**.
Note: Players from the agriculture, food processing, consumer affairs, civil supply, drinking water and sanitation sectors participated in the event. The event is organized by Delhi-based NGO, Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD).
8. The Union Minister Maneka Gandhi has inaugurated the day-long National Conference of 244 Districts under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Conference provided an opportunity for experience sharing and will motivate the new districts to plan and execute the programme successfully. These 244 Districts from across the country will be covered under Multi-Sectoral Intervention.
9. The 4th Regional Conference on Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure of AIIB in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
Note: The Conference saw eminent delegates from various fields expressing their views on how to bring about institutional approaches for futuristic and digital infrastructure in India.
10. The **Human Resource Development Ministry** has launched a unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using the Massive Open Online Courses platform 'SWAYAM'.
Note: In the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified. Under the initiative, all in-service teachers, irrespective of their subject and seniority will have an enabling opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in their disciplines through the online refresher course.
11. A restored aircraft **Dakota (Gooney Bird)** has joined the Indian Air Force (IAF) after more than four decades the fleet was phased out following an illustrious service record.
Note: The Dakota DC-3 VP 905 was formally inducted at a grand ceremony held at Hindan air force station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The aircraft was flown back to India from UK by a joint crew of IAF and Reflight Airworks. The aircraft played a pivotal role during the conflict in Indian Kashmir in 1947 war and Bangladesh war in 1971
12. IBM has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with **NITI Aayog** to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide real-time advisory to farmers in aspirational districts.
Note: The SoI was signed in the presence of Amitabh Kant (CEO of NITI Aayog) and Karan Bajwa (Managing Director of IBM India). The objective of the agreement to work together towards use of technology to provide insights to farmers to improve crop productivity, soil yield, control agricultural inputs with the overarching goal of improving farmers' incomes
13. The Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Krishan Pal Gurjar has inaugurated 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' in **Faridabad, Haryana**.
Note: Under the scheme, there is a provision for Cochlear Implant surgeries of hearing impaired children up to the age of 5 years at the cost of Rs 6.00 Lakhs per unit. The cochlear implant (CI) is a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly or severely deaf in both ear.
14. The space agency **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has developed an indigenous atomic clock that will be used in navigation satellites to measure precise location data.
Note: Once it successfully clears all tests, it will be used in an experimental navigation satellite to test its accuracy and durability in space. All seven navigation satellites

- launched earlier as part of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) or NavIC have three imported Rubidium atomic clocks each.
15. The 9th India Japan Energy Dialogue was held in **New Delhi**.
 16. The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in January 2019 at **Varanasi**.
Note: The event will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth.
 17. **Space Applications Centre (SAC)** developed an indigenous atomic clock that will be used in navigation satellites to measure precise location data.
Note: At present, ISRO imports atomic clocks from European aerospace manufacturer Astrium for its navigation satellites. This clock is currently undergoing a series of qualification tests.
 18. The third edition of 'United Nations Peacekeeping course for African Partners (UNPCAP)' has been inaugurated in **New Delhi**.
Note: The objective to build and enhance the capacity of the African Troop contributing countries to the UN and to further train the trainers from these countries. The first and second editions of the course were held in New Delhi in 2016 and 2017.
 19. The **Punjab government** along with WWF-India are conducting the first organized census for the conservation of Indus dolphins on their population.
Note: The Indus dolphins are confined to only a 185 km stretch between Talwara and Harike Barrage in India's Beas river in Punjab. Currently, Punjab govt. & WWF-India are working in two teams and will come to an estimate regarding the dolphin population over the five-day exercise.
 20. **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has notified the protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait.
Note: The protocol updates the provisions in the DTAA for the exchange of information as per international standards, and also enables sharing of information received from Kuwait for tax purposes with other law enforcement agencies, subject to an authorization of the competent authority of Kuwait and vice versa.
 21. India hosted the 15th Asia Media Summit from 10-12 May this year in **New Delhi**.
Note: Over 200 foreign delegates representing 39 countries and over 100 Indian delegates would participate in the event. The theme of this summit is "Telling our Stories Asia and More".
 22. India's rank in the Lowy Institute Asia-Pacific Power Index -- **4th**.
Note: India has been ranked 4th out of 25 nations in the Asia Pacific region listed on the Lowy Institute Asia Pacific Power Index. The index measures a country's overall power in an average of 8 parameters (economic resources, military capability, resilience, future trends, diplomatic influence, economic relationships, defense networks and cultural influence).
 23. The Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the website of Digital India Internship Scheme in **New Delhi**.
Note: Under this scheme, 25 interns will be inducted for a period of three months, paid a stipend of 10 thousand rupees per month. The internship is an opportunity for a student to secure first hand and practical work experience under the guidance of qualified and experienced Supervisor and Mentor.
 24. India signed two agreements with **Panama** on exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports and in the field of Agriculture.
Note: These ties are based on our common values and a shared commitment to democracy, pluralism, multi-culturalism, and the rule of law.
 25. **Mumbai** city hosted the 6th US-India Aviation Summit 2018.
Note: The 6th US-India Aviation Summit was formally inaugurated by Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu in Mumbai. The biennial Summit is jointly organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation and US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
 26. **NITI Aayog** has announced the top 30 innovations of Atal Tinkering Marathon to identify India's best student innovators in Delhi.
Note: The six month long nationwide challenge had six different thematic areas (clean energy, water resources, waste management, healthcare, smart mobility and agri tech). Top 100 were listed based on novelty and prototype functionality from over 650 innovations received.
 27. The Valedictory function of the 30th Naval Higher Command Course (NHCC) was held at Naval War College, INS Mandovi, Verem.
Note: The Naval War College is a premier training institution of the Indian Navy and one of the three War College of the Indian Armed Forces.

28. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the 4th edition of Global Exhibition on services in **Mumbai**.
Note: He has also released the logo for Services and launched the portal. This year five Indian states and around 100 countries are participating in Global Exhibition on Services with 625 exhibitors and 500 overseas delegates.
29. Indian Customs and Department of India Posts held a First ever Joint Conference to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post in **New Delhi**.
Note: Commissioners of Customs from all the States having Foreign Post Offices (FPOs) were present along with their counterpart Post Master Generals. Imports and exports by post are the 6th highest cited citizen grievances under CPGRAMs.
30. **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** unveiled a **National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy** that which seeks to promote new projects as well as hybridization of the existing ones.
Note: The objective of the policy is to provide a framework for the promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land.
31. According to new United Nations estimates, **Delhi** is projected to become the most populous city in the world around 2028.
Note: India is expected to add the largest number of urban dwellers by 2050. The 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects produced by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
32. Three days International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) being held to focus on Rail Coaches and train in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
Note: Many reputed rail car and equipment builders are showing their technology and products. The expo is being hosted by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), under the Ministry of Railways, in coordination with CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) and RITES Ltd.
33. The union minister Shri Suresh Prabhu has launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot at the conference in New Delhi --- **IP Nani**.
Note: Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who helps the government and enforcement agencies in combating IP crimes with the help of her grandson "Chhotu" aka Aditya. The IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) among people, especially children, in an interesting manner.
34. The **Environment Ministry** has launched the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in the country.
Note: The **Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)** has been conceptualized and developed in **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC)** in consultation with the National Skill Development Agency.
35. The union govt. has decided not to hike prices of food grains sold via public distribution system (PDS) for **one year**.
Note: Prime Minister has approved to keep central issue price of rice, wheat and coarse grains unchanged at the rate of 3, 2 and 1 Rs. per kg, respectively for further one year. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), Food grains are supplied at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 3 per kg for rice, Rs 2 per kg for wheat and Rs 1 per kg for coarse grains via ration shops.
36. **The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology** has adopted the word 'AYUSH' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.
Note: The "AYUSH" has become popular as the acronym for five traditional and complementary systems of medicine (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) and successfully used in all Government communications. The decision follows a proposal from the Ministry of AYUSH in this regard.
37. The National Skill Development Mission aims at training over 40 crore people in the country in a wide range of skills by **2022**.
Note: The Mission is training people in different skills ranging from industrial welding, industrial electrician to computer data application course.
38. India successfully test-fired supersonic cruise missile **BrahMos** from the Integrated Test Range in Balasore, Odisha as part of service life extension programme.
Note: The life extension test firing of BrahMos was conducted from a Static Inclined Launcher, proving the efficacy and longevity of the system. BrahMos is a joint venture between DRDO and NPOM of Russia.
39. The union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan is leading an Indian delegation for participation in the Mission Innovation Ministerial at Malmo in **Sweden**.
Note: The 'Mission Innovation' is a global platform of 23 countries and European Union aimed at accelerating

clean energy innovations through enhanced Government funding, greater public-private sector partnership and enhanced global cooperation. The Minister will also explore opportunities for research cooperation with Mission Innovation countries for affordable clean energy innovations.

40. The book 'Straight Talk' authored by **Abhishek Manu Singhvi**.

41. The Union Cabinet has approved Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4,072 tower locations in **Left Wing Extremism affected areas**.

Note: The network will be used by the security personnel deployed in the Naxal affected areas. The Cabinet also gave its approval for the Implementation of a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North Eastern Region in Meghalaya.

42. According to monthly subscriber report of TRAI, Telecom subscriber base in the country crossed --**1.2 billion**.

Note: Mobile service companies recording a net addition of over 26 million customers in March 2018. The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,179 million at the end of February 2018 to over 1,206 million at the end of March 2018. The monthly growth rate stood at 2.24 per cent.

43. The Directorate of Film Festival & the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organized the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) India Film Festival in **New Delhi**.

Note: The tagline of the Festival is proposed to be 'Friendship through Films'.

44. Joint Military Exercise between India and Nepal conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand -- **SURYA KIRAN-XIII**.

Note: Around 300 soldiers from both Army will share their experiences during the conduct of various counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in the past. Exercise SURYA KIRAN is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India.

45. The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in **Manipur**.

Note: The ordinance will be on the lines of the bill introduced in Lok Sabha (in August, 2017). Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed to set up the national sports university in Manipur and 100 Crore funds allocated in 2014-15 budget.

46. The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Mr. Prakash Javadekar has launched a scheme for school education -- **Samagra Shiksha**.

Note: The Scheme is the paradigm shift in the conceptual design of school education by treating 'school' holistically as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels.

47. The union Power Ministry has launched a web portal and app to bring transparency in power payments to generators in New Delhi -- **PRAAPTI**.

Note: The Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators 'PRAAPTI App' and Portal. The app will also allow users to know the details related to the payments made by the Discoms to the power generation company and when they were made.

48. 4th International Yoga Day Celebrations Main Event to be Organized in **Dehradun**.

Note: International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on 21st June since its inception in 2015. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address suggested the date of 21 June, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares special significance in many parts of the world.

49. Baba Ramdev's 'Patanjali' has launched a 'SIM cards' in alliance with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) -- **Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM card**.

Note: Initially, only the employees and office bearers of Patanjali will be able to avail the benefits of the SIM card. The card also comes with the medical and life insurance covers of Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, respectively (in the case of road accident).

