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National

India gets first US LNG shipment at Dabhol, Maharashtra

- i. **India** received its first LNG cargo from the US under a long-term supply deal when a ship carrying super-cooled natural gas arrived at **Dabhol in Maharashtra**.
- ii. **GAIL India** has contracted **3.5 million tonnes per annum** of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from US energy firm Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass liquefaction facility in **Louisiana**. The first cargo from the project arrived at Dabhol, the cite of India's biggest gas-fired power plant.

Madhya Pradesh's Kadaknath chicken gets Geographical Indication tag

- i. Six years after it applied for the **Geographical Indications (GI)** tag for **Kadaknath**, a chicken breed whose black meat is in demand in some quarters, **Madhya Pradesh has got the coveted label**.
- ii. Chennai-based GI Registry accepted the application of **Gramin Vikas Trust, Jhabua**, which was **filed in 2012**.

India Becomes 2nd Largest Producer of Mobile Phones in the World

- i. **India is now the second-largest mobile phone producer in the world after China**. According to the data shared by **Indian Cellular Association** with the government, annual production of mobile phones in India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to 11 million units in 2017.
- ii. With this, **India replaced Vietnam** to become the second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017.

Delhi Becomes 1st City to Roll-Out Euro VI Fuel

- i. With an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR region, **petrol pumps in the capital started supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel** (both petrol and diesel).
- ii. This move makes **New Delhi the first city in the country** to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI (equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norms).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The major difference in standards between the existing BS-IV and the new BS-VI auto fuel norms is the presence of sulphur.

Kerala to Host Asia's Largest Startup Conclave

- i. **Asia's largest startup ecosystem** congregation, **Huddle Kerala**, will be held at Kovalam. The initiative is envisaged to provide a platform for start-ups to pitch their products and interact with a wide array of technology and industry leaders from around the world.
- ii. **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** will inaugurate the conclave, being organised by the **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** in association with **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** and IAMAI Startup Foundation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Palaniswamy Sathasivam** is the present Governor of Kerala.
- **Thiruvananthapuram** is the capital city of Kerala.

U.P. CM Inaugurates India's Longest Elevated Road in Ghaziabad

- i. **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated a **10.30-km-long elevated road**, touted to be the **longest of its kind in the country**, connecting UP Gate and Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad.
- ii. Built at a cost of Rs1,147 crore, the six-lane elevated road is supported on 227 pillars. The road will make it easier to commute between Delhi and Ghaziabad.

Mangaluru Airport Adjudged India's Cleanest Airport

i. The Mangalore International Airport has been adjudged the **cleanest airport in the country**. **Airport director VV Rao** received the award during the **23rd annual day celebrations** of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** in New Delhi.

ii. In the survey conducted across 53 airports in the country by AAI, Mangaluru airport was adjudged the cleanest.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Chairman of Airports Authority of India is Guruprasad Mohapatra.

World-Class Tourist Amenities Unveiled at Konark Sun Temple

i. A world-class interpretation centre and other tourist facilities for visitors were inaugurated at the Konark Sun Temple, Odisha.

ii. It coincided with **Utkal Diwas**, Odisha's foundation day. The facilities were inaugurated by the **Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Konark Sun Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It was built in the 13th century.

E-Way Bill for Inter-State Movement of Goods Comes into Force

i. With the beginning of the financial year 2018-19, the **e-way Bill System for Inter-State movement of goods comes into force**.

ii. Under this system businesses and transporters have to produce before a GST inspector e-way bill for moving goods worth over Rs 50,000 from one state to another.

India Ranks 37th in Global Startup Ecosystem: Startupblink Report

i. According to report released by **global startup ecosystem map Startupblink**, **India was ranked 37th out of 125 countries** in global startup ecosystem in 2017. Startupblink is a global startup ecosystem map with tens of thousands of registered startups, coworking spaces, and accelerators.

ii. The list, measuring startup ecosystem strength and activity, **was topped by the United States followed by the United Kingdom**.

Bloomberg Billionaires Top 100 Index Released

i. Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has been ranked **19th on Bloomberg Billionaires Top 100 Index** as he becomes the **third richest Asian on the list**. With a net worth of approximately **\$38.3 billion**, Ambani's wealth is pegged at about over 1.5 percent of India's GDP.

ii. While **Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos** has added **\$21.8 billion** to his fortunes this year and **takes the top spot**, Microsoft founder **Bill Gates** was ranked **2nd**.

iii. From Asia, **Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma (ranked 13th)** is the richest with a net worth of \$47.2 billion and is followed by **Tencent co-founder and CEO Pony Ma (17)** with a \$41.1 billion net worth.

HRD Ministry Releases 'NIRF India Rankings 2018'

i. The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Mr Prakash Javadekar, released the **NIRF (National Institute of Ranking Framework) India Rankings 2018** in various categories on the basis of performance of Higher Educational Institutions in a **programme held in New Delhi**.

ii. The top 3 Overall Institutes in India are:

1. Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bengaluru),
2. Indian Institute of Technology Madras,
3. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

iii. The top 3 Universities in India are-

1. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru,
2. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi,
3. Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi.

Trial Run of 1st India-Bangladesh Container Train Flagged Off

- i. **The trial run of the first container train between India and Bangladesh** was flagged off from Kolkata city.
- ii. The train left for Bangladesh with 60 containers loaded with almost 1,200 tonnes of de-oiled cake, used as a raw material for animal feed.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Bangladesh PM-** Sheikh Hasina, **Capital-** Dhaka, **Currency-** Bangladeshi Taka.

HRD Ministry Constitutes Committee to Prevent Exam Paper Leakages

- i. **The Ministry of Human Resource Development** has constituted a **High Powered Committee** to examine the entire system of conducting Class X and Class XII examination conducted by the CBSE with a view to prevent leakages.
- ii. **Mr Vinay Sheel Oberoi**, Retd. Secretary (Higher Education), MHRD will be the Chairperson of the 7 member High Power Committee.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Prakash Javadkar is the Present Union Minister of HRD.

Delhi-Pathankot Flight Under UDAN Scheme Inaugurated

- i. **Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated **first flight from Delhi to Pathankot (Punjab)**, at a ceremony held at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.
- ii. The Pathankot airport has been opened by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to improve regional connectivity **as per the UDAN Scheme**. Pathankot in Punjab state is the **21st airport in the country**, which got operational for passengers.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- UDAN is a Regional Connectivity Scheme stands for Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagarik.
- Under UDAN, air connectivity is provided to unserved and underserved airports at a subsidized fare.

India 3rd Most Vulnerable Country to Cyber Threats

- i. **India emerged as the third most vulnerable country** in terms of risk of cyber threats, such as malware, spam and ransomware, in 2017, **according to a report by security solutions provider Symantec**.
- ii. In 2017, 5.09% of global threats detected were in India. **The U.S. (26.61%) was most vulnerable to such attacks**, followed by China (10.95%), according to **'Internet Security Threat Report'**.

Patna Tops in 4G Connectivity Among 20 Largest Cities: Report

- i. **Patna tops in 4G connectivity** among 20 of India's largest cities. It has emerged ahead of the likes of Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi, **according to the report of OpenSignal**, a wireless coverage mapping company.
- ii. Four cities from India's central and eastern regions—Patna, Kanpur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Bhopal and Lucknow—made it to the top 10 while popular tech hubs like Bengaluru are at 10, followed by Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Haryana CM-** Manohar Lal Khattar, **Governor-** Kaptan Singh Solanki.

PM Modi Launches India's 1st All-Electric High-Speed Train

- i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** flagged off **India's first all-electric high-speed locomotive in Bihar.**
- ii. The first big **Make-in-India project completed by France's Alstom**, the train has the country's most powerful engine with **12,000 horsepower and a maximum speed of 120 km/hr.** The average cost of one high-speed locomotive is around Rs25 crore.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Piyush Goyal is the present Railway Minister of India.
- John Mathai was the first Railway Minister of Independent India.

1st NITI Forum Meet at Agartala

- i. **Tripura** hosted the first meeting of the **NITI Forum- a unit of NITI Aayog in Agartala.** In this meeting, Chief Ministers of all Northeastern States, Minister of Development of North Eastern Region and senior officials of NITI Aayog and Union Government joined the conclave.
- ii. The '**NITI Forum for North East**' was constituted in February 2018 with an aim to ensure the sustainable economic growth of the North Eastern Region of the country. The meeting was chaired by the **vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog, Rajeev Kumar.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Tripura CM-** Biplab Kumar Deb, **Governor-** Tathagata Roy, **Capital-** Agartala.

Transgenders to be Recognised as Independent Gender Category in PAN Form

- i. **The government has amended Income Tax rules** that will now **allow transgenders to be recognised as an independent category** of applicants for obtaining a **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** for their tax-related transactions.
- ii. **The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, which frames the policy for the department, issued a notification that provides a new tick box for the transgenders to apply for the PAN.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sushil Chandra is the present Chairman of CBDT.
- It headquarters in New Delhi.

Cabinet Approves Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018

- i. The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the **Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018** for better protection and promotion of human rights in the country.
- ii. **Salient Features of the Bill are as follows:**
 - It proposes to include "**National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**" as deemed Member of the Commission;
 - It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission;
 - It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility and scope of selection of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission; and
 - It proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories.

ISRO Launches Navigation Satellite IRNSS-1I

- i. **The Indian Space Research Organisation** launched the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System-1I**, the eighth such satellite to be a part of a constellation. It was launched from the **first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**
- ii. **IRNSS-1I** is expected to replace IRNSS-1A, the first of the seven navigation satellites that was rendered ineffective after its three rubidium atomic clocks failed. **The seven satellites are part of the NavIC navigation satellite constellation.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Dr. K Sivan** is Chairman of ISRO.
- Headquarters of ISRO- Bengaluru.

IGI Among World's Top 20 Busiest Airports

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI)** Airport has climbed six positions to reach on **16th Position** to enter the club of the **top 20 airports across the world**, the Airport Council International's preliminary report on airport traffic for 2017.
- IGI's passenger traffic grew by 14.1% year over year. **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport** in the United States with 104 million passengers secured the top spot, followed by Beijing at the second position and Dubai at the third.

FSSAI Launches Initiative to Address Vitamin D Deficiency

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** launched '**Project Dhoop**', an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure **maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students** through natural sunlight.
- The project was launched in New Delhi and saw the participation of around 600 students from NCERT, NDMC and North MCD Schools.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Pawan Agarwal is the CEO of FSSAI.

