

## Financial One Liner Current Affairs

- Union minister Arun Jaitley said in July, 2018 there was an increase of 18 per cent in direct taxes collection last year due to the Goods and Services Tax or GST and demonetisation. In the last four years of NDA government, there has been an increase of 1.5 per cent in overall taxes, the minister said.
- In a major fillip to the startup ecosystem in the state, the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) and YES Bank will join hands to provide a host of startup-focused corporate and commercial banking services.
- Germany's Thyssenkrupp and India's Tata Steel signed a final agreement in July, 2018 to establish a long-expected steel joint venture, the European steel industry's biggest shake-up in more than a decade.
- India has moved up to 73rd place in terms of money parked by its citizens and companies with Swiss banks, while the UK remains on the top.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 735.53 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to West Bengal during the first quarter of 2018-19, according to an official release.
- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) in July, 2018 signed a technology pact with the American tech bourse Nasdaq to source technology for offering customised real-time clearing, risk management and settlements.
- The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) on June 30, 2018 formed a 13 member committee to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level in the backdrop of plans to revise the base year for National Accounts or GDP calculation. The Committee for Sub-National Accounts will be headed by Ravindra H Dholakia, a retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad.
- The Sunil Mehta committee has backed the government plan for a bad bank to fight the bad loan menace by setting up an asset management company/asset reconstruction company, according to sources.
- Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in Assam has become the first oil public sector undertaking (PSU) to adopt an online legal compliance system by introducing 'Legatrix'.
- The Uttar Pradesh Government launched 'Commercial Tax at your door steps' on the occasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day celebration at the offices of commercial tax on July 1, 2018.
- The CBDT on June 30, 2018 extended the deadline for the PAN-Aadhaar linking to March 31, 2019.
- Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal on July 2, 2018 approved the Sunil Mehta Committee's suggestions of a 5-pronged strategy to tackle the Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The committee led by Punjab National Bank Chairman Sunil Mehta has submitted its draft report titled 'Sashakt' to the Finance Ministry with a strategy to tackle stress in the banking sector.
- The Supreme Court in July, 2018 refused to stay a Reserve Bank of India circular prohibiting banks and financial institutions from providing services in relation to cryptocurrencies.
- The Income Tax Department on July 1, 2018 launched the 'Instant' Aadhaar-based PAN allotment service for individuals seeking to obtain the unique identity for the first time. The facility is free of cost.
- The Telangana Government in July, 2018 said it has signed an MoU with Singapore-based Surbana Jurong for preparing a roadmap for Genome Valley 2.0, an upgraded version of life sciences and biotechnology industrial cluster near here.
- The Reserve Bank of India in July, 2018 issued licence to Bank of China to operate in India, according to sources.
- SBI Card, the country's second largest credit card issuer, in July, 2018 announced the launch of 'ELA' (Electronic Live Assistant), a virtual assistant for customer support and services.
- Peer-to-peer (P2P) platform Finzy has received its NBFC-P2P certification from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- CSC SPV and HDFC Bank in July, 2018 announced signing of an agreement to enable three lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) of the common services centers to operate as banking correspondents of HDFC Bank.

- **Yes Bank** in July, 2018 said it has received approval from capital markets regulator **SEBI** to start mutual fund business.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has **approved the extension of the scheme of recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for the next three years up to 2019-20.**
- In a move aimed to boost power projects of companies like **Adani Power, Tata Power** and Essar Power, **Gujarat government decided to form a high powered committee that will offer solutions for imported coal fired power plants** that are underutilised due to viability issues.
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in-principle to provide Rs 5,598-crore loan on nominal interest rate to Punjab** for various urban development projects, according to a state government statement in July, 2018.
- **Software major Tech Mahindra will set up a Blockchain centre at its Hyderabad campus.** The centre will be set up at its Research and Development (R&D) arm 'Makers Lab' and facilitate co-innovation in this emerging field, and developing enterprise-grade solutions for customers across industries globally.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for subsidized home loan (**Apon Ghar**) and education loan (**Bidyalkhmi**) was signed between the **Assam** Government and the **Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank (LDRB)** for State Government employees of Assam in July, 2018.
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 4, 2018 approved the proposal for expanding the scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)** by tasking it to mobilise Rs 1,00,000 crore for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on July 4, 2018 notified the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2018.**
- Union Minister of Coal, Railways, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal on July 4, 2018 launched the Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) and Mobile Application '**Khan Prahari**'.
- Tyre major **CEAT**, the flagship company of RPG Group, officially signed a MoU with the **Tamil Nadu government in July, 2018 to invest Rs 40 billion in the state.** The cabinet had given its nod for the proposal last week.
- **The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has developed a mobile app 'GST Verify' to protect interest of consumers.** It is an android app to verify if the person collecting GST from the consumer is eligible to collect it or not, an official statement said in July, 2018.
- Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy on July 5, 2018 **announced a Rs 34000 crore worth farm loan waiver** in the maiden budget of the state's Congress-JDS run coalition government.
- Supplementing the Union Government's vision for e-Governance and Digital India Programme, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on July 4, 2018 launched **an Online Guidance System for determining notifiability of merger & acquisitions (combinations) in terms of the Competition Act, 2002.**
- **Union Industries Minister Suresh Prabhu and South Korean Trade Minister Kim Hyun-Chong signed agreements on trade and commerce.**
- **Karnataka Bank Ltd has introduced 'Cash@PoS' facility through its network of 13,100-plus Point of Sale (PoS) terminals** installed at various merchant establishments throughout the country.
- **A ministerial panel formed by the Goods and Services Tax Council on July 8, 2018 recommended that there shall be no additional tax incentives for digital transactions** for a year, citing revenue considerations.
- The Reserve Bank has set the '**ways and means advances' (WMA) limit at Rs 700 bn for the central government for the July-September quarter,** up from Rs 600 bn in the previous quarter.

**Note:** 'WMA' are temporary advances given by the RBI to government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has accorded approval for lining project of the Sone canal in Shahbad-Bhojpur region of Bihar.**
- **The Haryana Excise and Taxation Department has identified a total of 6,091 value-added tax (VAT) dealers** in the state having arrears over Rs 5 lakh and uploaded the photographs of the defaulters on its website.