50. The Union Tribal Affairs Minister 'Shri Jual Oram' has launched an exhibition cum sale event at the TRIBES India Showroom in New Delhi -- **The Pankha**.

Note: The Pankhas, a range of exotic hand fans draws inspiration from the eminent Artist Jatin Das and from his collection of 10000 handmade Pankhas. TRIFED collaborated with Jatin Das Centre for Arts (JDCA) for taking the initiative of hand fans forward by way of providing marketing support to the tribal artisans who are associated with this craft.

51. The union Tourism Minister K. J. Alphons has launched for the first-time guidelines in India for **Adventure Tourism**.

Note: The objective of this initiative is to help adventure tour operators understand and execute safety guidelines

in a better manner. The Adventure tourism is a tourist activity that includes a physical activity, a cultural

exchange, or activities in nature.

Important Day

1. International Labour Day observed every year on **1st May**.

Note: The 'International Labour Day' is a celebration of laborers and the working classes, promoted by the international labour movement, anarchists, socialists, and communists. Labour Day is known as Kamgar Din (Hindi), Karmikara Dinacharane (Kannada), Kamgar Divas (Marathi), Uzhaipalar dhinam (Tamil), and Thozhilaali Dinam (Malayalam).

2. This year World Asthma Day takes place on **1st May (first Tuesday)**.

Note: World Asthma Day is an annual event organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. The theme for the year 2018 is "Never too early, never too late. It's always the right time to address airways disease".

3. The two states Gujarat and Maharashtra are celebrating its foundation day -- **1st May**.

Note: In 1960, two western states Gujarat and Maharashtra were formed from erstwhile Bombay state on this day. The Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani has inaugurated the 'Sujalam Sufalam Yojana' from Komsadi Talav. Every year the Government of Maharashtra issues a notification declaring the 1st of May to be a public holiday to be celebrated as Maharashtra Day.

4. The 'World Press Freedom Day' is being observed every year across the world -- **3rd May**.

Note: This day also seeks to remind governments their duty to respect and uphold right to freedom of expression enshrined under Article 19 of 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The theme of the year 2018 is 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law'.

5. World Cartoonists' day is celebrated every year on -- **5th May**.

Note: Cartoonists' day is best celebrated by picking up a comic you used to know and walking down memory lane on the part it played in you growing up.

6. The International No Diet Day (INDD) is being observed annually on -- **6th May**.

Note: This day is also dedicated to promoting a healthy life style with a focus on health at any size and in raising awareness of the potential dangers of dieting and the unlikelihood of success. First International No Diet Day was celebrated in the UK in 1992.

7. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) celebrated its Raising Day on -- **7 May**.

Note: BRO, a leader in the arena of infrastructural development in the border areas of the country is celebrating its 58 years of glorious service to the nation. Its focus shall remain enhanced productivity and quality construction.

8. The 'World Red Cross Day' is observed annually on -- **8th May**.

Note: The day commemorates the birth anniversary of 'Henry Dunant', the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The theme of World Red Cross Day 2018 is "Memorable smiles from around the world".

9. The 'National Technology Day' is observed every year in India on **11th May**.

Note: On May 11, 1998, India successfully test fired the Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range (in Rajasthan) in an operation led by aerospace engineer and late President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The first nuclear test Pokhran with a code named as 'Smiling Buddha' was carried out in May, 1974.

10. International Nurses Day (IND) is an international day celebrated around the world on -- **12th May**.

Note: The day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. Florence Nightingale (the foundational philosopher of the modern nursing) was born on 12th of May in 1820.

11. The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is being observed across the world on the **second weekend in May**.

Note: The day raises awareness and highlights the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

19. The International Day of Families is observed every year on -- **15th May**.

Note: The day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families. The theme of this year is "Families and inclusive societies".

20. The day has been declared as National Dengue Day to mark the toll the deadly disease 'Dengue' -- **16th May**.

Note: The day has been taken in terms of lives and to reaffirm nationwide efforts to tackle the scourge by using both education and medical intervention. Dengue is a

viral disease which include symptoms such as high-grade fever 2 to 7 days and headache, vomiting, muscle and joint pains, and a characteristic skin rash.

21. The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every year on --**17th May**.

Note:The day mark the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention (ITC) and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).The 2018 theme “Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All”.

22. The Anti -Terrorism Day is observed on -- **21st May**.

Note: On 21 May,1991 the seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the terrorist and then, V.P. Singh government has decided to observe 21st May as Anti-Terrorism Day.

23. The International Bio-diversity Day is observed every year on -- **22nd May**.

Note: The theme this year is, 'Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity'.

24. The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula being observed on **23rd May**.

Note: Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth. Around 2 million women in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, the Arab region, and Latin America and the Caribbean are living with this injury.

25. Nepal celebrated its 11th Republic Day -- **28th May**.

Note: On May 28, 2008, the Constituent Assembly of the Himalayan nation declared Nepal the Federal Democratic Republic, abolishing the 240-year-old monarchy.

26. Goa celebrates its Statehood Day on -- **30th May**.

Note: On 30th May 1987, Goa became India's 25th state and Daman & Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory. Earlier, Goa was a union territory, namely, Goa, Daman, and Diu for all administrative and governance considerations.

27. World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year across the world on -- **31st May**.

Note: This day highlights the health risks associated with consumption all forms of tobacco and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.The theme for world No Tobacco Day 2018 is ‘Tobacco and heart disease’.

States News

1. The GOBAR-DHAN scheme has launched from the state to promote wealth and energy from waste -- **Haryana**.

Note: The Union Minister Uma Bharti has launched the GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) – DHAN scheme at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Auditorium, Karnal, Haryana. The purpose of scheme is to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.