World's Largest Solar Park to Come Up in Gujarat

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** approved setting up a **5,000 MW capacity solar park** at the **Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR)**, which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion.
- The proposed solar power generation project would be set up in **11,000 hectares of land** with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Om Prakash Kohli is the present Governor of Gujarat.
- Sardar Sarovar Dam is situated in Gujarat.

NHAI Signs Agreement for its 1st International Project

- The National Highways Authority of India** has signed an agreement for the upgradation of **Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway** in Myanmar to two lanes with an earthen shoulder. The aim is to provide seamless vehicular movement for enhancing trade, business, health, education and tourism among **India, Myanmar and Thailand**.
- The project has been funded by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and would be executed on EPC mode at a **cost of Rs.1177 crores**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Nitin Gadkari is the Present Road Transport and Highways Minister of India.

Index of Economic Freedom 2018: India Ranks 130th, Hong Kong Tops

- India has jumped 13 places** in the last one year to **130th spot** in the latest annual **Index of Economic Freedom** released by a top American think-tank the **Heritage Foundation**.
- As per the latest Index of Economic Freedom, China has jumped one spot to 110th and Pakistan is now at 131 position.

iii. The top 3 countries in the list are-

1. Hong Kong
2. Singapore
3. New Zealand.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- In 2017, India with a score of 52.6 points was ranked at 143 among 180 countries, two spots below neighbour Pakistan.

Nation Celebrates 127th Ambedkar Jayanti

i. Nation remembers **Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar** on his **127th birth anniversary**. Floral tributes were paid at Babasaheb's Statue in the **Parliament House Complex, New Delhi**.

ii. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, the **chief architect of the Constitution of India**, was born on 14th April 1891 at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, which is now known as Dr Ambedkar Nagar. **He was also the first law minister of India.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) based app BHIM that was launched by PM Modi has been named after Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

Government Raises NABARD's Authorised Capital to Rs 300 billion

i. As part of the drive to **double the income of farmers by 2022**, the government has raised the **authorised capital of NABARD by six times from 50 billion to Rs 300 billion** to help it increase its lending to the rural economy.

ii. The increase in authorised capital will enable Nabard to respond to commitments it has undertaken, particularly in respect of the Long Term Irrigation Fund and on-lending to cooperative banks.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The government in the Budget had enhanced the corpus of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIFD) to Rs 280 billion with an overall objective of doubling farmers income by 2022.
- Nabard is the main agency for implementing RIFD scheme.
- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala is the Chairman of NABARD.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Pips SBI to Become India's 2nd Most Valuable Bank

i. **Shares of private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd** beat India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) for the first time to become the second most valued bank in the country. Data from BSE showed that Kotak Mahindra Bank has a **market capitalization of Rs2,22,560.69 crore** after its shares rose 1.7%.

ii. SBI market capitalization stood at Rs2,22,043.74 crore. Its shares were trading at Rs248.80 on BSE, down 1% from its previous close.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Uday Kotak is the Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- It headquarters in Mumbai.
- HDFC Bank Ltd is the country's most valuable bank with a market capitalisation of Rs5.04 trillion.

Bengaluru Highest Paying City For Talent: Report

i. **The garden city of Bengaluru is found to be the highest paying city in the country**, with an average annual cost to company (CTC) for talent across all levels and functions standing at about Rs 11 lakh, **according to Randstad Insights**, the research and analysis division of Randstad India.

ii. **Pune stands second** at around Rs 10 lakh, **followed by Delhi NCR and Mumbai** with an average annual CTC figure of a little under Rs 10 lakh and around Rs 9 lakh, respectively.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Bengaluru is the capital city of Karnataka.

- CM of Karnataka- Siddaramaiah.

Bandhan Bank Among Top 50 Most Valuable Brand in India

i. Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank Ltd became one of the **top 50 most valuable publicly traded firms** in India. The market capitalization of Bandhan Bank was at Rs64,000 crore, claiming 50th rank, according to BSE data.

ii. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd is the most valuable company in India, followed by Reliance Industries Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd. Bandhan Bank had raised Rs4,500 crore through a successful initial public offering (IPO) in March after setting the pricing at Rs375 per share.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- MD and CEO of Bandhan Bank is **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**.
- Its headquarters in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

Odisha's 2nd Longest River Bridge Opened

i. The much-awaited bridge '**Ib Setu**' built over the **Ib river in Sambalpur district** was thrown open to the public by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The **2.5-km-long bridge**, which is the State's second longest bridge, has been built in three years at a **cost of Rs. 117.50 crore**.

ii. The bridge has helped establish direct road connectivity between **Sambalpur and Brajarajnagar** and the **distance has now been reduced by 50 km**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Odisha CM-** Naveen Patnaik, **Governor-** Satya Pal Malik (In-charge).
- Hirakud Dam built on Mahanadi River is situated in Odisha.

India to Grow at 7.4% in 2018: IMF

i. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stated that **India is expected to grow at 7.4% in 2018 and 7.8% in 2019** and would re-emerge as one of the fastest growing major economies in the period.

ii. The IMF explained this is due to the strong private consumption as well as fading transitory effects of the currency exchange initiative and implementation of the national goods and services tax.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Managing Director of IMF-** Christine Lagarde, **Headquarters in-** Washington DC, USA.

Government Launches 'Study in India' to Attract Foreign Students

i. The Indian Government has launched the '**Study in India**' initiative to attract international students to study in India. The website of Study in India can be accessed at **www.studyinindia.gov.in**. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for Human Resources Development Satya Pal Singh jointly launched the initiative **in New Delhi**.

ii. The portal will enable students from 30 countries across South Asia, Africa and West Asia to select and apply for different courses from 150 select Indian institutions which are high on **NAAC and NIRF ranking**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **NAAC** stands for National Assessment and Accreditation Council.
- **NIRF** stands for National Institutional Ranking Framework.

India, World's 6th Largest Economy at \$2.6 trillion: IMF

i. India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the worth of the economy, clocked in at **\$2.6 trillion for 2017**, according to the database of the **International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO)** for April 2018.

ii. India is now the world's sixth largest economy, displacing France. The Top 3 economies of the world are:

1. The United States,
2. China,
3. Japan.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Managing Director of IMF-** Christine Lagarde, **Headquarters in-** Washington DC, USA.

Commonwealth Innovation Index 2018: India Ranked 10th

i. As per the 2018 Commonwealth Innovation Index, India fetched 10th position in the index topped by the United Kingdom, Singapore and Canada. The index was launched on the sidelines of the ongoing Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) as part of a new Commonwealth Innovation Hub.

ii. The Commonwealth Innovation Index has been created in partnership with the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its annual Global Innovation Index (GII). There are total 53 Commonwealth nations.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Secretary-General of Commonwealth is Patricia Scotland.

Bangalore Emerges as Top City for Office Expansion: CBRE

i. In India, Bangalore has emerged as the most preferred city for office expansion, according to a survey by real estate consulting firm, CBRE South Asia.

ii. MNCs are focusing on expanding in Bangalore and smaller cities across the country, but have limited growth plans in the Delhi NCR and Mumbai, according to the CBRE Asia Pacific Occupier Survey 2018.

Vice-President Inaugurates Civil Services Day Event in New Delhi

i. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the two-day Civil Services Day event in New Delhi. The Day focuses on the topic 'Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts'.

ii. The Vice President also released a book 'Emulating Excellence- Takeaways for Replication'. The day is celebrated for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- This was the 12th edition of Civil Services Day.

Cabinet Approves Promulgation of Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance

i. The Union Cabinet approved the promulgation of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance 2018, which would empower the government to seize the domestic assets of those deemed by a relevant court to be fugitive economic offenders.

ii. The Ordinance has a provision for a 'Special Court' under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 to declare a person as a Fugitive Economic Offender.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- An ordinance is an executive order issued by the President of India — on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet — that holds the same force as an Act passed by Parliament.

Bengal's Digambarpur, India's Best Gram Panchayat

i. West Bengal has once again topped in the country with Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP) bagging the Centre's award for the best Gram Panchayat in the country.

ii. The survey was conducted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Digambarpur GP at Patharpratima block in South 24-Parganas has come up as the best out of 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- West Bengal CM- Mamata Banerjee, Governor- Keshri Nath Tripathi.

Nitish Kumar Launches 3 Books On Champaran Movement

i. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released three books based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917.

ii. Nitish Kumar released the books titled- 'Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary' written by Arvind Mohan, 'Champaran Andolan 1917' edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar and 'Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi' collected and edited by Srikant.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Champaran movement is acknowledged as the first Satyagraha movement inspired by Mahatma Gandhi.

India's GDP to Reach \$5 trillion by 2025

i. India is poised to remain the fastest growing large economy in the world, and its **GDP is expected to reach \$5 trillion by 2025**, **Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg** has told the **World Bank** in the 97th meeting of the Development Committee of the World Bank in Washington, USA.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- President of the World Bank- **Jim Yong Kim**.
- Headquarters of World Bank: **Washington, DC**.

TCS, 1st Indian IT Company With 100 Billion Dollar Market Value

i. **Tata Consultancy Services** has created the history as the **market capitalisation** of the company has hit the **100 billion dollar mark**, making it the **first Indian IT company to achieve the mark**. TCS shares rose by **2% to Rs. 3476.75**, pushing the market capitalisation of India's biggest outsourcer to **Rs. 6,64,918 crore**.

ii. TCS joined the ranks of the world's 100 most valued organizations and **now ranks 97th**. The last Indian name to cross that threshold in 2007 was Reliance Industries Ltd.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- TCS is a part of salt-to-software conglomerate Tata group.
- Natarajan Chandrasekaran is the Chairman of TCS.

Diu, 1st to Run on 100% Renewable Energy During Daytime

i. **Diu Smart City** has become the **first city in India**, that runs on **100% renewable energy during daytime** setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green. Diu had been importing 73% of its power from Gujarat until 2017.

ii. To further enhance its solar capacity, Diu offers its residents a subsidy of Rs10, 000-50,000 for installing 1-5KW rooftop solar panels.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Hardeep Singh Puri Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Sunderban Reserve Forest to Get Ramsar Site Status

i. **West Bengal government** has given its approval to State Forest Department to apply for coveted **Ramsar Site recognition under Ramsar Convention to Sunderban Reserve Forest**. Now, State Forest Department through Central Government will apply to Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

ii. Once it is conferred Ramsar site status, Sundarbans Reserve Forest will be **largest protected wetland in the country**. There are currently **26 sites in India** recognised as Ramsar wetland sites of international importance.

