

DECEMBER 2018 QUICK REVIEW

> IMPORTANT DAYS

- 1st December - AIDS Day
- 1st December - Nagaland Statehood Day
- 2nd December - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 2nd December - National Pollution Control Day
- 2nd December - World Computer Literacy Day
- 3rd December - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 4th December - Indian Navy Day
- 5th December - World Soil Day
- 5th December - International Volunteer Day (IVD)
- 5th December - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- 6th December - Mahaparinirvan Diwas (Death Anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar)
- 7th December - International Civil Aviation day
- 7th December - Armed Forces Flag Day
- 8th December - Bodhi Day
- 9th December - International Anti-Corruption Day
- 10th December - Human Rights Day (HRD)
- 11th December - UNICEF Day
- 11th December - International Mountain Day
- 12th December - International Universal Health Coverage Day
- 13th December - World Choral Day
- 14th December - World Monkey Day
- 14th December - National Energy Conservation Day
- 15th December - International Tea Day
- 16th December - Vijay Diwas (Victory Day)
- 17th December - International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers
- 18th December - International Migrants Day
- 18th December - Minorities Rights Day
- 19th December - Goa Liberation day
- 20th December - International Human Solidarity Day
- 22nd December - National Mathematics Day
- 23rd December - Kisan Diwas (Farmer's Day)
- 24th December - National Consumers Day / National Consumers Right Day
- 25th December - Good Governance Day

> NEW APPOINTMENTS

- A S Rajeev - MD & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra
- A. N. Jha - New Finance Secretary

- Ambika Prasad Panda - Chairman and Managing Director, South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)
- Andreas Goss - CEO, Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel
- Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador - President, Mexico
- Andry Rajoelina - President, Madagascar
- Anil Srivastava - Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog
- Arti Chhabra Srivastava - 1st full-time Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)
- Arundhati Bhattacharya - Chairperson, SWIFT India
- Ashley Giles - Managing Director, England's Cricket Team
- Ashok Kumar - Ambassador of India to Djibouti (East Africa)
- Ashok Kumar Singh - Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)
- Atul Sahai - Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), New India Assurance (NIA)
- B V P Rao - President, Archery Association of India(AAI)
- Bharat Bhushan Vyas - Member, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
- Bijay Kumar - Deputy Managing Director, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd
- Brahm Dutt - Non-executive interim chairman, YES Bank
- Brijendra Pal Singh - President of FTII Society & Chairman of FTII Governing Council
- C A Kuttappa - Chief Boxing Coach, India
- Chagari Praveen Kumar- Acting Chief Justice, Andhra Pradesh High Court
- Harsh Vardhan Shringla - Ambassador of India to USA
- Heather Nauert - US Ambassador to United Nations
- James Quincey - 14th chairman, Coca-Cola
- Jon Ridgeon - CEO, International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)
- Justice Tarun Agarwala - Presiding Officer, Securities Appellate Tribunal
- Kirthiga Reddy - 1st Venture Partner, SoftBank
- Krishnamurthy Subramanian - Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)
- Lalit Kumar - new Govt Nominee, ICICI Bank Board
- M Nageswara Rao - Additional Director, CBI
- Madhavi Divan - ASG (Additional Solicitor General), Supreme Court
- Mark Milley - Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff of USA

- Mohinder Pratap Singh - Ambassador of India to Mongolia
- Nilanjan Roy - Chief Financial Officer, Infosys
- P.V Bharathi - MD & CEO, Corporation Bank
- Patrick Shanahan - acting Defence Secretary of USA
- Pranab K. Das - Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- Rahul Chhabra - Indian Ambassador to Somalia
- Rajeev Mehta - President, South Asian Fencing Federation (SAFF)
- Rajeev Sachdeva - Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (DCIDS)
- Rajesh Subramaniam - President & CEO, FedEx Express
- Rajiv Mehrishi - Vice-Chair of United Nations Panel of Auditors
- Ramphal Pawar - Director, NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau)
- Ranil Wickremesinghe - Prime minister, Sri Lanka
- Raninder Singh - Vice-president, International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) [1st Indian]
- Riva Ganguly Das - India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh
- Sandip Somany - President, FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry)
- Sangeeta Verma - Member, Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- Shaktikanta Das - 25th Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Shalindra Kumar - Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir
- Shamila Batohi - 1st Female Chief Prosecutor, South Africa
- Sheikh Hasina - Prime Minister, Bangladesh (3rd consecutive term)
- Siddhartha Bhattacharya - Secretary-General, National Healthcare Foundation (NATHEALTH)
- Sudhir Bhargava - new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)
- T. C. Barupal - Indian Ambassador to Republic of Guinea (West Africa)
- T.S. Vijayan - Additional Director (Independent), Yes Bank
- Uday Shankar - Vice President, FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry)
- W V Raman - Coach of Indian Women's Cricket Team
- Y. K. Sailas Thangal - New Indian ambassador to Liberia

Recently Appointed Chief Ministers of 5 States

- Chhattisgarh - Bhupesh Baghel (Indian National Congress)
- Madhya Pradesh - Kamal Nath (Indian National Congress)
- Mizoram - Zoramthanga (Mizo National Front (MNF)), Tawnluia (Deputy CM)

- Rajasthan - Ashok Gehlot (Indian National Congress), Sachin Pilot (Deputy CM)
- Telangana - K Chandrasekhar Rao (President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)) [2nd consecutive term]

> DEATHS

- Arun Kumar Shaw - Swimmer (7-time former national champion).
- Dipali Borthakur - Noted Assamese singer, also known as the "Nightingale of Assam"
- Dwijen Mukhopadhyay - Noted Rabindra Sangeet singer.
- George H .W. Bush - Former USA President.
- Hamidi Kashmiri - Noted Urdu Literataur.
- Jagdish Thakkar - Senior journalist and Public Relations Officer (PRO) in PM office.
- Jai Narain Prasad Nishad - Former Union Minister, served as Minister of state, Environment and Forests (IC) during 1996-97.
- Lawrence Gilman Roberts - American Scientist, known for development of ARPANET, called early Internet.
- Lyudmila Alexeyeva - Noted Russian rights activist and former Soviet dissident
- Mrinal Sen - Noted filmmaker.
- Mushirul Hasan - Noted Historian. He has extensively written on India's Partition.
- Nancy Grace Roman - 1st-ever woman to hold an executive position at NASA
- Nancy Wilson - 3 times Grammy award winner american jazz singer.
- Nirendranath Chakraborty - Noted Bengali poet.
- Norman Gimbel - the Oscar and Grammy-winning American lyricist.
- Pandit Arun Bhaduri - Noted classical singer. She is named as one of masters of Bengali songs and bhajans.
- Prabhanjan - Noted Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner.
- Shehu Shagari - 2nd President of Nigeria.
- Sulagitti Narasamma - Indian Midwife, Padma Shri awardee Noted Social worker.
- Thoppil Ajayan - National award winning Malayalam film director.
- Tulsi Giri - Former Nepalese Prime Minister.
- Tulsi Ramsay - Filmmaker. He is noted for directing old Bollywood Horror flicks.

