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National

Jharkhand To Set Up Country's 1st Khadi Mall

- i. Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das** announced that the first 'Khadi Mall' of the country will be opened in Jharkhand. The land in the **Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC)** campus will be made available to the Khadi Board to develop the country's first Khadi mall.
- ii.** The artisans would be provided technological aid for value addition in their products, while rural, urban and tourism 'haats' will provide them markets for their goods.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Jharkhand CM- Raghubar Das, Governor- Droupadi Murmu.**

India To Host International Union of Food Science and Technology 2018

- i. The International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST)**, the global voice of food science and technology in association with **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)** as adhering body, **announced the 19th edition** of its prestigious global event to be held in **Navi Mumbai, India in October 2018.**
- ii.** The five-day event will bring together researchers, academicians, professionals, policymakers and industry leaders from across the globe to showcase innovation, exchange breakthrough ideas and drive policy issues. The focal theme for this edition of the prestigious congress is **25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe and Diverse Foods.**

Global Innovation Index: Switzerland Tops, India Ranks 57th

- i. The Global Innovation Index (GII)** has ranked **India as the 57th most innovative nation** in the world. The country has improved its ranking from 60th position in 2017. India has been improving steadily since it was ranked 81st in 2015.
- ii.** The **GII** is being developed jointly by **Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead** and the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.** **GII** ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators. **The Top 3 Countries in Global Innovation Index are:**
1. Switzerland,
 2. The Netherlands,
 3. Sweden.

India Becomes World's 6th Largest Economy: World Bank

- i. India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017.**
- ii. India's gross domestic product (GDP)** amounted to **\$2.597 trillion** at the end of 2017, against \$2.582 trillion for France. **The world's top 3 economies are:**
1. The United States,
 2. China,
 3. Japan.

Lieutenant Governor Does Not Have Independent Powers: Rules SC

- i. The Supreme Court held that Lieutenant Governor does not have independent decision-making powers, and is bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.**
- ii.** The apex court was ruling on a batch of appeals filed by the Delhi government challenging the Delhi High Court's order holding the LG as the administrative head of the national capital.
- iii.** The judgement pronounced in the court by **Chief Justice Dipak Misra**, who was heading a five-judge Constitution bench, also held that the LG cannot act as an "**obstructionist**".

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Delhi CM-** Arvind Kejriwal, **Lieutenant Governor-** Anil Bajjal.

Andhra Pradesh Tops Ease Of Doing Business Rankings

- i.** For the second year in a row, **Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as the easiest Indian state to do business in**, according to a survey. The Chandrababu Naidu-led state took the pole position in the rankings for Ease of Doing Business that was **released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in Delhi.
- ii.** Telangana came second followed by Haryana, Jharkhand and Gujarat. The north-eastern state of Meghalaya was ranked lowest at 36th.

Election Commission of India Launches 'cVigil' App

- i.** **Chief Election Commissioner of India Mr Om Prakash Rawat**, along with the Election Commissioners **Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa**, launched an **Android-based mobile application named 'cVigil'** for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.
- ii.** cVIGIL will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls.

Bhutan PM DASHO Tshering Tobgay In India On 3-Day Visit

- i.** **Prime Minister of Bhutan DASHO Tshering Tobgay arrived** in New Delhi on the **three-day visit to India**. During the visit, Prime Minister of Bhutan will call on President Ram Nath Kovind and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ii.** India and Bhutan enjoy unique ties of friendship and cooperation, which are characterized by utmost trust and mutual understanding. This year both countries are commemorating **the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Bhutan Capital-** Thimphu, **Currency-** Indian Rupee, Bhutanese ngultrum.

Delhi Government Launches 'Happiness Curriculum' For School Students

- i.** **The Delhi government** launched **'Happiness Curriculum'** for school students up to class 8. The Dalai Lama, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister and education department in-charge Manish Sisodia were present at the occasion.
- ii.** The 'Happiness Curriculum' was termed as the third stage of reforms in the education sector initiated by his government after infrastructure development and motivation of teachers at the government schools.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Anil Bajjal is the present Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

NRL Becomes 1st Oil PSU To Introduce Online Legal Compliance

- i.** **Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam** has become the **first oil public sector undertaking (PSU)** to adopt an online legal compliance system by **introducing 'Legatrix'**.
- ii.** The cloud-based compliance management system was inaugurated by Managing Director S K Barua at the company's corporate office in Guwahati, recently. This initiative will boost up NRL's contribution towards the Digital India Mission and induce a greater transparency in its operations.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- 'Legatrix' is a one-stop solution for effectively managing the organisation's legal and regulatory compliances through monitoring control at different levels.

Major General VD Dogra Becomes 1st Serving Indian Army Officer to Complete Ironman Competition

- i.** **Major General VD Dogra** became the **first serving Indian Army officer and the only General across the world to have completed a gruelling 'Ironman' competition held in Austria**. The Ironman is an

international triathlon consisting of three consecutive events- 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km cycling and 42.2 km of running (a full marathon).

ii. It is considered the toughest one-day sporting event in the world. The **competitors have to complete the events in sequence within 17 hours** to earn the title of 'Ironman'. Maj Gen Dogra completed the event in 14 hours and 21 minutes.

Bharti Infratel Gets CCI Nod For Merger With Indus Towers

i. **The Bharti Infratel**, a mobile infrastructure company, has got the approval of **competition watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI)** for **merging its operations with Indus Towers**.

ii. The proposed merger values Indus Towers at an enterprise valuation of **Rs71,500 crore**, and will create one of the largest mobile tower entities worldwide with 1.63 lakh towers in all 22 telecom circles. The combined company will own 100% of Indus Towers.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established on 14th October 2003.
- It headquarters in New Delhi.

Bhitarkanika National Park Becomes Largest Habitat Of Endangered Estuarine Crocodiles

i. **The Bhitarkanika National Park (Odisha)** has become the **largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country** with a record number of their nesting sites spotted in it. Altogether 101 nesting sites of estuarine crocodiles were found this time by enumerators.

ii. The nesting spots had registered 25% rise this year. At least 1698 crocodiles, including albino species, were counted this year along the water-bodies of Mahanadi delta region, while the figure recorded last year stood at 1682.

Bengaluru To Get India's 1st e-Waste Plant

i. **Union minister of chemicals and Fertilisers Ananth Kumar** announced that **the country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru, Karnataka**. The unit is in keeping with the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan drive**.

ii. A 2016 study by **Assocham and KPMG** ranked **India among the top five countries in e-waste generation**, with an estimated 1.85 million tonnes generated annually.

iii. According to the study, computers comprised 70% of the total e-waste and telecommunication equipment accounted for 12%. **Bengaluru ranked third after Mumbai and Delhi** and generated nearly 92,000 tonnes of e-waste annually.

RBI Licences Bank of China To Operate In India

i. **The Reserve Bank of India licensed Bank of China to operate in India**. This decision comes as part of the commitment made by PM Modi to the Chinese leadership. Bank of China will now have operating offices in India. **This will be the second Chinese bank to be operating in the country**.

ii. As on 1 January, 2018 **Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd** was operating in India along with 45 other foreign banks. **The United Kingdom's Standard Chartered has the highest, 100 branches in India as of now**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Urjit Patel**- 24th Governor of RBI, **Headquarters-** Mumbai, **Established on-** 1st April 1935, in Kolkata.
- **Bank of China (BOC)** headquarters in Beijing.
- BOC was formally established in February 1912.

Telecom Department Clears Vodafone-Idea Merger With Riders

i. **The telecom ministry approved the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular Ltd.** that will create

the country's largest mobile services operator. The Department of Telecom has cleared the Vodafone-Idea merger, but both companies will have to meet conditions for final approval.

ii. The combined operations of Idea and Vodafone will create the country's largest telecom operator worth over \$23 billion. Vodafone will own 45.1% stake in the combined entity, while Kumar Mangalam Birla-led Aditya Birla Group and Idea shareholders would have 26% and 28.9%, respectively.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mr Manoj Sinha is the Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Communications.

Law Commission Recommends Regulating Betting

i. The Law Commission recommended that gambling and betting on sports, including cricket, be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

ii. The commission's report, '*Legal Framework: Gambling and Sports Betting including Cricket in India*', recommends a number of changes in the law for regulating betting and generating tax revenues from it.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Law Commission of India works under the Ministry of Law & Justice.

Animals Declared As 'Legal Persons' In Uttarakhand

i. In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of '*legal person or entity*' to the animals in the state. The HC stated that "they have a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person."

ii. The unique status was bestowed upon the state's animals by a division bench of judges comprising Justice Rajiv Sharma and Justice Lokpal Singh while issuing a series of directions to prevent cruelty against animals.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- In March 2017, the Uttarakhand High Court had accorded the status of '*living human entities*' to the Ganga and Yamuna, the two most sacred rivers of India.
- Uttarakhand CM- Trivendra Singh Rawat, Governor- Krishan Kant Paul.

Six Universities Granted 'Institute of Eminence' Status

i. The Union Government has granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status to six institutions including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.

ii. The decision was taken on the basis of the recommendations given by an Empowered Expert Committee (EEC).

Three Public Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:

1. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay,
2. IIT-Delhi,
3. IISc Bangalore.

Three Private Universities granted the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status:

1. Jio Institute by Reliance Foundation,
2. BITS Pilani,
3. Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

ISRO Successfully Carries Out Flight Tests For Crew Escape System

i. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out a flight test for a newly-designed **Crew Escape System**. According to ISRO, the first **'Pad Abort Test'** demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch pad.

ii. It was launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**. It was the first in a series of tests to ascertain the trustworthiness and efficiency of the Crew Escape System.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Dr K Sivan** is Chairman of ISRO.
- ISRO stands for **Indian Space Research Organization**.
- Headquarters of ISRO- **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

NSG Becomes 1st Central Force To Opt for e-Ticketing Instead of Railway Warrant

i. The National Security Guard will be the **first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant** under an agreement signed with the IRCTC.

ii. An MoU was signed between **the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and the NSG** at the headquarters of the special force (New Delhi). This system will eliminate the need for carrying railway warrants by the NSG personnel.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- NSG is Federal Contingency World Class Zero Error Force to deal with anti-terrorist activities in all its manifestations.
- It was established in **1984**.
- **Sudeep Lakhtakia** is the present Director General of NSG.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in On 4-Day Visit To India

i. South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in **New Delhi** evening on a **four-day visit to India**. He is being accompanied by **First Lady Kim Jung-sook** on his maiden visit to the nation.

ii. A **financing arrangement of 10 billion dollars has been set by the Korean side** for infrastructure development in India. Major items of India's exports to Korea are mineral fuels/oil distillates, cereals, iron and steel.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **South Korea Capital-** Seoul, **Currency-** South Korean won.