Madras HC, 1st Court in South India to Introduce e-Court Fee Payment Facility

i. **The Madras High Court** became the **first court in south India** and **overall eighth in the country** to introduce e-court fee payment facility. It was jointly launched by **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami** and **Chief Justice Indira Banerjee**.

ii. The new system will enable litigants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to the government through e-stamps, which can be purchased both online and offline.

India Highest Recipient Of Remittances In 2017: World Bank

i. **India has retained its position** as the **top remittances receiving country** with its diaspora sending about **\$69 billion back home in 2017**, according to the **report of the World Bank**. Remittances to India **picked up sharply by 9.9%** to \$69 billion in 2017, reversing the previous year's dip.

ii. The World Bank said remittance inflows improved in all regions and the top remittance recipients were India with \$69 billion, followed by China (\$64 billion) and the Philippines (\$33 billion).

The World's 50 Greatest Leaders 2018: Mukesh Ambani Ranks 24th

i. **Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani (24th Rank)** and **human rights lawyer Indira Jaising (20th Rank)** have been named by **Fortune magazine** as the **World's Greatest Leaders of 2018**.

ii. This year's list is topped by **'The Students'** of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and other schools of US that

witnessed gun violence. This year's list has the **#MeToo Movement**, which described the pervasiveness of sexual abuse, at **No.3 behind Bill and Melinda Gates (2nd Rank)**.

Paytm Payments Bank Registers 100M KYC Wallets

i. Paytm Payments Bank now has over **100 million KYC wallets**, against the constant campaigning done by the bank about the benefits of the **Know Your Customer (KYC) system**.
ii. The bank has introduced several options that include **Paytm KYC centres and 'Paytm-Ka-ATM'** outlets to offer more localised support.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Paytm Payments Bank** is owned 51 percent by Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma and 49 percent by One97 Communications Limited.

Foreigners Can Now Travel to Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur Without Permit

i. The Home Ministry has decided to relax the **six-decade-old Protected Area Permit regime** from **Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur** for five years. Foreign tourists, **except those from Pakistan, China and Afghanistan**, will now be allowed to visit some of the most pristine locations of the country which, so far, were out of bounds for them without a special permit.
ii. Under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, all areas falling between the Inner line and the International Border of some states were declared as protected areas.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Manipur CM-** Nongthombam Biren Singh, **Governor-** Dr. Najma A. Heptulla.
- **Mizoram CM-** Lal Thanhawla, **Governor-** Lt. General (Retd.) Nirbhay Sharma.
- **Nagaland CM-** Neiphiu Rio, **Governor-** Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya.

India Agrees to Send Buddhist Relics for Vesak in Sri Lanka

i. India has agreed for the most revered **Buddhist relics from Sarnath to be taken to Sri Lanka** for public exposition on the occasion of Vesak festival. **This is the first time** relics from Sarnath are being brought to Sri Lanka from India, and special arrangements have been made for this purpose.

ii. This is the second time that India has taken initiative to exhibit the sacred relics of Lord Buddha in Sri Lanka. The first time such initiative was the exhibition of the **Kapilavastu Relics in 2012**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Srilanka Capital-** Colombo (commercial capital), Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (Official Capital), **Currency-** Sri Lankan rupee, **President-** Maithripala Sirisena.

PM Modi Launches Van Dhan Scheme to Help Increase Tribal Income

i. The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi launched the **Van Dhan Scheme** of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED, during the celebrations of **Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh**.
ii. The Van Dhan scheme along with others like **Jan Dhan and Gobar-Dhan** schemes had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system. Under Van Dhan, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers would be constituted.

Shirui Lily Festival Concludes in Manipur

i. Manipur's Shirui Lily Festival 2018 was concluded at Ukhrul district. The festival was sponsored by the department of tourism, Manipur to spread awareness about conservation of the endangered **Shirui Lily**.

ii. The festival was also supported by NEC and aims to promote afforestation and sustainable tourism efforts in the state.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Manipur CM-** Nongthombam Biren Singh, **Governor-** Dr. Najma A. Heptulla.

Dalmia Bharat Signs MoU to Maintain Heritage Sites

i. Dalmia Bharat Limited has signed an MoU with the **Tourism Ministry** to take up **Red Fort (in Delhi) and Gandikota Fort (Andhra Pradesh)** under the ‘**Adopt a Heritage**’ project.

ii. Becoming the first corporate to be part of the initiative, Dalmia Bharat will look after the operations and the maintenance of these heritage sites for the next five years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Puneet Dalmia is the Managing Director of Dalmia Bharat Group.
- K J Alphons is the Minister of State for Tourism (I/C).

World Press Freedom Index Report: India Ranks 138th, Norway Tops

i. According to the 2018 World Press Freedom Index compiled by **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**, **India has ranked 138th** (falling 2 positions down from 136th in 2017). **The list has been topped by Norway.** **North Korea** was at the bottom-most position (**180th**) in the list.

ii. The Top 3 countries in World Press Freedom Index Report are:

1. Norway
2. Sweden
3. The Netherlands.

Microsoft is India's Most Attractive Employer: Randstad Survey

i. Technology giant Microsoft India has been declared the most attractive employer brand, followed by e-commerce giant Amazon India. The winners were named by HR service provider **Randstad's Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2018.**

ii. Sector-wise, Tata Consultancy Services is most favoured in IT, while Larsen & Toubro tops Infrastructure & Construction and Hindustan Unilever emerges the winner in FMCG.

Sikkim Chief Minister Becomes India's Longest-Serving CM

i. Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling became the **longest-serving Chief Minister in India**, surpassing the record of Jyoti Basu, who served as West Bengal CM from 1977 to 2000.

ii. Chamling became the Chief Minister in December 1994 and belongs to the Sikkim Democratic Front.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil is the present Governor of Sikkim.
- Khangchendzonga National Park is situated in Sikkim.

Maharashtra Government Signs MoU With British Council

i. The Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with the **British Council** to **strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.**

ii. The British Council, with this MoU, will expand its existing work in the state, where in recent times, it has trained more than 100,000 teachers benefitting around five million learners.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Maharashtra CM- Devendra Fadnavis, Governor- CV Rao.**

Former PM Manmohan Singh Launches Economist Rao's Book

i. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released a book titled ‘My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism’ by former **Planning Commission and Finance Commission member C H Hanumantha Rao.**

ii. Mr Rao is presently one of the most creative thinkers, social activist, and distinguished economist in India.

Paytm Introduces 'Tap Card' Offline Payments Solution

i. **One97 Communications Limited, the owner of digital payment major, Paytm**, announced the launch of its offline payments solution - **the Paytm Tap Card**, in line with the company's vision to provide seamless payments solutions for non-internet customers.

ii. This card uses **Near Field Communication (NFC)** technology to enable safe and convenient digital payments, completely offline at Paytm-issued, NFC PoS terminals, in under a second.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the Paytm founder.

HDFC Bank Launches IRA 2.0

i. **HDFC Bank** launched **IRA 2.0**, its interactive humanoid at the **Koramangala Branch** in **Bengaluru**. The interactive humanoid in its advance version is aimed to enhance user experience for customers visiting in the branch.

ii. HDFC Bank has developed **IRA (Interactive Robotic Assistant) 2.0** in collaboration with its technology partners **Invento Makerspaces** and **Senseforth Technologies**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **HDFC Bank**- India's largest private bank by market capitalization
- **HDFC Bank Chairman**- Aditya Puri, **Headquarters**- Mumbai.
- Reserve Bank of India labelled HDFC Bank as 'domestic systematically important bank' - in other words, 'too big to fail'.
- It became the **first bank in India to introduce a humanoid IRA 1.0** for customer service at the Kamala Mills Branch in Mumbai.

India's GDP Likely to Grow 7.5% in FY19: Deutsche Bank

i. **According to the Deutsche Bank research report**, the Indian economy is witnessing a "**cyclical upswing**" and the country is likely to clock a **GDP growth of 7.5%** this financial year.

ii. The Reserve Bank expects India's economic growth rate to strengthen to 7.4% in the current fiscal, from 6.6% in 2017-18, on account of revival in investment activity.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Deutsche Bank established its first branch in India in 1980.
- Deutsche Bank Headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.
- Christian Sewing is the Chief Executive officer of Deutsche Bank.

International

Turkey Hosts Critical Summit on Syria War With Russia and Iran

- i. The presidents of Iran, Turkey and Russia met for their second tripartite summit in under six months, aiming to speed the peace process for Syria and bolster their influence in the country.
- ii. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosted his Russian and Iranian counterparts Vladimir Putin and Hassan Rouhani in Ankara for a meeting that could have a critical bearing on developments in Syria.

Nepal President Inaugurates International Conference on Human Rights in South Asia

- i. President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari inaugurated an International Conference on Human Rights in South Asia in Kathmandu. The conference is organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.
- ii. The representatives of Human Rights Commissions and institutions, human rights activists from 20 countries including India are participating in the 3-day event. The theme of the conference is "Identifying Challenges, Assessing Progress, Moving Forward: Addressing Impunity and Realizing Human Rights in South Asia".

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Currency- Nepalese rupee, President- Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister- Khadga Prasad Oli.

Conference on Water, Environment and Climate Change Begins in Nepal

- i. An international conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' started in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ii. The basic objective of the conference is to bring together professionals, government and non-government institutions to discuss and deliberate on challenges related to water and environmental issues.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Currency- Nepalese rupee, President- Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister- Khadga Prasad Oli.

Russia Starts Building Turkey's 1st Nuclear Power Plant

- i. The Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEK) was awarded a construction licence for Akkuyu NPP, Turkey's first nuclear power plant, which is being built in Mersin province, in southern Turkey. JSC Akkuyu Nuklear is the Russian-owned company which is responsible for the project.
- ii. The USD20 billion project to build the four-unit, 4800 MWe plant is part of Erdogan's '2023 Vision' marking 100 years since the founding of modern Turkey and is intended to reduce the country's dependence on energy imports.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira, President- Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

PM Modi Inaugurates 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi. It is the largest gathering of Ministers from energy consuming, producing and transit countries.
- ii. Hosted by India and co-hosted by China and Korea, the meeting aims to focus on how global shifts, transition policies and new technologies influence market stability and future investment in the energy sector.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- China Capital- Beijing, Currency- Renminbi, President- Xi Jinping.