> AWARDS & HONORS

- Amitav Ghosh - 54th Jnanpith Award
- Ashok Amritraj - French Knight of the National Order of Merit
- Catherine Ibarguen - IAAFWorld Athlete of the year 2018 (Female)
- Catriona Gray (Philippines) - Miss Universe 2018

- ~ Charlotte Prodger - Turner Award 2018
- ~ CRI Pumps - National Energy Conservation Award 2018
- ~ Divya Patidar Joshi - Mrs. India 2018
- ~ Eliud Kipchoge - IAAF World Athlete of the year 2018 (Male)
- ~ Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation - Best Capital City in Solid Waste Management
- ~ ICFAI Business School - Outstanding Case Writer Award
- ~ IIT Kharagpur - DSCI Excellence Award 2018
- ~ Imran Hussain - Hero to Animals Award
- ~ Janhvi Kapoor - 'Arets Stjerneskudd' Rising Talent of Year Award
- ~ Jharkhand - Krishi Karman Award
- ~ Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar & Usha Timothy - Mohammed Rafi Award
- ~ Luca Modrich - Ballon d'Or (prestigious honor of football)
- ~ Luka Modric - Balkan Athlete of the Year 2018
- ~ Malala Yousafzai - Gleitsman Award 2018
- ~ Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal CM) - Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award for the year 2017 Award
- ~ Manju Mehta (Sitar Player) - Tansen Samman
- ~ Manmohan Singh - South Indian Education Society (SIES) Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award
- ~ M C Mary Kom - Meethoileima (par excellence queen) Award
- ~ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - Skoch Award for National Significance
- ~ N Biren Singh (Manipur CM) - Champions of Change Award
- ~ Prathamesh Maulingkar - Mister Supranational title 2018 (1st Asian/Indian)
- ~ Rajanish Giri - Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (IYBA) 2018
- ~ Sascha Bajin - Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Coach of the Year Award 2018 (1st ever recipient)
- ~ Shaan & Arijit Singh - Sangeet Maha Samman Award by West Bengal Government
- ~ Shree Saini - Miss India Worldwide 2018
- ~ Sonam Kapoor - PETA India's Person of the Year 2018
- ~ Sunil Bharti Mittal - 1st Indian to receive Doctor Honoris Causa (ESCP Europe's highest honour)
- ~ Tata Steel - Prime Minister's Trophy for 'Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant' for 2016-17
- ~ Vernon Unsworth - Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Award
- ~ Vanessa Ponce de Leon (Mexico) - Miss World 2018

> SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS 2018

- ~ Assamese - Sananta Tanti (Poetry)
- ~ Bengali - Sanjib Chattopadhyay (Story)
- ~ Bodo - Rituraj Basumatary (Short Stories)

- ~ Dogri - Inderjeet Kesar (Novel)
- ~ English - Anees Safim (Novel)
- ~ Gujarati - Sharifa Vijiwala (Essay)
- ~ Hindi - Chitra Mudgal (Novel)
- ~ Kannada - K G Nagarajappa (Literary Criticism)
- ~ Kashmiri - Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq (Short Stories)
- ~ Konkani - Paresch Narendra Kamat (Poetry)
- ~ Maithili - Bina Thakur (Short Stories)
- ~ Malayalam - S Rameshan Nair (Poetry)
- ~ Manipuri - Budhichandra Heisnamba (Short Stories)
- ~ Marathi - Ma. Su. Patil (Literary Criticism)
- ~ Nepali - Lok Nath Upadhyay Chapagain (Short Stories)
- ~ Odia - Dasarathi das (Literary Criticism)
- ~ Punjabi - Mohanjit (Poetry)
- ~ Rajasthani - Rajesh Kumar Vyas (Poetry)
- ~ Sanskrit - Rama Kant Shukla (Poetry)
- ~ Santhali - Shyam Sundar Besra (Novel)
- ~ Sindhi - Khimam U Mulani (Poetry)
- ~ Tamil - S Ramkrishnan (Novel)
- ~ Telugu - Kolakaluri Enoch (Essay)
- ~ Urdu - Aahman Abbas (Novel)

Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2018 Winners

- ~ Lifetime achievement - Rajya Sabha MP Sharad Pawar and Murlu Manohar Joshi
- ~ Best Parliamentarian - Ghulam Nabi Azad AND Nishikant Dubey
- ~ Best debut woman parliamentarian (Lok Sabha) - Hema Malini
- ~ Best woman parliamentarian Lok Sabha - Rama Devi
- ~ Best woman parliamentarian in Rajya Sabha - Kanimozhi
- ~ Best debut woman parliamentarian (Rajya Sabha) - Chhaya Verma

23rd International Film Festival of Kerala Awards

- ~ Crow Pheasant Award (Suvarna Chakoram) – Iranian film The Dark Room
- ~ The Silver Crow Pheasant Award (Rajatha Chakoram) for best Director – Lijo Jose Pellissery
- ~ Audience Poll Award for Best Film – Malayalam Film Ee. Ma.Yau
- ~ FIPRESCI Award – Zakariya's Sudani from Nigeria
- ~ Special Jury Mention Award – The Silence

Asian Academy Creative Awards (AAA's) 2018 Winners

- ~ Best Entertainment host/presenter - Salman Khan (Big Boss)
- ~ Best Direction (fiction) - Anurag Kashyap (Netflix's original series Sacred Games)
- ~ Best Actor - Yu Hwei (The Hunter)
- ~ Best Actress - Adinia Wirasti (Critical Eleven)

- Best Supporting Actor - Michael Kho (Kenapa Harus Bule)
 - Best Supporting Actress - Candy Yang (Roseki)
- TIME magazine's Person of the Year 2018 Award**

- The TIME magazine has named 'The Guardians', a group of journalists and a news paper, as its 'Person of the Year 2018'. They are :
- Jamal Khashoggi : Washington Post columnist murdered for his criticism of the Saudi crown prince.
- Maria Ressa : Editor of a Philippine news website renowned for its critical coverage of its president's controversially violent policies.
- Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo : Two Reuters journalists who were arrested in Myanmar while investigating a massacre of Rohingya Muslims.
- The Capital Gazette : The news paper targeted by a gunman who opened fire into the newsroom, killing four journalists and a sales assistant.

Star Screen Awards 2018 Winners

- Best Actor - Ranveer Singh for Padmaavat
- Best Actress - Alia Bhatt for Raazi
- Best Director - Sriram Raghavan for Andhadhun
- Best Film - Stree
- Best Actor in Supporting Role (Male) - Pankaj Tripathi for Stree
- Best Actor in Supporting Role (Female) - Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
- Lifetime Achievement - Shabana Azmi
- Best Music - Amit Trivedi for Manmarziyaan
- Best Male Playback Singer - Arijit Singh for Ae Watan from Raazi
- Best Lyrics - Gulzar for Ae Watan from Raazi
- Best Female Singer - Harshdeep Kaur for Dilbaro from Raazi

ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) Star Awards 2018 Winners

- Breakthrough Table Tennis Star Award -Manika Batra - (1st Indian)
- Star Point Award - Xu Xin (China)
- Female Para Table Tennis star Award - Kelly van Zon (Netherlands)
- Male Para Table Tennis star Award - Jordi Morales (Spain)
- Star Coach Award - Massimo Costantini (Italy)
- Female Table Tennis Star Award - Ding Ning (China)
- Male Table Tennis Star Award - Fan Zhendong (China)

2018 International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champions

- Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- Simona Halep (Romania)

ICC Women's Cricketer Awards winners 2018

- Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year - Smriti Mandhana (India)
- ICC Women's ODI Player of Year - Smriti Mandhana (India)
- ICC Women's T20I Player of the Year - Alyssa Healy (Australia)
- ICC Women's Emerging Player of the Year - Sophie Ecclestone (England)

Tata Open Badminton 2018 Winners

- Men's Singles - Lakshya Sen (India)
- Women's Singles - Ashmita Chaliha (India)
- Men's Doubles - Arjun M.R., B. Sumeeth Reddy (India)
- Women's Doubles - Ng Wing Yung, Yeung Nga Ting (Hong Kong)
- Mixed Doubles - Nipitphon Phuangphuaet, Savitree Amitrapai (Thailand)

BWF World Tour 2018 Winners

- Men's Singles : Shi Yuqi (China)
- Women's Singles : P. V. Sindhu (India) [1st Indian]
- Men's Doubles : Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen (China)
- Women's Doubles : Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi (Japan)
- Mixed Doubles : Wang Yili and Huang Dongping (China)

> BOOKS & AUTHORS

- A Rural Manifesto – Realising India's Future through her Villages authored by Varun Gandhi
- Architecture of Justice: A pictorial walk-through of the supreme court and High courts of India authored by Vinay Thakur and Amogh Thakur
- Changing India authored by Manmohan Singh (Former Prime Minister)
- Early Indians : The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From authored by Tony Joseph
- God of Sin: The Cult, The Clout and Downfall of Asaram Bapu authored by Ushinor Majumdar
- Modiraj Main Kisan, Double Aamad Ya Double aafat authored by Yogendra Yadav (Swaraj India President)
- Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy authored by Arvind Subramanian (Former Chief Economic Adviser)
- Prince, Patron and Patriarch Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala authored by Sukhjot Singh, and Cynthia Frederick
- The Republican Ethic - Selected Speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind
- Loktantra Ke Swar - Selected Speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind
- Timeless Laxman authored by Usha Srinivas Laxman (cartoonist RK Laxman's daughter-in-law)

India has been ranked at 108th in the recently released Gender Gap Index 2018 by World Economic Forum.