PM Modi Inaugurated World's Largest Mobile Factory In Noida

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited **Noida** and inaugurated the **New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at Noida**. Notably, it will be **one of the world's largest mobile factory**.

ii. With the beginning of this New Plant, India's Make In India and Skill India Will get a major Push in the country. Samsung has Invested close to 5,000 Crore Rupees in this plant and aims to Manufacture 12 Crore Mobile Handsets annually which will result in massive job creation.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Launched ISCF And ISCI Program

i. Mr Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched **India Smart Cities Fellowship (ISCF) and Internship (ISCI) program** that will provide the youth with an opportunity to experience the aspects of Urban planning and governance.

ii. 'Smart Cities Digital Payments Awards 2018' was also launched which is intended to promote 'Digital India' and ease of living for India's urban residents by promoting digital payments and encouraging Smart Cities to adopt innovative digital payments initiatives.

M. Venkaiah Naidu Becomes 1st Chairman of Rajya Sabha To Sign MOU

i. Rajya Sabha has, for the first time in 76 years since it came into being, **entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a foreign counterpart** for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue.

ii. Venkaiah Naidu has become the **first Chairman of Rajya Sabha to sign such an agreement** when he inked an MOU with the visiting **President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Bernard Makuza**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Rwanda Capital:** Kigali, **Currency:** Rwandan franc.

Indian Satyarup Siddhanta Scales World's Highest Volcano

- Satyarup Siddhanta has become the second Indian mountaineer** after Malli Mastan Babu to climb **Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world.**
- Ojos del Salado is a stratovolcano (a volcano built up of alternate layers of lava and ash) in the Andes on the **Argentina-Chile border and the highest active volcano in the world at 6,893 metres (22,615 ft).**

India's 1st Private UAV Factory To Come Up In Kota

- India's first private sector unit** for manufacturing **Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV)** and **light bulletproof vehicles (LBPV)** will be set up by **DCM Shriram Industries Group** on the campus of Shriram Rayons in **Kota, Rajasthan.**
- The new defence unit of Shriram Rayons in Kota is being set up under 'Make in India' initiative of the union government.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- General Bipin Rawat is the present and 27th Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army.

BSNL Launches India's 1st Internet Telephony Service To Enable Making Calls Without SIM

- State-run telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** unveiled the **country's first internet telephony service** that will allow users to **dial any telephone number in India through its mobile app.**
- Now BSNL customers will be able to make calls using the **company's mobile app "Wings"** to any phone number in the country. Using this service, BSNL customers will be able to make calls on any network in the country even by using BSNL wi-fi or any other service provider.

Railways Launched Its 1st Consolidated Bridge Management System

- The Railways** has launched its **first consolidated Bridge Management System**, a web-enabled IT application to store data on its one lakh 50 thousand bridges. **Railways Minister Piyush Goyal** launched the service in **New Delhi** for "**meaningful assimilation, analysis and dissemination of information related to various activities**" about its bridges.
- Mr Goyal also distributed awards to the Station Beautification competition. **Balharshah and Chandrapur railway stations in Maharashtra** from the Central Railway were awarded the **first prize.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- John Mathai was the first Railways Minister of Independent India.

Mukesh Ambani Dethrones Alibaba's Jack Ma As Asia's Richest Person

- Reliance Industries Chairman and India's richest person Mukesh Ambani** dethroned **Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba's Co-founder Jack Ma** to become **Asia's richest person** as **RIL shares hit an all-time high.**
- Ambani's net worth now stands at \$44.3 billion as compared to Jack Ma's \$44 billion wealth, **according to Bloomberg.** Ambani has added \$4 billion to his wealth this year.

ASI Lifts Ban On Photography At Protected Monuments

- The Archaeological Survey of India** decided to **allow photography within the premises of all centrally protected monuments/sites.**
- However, the 3 monuments/sites in which the photography would not be permitted are **Ajanta Caves and Leh Palace having paintings, and Mausoleum of Taj Mahal, Agra.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is a Government of India (Ministry of Culture) organisation responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country.

- It was founded in 1861 by the British Raj.

Haryana Top State In Per Capita Revenue Collection Under GST

i. Haryana has topped other states in per capita revenue collection under GST and is also the fourth highest generator of e-way bills in the country. The **Finance Minister of Haryana Capt.**

Abhimanyu claimed Haryana has widened the tax base by 82.22% and logged 19% hike in revenue collections.

ii. About 1.12 crore e-way bills were generated in Haryana between April 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018, catapulting the state to the position of **4th highest generator of e-way bills in the country.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

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

India Becomes 69th Shareholder of European Bank For Reconstruction & Development

i. India has become the 69th shareholder of the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**. This move paved the way for more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation.

ii. The Board of Governors voted unanimously in favour of the country's application. The EBRD aims to promote the private and entrepreneurial initiative in emerging Europe and invests in 38 emerging economies.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** is a multilateral development bank set up in 1991 after the fall of the Berlin Wall.
- Suma Chakrabarti is the President of EBRD.
- It headquarters in London, UK.

India Becomes Vice Chair Of Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation

i. India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years (from July 2018 to June 2020). The underlying Theme of the Inaugural Ceremony is **"Customs – Fostering Trade Facilitation"**.

ii. The WCO has divided its Membership into six Regions. Each of the six Regions is represented by a regionally elected Vice-Chairperson to the WCO Council. Being the Vice Chair of AP Region of WCO will enable India to take on the leadership role.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- World Customs Organization Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
- Kunio Mikuriya (Japan) is the Secretary-General of WCO.

RIL Becomes India's Largest Tax Payer In Private Sector

i. Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani at the Reliance Industries' **41st Annual General Meeting** announced that **Reliance is India's largest payer of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax in the private sector paying Rs.9844 crore in FY18.**

ii. Reliance has become the first Indian company to record PBDIT (Profit Before Depreciation Interest and Taxes) of over \$10 billion.

ONGC Board Approves Exiting Pawan Hans

i. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has approved **exiting its helicopter service provider Pawan Hans** by selling its entire 49% stake.

ii. The move will cut debt and consolidate resources in this core oil and gas business. ONGC wants its interest to be clubbed with the 51% government stake that is already on offer for sale.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shashi Shanker is the present Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC.

- It headquarters in New Delhi.

World's 1st And Cheapest Clean Drinking Water Project Launched In Bihar

i. The first of world's cheapest drinking water project was launched in Darbhanga district, Bihar. This was launched by Sulabh International, an organisation that introduced the concept of 'Sulabh Sauchalya' in the country.

ii. It would be managed by Self Help group of Darbhanga Nagar Nigam. With the help of this project, the people will easily be able to get pure and **clean water only in 50paise/litre.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Bihar CM-** Nitish Kumar, **Governor-** Satya Pal Malik.

President Gives Nod To Assam's Anti-Witch Hunting Bill

i. President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the **Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015**, converting it to an Act, almost three years after it was passed by the state Assembly.

ii. The Act, aimed at eliminating the superstition from the society, imposes a punishment of up to seven years and a fine of up to Rs. 5 lakh.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Assam CM-** Sarbanand Sonowal, **Governor-** Jagdish Mukhi.

Odisha To Get Country's 1st Skill Training Centre

i. Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan announced that the Centre is planning to set up one **National Skill Training Institute (NSTI)** in every State **to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country.** He laid the foundation stone of country's first such skill training institute in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

ii. The Centre's endeavour is yet another step to empower the youth of the State and make them job ready for industries. This will also help in addressing the issue of migration.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Odisha CM-** Naveen Patnaik, **Governor-** Ganeshi Lal.

IIT-Madras Unveils World's 1st Remote LEAP Microscope

i. IIT Madras has launched "world's first" remotely operatable microscope that would enable a precise atom-by-atom view of a material. The '**Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP)**' was developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions headed by IIT Madras.

ii. It was developed at a cost of Rs 40 crore. The microscope also enables a true three-dimensional (3D) atomic scale reconstruction which would impart a major thrust to research in nanotechnology, among other fields.

T-Hub To Host Country's 1st Defence Incubator

i. One of the country's first Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad, which is India's missile development centre and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries. The incubator will be housed at T-Hub.

ii. The incubator will be funded through the **Ministry's Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme.** Under the scheme research in the fields of Aerospace & Defence by MSMEs, start-ups, research institutions, educational institutions are to be funded. **The iDEX will be funded and managed by a Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Nirmala Sitharaman is the present Defence Minister of India.

10th Edition of Delhi Dialogue Begins in New Delhi

i. The 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue begins in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj delivered the keynote address of the two-day event. The theme of this event is *'Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Co-operation'*.

ii. Political leadership, policymakers, officials, diplomats, business leaders, think-tanks and academicians from India and ASEAN Member States will participate in the discussions. This is the first major event to be organised after the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit that was held in New Delhi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ASEAN stands for Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

RBI To Issue New Design Rs100 Denomination Banknote

i. The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of Dr Urjit R. Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

ii. The new denomination has **Motif of "RANI KI VAV"** on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage. **The base colour of the note is Lavender.** The dimension of the banknote will be **66 mm × 142 mm**. All the banknotes in the denomination of Rs100/- issued by the Reserve Bank in the earlier series will continue to be legal tender.

