

CURRENT AFFAIRS



SEPTEMBER 2018

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Current Affairs – September 2018

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **September 2018**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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Foreign Affairs

1. Positive Sign on Indus Water Treaty

India and Pakistan have shown their interest to undertake the Indus Waters Treaty tours in the Indus basin. At the 115th meeting of the India-Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) in Lahore, both parties arrived on a conclusion to reconsider this issue and find an amicable solution in reference to the issues of various hydroelectric projects.



In this meeting, technical discussions were also held regarding the implementation of various hydroelectric projects under the provisions of Indus Waters Treaty. The projects, which are a bone of contention, are Pakal Dul (1,000 MW) and Lower Kalnai (48 MW) – both projects are located in Jammu and Kashmir. Further, India has asked Pakistan to send experts to visit the sites and take close views of both the projects namely Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai (located on Chenab River) and raise the concerns if they find any.

2. Zokhawthar Immigration Checkpost Opened

India and Myanmar have shown interest to come closer by opening an immigration check-post in Mizoram along the border of Myanmar.

India and Myanmar opened the land border crossing at Zokhawthar-Rih. Zokhawthar is located in Champhai district of Mizoram, whereas Rih is located in Myanmar's Chin province.



Along the Myanmar border, Zokhawthar is going to be the second immigration check-post in Mizoram, after Zorinpui, which is located in Lawngtlai district. Zorinpui was opened in September 2017.

3. India and Bulgaria Sign Five Strategic Agreements

On a three nations visit, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind arrived at Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The President will also visit Cyprus and Czech Republic. On the 5th of September, President delivered a speech at Sofia university on the theme "Education as an Instrument of Change and Shared Prosperity."

Further, he coincided this topic with 'Teacher's Day' (celebrated every year on 5th of September in India) and commemorated the birth anniversary of India's second President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

Besides, a five point bilateral agreement is also signed between India and Bulgaria over the following emphasised points:

- To invest in India as well as in Bulgaria
- To boost up the science and technology co-operation
- To develop nuclear research and cooperation
- To promote tourism
- To promote Hindi studies through a collaboration of Indian Council of Cultural Relation and Sofia University



4. Indian and US Hold '2 + 2' Dialogue

Sushma Swaraj, the Minister of External Affairs and Nirmala Sitharaman, the Minister of Defence welcomed Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis to India, for the inaugural India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue.



They applauded the launch of the 2+2 Dialogue as a reflection of the shared commitment by Prime Minister Modi and President Trump to provide a positive, forward-looking vision for the India-U.S. strategic partnership and to promote synergy in their diplomatic and security efforts.

Important highlights of the meeting are:

- Negotiations on an Industrial Security Annex for the support of defence industry
- Boost to Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
- Memorandum of Intent between the U.S. Defence Innovation Unit and the Indian Defence Innovation organization, i.e. Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-iDEX) for co-development projects through the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)
- Exchange between the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and the Indian Navy

- Collaboration between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Westinghouse Electric Company to establish 6 nuclear power plants in India.

5. India & Mongolia Joint Exercise in Ulaanbaatar

Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, was held at Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia. The joint exercise was conducted at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar.



The 12-day long joint exercise that was conducted from 10 Sep to 21 Sep 2018 was the thirteenth edition of such exercise that aimed at developing mutual understanding and respect between armies of both countries and facilitate in tackling the world wide phenomena of terrorism.

Since 2006, Exercise Nomadic Elephant is an annual and bilateral exercise, designed to strengthen the partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces.

6. India-Bangladesh Ties at a New High

In a video conferencing meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi Counterpart Sheikh Hasina agreed to inaugurate three major Indo-Bangladesh joint venture projects, including rail links and an electricity transmission grid.



These three projects include:

- i) 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, through the existing Bheramara (Bangladesh) - Baharampur (India) interconnection.
- ii) Akhaura – Agartala Rail Link, and
- iii) Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.

In this meeting, Ms. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister, Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal Chief Minister and Biplab Kumar Deb, Tripura Chief Minister, were also present.

7. India, Iran, Afghanistan Hold First Tripartite Meeting in Kabul

The first tripartite meeting among India, Afghanistan, and Iran was held at Kabul in Afghanistan. The objective of this tripartite meeting is to enhance the cooperation among the three countries.

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai chaired the meeting; the Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale; and the Iranian team was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.



The three countries also discussed to enhance co-operation on counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, and continuing support to peace and reconciliation process that is led and owned by Afghanistan.

8. India Signs Pacts with Rakhine State for Capacity Building

India signed two agreements with Myanmar's Rakhine State Government to facilitate capacity building and economic development in the province. These pacts are designed to assist and promote agricultural mechanisation and support computer literacy among the youth of Rakhine State. Further, it will also to prepare Rakhine State people for employment opportunities in the software sector.



Furthermore, as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals of Rakhine, India decided to supply 15 tractors and 15 crawler harvesters to the State Government, to meet their growing demands.

Under the MoU with Department of Social Affairs of the Rakhine State Government, the Indian Embassy will also provide 40 computers and their associated peripherals to the Sittwe Computer University.

International

1. PM Modi inaugurates Pashupatinath Dharmashala in Nepal

Mr. Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India and Mr. K. P. Oli, the Prime Minister of Nepal jointly inaugurated the 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharamshala - a rest house for pilgrims located in Kathmandu, Nepal.



On this occasion, Mr. Modi said that India and Nepal have had the spiritual connection. Further, he says that the temples of Pashupatinath, Muktinath, and Jankidham showcase the illustration of Nepal's unity in diversity and these temples act as bond between India and Nepal.

2. 4th International Ayurveda Congress held in Netherlands

From September 1 to September 2, 2018, the 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IACV) was held in Leiden, Netherlands. This session was jointly organized by International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi; and International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune, in association with Indian Embassy in Netherlands. Mr. Shripad Yesso Naik, the Minister of State, (IC) for AYUSH, inaugurated this Congress.



The congress emphasized on the promotion and propagation of Ayurveda medicines in Netherlands as well as in its neighboring countries.

3. Education Ministers Meet for the First Time in the History of G20

Chaired by Argentine Education Minister Alejandro Finocchiaro, the G20 Education Ministerial Meeting was held on 5th and 6th September, 2018 in Mendoza, in western Argentina, to discuss the foundations for future education systems. This is the first meeting of its kind in the history of the G20. From India, the Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr. Satya Pal Singh



lead a high level delegation to the G-20 Education Ministers' Meeting as well as Joint Ministerial Meeting. Besides, the meeting was attended by over 30 delegation leaders including Themis Christophidou, Director-General of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Union; Yoshimasa Hayashi, Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Betsy Devos, US Secretary of Education; and Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO.

The major agenda of the meeting was to identify the challenges and opportunities of globalization, digitalization and societal diversity, and to define the skills needed in our future workplace and society. Officials aim to craft innovative and inclusive policies that prepare children, young people and adults to become full participants in our ever-changing future.