- India was ranked at the same position in 2017 rankings as well.

Top 10 Countries in 2018 Gender Gap Index

1. Iceland (for the 10th consecutive year)
2. Norway
3. Sweden
4. Finland
5. Nicaragua
6. Rwanda
7. New Zealand
8. Philippines
9. Ireland
10. Namibia

4 Indian Public Sector Undertakings have been placed in World's top 100 arms producers according to the recently released rankings by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). They are :

- ~ Indian Ordnance Factories (37th)
- ~ Hindustan Aeronautics (38th)
- ~ Bharat Electronics (64th)
- ~ Bharat Dynamics (94th)

4 Indians in Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful 4 Women list 2018 :

- ~ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (Biocon Chairperson)
- ~ Roshni Nadar Malhotra (HCL Tech Vice Chairperson)
- ~ Shobhana Bhartia (HT Media MD)
- ~ Priyanka Chopra (Bollywood Actress)

Note : The list has been topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the eighth consecutive year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has shortlisted six IT majors to set up Public Credit Registry (PCR) for capturing details of borrowers and wilful defaulters.

They are :

1. TCS
2. Wipro
3. IBM India
4. Capgemini Technology Services India
5. Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India
6. Mindtree.

Bollywood Actor Salman Khan has topped the Forbes Celebrity 100 list of 2018 with ₹253.25 crore earnings.

Top 5 in the List :

1. Salman Khan
2. Viraty Kohli
3. Akshay Kumar
4. Deepika Padukone
5. Mahendra Singh Dhoni

A recent study by Global Carbon Project revealed that India is the 4th highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, accounting for 7% of global emissions in 2017.

Top 4 carbon dioxide emitters in 2017 are

1. China (27%)
2. US (15%)
3. European Union (10%)
4. India (7%)

As per the ratings released by Passport Index, the United Arab Emirates has topped the Global Passport Power Rank 2018, emerging as the country with the most powerful passport in world.

Top 3 Countries in Global Passport Power Rank 2018 :

1. UAE
2. Singapore
3. Germany

4 Indian-origin women have been named in Forbes 'America's Top 50 Women In Tech' list. They are :

1. Padmasree Warrior - Former Cisco Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
2. Kamakshi Sivaramakrishnan - Founder, CEO of identity-management company Drawbridge
3. Neha Narkhede - Co-founder, CTO of streaming platform Confluent
4. Komal Mangtani - Senior Director at Uber.

> CURRENT RBI POLICY RATES 2018

- ~ Repo Rate : 6.50%
- ~ Reverse Repo Rate : 6.25%
- ~ MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) : 6.75%
- ~ Bank Rate : 6.75%
- ~ CRR : 4%
- ~ SLR : 19.5%

DECEMBER 2018-HIGHLIGHTS (ONE-LINERS)

- ~ 1st December 2018 was observed as World AIDS Day with the theme "Know Your Status".
- ~ 106th foundation day of India's first Swadeshi Bank 'Central Bank of India' was observed on 21st December 2018. Central Bank of India was completely owned and founded by Indians without any Britishers share. It was established on 21st December 1911 by Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala with Sir Pherozeshah Mehta as Chairman.
- ~ 10th December 2018 was observed as Human Rights Day with the theme "Stand Up For Human Rights".
- ~ 10th edition of INDRA NAVY maritime exercise between India and Russia was held at Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh from December 9-16, 2018. Aim of INDRA NAVY Exercise : To increase interoperability amongst the two navies, develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.
- ~ 11th December 2018 was observed as International Mountain Day with the theme "#MountainsMatter".
- ~ 16th December 2018 is observed as Vijay Diwas (Victory Day) in India.

- 175th Meeting of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies (OPEC) Conference & 5th OPEC and Non OPEC Ministerial Meeting held in Vienna (Austria).
- 18th December was observed as International Migrants Day with the theme " Migration with Dignity".
- 19-year-old Ashmita Chaliha defeated eighth seed Vrushali Gummadi in finals to win the Women's Singles title of Tata Open India International Challenge 2018. This is her 2nd title in two weeks (On November 19, She won the Dubai International Challenge).
- 1st bilateral air exercise between Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and Indian Air Force (IAF) titled SHINYUU Maitri-18 began at Air Force Station, Agra. Theme of SHINYUU Maitri 18 : Joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft.
- 23rd December 2018 was observed as Kisan Diwas (National Farmers Day) in India. This day observed to celebrate the birthday of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth Prime Minister of India.
- 24th December 2018 was observed as National Consumers Day / National Consumers Right Day in India with the theme "Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints".
- 2nd Edition of Khelo India school games will begin from January 9, 2019 in Pune (Maharashtra). It will allow participants to compete in two categories, (Under 17) and (Under 21). Now, these games will be known as Khelo India Youth Games, also allowing students from colleges and Universities to compete.
- 2nd edition of service specific exercise AVIAINDRA between Indian Air Force and Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF) was held at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The inaugural IAF-RFSAF Ex AVIAINDRA was conducted in 2014 and since then it is conducted bi-annually (twice a year) in both countries. Aim of AVIAINDRA : Anti-terrorist operations in bi-lateral scenario.
- 3rd December 2018 was observed as International Day of Persons with Disabilities with the theme "Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".
- 5th December 2018 was observed as International Volunteer Day (IVD) with the theme "Volunteers build Resilient Communities".
- 5th December 2018 was observed as World Soil Day with the theme "Be the Solution to Soil Pollution!".
- 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) Shotgun organized by National Rifle Association of India at Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- 63rd Mahaparinirvan Diwas (Death anniversary) of the architect of Indian constitution Dr. BR Ambedkar was observed on 6th December 2018.
- 7th December 2018 was observed as International Civil Aviation Day with the theme "Working Together to ensure No Country is Left Behind".
- 7th Hand-in-Hand Military exercise between India and China was held at Chengdu (China). Aim of this Exercise : To improve capabilities of the two armies in fighting terrorism and promote mutual understanding.
- 80th Session of Policy Commission of World Customs Organization (WCO) was held Mumbai (Maharashtra). Hosted by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), under Union Finance Minister.
- 8th December was observed as Armed Forces Flag Day / Flag Day of India. This day is celebrated all over India every year on 7th of December in order to collect the funds from people all around the country for the wellbeing of the staff of the Indian Armed Forces.
- 9th Admirals Cup Sailing Regatta (2018) held at Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy Ezhimala (INA) Kerala. Team Italy won it with Team Singapore staying 2nd. Host country (Indian Naval Academy) finished 4th.
- 9th December 2018 was observed as International Anti-Corruption Day with the theme "United Against Corruption".
- A 20-year-old Pune woman Vedangi Kulkarni has become the fastest Asian to cycle the globe. She has completed the 29,000 km distance required to qualify as bicycling across the globe.
- A book titled "Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy" was recently launched. This book has been authored by Arvind Subramanian (Former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India).
- A Sri Lankan court has issued an order blocking Mahinda Rajapaksa from acting as Prime Minister and holding cabinet meetings. Rajapaksa was appointed by President Maithripala Sirisena after he sacked Ranil Wickremesinghe as PM.
- A UK court has ruled that 62-year-old fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya will be extradited to India in ₹9,000 crore loan default case.
- Aadhaar details for bank accounts or mobile phone connections will no longer be mandatory as Union Cabinet approved an amendment to the existing law, making Aadhaar details optional for these services.
- According to a recent data presented in Indian Parliament, Private sector lender ICICI Bank penalised the highest number of employees for their involvement in frauds between 2015 and 2017. ICICI was followed by State Bank of India (1,287) and Punjab National Bank (1,127).
- According to a recent report by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 1 in every 8 deaths in India in 2017 was attributed to Air Pollution. The report also stated that air pollution lowered the average life expectancy by 1.7 years.