2. The **Chhattisgarh Govt.** has extended the ban on the Communist Party of India (Maoist) and six of its front organisations for one more year.

Note: In April 2006, The CPI (Maoist) was banned, along with its affiliates, under provisions of the Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act-2005. The ban has been extended for a period of one year every year since then.

3. The first Indian state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (known as 7/12 receipts) and accept a digital signature to check irregularities and bring in transparency -- **Maharashtra**.

Note: The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land and is

primarily used by farmers while applying for loans.It is also used by the government during crop surveys and to extend various facilities.

4. An event in which people would be made aware of central government’s schemes and programmes held in **Guwahati**.

Note: Players from the agriculture, food processing, consumer affairs, civil supply, drinking water and sanitation sectors will participate in the three-day event.

5. The Maharashtra govt., the state Level Banking Committee, NABARD & the Reserve Bank officials decided to lend **Rs 85,464 crore**. to the farm sector in the state.

Note: The credit disbursement plan approved by the committee included Rs 58,319 crore in crop loans and Rs 27,145 crore for capital investments in the sector.

6. The **Haryana Government**. has decided to start 31 government colleges for girls from the academic session starting in July 2018.

Note: According to state’s education Minister, Mr. Ram Bilas Sharma, additional charges of these colleges have been given to principals of other colleges.

7. The Madhya Pradesh govt. has launched the country's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for all seven smart cities of the state in **Bhopal**.
Note: The ICCC would enable the authorities to monitor the status of various smart civic amenities in real-time through the sensors connected to it. It was launched in the first "Apex Conference for the CEOs" of smart cities.
8. Telangana chief Minister **K Chandrashekhar Rao** has launched the scheme for farmer in the state -- **Rythu Bandhu**.
Note: The scheme will ensure, farmers will get Rs 8,000 per acre per year for two crops (Rabi and Kharif).The state government has set aside Rs12,000 crore for Rythu Bandhu in the 2018-19 budget.Around 2.3 crore acres of land have been verified (2.9 crore acres land in the state) and around 1.4 crore acres of them have been identified as cultivable land.
9. The world's second oldest rock has discovered from -- **Kendujhar, Odisha**.
Note: This rock sample was recovered nearly 8 years ago from Champua that has put India at the forefront of geological research in the world.
10. The city hosted the first-ever joint conference of Indian Customs and Department of India Posts -- **New Delhi**.
11. On 16th May 1975, the state became a part Indian state after the 35th Constitutional Amendment -- **Sikkim**.
Note: During the British rule in India, the kingdom of Sikkim enjoyed a sovereign status with British protectorate against the neighboring countries Nepal and China.This 'subordinate alliance' with the British was carried on by the newly formed Indian government after 1947.
12. The **Telangana Govt.** has issued an order to provide 2% reservation in government jobs in the state to meritorious sportspersons.
Note: The reservation would be applicable to 29 recognized sports disciplines.It will not affect the overall percentage of reservation in the state.
13. The Union Minister Shri J P Nadda has inaugurated a two-day workshop on '**Risk Communication during Public Health Emergencies**' at **Shimla**.
Note: According to the Mr. Nadda, the public health functionaries for keeping their communication simple and effective during the delivery of healthcare services.
14. The **Bihar** govt. has signed a MoU with NTPC Limited to improve the performance of Power Sector in the state.
Note: The MoU envisages transfer of **Barauni Thermal Power Station** (720 MW) to NTPC. Bihar State Power Generation Company's (BSPGCL) equities in Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited (KBUN) & Nabinagar Power Generating Company (Pvt.) Limited (NPGC) will also be transferred to NTPC.
15. Cabinet approves setting up of a Central University in Andhra Pradesh -- **Central University of Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has given in-principle approval for establishing a Central University by the name of "Central University of Andhra Pradesh" in Jantnaluru Village of Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh.
16. The Himachal Pradesh govt. to spend **25 crore rupees** on renovating and developing the British Raj -- **Bantony Castle**.
Note: The castle is one of the historic and monumental buildings located on Mall Road Shimla town and fine example of the Anglo-Gothic architecture.The Bantony Castle, owned by a business family and housing the state police headquarters, was acquired by the government for over 27 crores two years ago.
17. **NABARD** has sanctioned LED Solar Street Lighting system for Arunachal Pradesh with a total grant of Rs 87.83 lakh.
Note: The project would be implemented in the four districts of the state Tirap, Longding, Namsai and Tawang.
18. The **Gujarat govt.** has launch free treatment scheme for the road accident victims.
Note: Under this scheme, the state govt. will bear medical expenses of up to 50,000 rupees for each victim of road accident in the state for the first 48 hours. Free treatment includes dressing of wounds, X-ray, blood transfusion, treatment in ICU and MRI, and all other treatment available in a hospital.
19. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for the Southern Campus of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in **Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: NIDM would become a Centre for excellence in the future and save people from cyclones and other disasters. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is a premier institute for training and capacity development programs for managing natural disasters in India.
20. **Delhi.** govt has doubled incentives for ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers from Rs. 1,500 per month to Rs. 3,000.
Note: It has also decided to provide a maternity benefit of Rs. 2,000 per month for a period of six months during pregnancy.ASHAs are community health workers instituted by the government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) as a part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
21. **Assam** govt. will provide pension to 16 lakh senior citizens of the state.
Note: Under the initiative, the state government will provide pension to all senior citizens who are 60 years

and above. The pensioners would get 250 rupees per month which would be transferred online.

22. The **Madhya Pradesh** has launched 'My MP Rojgar Portal' to provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills, and interest__

Note: This portal will provide the youth with the facility for self-registration, updating of job preference, information regarding employers, sector, and online application on the basis of sector and job role.