J&K's 1st All-Women Branch Inaugurated At Jammu And Kashmir Bank

i. Jammu & Kashmir's first all-women branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank was inaugurated. First Lady Usha Vohra e-inaugurated the first 'All-Women Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank' at a function organised at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

ii. Ms Vohra also launched special services and products designed exclusively for women clients of the bank, which included **Pink Gold Saving Scheme, Pink Platinum Saving Scheme, Special Loan Facility for Women Entrepreneurs, Pink Gold Debit Card and Pink Platinum Credit Card.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Parvez Ahmad is the chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

Two Plus Two Dialogue Between India and US To Be Held In New Delhi

i. US State Department has announced that the inaugural **'two-plus-two dialogue'** between **India and the United States** will be held in **New Delhi in September 2018**. Recently, the US had postponed the dialogue due to 'unavoidable reasons'.

ii. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary James Mattis will travel to India for the dialogue with **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.**

Myanmar Joins International Solar Alliance

i. Myanmar joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA), thus, becoming the **68th signatory to the Framework Agreement** of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.

ii. Myanmar Minister for International Cooperation, Kyaw Tin handed over the ISA Framework Agreement to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during a bilateral meeting on Delhi Dialogue 2018.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the first day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015.

Decisions In 28th Meeting of GST Council: Complete Highlights

i. The 28th meeting of GST Council was held in New Delhi. It reduced tax rates on more than 50 items and exempted **sanitary napkins, rakhis, stone, marble, wooden deities and Saal leaves from GST.** Finance Minister Piyush Goyal chaired the **28th GST Council meeting in New Delhi.**

ii. Highlights On the changes that have been made in the meeting:

1. GST on footwear priced below 1,000 rupees will attract **5% rate.** GST on imported urea and ethanol sold to oil companies for blending with petrol and diesel **has been reduced to 5%.**

2. GST rate on handbags, jewellery box, wooden box for paintings, artware of glass, stone endeavour, ornamental framed mirrors and handmade lamps **were reduced to 12%**.

3. Lithium-ion batteries, vacuum cleaners, food grinders, mixers, storage water heaters, hair dryers, hand dryers, paint, varnishes, water cooler, milk cooler, ice cream coolers, perfumes, toilet sprays and toilet preparation have been **brought to 18 from 28% slab**.

4. GST council has cleared **46 amendments which will be passed in Parliament**. The exemption limit for traders in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim has been **increased from 10 lakh to 20 lakh rupees**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- GST is an Indirect Tax which has replaced many Indirect Taxes in India.
- The Goods and Service Tax Act was passed in the Parliament on 29th March 2017.
- The Act came into effect on 1st July 2017.

Environment Minister Inaugurates Advanced System Of Air Quality 'SAFAR'

i. **Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan** unveiled a **state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– 'SAFAR'** (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Chandni Chowk in New Delhi.

ii. The Environment Ministry's mission model project 'SAFAR' is being implemented in four cities of India – **Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad** as an operational service.

iii. First of its kind in the country, the system was developed indigenously by **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune** and operationalised by India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Public Affairs Index 2018: Kerala Best Governed State, Bihar Worst

i. According to the *Public Affairs Index 2018*, **Kerala is the best-governed state in the country, released by a Bengaluru think-tank, Public Affairs Centre**. As per the report, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat are among the top five states delivering good governance. Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha ranked the lowest on the index, indicating higher social and economic inequalities.

ii. Among smaller states – with the population less than two crore – **Himachal Pradesh topped the list of states with good governance**, followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura. Meghalaya performed the worst in this list. Manipur, Nagaland, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir were the other poor performers. This year's index also measured how child-friendly each state is. **Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram topped this index**.

Government Sets Up High-Level Committee To Check Mob Lynching

i. Considering the increasing incidents of mob lynching, **the Union Government constituted a High-Level Committee chaired by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba** to deliberate in the matter and make recommendations.

ii. The Secretary, Department of Justice; Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs; Secretary, Legislative Department; and Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment are the members of the committee.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mob Lynching is an act to punish (a person) without legal process or authority, especially by hanging, for a perceived offence or as an act of bigotry.

KTDC Launches Country's 1st State-Run All-Woman Hotel

i. The hotel named '*Hostess*' was launched by **Kerala Tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran**. A flagship project of the **Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC)**. The hotel will come up within six months at the KTDC complex.

ii. Work on India's public sector hotel run entirely by women for women is **claimed to be the first such in the country**.

India Celebrates 19th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

- i. India on July 26** celebrated the **19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas** to mark the success of ‘**Operation Vijay**’ and to remember the supreme sacrifice of the Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the 1999 India-Pakistan Kargil War.
- ii. The Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** paid homage to the martyrs on Kargil Vijay Diwas at Amar Jawan Jyoti in New Delhi.
- iii. Armed Forces personnel and families of soldiers who lost their lives in 1999 Kargil War** paid their tributes at the **Dras War Memorial in Jammu and Kashmir** to commemorate the historic win. **Operation Safed Sagar was successfully launched by Indian Air Force** during Kargil war.

HCL Technologies displaces Wipro as India's third largest IT services firm

- i. HCL Technologies Ltd** surpassed **Wipro Ltd** to become **India's third-biggest software services firm** in the three months, marking the first change in the pecking order of the country's \$167 billion information technology (IT) outsourcing industry in six years.
- ii. Noida-based HCL Technologies** announced that its dollar revenue increased 0.8% to \$2.05 billion in the quarter ended 30 June from the preceding three months. Bengaluru-based Wipro's dollar revenue declined 1.7% sequentially to \$2.03 billion in the first quarter.

Parliament Passes Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018

- i. The Parliament approved** a legislation to help the government bring back fugitives involved in white-collar crimes to stand trial in India. The fugitive **Economic Offenders Bill, 2018** will become law after the President's assent and **will empower the government to seize both local and overseas assets of alleged offenders**, such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.
- ii. This will help the government confiscate properties of fugitives even before they are convicted.** The bill also provides for confiscation of benami properties. ED will be the apex agency to implement the law.

Dharmendra Pradhan Laid Foundation Stone of Permanent Campus For NSTI, Women in Mohali

- i. The Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan** laid the foundation stone for permanent campus of **National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) for Women at Mohali, Punjab**. This is the **first NSTI Institute for Punjab** and only one of its kind in India which is exclusively for women.
- ii. The Minister also launched a unique Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK)** which would admit differently abled persons as well, also a first of its kind in India at Mohali. He also launched **India's first in-phone guide and mobile application "Go whats That"** in Chandigarh.

4 Indian-Origin Names In List of Fortune's 40 Young Influential People

- i. Four persons of India-origin**, including three women, have been **named by Fortune among 40 of the most influential and inspiring young people in business under the age of 40**. Instagram Cofounder and CEO Kevin Systrom and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, both 34, are tied for first place on the Fortune '40 Under 40' list.
- ii. The 4 people (with Rank) from India-Origin in the list are-**
 - 1. Dhivya Suryadevara** (4th), CFO of General Motors
 - 2. Anjali Sud** (14th), CEO of Vimeo
 - 3. Baiju Bhatt** (24th), Cofounder and Co-CEO of Robinhood
 - 4. Anu Duggal** (32nd), founding partner of Female Founders Fund.

Karnataka Tops In Renewable Energy: IEEFA Report

- i. According to the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) report, Karnataka is the new national leader in renewable energy generation.** It has surpassed **Tamil Nadu** that had for quite some time been India's best renewable market.

ii. Karnataka has a sum of 12.3 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity installed till March 2018. IEEFA's report was titled as "Karnataka's Electricity Sector Transformation"

Vodafone Idea Gets Final Government Approval

i. The Department of Telecom (DoT) has given final approval to the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular. The nod for Vodafone Idea came days after Idea Cellular and Vodafone India jointly paid Rs. 7,268.78 crore 'under protest' to the DoT.

ii. The combination will be known as Vodafone Idea. It will create India's largest mobile-phone company and help the firms compete with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.

Ramachandra Guha Pens Book Titled 'Gandhi: The Years That Changed The World (1914-1948)'

i. Renowned historian and author of several bestselling books Ramachandra Guha has penned a new book titled "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)" on the father of the nation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ramachandra Guha had also penned down highly acclaimed books like "India After Gandhi" and "Gandhi Before India".

All You Need To Know About Final Draft Of NRC Released By Assam

i. Assam released the final draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), seven months after it released the first draft on 1 January 2018, which included 1.9 crore names out of a total applicant pool of 3.29 crore. The recently released list, however, left out 40.07 lakh people wherein 2.89 crore people were found eligible out of 3.29 crore applicants.

ii. What is the NRC?

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the list of Indian citizens of Assam. It was prepared in 1951, following the census of 1951.

International

India To Operate 'World's Emptiest Airport' In Sri Lanka

i. The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) would be operated as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture. The \$210 million facility, 241km south-east of Colombo, is dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to a lack of flights.

ii. India would operate the airport as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture. The joint venture would see India gain a major stake of the airport.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Sri Lanka Capitals-** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, **President-** Maithripala Sirisena.

Mark Zuckerberg Becomes World's 3rd-Richest Person

i. Facebook Inc. co-founder Mark Zuckerberg has overtaken Warren Buffett as the world's third-richest person. Zuckerberg, who trails only Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos and Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates, eclipsed Buffett as Facebook shares climbed 2.4%, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

ii. It's the first time that the three wealthiest people on the ranking made their fortunes from technology.

HDFC Bank, Most Valuable Bank In Emerging Market Outside China

i. HDFC Bank has gone past Russia's Sberbank to become the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China. HDFC Bank's current market capitalisation is \$78.4 billion against Sberbank's \$74.4 billion. Chinese banks are leading the pecking order in the emerging market, with Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping the list with a market cap of \$273.4 billion.

ii. Globally, America's JPMorgan Chase is the most valuable with a market cap of \$353 billion, followed by Bank of America at \$282 billion. There are four lenders from India that now rank among the world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by its housing finance cousin Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India.

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'.

10 World's 1st Digital Art Museum Opens in Tokyo

- The world's first digital art museum** opened its doors to the public in **Tokyo, Japan** allowing patrons to step all the way into the artworks.
- Attendees are able to move freely through the **9,000-square meter interactive gallery**. The exhibition itself is linked in real-time to the real-world seasons, which means that no two trips to the museum will be the same.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Japan Capital-** Tokyo, **Currency-** Japanese yen.