Bangladesh Ends Reservation in Government Jobs

i. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has decided to **scrap the quota system in government services** after thousands of students marched across the country in protest against a controversial policy of setting aside jobs for special groups.

ii. The students began the protests against discriminatory quotas for government jobs, leaving scores of people injured at the Dhaka University.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Bangladesh PM-** Sheikh Hasina, **Capital-** Dhaka, **Currency-** Bangladeshi Taka.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Begins in London

i. The **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2018)** has begun in **London, the UK**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take part in the event on 19th and 20th of April.

ii. The theme of the summit is **'Towards a Common Future'**. The biennial event has brought together delegates from 53 Commonwealth nations.

Iran Bans Banks From Using Cryptocurrencies

i. Iran has banned the use of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies by its banks and financial institutions.

ii. As per the central bank of Iran, the ban was necessary since all cryptocurrencies have the capacity to be turned into a means for money-laundering and financing terrorism and in general can be turned into a means for transferring criminals' money.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Iran Capital-** Tehran, **Currency-** Iranian rial, **President-** Hassan Rouhani.
- The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the central bank of Iran.

Canada, EU to Host World's 1st Female Foreign Ministers Meeting

i. Canada and the European Union will host the **world's first 2-Day female foreign ministers' meeting** in September 2018 in **Canada**. The announcement was made by the **Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland**.

ii. Female Foreign ministers from about 30 countries will be invited to the gathering, which is aimed at deepening global discussion on women's empowerment.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Canada Capital-** Ottawa, **Currency-** Canadian dollar, **Prime minister-** Justin Trudeau.

Sushma Swaraj & Nirmala Sitharaman Attends SCO's Meet in China

i. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** have attended the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) defence ministers' and Foreign Ministers meeting in Beijing, China**, respectively.

ii. It is a preparatory meeting related to upcoming summit of the SCO. The annual summit of the SCO, in which India is the latest entrant along with Pakistan, will take place in the Chinese city of Qingdao in June 2018.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The SCO, headquartered in Beijing, was founded in 2001.
- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi, **President-** Xi Jinping.

UK Joins International Solar Alliance to Mark Narendra Modi Visit

i. The United Kingdom joined the **India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA)** ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-day visit to Britain.

ii. At an event held at the London Stock Exchange as part of the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 (CHOGM)**, Britain formally announced its membership of the alliance.

iii. This alliance aims to raise \$1 trillion of private and public finance to provide affordable and sustainable energy for all by 2030.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The United Kingdom Capital-** London, **Currency-** British pound, **Prime Minister-** Theresa May.

Swaziland King Changes Country's Name to 'Kingdom of eSwatini'

i. **Swaziland's King Mswati III**, Africa's last absolute monarch, officially changed the name of his country to the '**Kingdom of eSwatini**'. Accordingly, the country, a member of the Commonwealth, will now be known by its historic name of eSwatini.

ii. The announcement was made during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the **King's 50th birthday** as well as the 50th anniversary of Swazi's independence from British colonial rule.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Swaziland King-** Mswati III, **Capitals-** Mbabane, Lobamba.
- eSwatini in a Swazi language stands for '**place of the Swazi**'.

Karan Johar, 1st Indian Filmmaker in Madame Tussauds Collection

i. **Karan Johar** has become the **first-ever Bollywood filmmaker** to get a place at the famous Madame Tussauds.

ii. The process has begun in London and it will take about six months for the wax figurine to be ready.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Madame Tussauds is a wax museum in London with smaller museums in a number of other major cities.
- It was founded by wax sculptor Marie Tussaud.

Deepika Padukone, Virat Kohli Among TIME's 100 Most Influential People

i. The **TIME Magazine** released the **100 Most Influential People List of 2018** designating individuals whose time is now. The 2018 list features the names of four self-made Indians- Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone, Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal and Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella.

ii. The list also features the US President Donald Trump. The list of 100 Most Influential People of 2018 includes the names of actress Nicole Kidman, 'Wonder Women' starrer Gal Gadot, Prince Harry and his fiancée Meghan Markle and singers Rihanna and Jennifer Lopez.

Prince Charles to Succeed His Mother Queen Elizabeth II as Head of Commonwealth

i. **Britain's Prince Charles** will succeed his mother **Queen Elizabeth II** as the **Head of the Commonwealth** after the heads of government agreed on his succession.

ii. The Commonwealth leaders have reached an agreement on the succession of the 69-year-old heir to the British throne at a closed-door Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting retreat in Windsor Castle.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The United Kingdom Capital-** London, **Currency-** British pound, **Prime Minister-** Theresa May.

PM Modi Embarks On 3-Day Visit to China

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** left on a **three-day visit to China**. Mr Modi will hold talks with **Chinese President Xi Jinping** during an **informal summit in Wuhan city**.

ii. It is expected that the meeting between Mr Modi and Mr Xi will be a milestone in India-China relations. **This will be Mr Modi's fourth visit to China** after he came to power in 2014.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi, **President-** Xi Jinping.

North, South Korea Commit to Denuclearization in Historic Summit

i. The leaders of **North and South Korea** agreed to pursue a permanent peace and **the complete denuclearization** of the divided peninsula, as they embraced after a historic summit laden with symbolism.

ii. Kim Jong-un, the leader of North Korea and Moon Jae-in, the leader of South Korea also agreed to end hostile activities between the two nations, change the demilitarised zone (DMZ) that divides the country into a “peace zone” by ceasing propaganda broadcasts. They also agreed to joint participation in sporting events, including Asian Games 2018.

Google Ranked as Most Trusted Internet Brand in India: Report

i. Online search engine Google is the most trusted Internet brand in India, followed by Facebook, as per the TRA Brand Trust Report 2018. With 1.2 trillion searches per year, Google has become the first port of call for all things on the Internet. **Google was followed by Facebook, Amazon and eBay.**

ii. The biggest falls in trust were seen by Snapdeal, who fell by 142 ranks over last year. The **top trust gainers this year were Netflix** (up 506 ranks over last year). TRA’s Brand Trust Report 2018 report covers 2488 consumer-influencers across 16 cities in India and generated 5 million data points.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Google CEO-** Sundar Pichai, **Parent organization-** Alphabet Inc., **Headquarters-** the USA.



Defence

USA and South Korea Begin Joint Military Exercise- 'Foil Eagle'

- i. **The United States and South Korea** began their joint military training exercise named '**Foil Eagle**'. More than 11,500 U.S. troops and nearly 300,000 South Korean forces will take part in the four-week exercises.
- ii. Foil Eagle, the largest annual joint military exercise in South Korea, usually runs about two months. Its start was delayed this year at the request of South Korea until after the Winter Olympics.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **South Korea President-** Moon Jae-in, **Capital-** Seoul.

Sahyog- Hyeoblyeog 2018: Indian, Korean Coast Guards Hold Joint Exercise

- i. **Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy**, search and rescue exercise '**Sahyog- Hyeoblyeog 2018**' was conducted off the **Chennai coast, in Tamil Nadu**. The Korean Coast Guard ship '**Bodaro**' took part in the exercise.
- ii. Indian Coast Guard deployed a Dornier aircraft to carry out a sea-air coordinated search along with ICG Shaurya, Rani Abbakka, C-423, C-431 in the exercise.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Director General of Indian Coast Guard is Rajendra Singh and Commissioner of Korean Coast Guard is General Park Kyung.

IAF to Conduct Biggest Combat Exercise Along Pakistan, China Borders

- i. **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** is going to conduct its biggest ever combat exercise named **Gagan Shakti, 2018** along Pakistan and China borders. Depending upon the order of the Air Force Chief, the Air Force will mobilise its assets in the war scenario within 48 hours of the orders.
- ii. For the first time, the indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft Tejas** will be taking part in the exercise and will perform both the offensive and defensive roles.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the present Chief of Air Staff.

UAE and Malaysia Conclude Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Tiger 5'

- i. **The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia** concluded joint military exercise "**Desert Tiger 5**" aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions **in Dubai, UAE**.
- ii. The military exercise was aimed at raising the level of performance and combat efficiency and working together between both countries based on the strategy to improve the overall ability and combat readiness of ground forces.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The UAE Capital-** Abu Dhabi, **Currency-** UAE dirham.
- **Malaysia Capital-** Kuala Lumpur, **Currency-** Malaysian ringgit.

10th DefExpo India Begins in Tamil Nadu

- i. The tenth edition of a biennial exhibition of weapons and military hardware - **DefExpo India- 2018** has begun at **Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu**. The four-day long defence expo was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ii. Indigenously developed military helicopters, aircraft, missiles and rockets, capabilities to manufacture submarines, frigates and corvettes would be showcased at the event.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Nirmala Sitharaman** is the present Defence Minister of India.

India, Russia Sign 7 MoU at DefExpo 2018

i. India and Russia signed **7 MoUs at Defence Expo at Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. These MoUs were signed between the Indian Private Defence sector manufacturing companies and Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for manufacture, development of spares, sub-assemblies and assemblies of identified Russian origin platforms.

ii. The MoUs were signed during **third India-Russia Military-Industrial Conference** held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2018.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **INDRA** (Naval Exercise) is a joint, bi-annual military exercise conducted by India and Russia starting in 2003.

AFSPA Removed From Meghalaya

i. The Union Home Ministry completely revoked the controversial **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from Meghalaya** while diluting it in other regions of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

ii. Until September 2017, 40% of Meghalaya was under AFSPA. It is now applicable only in 8 police stations in Arunachal, down from 16 police stations in 2017.

Indo-Malaysian Joint Military Exercise 'Harimau Shakti' Held

i. As part of ongoing **Indo-Malaysian defence cooperation**, a joint training exercise **Harimau Shakti** will be conducted in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia.

ii. The exercise is aimed at bolstering cooperation & coordination between armed forces of both the nations and to share the expertise of both the contingents in the conduct of counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Malaysian Capital-** Kuala Lumpur, **Currency-** Malaysian ringgit.

Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' Held in Kerala

i. Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is being conducted to strengthen and assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism **along Kerala shores**.

ii. Along with Coastal Police and Marine Enforcement wing, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy is also participating in Exercise **'Sagar Kavach'**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Admiral Sunil Lanba** is the present chief of Navy Staff.