23. The **Maharashtra** Govt. has introduced a new scheme to help the landless laborers among the Scheduled Castes (SC) to acquire agricultural land.

Note: Now, the landless among the SCs can purchase rainfed agricultural land (two acres) of irrigated land by paying only five percent of the cost. The rest up to eight lakh rupees will be borne by the state government.

24. The Rajasthan govt. has launched a new software for presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as the trends of ailments found in specific areas -- **Nidaan**.

Note: It is expected to help in formulation of specific action plans for control of diseases. "Nidaan" will facilitate online entries of as many as 46 diseases and healthcare services available for their treatment in different institutions.

25. The Ministry of Women and Child and Development has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uttar Pradesh Govt for management of Home of Widows at **Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan**.

Note: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has constructed this shelter home for widows with a capacity of 1000 inmates. The MoU shall be in force for a period of 2 years which may be renewed for further period on satisfactory running of the Home.

26. 9th edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' under the Ministry of Culture, inaugurated in **Tehri, Uttarakhand**.

27. **Manipur** has become the first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets.

Note: The solar panel, connected to the toilets, absorb the heat to generate power and are also efficient to transform waste material.

Important News – World

1. The troops of the Indian and Malaysian armies kick-started exercise in Kuala Lumpur -- **Harimau Shakti 2018**.

Note: Both armies stand to hone their tactical & technical skills in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations under the UN mandate. This is the first-ever joint Army exercise between the armies of India and Malaysia.

2. Bilateral trade between India and China resumes through -- **Nathu La border**.

Note: A meeting was held between the representatives of both sides on how to make this year's trade more efficient and cordial. The trade, scheduled till 30th November, will take place four days a week (Monday to Thursday). As per the agreement both countries agreed the list of items to 36 as export items and 20 as import items.

3. UK marketing analytics firm **Cambridge Analytica** announced to cease all its operations immediately and filing for insolvency in Britain and the United States.

Note: This decision comes after the firm and Facebook became embroiled in a data-harvesting scandal that compromised the personal information of up to 87 million people. Currently, the firm is facing allegations of improper use of data on 87 million Facebook users which was hired by President Donald Trump's 2016 US election campaign.

4. Indian and French navies conducted final and third phase of exercise near Reunion Island in Indian Ocean region (IOR)-- **Varuna naval exercise 2018**.

Note: In the final phase, both navies simulated different possible scenarios such as asymmetric warfare and tested their air defence capabilities. 2018 Varuna naval exercise between Indian and French Navy was conducted in three phases and included anti-submarine, air defence and asymmetric engagement exercises.

5. The union Minister 'Suresh Prabhu', attended India-South Africa business summit in **Johannesburg, South Africa**.

Note: The Minister addressed the plenary session of the Summit and talked about building synergies between India & South Africa. The summit was a harbinger of good things to come and that South Africa & India were poised to take off in the next few years on a higher growth trajectory.

6. Recently, India and Guatemala have agreed to support each other for Non-permanent membership of **UNSC**.

Note: The agreement was inked after a meeting between Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and his Guatemala counterpart, Jafeth Cabrera Franco in Guatemala City. Guatemala will support India's candidature for 2021-22 year.

7. **US** withdraw from 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran.

Note: The Iran nuclear deal framework (Obama- era accord) was reached in 2015 between Iran and the P5 +1 (the permanent members of the UN Security Council & Germany) and the European Union. Mr. Trump signed fresh set of sanctions against Iran.

8. **China** has successfully launched a hyperspectral imaging satellite 'Gaofen-5' for comprehensive observation of the atmosphere, including air pollution.
Note: It was the 274th flight mission by a Long March carrier rocket. The Gaofen-5 satellite was launched off the back of a Long March 4C rocket. Gaofen-5 is the first China-developed satellite that can monitor air pollution.
9. The 2018 World Robot Conference will be held in **Beijing, China**.
Note: The event will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from more than 10 countries and regions. A robot competition will be held during the conference where participants will compete in five categories.
10. Sri Lankan army has set up a "Directorate of Overseas Operations" to defend itself against war crimes charges during **the LTTE war**.
Note: As pro-LTTE organizations claimed to kill off up to 40 thousand civilians during the last phase of the war in 2009 and thousands more missing. The Directorate was set up in April and is already engaged in the collection of the relevant material.
11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister KP Oli have flagged off the bus service **Ayodhya-Janakpur**.
Note: The bus route is part of the 'Ramayan Circuit' and links the birthplaces of Sita and Ram.
12. The country hosted the 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism Ministers' conference -- **China**.
Note: From India, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) K. J. Alphons attended the conference held in Wuhan, China.
13. US Prez Donald Trump to meet Kim Jong-un in Singapore on -- **12th June**.
Note: Donald Trump (US President) will meet Kim Jong-un (North Korea's leader) on 12th of next month in Singapore to discuss the denuclearization on the Korean peninsula. The two leaders will try to make it a very special moment for World Peace.
14. **Nepal** will host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.
15. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched an initiative to provide a guidance for all countries on how to remove artificial trans fats from their foods supply by 2023 -- **REPLACE**.
Note: REPLACE stands for review dietary sources, promote use of healthier fats, legislate, assess changes, create awareness, and enforce. This initiative is meant to lead countries in establishing legislation to eliminate the trans fats. Artificial trans fats are made when vegetable oil hardens in a process called hydrogenation.
16. **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** hold an emergency meeting to discuss the violence along the Gaza-Israeli border.
Note: Earlier, more than 50 Palestinians died after Israeli forces fired on people who were protesting the US embassy move to Jerusalem. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged both sides to show restraint to avoid further loss of life.
17. **Guatemala** has inaugurated its Israel embassy in Jerusalem and became the first country to follow in the footsteps of the United States.
Note: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales attended an inauguration ceremony. The US and Guatemalan moves break with decades of international consensus.
18. **Russia** has unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station.
Note: It will be primarily used to power oil rigs as Russia pushes further north into the Arctic to drill for oil and gas and needs electricity in far-flung locations. The Akademik Lomonosov arrived in Murmansk where it was moored in the port and presented to the media.
19. The 71st World Health Assembly was held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
Note: The Union Health Minister Mr. J P Nadda led the Indian Delegation at World Health Assembly. The Event was held under the theme "Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage".
20. United States has renamed its oldest and largest military command, US Pacific Command (PACOM) to **Indo-Pacific Command**.
Note: The decision has been taken in recognition of the growing importance of the Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking. The US administration had also renamed Asia Pacific as Indo-Pacific and identified India as one bookend of the region.
21. The first edition of the 2018 Global Wind Summit will be held in September 2018 -- **Hamburg, Germany**.
Note: The event will provide a platform for experts from across the globe to discuss innovative and green technologies for harnessing wind energy making. India is fourth largest country -- after China, the US and Germany -- in terms of wind energy installation capacity at around 33 GW.
22. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India along with Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia organized the 5th India-CLMV Business Conclave in **Phnom Penh**.
23. **Columbia** has formally joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
Note: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.