5th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting Held in Tokyo, Japan

- The 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional ministerial meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan.** It was first RCEP ministerial gathering to be held outside ASEAN countries.
- It was co-chaired by Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and his Japanese counterpart Hiroshige Seko. During the meeting, ministers from member countries had in-depth discussions on issues such as trade, service, investment and rules at the meeting.

Asia's 1st Patent Arbitration Centre To Open In Tokyo

- Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property is slated to open in Tokyo** in September 2018 to resolve the growing number of disputes in the region.
- The **International Arbitration Centre in Tokyo (IACT)** is set to have around a dozen arbitrators from around the world, who would try to resolve disputes within a period of one year.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Japan Capital-** Tokyo, **Currency-** Japanese yen, **Prime Minister-** Shinzo Abe.

Nigeria Replaces India to Become World's Largest Poor Population: Brookings Report

- With the persistent decline in poverty, **India is no longer a nation having the largest number of poor people in the world**, according to a study published by the **US-based think tank, Brookings**.
- According to the study, **Nigeria has already overtaken India as the country with the largest number of extreme poor in early 2018**, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo could soon take over the number 2 spot.
- The study, titled '**The start of a new poverty narrative**' and published in the Brookings' blog, is authored by Homi Kharas, Kristofer Hamel and Martin Hofer.

Abu Dhabi 'Smartest City' In Middle East: Study

- Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, has topped the list of "**smart cities**" in the Middle East and Africa, according to the **Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism**. Covering 50 international cities, a report by **McKinsey Global Institute** titled "**Smart Cities: Digital Solutions for a More Livable Future**" views how cities all over the world use technology to improve the quality of life.
- With a rating of 18.4, Abu Dhabi ranked the first in the region ahead of Dubai, which was placed the second with a rating of 17.3.

Prakash Javadekar Inaugurates 17th World Sanskrit Conference in Canada

- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar** inaugurated the **17th World Sanskrit Conference** held at **Vancouver, Canada**.
- The purpose of this conference is to promote, preserve and practice the Sanskrit language all over the

world by the people. The **World Sanskrit Conference** is being held in various countries across the globe **once in every three years** and so far it has been **held thrice in India**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

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

Asian Development Bank Approves 503 million USD Project For Bihar

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **503-million US Dollar** lining project of the **Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar** which would benefit the agriculture sector immensely in the region.
- Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh** held a meeting with the officials from the ADB and the finance ministry to review the progress of lining project of the Son canal.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The **Asian Development Bank** is a regional development Bank established in **1966**.
- Headquarters of ADB is in **Manila, Philippines**.
- **Takehiko Nakao** is Present President of the Asian Development Bank.

Integrated Indian Visa Application Centre Inaugurated In Bangladesh

- A new integrated state-of-the-art integrated **Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC)** was jointly inaugurated by **Home Minister Rajnath Singh** and his **Bangladeshi counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan** at Dhaka's Jamuna Future Park.
- Rajnath Singh is presently in Bangladesh on a three-day visit. He also inaugurated the **Bangladesh-India Friendship building in Bangladesh Police Academy in Sardah**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

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

UN Secretary-General Constitutes High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation

- The **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** constituted a **High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation**. The panel will be **co-chaired by Melinda Gates, Co-Chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Jack Ma, Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group**.
- The Panel has a total of 20 members, representing a cross-section of expertise from Government, private industry, civil society, academia and the technical community.

Forbes Releases 2018 List of America's Richest Self-Made Women

- Forbes** released its fourth annual list of **America's Richest Self-Made Women**. These 60 women, who have a record combined net worth of \$71 billion, up 15% from \$61.5 billion in 2017.
- Diane Hendricks**, co-founder and chairman of ABC Supply, the nation's largest roofing distributor, reclaims the top spot, with a net worth of \$4.9 billion. **Marian Ilitch**, worth \$4.3 billion, falls to the No. 2 spot.
- Kylie Jenner**, who at not even 21 years old has built a **\$900 million cosmetics fortune** with virtually no employees or capital. **Kylie Cosmetics** launched two years ago and has since sold more than \$630 million worth of makeup.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Forbes-** American Business Magazine, **Founded in-** 1917.
- **Headquarters-** New York City, USA.

BRICS Summit 2018 Concludes: Johannesburg Declaration Adopted

- The heads of state and government of all five BRICS nations including **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** convened for the **10th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa**. The theme of BRICS Summit 2018 was **'BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'**.
- The summit saw the BRICS leaders come together and discuss various international and regional issues of common concern and **adopted the 'Johannesburg Declaration' by consensus**.

iii. The declaration comes as the United States and China remain deadlocked in a trade war over tariffs.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- BRICS is made up of China, Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa.
- In December 2010, China, as the Chair, invited South Africa to join BRIC and attend the Summit in Sanya, China.
- The 1st BRIC Summit was held in June 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

In a First, India-Pakistan To Be Part Of Anti-Terror SCO Drill In Russia

i. Militaries of India and Pakistan will be part of a mega anti-terror drill in Russia named "Peace Mission" in August 2018 which is being organised by the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**.

ii. The exercise will be joined by all SCO member countries including Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It will be for the first time since Independence that India and Pakistan will both be part of a military exercise.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Russia Capital-** Moscow, **Currency-** Russian ruble, **President-** Vladimir Putin.

World's Oldest Colours Discovered

i. Scientists have discovered the world's oldest colours. 1.1 billion-year-old **bright pink pigments**, extracted from rocks deep beneath the **Sahara desert in Africa**, have finally been traced.

ii. The team from the **Australian National University (ANU)** discovered the oldest colours in the geological record.

Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin Holds 1st Summit At Helsinki In Finland

i. US President Donald Trump and his **Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin** held the **first summit at Helsinki in Finland**. Trump's meeting with Putin comes days after a federal grand jury indicted 12 Russian intelligence officials on charges of hacking the servers of the **Democratic National Committee** and that of its 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

ii. Host Finland President Sauli Niinisto met Trump before Trump and Putin sit down to a bilateral meeting first without aides and then with their teams of support staff.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Capital:** Helsinki **Trending,** **Currency:** Euro.

JK Rowling To Release Next Book 'Lethal White'

i. JK Rowling will come out with the fourth novel titled '**Lethal White**' in the series about the exploits of private investigator Cormoran Strike in September 2018 under her pseudonym Robert Galbraith.

ii. Lethal White is billed by publishers Hachette as the most epic Robert Galbraith novel yet, a gripping mystery and a page-turning next instalment in the ongoing story of Strike and his assistant Robin Ellacott.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The three previous Strike novels of JK Rowling are The Cuckoo's Calling (2013), The Silkworm (2014) and Career of Evil (2015).

Google Fined \$5 Billion By EU In Android Antitrust Case

i. The European Union regulators have slapped **Alphabet-owned Google with a record 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) antitrust fine** for abusing the dominance of its Android mobile operating system.

ii. According to the EU, Google's parent company has unfairly favoured its own services by forcing smartphone makers to pre-install Google apps Chrome and Search in a bundle with its app store, Play.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

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

Amazon, 2nd Company To Hit \$900 billion Valuation After Apple

- i. E-commerce giant Amazon briefly crossed \$900-billion market cap for the first time in its history becoming only the second company after Apple to achieve this milestone.
- ii. This comes after Amazon announced it sold over 100 million products during its Prime Day sale. Apple is currently the world's most valuable company with a market cap of \$935 billion.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Amazon is a US based company which was Founded by Jeff Bezos. It was founded in 1994.

Forbes Releases 2018 'Celebrity 100' List Of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers

- i. The Forbes has Released the 'Celebrity 100' list of World's Highest-Paid Entertainers. **Boxer Floyd Mayweather captures the top spot** on Forbes' 20th annual Celebrity 100 ranking of the world's highest-paid celebrities.
- ii. Few of the famous names on the list are Leonel Messi 8th, Cristiano Ronaldo 10th. From India, **Akshay Kumar (40.5 million dollars) is ranked 76th** while Salman Khan (37.7 million dollars) is on the 82nd spot.

iii. The top 3 celebrities on the list are:

1. Floyd Mayweather (Athlete, Boxing, \$285M)
2. George Clooney (British liquor giant, \$239M)
3. Kylie Jenner (Founder, Kylie Cosmetics, \$166.5M)

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Forbes-** American Business Magazine, **Founded in-** 1917.
- **Headquarters-** New York City, USA.

UK Tops Global Ranking Of Nations' Soft Power

- i. **The UK has topped an annual global ranking of nations' soft power**, with France placed second on the list of 30 countries which does not feature India. The 2018 '**Soft Power 30' index**, published by UK-based strategic communications consultancy firm Portland and the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy, ranked Germany as third followed by the US.
- ii. This year's report also features a chapter dedicated solely to Asia, listing 10 countries in the region, ranking India's soft power as eighth. In the fourth edition of the annual Soft Power 30 Index.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **United Kingdom Capital:** London, **Prime minister:** Theresa May, **Currency:** Pound sterling.

Pakistan Gets Its 1st Woman Chief Justice Of High Court

- i. **Pakistan has got its first-ever woman Chief Justice of a high court. Justice Tahira Safdar** was named as the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar.
- ii. Justice Safdar had made history **in 1982 when she became the first woman civil judge** in Balochistan.

PM Modi Embarked On 3-Nation Visit To Rwanda, Uganda, and South Africa

- i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** left on a **three-nation visit to Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa**. In the first leg of his five-day visit, Mr Modi will reach Rwanda. India will extend two lines of credit of **100 million US Dollars each for agriculture and industrial sectors to Rwanda** during his two-day visit to that country.
- ii. On second leg he will leave for Uganda where he will call on the President. He will have delegation-level talks and will address Indian community. Two lines of credit worth **164 million US Dollars will be extended to Uganda** during the visit. In the last leg of his visit, Prime Minister Modi will reach South Africa to attend the 10th BRICS summit at Johannesburg.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Rwanda Capital:** Kigali, **Currency:** Rwandan franc.
- **Uganda Capital:** Kampala, **Currency:** Ugandan shilling.

- **South Africa President:** Cyril Ramaphosa, **Currency-** South African rand.