- **The Telangana government has allotted 200 acres to three different women entrepreneurs' associations in the state**, Industries and IT Minister K T Rama Rao said on July 6, 2018.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Industries and Mines Department under the **Gujarat** government and **Korea** Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in July, 2018 in Delhi.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **USD 503-million lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar** that would bring immense benefits to the agriculture sector of the region.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of **13 Urban Infrastructure projects for the State of Rajasthan**.
- Private general insurer **HDFC ERGO** in July, 2018 launched a **title insurance policy**, making it **one of the first such products launched by private insurers**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has topped the **ease of doing annual business ranking of states and Union Territories** by the World Bank and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- **India has become the world's sixth largest economy overtaking France**, according to World Bank data on gross domestic product (GDP) of countries for 2017.
- In order to reduce the long pending grievances of taxpayers and to minimise litigations pertaining to tax matters and facilitate the Ease of Doing Business, **Government of India decided to increase the threshold monetary limits for filing Departmental Appeals at various levels, be it Appellate Tribunals, High Courts and the Supreme Court**.
- **HDFC securities** in July, 2018 announced **launch of Mutual Funds transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger** through their virtual assistant, **Arya**.
- Digital financial services platform **MobiKwik** announced the launch of instant loan of Rs.5000 on its app, in partnership with **Bajaj Finserv**, a statement said here in July, 2018.
- Public sector lender **Bank of Baroda** in July, 2018 said it has inked an agreement with **South Korea's KB Financial Group** to set-up financing corridor and development of digital payment ecosystem.
- The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and South Korean Small and Medium Business Corporation (SMC) in July, 2018 inaugurated the **India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre in an effort to boost bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises (MSME) segment**.
- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** said in July, 2018 that it has partnered with **Australia's Westpac Banking Corporation to create a platform named Money2World (M2W)**, which students with accounts in Indian banks can utilise to pay fee to Australian colleges.
- **The Indian Railways has introduced a commercial service to run double-stack dwarf containers on trains to capture the lost traffic** through a new delivery model for domestic cargo. The information was shared by the Railways Ministry on July 9, 2018.
- **India Japan Partnership Group held the first India Japan AI and Fintech Forum in central Tokyo** district of Marunouchi led by Mr. Sanjeev Sinha, IIT Kanpur Graduate and Founding President of IIT Alumni Association in Japan.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** is contemplating implementing a '**Snapchat model**' for facilitating listing of Indian startups.
- After being mired in controversy for a long time after an RBI order that prevented it from onboarding new customers, **Airtel Payments Bank received requisite approvals from the central bank to start signing up new accounts**, the company stated in July, 2018.
- **India** on July 11, 2018 **formally became the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**, paving the way for more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation.
- **India was ranked 57th in the latest Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings**, which were released in New York on July 10, 2018. Globally, Switzerland continued to hold its number one position.
- The Union Government on July 12, 2018 constituted a high-level task force under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary **PK Sinha to identify various items and policy interventions to reduce dependence on imports**.
- **The Indian Railways on July 12, 2018 launched its first consolidated Bridge Management System (IR-BMS)**, a web-enabled IT application that will store data on its 1.5 lakh railway bridges.

- **NTPC**, India's largest electricity generating company, in July, 2018 said it has **signed a term loan agreement with HDFC Bank for availing a loan of Rs 15 billion.**
- Singapore-headquartered financial services giant **DBS** will begin commercial banking operations in **India** in October this year.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has given its nod to **Fairfax** to acquire 51 per cent stake in **Kerala-based Catholic Syrian Bank (CSB).**
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC's) board** has approved **acquiring up to 51 per cent stake in state-run IDBI Bank.**
- State-owned **BEML Ltd** and **Larsen & Toubro** entered into a pact to jointly capitalise on emerging opportunities in domestic and export markets for defence products and systems.
- Defence public sector undertaking **BEL** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Saab, Sweden**, recently for jointly marketing the L-Band 3D Air Surveillance Radar, RAWL-03, co-developed by BEL and Saab.
- **Ola**, run by ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Haryana** government's department of employment to create 35,000 entrepreneurial opportunities in the state. **The MoU is part of the state's Saksham Haryana initiative** which was rolled out early last year to empower the youth through various skill development initiatives.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted a **10 Member Committee to review the penal provisions in the Companies Act, 2013.**
- **Jana Small Finance Bank in July, 2018 announced the commercial launch of its banking operations**, the last microfinance company to convert itself into a small finance bank (SFB), three years after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its in-principle approval.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will shortly issue **lavender colored Rs 100 denomination banknotes** in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of the bank's governor, Dr Urjit R. Patel and **Rani Ki Vaav** motif in the reverse.
- Karnataka Bank, as part of its digital initiative launched DigiLocker facility by integrating DigiLocker with its Moneyclick Internet Banking channel.
- The **Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018** was introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 18, 2018.
- Keeping in view the interest of sugarcane farmers, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has **approved the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2018-19 at Rs 275 per quintal** for a basic recovery rate of 10 per cent, providing a premium of Rs 2.75/qtl for each 0.1 per cent increase in recovery over and above 10 per cent.
- **State-run Bank of Baroda signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ten companies including Uber, Oyo, Lava and Flipkart to provide loans to members in their supply chain** like drivers and retailers in its efforts to raise its exposure to small enterprises.
- South-based private sector lender **Federal Bank has received the regulatory nod to open offices in Bahrain, Kuwait and Singapore**, but is awaiting local clearances before it starts operations, a top official has said.
- A grand welcome event and felicitation ceremony was held in July, 2018 at the India Consulate General, Osaka in Japan for **the first batch of Skill India's technical interns, who reached Japan on July 17.**
- **IFC** tied up with **Bayer, Swiss Re and Big Basket** to reach out to small Indian farmer.
- The Union Government has reduced the **minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana from Rs 1000 to Rs 250.**
- The high-level Justice **BN Srikrishna committee** met in July, 2018 to discuss the framework for data protection and also look into Trai's recent recommendations on data privacy, according to panel members.
- **Gujarat** is at the number one spot when it comes to manufacturing quality drugs in the country.
- **Indian banks and financial institutions** signed an inter-creditor agreement on July 23, 2018 to **fast-track the resolution of stressed assets of Rs 500 crore or above that are under consortium lending.**
- **Cash-on-delivery (CoD) method of payment option provided by online retailers such as Flipkart and Amazon may be a regulatory grey area as per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) response to a Right to Information (RTI) query**, according to a report in The Economic Times.