24. Nepal has become the first country in south-east Asia to eliminate trachoma.
Note: Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in the Himalayan nation in the 1980s. In 2002, the Government of Nepal had stepped up the efforts to eliminate trachoma with the establishment of a national trachoma programme.
25. International Conference on the TRIPS CBD Linkage will be held in -- **Geneva**.
Note: Government of India, along with the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the South Centre are organizing an International Conference on TRIPS- CBD Linkage in Geneva.

Honor & Awards

1. **Akshay Kumar** bagged the best actor awards at the Dadasaheb Phalke award 2018.
2. Bollywood Actress bagged the best actress award at the Dadasaheb Phalke award 2018 for the film 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' -- **Bhumi Pednekar**.
3. India's Singing legend has been honored with the 26th Lifetime PC Chandra Puraskaar 2018-- **Asha Bhosle**.
Note: She has been awarded for her contribution in the field of Indian music. It carries an honorarium of Rs. 10 lakh which is tax exempted. The award is a tribute to the founding father of the P. C. Chandra Group, the late Shri Purna Chandra Chandra.
4. Chennai-born girl has won this year's A*Star Talent Search award in Singapore for her study of genetic heart disease "hypertrophic cardiomyopathy" -- **Vijayakumar Ragavi**.
Note: She topped the list of 611 other students from secondary and tertiary institution. Ms. Ragavi designed a humanised hypertrophic cardiomyopathy model that recapitulates the disease phenotype. A*STAR Talent Search is rewarding students who have performed well in scientific research.
5. According to the Swedish Academy, the Nobel Prize will be not awarded this year in -- **Literature**.
Note: It will be the first time since wartime 1943 that the prestigious award is not handed out. Author from any country who has produced "in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction". It is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Alfred Nobel in 1895.
6. Jnanpith laureate **M T Vasudevan Nair** has won this year's annual 'ONV Literary Prize' for his overall contributions to Malayalam literature.
Note: The award, comprising a cash prize of Rs. three lakhs, citation and a plaque. The award was instituted by the ONV Cultural Academy in memory of iconic poet late O N V Kurup.
7. Veteran actress and social activist **Shabana Azmi** has been nominated as the Global Leadership Ambassador for Women in Public Service Project (WPSP) at Wilson Centre, USA.
Note: WPSP is a Hillary Clinton-founded programme aimed at empowering the next generation of women around the world. It also mobilizes women on issues of critical importance in public service.
8. Indian-American professor **Dr. Tahir Hussain** has received a grant of USD 1.6 Million by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to protect kidneys from obesity.
Note: The targeted cells express a protein called the angiotensin type 2 receptor, which recently has been indicated to have anti-inflammatory and renoprotective actions. This is the first time the receptor's role to protect kidney structure and function against injury in obese subjects will be investigated.
9. According to the TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018, India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand -- **Patanjali Ayurved Limited**.
Note: Patanjali Ayurveda had tied-up with Amazon, Flipkart, ShopClues, bigbasket_com, 1mgOfficial, Grofers and NetMeds.
10. The 'Excellent Woman of Excellence' award at the Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2018 -- **Nisha Bhalla**.
Note: A holistic coach & consultant Nisha Bhalla has been conferred with the 'Excellent Woman of Excellence' award for her spiritual service at the Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2018 in Delhi. The WEF is the largest global gathering of women entrepreneurs and leaders worldwide.
11. The 2018 Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development -- **Dr. Bindeshar Pathak (India), Ma Jun (China) & Professor Nguyen Thanh Liem (Vietnam)**.
Note: Nikkei Inc. (one of the largest media corporations in Japan) has been presenting the awards to honour people in Asia who have made significant contributions in one of the three areas (Economic and Business Innovation, Science, Technology and Environment and Culture and Community).
12. In the government's cleanliness survey "Swachh Survekshan 2018", the city came on top in a survey -- **Indore (Madhya Pradesh)**.