4. India - UAE Partnership Summit 2018

A two-day India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) will be held in Dubai from October 30, as confirmed by Indian Ambassador to the UAE, Navdeep Singh Suri.



India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) is an event specifically designed for promotion of investments from UAE to India and India to UAE. The focus sectors for IUPS 2018 are investments in Education and SMEs/Start-ups, along with presentations by Indian States seeking investments.

5. Naropa Festival Ended in Ladakh with World Record in Dance

A total of 299 women wearing traditional Ladakhi wedding attire danced together to mark the last day of the Naropa festival and also created a Guinness World Record in the process.

They danced on 20th September, 2018 (Thursday) at an altitude of over 4,500 metres above sea level at Hemis, a Buddhist monastery situated 45 km from Leh and they have broken record. It is officially declared by Swapnil Dangarikar (Official Adjudicator).



Guinness World Records declared the dance performance as the 'Largest Ladakhi Dance' by Live to Love, Pel Drupka Charitable Trust and Young Drukpa Association Ladakh at Hemis. Celebrated every 12th year of the Tibetan calendar, the Naropa festival, is also known as the 'Kumbh Mela of the Himalayas.'

6. AYUSH Information Cell Inaugurated at the Indian Embassy in Romania

On September 19, 2018, during the visit to Romania, Vice president of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the AYUSH Information Cell. Ministry of AYUSH has set up an AYUSH Information Cell at the Indian Embassy in Romania with an objective to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system of medicine and encourage Ayurveda practice in Romania.



On this occasion, a book on 'Ayurveda in Romania' was also released. Besides, The AYUSH Information Cell, Romania will facilitate to organise lectures, consultation, conduct seminars, training courses and develop awareness of AYUSH system among public in Romania.

7. WHO Launched 'SAFER', An Initiative to Reduce Harmful Use of Alcohol

The World Health Organization (WHO) released SAFER, a new initiative and technical package outlining five high-impact strategies designed to help governments to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and related health, social and economic consequences.



What SAFER is?

SAFER is the newest WHO-led roadmap designed exclusively to assist governments and other civil society organizations in taking practical steps to accelerate progress on health, beat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through addressing the harmful use of alcohol, and achieve development targets.

Besides, SAFER also:

- Provides five high-impact strategic actions, which are prioritized for implementation to sponsor health and development
- Strengthens restrictions on alcohol availability
- Enforces drink-driving countermeasures
- Facilitates access to screening, brief interventions, and treatment
- Enforces bans or comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship, and promotion

National

1. Prime Minister Mr. Modi Launched the India Post Payments Bank

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). IPPB is the largest payments bank in the country in terms of its network size. IPPB operates on a small scale; though it carries out most of the banking operations, but it cannot give loan or issue credit cards directly.



However, this new bank will leverage the postal department's vast network throughout the country and will help people in previously unbanked rural locations to use banking services easily.

2. MoU Signed for Indore- Manmad New Railway Line Project

A Major Step has been taken towards the development of backward areas of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for Indore-Manmad new railway line project.



The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Nitin Gadkari - Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Piyush Goyal - Minister for Railways, Shri Subhash Bhamre - Minister of State for Defence, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan - Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh - and Shri Devendra Phadnavis - Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

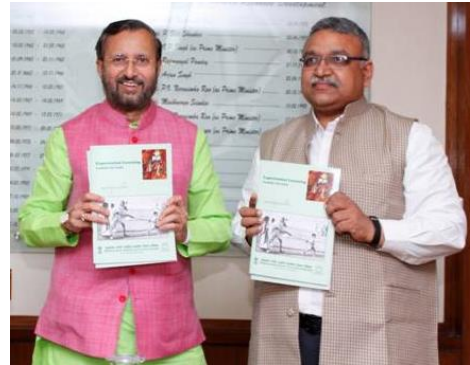
For this rail line project, a Joint Venture Company will be formed among the Ministry of Shipping or its nominated PSUs/Entity including JNPT (which will be the main promoter) with an equity share of 55%, Government of Maharashtra or its nominated PSUs/Entity, Government of Madhya Pradesh or its nominated PSUs/Entity, and others with an equity share of 15% each.

3. Union HRD Minister Releases the Curriculum on Gandhiji's Nai Talim

Shri Prakash Javadekar, the Union HRD Minister, released a curriculum on 'Experiential Learning' i.e. 'Gandhiji's Nai Talim' in New Delhi. This is released on 'Teachers Day' i.e. 5th of September. Along with the Work and Education curriculum for Schools, the book titled 'Experiential Learning – Gandhiji's Nai Talim contains fundamental principles of Gandhiji's nai Talim.

Further, Shri Javadekar said that Gandhiji's Nai Talim or basic education was a holistic approach of developing body, mind and soul by making a productive art, craft or community engagement activity as the centre of learning.

This curriculum is simultaneously released in 13 languages namely English, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Assamese, Odiya, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi, Malayalam, and Kannada.



4. Government launches national mission on GeM to promote MSMEs

The government of India launched the national Mission on Government eMarketplace (GeM) to promote all sections of entrepreneurs, including MSMEs and other start-ups. GeM is an online platform for the procurement of goods and services by the commerce ministry.

Launching the national mission of GeM, Suresh Prabhu, the Commerce and Industry Minister said that the aim of this mission is to promote inclusiveness by empowering various categories of sellers and service providers such as start-ups, MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, domestic manufacturers, and self-help groups.



5. Supreme Court Decriminalises Section 377

The Five Judges constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra and four judges namely Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra decriminalised part of the rule under Section 377 of the IPC, which was criminalising consensual unnatural sex.

In its verdict, Supreme Court said that Section 377 is irrational, arbitrary, and incomprehensible as it fetters the right to equality for the LGBT community. Further, it says that our Constitution nurtures dissent as a safety valve of society and it does not impose conformity and hence, we cannot change history but pave the way for better future.



Punishment under Section 377 of Indian Penal Code made the LGBT a closeted community, destroyed the identity of members and reached their dignity. However, any sort of sexual activity with animals shall remain punishable offence under Section 377 of Indian Penal Code.

6. India's First Railway Varsity Set to Start Operations in Vadodara

The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), first of its kind university in the country on the transport sector started its operation in Vadodara, Gujarat.



The institute is funded by The Ministry of Railways and is in collaboration with University of California, Berkeley and Cornell University (as its international partners). Primarily, this university has designed two undergraduate courses - BSc Transportation Technology and BBA Transportation Management. Each course has 50 seats. However, number of courses will be increased in coming years.

7. SC Rules: Sabarimala Temple Open for Women of All Ages

The five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, in its 4:1 verdict, allowed the entry of women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple located at Sabarimala in Kerala. The Sabarimala Temple is devoted to Lord Ayyappa.



Supreme Court said that the banning the entry of women into the temple is gender discrimination and such practice violates the rights of Hindu women, as religion is a way of life basically to link life with divinity. In the five judges bench including the Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, Justice RF Nariman, Justice DY Chandrachud, and Justice AM Khanwilkar spoke unanimously and gave judgment in the favour of women, but Justice Indu Malhotra dissented the verdict.

8. Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan Releases India Cooling Action Plan

Mr. Harsh Vardhan, the Union Environment Minister, has released a draft titled as 'India Cooling Action Plan' (ICAP). It lists out actions, which can help to reduce the cooling demand, thus helping in reducing emissions.



India is the first country in the world to develop such a document – ICAP. It is designed to put thrust towards looking for synergies in actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits.

India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) is designed to assess the cooling requirements and the associated refrigerant demand and energy use across the sectors in next 20 years. The plan also proposed to include developing a research and development innovation ecosystem as indigenous alternative technologies.

Besides, Mr. Vardhan also release a booklet on 'Montreal Protocol – India's Success Story'. A refurbished website on the Ozone Cell of the ministry and a Management Information System (MIS) for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) were also launched.

Regional

1. Amethi Village To Go Fully Digital

Under the Digital India Programme of the Union government, Pindara Thakur village, Amethi has become fully digital (from September 1, 2018). Now, it can access 206 government services at the click of a mouse. Amethi is the parliamentary constituency of Congress president Rahul Gandhi.



The Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani has inaugurated the first digital village in Amethi and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Devi Dayal Verma told that villagers of Pindara Thakur would be linked with Wi Fi Chaupal and may get up to 2 GB free data for 15 days. However, this will be a paid service after 15 days, but the charges will be nominal.

2. Smt. Maneka Sanjya Gandhi Inaugurated Krishna Kutir – A Home for 1000 Widows

On August 31, 2018, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister (of Uttar Pradesh) inaugurated 'Krishna Kutir' the widows' home at Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh.



Krishna Kutir is a special home for 1000 widows. Interestingly, it has the largest ever facility of its kind designed by a government organisation.

3. Union Home Minister Approves Additional Assistance for UP & Maharashtra

Shri Rajnath Singh, the Union Home Minister, chaired a meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC) in New Delhi to discuss the additional Central Assistance to the States of Uttar Pradesh (affected by *rabi* drought during 2017-18) and Maharashtra (affected by pest attack & cyclone during 2017).



The HLC approved assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) of Rs. 157.23 crore for Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 60.76 crore for Maharashtra.

4. Haryana Vidhan Sabha passes State Commission for SC Bill

The Haryana Vidhan Sabha has passed the Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes Bill, 2018, for development and safeguarding the interests of people of scheduled caste community. However, the commission will investigate and examine the working of various safeguards provided in the constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the government for the welfare and protection of the Scheduled Castes.



The commission will consist of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and the members who would hold office for a term of three years. The major works of the commission will be Development and welfare of scheduled castes; provide protection and check and curb the atrocities being committed against them; investigate and examine the working of various safeguards; etc.

5. First Tribal Circuit Project Inaugurated in Chhattisgarh

K J Alphons, the Union Minister of State for Tourism, inaugurated the country's first tribal tourism circuit in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh with the purpose to showcase the state's rich and diverse tribal culture and traditions to the tourists.



The project will be developed by Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and will cover 13 sites in Chhattisgarh namely – Chitrakoot, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Jashpur, Kunkuri, Kurdar, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Jagdalpur, and Tirthgarh.

6. Andhra Pradesh Government Launched e-Rythu – A Digital Platform

The Andhra Pradesh Government entered into a MoU with Mastercard and launched a mobile platform, *e-Rythu* (i.e. e-farmer) enabling small-scale farmers to market their produce at reasonable prices.



The objective of this project is to digitize agriculture marketplaces, payments, workflows, and secure way to buy, sell, and receive payments for agri-products. Interestingly, the platform that has been developed by Mastercard Labs for financial inclusion will have 'Telugu' as the medium of communication.

7. Tamil Nadu Signed for Ayushman-Bharat Scheme

The Government of Tamil Nadu has signed an MoU with the Central Government to implement Ayushman Bharat along with the state Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS).

Tamil Nadu now became the 30th State to sign up for ABS. Under this association, about 77 lakh poor and vulnerable families in Tamil Nadu will be benefitted. Besides, the insurance benefit for all those covered under the state scheme will now be increased to Rs 5 lakh as per the National Health Protection Scheme.

आयुष्मान भारत योजना



8. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated Mahatma Gandhi Museum at Rajkot

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Museum at Rajkot in Gujarat. This Museum has been set up at the Alfred High School, as it was the important part of the formative years of Mahatma Gandhi. The museum will purposefully help to spread awareness about Gandhian culture, values and philosophy.



On this occasion, the Prime Minister remembered and said that Bapu always taught us to think of the last person in the queue, the poorest person, and serve the underprivileged. Inspired by this ideal, we are serving the poor. Further he said, through our initiatives we want to transform their lives; we want to build homes for the poor.

Besides, the Prime Minister also unveiled a plaque to mark the inauguration of a public housing project of 624 houses and he witnessed the e-Gruh Pravesh of 240 beneficiary families.

9. Jharkhand Planned to Build Largest War Memorial

Raghubar Das, Chief Minister of Jharkhand state announced that the State government planned to build the largest war memorial in the country, which would have life history of all martyrs from the state.

He said that besides being a symbol of the Kargil war, the memorial would also educate the youths about their responsibility towards the nation. On this occasion, he added that the State government decided to increase the amount, which is provided to dependent of martyred army *jawans* from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 10 lakh and government will offer job to one member of the family and also provide land to build house.



1. Lockheed, Tata in JV to Make F-16 Jet Wings

In an advance step to the 'Make in India' initiative, American security and aerospace giant Lockheed Martin announced that the wings of its F-16 fighter jets will be manufactured in India.

Maryland, (the US) based Lockheed Martin has entered into an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) for the project. Further, Lockheed has offered to move its entire F-16 manufacturing base to India. However, India is yet to make a decision on it.



2. Field Training Military Exercise (MILEX-18)

The first joint military exercise of the seven member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), with a emphasis on counter-terrorism in semi-urban areas, was held in Pune, Maharashtra.



The week-long field training exercise, named as MILEX-18, was held between September 10 and 16 at the city's Aundh Military Station. As reported by Lt. Gen. D.R. Soni, Chief, Southern Command, such field training is a crucial step towards regional security and diplomacy. The armies of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand participated.

3. INDO-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018

As a part of the ongoing Indo-US defence co-operation, a joint military training Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 is scheduled to be conducted from 16 September to 29 September 2018. The 14th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by both countries will be conducted in the foothills of Himalayas at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand. The joint exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 is designed to simulate a scenario where both nations will work together in counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment in mountainous terrain under United Nation charter.



4. Home Minister inaugurated First Project of Smart Fencing Along Indo-Pak Border

First of its kind, 'smart fence' pilot project was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh. This fencing will be done along the Indo-Pak border.



The Smart fencing technology uses various devices for surveillance, communication and data storage and it can work 24×7 (surveillance) on the border irrespective of the weather condition. This pilot project encompasses setting up of laser-activated fences and technology-enabled barriers to safeguard vulnerable gaps along the borders.