4th BIMSTEC Summit To Be Held In Kathmandu

- i. The 4th BIMSTEC Summit** will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The announcement in this regard was made by Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.
- ii.** The main focus of the summit will be **to increase connectivity between the BIMSTEC nations** including roads, airways and transmission lines.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **BIMSTEC** stands for Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- The group was formed in **1997** and it brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- **Nepal** is the current chair of BIMSTEC.

Facebook To Launch Satellite 'Athena' In 2019

- i. Facebook** has confirmed it is working on a new satellite project, **named Athena**, that will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas.
- ii.** The company aims to launch satellite in early 2019. In 2016, Facebook's internet satellite for Africa was lost when SpaceX's rocket exploded.

US Elevated India's Status To STA-1 To Ease Export Controls For High-Tech Product Sales

- i. The United States** has eased export controls for high-technology product sales to India **by elevating its status to a Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) country.** The information was shared by **US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.**
- ii.** With the move, the United States has granted India the same access as NATO allies, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The STA-1 list currently comprises 36 countries in total.
- India is the only South Asian country to feature on the list. Other Asian countries designated as STA-1 include Japan and South Korea.

Reliance Beats TCS to Become India's Most Valued Company

- i.** India's richest person **Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** beat **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to become the most valued company in India.
- ii.** RIL's market capitalisation during the day was Rs7.44 trillion as compared to TCS' Rs7.39 trillion. RIL had recently reported its highest ever quarterly net profit of Rs9,459 crore, for the April-June quarter.

Defence

Indian warship INS Trikand reaches Sri Lanka in Goodwill Visit

- i.** India's latest frontline warship **INS Trikand** has reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit. Sri Lanka Navy ceremonially welcomed the state-of-the-art warship in accordance with naval traditions.
- ii.** INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art warship of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions - air, surface and sub-surface.

Indo-US Delegation Meeting On Defence Cooperation

i. As part of **Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation**, the **7th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting** was held between India and the US delegation in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by, **Secretary (Defence Production), Dr Ajay Kumar and Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment, DoD, US Government Ms Ellen M Lord.**

ii. The meetings are held twice a year, alternately in India and the USA with the aim to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.

Indian Air Force To Participates In Australia's 'Pitch Black Exercise'

i. An Indian Air Force contingent comprising of four **Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft** landed at Darwin Air Force Base, **Australia for participating in the Exercise Pitch Black-2018.**

ii. This is the **first time that an Indian Air Force contingent is participating in this multinational air exercise** in Australia.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa** is the present 25th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.

SCM BrahMos Test Fired Under Extreme Conditions

i. **India's supersonic cruise missile (SCM) BrahMos** was test fired from **Odisha's Chandipur range launch pad** under extreme conditions. The test was conducted in order **to increase the longevity of its life.**

ii. BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between **India's Defence Research and Development Organisation and NPOM of Russia.** It is responsible for designing, developing and producing the missile. **The missile can cruise at speeds of up to Mach 3.0**, or three times the speed of sound.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Nirmala Sitharaman** is the present Defence Minister of India.
- General Bipin Rawat** is the present and 27th Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel Appointed NGT Chairperson

i. **Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel**, who retired from the Supreme Court of India has been appointed as the **new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).** He has been appointed to the position for a term of five years, as per an order issued by the personnel ministry.

ii. The post of NGT chairperson had been lying vacant for more than 6 months after the retirement of **Justice Swatanter Kumar.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The National Green Tribunal was established on October 18, 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

Payments Council of India Appoints Vishwas Patel As New Chairman

i. **Payments Council of India (PCI)**, an apex body representing the companies in the payments and settlement system, has announced the appointment of **Vishwas Patel, CEO of Infibeam Avenues, as its**

new chairman.

ii. It has also announced the appointment of **Loney Antony, Managing Director, Hitachi Payment Services, as its new co-chairman. He takes over from Naveen Surya**, who has been elevated to the post of Chairman Emeritus.

Uttam Dhillon Appointed Head Of Drug Enforcement Agency In US

i. **Uttam Dhillon**, an Indian-American top White House lawyer, **has been appointed as the new head of the crucial Drug Enforcement Agency** that combats the smuggling and use of narcotics in the US. Dhillon replaces Robert Patterson, who has retired after 30 years of service.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Donald Trump is the 45th President of the USA.
- Washington DC is the capital city of USA.

Major General Jose Eladio Alcain To Head UN Military Observer Group in India, Pakistan

i. UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has appointed a veteran **Uruguayan Army official Major General José Eladio Alcain** as head of the United Nations mission tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan.

ii. Major General will be Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the **United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)**. He will succeed **Major General Per Gustaf Lodin of Sweden**, who will complete his two-year assignment.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- UNMOGIP was established in January 1949.

Tushar Arothe Resigns As India Women's Cricket Coach

i. **India Women's Cricket Team Coach Tushar Arothe** has stepped down from the role citing personal reasons, as per the announcement by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

ii. Under his stint, the team reached the final of the ICC Women's World Cup in 2017.

Saraswati Prasad Assumes Charge As SAIL CMD

i. Senior bureaucrat **Saraswati Prasad** has taken over the additional charge as **chairman and managing director of steel PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**.

ii. Mr Prasad succeeds P K Singh who retired recently.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **SAIL Headquarters- New Delhi, Founded in- 1954.**

P K Shrivastava Appointed DG Of Ordnance Factory Board

i. **P K Shrivastava** took over the reins of the Ordnance Factory Board as its **new Director General and Chairman**. Shrivastava was earlier the additional director general of ordnance factories and member at OFB.

ii. He was also in-charge of OFB's Armoured Vehicles headquarters at Avadi in Chennai. Shrivastava joined Indian Ordnance Factories' Service in 1982.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ordnance Factory Board Headquarters in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- OFB is the oldest and largest industrial setup which functions under the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence.

Janardan Singh Gehlot Elected International Kabaddi Federation Chief

i. **Janardan Singh Gehlot** was elected the **president of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF)** for the next four years.

ii. It was announced after the **Annual General Congress (AGC)** of the federation, conducted in **Dubai, the UAE**.

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador Elected Mexico's President

i. **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador** has been elected as **Mexico's President with over 53% of the vote**, according to the country's electoral commission. Obrador, who has won the presidency at the third attempt, promised to tackle violence and wipe out corruption.

ii. The 64-year-old former Mexico City mayor will formally take power on December 1. His main opponent was Ricardo Anaya.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

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

Vijay Srinivas Appointed Director & GM of United India Insurance

i. **Chennai-based United India Insurance Company** announced the appointment of **K B Vijay Srinivas** as its Director and General Manager.

ii. Prior to taking up the new role, he was serving National Insurance Company Ltd as its Chief Marketing Officer and General Manager.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- United India Insurance Company is the 2nd Largest General Insurance company in India.
- It headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Brexit Secretary David Davis Resigns

i. **Brexit Secretary David Davis** has resigned from the UK government. The resignation comes days after British Prime Minister Theresa May secured the Cabinet's backing for her Brexit plan at a meeting at Chequers outside London.

ii. Shortly after Mr Davis' resignation, his deputy Steve Baker, and another Brexit Minister Suella Braverman also quit.

Prof. Sandeep Sancheti Takes Charge As President Of AIU

i. **Dr. Sandeep Sancheti**, Vice Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has assumed charge as the **97th President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi**.

ii. The AIU has currently more than 720 members represented by Vice Chancellors. The AIU facilitates coordination and mutual consultation among Universities as well as acting as a liaison with Central and State governments.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Association of Indian Universities was founded in 1925 and initially known as the Inter-University Board of India.

TCA Raghavan Appointed Director-General of ICWA

i. **The Vice President of India and the President of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), M. Venkaiah Naidu** has appointed **Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan** as the **Director General, ex officio Member-Secretary of the Council, ICWA**.

ii. The decision was taken in the meetings of the Governing Body and Governing Council of the ICWA. Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan has served as India's High Commissioner to Islamabad and Singapore and has served in our missions at London, Thimphu and Kuwait.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is an Indian think tank founded in 1943.
- It Headquarters in New Delhi.
- Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru (1943-1947) was the first President of ICWA.

Bhushan Steel Appoints Tata Steel's TV Narendran As Chairman

i. Bhushan Steel has approved the appointment of TV Narendran as Chairman and Non-Executive Additional Director of the company.

ii. Narendran, CEO and MD of Tata Steel, has over 30 years of experience in the metal and mining industry. Tata Steel acquired controlling stake of 72.65% in Bhushan Steel in accordance with Rs35,200-crore resolution plan for the bankrupt steelmaker.

Gautam Kaul Won Prestigious Post In Federations' Executive Committee Elections

i. India has been elected new President of Asian Tug of War Federation. India's Gautam Kaul won the prestigious post in the **Federations' Executive Committee elections held in Kathmandu, Nepal.**

ii. This is the first time when India has been elected to lead the organisation. The post of Secretary-General has also gone to India, while Nepal has got Treasurer's post. Pakistan and Cambodia have won posts of Vice Presidents. The tenure of newly elected office bearers will be for 3 years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Asian Tug of War Federation is having its headquarter in Bangkok.

Tata AIA Appoints Rishi Srivastava as CEO and MD

i. Tata AIA Life has recently announced that its **board has appointed Rishi Srivastava as the new chief executive officer and managing director**, subject to regulatory approval from IRDAI.

ii. Srivastava will take over from **current chief executive officer Naveen Tahilyani** who takes over as chief executive officer, group partnership distribution, AIA Group, Hong Kong.

Brij Bhushan Saran Singh To Be Named India's Chef de Mission at Asian Games

i. Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Saran Singh is set to be named the **Chef de Mission of the Asian Games**-bound Indian contingent.

ii. The four deputy Chefs de Mission set to be appointed are BS Kushwaha (former secretary of Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Federation), RK Sacheti (Executive Director of Boxing Federation of India, DK Singh (Uttarakhand Olympic Association) and Colonel RK Swain (Secretary of Equestrian Federation of India).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Host cities for Asian Games 2018 are Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia.

Jeremy Hunt Appointed New UK Foreign Secretary

i. British Prime Minister Theresa May appointed **Jeremy Hunt as Foreign Secretary.**

ii. This appointment has come after Boris Johnson resigned from the post in protest at the government's Brexit plan.