- **India and Rwanda signed eight agreements** on July 23, 2018 following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda.
- India's Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan disclosed in Parliament that **Iran had ousted Saudi Arabia as India's second largest oil supplier during the April-June period of this year.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 24, 2018 **visited a village in Rwanda and donated 200 cows for an economic development project of the East African nation.**
- **Bihar** Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the **online transfer of diesel subsidy directly into the bank accounts of farmers in the state.**
- **OYO** announced in July, 2018 that it has inked MoUs with the **State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda for extending its support to budget hotels and creating jobs across levels.**
- The inaugural edition of the **International Blockchain Congress in India will be held on August 3 & 4 at, Novotel & HICC Complex, Hyderabad.**
- **Invest India and Business France** on July 25, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote investment facilitation and cooperation between startups of India and France.
- **India and Uganda** on July 24, 2018 signed four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in various fields including the areas of defence, diplomatic ties, cultural exchange and material testing laboratory.
- **Arunachal Pradesh State Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd** will launch 200 Micro-ATM services across the state.
- **The NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov platform** on July 26, 2018 jointly launched the '**#InnovateIndia Platform**', collaboration between both the platforms.
- The state cabinet of Delhi on July 24, 2018 approved a scheme '**Mukhyamantri Kissan Aaye Badhotri Solar Yojna**' under which farmers in the national capital will be able to lease out a part of their agricultural land for setting up of solar panels to get additional income.
- The Parliament on July 25, 2018 passed the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018** that seeks to prevent economic offenders from fleeing the country and evading the legal process.
- The Lok Sabha on July 23, 2018 passed the **Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017** that seeks to **amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.** The Act has amended to deal firmly with cheque bounce cases.
- The **Department of Telecom (DoT)** on July 26, 2018 gave **the final approval to the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular.**
- The Parliament on July 24, 2018 passed the **Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2018** to enhance **transparency and accountability of the government.**
- **The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** is organising a three-day National Conclave in New Delhi to address various grievances of the trading community and focus on effective solutions.
- Cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has **become the highest individual taxpayer in Jharkhand** for the 2017-18 fiscal.
- After launching its wallet **PayPay** in Japan, sources said **Paytm** is planning to make an entry into **Europe.** However, things are at a nascent stage and plans of entering Europe might not kick off before next year.
- The Union Government has extended the **due date for filing income tax returns for certain taxpayers by one month till August 31, 2018.**
- The Parliament on July 26, 2018 passed an amended **bill that will allow courts to try offences related to cheque bounce expeditiously and direct the drawee to pay a minimum of 20 per cent of the cheque amount as interim compensation.**
- Fugitive businessman **Vijay Mallya** has **lost his attempt to appeal against a UK High Court order in favour of 13 Indian banks** to recover funds amounting to nearly 9,000 crore rupees.
- The **Arunachal Pradesh Government** announced on July 26, 2018 that it would soon replace **the health insurance scheme conceived by the previous regime with a new one.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 29, 2018 **launched 81 projects worth Rs 60000 crore in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July, 2018 laid the foundation of **India's first Mobile Open Exchange Zone (MOX) at World Trade Centre, Noida,** at a ground breaking ceremony in Lucknow which saw the launch of 81 investment projects worth over Rs. 60,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh.

- The Union Government has decided to set up a **High-Level Empowered Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary to address the issue of stressed thermal power assets.**
- The **Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)** has been taken away from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and has been brought under **the domain of the Union Finance Ministry.**
- Rating agency Moody's said that the recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cuts on 88 items will weigh on government's revenue collection and is **'credit negative'** as it will put pressure on efforts of fiscal consolidation.
- The three-day meeting of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India began in **Mumbai on July 30, 2018.**
- The Indian Parliament on July 30, 2018 passed the **State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017** that **merges the subsidiary banks with the State Bank of India (SBI).**
- After a thorough study of investment options available, **the Ministry of Shipping on July 31, 2018 issued new guidelines to all the major ports on the investment of provident funds, based on the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) guidelines** from the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2015.

## Non-financial One Liners

- In a step towards the inclusion of the transgender community into mainstream society, **Sathyasri Sharmila became India's first transgender lawyer.**
- IAS officer **Alka Tiwari has been appointed as secretary in the anti-corruption watchdog CVC** as part of a major senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.
- The Central Government has notified the appointment Patna High Court judge, **Ajay Kumar Tripathi** as Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
- Justice **Thottathil B Nair Radhakrishnan** has been appointed as chief justice of the Hyderabad high court.
- **CIMON**, a small robot endowed with artificial intelligence (AI) launched on a two-day trip to the International Space Station aboard SpaceX's Dragon cargo capsule.
- **GST Day observed on July 1**
- **National Doctors' Day observed on July 1**
- **Van Mahotsav kicked off on July 1**
- **Australia** defeated **India** in the final match of 2018 Men's Hockey Champions Trophy.
- Aiming to foster love for the nature and raise awareness about its protection among children, the WWF-India has launched its first-ever comic book **"The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Bikkie"** that also celebrates the geographical diversity of the country.
- The Delhi government in July, 2018 launched **'Happiness Curriculum'** for school students here.
- In what can be considered as a major boost for khadi and other handicrafts, **Jharkhand is all set to become the first State in the country to have a dedicated mall for indigenous produces.**
- The Supreme Court on July 2, 2018 directed the Centre to inform it **within 10 days about the time frame for appointing the anti-graft ombudsman Lokpal in the country.**
- **The Conference of Ministers for Power, New & Renewable Energy of states & union territories** will be held on July 3, 2018 in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.**
- The **Payments Council of India** in July, 2018 announced the **appointment of Vishwas Patel as its new Chairman.**
- **Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited has appointed T Latha as the Managing Director & CEO.** She has taken over from G Sreeram, who has retired from the office on July 1, 2018, on completion of his tenure.
- **Swiggy** in July, 2018 announced appointment of **Vivek Sunder as its first Chief Operating Officer.**
- Senior bureaucrat **Saraswati Prasad** has taken over the **additional charge as chairman and managing director of steel PSU SAIL**, the company said in July, 2018.
- State Bank of India (SBI) in July, 2018 announced **appointment of Arijit Basu as the Managing Director.**
- **Renowned journalist Rajat Sharma was elected as the President of Delhi & District Cricket Association** after polling 54.40 percent of the total votes cast.