Part of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) programme of BSF, initially it would have two border fencing projects, each covering a 5.5 km stretch along the International Border in Jammu.

5. DAC Approves Procurement Worth of Rs 9,100 Crore

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Nirmala Sitharaman, the Defence Minister, has approved Rs 9,100 crore for the procurement of equipment for the Defence Forces.



Defence Minister approved this procurement of two regiments of Akash missile system under 'Buy (Indian)' category from Bharat Dynamics Limited. The new missile system would be the upgraded version, as it has advanced technology such as 360-degree coverage and compact configuration with reduced signature.

6. India-France Set to Work Together On Maritime Surveillance Satellites

India and France agreed to begin work on launching a constellation of maritime surveillance satellites next year. These satellites will be designed to cover areas starting from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian ocean and parts of the Pacific Ocean and also the Atlantic Ocean.



To materialize this project, ISRO (the Indian Space Research Organization) and CNES (The National Centre for Space Studies) will work together. ISRO and CNES will design and

develop the whole project including Automatic Identification System to monitor and protect assets in land sea. The satellites thus developed, will also monitor the sea traffic management in the region.

This is India's largest space co-operation with any country ever.

Environment

1. Eight Avian Species Declared “Extinct”

According to a report in the British newspaper, The Guardian - scientists have declared eight species of birds to be extinct in what are being seen as the first avian extinctions of the 21st century. Out of this, five extinctions have been occurred in South America and have been attributed to deforestation.



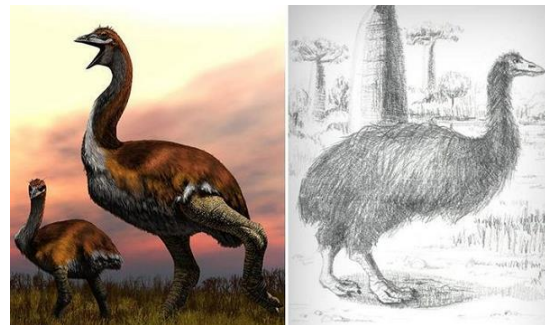
The names of those birds are:

- The Pernambuco pygmy owl, *Glaucidium mooreorum*, of Brazil.
- The glaucous macaw, *Anodorhynchus glaucus* (last seen in 1998), and Spix's (little blue) macaw, *Cyanopsitta spixii*, of South America has been declared extinct.
- New Caledonian lorikeet, *Charmosyna diadema* of New Caledonia.
- The Alagoas foliage-gleaner, the cinnamon-colored cryptic treehunter, *Cichlocolaptes mazarbarnetti* of Brazil
- The Java lapwing, *Vanellus macropterus*, of Java
- The poo-uli, also known as the black-faced honeycreeper

The study was conducted by non-profit “BirdLife International” and was published in the journal Biological Conservation.

2. World's Largest Ever Bird Named as Vorombe Titan

After decades of conflicting evidence, several debates and publications, scientists have finally put the 'world's largest bird' debate at end by naming it as “Vorombe Titan.” The meaning Vorombe Titan is 'big bird' in Malagasy and Greek language.



Found on Madagascar Island, surprisingly, the weight of this bird reached up to 800 kg and height is up to 3 meters.

For 60 million years the colossal, flightless elephant bird, *Aepyornis maximus* tracked the savannah and rainforests of Madagascar until it was hunted to extinction around 1,000 years ago.

3. Seasonal Filling of Reservoir May Trigger Earthquakes

As per the report, the seasonal filling and emptying of reservoirs in India may cause measurable deformation of the surrounding rock that reduces the strength of nearby faults. As a result of this, earthquake may occur.



To track the rocks movement (especially the uplift and subsidence of rock layers around such reservoirs, researchers (in India) use satellite-based radar data (called InSAR) along with global positioning system (GPS) technology. The research teams measured crustal deformation around the Koyna and Warna reservoirs in western India, as well as the Tehri, Ukai and Dharoi reservoirs located in different regions of India.

The researcher team found that the eastern block of the Koyna-Warna fault zone appears to be moving faster to the northeast in comparison to the western block, a motion that may potentially increase stress on faults in the region. Besides, seasonal filling and emptying of the Koyna and Warna reservoirs are deforming the surrounding rock layers as well.

4. Bombay High Court Freezes Mangrove Destruction

The Bombay High Court ordered a “total freeze” on the destruction of mangroves in the state (Maharashtra). Further, the court said that the destruction of mangroves in any part of the state cannot be allowed for any use unless the court finds it essential for the public benefit.



The Bombay High Court noticed that “The destruction of mangroves offends the fundamental rights of the citizen and Article 21 of the Constitution of India... it is a mandatory duty of the state and its agencies and instrumentality to protect and preserve mangroves.”

Further, the court instructed to create a 50m buffer zone around mangrove land in which no construction activity or dumping of debris should be permitted.

5. India Sets Record in Total Forest Restoration

During the period 2011 to 2017, India has restored a total of 9.8 million hectares of degraded land. In such forest restoration, Government agencies are playing a major role, as it has contributed to 95% restoration; however, the remaining 5% was contributed by NGOs and other private companies.

This restoration activity is part of the "Bonn Challenge," which is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. About 46 countries have signed the Challenge and pledged their commitments for green covers.



After this achievement, India has submitted its report with title "Bonn Challenge and India: Progress on Restoration Efforts Across States and Landscapes." India became first-ever publication from any country in the world, giving detailed progress on forest landscape restoration under the global treaty.

6. UP Govt. Decided to Set Up 'Tiger Protection Foundations'

With the objective to promote eco-tourism, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has all set to set up 'Tiger Protection Foundations' in three forest ranges. The project will start with Dudhwa National Park and then move to Pilibhit and Nishangarh (Bijnore). This will not only bring these ranges on the global map but also help in empowering tribal residing in these zones.



Sidharth Nath Singh, the Government spokesman, has said that these Tiger Protection Foundations will be self-sufficient and neither the Central nor state governments need to finance the project. In fact, "The Foundation will generate its own resources, which could be through tourist entry fee or by organizing events or seminars. The focus will be given to promote eco-tourism and provide jobs to tribal community residing in the reserve forest zone."

7. Hollywood Actor DiCaprio to Build World's Greenest Island Resort

Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio has announced his plan to create "the world's most sustainable island resort," which will push the boundaries of green design, architecture and eco-tourism to a new level.



To materialize this project, the actor and environmental activist DiCaprio is working with Restorative Hospitality, a subsidiary of ethical real estate firm Delos. He will develop a 104-acre 'restorative island' at Blackadore Caye in Belize.

DiCaprio said that "this project is leading a new way in eco-tourism, development and green building and demonstrates that human development can be truly restorative and beneficial for the environment."

The project will feature 68 villas, 48 estate homes, 3 restaurants, 1 spa, and a private clubhouse. It will be incorporating sustainable building techniques that will restore and regenerate the surrounding ecosystem and reverse the effects of climate change.