- Adani Defence and Aerospace and Israel's Elbit Systems jointly inaugurated India's first private Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) manufacturing facility in Hyderabad.
- Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff, released a book titled 'Blue Waters Ahoy!' – chronicling the Indian Navy's History from 2001-10. The book has been authored by Vice Admiral Anup Singh, who retired as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command in 2011.
- After a period of 22 years, President's rule has been imposed in Jammu and Kashmir. This comes after the Centre approved a proposal put forward by the state's Governor Satya Pal Malik.
- Aiming to reduce the number of mob lynchings in the state, the Manipur Assembly passed the 'Manipur Protection from Mob Violence Bill'. This bill recommends life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence if it results in the death of a victim.
- American multinational technology company Microsoft dethroned Apple as the world's most valuable company after its market value was above Apple's at the close of trading at \$851.2 billion, compared to Apple's \$847.4 billion.
- An accountability court handed ousted Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif 7 years in jail and a fine of \$2.5 million in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case. Sharif was in July 2017 disqualified by Supreme Court over Panama Papers scandal.
- An All-women political party named 'National Women's Party (NWP)' was launched in Delhi.
- Armed Forces Week being celebrated from 1st to 7th December 2018. India marks the Armed Forces Flag Day on 7th December every year and this year it will be the 70th Armed Forces Flag Day.
- As part of his electoral promise, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao directed officials to begin the process of forming two new districts (Mulugu and Narayanpet) in the state.
- As per a recent report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Banks recovered bad loans worth ₹40,400 crore in 2017-18. The loans were recovered through channels like the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), SARFAESI Act, Debt Recovery Tribunals and Lok Adalats.
- Asian Cricket Council (ACC) approved Pakistan as hosts of 2020 Asia cup.
- Atlawim Debebe of Ethiopia won Men's Full Marathon Title in Pune International Marathon 2018, with timing of 2 hours 17 minutes 17 seconds. In women's Full Marathon, Pascalia Chepkogei from Kenya stood first with timing of 2 hour 50 minutes 27 seconds.
- Australia has become the 1st country in the world to recognise 'Orphanage Trafficking' as a form of Modern Slavery.
- Australia is going to pass legislation giving police and intelligence agencies access to encrypted messages on social networking platforms such as WhatsApp.
- Australian Golfer Minjee Lee became first woman to win prestigious Greg Norman Medal as best Australian golfer.
- Belgium defeated Netherlands in the final in Bhubaneswar to clinch the Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 for the first time. India ranked 6th and were eliminated in Quarter finals, after a defeat by Netherlands.
- Belgium Football team came at number one position in the End-of-the-year FIFA global rankings.
- Bhopal observed the 34th anniversary of gas leak tragedy, one of the worst industrial disaster of the world.
- Breaking an 82-year-old record, Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah became the fastest bowler in the world to reach the milestone of scalping 200 Test wickets. Earlier, the record was held by former Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett who had scalped 200 wickets in 36 Tests.
- Calling for elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in the food supply, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a media campaign titled "Heart Attack Rewind". It will support FSSAI's global target of eliminating trans-fat in India by 2022, a year ahead of global target by World Health Organization (WHO).
- Canada's now-retired weightlifter Christine Girard was given the London 2012 Gold Medal and the Beijing 2008 Bronze Medal after the urine samples of the weightlifters finishing above her at the events tested positive for banned substances. Girard became the 1st Olympic champion in Canadian weightlifting history and the 1st Canadian ever to win two Olympic medals in the sport.
- Chandigarh based Golfer Shubhankar Sharma became the youngest Indian to clinch the Asian Tour Order of Merit with a groundbreaking 2018 season.
- China has rejected India's proposal to carry out bilateral trade in local currencies.
- China launched the 1st-ever spacecraft that will attempt landing on far side of the Moon, which always shows the same face to Earth as it's close enough to be locked by the planet's gravitational field.
- China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) has started offering global service. It is touted as a rival to America's Global Positioning System (GPS).
- China's stock market has erased \$2.4 trillion of market value this year amid the trade war between the US and China.
- Commonwealth Senior Fencing Championships held in Canberra (Australia). India won 3 medals (2 gold and 1 bronze). Medal tally topped by England with 6 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze.

- Congress leader Sajjan Kumar has been sentenced to life imprisonment in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case by the Delhi High Court.
- Cricket Australia (CA) and Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) rebranded Allan Border Medal to Australian Cricket Awards from 2019 onwards.
- Delhi High Court has allowed that Section 354A of Indian Penal Code can be used by transgenders to register complaints of sexual harassment.
- Director General of Sports Authority of India (SAI), Neelam Kapur has announced that the Sports Ministry has earmarked ₹100 crore for funding the athletes under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) ahead of 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.
- During External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's Abu Dhabi visit, India and UAE signed a ₹3,500-crore Currency Swap Agreement. The agreement is expected to reduce the dependency on hard currencies like US dollar and reduce transmission costs arising from exchange rate risks.
- Elon Musk-led startup SpaceX successfully launched 64 satellites aboard its Falcon 9 rocket into Earth's orbit, setting a new US record. The rocket carried India's first fully private satellite 'ExseedSat-1', built by Mumbai-based startup Exseed Space for less than Rs. 2 crore. Important Note : The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) holds the record for most satellites launched in one go, at 104 satellites in February 2017.
- Ending a 15-year iconic career, renowned Kabaddi Player, Anup Kumar (35) announced his retirement from Kabaddi. He led India to gold medal at the Asian Games.
- Ex-Indian men's cricket team opener WV Raman has been appointed as the coach of the Indian women's cricket team.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was on a visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE). During this visit, she co-chaired the 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic and Technical Cooperation with Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Foreign Minister of the UAE).
- Facebook is developing 'stablecoin', a type of cryptocurrency pegged to the dollar, for the payments feature on its messaging platform WhatsApp.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that the Centre has decided to increase its contribution to the National Pension System for the central government employees to 14% from 10%. The Centre also made the withdrawal of amount at the time of retirement tax free.
- Flipkart-owned Myntra's CEO Ananth Narayanan has resigned from his role with his position set to be abolished.
- For the fifth consecutive year in a row, Numeric combination '123456' has been ranked as the worst password in 'Top 100 Worst Passwords of 2018' by US-based company SplashData, which analysed over 50 million leaked passwords. The second spot was taken by 'password' itself while 'donald' made its debut at the 23rd spot.
- For the first time, Olympics 2020 will use a judging system developed by Japanese IT firm Fujitsu which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) and LIDAR technology found in autonomous cars. The system scores a gymnastics' routine based on the angles of a gymnast's joints.
- For the overall development of farmers Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a Rs. 10,000 crore scheme titled KALIA. KALIA - Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation.
- Former Australian Cricketer Ricky Ponting formally inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- Former Coal Secretary HC Gupta sentenced to 3 years in jail by Delhi's Patiala House Court in the coal scam case relating to allotment of coal blocks in West Bengal.
- Former England cricket team spinner Ashley Giles will succeed former captain Andrew Strauss as the Managing Director of England's Men's cricket in January 2019.
- Formula One drivers have chosen Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton as the Best Driver of the 2018 season. Hamilton registered 11 victories alongside 11 pole positions and 17 podium finishes from 21 races.
- Fortnight-long (Two weeks) UN Climate Summit held in Poland. Delegates from nearly 200 nations discussed ways to tackle global warming in the summit.
- German authorities gave their approval to an \$8 billion rail and road tunnel linking Denmark and Germany. The 19-kilometre Fehmarnbelt link comprises a 4-lane motorway and a 2-track railway, and is part-funded by the European Union.
- German firm BigRep and NOWlab produced the world's first fully functioning e-motorbike NERA using a 3D printer.
- Germany has offered ₹720-crore low-interest loan to support reconstruction of bridges and roads that were damaged in Kerala flood. German Ambassador to India Martin Ney announced that the country has also offered a technical grant of ₹24 crore in infrastructure planning.
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted by 164 nations including India at Intergovernmental Conference to adopt this compact held under auspices of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at Marrakesh, Morocco. It is 1st intergovernmental agreement to cover wide-ranging dimensions of international migration in holistic and comprehensive manner and agreed upon by all the UN member states minus United States. This compact covers "all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner".