- Note:**The second spot went to Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) and Chandigarh stood third.Last year, Indore was the cleanest city, but that survey was conducted only for around 430 cities. Jharkhand was adjudged the best performing state in the survey followed by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- 13.** The US-based Kathak dancer **Anindita Anaam** has been honored with the prestigious 'Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018'.
Note: Anindita is a regular performer and Kathak instructor in Wisconsin with an aim to popularise the dance form globally.She has been part of many cultural festivals where she blended traditional Kathak with other world forms like jazz and ballet.
- 14.** Veteran Bollywood actor **Sridevi** was honored with the TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival.
Note: Subhash Ghai (Veteran filmmaker) and Namrata Goyal (producer) received the award on behalf of Sridevi's family.The award traditionally celebrates women of the film industry all over the world and salute the multi-cultural impact on the world of cinema.
- 15. National Mineral Development Corporation(NMDC)** bagged the prestigious S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category.
Note: This is the first time since inception of this award that an Indian Company bagged an award in this category.The S&P Global Platts Global Metals Award recognizes top performers – industry leaders and innovators.
- 16.** Polish author has won the Man Booker International Prize for her novel 'Flights' -- **Olga Tokarczuk**.
Note: Tokarczuk will share the award money USD 67,000 with her translator Jennifer Croft.The Man Booker International Prize is world's most prestigious English-language literary award launched in 1969 and presented by the Man Group.
- 17.** Late veteran Actor was posthumously conferred with the BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema -- **Sridevi**.
Note: Sridevi was posthumously honoured with the 'Best Actress' award for her performance in her last movie 'Mom', at 65th National Film Awards held in New Delhi.
- 18.** The actor **Sushant Singh Rajput** will promote two major initiatives of NITI Aayog – 'BHIM app' and 'the Women Entrepreneurship Platform'.
Note: An agreement in this effect was signed by the actor with NITI Aayog in New Delhi. The Women Entrepreneurship Platform was launched earlier this year with a mission to establish a vibrant, enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurs across India.
- 19.** Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 presented to members of the - **INSV Tarini team**.
Note: The Six-member all-women team led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi have received the Puraskar.The crew of the Indian Navy Sailing Vessel 'Tarini' is a part of the Indian Navy's unique project 'Navika SagarParikrama'.
- 20.** CSIR & DBT has won Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in Government Research Organizations category.
Note: IIT Bombay has won the **Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018** in the Academic Institutions category. The awards were given in **3 broad categories** of namely Government Research Organizations, Academic Institutions, and Corporations.
- 21.** Former model and entrepreneur from Jammu and Kashmir, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest -- **Sangeeta Bahl**.
Note: She scaled the peak on May 19 with the help of two Sherpas.
- 22.** **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** has been selected for this year Mark Twain Prize for American Humor for the Performing Arts.
Note: She is the latest in a long line of distinguished comedians to receive the award, including comedy luminaries such as Lorne Michaels, Steve Martin, Neil Simon.The award recognizes individuals who have had an impact on American society.
- 23.** Indian star cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** has been awarded 'Most Inspiring Icon Of The Year For Social Welfare'.
Note: Yuvraj opened his foundation 'YouWe Can' that focuses on creating cancer awareness and helping educate the cancer survivors kids

Sports News

- 1.** According to the latest report of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), India's rank in the list of doping violations --**6th**.
Note: India improved its position to sixth after being joint-third for three consecutive years from 2013 to 2015.
- 2.** The former Australia batsman **Justin Langer** has been named as Australia's new head coach for four-year.
Note: He replaced Darren Lehmann, who resigned in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal.Langer played 105 Tests for Australia, scoring 7,696 runs and retired from international cricket in 2007.

3. Hockey India named Women's hockey coach **Harendra Singh** as chief coach of the Indian men's team.
Note: Incumbent men's in-charge Sjoerd Marijne has been re-appointed as Indian women's hockey coach. Harendra Singh coached the Indian men's team earlier from 2009 to 2011.
4. Indian pugilist has been conferred with the WBC Asia Boxer of the Year 2017 Award by the Asian Boxing Council __ **Neeraj Goyat**.
Note: Currently, Neeraj is the WBC Asia champion in welter weight category. Since turning pro in 2011, Neeraj has won nine fights including two knockouts.
5. According to Badminton World Federation (BWF), two Malaysian badminton players have been handed career-ending bans -- **Zulfadli Zulkiffli & Tan Chun Seang**.
Note: They were found guilty of breaching the BWF code of conduct in relation to betting, wagering and irregular match results. Former world junior champion Zulfadli Zulkiffli (25 -years) was banned for 20 years and fined 25,000 Dollars. Tan Chun Seang (31-year) was barred for 15 years and fined 15,000 Dollars.
6. Liverpool forward **Mohamed Salah** has been named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year.
Note: He has scored 31 goals in 34 league appearances for Liverpool this season. Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne came second with Tottenham striker Harry Kane third.
7. According to the Wimbledon officials, the 2018 men's and women's singles champions will receive **£2.25 million**.
Note: Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament (still played on grass) in the world and is widely regarded as the most prestigious. Wimbledon is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, the others being the Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open.
8. India has finished on top with a tally of 20 Gold, 22 Silver and 8 Bronze in the South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in **Colombo**.
Note: Athletes from seven nations took part in the event, hosts Sri Lanka finished second while Pakistan third.
9. **Gagan Narang and Pooja Ghatkar** clinched a Silver medal in the 10-meter Air Rifle Mixed Team event in the Grand Prix of Liberation International competition at Pilsen in the Czech Republic.
Note: They close to overtaking Jurate Cesynaite and Karolis Girulis for the gold, before missing the target by 1.3 point.
10. BCCI panel has recommended, the two-time national coach and former opener for the prestigious Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award -- **Anshuman Gaekwad and the late Pankaj Roy**.
11. BCCI panel have also nominated former India women's team captain and coach for the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award (Women) -- **Diana Edulji, and Sudha Shah**.
Note: The committee has recommended Abbas Ali Baig, late Naren Tamhane and late Budhi Kunderan for the BCCI Special Award.
12. Anurag Thakur and Sachin Tendulkar launched a Mahakumbh at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh -- **Star Khel Mahakumbh**.
Note: The athletes will compete in volleyball, basketball, cricket, football, kabaddi and athletics. The initiative has been designed in a manner as to attract participation of at least one lakh youth from across 5000 villages and 800 panchayats.
13. **Petra Kvitova** won the Madrid Open title for the third time.
Note: She defeated Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands with a marathon 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 6-3. Kvitova has claimed four titles in 2018 after triumphs in St Petersburg, Doha, and Prague.
14. The virtual football's equivalent of the FIFA World Cup (FIFA eClub World Cup) will be held in -- **Paris, France**.
15. India emerge champions in the four-nation Under-16 Tournament held in **Serbia**.
16. Mercedes driver won for the second race in succession by dominating an eventful Spanish Grand Prix -- **Lewis Hamilton**.
17. Indian table tennis player **G Sathiyan** has signed with German Bundesliga's top division club ASV Grunwettersbach Tischtennis.
Note: He has officially signed with German Bundesliga's top division club ASV Grunwettersbach Tischtennis for 2018/19 season. He won three medals at his Commonwealth Games debut on April 2018.
18. Indian Shooter **Heena Sidhu** won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol at the International Shooting Competitions of Hannover, Germany.
Note: compatriot P Shri Nivetha (219.2 point) settled for bronze medal.
19. **Alexander Zverev** has won the 2018 Madrid title.
Note: He crushed claycourt specialist Dominic Thiem 6-4 6-4 in the Madrid Open final
20. Chennaiyin FC's head coach **John Gregory** has been honored with a special achievement award by England's League Managers Association (LMA) in London
Note: The LMA is a body in England for English coaches and all managers in English football. The LMA hosts an awards night annually to reward the best performing coaches in English football every season and also recognises efforts of English coaches from around the world.
21. **South Korea** won the 5th Asian Champions Trophy 2018.