LCA Tejas Successfully Fired Air-to-Air BVR Missile

i. Indigenously developed **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** has successfully fired an **air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile**. With this, Tejas has demonstrated its overall capability as an effective combat jet and inched closer to receive final operational clearance.

ii. The test firing of the missile from a Tejas jet was carried off the Goa coast and it met all operational requirements.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Shekhar Kapur to head the jury for 65th National Film Awards

i. Veteran director **Shekhar Kapur** has been appointed the **chairman** of the central panel of the **65th National Film Awards**. The central panel comprises a chairperson and **10 other members**, including five regional chairpersons who head the respective regional panels.

ii. Film writer **Imtiaz Hussain**, known for his works in films like Astitva (2000) and Parinda (1989) will be the regional chairperson of South I panel.

Debjani Ghosh Appointed New President of Nasscom

i. **Debjani Ghosh**, former managing director of Intel South Asia, is the **new president of Nasscom**. She has replaced **R.Chandrashekhara** upon completion of his term.

ii. A big propagator of gender diversity and equal representation in corporate India, Ms Ghosh was the **first woman to lead Intel India and MAIT (Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology)**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- National Association of Software and Services Companies is the full form of Nasscom.

US Diplomat DiCarlo Becomes 1st Female UN Political Chief

i. **Long-serving American diplomat Rosemary DiCarlo** was appointed to become the **first woman to head UN political affairs**, one of the most high-profile positions at the world body. **DiCarlo has replaced Jeffrey Feltman**.

ii. DiCarlo also served as deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs and director for United Nations affairs at the national security council in Washington.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The United Nations is an international organization founded in **24th of October 1945**.
- It is currently made up of **193 Member States**.
- The Headquarters of UN: **New York, USA**.
- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Lt Gen Harpal Singh Takes Charge as Director General Border Roads

i. **Lt Gen Harpal Singh** an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla has been appointed as Director General Border Roads (DGBR).

ii. He commanded a Border Roads Task Force in Jammu & Kashmir valley.

Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth Appointed as Deputy Collector in Andhra Pradesh

i. **Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth** was appointed as a Deputy Collector in the state government by the **CM of Andhra Pradesh N Chandrababu Naidu**.

ii. K Srikanth was recently being awarded the Padma Shri award, India's fourth highest civilian honour. The Cabinet also announced a reward of Rs 2 crore for the shuttler.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian to win four Superseries titles in a calendar year after winning the French Open earlier in 2017.

Chandra Bhushan Appointed Deputy Election Commissioner

i. **Senior bureaucrat Chandra Bhushan Kumar** has been appointed as **Deputy Election Commissioner** as part of a major bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the government.

ii. A total of 13 officers have been appointed as joint secretaries in different central government departments. Bhushan has been appointed to the post for five years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Om Prakash Rawat is the present Chief Election Commissioner of India.

SBI Life Appoints Sanjeev Nautiyal As New MD & CEO

i. **SBI Life Insurance** has appointed **Sanjeev Nautiyal** as its new **Managing Director and CEO**. He replaces Arijit Basu, who takes over a key role in the State Bank of India Group.

ii. Nautiyal started his career with State Bank of India in 1985 as a probationary officer in the bank's Lucknow Circle.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- SBI Life Insurance is a joint venture life insurance company between State Bank of India and BNP Paribas Cardif.
- It headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Himanta Biswa Sarma Elected BAI President

i. **Assam Health and Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** was unanimously elected the **Badminton Association of India (BAI) President** during its annual general body meeting in **Goa**.

ii. Ajay Kumar Singhania was elected the Secretary General of BAI. Mr Sarma had taken over as the interim BAI President in 2017 after the demise of **Akhilesh Das Gupta**. He will serve for four years.

Balram Bhargava Appointed New DG of ICMR

i. **Balram Bhargava** has been appointed the new **Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and Secretary of the Department of Health Research.

ii. Bhargava, currently a senior consultant cardiologist at the All India Institute of Medical Science, will carry out this role until 2021. **He will succeed Soumya Swaminathan.**

Ban Ki-moon Elected BFA Chairman

i. **Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** has been elected chairman of 'Boao Forum for Asia' (BFA). **He has replaced former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.**

ii. Founded in 2001, the BFA is a non-governmental and non-profit international organisation committed to promoting regional economic integration and bringing Asian countries closer to their development goals.

Rishad Premji Appointed Nasscom Chairman

i. **Rishad Premji, Board member of Wipro Ltd.** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** for 2018-19.

ii. **He succeeds Raman Roy**, Chairman and Managing Director, who served as Chairman of NASSCOM for the year 2017-18. NASSCOM also appointed Keshav Murugesh as the Vice Chairman for 2018-19.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Debjani Ghosh has been recently appointed the new president of Nasscom.

IPS Officer Rajesh Ranjan Appointed DG of CISF

i. **Senior IPS officer Rajesh Ranjan** was appointed as **Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**.

ii. Mr Ranjan is at present Special Director General, Border Security Force (BSF). He has been appointed as the chief of the CISF till 2020.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- CISF was first founded in 1969.
- It Headquarters in New Delhi.

Lt Gen PP Malhotra Takes Over as Director-General of NCC

- Lt Gen PP Malhotra** assumed charge as **Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC)**, the largest uniformed youth organization in the world.
- Prior to assuming his present appointment, he was the Chief Engineer of the Army's premier Northern Command.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- NCC was established on 16 April 1948.
- NCC headquarters in New Delhi.

Dilip Chenoy Takes Over as FICCI Secretary General

- Dilip Chenoy** was appointed as the **Secretary-General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**. He has replaced **Sanjaya Baru**.
- Chenoy was working as Director General of the industry body.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India.

US Senate Narrowly Confirms Trump's New NASA Chief

- Jim Bridenstine**, a congressman from **Oklahoma, US Navy veteran**, and former pilot, was confirmed on a 50-49 vote and will become the **13th administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** seven months after Trump named him to lead the agency.
- Bridenstine, 42, has expressed an interest in returning humans back to the moon, spoken of closer ties between NASA and the commercial space industry.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- NASA is an independent agency of the executive branch of the **United States**.
- NASA founded on **29th July 1958**.
- Headquarters of NASA- **Washington, D.C., USA**.

CLAT coaching by NLU grads

CIA Chief Mike Pompeo Sworn in as New US Secretary of State

- Mike Pompeo** was sworn in as the secretary of state, shortly after the Senate confirmed the former CIA director's nomination as America's top diplomat at a crucial time when the US is involved in several high stakes negotiations around the world.
- Supreme Court justice Samuel Alito** administered the oath to Pompeo in the West Conference Room of the Supreme Court. **He replaced Rex Tillerson**.

Indu Malhotra, 1st Woman Lawyer Appointed as SC Judge

- Senior lawyer Indu Malhotra** was sworn in as the judge of the Supreme Court in the presence of **Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra**. The appointment was made by the **President Ram Nath Kovind**.
- Malhotra has now become the **first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a Supreme Court judge**. In 2007, Mrs Malhotra was only the second woman to be appointed a senior advocate by the apex court, three decades after **Leila Seth first made history**.

UN Chief Appoints Christine Schraner Burgener As Special Envoy on Myanmar

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** has appointed **Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland** as his **new special envoy on Myanmar**.
- Until her appointment, Burgener was the Ambassador of Switzerland to Germany since 2015. **Peru, Kuwait and the United Kingdom** will co-lead the visit to Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Myanmar State Counsellor-** Aung San Suu Kyi, **Capital-** Naypyidaw, **President-** Win Myint.

Mario Abdo Benitez Elected New President of Paraguay

- Mario Abdo Benitez** won the presidential election conducted in Paraguay. He belongs to the ruling Colorado Party. He had secured 46.5% of the votes, with 96% of 21,000.
- Efrain Alegre of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party came second with 42.7% of the votes. Mario Abdo Benitez's 5-year term begins on 15th August 2018.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Paraguay Capital-** Asuncion, **Currency-** Guarani.

IndiGo Chief Aditya Ghosh Resigns

- Aditya Ghosh resigned** as the **President and whole-time director of IndiGo** and will leave the company by 31 July 2018.
- While Interglobe Chairman **Rahul Bhatia has been appointed as the interim CEO** of the company, Greg Taylor will be appointed as president and CEO of the company.

Shooter Gauri Sheoran Made Brand Ambassador for Haryana's Health Programmes

- The Haryana government has appointed international shooter Gauri Sheoran** the brand ambassador for its two health-related programmes. The decision was announced by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the launch of the **measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign**.
- Under the campaign, about 80 lakh children aged between nine months and 15 would be vaccinated. The chief minister also flagged off 11 medical mobile units for the campaign.

Uday Kotak Redesignated as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- The board of directors of **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has **redesignated Uday Kotak as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**.
- Mr. Kotak was earlier executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director. Mr Kotak was the only official among private banks to have a Vice Chairman designation. All others have MD & CEO designation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** headquarters in Mumbai.

Kavinder Gupta Takes Oath as J&K Deputy CM

- Jammu and Kashmir Assembly speaker Kavinder Gupta** has been appointed as the Deputy-CM of the state. Seven others ministers were also sworn in the state's PDP-BJP government led by Mehbooba Mufti.
- Gupta will be the new deputy chief minister in place of Nirmal Singh.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Jammu and Kashmir CM-** Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed, **Governor-** N. N. Vohra.

Honours/ Awards

J.C. Daniel Award for Sreekumaran Thampi

i. Lyricist and director Sreekumaran Thampi has been selected for the **J.C. Daniel Award**, the **Kerala government's highest honour for lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema**. The award comprises of Rs5 lakh and a citation.

ii. The award was distributed at the Kerala State Film Award distribution function in Kollam. Thampi made his debut in 1966 with *Kattumallika*.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Kerala CM-** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor-** Justice (Retd.) Palaniswamy Sathasivam.

65th National Film Awards- Complete List Of Winners

The **65th National Film Awards** were announced in **Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi**. The chairpersons of the three juries (Feature, Non-feature and Writing) for the National Film Awards have announced the awards for the different categories. This year, **the jury is being headed by director Shekhar Kapur**. The jury panel has 10 members. National Film Awards will be given by the President Ram Nath Kovind in May 2018.

Here is the Complete List of Winners of 65th National Film Awards:

S. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Special Mention	Mhorkya (Marathi), Hello Arasi (Oriya), Take Off (Malayalam), Newton (Hindi)
2.	Best Hindi Film	Newton
3.	Best Action Direction	Abbas Ali Moghu for Baahubali 2
4.	Best Background Score	Mom
5.	Special Jury Award	Nagarkirtan
6.	Best Playback Singer	Shashaa Tirupati for Kaatru Veliyidai.
7.	Best Actress	Sridevi for 'Mom'
8.	Best Actor	Riddhi Sen for 'Nagar Kirtan'
9.	Best Director	Jayaraj for 'Bhayanakam'
10.	Best Film	Village Rockstars (Assamese)

Dharmendra to be Conferred With Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement Award

- i. Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra** will be conferred with the prestigious **Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement** and filmmaker **Rajkumar Hirani** with **Raj Kapoor Special Contribution awards**. Maharashtra Culture Minister Vinod Tawde announced the names of the winners.
- ii.** The state government-instituted awards will be given away at the **55th Maharashtra State Marathi Film Festival**.