- **Indian Naval officer Commander Abhilash Tomy** has been selected to participate in the prestigious **Golden Globe Race (GGR)**, which commenced from Les Sables d'Olonne harbour in France on July 1, 2018.
- **The World Heritage Committee on June 30, 2018 declared the Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai as the World Heritage Property**, thus, inscribing the site on the UNESCO's World Heritage list under Criteria (ii) and (iv) as defined in the UNESCO's Operational Guidelines.
- **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador won Mexico's presidency in a landslide victory on July 1, 2018**, setting the stage for the left-wing to form the government at a time of tense relations with the Trump administration.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) on July 1, 2018 inducted former Indian captain **Rahul Dravid**, former Australian captain **Ricky Ponting** and former England Women's wicket-keeper Claire Taylor into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in a glittering ceremony in Dublin, Ireland.
- Noted artist **Anjolie Ela Menon** was conferred with the **National Kalidas Samman** for visual arts from the Madhya Pradesh government.
- Former Indian Navy chief, Admiral Jayant **Ganpat Nadkarni** passed away here in July, 2018, an official spokesperson said.
- Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat, along with the Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa, on July 3, 2018 launched an Android-based mobile application named '**cVigil**' for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections.
- **The Ayushman Bharat Yojana** under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission **will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh** from August 15 this year.
- In a bid to stimulate the 5G ecosystem in India, Swedish telecommunications company **Ericsson** on 3 July formally **launched the country's first "Centre of Excellence (CoE) and Innovation Lab" for 5G at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has organised a two-day "**National Consultation on Accessible Elections**," from July 3, 2018 in New Delhi.
- **The Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences (MAIDS)** under the Government of NCT of Delhi has been ranked the 'Best Dental College in India' for the seventh year in a row.
- India is in the process of inducting the first batch of its intercontinental ballistic missile system - **Agni-V** - which will bring targets across China within its range and is expected to significantly bolster the country's military prowess.
- Faced with criticism from several quarters over alleged spate of deaths due to drug overdose in the state, the **Punjab** state cabinet on July 2, 2018 decided **to recommend to the Centre death penalty for drug peddlers and smugglers**.
- **The Chhattisgarh government will set up a tribal museum in the state's upcoming new capital Naya Raipur** with a view to exhibit culture and tradition of scheduled tribes.
- The Supreme Court on July 3, 2018 passed a slew of directions on police reforms in the country, **stating guidelines for appointment of the Director General of Police (DGP)**.
- **The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organised a '**National Workshop on Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**' in New Delhi on July 3, 2018.
- **Andres Iniesta**, the elegant Spanish midfielder who was a symbol of Spain's golden generation, retired from international soccer following the team's loss to Russia in a penalty shootout at the 2018 FIFA World Cup on July 1, 2018.
- International Cricket Council (ICC) will **impose a ban of minimum six Tests or 12 ODIs on ball tampering offenders** as it has now been upgraded as a Level 3 offence as per its new code of conduct.
- **Major General V D Dogra** has become the first Indian Army officer to complete the Ironman Triathlon event, considered one of the most difficult one-day sporting events in the world, in Austria.
- **India clinched Kabaddi Masters title** by defeating Iran 44-26 in the summit clash in Dubai on July 1, 2018.
- IPS officer **Sundari Nanda** on July 2, 2018 assumed charge as Puducherry Director General of Police, becoming the first woman to head the force in the Union Territory.
- The United Nations has placed Colombia's **Chiribiquete national park** on its list of world heritage sites.

- **Milan Shankar Tare**, a fisherman from Maharashtra's Palghar district, has been selected for this year's National Maritime Search and Rescue Award.
- NITI Aayog on July 3, 2018 announced to organise '**MOVE: Global Mobility Summit**' in New Delhi on September 7-8, 2018 in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in July, 2018 flagged off **Wagon Cab's taxi ambulance services** in New Delhi.
- **The country's first e-waste recycling unit will come up in Bengaluru**, Union minister of chemicals and fertilisers Ananth Kumar said in July, 2018.
- The **Madhya Pradesh** state government on July 3, 2018 launched an outstanding power bill waiver scheme and subsidised power scheme called '**Sambal**' for labourers and poor families.
- A five-judge Supreme Court bench on July 4, 2018 **unanimously held that the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi is bound by the "aid and advice" of the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government** and both have to work harmoniously with each other.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) entered in an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Government to set up a '**Design University**' for gaming in Visakhapatnam.
- The **Rajasthan government** announced 1 percent reservation for five communities—Gujjar, Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Raika, and Gadariya—under the Most Backward Classes (MBC) category.
- The Delhi Cabinet approved the Department of Environment's proposal **for a real-time study of air pollution in the national capital**.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 4, 2018 approved **The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2018**.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for the continuance of the 8 existing schemes of the Ministry of Home Affairs up to March 2020 for relief and rehabilitation of migrants and repatriates under the Umbrella scheme "**Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates**".
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 4, 2018 gave its approval to rename the Agartala Airport in Tripura as '**Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport**', Agartala.
- New America, a prominent American think tank has **announced a fellows exchange programme aimed at enabling India and the US to better harness technology to improve the lives of their citizens**.
- Scientists from several organisations in the **US**, including NASA, are planning to use remote-operated submarines to **hunt for the remains of an outer space object**.
- Major General **Jose Eladio Alcain** of Uruguay was on July 3, 2018 appointed as the Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
- **The National Health Agency (NHA)**, the apex body for the implementation of Centre's ambitious **Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM)**, on July 4, 2018 launched a formal process to empanel public and private hospitals to implement AB-NHPM, in order to achieve universal health coverage.
- **In a first, the Uttarakhand High Court on July 4, 2018 accorded the status of 'legal person or entity' to the animals in the state** and said that "they have a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person."
- **The Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT-R) has inked an MoU with Switzerland-based multinational ABB** to construct an operational smart electricity distribution network and management system (SDNMS) on its campus which will serve as a pilot project for the Centre's Smart Cities Mission.
- **Uttam Dhillon**, a prominent Indian-American White House lawyer, is the new Acting Administrator of the crucial Drug Enforcement Agency that combats the growing smuggling and use of narcotics in the US.
- **The Sambalpur railway division of Indian Railways' East Coast Railway Zone on July 5, 2018 set a record by constructing six limited height subways (LHS) at one go**, in a single block of four and half hours.
- A newly re-constituted five-judge constitution bench will begin hearing of four crucial matters, including the much-contested case challenging the **Constitutional validity of Section 377 of Indian Penal Code from July 10, 2018**.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on July 5, 2018 conducted successful flight testing of '**Crew Escape System**'.