- Global rating agency Fitch lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2% in 2018-19, from 7.8% projected in September, citing higher financing costs and reduced credit availability.
- Government constituted committee to look at selling as many as 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output. It will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
- Gujarat has emerged as the best performing state in the Startup Ranking 2018 which was unveiled by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi . Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and Rajasthan, with a score of more than 85 percentile, have been adjudged the top performers. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana have been recognised as Leaders.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced the renaming of Child Care Institutes being run in the state as Jagannath Ashrams.
- Haryana Government has launched a mobile app named as 'Shiksha Setu'. The 'Shiksha Setu' App will help in bringing transparency in the Education Department and in the administration of colleges in the state.
- HDFC Group has overtaken Tata Group to become India's largest business house in terms of market value.
- Hungarian capital Budapest confirmed as host city of 2023 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships. Upcoming hosts are - Qatar in 2019 and Eugene (USA) in 2021.
- In its annual report, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that the number of ATMs has declined marginally to 2.07 lakh in the financial year 2018 from 2.08 lakh in the financial year 2017.
- In its recently released Outlook Supplement, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has retained India's growth forecast at 7.3% for current fiscal (2018-19) and 7.6% in following financial year (2019-20). It held that India is maintaining growth momentum on rebounding exports and higher industrial and agricultural output.
- India and China concluded the 7th edition of 'Hand-in-Hand' military exercise in China's Chengdu city. The 'Hand-in-Hand' military exercise did not take place last year due to prevailing tensions between both sides after 73-day military standoff at Doklam
- India and China held the 1st meeting of the high-level people-to-people exchanges mechanism. This meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Both the countries agreed on '10 pillars' of cooperation to enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
- India announced financial assistance of ₹4,500 crore to Bhutan for its 12th Five Year Plan.
- India celebrated 45th Navy Day on 4th December 2018. Chief of Naval Staff : Admiral Sunil Lanba.
- India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has become the highest wicket-taker in international cricket in the year 2018 (78 wickets), overtaking South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada (77).
- India has successfully test-fired nuclear strategic ballistic missile Agni-IV from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast as a part of user trial by the Army. The missile has a 4,000-km strike range and is equipped with advanced avionics, 5th generation on board computer and distributed architecture.
- India is set to get its 1st underwater museum off the Puducherry coast, giving a boost to tourism in the Union territory. INS Cuddalore, a Pondicherry-class vessel that was decommissioned in March, will be turned into the country's first underwater museum.
- India Post has started internet facility of the customers of Post office savings bank account.
- India which is the largest producer and consumer of milk has extended the ban on import of milk products from China for 4 months. The ban would continue till 23rd April 2019 as per the notification issued by the Ministry of Commerce.
- India will Chair Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) from 1st January 2019.
- India's largest Cancer Institute, National Cancer Institute (NCI), has opened in Jhajjar, Haryana for public services.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has conducted Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled 'Clean Sea- 2018' at sea off Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (A&B) Islands. Objective of Clean Sea 2018 : To ascertain preparedness of IGC, resource agencies and other stakeholders in responding to major oil spill in line with provisions of National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP).
- Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He was the top scorer for India in the 2007 and 2011 World Cup finals that India won. He played 58 Tests, 147 ODIs and 37 T20Is.
- Indian firm India Ports Global Limited formally took over the operations of Chabahar's Shaheed Behesti port in Iran, which opens a trade route between India and central Asia bypassing Pakistan. The company opened its office following the first meeting of the follow-up committee for implementation of the trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan.
- Indian Navy inducted its 1st Submarine Rescue System with Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) along with associated equipment at western naval dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra (west coast of India). It is first of the two non-tethered DSRVs ordered by Indian Navy.

- Indian Navy is going to conduct its flagship large-scale coastal defence exercise Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) from January to March 2019 to test robustness of entire coastal security apparatus. As part of TROPEX, Indian Navy will conduct large-scale coastal defence exercise 'Exercise Sea Vigil'. This exercise will involve all stake holders across mainland and island territories.
- Indian Oil Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and NTPC emerged as the Top 3 most profitable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in 2017-18. BSNL, Air India and MTNL incurred the highest losses for the second consecutive year.
- Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Daredevils has been renamed as Delhi Capitals ahead of the 2019 IPL season.
- Indian Premier League franchise Mumbai Indians has appointed former India fast bowler Zaheer Khan as its Director of Cricket Operations.
- Indian professional squash player Joshna Chinappa has won the National Squash Women's Singles title by defeating Urwash Joshi in the final match.
- Indian Railways flagged off the new Buddhist Circuit Tourist Train from New Delhi's Safdarjung Railway Station. The train will cover destinations associated with Lord Buddha's life, including Bodh Gaya, Varanasi, Lumbini, and will end with a tour of the Taj Mahal.
- Indian Railways has decided to grant 40% fare concession to transgender citizens aged 60 or above. This move will come to effect from January 1, 2019.
- Indian Railways is building the country's 1st vertical-lift bridge to connect Rameswaram to mainland India. This new bridge would replace the existing 104-year-old Pamban bridge.
- India's Lakshya Sen won the the Men's Singles title at the Tata Open India International Challenge 2018 by defeating Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand) in just 35 minutes.
- India's stock market has overtaken Germany's to become the 7th-largest Stock Market the world with a market capitalisation of \$2.08 trillion. At \$27.07 trillion, United States is world's biggest stock market, followed by China (\$5.46 trillion) and Japan (\$5.41 trillion).
- Indigenously developed Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has achieved important milestone of flying at 6 km altitude in Bengaluru (Karnataka). With the completion of this milestone, LUH can now undertake high altitude cold weather trials planned in January 2019.
- Indigenously developed surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni-5, which has a strike range of 5,000 km, has been successfully test-fired from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. Agni-5, unlike others in the series, is the most advanced in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine.
- Israel's Parliament, the Knesset, voted 102-2 to dissolve the government, triggering early general elections for April 9, 2019.
- Jammu and Kashmir has passed law to ban sexual extortion of woman in offices. With this, Jammu & Kashmir has become the 1st state in India to amend law on Sextortion.
- Japan has picked the kanji character for "Disaster" as its "defining symbol" for the year 2018, following a series of natural disasters that struck the country this year.
- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das became the 1st Chief Minister of the state to complete 4 years in office.
- Kenyan distance runner Eliud Kipchoge and Colombian long and triple jumper Caterine Ibarguen have been named Male and Female world athletes of the year 2018. The pair were honoured by the IAAF (The International Association of Athletics Federations) at a ceremony in Monaco.
- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the Kannur International Airport. This is Kerala's 4th International Airport.
- Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank is going to open 40 branches by end of December 2018 after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the move. The regulator had in September barred the bank from opening new branches without its permission over its failure to bring down promoters' stake within regulatory limits.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched the 'Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Schools' for students in rural areas. The schools are affiliated to the Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB), set up by the state government with an aim to achieve higher education standards.
- Maharashtra Government has launched World Bank assisted SMART Project to transform rural Maharashtra. Aim of SMART Project : To revamp agricultural value chains, with special focus on marginal farmers across 1,000 villages. [SMART - State of Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation].
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary has declared 'Justice' as the 2018 Word Of The Year. As per Merriam-Webster says, the word 'Justice' is used in many phrases like racial justice, social justice and obstruction of justice.
- Microsoft Azure recently launched the Virtual Assistant Accelerator (VAA), which promises to develop conversational bots to enhance personalised content delivery across multiple devices.
- Midfielder Luka Modric, who led Croatia to their first-ever FIFA World Cup final, won this year's Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) 2018 Award. The Female Ballon d'Or, went to Ada Hegerberg of Norway.