Pulitzer Prizes 2018 Announced

- i.** The **Pulitzer Prizes for 2018** has been announced in the USA.
- ii.** Following are the winners of the Pulitzer Prize 2018.
 - 1. Fiction-** Andrew Sean Greer's "Less" has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Greer's novel tells the comic story of a middle-aged novelist.
 - 2. Drama-** Cost of Living, by Martyna Majok.
 - 3. History-** The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea, by Jack E. Davis (Liveright/W.W. Norton).
 - 4. Biography-** Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Fraser (Metropolitan Books).
 - 5. Poetry-** Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016, by Frank Bidart (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- 1917 was the first year when the Pulitzer Prizes were awarded.
- Pulitzer Prize has been named after Joseph Pulitzer.

Madhya Pradesh Conferred Most Film Friendly Award

- i. The Most Film Friendly State Award** was announced by the **Chairman of the Jury, Shri Ramesh Sippy**. **State of Madhya Pradesh** was conferred the award for the **Most Film Friendly State** for its efforts towards easing filming in the State by creating a well-structured website and film-friendly infrastructure. Total 16 states have participated in this award.
- ii. The State of Uttarakhand** is given a Special Mention Certificate to recognize the efforts made by the Uttarakhand towards creating a film-friendly environment. The award will be conferred by the President of India in May 2018.

BCCL Chairman Indu Jain Gets Lifetime Contribution to Media Award

- i. Indu Jain**, chairman of **Bennett, Coleman & Co**, India's largest media house, has received the **All India Management Association's (AIMA's)** annual award for lifetime contribution to media.
- ii.** AIMA, which recognises achievers who have made a fundamental difference to society through its annual **Managing India Awards**, conferred on Jain the award for managing the Times Group.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Indu Jain has received the Padma Bhushan in 2016.

Egyptian Photographer Mahmoud Abu Zeid Wins UNESCO Press Freedom Prize

- i. Jailed Egyptian photographer Mahmoud Abu Zeid**, popularly known as Shawkan won the **2018 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO)**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize was established in 1997 by UNESCO in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist.
- **France's Audrey Azoulay- 11th DG of UNESCO, Headquarters- Paris, France.**

Anushka Sharma to Get Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award

- i. Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma** will be awarded the **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award** for her successful movies as a producer.
- ii.** The award will be given by an organisation called Dadasaheb Phalke Foundation, a Mumbai-based organisation, which is different from the Government of India instituted Dadasaheb Phalke Award, awarded during National Awards ceremony held annually in New Delhi.

Late Veteran Actor Vinod Khanna Awarded Dadasaheb Phalke Award

i. Veteran Hindi film actor Shri Vinod Khanna was awarded the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** for his **contribution to Indian Cinema**. This was announced during the 65th National Film Awards.

ii. Some of the other prominent winners in various categories for this year National Film Awards included Assamese movie ‘**Village Rockstars**’ in Best Feature Film category and ‘**Baahubali - The Conclusion**’ in the Best Popular Film providing Wholesome Entertainment category. **The Feature Film Central panel was headed by Shekhar Kapur.**

Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018: Complete List Of Winners

Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018 **honoured the individuals from the entertainment industry for their outstanding contribution towards the growth and development of cinema and/or television.**

Here's the complete list of the winners of the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018:

S.No.	Category	Winner
1.	Best actor (male)	Shahid Kapoor
2.	Best actor people's choice award	Ranveer Singh
3.	Entertainer of the year	Kartik Aryan
4.	Best actress (critics)	Aditi Rao Hydari
5.	Lifetime achievement award	Simi Garewal
6.	Pride of Indian cinema	Sanjay Dutt
7.	Best director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari

CSIR Bags National Intellectual Property Award 2018

i. The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** is awarded the **National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018** in the category “**Top R&D Institution / Organization for Patents and Commercialization**”.

ii. Dr Girish Sahni, DG, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR received the award at the hands of Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry, at a function organized by the Indian Intellectual Property Office and Confederation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (CII) in New Delhi, to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day (26th April).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is a contemporary R&D organization.
- It has been ranked 9th in the world amongst the 1207 government institutions, with an overall global ranking of 75 in the world, covering 5250 institutions.

Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards 2018 Announced

i. Bollywood actors Bhumi Pednekar, Sonam Kapoor and Akshay Kumar bagged the best actress and best actor awards respectively at the Dadasaheb Phalke awards, given by Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation, held in Mumbai.

ii. Manisha Koirala won the ‘Most Versatile Actress’ award. **Veteran actor-director Rakesh Roshan** was given the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the industry as an actor, producer and a director.

Gujarati Poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra Chosen for Saraswati Samman 2017

- i. **Gujarati poet, playwright and academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra** was selected for **2017 Saraswati Samman** for his collection of verses (poetry) titled “**Vakhar**” published in 2009. It was 27 edition of the award.
- ii. Sitanshu Yashaschandra was born in 1941 in Gujarat’s Bhuj district. He is also a recipient of the Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi Award.

Sports

ISSF Junior World Cup: Muskan Bhanwala Wins Gold

- i. **Indian shooter Muskan Bhanwala** clinched the **gold medal in women’s 25m pistol event** at the **ISSF Junior World Cup** in Sydney, Australia. The 16-year-old Muskan beaten **China’s Qin Sihang** and **Thailand’s Kanyakorn Hirunphoem**.
- ii. India thus upstaged China with 22 medals, including nine gold. India has also five silver and eight bronze medals.

Mithali Raj Adjudged ‘Sportsperson of the Year’

- i. **Indian women’s cricket team captain Mithali Raj** was adjudged ‘**Sportsperson of the Year**’ while ace shuttlers **Kidambi Srikanth** and **P V Sindhu** bagged the **best senior male and female athletes** at the **Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017** in Hyderabad.
- ii. Former Indian cricketer **VVS Laxman** presented ‘**best coach of the year**’ award to **Pullela Gopichand**, who received this award for the second time in a row. Triple Olympian and former national **Hockey player N Mukesh Kumar** was honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement award** at the event.

Kerala Lifts Their 6th Santosh Trophy

- i. **Kerala** has lifted their sixth **Santosh Trophy Football title**. In a thrilling final at the **Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata**.
- ii. Kerala held their nerves to beat defending champions and **32-time winners Bengal** via penalty shootout. Locked 2-2 after extra time, Kerala goalkeeper **V Mithun** put up a stellar show in the tie-breaker to help his side win 4-2.

Miami Open 2018- Complete List Of Winners

The Miami Open, sometimes known as the Miami Masters, is an annual tennis tournament for men and women currently held in Florida,

Here is the complete list of Miami Open 2018 Title:

S.No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	John Isner (USA)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)
2.	Women's Singles	Sloane Stephens (USA)	Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)

Commonwealth Games 2018 Starts at Gold Coast in Australia

- i. The 21st edition of the Commonwealth Games begun in Gold Coast, Australia, with a colourful opening ceremony.
- ii. Carrara Stadium has been chosen as the venue to host the opening ceremony. These Games marked the 5th time that Australia has hosted the games. India was represented at the opening ceremony by a contingent of over 200 athletes who were led by flag-bearer P V Sindhu.

Weight Lifter P. Gururaja Wins Silver

- i. On the first day of competitions at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018, in Australia, India began their campaign with a Silver Medal in Weightlifting. In the 56 kilogram category, P Gururaja lifted a total weight of 249 kg to finish second in the event.
- ii. The 25-year old Gururaja equalled his personal best. Malaysia took the Gold, while Sri Lanka settled for the Bronze.

Mirabai Chanu Wins India's First Gold Medal

- i. Weightlifter and current world champion Mirabai Chanu has clinched India's first gold medal of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Mirabai Chanu becomes the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018.
- ii. After finishing with the best lift of 86 kg in the snatch round, the 23-year-old finished with a total score of 196 points. She competed in the 48 kg category.

Weightlifter Sanjita Chanu Wins India's 2nd Gold Medal

- i. Weightlifter Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu has delivered India its second gold medal of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast City, Australia by dominating the women's 53kg event.
- ii. The defending champion, Loa Dika Toua of Papua New Guinea, claimed silver with a total lift of 182 and bronze went to Canada's Rachel Leblanc-Bazinet who finished with a combined effort of 181kg.

Weightlifter Sathish Sivalingam bags third gold for country

- i. Weightlifter Sathish Sivalingam won India's third gold medal in the ongoing 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia. In the process, the 25-year-old also retained the title he won in the event at the 2014 Games in Glasgow, Scotland with a total lift of 317 kg.
- ii. India has so far won 3 Gold, One Silver, and one bronze, and all the medals have come from the weightlifting arena.

CWG 2018- Deepak Lather Becomes Youngest Weightlifter to Win Medal

- i. Teenager Deepak Lather became the youngest Indian (18 Yrs old) weightlifter to claim a Commonwealth Games medal, clinching a bronze in the men's 69kg category.
- ii. He held the 62kg category national record at 15.

Mithali Raj Becomes Most Capped Player in Women's ODIs

- i. Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has become the most capped player in women's ODI cricket after turning out for the 192nd time against England.
- ii. Raj, who is also the highest run-getter in WODIs, overtook former England captain Charlotte Edwards, who had appeared in 191 WODIs. Indian fast bowler Jhulan Goswami is the third-most capped WODI player.

Sebastian Vettel Wins Bahrain Grand Prix

i. **Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel** won his second Grand Prix in as many races, at the **Bahrain Grand Prix**, while **Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas** finished second by just **0.699 seconds**.

ii. Meanwhile, reigning world champion Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton finished third.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Bahrain Capital-** Manama, **Currency-** Bahraini dinar.