- Alan Gemmell, Director British Council India and West Bengal's principal secretary for home and tourism and hill affairs Atri Bhattacharya in July, 2018 **signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further educational and cultural cooperation between Britain and Bengal in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at Nabanna.**
- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath on July 6, 2018 **issued an order to ban use of plastic in the state with effect from July 15, 2018.**
- On the occasion of the World Environment Day 2018, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organised a workshop on 'Collaboration for Ganga Rejuvenation' on July 5, 2018 in New Delhi.
- Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh has ordered a mandatory dope test for all government employees, including police personnel, from the time of their recruitment through every stage of their service.
- Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, who retired from the Supreme Court of India on July 6, 2018, has been appointed as the new **Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).**
- The Law Commission of India, in its 276th report, has recommended **legalisation of regulated betting and gambling activities**, while asserting that a complete ban has not been returning the desired results.
- One of India's greatest cricketers of all times, **Sachin Tendulkar** has taken to social media to launch **#KitupChallenge** to encourage people to start playing sports.
- Union Ministers of Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced that Sports Authority of India (SAI), will now be known as '**Sports India**'.
- The **International Day of Cooperatives** was observed across the world on **July 7, 2018** with the theme "**Sustainable societies through cooperation**".
- European Parliament lawmakers on July 5, 2018 rejected a highly controversial European Union copyright law proposal that was proposed by **Beatles legend Paul McCartney against the creators of Wikipedia.**
- **Samsung has opened the world's largest mobile factory in Noida, India.** The factory will be officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting South Korean President Moon Jae-in on July 9, 2018.
- **The Maharashtra government will implement India's first plastic buyback scheme for PET bottles and milk pouches from July 11 to ensure recycling,** The Times of India reported.
- Maharashtra State government in July, 2018 launched an online portal '**Pavitra**' for recruiting teachers. The move aims to ensure that only meritorious candidates get jobs and education institute owners do not demand bribes from the aspirants.
- The higher education department of **Rajasthan** has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Microsoft** to provide free digital training to students in Rajasthan.
- On 6 July, **the Uttar Pradesh Police signed an MoU with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for crime mapping analytics and predictive systems,** an official spokesman said.
- **India and South Korea** in July, 2018 **signed five Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in the field of Science and Technology,** an official release said here.
- **The 17th World Sanskrit Conference will be held from July 9-13, 2018 at Vancouver, Canada.** The conference will be inaugurated by Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- The **Himachal Pradesh government** on July 7, 2018 issued a fresh notification **banning the use of thermocol cutlery across the state.**
- The 2nd meeting of the joint working group on tourism cooperation **between India and Nepal has concluded in Kathmandu.**
- **India and Bhutan** have reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen and enhance co-operation between the two countries in all areas of mutual interest.
- **Anchor Electricals Private Limited,** a wholly owned subsidiary of Panasonic Corporation in July, 2018 announced appointment of **Vivek Sharma as the company's new Managing Director to spearhead its electricals business.**
- Former Information and Broadcasting secretary **Uday Kumar Varma has been appointed as a member of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council,** a self-regulatory body for general entertainment channels.

- **Dipa Karmakar**, one of India's leading gymnasts, scripted history on July 8, 2018 by **becoming the first Indian gymnast to win a gold medal in the vault event of the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup** at Mersin, Turkey.
- **Satyarup Siddhanta** has become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world.
- **US officials have ordered DNA tests on 'under 3,000' detained children** who remain separated from their migrant parents in an effort to reunite families at the centre of a border crisis.
- **The Rajya Sabha, for the first time in 76 years since it came into being, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding** in July, 2018 with a foreign counterpart, **Rwanda** for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue.
- The Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) and with the help of State/UT Governments is organizing **the India Tourism Mart (ITM) 2018 from 16th to 18th September, 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.**
- Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, on July 9, 2018 launched several new initiatives under the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and the Smart Cities Mission.**
- **India and China** have reached an agreement for the reduction of tariffs on Chinese imports of Indian medicines, particularly cancer drugs. The information was shared by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on July 9, 2018.
- The Union Government has granted the **Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status to six institutions** including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.
- Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, **formulated an action plan for realising the full potential of Cruise Tourism in the country.**
- Tamil Nadu Assembly passed the **Lok Ayuktha Bill** that was introduced by State Administrative Reforms Minister D Jayakumar in the Assembly.
- **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with two **Taiwanese Science Parks to strengthen links with the parks there.**
- Michael Ondaatje's '**The English Patient**' was voted as the best-ever Man Booker Prize winner, celebrating five decades of this prestigious literary award.
- **Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly** book written by Abhirup Bhattacharya was launched on the eve of Sourav Ganguly's birthday.
- US President Donald Trump on July 9, 2018 nominated conservative **Brett Kavanaugh as the Supreme Court Judge** to succeed Justice Anthony Kennedy, who recently announced his retirement.
- **BSNL becomes first Mobile Operator to Launch Internet Telephony Services called WINGS.** The service will cost Rs.1099 which is One Time Fee and you can enjoy audio video calling for one year.
- The nearly three-lakh personnel strong country's largest paramilitary **CRPF in July, 2018 inked a deal with the IRCTC to usher in the easy and fast e-booking of railway tickets system for its jawans** and officers by replacing the age-old warrant system.
- Indian naval ship, **INS Sumitra on July 11, 2018 became the first-ever warship to enter port of Sabang in Indonesia.**
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has given in-principle approval for the 39-crore rupees '**Seema Darshan**' project for developing more infrastructure facilities from T-Junction to Zero Point at Nadabet near Suigam in Banaskantha district.
- The **Telangana** government has decided to digitise, upgrade and preserve its rare and historic documents.
- The Andhra Pradesh government on July 11, 2018 launched the much-awaited '**Anna Canteens**' in various parts of the state.
- **Gujarat Government** on July 6, 2018 granted **Religious Minority Status to Jews living** in the state. In this regard, Gujarat's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment issued a GR to this effect.
- The state government of **Haryana** has announced that it would be enhancing the ex-gratia grant being given to the family members of the police personnel who die in the line of duty **from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.**
- Governor N N Vohra in July, 2018 appointed **D C Raina as the advocate general of Jammu and Kashmir.**

- **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the third most followed leader on Twitter** after US President Donald Trump and Pope Francis, as per a study by a global communications agency Burson Cohn & Wolfe (BCW). On the other hand, India's external affairs minister **Sushma Swaraj is not only the most followed female world leader but also the most followed foreign minister in the world.**
- **The United States has listed the 200 billion dollar in Chinese export goods** that could be hit with tariffs as soon as September, escalating the trade war between the world's two largest economies.
- **The World Population Day was observed across the globe on July 11, 2018** with the theme **Family Planning is a Human Right.**
- **India have bagged four medals in the Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament** Stage 3 in Taipei.
- Aiming to combat and prevent crimes like molestation, eve-teasing and make public places safer for women, the **Kolkata Police** on July 11, 2018 launched a special all-women patrolling team called "**The Winners**".
- The **Maharashtra government** has come out with a detailed policy for senior citizens that lists the concessions and benefits they are entitled to.
- **The Goa Cabinet on July 11, 2018** approved Information Technology policy 2018 which focuses on reverse migration and creation of around 10,000 jobs in the next five years.
- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated **Dharohar Bhawan** - the new Headquarters building of the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, - at Tilak Marg in New Delhi on **July 12, 2018.**
- Union Law & Justice Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** visited the **United Kingdom from 6-10 July, 2018 at the invitation of David Gauke, Secretary of State for Justice, UK.**
- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a '**Technology Challenge: Identifying solutions for cleaning of Sewerage Systems and Septic Tanks**' to promote suitable techniques for cleaning sewers and septic tanks.
- **The Union Home Ministry has instituted five Police Medals to promote professionalism and excellence in service** and give recognition to the security personnel doing good work in stressful environment and in difficult areas.
- US President **Donald Trump has shocked his NATO allies at a summit in Brussels by demanding that members double their defence spending commitments.**
- The **Sri Lankan Cabinet** has unanimously approved a move to bring back capital punishment for drug-related crimes, paving way for the resumption of death penalty after nearly 40 years.
- **Malala Day was observed on 12 July, 2018.**
- **The Telecom Commission on July 11, 2018 approved the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) net neutrality recommendations** that bar service providers from discriminating against internet content and services by blocking, throttling or granting them higher speed access.
- **The Delhi government has reinstated its panels of lawyers in the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court,** which were cancelled by Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal.
- The Odisha government on July 12, 2018 issued a notification on the constitution of a '**Heritage Cabinet,**' headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has surpassed Alibaba Group's Jack Ma to become **Asia's richest person.**
- According to the report of property consultant CBRE, New Delhi's **Connaught Place** is the 9th most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of \$153 per sq ft.
- **Indian sprinter Hima Das scripted history on July 12, 2018 by becoming the first Indian woman athlete to win a gold medal in the women's 400m final race** at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships, held in Tampere, Finland.
- Organisers of the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics have revealed that the torch relay will start in Fukushima,** an area hit by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.
- **Mohammad Kaif announced his retirement from all forms of competitive cricket on July 13,** almost 12 years after he last played for the Indian team.
- **The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited** in July, 2018 announced the appointment of **Amitabh Malhotra as the head of investment banking for HSBC India.**