Science & Technology

1. India, France to Collaborate on ISRO's Gaganyaan - Human Space Mission

India (ISRO) and France (CNES) signed an agreement to collaborate on Gaganyaan mission, ISRO's first human space mission.

The announcement was made at the sixth edition of Bengaluru Space Expo by French space agency President Jean-Yves Le Gall.

Mr. Gall said that ISRO and CNES, the French space agency, will be combining their expertise in the fields of astronaut health monitoring, space medicine, life support, radiation protection, space debris protection, and personal hygiene systems.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) "Gaganyaan mission" to send three humans to space by 2022 is significant as it would make India one of the four countries in the world after Russia, US and China to launch a manned space flight.



2. IAF Carries Out First Ever Mid-Air Refuelling of Tejas Combat

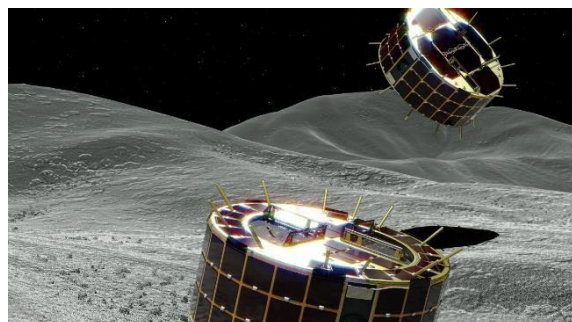
The Indian Air Force has successfully carried out the first ever mid-air fuelling of the indigenously developed Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA). To execute the process, a Russian-built IL-78 MKI tanker transferred fuel to Tejas MK I aircraft. The tanker was launched from Indian Air Force's base in Agra while LCA Tejas fighter was launched from Gwalior.



3. Japan Landed World's First Robotic Rovers MINERVA-II1 on asteroid Ryugu

Japan became the world's first country by launching two robotic rovers on asteroid Ryugu. It is also the first man made robot to have landed on an asteroid. The name of this project is MINERVA-II1, which consists of two rovers, Rover-1A and Rover-1B.

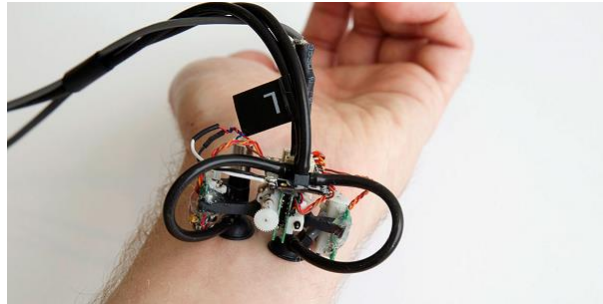
Developed by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, these two rovers had been aboard the Hayabusa2 spacecraft.



4. Robot Crawls Human Body to Scan

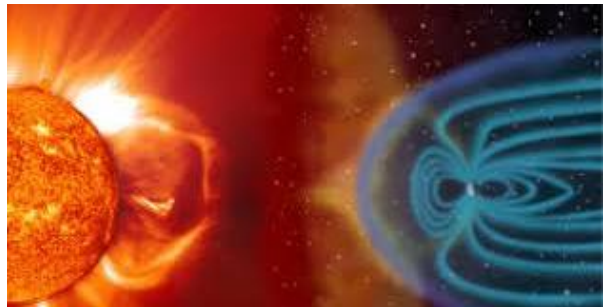
Scientists have invented a small robot designed move on human body to scan it. The success of such a new technology will definitely will help medical science greatly to diagnose and treat different diseases.

This SkinBot is a palm-sized bipedal robot with suction-cup feet stirred by leeches and the suckers of cephalopods. Artem Dementyev at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab is passionately working on this project (small helper robots) that can substantially usher in medical science.



5. Nasa's FOXSI Mission Ready to Study Sun Using X-Ray Vision

As per the US space agency report, NASA's FOXSI mission is all set to study the Sun by using X-ray vision. FOXSI or simply Focusing Optics X-ray Solar Imager is a sounding rocket mission designed by Nasa. Its objective is to study Nano-flares (mini explosions), which is invisible to the naked eyes.



In its report, NASA said the mission will take its third flight from the White Sands Missile Range in White Sands, New Mexico. NASA's FOXSI will travel about 190 miles up in the Earth's atmosphere to view and study the Sun.

6. EyeROV TUNA, India's First Underwater Robotic Drone

India's first underwater robotic drone capable to send real-time videos of ships and other underwater structures to help with their repair and maintenance, was launched. After the test, it is handed over to the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO.



The first commercial Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)/underwater drone, named EyeROV TUNA, as it was developed by EyeROV Technologies, a company planted at Kalamassery-based Maker Village, Kochi.

7. PSLV-C42 Launches 2 British Satellites

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C42) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched two British satellites namely NovaSAR and S1-4 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. Both satellites were injected into the Sun Synchronous Orbit, about 17 minutes later, at an altitude of 583 km.



NovaSAR carries S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and an Automatic Identification Receiver payloads. Its applications include forestry mapping, land use and ice cover monitoring, flood and disaster monitoring, and maritime missions. It will be operated from SSTL's Spacecraft Operations Centre in Guildford, UK. Whereas S1-4 is a high resolution earth observation satellite meant for surveying resources, environment monitoring, urban management, and disaster monitoring.

The satellites, which belong to UK-based Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL), has a contract with Antrix Corporation Ltd, the commercial arm of ISRO.

Banking, Finance, & Business

1. RBI cancels the license of Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank

As per the report, RBI has cancelled the license of Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank, as it does not have sufficient capital and earning prospects.

As a result of the cancellation of its licence, Rajasthan based Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. is prohibited from conducting the business of banking.



2. SBI Hikes Benchmark Lending Rate by 0.2

The State Bank of India increased its benchmark lending rates or marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.2 per cent and it is effective from the September 1, 2018. As a result of this, home, auto, and other loans are costlier now.

With this, SBI's overnight and one-month tenors' MCLR stands at 8.1% as against 7.9%.

Such rate hike by the SBI comes a month after the Reserve Bank of India hiked benchmark lending rate (repo rate) by 25 basis points to 6.5 per cent.



3. World Bank Approve 929.89 Crore for Shimla's Water Supply Project

The World Bank has approved Rs. 929.89 crore as financial assistance for a water supply and sewerage project for the state capital, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The assistance will be made as a development policy loan. However, the final negotiation meeting for this loan sanction will be held on October 24, 2018.



As per the official report, the city receives 30-32 MLD on an average every day and the residents are getting water once in three-four days in summer, whereas this city requires about 40 MLD every day.

4. RBI Released New Rule to Refund Damaged Currency Note

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced new guidelines for exchanging the damaged currency notes. In the previous guidelines, the newly published currency i.e. 2,000 and 200 currencies were not covered.