Jitu Rai and Mehuli Ghosh Breaks CWG Record

i. **Jitu Rai** broke the games record to **claim the gold medal** by some distance in **men's 10m air pistol**, at the **ongoing 21st Commonwealth Games**. Om Prakash Mitharval bagged bronze in the same event. **Australia's Kerry Bell** secured the silver medal, having managed to topple Mitharval from the second position.

ii. **India's 17-year-old shooter Mehuli Ghosh** set a Commonwealth Games joint record to **win silver in the women's 10m Air Rifle event**. Ghosh and eventual gold medallist **Singapore's Martina Lindsay Veloso** both ended with record score following which the winner was decided by a shoot-off. India's 25-year-old shooter Apurvi Chandela won a bronze medal in the same event.

India Win Badminton Team Gold for 1st Time in CWG History

i. **India clinched their first-ever badminton mixed team event gold in Commonwealth Games history** after defeating defending champions Malaysia 3-1 in the final at Gold Coast.

ii. India's previous best performance in mixed team event at CWG was a silver-medal finish in the 2010 edition. **Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth represented India** in singles' matches of the five-member team event.

Indian Men's TT Team Wins Gold

i. **India defeated Nigeria to clinch gold in the men's table tennis team event** at the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 2006.

ii. With this, India joined England to bag second-most table tennis gold medals (5) at CWG. This is the first time that India have won both men's and women's TT team events at a single CWG edition.

Weightlifter Punam Yadav Wins 5th Gold For India

i. **India's weightlifter Punam Yadav** won gold in the **Women's 69kg weightlifting category**. Yadav lifted a combined total of 222kg (100 snatch and 122 clean and jerk) and **defeated England's Sarah Davies** her closest competitor to take **her second medal at the Commonwealth Games**.

ii. This was **India's fifth gold medal in the ongoing games**. **Venkat Rahul Ragala** earned **India the fourth Gold medal** after lifting 338 kilograms in the Men's 85 kg category.

Indian Women's TT Team Wins Gold

i. **India** has bagged three more Gold, one Silver and two bronze medals at the **21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast** on the fourth day. Indian women's **Table Tennis team won their first ever Gold Medal** defeating Singapore.

ii. **Manika Batra** led Table tennis team's victory was historic as **Singapore had never lost since 2002**.

Heena Sidhu Wins Gold in 25m Pistol Event

i. **Indian shooter Heena Sidhu** set **Commonwealth Games record** to win gold in **women's 25m pistol shooting event**. This is Sidhu's second medal at CWG 2018, after winning silver in women's 10m air pistol.

ii. Another Indian shooter Annu Singh came sixth in the same event. With this result, **India has won three golds** and overall eight medals in shooting.

CWG 2018: Manu Bhaker Claims 10m Pistol Gold

i. **India's 16-year-old Manu Bhaker won the gold** in women's **10 air pistol** while Heena Sidhu staged a remarkable recovery to secure silver at the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.

ii. Bhaker shot 240.9 to **break the Commonwealth Games record**, finishing well ahead of her senior teammate Sidhu, who aggregated 234. The bronze medal went to Australia's Elena Galiabovitch who ended with 214.9.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Manu Bhaker bagged gold medals at the 2018 ISSF World Cup in **Guadalajara, Mexico**.

Leander Paes becomes most successful player in Davis Cup

i. Indian tennis' ageless wonder **Leander Paes** became the most successful doubles player in the history of **Davis Cup** as he combined with **Rohan Bopanna** to not only grab a record **43rd win** but also bring the country back in the tie **against China**.

ii. Forced to play together by AITA, **44-year-old Paes and Bopanna** downed a fighting **Chinese pair of Mo Xin Gong and Ze Zhang** in the do-or-die doubles rubber of the Asia/Oceania Group-I tie.

Shooter Shreyasi Singh Wins 12th Gold

i. **Indian shooter Shreyasi Singh** won the **women's double trap gold** in a shoot-off after scoring 96 points to take India's gold medal tally at the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018 to 12.

ii. This was her second CWG medal after having claimed a silver at the 2014 Glasgow Games. Another Indian shooter Varsha Varman finished fourth in the event, scoring 86 points.

India's Kidambi Srikanth Becomes World No. 1 Badminton Player

i. **Kidambi Srikanth** has become the **first Indian male badminton player** to attain the world number one ranking since Prakash Padukone in the 1980s.

ii. Srikanth had become the first-ever Indian to win four Superseries titles in a year in 2017. It helped India win gold at the mixed team event at the Commonwealth Games for the first time ever.

Sushil Kumar Wins Gold in Wrestling

i. **Indian wrestler and Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar** bagged his **third straight Commonwealth Games gold medal** after winning the **men's Freestyle 74 kg event**.

ii. The 34-year-old wrestler won the final 10-0, having dominated all previous opponents with scorelines of 11-0, 10-0, and 4-0. Sushil has a silver and a bronze in Olympics and was crowned world champion in 2010.

Rahul Aware Wins India's 1st Wrestling Gold

i. **Rahul Aware** bagged **India's first wrestling gold medal** at the Commonwealth Games 2018 after beating Canada's Steven Takahashi in the final of men's Freestyle 57 kg event.

ii. Before the final, the 26-year-old had claimed two dominating victories with the scorelines 11-0 and 10-0, while he defeated Pakistan's Muhammad Bilal 12-8 in the semi-final.

CWG 2018: Tejaswini Sawant Wins India's 5th Shooting Gold

i. **Tejaswini Sawant** won **India its fifth shooting gold medal** at the **2018 Commonwealth Games**, winning the **women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Finals** in Gold Coast, Australia.

ii. This was 37-year-old Tejaswini's second medal at the 2018 edition, after winning silver at the women's 50m Rifle Prone. India's Anjum Moudgil won silver at the event, after having topped qualification.

CWG 2018: Anish Bhanwala Becomes India's Youngest CWG Gold Medalist

i. **Fifteen-year-old shooter Anish Bhanwala** became India's youngest gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games, winning the **men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Finals** with a record score at Gold Coast, Australia.

ii. India's Neeraj Kumar stood fifth at the event. Anish, who is participating in his first Commonwealth Games, won gold at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney 2017.

Naman Tanwar Wins India's 1st Boxing Medal

i. **Nineteen-year-old Naman Tanwar** won **India its first boxing medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games**, winning a bronze in the men's 91 kg category.

ii. Naman lost out to Australia's Jason Whateley in the semifinal of the event to secure the bronze. India has won a total of 35 medals, including 16 golds, 8 silver and 11 bronze medals so far.

Bajrang Punia Wins His 1st CWG Gold

i. **Wrestler Bajrang Punia** won his **first Commonwealth Games gold medal**, defeating Wales' Kane Charig by technical superiority in the men's freestyle 65 kg final in Gold Coast, Australia.

ii. This is India's fifth medal in wrestling in this edition, with Rahul Aware and Sushil Kumar registering gold wins earlier. Bajrang had won a silver medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Sanjeev Rajput Clinches Gold in Shooting

i. **Shooter Sanjeev Rajput** won the **men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions** with a Games record at the 2018 Commonwealth Games to seven.

ii. The gold was Rajput's third successive medal at the CWG, after having bagged silver and bronze in the 2014 and 2010 editions respectively. India's Chain Singh stood fifth in the same event.

Neeraj Chopra, 1st Indian to Win Gold in Javelin Throw

i. **Neeraj Chopra** became the **first Indian javelin thrower** to claim a **gold medal at the Commonwealth Games**, with a season's best effort of 86.47m in the final.

ii. **The 20-year-old junior world champion** had made the final after achieving the qualifying mark in his very first throw. Neeraj was favourite for gold after his 85.94m throw in March 2018 at Patiala during the Federation Cup National Championships.

Mary Kom, 1st Indian Woman to Win CWG Boxing Gold

i. **Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom** has become the **first Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games**.

ii. Mary Kom achieved the feat after defeating **Northern Ireland's Kristina O'Hara** in the **45-48kg category final at Gold Coast, Australia**. The 35-year-old boxer from Manipur is participating in her maiden Commonwealth Games.

Kidambi Srikanth Wins his 1st CWG Silver

i. **World number one Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth** won his career's first Commonwealth Games singles Silver medal.

ii. In the final, the 25-year-old Indian lost to **Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei**, who won his career's third Commonwealth Games singles gold medal. Notably, only three Indian shuttlers have won CWG men's singles title– Prakash Padukone (1978), Syed Modi (1982) and Parupalli Kashyap (2014).

Saina Nehwal Wins Historic 2nd CWG Gold

- i. **Shuttler Saina Nehwal** defeated **world number three PV Sindhu** in the first-ever all-Indian women's singles final at the Commonwealth Games.
- ii. With this, Nehwal claimed her second Commonwealth Games singles gold medal after having won it at the 2010 Delhi Games. **Nehwal is the only Indian female badminton player to win singles gold** in Commonwealth Games history.

CWG 2018 Concludes: Important Indian Highlights

- i. **India finished third** in the medals tally at the **Commonwealth Games 2018** with **66 medals (26 Gold, 20 Silver and 20 Bronze)**.
- ii. Only **Australia with 198 medals and England with 136** were ahead. India's 26 Golds was also third, behind Australia (80) and England (45). India's combined 66 medals is its third-best showing in the history of the Games.
- iii. India's best remains 101 in New Delhi (2010), followed by 69 in Manchester (2002).
- iv. India's best Gold tally of 38 came at home in 2010.
- v. **India's maximum medals came from shooting (16)**, followed by wrestling (12) and weightlifting (9).
- vi. The first CWG held in 1930 in Hamilton (Canada).
- vii. The next Commonwealth Games are to be held in Birmingham (US)

Indian Swimmer Double Crosses Bangla Channel, Sets World Record

- i. Pune-based 17-year-old swimmer **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar** has set a world record to double cross the **Bangla Channel**.
- ii. Shelar, is the first person to swim to and fro from Saint Martin's Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh also known as the Bangla Channel. He has completed the journey of 32.2 kilometres in 9 hours and 10 minutes.

Daniel Ricciardo Wins Chinese Grand Prix 2018

- i. **The 2018 Chinese Grand Prix** was a Formula One motor race that took place at the Shanghai International Circuit in **Shanghai, China**. Red Bull's **Daniel Ricciardo** won the race ahead of Valtteri Bottas and Kimi Raikkonen.
- ii. The race was the third round of the 2018 FIA Formula One World Championship and marked the fifteenth time that the Chinese Grand Prix has been run as a round of the Formula One World Championship.

Official Mascot of FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 Unveiled

- i. **'Son of Dreams'** was unveiled as **official Mascot of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019** in China. The selection of Son of Dreams as China 2019's Official Mascot was the culmination of a unique process by FIBA.
- ii. The mascot finalists were **Chinese dragon ('Son of Dream')**, a Siberian tiger ('Speed Tiger') and a lion ('Qiu Qiu'). The tournament will take place in eight Chinese cities from August 31 until September 15.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi, **President-** Xi Jinping.