- The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on July 12, 2018 constituted a **High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation**.
- **Dada Vaswani**, spiritual leader and head of the Sadhu Vaswani mission, passed away at the age of 99 in Pune on July 12, 2018.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in July, 2018 inaugurated a **new complex of the Indian embassy in Bahrain as she embarked on her two-day visit to the Gulf nation** to strengthen the bilateral ties.
- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, **inaugurating the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Institute of Cost Accountants of India** in July, 2018, said it is for cost accountants to ensure that wasteful activities and costs in production are removed and to help in innovation and improvement of processes as well.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and the Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan in July, 2018 jointly **inaugurated the Bangladesh-India Friendship Building at the Bangladesh Police Academy situated in Sardah in Bangladesh**.
- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation on July 13, 2018 launched the **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018)**.
- **Belgium** in July, 2018 finished third in the World Cup place play-off by defeating England by 2-0, Eden Hazard and Thomas Meunier scored goals and clinched victory for Belgium.
- A day after she became the country's numero uno in the junior circuit, **Malvika Bansod scripted history by winning India's maiden gold medal in the Asian School Badminton Championship**.
- The **Indian Railways** and **MahaMetro** in July, 2018 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to connect the city with adjoining towns of **Nagpur**.
- **India has become the Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO)** for a period of two years, from July 2018 to June 2020.
- **India** on July 15, 2018 **signed a revised travel agreement with Bangladesh** to ease visa restrictions for citizens from the neighbouring country.
- Union minister for electronics, IT and law & justice Ravi Shankar Prasad unveiled the Goa IT Policy 2018 at the Inox complex in Panaji on July 15, 2018, on the final day of **Goa IT Day celebrations**. The Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar was also present on the occasion.
- India's indigenously developed surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile- **BrahMos** was successfully test-fired from the Chandipur Test Range, off the coast of Odisha on July 16, 2018.
- The fifteenth round of **Foreign Office consultations between India and Iran** were held in July, 2018.
- The Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Rathore has said that **the Central Government will soon launch an ambitious scheme to test sports ability of two to three crore children across the country**.
- Indian boxers ruled the ring at the Golden Glove of **Vojvodina youth tournament** at Subotica in Serbia, finishing at the top with seven gold medals.
- Former Indian off-spinner **Ramesh Powar** has been named as the interim coach of the Indian women's cricket team.
- **China** has announced that it plans to launch 300 low-orbit satellites to provide worldwide communication services, with the first in the series to be launched later this year.
- US President **Donald Trump** and his Russian counterpart **Vladimir Putin** to hold their **first summit at Helsinki, Finland on July 15, 2018**.
- The **United States has rejected requests from the European Union to grant exemptions to European companies** from its sanctions against Iran.
- The **World Youth Skills Day** was observed across the world **on July 15, 2018**. The day is commemorated to raise awareness on the importance of investing in youth skills development. **Theme:** Youth Skills for Sustainability and Innovation.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on July 16, 2018 launched the '**Paudhagiri**' campaign with an aim to increase the green cover in **Haryana**.
- A High level Inter ministerial meeting was held on July 16, 2018 in New Delhi to deliberate on various issues and actions to be taken to conserve **The Taj Mahal**.



- The schools in **Kerala** are fast becoming digital with hi-tech classrooms equipped with advanced gadgets, including laptops and multi-media projectors, coming up in over 40,000 classrooms in the state.
- The Union Government has opposed in **the Supreme Court a PIL for barring candidates from contesting from more than one constituency in a general election.**
- The **BBC World Service** has launched its first **Gujarati language** television news bulletin.
- The **Gujarat** government on July 16, 2018 launched a vaccination campaign to protect children from **measles** and **rubella** for which it has received a **Rs 300 crore grant from the Centre.**
- **ISRO** said on July 15, 2018 that it has successfully conducted a ground test of its high thrust version of the **Vikas Engine** that would improve the payload capability of the space agency's launch vehicles.
- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT)** is planning to conduct hearings through video-conferencing to decide the environmental cases pending in its regional benches.
- **The United Kingdom has been ranked at the top in the 2018 'Soft Power 30' index,** which was published last week by the UK-based strategic communications consultancy firm Portland and the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy.
- **European Union (EU) member states along with government of Canada and Norway have warned Sri Lanka** against ending its moratorium on capital punishment and said the island risked losing trade concessions if it went ahead.
- **Peru** has declared a 60-day state of emergency on its border with **Colombia** in order to guarantee security in a region rife with drug trafficking.
- **Goldman Sachs named David Solomon its new chief executive** Tuesday, implementing a much-telegraphed succession plan as it expands beyond its Wall Street roots to the broader consumer market.
- Well-known carnatic vocalist **Aruna Sairam** has been selected for this year's '**Sangita Kalanidhi**' award of the Music Academy.
- Veteran actress **Rita Bhaduri** passed away on July 17, 2018 following a cardiac arrest at Sujoy Hospital in suburban Juhu, Mumbai.
- The Speaker of Lok Sabha, **Sumitra Mahajan** **admitted a no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against the ruling government** on July 18, 2018, on the opening day of the Monsoon session of Parliament.
- **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** announced to set up the **National Database of Arms Licenses system in April 2019.**
- **The IIT-Madras** has commissioned remotely operable **Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) microscope.**
- **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** and **IIT-Delhi** have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance research in the field of **Ayurveda.**
- The **Supreme Court** on July 17, 2018 condemned **mob lynching incidents** across the country and urged the **Parliament** to enact a law to deal with the crime that threatens rule of law and the country's social fabric.
- The eighth session of **India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)** was held in **Muscat, Oman on July 16, 2018.**
- President Ram Nath on July 17, 2018 **approved the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015,** thus, converting it to an Act. The Bill was unanimously passed by the Assam assembly in 2015.
- **The city of Udaipur has once again in 2018 been ranked among the World's Best Cities by Travel + Leisure.** Udaipur, the heritage-city built by the Maharanas of Mewar in the 16th century, is on the third place among the 15 of the world's best cities.
- The top 2 cities are both in Mexico: San Miguel de Allende and Oaxaca.
- **Forbes list of Highest-Paid Celebrities' for 2018** is out and the Bollywood superstars marking their presence on the list this year are **Akshay Kumar (76<sup>th</sup>)** and **Salman Khan (82<sup>nd</sup>).** The list is topped by American Boxer **Flyod Mayweather.**
- The **European Union** and **Japan** have signed one of the world's biggest free trade deals, covering nearly a third of the world's GDP.
- **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** partnered with **Google** to monitor impacts of human activity on global ecosystems by using sophisticated online tools.