After the demonetisation in November 2016, the RBI has introduced a new series of notes of varying sizes (smaller notes of Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, and Rs 500). Besides, two new currencies, Rs 200 and Rs 2,000, also released, which were not in use earlier. Owing to such new currencies with different dimensions, the RBI has amended its rules to cover the new notes.

5. NABARD Approved Rs 65,635 Cr Loan for Irrigation Projects

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved Rs. 65,634.93 Crore loan for prioritized 93 irrigation projects. This project will be done under the government flagship scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).



Likewise, the NABARD is planned to fund the central and state share of 99 prioritised irrigation projects under the PMKSY through long term irrigation fund. It would provide a total of Rs 70,000 crore loan to these projects, which will be completed by 2019.

6. Government Raised Interest Rate on Small Savings Schemes

The government has raised the interest rates on small savings schemes, including National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF), by up to 0.4 % for the October-December quarter. Interest rates for small savings schemes are normally notified on a quarterly basis.

Interest rate for the five-year term deposit raised to 7.8%; recurring deposit raised to 7.3%; and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been raised to 8.7%. The interest on the senior citizens' scheme is paid quarterly.

Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will have an annual interest rate of 8% as compared to existing 7.6%, while Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) will have 7.7% and will mature in 112 months as against 118 months in the previous quarter.

The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi account will earn higher interest rate of 8.5%, 0.4% more than the current rate. Term deposits of one-three years will have 0.3% higher interest rate.



Report

1. GDP Growth Rate @ 8.2%

The Office of Central Statistical Department has released the estimates of GDP for the first quarter for the period 2018-2019. For the first quarter, the real growth of GDP is reported at 8.2%. In the field of consumption expenditure, the growth rate is 8.4% and in the field of fixed investment, the growth rate is 10.0%.



2. ADB Released 2018 Flagship Statistical Report

Asian Development Bank has released its Flagship Statistical Report for the year 2018 for Asia and the Pacific region. This report carries the latest available economic, financial, social, SDG indicators, and environmental statistics for all the 48 regional members of ADB.



Divided into three sections, report emphasizes on "technological innovation for Agricultural Statistics. Further, report says that Asia and the Pacific region continues to grow in GDP. Their labor forces have been reduced and its shifting from agriculture towards employment in industry and services. As a result of such substantial growth, about 780 million people from all these regions moved out of extreme poverty between the period 2002 and 2013.

3. UN Reported: Hunger Reached 'Alarming' Ten-Year High

As per the UN's annual multi-agency flagship report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, hunger remains the same as was ten years ago in 2017.

This report is a part of UNDP's Sustainable Development goal namely Zero Hunger by 2030. According to this report, there is an increase of hungry people from 777 million to 821 million in 2017, which means - one in every nine people, does not have enough food to eat. Besides, 51 million children aged under five are under a higher risk of morbidity and mortality.



4. IGI Airport 16th busiest in the world: ACI Report 2018

Airport Council International (ACI) has published the Annual World Airport Traffic Report 2018, the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) of India ranked 16th busiest in the world. In 2016, IGI's rank was 22nd.

The first place is secured by Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport located in Georgia, Atlanta, USA followed by Beijing Airport (2nd rank), Dubai International Airport (3rd rank), Tokyo and Los Angeles Airport (4th and 5th rank).



Appointments

1. Sunil Mehta elected as IBA Chairman

Sunil Mehta, the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Punjab National Bank, was elected as the new chairman of Indian Banks Association (IBA) for the period 2018-2019. Besides, Dina Bandhu Mohapatra, the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Bank of India was elected as the Deputy Chairman.



Indian Banks Association is a financial institution, which was set up on September 26, 1946 with the purpose to strengthen, develop and nurture co-ordination among the Indian banking stakeholders.

1. R. Madhavan Takes Charge of Hindustan Aeronautics as CMD

R Madhavan has appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (replacing Suvarnu Raju, who was the CMD).



Until, Madhavan was heading the Accessories Division of HAL at Lucknow as an Executive Director. Madhavan directed the successful absorption of technology for the production of Su-30 airframe and engine accessories from raw material phase at HAL's Accessories Division, Lucknow. Besides, he has contributed to 'Make in India' drive by developing MSME vendors for aerospace manufacturing.

2. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh Re-elected as WHO Regional Director

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh elected for a second five-year term as Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia.

Dr. Khetrapal Singh's candidature was unopposed, as the 11 Member countries of WHO South-East Asia Region met at the ongoing Regional Committee session to elect the next Regional Director.



The WHO Executive Board, which next meets in Geneva in January 2019 is expected to confirm Dr. Khetrpal Singh's nomination and appoint her as the Regional Director. Likewise, Dr. Khetrpal Singh will commence her next five-year term on 1 February 2019. India's Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mr J P Nadda said that the leadership ushered by Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh has seen the WHO South-East Asia Region emerged definitely as the top performer in the organization globally. Her commitment to the public health agenda in the Member States is reflected in the significant achievements in all the flagship priorities of the Region.

3. Bimal Jalan appointed as New Chief Economic Advisor

Bimal Jalan, the former governor of Reserve Bank of India is appointed as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) in the finance ministry.



The former CEA Arvind Subramanian resigned from his post before his tenure ended in May 2019 as he joined as a visiting professor at Harvard University.

4. Amitabh Chaudhry Appointed New CEO & MD of Axis Bank

Amitabh Chaudhry, MD of HDFC Standard Life, has been announced to be appointed as the new CEO and MD of Axis Bank.



Mr. Chaudhry will replace Shikha Sharma the current MD & CEO and will take charge on January 1, 2019. He will remain as MD & CEO for 3 years from January 1, 2019 till December 31, 2021.

6. S. Mubarak Next Ambassador to Republic of Guatemala

B. S. Mubarak was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Republic of Guatemala replacing Mr. Rajeev Babu Kurup. Mr. Kurup who has been serving the ambassador of India to Guatemala since 2015.



At present, he is the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Awards

1. Dr. B.K. Misra Named for Dr B.C. Roy Award

Dr. B.K. Misra, a distinguished neurosurgeon has been named for this year's prestigious Dr. B.C. Roy National Award as an "Eminent Medical Person of the Year." Misra is the Head of Department of Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Gamma Knife Radiosurgery at Mumbai's P.D. Hinduja Hospital.



Instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1962, Dr. B.C. Roy National Award is the highest medical honour in India. This award is given away by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 1 next year, on the National Doctors Day.

2. Sarala Puraskar' Award for Poet Satrugna Pandav

Distinguished Odia poet Satrugna Pandav will be honoured with the prestigious 39th 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection 'Misra Dhrupad'.



The 'Sarala Puraskar' carrying a cash prize of Rs 5,00,000 and a citation – was instituted by eminent Odia industrialist late Dr Bansidhar Panda and late Ila Pnada in 1979. However, this is awarded by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT). It will be presented to Pandav on October 26.