Rafael Nadal Win 11th Monte Carlo Masters Title

- i. **Rafael Nadal of Spain** has won the **11th Monte Carlo Masters title** by defeating **Japan's Kei Nishikori** in final to retain the world number one ranking.
- ii. He has become the first male tennis player in the Open Era to win the same title 11 times in his career with his 76th ATP Tour title. Nadal also overtook Serbia's Novak Djokovic to clinch most Masters 1000 titles (31).

Liverpool's Egyptian Star Mohamed Salah Crowned PFA Player of the Year

- i. **Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah** has become the **first Egyptian player to be named Professional Footballers' Association player of the year**.
- ii. The 25-year-old, who was bought for £36.9 million by the English club, has already scored 41 goals this season.

Rafael Nadal Wins 11th Barcelona Title

- i. **Rafael Nadal** has won his **11th Barcelona Open title** on clay. He defeated the 19-year-old Greek **Stefanos Tsitsipas** to clinch the title. Nadal who also won his 11th Monte Carlos Masters title

recently. This was his 55th title on clay - and the 77th overall in his illustrious career.
 ii. He was the first Greek to make it to an ATP final since Nicholas Kalogeropoulos in 1973.

CWG 2018: Complete List Of All The Medals Won By India

S. No.	Winners	Sports Category
<i>Weightlifting</i>		
1.	Chanu Saikhom MIRABAI	Women's 48kg
2.	Venkat Rahul RAGALA	Men's 85kg
3.	Sanjita Chanu KHUMUKCHAM	Women's 53kg
4.	Sathish Kumar SIVALINGAM	Men's 77kg
5.	Punam YADAV	Women's 69kg
<i>Shooting</i>		
6.	Manu BHAKER	Women's 10m Air Pistol
7.	Jitu RAI	Men's 10m Air Pistol
8.	Anish BHANWALA	Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol
9.	Sanjeev RAJPUT	Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
10.	Heena SIDHU	Women's 25m Pistol
11.	Tejaswini SAWANT	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
12.	Shreyasi SINGH	Women's Double Trap
<i>Wrestling</i>		
13.	Kumar SUSHIL	Men's Freestyle 74 kg
14.	SUMIT	Men's Freestyle 125 kg
15.	Rahul AWARE	Men's Freestyle 57 kg
16.	BAJRANG	Men's Freestyle 65 kg
17.	Vinesh PHOGAT	Women's Freestyle 50 kg
<i>Boxing</i>		
18.	Gaurav SOLANKI	Men's 52kg
19.	Vikas KRISHAN	Men's 75kg
20.	MC Mary KOM	Women's 45-48kg
<i>Table-Tennis</i>		
21.	India	Men's Team
22.	Manika BATRA	Women's Singles
23.	India	Women's Team
<i>Badminton</i>		
24.	Saina NEHWAL	Women's Singles
25.	India	Mixed Team Event
<i>Athletics</i>		
26.	Neeraj CHOPRA	Men's Javelin Throw

Barcelona Clinches its 25th La Liga Title

i. **Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi** netted a hat-trick as Barcelona defeated Deportivo to clinch the **La Liga for the seventh time in 10 years and the 25th time in their history.**
 ii. Barcelona also extended their league record unbeaten streak to 34 matches. Barcelona has 86 points after 34 matches and are 15 points ahead of third-placed Real Madrid.

56th Belgrade International Boxing Tournament in Serbia

i. **56th edition of Belgrade International Boxing Championship** was held at **Belgrade in Serbia.** Indian boxers won **three gold, five silver and five bronze medals at this championship.** Among Gold medal winners, **Sumit Sangwan** won the final bout by defeating Ecuador's Castillo Torres in

91 kg category.

ii. Indian woman boxer Nikhat Zareen won the Gold medal in 51 kg by defeating Greece's Koutsoeorgopoulou Aikaterini in the final bout. **Himanshu Sharma (49 kg)** too won Gold medal by defeating Algeria's Mohammed Touareg in the final bout.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Serbia Capital-** Belgrade, **Currency-** Serbian dinar.

Obituaries

Film Director C.V. Rajendran Passes Away

i. Tamil film director C.V. Rajendran, who was part of late C.V. Sridhar's unit died aged 81.

ii. His career as a director began with the film *Anubhavam Pudhumai*.

Former Manipur CM R K Dorendra Singh Passes Away

i. Former Manipur Chief Minister R K Dorendra Singh passed away in Imphal.

ii. He was 83. Dorendra Singh had been chief minister of the state four times between 1974 to 1993. Before becoming the chief minister, he was the Speaker of Manipur Assembly.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Manipur CM-** Nongthombam Biren Singh, **Governor-** Dr. Najma A. Heptulla.

Veteran Journalist S Nihal Singh Passes Away

i. Veteran journalist S Nihal Singh passed at the age of 88 following an illness. He was suffering from kidney-related ailments.

ii. Nihal Singh had worked with several leading newspapers including The Indian Express, The Statesman and Khaleej Times.

Former US 1st Lady Barbara Bush Passes Away

i. Former US first lady Barbara Bush passed away at the age of 92. She was the first lady of the USA from 1989 to 1993.

ii. She was the mother of another President, George W. Bush and one-time presidential aspirant and former Florida governor Jeb Bush.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The USA 45th President-** Donald Trump, **Currency-** US Dollar, **Capital-** Washington DC.

Veteran Journalist T V R Shenoy Passes Away

i. Veteran journalist and columnist TVR Shenoy passed away at Manipal Hospital in Karnataka. Shenoy was famous for his deeper analysis and narrative style writing in his illustrious career.

ii. Shenoy was awarded the prestigious **Padma Bhushan award in 2003**.

Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar Passes Away

i. Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar passed away. He was 94. Mr Sachar has since his retirement been associated with the People's Union for Civil Liberties, a rights group.

ii. He was the chairperson of a committee set up by the previous UPA government to look at the social, economic and educational status of Muslims in India.

Indian Animation Expert Bhimsain Khurana Passes Away

i. Indian animation pioneer and multiple **National Award winner Bhimsain Khurana** had passed away. He was 82. Khurana was known for films like "Gharaonda" and for iconic animation shorts like "Ek Anek Ekta".

ii. His unforgettable work includes "Ek chidiya, anek chidiya" song. In 1970, he made his debut with his first animation short "The Climb", which earned him the **Silver Hugo Award in the Chicago Film Festival**.

World's Oldest Person Passes Away at Age of 117

i. The world's oldest person, a 117-year-old Japanese woman named **Nabi Tajima** had passed away. Tajima, born on Aug. 4, 1900, was the last known person born in the 19th century.

ii. She became the world's oldest person after the death of **Violet Brown of Jamaica**, also at the age of 117.

According to the U.S.-based Gerontology Research Group, another Japanese woman, **Chiyo Miyako, is now the world's oldest person.**

Important Days with theme

World Autism Awareness Day- 2 April

- i. **The United Nations General Assembly** unanimously declared **2 April as World Autism Awareness Day** to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.
- ii. The theme for WAAD 2018 is "**Empowering Women and Girls with Autism**".

National Maritime Day: 5 April

- i. **The 55th edition of National Maritime Day** was celebrated all over India. NMD is celebrated on 5th April every year **since 1964**.
- ii. The theme for National Maritime Day 2018 is: '**Indian Shipping – An Ocean of opportunity**'.

World Health Day- 7th April

- i. **The World Health Day** is a global health awareness day organized globally on **7th April**. World Health Day is one of the eight official health campaigns which are marked by the World Health Organization.
- ii. With an aim to spread awareness about health and well being, the first-ever World Health Day was observed in 1948 by the WHO. The theme of World Health Day is: **Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere**. The slogan is "**Health for All**".

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World Haemophilia Day- 17 April

- i. **Every April 17 World Haemophilia Day** is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The theme of WHD 2018 is '**Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger**'.
- ii. World Haemophilia Day was started in 1989 by the **World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH)** which chose to bring the community together on April 17 in honour of **WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday**.

World Heritage Day- 18 April

- i. **Every year, 18th April** is celebrated Worldwide as **World Heritage Day** to create awareness about Heritage among communities. This year the theme is '**Heritage for Generations**'.
- ii. The theme emphasizes on inter-generational transfer of knowledge. In India, World heritage day will be celebrated at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **UNESCO-** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- **France's Audrey Azoulay-** 11th DG of UNESCO, **Headquarters-** Paris, France.

World Earth Day: 22 April

- i. **The World Earth Day (WED)** is celebrated on **22nd April** not only to spread awareness of the need for conservation but also to take action to protect the environment.
- ii. This day was first celebrated on **April 22, 1970** and has ever since been an annual event. The theme for World Earth Day 2018 is '**End Plastic Pollution**'. Earth Day 2018 is dedicated to providing the information and inspiration needed to fundamentally.

World Book and Copyright Day: 23 April

i. World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated globally this year on **23 April** to provide the people with many ideas and plans to make them aware of the situation and condition in the World. **The World Book Capital for 2018 is Athens, Greece.**

ii. 23 April is a symbolic date for world literature. It is on this date in 1616 that Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- 23 April was first proclaimed as World Book and Copyright Day by UNESCO in 1995.

National Panchayati Raj Day: 24 April

i. The nation celebrates the **National Panchayati Raj Diwas (24th Aril)** as this date marks a defining moment in the history of decentralization of political power to the grassroots level.

ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Mandla in Madhya Pradesh on the National Panchayati Raj Day. He launched the **Rashtriya Gramin Swaraj Abhiyan**, at a public meeting, and addressed Panchayati Raj representatives across the country.

World Malaria Day: 25 April

i. World Malaria Day is observed on **April 25 every year** to recognise the global effort to control malaria and also to spread awareness about the around the world. The theme for this year's Malaria Day is **'Ready to beat Malaria'**.

ii. The theme emphasises the collective energy and commitment of the global malaria community that is uniting all around the world to curb the disease and working towards the common goal to making the world malaria free.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Malaria is caused by the *Plasmodium parasites*, which is spread to people through the bite of an infected female *Anopheles mosquito*, also known as malaria vectors.

World Intellectual Property Day: 26 April

i. World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on **26th of April** to learn about the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity.

ii. The theme for WIPD 2018 is **'Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity'**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Intellectual property (IP)** refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.