- Myanmar is going to provide visa-on-arrival to Indian tourists entering the country through the international airports of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) appointed U C Dhyani as head of 3 member committee to oversee rejuvenation work of Ganga River.
- Nevada became the 1st state in the US with an overall female majority in its legislature. Women will hold 32 of the 63 seats in the state's legislature, with over 22 women in the state Assembly and nine women in the state Senate.
- New Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is on a 3-day state visit to India. This is Solih's 1st foreign trip after he assumed office. PM Narendra Modi announced \$1.4 billion in financial aid to Maldives. The two nations signed four pacts, including one on visa facilitation.
- Norway's Magnus Carlsen retained his title as World Chess Champion beating US opponent Fabiano Caruana in a tie-breaker event at the World Chess Championship held in London.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 26th edition of National Children's Science Congress at SOA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Focal theme of 26th National Children's Science Congress : "Science, Technology and Innovation for a Clean, Green and Healthy Nation."
- Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) will soon get Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- Pakistan announced that it would place the name of former President Asif Ali Zardari on the Exit Control List (ECL), thereby barring him from leaving the country, over the ongoing money laundering probe against him.
- Pakistan has rejected Punjab's request to make Kartarpur (home to Guru Nanak Dev's final resting place) a part of India in a land swap deal.
- Pakistan is going to impose a 'sin' tax on cigarettes and sugary drinks. The money collected with this Sin tax will be diverted to the health budget.
- Pakistani all-rounder and former captain Mohammad Hafeez announced his retirement from Test cricket at the end of the ongoing third and final Test match of the series between Pakistan and New Zealand in Abu Dhabi.
- Panama has become the 1st Latin American country to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- Paras Dogra, a 34-year-old batsman who currently plays for Puducherry, set a new record of having the most double tons in Ranji Trophy history after slamming his eighth double ton in the competition against Sikkim.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4.94-km-long Bogibeel bridge in Assam's Dibrugarh. This is India's longest rail-road bridge.
- President Ram Nath Kovind was on a 4-day visit to Myanmar. Through this visit, the President reaffirmed India's commitment to developing an important partnership with Myanmar.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India is going to host the G20 Summit in the year 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4th edition of Partners' Forum in New Delhi. The two day international conference is being hosted by the government of India in association with Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and child Health (PMNCH).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Centre (IRRI SARC) in Varanasi. It is the 6th campus of IRRI SARC.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Argentina. Their discussions were focused on strengthening relations between India and the European Union, including joint efforts to counter terrorism in all forms.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a Rs. 100 commemorative coin in honour of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who passed away earlier this year.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for the RIC (Russia-India-China) Trilateral Summit at the leaders' level after 12 years. The meeting took place on sidelines of the G20 Summit. After the meet, PM Modi termed Japan, America and India as 'JAI'. In Hindi, which means success.
- Prime Minister of Bhutan Lotay Tshering was on a 3 day visit to India. This was his 1st foreign visit after taking charge as PM of the Himalayan Nation. The Visit is significant because it is taking place during the Golden Jubilee year of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.
- Public sector lender Bank of Baroda has announced that the 'Alternative Mechanism' of the finance ministry has accorded in-principle approval for its merger with Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank. Bank of Baroda is the transferee bank, while Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank are the transferor banks in the amalgamation process. The 'Alternative Mechanism' (AM) headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had decided to merge three banks with a view to create global size lender, which will be stronger and sustainable.
- Punjab Cabinet cleared a proposal to set up an International Civil Terminal at Air Force Station, Halwara in Ludhiana district.
- Punjab Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution for seeking 30% reservation for women in Parliament and State legislative assembly.

- PV Sindhu defeated world number five Nozomi Okuhara of Japan to record her 300th career match victory across categories and clinch the BWF World Tour Finals women's singles title.
- Qatar is going to withdraw from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in January after nearly 60 years.
- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal officially declared Train 18 as India's fastest train.
- RBI approved merger of SBM (Mauritius) India with Its Indian Subsidiary SBM Bank (India).
- Reversing decades of Middle East policy, the Australian government formally recognised West Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
- Russia confirmed that the United States of America (USA) has decided to cancel the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty signed between both countries in the year 1987. Aim of INF Treaty : To end arms race between USA and USSR during cold war and to ensure some strategic stability in Europe.
- Russia successfully tested the new hypersonic missile system Avangard, which is capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads.
- Russia's Akademik Lomonosov, the world's first Floating Nuclear Power Plant (FNPP) has become operational. It was constructed by Russian state nuclear power firm Rosatom.
- Russian Ambassador to India Nikolay Kudashev announced that Russia is ready to assist India, particularly in training astronauts, for Gaganyaan (India's 1st manned mission to space) planned for 2022.
- Russian space agency Roscosmos has announced the spaceflight Soyuz MS-11 carrying 3 crew members, successfully docked at the International Space Station (ISS). The members including female NASA astronaut Anne McClain will spend over six months on the Earth-orbiting laboratory.
- Sadaiv Atal, the Samadhi of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee was dedicated to the Nation on his birth Anniversary.
- Shi Yomi formally became 23rd district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa accepted PM Narendra Modi's invitation to be the Chief Guest for India's Republic Day celebrations in 2019.
- Spain's Real Madrid won Club Football World Cup for 3rd consecutive year (and its 4th in total), by beating Abu Dhabi side Al Ain in final.
- Spain's Angela Ponce is the 1st transgender contestant in Miss Universe's 66-year history.
- Steel Authority of India's Hockey Academy (SHA) beat Army XI Danapur 2-1 to clinch the 115th All India Aga Khan Gold Cup hockey tournament.
- Supreme Court has approved Witness Protection Scheme 2018 and directed Union and State Governments to enforce the same. Aim of Witness Protection Scheme 2018 : To ensure that investigation, prosecution and trial of criminal offences does not turn out to be biased as witnesses are intimidated or frightened to give evidence without protection from violent or other criminal recrimination.
- Supreme Court has given clean chit to Narendra Modi led BJP government for purchase of 36 Rafale fighter Jets.
- Tamil Nadu government has announced the setting up of country's 1st music museum with assistance from the Central government in Thiruvaiyaru which is the birthplace of Saint Tyagaraja, one of the Trinities of Carnatic music. The other two of the Trinity are Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.S
- Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states will have separate High Courts from January 1, 2019. Since the bifurcation of the state on June 2, 2014, Andhra and Telangana have had a common HC at Hyderabad.
- Telangana government and British Council signed MoU to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
- Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha announced that new norms allowing the use of mobile phones for making calls and surfing Internet during flights in the Indian airspace could come by January 2019. A separate category of licensees, called in-flight connectivity providers, will be created for offering such services.
- Thailand has become the 1st Southeast Asian nation to legalise the use of marijuana for medical use and research.
- The 'Asia Pacific Summit-2018' was recently held in Kathmandu (Nepal). Theme of Asia Pacific Summit 2018 : 'Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values'. This summit was organised by the South Korea-based 'Universal Peace Federation' and supported by the Government of Nepal.
- The "Asiatic Lion Conservation Project" has been launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEFCC). The main objective of this project is to work for the conservation of the world's last ranging free Asiatic Lion population and the ecosystem associated with it.
- The 18th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) was recently held in New Delhi. Indian Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman along with Russian Defence Minister General Sergei Shoigu jointly co-chaired the meeting.
- The 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP24) to the UNFCCC to be held at Katowice (Poland) from 2nd to 14th December 2018. Indian Delegation at COP 24 will be represented by : Harsh Vardhan (Union Environment Minister) .
- The Andhra Pradesh government is going to install a 197-foot-tall statue of former Chief Minister of the