3. Prof. Arul Chinnaiyan Received Indian-American Researcher Award

The US National Cancer Institute has given the "Outstanding Investigator Award" to Professor Arul Chinnaiyan, from the University of Michigan. Besides, \$6.5 million will be funded in over seven years to identify cancer biomarkers to improve diagnosis and develop new targeted therapies.



In 2010, Chinnaiyan launched the Michigan Oncology Sequencing (**Mi-ONCOSEQ**) programme. Over period in time, his lab has analysed the global landscape of a portion of the genome that has not been previously well-explored -- long non-coding RNAs (**lncRNAs**).

4. Aishwarya Rai, Janhvi Kapoor, & Zoya Akhtar honoured WIFT Awards

Aishwarya Rai, Janhvi Kapoor, & Zoya Akhtar have been honoured at the first Women in Film and Television (WIFT) India Awards in Washington, US on September 8, 2018.

Actress Aishwarya Rai has been presented the inaugural Meryl Streep Award for Excellence. This award has been established to honour the best female talent in Bollywood and Hollywood. Director Zoya Akhtar has been given the Wyler Award for Excellence in Direction. And, Actress Janhvi Kapoor has been given the WIFT Emerald Award.



Persons in News

1. Abhay K First Indian Poet Invited to Record Poems At Library of Congress

Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K. has become the first Indian poet who has been invited to record his poems at the Library of US Congress located in Washington D.C. It is a program namely 'The Poet and the Poem' conducted by poet Grace Cavalieri.



The prestigious reading series has been recorded at the Library of Congress since 1997. This series featured major American poets such as Robert Hass, Richard Blanco, Eavan Boland, Billy Collins, Rita Dove, and many others.

Abhay K. is the author of a memoir and seven collections of distinguished poems including "The Seduction of Delhi (2014);" "The Eight-eyed Lord of Kathmandu (2017);" and "The Prophecy of Brasilia (2018)." His poem-song 'Earth Anthem' is translated into more than thirty languages and has been performed by Symphony Orchestra of National Theatre of Brasilia and has been composed by renowned violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam and sung by Kavita Krishnamurti. Abhay's poems have appeared in more than sixty international literary journals including Poetry Salzburg Review and Asia Literary Review.

Abhay received the SAARC Literary Award in 2013 and was nominated for Pushcart Prize in 2013. He is also the editor of poetry anthologies CAPITALS and 100 Great Indian Poems.

2. Justice Safdar Appointed as First Woman Chief Justice of A High Court in Pakistani

Justice Tahira Safdar is appointed as the chief justice of Balochistan High Court. She sworn in at a ceremony held at the Governor House in Balochistan.



First time, she made history in 1982 when she became the first woman civil judge in Balochistan court. Justice Safdar completed a Master's degree in Urdu literature from the University of Balochistan, and then in 1980, she pursued a degree in law from the University Law College, Quetta.

3. India's 102-year-old Female Athlete Wins Gold Medal

Man Kaur, India's oldest female athlete, has won a gold medal at the World Masters Athletics Championships held in Malaga, Spain. She won gold medal in the 200 m race for the age group of 100 – 104 at the World Masters Athletics Championships.

Born in 1916 in Patiala, Punjab, Man Kaur is 102 years old woman. Surprisingly, Man Kaur has started her career at the age of 93 and in 2017, she won her first gold medal in 100-meter race at the World Masters Games held in Auckland, New Zealand.



4. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih Declared Maldives President

Opposition candidate, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, won the presidential election convincingly in Maldives. He defeated Abdulla Yameen. He is one of the founding members of (his) party Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP).

56 years old, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih will be 6th President of Maldives. He has announced that most likely he will set free to all political prisoners, including former president, Gayoom. He has also to rework or scrap deals that are not made in the best interests of the Maldives, and restore ties with India.



Books & Authors

1. The Book 'Constitutionalizing India: An Ideational Project'

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Vice President of India, has released the Book "Constitutionalizing India: An Ideational Project." The book is authored by Shri Bidyut Chakrabarty.

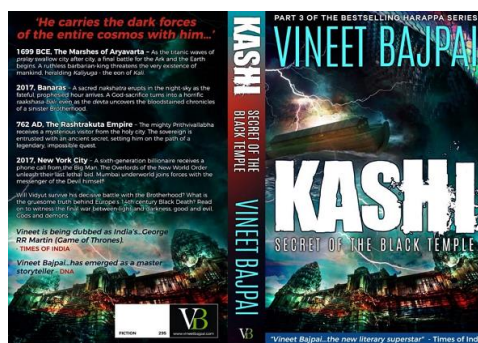


Sri Naidu said that the book provided a glimpse of the fierce debates that took place between liberalism, enlightenment and the Gandhian idea of Swaraj. Shri Chakrabarty, the author challenges the notion that it is merely a mindless borrowing of constitutional provisions and practices prevalent elsewhere. Likewise, the book illustrates how the ideas with completely different socio-economic roots competed with each other in the making of a constitution, which was acceptable to all.

2. Vineet Bajpai's Book "Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple" launched

The book titled as "Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple" written by Vineet Bajpai has been launched in New Delhi. The book, launched by BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia and former Chief Election Commissioner of India Navin Chawla, is Bajpai's Harappa trilogy.

The book narrates the story of a lost civilization. All the three books of the series were published by Vineet Bajpai's TreeShade Books publishing platform.



3. PM Modi's Book 'Exam Warriors' Released in Urdu

The Urdu version of PM Narendra Modi's book 'Exam Warriors' is released in the presence of several senior ministers and Bollywood actors. Written by non-other than Prime Minister, the book focuses on 25 mantras for parents and students to cope with the stress during the period of examination.

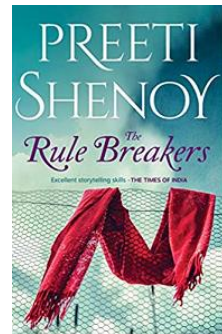


This book is already published in 14 languages, also discusses about the yoga exercises and the importance of the quality of sleep that required to beat the examination stress.

4. Preeti Shenoy Published "The Rule Breakers"

One of the best-selling authors Preeti Shenoy announced the launch of her new book titled as "The Rule Breakers". The theme explores the complex aspects of women's equality, gender and inclusion among others.

Likewise, the novel set in the 90s' is the story of "smart and studious" Veda, who harbours big dreams but finds herself trapped in an arranged marriage and soon realised that her opinions, her choices in real life hardly matters.

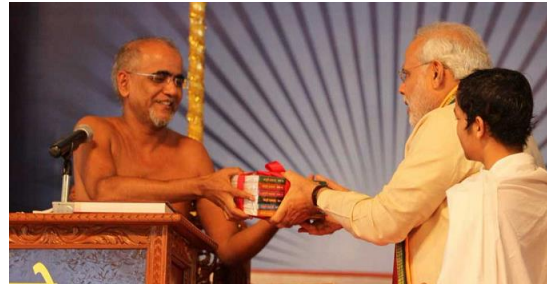


Deaths

1. Jain monk Tarun Sagar Passes Away

On September 1, 2018, Jain Monk Tarun Sagar passed away at Radhapuri temple in Delhi. He was 51 years old and had been suffering from illness since long.