Surendra Roshia Named HSBC India CEO

i. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) announced the appointment of **Surendra Roshia** as Chief Executive Officer for HSBC India, subject to regulatory approvals.

ii. Roshia succeeded Jayant Rikhye. Roshia, who is currently HSBC's Head of Financial Institutions Group (FIG) for Asia-Pacific, has 27 years of experience in the financial services sector.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- HSBC Headquarters in London UK.

Honours/ Awards

3rd BRICS Film Festival Concluded: Complete List of Indian Winners

i. The 3rd BRICS Film Festival took place in Durban, South Africa, along with the International Durban Film Festival (DIFF). The last day of the festival (27th July) was celebrated as **India Country Day**, followed by Awards and Closing Ceremony.

ii. Awards won by Indian films in the 3rd BRICS Film Festival, Durban, South Africa:

- 1. Best Actress:** Bhanita Das, Village Rockstars,
- 2. Best Film:** Newton by Amit Masurkar,
- 3. Special Jury Award:** Village Rockstars by Rima Das.

iii. The festival screened four Indian Films in the following category:

(a) Films in Competition Section:

- Newton by Amit Masurkar,
- Village Rock Stars by Rima Das..

Artist Anjolie Ela Menon Conferred Kalidas Award

i. Noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon had received the **National Kalidas Samman in Delhi** for visual arts from the Madhya Pradesh government.

ii. With her first solo exhibition being held in Delhi in 1958, Menon is counted among India's most accomplished artists and is the recipient of numerous national and international awards including the Padma Shri.

'The English Patient' By Michael Ondaatje Declared 'Best Booker Prize Winner In 50 Years'

i. Michael Ondaatje's bestselling novel *'The English Patient'* was announced as the **winner of the Golden Man Booker Prize at the Southbank Centre in London.**

ii. The prize was instituted as part of celebrations to mark the Booker's having completed 50 years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Man Booker International Prize celebrates the English translations of works of international literature.
- In 1971, V.S. Naipaul's novel *In a Free State* was the first book by an Indian novelist to win the Booker.

Mohun Bagan 'Ratna' Conferred on Pradip Chowdhury

i. Mohun Bagan 'Ratna', the highest honour of Mohun Bagan club was awarded to **former India international Pradip Chowdhury** at its foundation day programme. Pradip Chowdhury is a former Mohun Bagan captain.

ii. He is the 18th recipient of Mohun Bagan 'Ratna' award. This award was first given to Sailen Manna in 2001.

iii. Other awardees are:

- 1. Goalkeeper Shilton Paul**– Best Footballer for the year 2017-18,
- 2. Sudip Chatterjee**– Best Cricketer,
- 3. Sourav Das**– Best Youth Footballer Player,
- 4. Special award to** – Rahim Ali for his performance in the U-17 World Cup.

ONGC Presented With INFRA Icon Award

i. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was awarded the **INFRA Icon Award in the 'Global Energy' category** at the mid-day INFRA Icons Awards 2018, in Mumbai. The award was given away by Additional Metropolitan Commissioner, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), Pravin Darare.

ii. The theme of the event was: **'Smart cities envisages to take infrastructure development to a next level'**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ONGC is the world's second largest exploration and production (E&P) company.
- Chairman & Managing Director- Shashi Shanker.
- Registered Office- New Delhi.

Michael Ondaatje Named in Man Booker Prize Long List

i. Canadian author Michael Ondaatje has again made the **Man Booker Prize list with his latest novel “Warlight,”** weeks after his book **“The English Patient”** was named the best work of fiction from the last five decades of the literary prize.

ii. Organizers announced the 13 books in the long list for the prestigious award, chosen from 171 submissions this year, the highest number of titles that have been put forward in the prize’s 50-year history.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ondaatje’s **“The English Patient,”** which won the **Booker in 1992** was named the winner of the Golden Man Booker winner, a special award **to mark Booker’s 50th anniversary.**

8-Year-Old Indian-Origin Yoga Champion Named 'British Indian Of The Year'

i. An eight-year-old Indian-origin schoolboy Ishwar Sharma, who is the under-11 UK national yoga champion has been named the **'British Indian of the Year'** in the young achiever category for his accomplishments in the field.

ii. Ishwar Sharma has won a string of titles in both individual and artistic yoga, most recently a gold medal representing Great Britain at the World Student Games 2018 in Winnipeg, Canada.

Ramon Magsaysay Award Winners 2018 Announced: Complete List Of Winners

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award** is an annual award established **to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's** example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society.

Two Indians, **Bharat Vatwani** (for Restoring Health & Dignity to troubled lives) and **Sonam Wangchuk** (for Harnessing nature, culture & education) made the country proud as their names figured in the list of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award winners.

Complete list of winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2018:

Sl. No.	Winner	Country
1.	Bharat Vatwani	India
2.	Sonam Wangchuk	India
3.	Youk Chhang	Cambodia
4.	Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz	East Timor
5.	Howard Dee	Philippines
6.	Vo Thi Hoang Yen	Vietnam

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia’s highest honour.

Sports

Asia Cup Archery: Korea Topped, India Finished 3rd

i. India has bagged four medals in the Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament Stage 3 in Taipei, Taiwan. The feat comprised 3 silver medals and a bronze. India also finished joint third with Iran in the championship.

ii. India ended their campaign behind toppers Korea and hosts Chinese Taipei. Korea topped the tally with 14 medals, 8 of them being gold. Taipei bagged 5 medals, two of them being gold.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Taipei is the capital city of Taiwan.
- Its currency is New Taiwan dollar.

Sreejesh To Lead Indian Hockey Team At Asian Games 2018

i. Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will lead the 18-member Indian men's hockey squad while Chinglensana Singh Kangujam will serve as his deputy in the 18th Asian Games, which will begin in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia in August 2018.

Dipa Karmakar Clinches Gold Medal at Gymnastics World Cup

i. India's premier gymnast Dipa Karmakar clinched a gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin in Turkey.

ii. The 24-year-old from Tripura, Dipa Karmakar scored 14.150 to win gold. This is Dipa's first medal in a World Challenge Cup. She had topped the qualification also with a score of 13.400.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Turkey Capital-** Ankara, **Currency-** Turkish lira.

Tbilisi Grand Prix, Georgia: Bajrang Punia Wins Gold, Deepak Bronze

i. Bajrang Punia emerged champion at the Tbilisi Grand Prix in the 65kg category after outplaying Iranian wrestler Mehran Nasiri in the final in Georgia. The 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist recorded a comfortable 9-3 win over the Iranian.

ii. Meanwhile, in the 86kg category, Deepak Punia clinched a bronze with a 5-3 win over Osman Gosen of Turkey.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Georgia Capitals:** Tbilisi, Kutaisi, **Currency:** Georgian lari.

Anju Khosla, Oldest Indian Woman To Complete Ironman Triathlon

i. At 52, Anju Khosla has become the oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon – one of the toughest one-day sporting events. The New Delhi resident completed her first full Ironman Triathlon, in Carinthia, Austria, in 15 hours, 54 minutes and 54 seconds.

ii. It comprises 3.86 km swimming leg, 180.25 km bike leg followed by a marathon (42.2 km), to be completed without a break.

ICC Introduces Stricter Sanctions For Ball-Tampering

i. International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced stricter sanctions for ball-tampering. The new regulations were introduced at its annual conference held in Dublin, Ireland. Ball-tampering has been upgraded from a level 2 to a level 3 offence.

ii. Tampering with the ball will be now penalized with a ban of up to 6 Tests or 12 ODIs. ICC also added obscenity and personal abuse to the list of offences to bring better behaviour on the field.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The ICC** is the international governing body of cricket.
- Headquarters of ICC is in **Dubai, UAE.**
- **Dave Richardson** is CEO of the ICC.

Sports Authority Of India Renamed As Sports India

i. Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced that more than 34 years after coming into existence, **the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been** renamed as **Sports India** after the sports body's governing body meeting.

ii. The sports body organised its **50th GB meeting**, where it was also decided that coaches will be given a say in decision making and the food expenses of athletes will also be increased.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sports Authority of India was established in 1984.

Aaron Finch Posts Highest-Ever T20 Individual Score

i. Australian captain Aaron Finch slammed 172(76) against Zimbabwe to register the **highest-ever individual score in T20Is, overtaking his own record of 156 runs.**

ii. The 31-year-old opener smashed 10 sixes and 16 fours in his knock before getting out hit-wicket. Finch and D'Arcy Short shared a 223-run opening stand, which is the highest-ever partnership for any wicket in T20Is.

Max Verstappen Won Austrian Grand Prix, Lewis Hamilton Retires

i. Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix 2018 title in Austria. Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen finished in the second spot.

ii. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished in the third spot. **Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton retired** from the race due to a mechanical issue in his car.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Austria Capital:** Vienna, **Currency:** Euro.

ISSF Junior World Cup 2018 Germany- Complete Highlights

i. The ISSF Junior World Cup 2 concluded in Suhl, Germany, where 761 junior shooters gathered and competed in 22 Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun events — both individual and team. They represented 61 countries, piling up the impressive total of 1544 starts: the highest number in the history of the Junior World Cup.

ii. India and the People's Republic of China battled all along the competition for the top position in the medal board, which was eventually taken by the **Indian National Team with 26 total medals: 15 golds, two silvers and nine bronzes.**

iii. Manu Bhaker shot 242.5 points and won the gold medal in 10m air pistol event. **She created a junior world record.**

IAAF World U20 Championship: Hima Das Bags Gold, Creates History

i. 18-year-old Indian runner Hima Das created history by **becoming the first-ever Indian woman to win an athletics gold** on the international stage.

ii. Hailing from Assam, Hima finished on top of the podium **in the women's 400m event** at the **IAAF World U20 Championship in Tampere, Finland, clocking 51.46 seconds. 51.13 seconds** is her personal best and is now also the **Indian U20 national record.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore is the Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Entire Men's Hockey Team Included in Target Olympic Podium Scheme

i. In a departure from the norm, the **Mission Olympic Cell** included the **entire Indian hockey team in the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme**, rewarding the players for their silver medal-winning performance at the Champions Trophy.

ii. Athletes from different sports have been included in TOP Scheme individually **but it is first instance that an entire team has been made beneficiary** of the financial assistance scheme. Each of the 18 members of the hockey team will now get a monthly allowance of Rs 50,000.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Mohammad Kaif Announces Retirement From Competitive Cricket

- Mohammad Kaif** announced his retirement **from all forms of competitive cricket**. The 37-year-old Kaif played 13 Tests and 125 ODIs for India and will always be **remembered for his match-winning knock of 87 at the Lord's** during the epic NatWest Trophy final in 2002.
- Kaif was the captain of Under 19 cricket team that won the U-19 World Cup in 2000 against Sri Lanka.