- India's star javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the Sotteville Athletics meet in France** on July 17, 2018.
- The **Nelson Mandela International Day** was observed globally on **July 18, 2018**. 2018 Theme: **Take Action! Inspire Change!**
- **World Emoji Day was observed on 17 July, 2018.**
- The schools in **Bhubaneswar** and mass education department in July, 2018 have launched a campaign called '**Skills on Wheels**' to promote vocational education across the state.
- **Infosys Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of IT major, Infosys, in July, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for the construction of a station at Konappana Agrahara** in Electronics City.
- The Union Cabinet has cleared a bill providing for stringent punishment, **including death penalty, for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years.**
- The Centre has sanctioned **financial assistance of 300 crore rupees to the Three Municipal Corporations of Delhi** for effective solid waste management and dust control.
- The **Rajya Sabha Chamber has become Wi-Fi-enabled.** Announcing this in the House during the Zero Hour, Chairman M Venkiah Naidu said members can now browse all the government websites including that of Parliament.
- The 10th edition of the **Delhi Dialogue** got underway in New Delhi on July 19, 2018. The theme for this year is 'Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Co-operation'.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** has signed contracts with three vendors to outsource Spacecraft Assembly Integration and Testing (AIT) activities.
- A bill to amend the **Right to Education (RTE) Act** to abolish the 'no detention policy' in schools was passed in the Lok Sabha on July 18, 2018.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for continuation of **Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes** for the students belonging to the six notified Minority Communities at a total cost of Rs 5338.32 crore for period up to 2019-20.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved **the proposal of the state government of Uttar Pradesh for the establishment of a new medical college at Deoria at a cost of Rs 250 crore** under Phase-II of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Israel** on July 19, 2018 passed a law declaring that only Jews have the right of self-determination in the country.
- Top beverage companies including **Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Bisleri, have initiated a buyback programme for all PET bottles sold in Maharashtra.**
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organised the '**Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan**' in five main Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. This week-long afforestation drive was organised during July 9 to July 15, 2018 as '**Shubharambh Saptah**'.
- The **Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme was launched nationally on July 21, 2018** by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of the Union Human Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar and the Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal.
- The no-confidence motion moved by **Telugu Desam Party (TDP) faced a heavy defeat at the Lok Sabha on July 20, 2018.**
- Under pressure to stop rumours and fake news triggering horrific lynching incidents, **WhatsApp** on July 20, 2018 announced **to limit forwarding messages to five chats at once.**
- **The Tamil Nadu government informed the Madras High Court that a 24-hour helpline has been set up to investigate issues faced by inter-caste couples** and offer them necessary assistance and protection.
- The inaugural '**two-plus-two dialogue**' between India and the US will be held on **September 6, 2018 in New Delhi.** The announcement was made by the US State Department.
- **The two-wheeler mode in Google Maps that first arrived in India in 2017** has now been extended to Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

- India's **Lakshya Sen** continued his giant-killing form at the Asia Junior Badminton Championships in Jakarta in July, 2018 to win a historic men's singles gold defeating top-seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand 21-19, 21-18 in the final.
- **International Chess Day is overserved on July 20.**
- **Myanmar on July 19, 2018 joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, thus, becoming the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.
- **India-assisted emergency ambulance service was launched in Sri Lanka** by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conferencing from New Delhi on July 21, 2018.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on July 19, 2018 launched the '**Remote Sensing Toolkit**' to promote commercial use of satellite data.
- Burger chain **McDonald's** has become the first quick service restaurant player in the country to use **biodiesel, produced from used cooking oil**, to power its trucks as companies increasingly take up sustainability initiatives aggressively.
- Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan unveiled a state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– '**SAFAR**' (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Chandni Chowk in New Delhi on July 21, 2018.
- The Union Government **has set up a high-level committee headed by Union Home Secretary to check mob lynching.**
- The **Haryana** government has decided **to set up a cultural centre worth about Rs 184 crore over 10 acres of land in Gurgaon.**
- **Delhi University's Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa has opened Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) Kaushal Kendra for employment oriented courses.** With this, the college became DU's first college to establish the Kendra.
- Footballer **Mesut Ozil** announced on July 22, 2018 that he was quitting the German national football team, citing "racism" in the criticism of him in the side's World Cup debacle.
- The **Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee on July 22, 2018 officially launched its Olympic mascots Miraitowa and Someity** at a ceremony attended by Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike and Committee's President Yoshiro Mori.
- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on July 22, 2018 **shortlisted 734 young players for a scholarship programme under the KHELO INDIA Talent Identification Development Scheme.** The move came following the successful conduct of the Khelo India School Games.
- Indian national football team's captain **Sunil Chhetri was named as the 2017 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Player of the Year** by the national body in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Haryana athlete **Mohit Kumar** scripted a new youth national record in the men's decathlon on the second day of the 15th National Youth Athletics Championships in Vadodara , Gujarat on July 22, 2018.
- Sri Lanka batsman **Danushka Gunathilaka** has been suspended from all forms of international cricket by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) pending an inquiry.
- The US space agency **NASA** on July 20, 2018 announced to launch the **Parker Solar Probe**, a robotic car-size spacecraft, to study the Sun and reveal multiple mysteries behind the star.
- The **United Nations** has warned that Asia Pacific Region is on track to meet only one of the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the target year of 2030.**
- The **NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation** on July 23, 2018 signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) to collaborate in **Aspirational Districts Programme.**
- The Supreme Court of India on July 23, 2018 ruled that **there cannot be a "complete ban" on holding protests at Jantar Mantar or India Gate.**
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a contest, '**#Childline1098**' to mark the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, 2018.
- The Lok Sabha on July 23, 2018 passed the **National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017** that seeks to amend the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1993.
- Uttar Pradesh government filed before Supreme Court the first draft report of its vision document on **protection and preservation of Taj Mahal in Agra.**