- state N T Rama Rao (NTR) in Amravati. Estimated cost of the project is around Rs. 406 cror.
- The Annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit 2018 was held in Goa. Theme of Startup India Venture Capital Summit 2018 : 'Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India.'
 - The Australian Open has joined Wimbledon in introducing a final set tiebreak from next year's competition. According to the new rules, which will come into force at the January event, matches tied at 6-6 in the final set will move into a tiebreak and the first player to reach 10 points with a difference of two will win the contest.
 - The Cabinet approved launching of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). Objective of NM-ICPS : To addresses ever increasing technological requirements of the society.
 - The Cambridge Dictionary has declared 'Nomophobia' as the People's Word of 2018. 'Nomophobia' refers to the fear or worry at the idea of being without your mobile phone or unable to use it.
 - The Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, Admiral Luechai Ruddit, called on Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi. The Navy chiefs discussed a range of bilateral issues. The two countries also signed an agreement on white shipping arrangement.
 - The Defence Ministry cleared the proposal for procurement of military equipment worth ₹3,000 crore. The approved deal includes procurement of indigenous BrahMos missiles for two Indian Navy ships that are to be built in Russia.
 - The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has announced that it is going to complete processes for 5G spectrum auction by August 2019 and the services will be rolled out by 2020.
 - The European Parliament approved a free trade deal between Japan and the European Union, which is believed to be the world's largest free trade agreement. The deal will create an open trading zone covering 635 million people and almost one-third of the world's total GDP. Japan's Parliament has already approved the agreement.
 - The European Union (EU) has established India's 1st Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (CoE) at Department of European Studies (DES) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in New Delhi. It comes with grant of €1,00,000 to pursue India-EU interdisciplinary studies in culture, literature, education and society.
 - The German Parliament approved 'Diverse' as a 3rd gender option on official records.
 - The government has approved the revamped Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) scheme. Under this scheme, Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) will be set up in every block where Scheduled Tribes population is more than 50% and has at least 20,000 tribal persons.
 - The government has constituted a 6-member committee to oversee the sale of 149 oil and gas fields of state-owned ONGC, Oil India and other explorers. Head of this Committee : Rajiv Kumar (NITI Aayog Vice Chairman).
 - The government has decided to infuse ₹10,086 crore in the state run Bank of India . The move is part of the government's plans to infuse ₹83,000 crore into state-run banks by March, taking total infusion to ₹1.06 lakh crore this fiscal.
 - The government of Burundi has declared Gitega as the country's new political capital. Bujumbura, the previous capital of Burundi, will serve as the economic capital of the country.
 - The Government of India (GoI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a Loan Agreement for \$31 million to build-up the State Tourism Industry and boost visitor arrivals. The Project will support the conservation and restoration of 8 heritage monuments, one museum, three temples, and a pond.
 - The government will soon be appointing a committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) committee.
 - The Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Urjit Patel resigned from his post with immediate effect citing personal reasons.
 - The Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a resolution to declare Cow as 'Rashtra Mata (mother of the nation)'.
 - The Home Ministry has authorised 10 agencies to monitor, intercept, and decrypt "any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer". The agencies include the Intelligence Bureau, CBI, Delhi Police Commissioner, RAW and Narcotics Control Bureau.
 - The IDFC Bank has merged completely with the non-banking financial company Capital First into a new entity to be called as IDFC First Bank. The founder & chairman of Capital First Ltd, V Vaidyanathan, has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the newly formed IDFC First bank.
 - The India Water Impact Summit-2018 was recently held in New Delhi. This is an annual event where stakeholders get together to discuss, debate and develop model solutions for some of biggest water related problems in the country.
 - The Indian government made registration process compulsory for Drones. Drones weighing above 250 grams need to be registered on DGCA's website to get a Unique Identification Number (UIN).
 - The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has submitted a formal expression of interest to bid for 2032 Olympics.
 - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched India's heaviest satellite GSAT-11 from the European Spaceport in French Guiana. France-headquartered Arianespace's

- Ariane-5 rocket successfully lifted off with communication satellite Gsat-11 and South Korean geo satellite Geo-Kompsat-2A. Weighing 5,854 kg, GSAT-11 will boost broadband speeds (at least 16 Gbps) and provide the capacity to meet growing demands for internet connectivity.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its 35th communications satellite GSAT-7A from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
 - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched GSAT-11 from the European Spaceport in French Guiana. Weighing at 5,854 kg GSAT-11 is India's heaviest satellite.
 - The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has set up an Advisory committee on human rights, to include 'human rights standards' in Olympic host-city contracts beginning with the 2024 Olympic in Paris. Head of this Committee : Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini (former United Nations commissioner for human rights).
 - The Irish Parliament passed a bill to legalise abortions following a landmark referendum earlier this year.
 - The Kaiga Atomic Power Station (Karnataka) has created a new world record, with one of its units functioning continuously without any interruption for more than 940 days.
 - The Lok Sabha has passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2018, following a debate. The bill proposes to make the method of Muslim men instantly divorcing their wives by uttering "Talaq" thrice (Triple Talaq) as "unconstitutional" and "arbitrary" and suggests a three-year jail term to husbands who follow the method.
 - The Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016, which bans commercial surrogacy. The bill allows 'altruistic' surrogacy, which involves an arrangement where the couple does not pay the surrogate mother any compensation other than the medical and insurance expenses related to the pregnancy.
 - The Lok Sabha passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016, which seeks to empower the transgender community in the country by providing them a separate identity. Aim of this bill : To define transgenders and prohibit discrimination against the transgender community.
 - The Madras High Court has ruled that Drivers don't need to carry physical copies of licence or other vehicle documents as electronic copies are valid.
 - The Minister of State for Parliamentary affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced Dam Safety Bill 2018 in Lok Sabha. The bill provides a uniform procedure for the safety of dams in country.
 - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced that its Voyager 2 spacecraft became the second human-made object to leave the Solar System on November 5. Voyager 2 was launched on August 20, 1977, 16 days before the Voyager 1, which had entered interstellar space in 2012.
 - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has created the coldest known place in the Universe inside NASA's Cold Atom Laboratory (CAL) at the International Space Station.
 - The new government of Rajasthan has abolished the condition of a minimum educational qualification to contest local body elections.
 - The newly-formed Madhya Pradesh government announced it is forming an Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department) by merging several existing departments. The Anand Vibhag (happiness department) formed by the previous BJP government, a first in the country, would be incorporated into the new department.
 - The NITI Aayog has unveiled a strategy document titled the "Strategy for New India@75" suggesting various reforms to make India a 4-trillion dollar economy by 2022-23. The strategy plan talks about various several economic reforms that should be taken in order to accelerate India's economy to reach the 4 trillion USD mark.
 - The proposal from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh for the implementation of Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme has been approved by the union government.
 - The 'Rakhi with Khaki' initiative by Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur police, as part of which girls and women tied rakhis to 50,033 police personnel and took selfies, has been acknowledged by the Guinness World Records.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it has decided to scale up the amount of liquidity infusion by Rs. 10,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore in December. RBI has already injected Rs. 20,000 crore through two Open Market Operation (OMO) purchases.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed former Governor Bimal Jalan as the Chairman of the newly formed Economic Capital Framework committee. This committee has been formed to address the issue of RBI reserves.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine of ₹1 crore on state-owned Indian Bank for violating cyber security norms. The bank was penalised for failing to adhere to the guidelines and directions issued by RBI.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo rate, the rate at which banks borrow from RBI, unchanged at 6.50% in its 5th bi-monthly monetary policy review of 2018-19. The Reverse repo-rate, the rate at which RBI borrows money from the banks, is 6.25 per cent.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an expert committee to suggest how the central bank should handle its reserves and whether it can transfer its

surplus to the government. Headed of this Committee : Bimal Jalan (former RBI governor).