Rahul Dravid, 5th Indian To Be Inducted Into ICC Hall Of Fame

- Former captains **Rahul Dravid of India, Ricky Ponting of Australia and retired England Women wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor** were inducted into the **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2018** during a glittering ceremony in **Dublin, Ireland**.
- Former Team India captain **Rahul Dravid has become the fifth Indian cricketer** after Anil Kumble, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi and Kapil Dev to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- David Richardson is the CEO of International Cricket Council.
- ICC Headquarters in Dubai, the UAE.

Lee Chong Wei Wins Malaysian Open Badminton Singles Title

- Malaysian veteran Lee Chong Wei** has won the **Malaysian Open Badminton singles title for a historic 12th time**. In the men's final in Kuala Lumpur, he defeated young Japanese shuttler Kento Momota in straight games.
- In the women's singles final, top seed **Tai Tzu Ying from Taiwan** saw off China's He Bingjiao. India's campaign in the tournament had ended with the defeat of PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth in their singles semi-finals.

Australia Wins Hockey Champions Trophy Final 2018

- In the summit clash of the **37th and final edition** of the **Hockey Champions Trophy at Breda, the Netherlands**, India lost to defending champions **Australia** via penalty shoot-off. The match went into the shoot-off after both the teams were locked at 1-1 in regulation time.
- It was Australia's record 15th Champions Trophy title. While India won their second consecutive silver medal, hosts the Netherlands bagged the bronze medal.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Netherlands Capital-** Amsterdam, **Currency-** Euro, USD, **Prime Minister-** Mark Rutte.

Alisson Becker Becomes World's Most Expensive Goalkeeper

- Alisson Becker of Brazil** has become the **World's most expensive goalkeeper** while transferring clubs from **Italy's Roma to England's Liverpool for a world record £56 million**. The 25-year-old Brazilian has beaten Ederson Moraes (£34.7 million, Benfica to Manchester City).
- The deal could rise to as much as £65 million, with a further £10 million in add-ons, which are dependent on **Liverpool's qualification for the UEFA Champions League** and wins in various competitions in the future.

Shubhankar Sharma Becomes Youngest Indian To Make Cut in A Major

- Shubhankar Sharma** became the **youngest Indian golfer to make the cut in any Major** after he capped a wonderful back nine to achieve the feat at the **147th Open Championships at Carnoustie, Scotland**.
- Zach Johnson of the USA, the 2007 Masters and 2015 Open champion, rose to the top of the leaderboard.

36th Golden Glove Of Vojvodina Youth Tournament: India Clinches Top Spot

- i. Indian boxers** ruled the ring at the **36th Golden Glove of Vojvodina youth tournament**, ending with **seven gold medals to claim the overall top spot in the event in Subotica, Serbia**. Four men and three women clinched gold medals at the tournament, which featured 17 countries.
- ii. India finished first with 17 medals**, including six silver and four bronze. Russia fetched 11 medals (3 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze), but ended up third behind Kazakhstan, who had a better gold medal count (5) in their overall haul of seven medals.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

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

Angelique Kerber Wins Maiden Wimbledon Title

- i. Former world number one Angelique Kerber** defeated **seven-time champion Serena Williams** in the women's singles final to clinch her **first-ever Wimbledon title**. Angelique Kerber hails from Germany.
- ii.** Overall, it was the 30-year-old's third Grand Slam title after having won the Australian Open and US Open in 2016.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Championships Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world.
- It is held in London, UK.

Yasar Dogu International, Turkey: Bajrang Punia Wins Gold

- i. In Wrestling, Bajrang Punia** has won his **second consecutive international gold** while **Sandeep Tomar had to be content with a silver medal** at the **Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey**.
- ii.** Indian wrestlers returned with 10 medals, including seven by women, from the ranking event. Vicky won a bronze in the 57 kilogram.
- iii. Medals won by Women wrestlers:**
- 1. Gold Medal:** Pinki (55kg category).
 - 2. Silver Medal:** Seema (53 kilogram) and Pooja Dhanda (57 kilogram), Rajni (72 kilogram).
 - 3. Bronze Medal:** Sarita (62 kilogram), Sangeeta Phogat.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Turkey Capital-** Ankara, **Currency-** Turkish lira.
- Bajrang Punia had won a gold at the Tbilisi Grand Prix in Georgia.

Prabhat Koli, 1st Asian Teen to Swim UK-France Channel

- i. A city college student, Prabhat Koli (19)**, who crossed the English Channel when he was 16, has become the **first Asian to swim the choppy water from Jersey (an Island in the UK) to France** in cold weather.
- ii.** The long-distance sea swimmer **covered 25km in 6 hours and 54 minutes**.

Sourabh Verma Lifts Russian Open Badminton Trophy

- i. Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma** lifted the **Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok**. In the title clash, he defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe and won his first title of the season. Sourabh had won the Chinese Taipei Masters in 2016, and finished runners-up at Bitburger Open the same year.
- ii.** In Mixed Doubles, the pair of Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg, lost in the Final against the Russian-Korean team of Vladimir Ivanov and Min Kyung Kim to settle for a runners-up finish.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

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

Chhattisgarh CM Launch Mobile Distribution Scheme 'Mobile Tihar'

- i. Actress Kangana Ranaut and Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh** launched a smartphone distribution scheme called **'Mobile Tihar'** under **Sanchar Kranti Yojna**.
- ii.** The scheme includes distribution of smartphones to 45 lakh women and 5 lakh children and setting up of 556 new mobile towers.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Balramji Dass Tandon** is the present Governor of Chhattisgarh.

Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold At Sotteville Athletics Meet

- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra** has clinched a **gold medal at the Sotteville Athletics Meet in France**. The Indian youngster secured the top spot in the podium with an **85.17m throw**.
- Moldova's **Andrian Mardare** took the silver medal after he covered a distance of 81.48m. The bronze medal went to Lithuania's **Edis Matusevicius**, whose best throw of the night was 79.31m.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

Neeraj Chopra's best throw is 86.47m when he won the historic gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.

Indian Women's Compound Archery Team Reaches World Rank 1

- Indian women's compound archery team created history** by becoming the **world rank one side in the category**. The team is six points ahead of the Chinese Taipei team.
- With the contribution from each member, the women's compound archery team jumped to the top spot with 342.6 points, with the Chinese Taipei team standing second with a difference of six points.

Thailand Open 2018: Nozomi Okuhara Beats PV Sindhu To Win Maiden Title

- India's star shuttler PV Sindhu** (seeded second) suffered a defeat to **fourth seed Nozomi Okuhara of Japan** in straight games inside 50 minutes to settle for runners-up spot in the **Thailand Open at the Nimibutr Stadium in Bangkok**.
- In men's singles, **Kanta Tsuneyama (Japan)** was the winner and **Tommy Sugiarto (Indonesia)** was runner up.

Marc Marquez Wins German Grand Prix

- Honda's Marc Marquez (of Spain)** cruised to his **ninth consecutive German Grand Prix victory** to extend his MotoGP lead. He has now won in the top category at Sachsenring for the past six years and three times in the smaller classes before that.
- Seven-time world champion Valentino Rossi finished second** with his Yamaha team-mate **Maverick Vinales third**.

Vinesh Phogat Wins Gold At Spanish Grand Prix

- Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won gold at the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid**, conceding just one point in five bouts en route to the title victory **in the women's 50kg freestyle category**. The 23-year-old outclassed Canada's **Natasha Fox 10-0** in the final.
- Vinesh began her campaign by beating **Mariana Diaz** on technical superiority and then thumped **Erin Golston 12-1** and **Valeria Chepsarakova 5-0**.

Olympic Medalists To Now Receive Rs 20,000 Pension Per Month

- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** announced that the **rate of pension for sportspersons who have won medals in international competitions** and have retired from active sports has been doubled from April 1. At present, the government gives lifelong pension to 588 players under the scheme of **'Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons.'**
- According to the revised rates, **Olympic and Para Olympic medallists will get a sum of Rs 20,000 per month each**, while gold medallists at World Cups and World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will receive **Rs 16,000 per month**.

Wimbledon Championships 2018: Complete List Of Winners

The 2018 Wimbledon Championships is a Grand Slam tennis tournament which takes place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom. The main tournament began on 2 July 2018 and finished on 15 July 2018. The 2018 tournament was the 132nd edition

of the Championships.

Novak Djokovic won the men's singles Title for the fourth time. **Angelique Kerber won the Ladies' Singles title.** The tournament is organised by **All England Lawn Tennis Club** and **International Tennis Federation (ITF).**

Complete List of Winners in Different Category (with their Respective Countries):

S. No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Kevin Anderson (South Africa)
2.	Women's Singles	Angelique Kerber (Germany)	Serena Williams (USA)
3.	Men's Doubles	Mike Bryan (USA) and Jack Sock (USA)	Michael Venus (New Zealand) and Raven Klaasen (South Africa)
4.	Women's Doubles	Barbora Krejckikova (Czech Republic) and Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Nicole Melichar (USA) and Kveta Peschke (Czech Republic)
5.	Mixed Doubles	Alexander Peya (Austria) and Nicole Melichar (USA)	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus) and Jamie Murray (United Kingdom)

FIFA World Cup 2018 Concludes | France Emerged As Champions

i. The 21st edition of the FIFA World Cup concluded in **Luzhniki Stadium in the Russian capital of Moscow.** 32 nations, divided into eight groups, battled it out for the coveted trophy in the quadrennial month-long event. **France emerged as the champion team of the FIFA World Cup 2018.** It has **defeated Croatia** in a thrilling final by 4-2. It was the **second world cup win for France**, it first won in 1998.

some Important Highlights and Special Awards of the FIFA 2018 World Cup:

- 1. Golden Ball Award:** Croatian captain **Luka Modric** won the Golden Ball for the World Cup's Best Player. Modric won Man-Of-The-Match three times in Croatia's seven games in Russia.
- 2. Golden Glove Award:** Belgium's **Thibaut Courtois** won the Golden Glove award for the best goalkeeper.
- 3. Golden Boot Award:** England's **Harry Kane** won the World Cup Golden Boot. He was the top scorer with six goals.
- 4. Young Player Award:** France's **Kylian Mbappe** won the Young Player award. He scored the game's finest goal and became the **first teenager to register in the final since Pele in 1958.**
- 5. Fairplay Award:** **Spain** was awarded the Fairplay Award for being the most disciplined team in the tournament.
- 6. Man of the Match in Final:** **Antoine Griezmann** (France).