Original name of monk Tarun Sagar was Pawan Kumar Jain and birth place was Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh. His most popular lecture is "Kadve Pravachan," which is followed by most of the people of Jain community.



2. Agricultural Economist Vijay Shankar Vyas Passes Away

Padma Bhushan awardee and agricultural economist Vijay Shankar Vyas has passed away in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

VS Vyas was 87 years old. In his professional career, he has held various positions including senior advisor in the agriculture and rural development department of World Bank; member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council; director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur.



3. Mehlii Gobhai, Mumbai-based Artist Passes Away

Internationally renowned artist Mehlii Gobhai passed away at the age of 87.

He had worked in New York City, US for more than 20 years and returned back to Mumbai, India in 1980s where he organized many solo and group shows. He has given his performance in many of the countries of this world.



4. India's first woman IAS officer Anna Rajam Malhotra Passes Away

First woman IAS officer of Independent India, Anna Rajam Malhotra, passed away at her home in Andheri, Mumbai. She was 91 years old.

Anna Rajam was born as Anna Rajam George in Ernakulum, Kerala, in July 1927. She joined civil services in 1951 in the Madras cadre. In her service, she served as chairperson of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT). She had worked under 7 chief ministers of Tamil Nadu. In 1989, she has been honoured the Padma Bhushan award.



Places in News

1. Jharsuguda, Odisha

A new airport is inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Jharsuguda. The airport will give air service through connecting flight to Bhubaneswar, Raipur, and Ranchi. The airport is developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in collaboration with the Odisha Government.



Jharsuguda now became the second operational airport after Bhubaneswar in Odisha. Located in Odisha, the city is more popular as the powerhouse of Odisha.

2. Jodhpur, Rajasthan

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Parakram Parv, an exhibition to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strike at Jodhpur Military Station in Rajasthan on September 29, 2018. The day also commemorates the sacrifice of those soldiers who died during the "Uri incident."



The surgical strike had been carried out by Indian army on the night of September 28-29, 2016 in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK), i.e. 11 days after the Uri attack that claimed 18 soldiers.

3. Kalahandi, Odisha

Mr. Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha, has launched 'Kalahandi Dialogue' at Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi, Odisha. The 'Kalahandi Dialogue,' held for 3 days, was a global conclave on development of Kalahandi district. On the eve of Kalahandi Dialogue, Mr. Patnaik launched various projects for the development of the district and inaugurated 9 projects. Such projects also involve youth's contribution.



4. Palu, Indonesia

On September 28, 2018, Palu, Indonesia was hit by a 5-meter-high tsunami shortly after a magnitude of 7.5 earthquake occurred 80 km north of the city. The incident caused a large number of casualties (as per the report more than 840 people died).

Palu is a commissioned city on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, at the mouth of the Palu River.



5. Barcelona, Spain

The independence-minded people raised the tension high in the region after the October 1 vote deemed illegal by Madrid.

Thousands of people demonstrated both for and against Catalan independence. The demonstration shut down parts of central Barcelona on Saturday (29 September, 2018), i.e. two days before the anniversary of a vote on secession last year that polarised the wealthy Spanish region.



6. Katwijk, The Netherlands

Archaeologists in the Netherlands have discovered about 2,000-year-old stretch of Roman road and the remains of a Roman village at the town of Katwijk. The region is once marked the northern boundary of the Roman Empire.

The stretch of road is 125 metres (410 ft) long that lies close to a busy highway in the Valkenburg suburb. The Roman village comes complete with a canal and burial ground.



Sports

1. Asian Games 2018 Highlights

- Amit Panghal defeated (by 3-2) reigning Olympic Champion Hasanboy Dusmatov from Uzbekistan and won gold medal in Men's 49kg Boxing.
- After defeated by Japan (1-2) Japan in the final, India won silver medal in the women's hockey play.
- In the men's hockey game, defending champion India defeated Pakistan by 2-1 in the Bronze medal match and won a bronze medal.
- In the men's Pair Bridge game, Pranab Bardhan and Shibnath Sarkar pair won gold medal. With 384 points, they topped the points table in the men's Pair Bridge game.
- Indian women's squash team won silver medal; India defeated by Hong Kong (by 2-0).
- India finishes the 2018 Asian Games with total 69 medals; out of which – 15 Gold, 24 Silver, and 30 Bronze.
- In the medal list, India ranked 8th; With 132 Gold medals, China secured first position (total medal 289) and with 75 Gold medals, Japan secured second position (total medals 205).



2. Alastair Cook Announces His Retirement

The 33-year old, who has scored 12,254 runs and made 32 centuries in 160 Tests for England, announced his retirement. With such a high score, (by the time) he stands at the fifth position on the all-time list of Test run-scorers.



3. Best FIFA Football Awards 2018 Held on 24th of September

On September 24, 2018, the Best FIFA Football Awards 2018 ceremony, was held in London, England.

The winners of this FIFA Football Awards 2018 were:

- The Best FIFA Men’s Player is given to **Luka Modrić** (of Croatia).
- The Best FIFA Women’s Player is given to **Marta** (of Brazil).



The headquarters of International Federation of Association Football or simply FIFA award (that given to football players), is located in Zürich, Switzerland.

4. 13th International Silesian Women’s Boxing Championships 2018

The 13th International Silesian Women’s Boxing Championships was held in Gliwice, Poland.

The winners were:

- The five-time world champion MC Mary Kom won gold (48kg) medal (in senior category).
- Manisha (54kg) won silver medal (in senior category).
- Former world champion Jyoti Gulia (51kg) won gold medal (In the youth category).
- India also won 4 bronze medals in the senior category.
- In the junior competition: India won 13 medals: 6 gold, 6 silver and 1 bronze medal.



5. 2018 US Open (Tennis)

The 2018 US Open was the 138th edition of US Open and the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year, which was held on outdoor hard courts at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center located in New York City.



Men's Single Title

Novak Djokovic won the men's singles title by defeating del Potro in the final, 6–3, 7–6, 6–3.

It was a special win for Djokovic, as it is his third US Open title and 14th Grand Slam; likewise, he equalled with Pete Sampras' and become equal third among all-time Grand Slam champions.

Women's Single Title

Naomi Osaka defeated Serena Williams in the final by 6–2, 6–4, and became Japan's first ever able-bodied Grand Slam singles champion.

Men's Doubles Title

Mike Bryan (United States) and Jack Sock (United States) defeated Łukasz Kubot (Poland) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil) by 6–3, 6–1 and won men's doubles title.

Women's Doubles Title

Ashleigh Barty (Australia) and CoCo Vandeweghe (United States) defeated Tímea Babos (Hungary) Kristina Mladenovic (France) and won women's doubles title.

Mixed Doubles Title

Bethanie Mattek-Sands (United States) and Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) defeated Alicja Rosolska (Poland) Nikola Mektić (Croatia) and won mixed doubles title.