- Note:** The Indian women's Hockey team lost to hosts South Korea (0-1) in the summit clash and failed to defend its crown at the fifth Asian Champions Trophy at Donghae City. Indian striker Vandana Katariya was declared player of the tournament while youngster Lalremsiami was named as the upcoming player of the tournament.
22. Spanish tennis player **Rafael Nadal** has won the tennis tournament Italian Open 2018.
Note: Nadal beat defending champion Alexander Zverev 6-1 1-6 6-3. By winning the title, Nadal regained the ATP no. 1 singles ranking from Roger Federer.
23. Hockey India president -- **Rajinder Singh**.
Note: Earlier, Mr. Singh was the Treasurer of HI and currently serves as the Treasurer of Hockey Jammu & Kashmir. Hockey India (HI) is the governing body of field hockey in India, formed after Indian Hockey Federation was dismissed in 2008 by IOA.
24. **Bala Prasath** has won the Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
Note: The FJRS 2018 Championship organized by MECO Motorsports to provide a platform to drivers and riders coming out of the winter season to prepare for the National Championships. It is open to anybody over 14 years and holds a valid FMSCI National Racing license.
25. **Iraq** will host a West Asia Football Federation championship in the southern city of Basra in November 2018.
Note: Iraq has not played competitive internationals on home turf since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Earlier, World football's governing body FIFA has lifted a three-decade ban on Iraq hosting international football, this March.
26. Former South African captain **AB de Villiers** has retired from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect.
Note: De Villiers finishes his career with a staggering 20,014 international runs (Test - 8765 runs), (ODIs- 9577) and (T20Is-1672).
27. India skipper **Virat Kohli** has emerged as the International Cricketer of the Year at the CEAT Cricket Rating awards.
- Note:** Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan was presented the International Batsman of the Year Award, while New Zealand pace sensation Trent Boult won International Bowler of the Year Award. T20 Bowler of the Year Award - Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan. Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed on former India wicket-keeper Farokh Engineer.
28. Indian discus thrower **Vikas Gowda** retired after competing at the highest level for more than 15 years.
Note: Gowda became the first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medals in the discipline.
29. **China** won the Thomas Cup for the 10th time after defeating Japan by 3-1 in the final in Bangkok.
Note: China had won five straight Thomas Cup titles between 2004 and 2012. The Thomas Cup, is also known as the World Men's Team Championships, is an international badminton competition among teams representing member nations of the Badminton World Federation, the sport's global governing body.
30. **Japan** clinched the Uber Cup by defeating Thailand 3-0 to end a 37-year wait to regain the title.
Note: Thailand, who had entered the finals for the first time after shock win against China in the semifinals, lost the final against Japan team in both singles and doubles. The Uber Cup, also known as the World Team Championships for Women, is a major international badminton competition contested by women's national badminton teams.
31. Who won the Monaco Grand Prix -- **Daniel Ricciardo**.
32. **Chennai Super Kings** won the IPL XI by defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad.
Note: This is the third IPL win of Chennai Super Kings. Shane Watson was named 'Man of the Match' for his 117 runs which played a vital role in chasing the target set by Sunrisers Hyderabad. Rishabh Pant is declared as the Emerging Player of IPL XI.
33. Argentine professional footballer **Lionel Messi** received his fifth Golden Shoe award for leading all of Europe's leagues in scoring last season.
Note: Messi claimed the prize after scoring 34 goals in La Liga this season, helping his club to a 25th league triumph. Earlier, Messi has taken the honors in 2010 (34-goals), 2012 (50 goals), 2013 (46 goals) and 2017.