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to introduce new modes of customer e-verification, including live video, in financial institutions. This comes after Supreme Court struck down Section 57 of Aadhaar Act in September, thereby nullifying biometric e-KYC.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking at a mobile phone-based solution to help visually impaired people easily identify Indian currency notes.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon introduce new Rs. 20 currency notes with additional features.
- The Special Forces of India and United States completed their 3-day tactical exercise titled 'Vajra Kayaa'. 'Vajra Kayaa' is a part of the joint military drill 'Vajra Prahar 2018'.
- The UAE is going to deposit \$3 billion in Pakistan's central bank to support its financial and monetary policy. The UAE's support comes amid the current financial crisis in Pakistan.
- The UK government has confirmed an amendment to a new weapons bill going through the Parliament to ensure that it does not impact the right of the British Sikh community to possess and supply kirpans, or religious swords. The Offensive Weapons Bill 2018 has now been sent to the House of Lords for approval.
- The Union Cabinet approved a budget of Rs. 10,000 crore for sending three Indian astronauts to space for up to 7 days by 2022 for the Gaganyaan Programme. The programme will help India become the 4th nation to have a manned mission to space.
- The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, including the provision for death penalty for "committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault crime" on children.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of two new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Tamil Nadu (Madurai) and Telangana (Bibinagar).
- The Union Cabinet has given its in principle approval for strategic sale of Central Government's existing 52.63% of total paid up equity shareholding in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to Power Finance Corporation (PFC) along with transfer of management control. Note : Both REC and PFC are Central Public Sector Enterprises are under the Ministry of Power.
- The Union Government (Ministry of Finance) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed \$85 million loan agreement for Odisha Skill Development Project. It aims to improve the skill development eco-system in Odisha and establish World Skill Center (WSC), an advanced skill training center in state capital Bhubaneswar.
- The US and China have agreed to halt additional trade tariffs with the goal of reaching an agreement within 90 days. This follows a meeting between US

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Argentina.

- The Uttar Pradesh government has announced that it will install four new statues in the state, including a 25-foot-tall statue of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Lok Bhawan in Lucknow. A statue of Swami Vivekananda will be installed at Raj Bhawan, while 12.5-foot-tall statues of Mahant Avaidyanath and Mahant Digvijayanath will be installed in Gorakhpur.
- The World Bank Group announced that it will double its 5-year investments to \$200 billion to fight climate change between 2021-2025. The fund will aid high-quality forecasts, early warning systems and climate information services.
- The World Bank has announced that India will retain its position as the world's top recipient of remittances this year with \$80 billion. India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt. [A foreign remittance is money transferred from a foreign worker to their family or other individuals in their home countries.]
- To check for faults in trains, Indian Railways has developed an Artificial Intelligence-powered robot named USTAAD. USTAAD : Undergear Surveillance Through Artificial Intelligence Assisted Droid'.
- To encourage 'Make in India' and promote local goods and services, the government has mandated preference to be given to domestically-manufactured vehicles with minimum 65% local content in public procurement of automobiles.
- To help 20 lakh small and marginal farmers of the state, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced a Rs. 2,250 crore scheme titled Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana.
- To mark the 75th anniversary of Netaji's visit to the islands, the Centre is going to rename Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island in Andaman and Nicobar as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep respectively.
- To pay homage to Indian soldiers who were martyred in the 1971 war against Pakistan, the Bangladesh government has announced that it is going to build a war memorial in Brahmanbaria (Chittagong).
- To spread awareness about cybercrimes and normal precautions to be taken, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched Twitter account titled @CyberDost. It is aimed at enhancing people's basic knowledge about cybercrimes and precautions to be taken for prevention.
- 'Train 18', India's first engineless train breached the 180 kmph speed limit during a test run. The major trials are over and Train 18 is expected to commence its commercial run from January 2019.
- Ukraine approved a bill to terminate the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership with Russia. Under the treaty, both nations pledged to not use one's territory to harm the other.

- Ullas Narayan became the 1st ever Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra running event by clinching Bronze medal in the 2018 International Association of Ultra Running (IAU) 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships held in Taipei.
- Union Cabinet has approved implementation of Shahpurkandi Dam Project on river Ravi (Punjab). The total cost of this project is Rs. 1973.53 crore (Irrigation component: 564.63 cr, Power component: 1408.90 cr.) Out of this, Rs 485.38 cr would be provided as Central Assistance.
- Union Government has included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttrarakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand under its PRASAD scheme to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country. With the new additions, the number of sites under PRASAD has now reached to 41 in 25 states. PRASAD - Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive.
- Union Health Minister J P Nadda has announced that India's largest cancer hospital, the National Cancer Institute will be inaugurated in Haryana's Jhajjar district in January. The Institute aims to bridge the deficit of tertiary cancer care in the northern region.
- Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin initiative in Bhubaneswar, which will expand women's access to hygiene products and provide them with employment opportunities in every district of the state. This is a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative taken by oil marketing companies.
- Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has dedicated National Rail and Transportation Institution (NRTI) to the Nation in Vadodara. It is India's 1st Railway university and the 3rd in the world after Russia and China.
- Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore launched the jersey for the 2nd edition of Khelo India, rechristened as Khelo India Youth Games 2018. These games will kick-start from 9th to 20th January 2019 in Pune.
- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres launched the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, a new framework to combat international terrorism by coordinating efforts across peace and security and humanitarian sectors, among others. The framework, known as the 'Global Compact', is an agreement between the UN chief, 36 UN entities, Interpol and the World Customs Organisation.
- University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed all universities across country to observe December 7 as Armed Forces Flag Day to commemorate supreme sacrifices made by country's soldiers during conflicts.
- US President Donald Trump, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau signed the new US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). This will replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- US-based app-based helicopter and small-planes aggregator, Fly Blade has announced that it is going to launch services from Mumbai starting March 2019.
- US-based rocket propulsion company Rocket Lab launched 13 cube satellites on its Electron rocket from New Zealand into low Earth orbit for NASA's ELaNa-19 mission.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced the installation of a 25 feet statue of former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Lok Bhawan in Lucknow.
- Varsha Varman of Madhya Pradesh, has won the Women's Trap Gold at the ongoing 62nd National Championship for Shotgun events in New Delhi.
- Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro has ordered a 150% increase in the monthly minimum wage to 4,500 sovereign bolivars, worth about ₹660 at the black market rate.
- Virat Kohli has become the 1st Asian captain to win Tests in England, Australia and South Africa after leading India to a 31-run victory over Australia in Adelaide. Note : India became the 1st Asian team to win Tests in the three countries in a calendar year.
- Western European country Luxembourg is set to become the 1st country in the world to make all its public transport free.
- With 14.8 million followers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the most popular global leader on social media platform Instagram. Modi is closely followed by Indonesian President Joko Widodo with 12.2 million followers.
- With earnings of \$22.5 million, American model and television personality Kendall Jenner has been named the highest-paid model of 2018 by Forbes. She was followed by Karlie Kloss, who has \$13 million in earnings and Chrissy Teigen who earned \$11.5 million.
- With the earnings of ₹112.8 crore, Bollywood Actress Deepika Padukone is the highest-earning woman celebrity in India. She is the 1st woman to break into the top 5 of Forbes' Richest Indian Celebrities List since its inception in 2012.