Quick Facts:

- 1. The Prize money for the champion team was 38 million US Dollars.**
- 2. Zabivaka** was the official mascot of the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
- 3. The official song of the tournament was "Live It Up",** with vocals from Will Smith, Nicky Jam and Era Istrefi.

4. First time in the history of world cup **VAR (Video Assistant Referee)** system was used.

NOTE-

FIFA World Cup 2022 will be held in Qatar.

ii. **Silver and bronze medallists at World Cups in Olympic and Asian Games** disciplines will receive a sum of **Rs 14,000 per month** and an equal amount is payable to gold medallists of the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Para Asian Games.

Lewis Hamilton Wins German Grand Prix

i. **Lewis Hamilton** won the **German Grand Prix 2018** held at Hockenheimring track in Germany. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton secured the first position.

ii. He was followed by Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes in the second position. Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen secured the third position.

Tokyo 2020 Committee Officially Launches Olympic Mascots

i. **The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee** officially launched its **Olympic**

mascots 'Miraitowa' and Paralympic mascot 'Someity' at a ceremony attended by **Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike** and Committee's President Yoshiro Mori.

ii. The name of the **blue-checked Olympic mascot 'Miraitowa'** is derived from a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity and seeks to "promote a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people all over the world".

iii. The **pink-checked Paralympic mascot 'Someity'** owes its name to a type of cherry tree blossom and exhibits enormous mental and physical strength.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Winter Olympics** will be held in Beijing, China in 2022.

World Junior Squash Championships Begins In Chennai

i. **The Men's team event of the World Junior Squash Championships** has **begun in Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. A total of 24 countries, divided into eight groups, are taking part. India, placed in Group-E alongside Switzerland and Saudi Arabia, is seeded fifth.

ii. Egypt has been given the top billing and is in Group-A. Canada has been seeded second and England third. Pakistan has been placed 11th.

Fakhar Zaman, Quickest Player To Reach 1000 Runs In 1-Day Internationals

i. **Fakhar Zaman** recently scored a **double century for Pakistan against Zimbabwe** and he became the first player from Pakistan to score a double century in a one-day international. He became the quickest player in history to reach **1,000 runs in the format**.

ii. **Fakhar Zaman** has broken the record of **West Indies cricketer Vivian Richards**. Fakhar Zaman took **18 innings to reach the 1000 mark**. Vivian Richards had achieved this mark in 21 matches.

Muhammed Anas Yahiya Breaks Own National Record In 400m

i. **Star sprinter Muhammed Anas Yahiya** once again entered the record books as **he broke his own national record to win the 400 metres race** at the Cena Noveho Mesta nad Metuji meet **in the Czech Republic**.

ii. **Anas set a time of 45.24 seconds** to break his own record of 45.31 seconds which he had set during the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast in April 2018.

All India Football Federation Awards 2017 Announced: Complete List Of Winners

The All India Football Federation (AIFF), the governing body of football in India **named India and Bengaluru FC Captain Sunil Chhetri as the AIFF Player of the Year** in the Federation's Executive Committee Meeting in Mumbai. The meeting was chaired by **AIFF President Praful Patel**. The All India

Football Federation has announced several other awards as well in the Meeting. Kamala Devi bagged the 2017 AIFF Woman Player of the Year.

Here is the complete list of 2017 AIFF Award Winners:

Sl No	Award For	Winner
1.	Player of the Year	Sunil Chhetri
2.	Woman Player of the Year	Kamala Devi
3.	Best Grassroots Development Programme	Kerala FA
4.	long-time contribution to Indian Football	Hero Motocorp
5.	Best Referee	CR Srikrishna
7.	Emerging Player of the Year	Anirudh Thapa
8.	Emerging Woman Footballer of the Year	E Panthoi

Obituaries

Tony Award Winner Liliane Montevicchi Passes Away

i. Tony Award winner Liliane Montevicchi, the Paris-born dancer, actor, and singer, passed away at the age of 85 following a battle with colon cancer.

ii. Born October 13, 1932, started her ballet studies when she was nine; by the time she was 18 she had joined Roland Petit's dance company, Les Ballets de Paris, where she eventually became a prima ballerina.

Spiritual Leader Dada Vaswani Passes Away

i. Spiritual leader Dada Vaswani passed away at the age of 99 in Pune, Maharashtra. He was chief of Sadhu Vaswani Mission in Pune that is named after his uncle TL Vaswani.

ii. Acclaimed as a humanitarian, philosopher, educator, orator and non-sectarian spiritual leader, Vaswani was also known for promoting vegetarianism and animal rights.

CLAT coaching by NLU grads

Renowned Poet Gopal Das Neeraj Passes Away

i. Hindi poet Gopal Das Neeraj passed away in New Delhi after a prolonged illness. He was 94. His famous poetic works include *Asawari*, *Lahar Pukare* and *Paran Geet*.

ii. He won 3 Filmfare awards and penned some of the all-time hits like *Likhe jo khat tujhe*. He was conferred with **Padma Shri in 1991 and Padma Bhushan in 2007**.

Kannada Poet M.N. Vyasa Rao Passes Away

i. Kannada poet and film song lyricist M.N. Vyasa Rao passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was 73.

ii. He was also a recipient of the **Karnataka Rajya Sahitya Academy award** for his short story collection titled *Maleyalli Neneda Maragalu*.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Restaurant Critic Jonathan Gold Passes Away

i. Los Angeles Times and Pulitzer Prize-winning restaurant critic Jonathan Gold passed away at 57.

ii. He became the first restaurant critic to win a Pulitzer for criticism in 2007. Gold died of pancreatic cancer after being diagnosed with the disease.

Veteran Sports Journalist Swapan Sarkar Passes Away

i. Veteran sports journalist Swapan Sarkar passed away due to diabetic complications. He was 67 years old.

ii. Sarkar worked for a number of dailies and was also the Delhi sports correspondent of Ananda Bazaar Patrika (ABP) from mid-1990's.

Veteran Bengali Writer Ramapada Chowdhury Passes Away

i. **Acclaimed Bengali writer Ramapada Chowdhury**, whose story '*Abhimanyu*' was made into a Hindi movie '*Ek doctor ki maut*', passed away. Chowdhury was 95.

ii. He was conferred with the **Sahitya Academy award for '*Bari badle jay*' in 1988**. He was also the recipient of Rabindra Puraskar, Ananda Puraskar and Rabindranath Tagore Memorial International Prize.

Important Days with theme

Doctor's Day – 1 July

i. Physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy was born on July 1, 1882 and died on the same date in 1962, aged 80 years. Dr. Roy was honoured with the country's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna on February 4, 1961.

ii. This observance fulfills a need to show the doctors and physicians in our lives how important they are to us and how invaluable their treatments are that cure us.

International Day of Cooperatives: 7 July

i. **The International Day of Cooperatives** is observed across the world on **July 7** with an aim to promote the co-operative model, since it contains aspects of sustainable development at its core and is based on ethical values and principles.

ii. The 2018 theme of the Day is the '*Sustainable societies through cooperation*'.

World Population Day: 11 July

i. **World Population Day** was established by the then-governing **Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989**.

ii. The theme of WPD 2018 is '*Family Planning is a Human Right*'. This day seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- The UN Headquarters in New York, United States.

NABARD Foundation Day: 12 July

i. **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has completed 36 years of service to the nation and celebrated the **37th Foundation Day on 12th July**.

ii. A national seminar on '**Collectivisation and Market linkages: Farmers Producers Organizations**' was organized in Mumbai.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

NABARD Founded on: 12 July 1982, **Headquarters:** Mumbai, **Chairman:** Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.

17 July - International Justice Day

The International Criminal Justice Day is commemorated on 17 July; this is the day that marks the entry into force of the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court (ICC), which took place ten years ago in 2002.

Nelson Mandela International Day: 18 July

i. Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 is observed internationally on 18th July. This year marks 100 years since the birth of Nelson Mandela (18 July 1918).

ii. The Nelson Mandela Foundation is dedicating this year's Mandela Day to '*Action Against Poverty*', honouring Nelson Mandela's leadership and devotion to fighting poverty and promoting social justice for all.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- The UN Headquarters in New York, United States.
- The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945.

28 July - World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day (WHD) takes place every year on 28 July and brings the world together under a single theme to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and to influence real change. One of just four disease-specific global awareness days officially endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Theme- Eliminate Hepatitis

International Tiger Day: 29 July

i. International Tiger Day is being celebrated every year on **29 July** to raise awareness about tiger conservation.

ii. As per latest tiger counting (in 2014), Madhya Pradesh has 308 big cats. India's track record with tiger populations has been encouraging. India is home to 70% of tigers in the world.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- In 2010 the International Tigers Day was first created at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.

World Day against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July

i. World Day against Trafficking in Persons is organized across the world by the United Nations on **30 July** to Combat Trafficking in Persons, urging Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to defeat this scourge.

ii. The theme for World Day against Trafficking in Persons is '*Responding to the trafficking of children and young people*'.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The United Nations Secretary-General- Antonio Guterres, Headquarters- New York, the USA, Established in- 1945.**