- **Justice Tahira Safdar became the first female in Pakistan to be named as the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court.**
- **Renowned historian and author of the highly acclaimed "India After Gandhi" and "India Before Gandhi", Ramachandra Guha has penned a new book on Mahatma Gandhi titled "Gandhi: the years that changed the world (1914-1948)".**
- **The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) is all set to launch India's first public sector hotel run entirely by women for women in the state's capital city, Thiruvananthapuram.**
- **The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development organised the 2nd meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan on July 24, 2018 in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Rajiv Kumar.**
- **An Indian Air Force contingent comprising of four Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft on July 24, 2018 landed at Darwin Air Force Base, Australia for participating in the Exercise Pitch Black-2018.**
- **The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Green Mahanadi Mission' on July 24, 2018.**
- **The Rashtrapati Bhawan screened a short film titled 'Chalo Jeete Hain' (Come, let us live) which is based on the childhood of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- **The state assembly of West Bengal unanimously passed a resolution on July 26, 2018 to change the state's name to 'Bangla' in all three languages – Bengali, Hindi and English.**
- **Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy issued an order to not allow access to media personnel inside the Vidhana Soudha- the state assembly building.**
- **The Assam government has decided to set up a separate directorate for the Divyangs.**
- **The 10th edition of BRICS Summit began in Johannesburg, South Africa on July 25, 2018. Attended by all the BRICS leaders, the BRICS Summit 2018 will be held from July 25 to July 27.**
- **The US Congress on July 25, 2018 agreed to waive sanctions on India under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for buying Russian military equipment.**
- **Garden Reach Ship Builders (GRSE) of Kolkata, a defence public sector undertaking, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Khulna Shipyard Limited (KSY) of Bangladesh to help the country in design and construction of warships.**
- **A massive underground lake has been detected for the first time on Mars, raising the possibility that more water and even life exists there.**
- **India on July 26, 2018 celebrated the 19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas to mark the success of 'Operation Vijay' and to remember the supreme sacrifice of the Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the 1999 India-Pakistan Kargil War.**
- **Aerospace major Boeing in July, 2018 said that it has carried out the first flights of India's Apache and Chinook helicopters destined for delivery in 2019.**
- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and the UAE to promote the use of digital technology for better governance, officials said.**
- **Justice BN Srikrishna Committee on July 27, 2018 submitted its report on the data protection law to Union Minister for Electronics and IT, law and justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad.**
- **India and China on July 26, 2018 reiterated their commitment to maintain peace and tranquility along their border by enhancing communications between their militaries.**
- **The National Green Tribunal on July 26, 2018 formed a monitoring committee on the cleaning of the Yamuna River.**
- **The Gujarat government on July 26, 2018 came out with an 'Urban Sanitation and Cleanliness Policy' for better management of solid and liquid waste in cities. The policy aims at complete abolition of manual scavenging.**
- **The heads of state and government of all five BRICS nations including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa convened for the 10th BRICS Summit from July 25-27, 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.**
- **The shares of Facebook plunged in the biggest one-day drop in stock-market history on July 26, 2018.**
- **On the night of July 27-28, 2018, stargazers across the world witnessed a spectacular celestial phenomenon 'Blood Moon 2018'.**



- The **World Hepatitis Day** was observed globally on **July 28, 2018** with the theme "**Test. Treat. Hepatitis**".
- **World Nature Conservation Day** was observed globally on **July 28, 2018**.
- **Paytm Payments Bank CEO Renu Satti** has resigned from her position and will now **head the new retail initiative**.
- In a bid to promote **Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018** as a **green international sports event**, the State Government in July, 2018 launched a mega plantation drive.
- Rajasthan Government on July 27, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a private trust **Sohanlalji Buladeviji Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary', a shelter for 10000 cows**.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare **JP Nadda** on July 29, 2018 launched **the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program to eradicate viral hepatitis by 2030**. The program was launched to mark the World Hepatitis Day 2018.
- The Chhattisgarh government's **Sanchar Kranti Yojana**, which entails giving free smartphones to 45 lakh women and 5 lakh students, is a crucial step to empower them, Chief Minister Raman Singh said in July, 2018.
- The Indian Railways launched '**Mission Satyanishtha**' and a programme on Ethics in Public Governance, in a first-of-its-kind event, at a day-long function held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi on July 27, 2018.
- Assam government will implement **PRANAM** (Parent Responsibility & Norms for Accountability and Monitoring) Scheme from October 2, 2018.
- The Lok Sabha on July 30, 2018 passed a bill, which seeks to replace **the Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) with a board of governors**.
- The **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation** in July, 2018 announced the **appointment of Surendra Rosha as Chief Executive Officer for HSBC India**, subject to regulatory approvals.
- **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan** announced that he will **take oath as Prime Minister on August 11, 2018**.
- **Mahesh Malani** of Pakistan Peoples Party's became the **first Hindu candidate to win a National Assembly seat**.
- **International Tiger Day** was celebrated across the world on July 29, 2018 to raise awareness about tiger conservation.
- Two Indians -- **Bharat Vatwani** and **Sonam Wangchuk** -- made the country proud as their names figured in the list of **2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award winners**.
- The Union IT ministry on July 31, 2018 launched a desktop software **e-Aksharayan** to enable editing of text printed on scanned documents.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, on July 30, 2018 approved the Implementation Guidelines for **the 'Strategic Partnership Model' to ensure timely delivery of equipment to all the Armed Forces**.
- Indian ambassador to Ireland **Vijay Thakur Singh** was **named as the Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- **India has jumped 22 places to 96 to break into the top 100 of the United Nation's E-Government Index 2018**.
- Former **West Bengal governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi** has been selected for this year's **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award** for his outstanding contribution towards the promotion of communal harmony, peace and goodwill.
- European Union countries on July 31, 2018 decided to move the headquarters of the bloc's **anti-piracy Atalanta patrols from London to the Spanish port of Rota on March 29 next year, when Britain exits the EU**.
- U.S. spy satellites have detected renewed activity at the **North Korean factory that produced the country's first intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States**.
- The World Day against Trafficking in Persons was observed across the world on July 30, 2018 With the Theme: '**Responding to the trafficking of children and young people**'