

Financial One Liner Current Affairs

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of **India** on Monday signed a **85 million dollar loan to improve the skill development eco-system in Odisha** and establish an advanced skill training centre, the World Skill Centre (WSC), in the state capital Bhubaneswar.
- Brokerage firm **ICICI Securities Ltd** has announced **launch of eATM orders, which instantly credits into a retail investor's bank account funds accrued from stock sales**. Under the current settlement system, an investor gets money into their accounts after two days (T+2) after a transaction.
- IT major, **Tech Mahindra Ltd**, on Monday launched **the first Artificial Intelligence (AI) based, talent exchange market place, Talex**, to address issues related to upskilling, reskilling and talent management within the organisation.
- **SBI Mutual Fund**, one of India's leading mutual fund houses in the country, announced the launch of **its first AI-powered voice assistant with Google on Saturday**.
- **A N Jha**, Secretary, Expenditure, has been **appointed as new Finance Secretary**, a government order said Monday.
- State-owned **Bank of Maharashtra** Sunday announced that **AS Rajeev has joined the lender as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer**.
- Private lender **YES Bank** **appointed T.S Vijayan** former Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India as **additional independent director**, with immediate effect.
- **The Economic Development Board (EDB)**, the investment promotion arm of the **Kingdom of Bahrain** today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Maharashtra Government** to provide a framework for **Co-operation between the two authorities to promote FinTech in their respective markets**.
- In an attempt to tackle smuggling, the Central government has approved **Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre (SCord) under the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)**.
- **India** and the **UAE** on Tuesday **signed two agreements, including one on currency swap**, as external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj held exhaustive discussions with her counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan to step up cooperation in areas such as trade, security and defence.
- The Union Government on December 3, 2018 constituted a six-member committee to look at selling of 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** and **Oil India Limited (OIL)** to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** Wednesday said an **expert committee will be constituted to propose long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector**.
- State-owned **Indian Overseas Bank** Wednesday said it has decided **to issue more than 18 crore shares to its staff under the employee stock purchase scheme**.
- **The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** today signed an MoU with **China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)** to increase the bilateral trade between India and China.
- The Reserve Bank of India approved the Scheme of amalgamation of **SBM Bank (Mauritius) Limited, India with SBM Bank (India) Limited**.
- Reserve Bank of India has said that it will implement an **Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions covering services provided by entities falling under Reserve Banks regulatory jurisdiction**.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched "**Money Coach**", **a software robotics algorithm-led investment advisory application on mobile**.
- The Union Cabinet today approved **Agriculture Export Policy** in line with government's commitment to **double farmer's income by 2022**.
- Ministry of Shipping has **approved development of a freight village in Varanasi adjoining the Inland Waterways Terminal on River Ganga**. It will be developed at a cost **156 crore rupees**.

- During the meeting of leaders of Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Saudi Arabia's energy minister Khalid Al Falih said OPEC nations will **consider Prime Minister Narendra Modi's consumer-centric views on oil pricing before taking any decision.**
- **India** signed an agreement with **Iran** to pay for crude oil it imports from the *Persian Gulf nation in rupees.*
- **Former finance secretary Shaktikanta Das has been appointed the new governor of Reserve Bank of India.**
- **SWIFT India** on Monday said it has **appointed ex-SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya as the new chairman of its board.**
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$ 31 million loan to develop tourism and boost jobs in Tamil Nadu,** a finance ministry statement said Tuesday.
- **The Reserve Bank of India** Tuesday said it **has imposed a fine of Rs 10 million on Indian Bank for violating cybersecurity norms.**
- **Economist Surjit S Bhalla resigned from his position as the part-time Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- **The Nissan Global Digital Hub was officially inaugurated on Monday at Trivandrum, Kerala.**
- **Reserve Bank Governor Urjit Patel on Monday stepped down from his post citing personal reasons.**
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 7, 2018 passed a slew of relaxations for start-ups in sectors like e-commerce, data analytics and bio-technology to raise funds and list them on stock exchanges.
- The proposed changes include **renaming the 'Institutional Trading Platform' (ITP) of start-ups' listings as 'Innovators Growth Platform'.**
- **The UK court on December 10, 2018 ordered the extradition of Indian business tycoon and liquor baron Vijay Mallya from Britain to India to face charges of fraud filed against him.**
- The Reserve Bank of India on Monday said it has **cancelled the Certificate of Registration of 32 non-banking financial companies.**
- **Central Government contribution will be raised to 14 per cent from existing 10 per cent in NPS.**
- **ICICI Bank** today announced the launch of the **first ever account exclusively for working women in India. Christened, 'Advantage Woman Aura Savings Account',** it offers a slew of benefits across categories like 'banking', 'lifestyle', 'convenience', 'investment & tax planning', 'child education' and 'protection'.
- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) included two currencies - **Korean Won and Turkish Lira in the list of currencies for which it notifies the exchange rate.**
- **Amazon India** Thursday said it has partnered with **FISME to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) tap into opportunities in the e-commerce sector.**
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the **5th Enterprise India show in Yangon, Myanmar today which was hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry** and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce.
- **Hinduja Group firm Ashok Leyland** Wednesday said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Israel's Elbit Systems for high mobility vehicles.**
- **India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on December 13, 2018 signed a USD 60 million loan agreement to reduce floods and the riverbank erosion in Assam.**
- NITI Aayog is organising the **third edition of the Women Transforming India Awards 2018.** The event will also mark launching of the upgraded portal of the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).**
- Chinese handset maker **OPPO** Saturday said it has **set up a research and development (R&D) centre in Hyderabad.**
- **India has decided to extend 1.4 billion dollars financial assistance to the Maldives as budget support, currency swap and line of credit for the social and economic development of Maldives.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 16, 2018 inaugurated various projects **worth Rs 199.65 crore under Namami Gange Programme in Prayagraj, including 175 KM of sewerage network.**
- **New generation private sector IDFC Bank and non-banking financial company Capital First announced completion of their merger** Tuesday, creating a combined loan asset book of Rs 1.03 trillion for the merged entity **IDFC First Bank.**

- **PM launches housing and infrastructure projects worth 41,000 crore rupees in Maharashtra; Foundation laid for new metro sections in Thane & Pune;** work commences for 90,000 housing units at the cost of 18,000 crore rupees.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced **to waive off farm loans to the tune of Rs 6,100 crore of more than 16 lakh farmers.**
- Embattled liquor tycoon **Vijay Mallya** to face bankruptcy proceedings in the **UK High Court in 2019.**
- **The NITI Aayog on December 19, 2018 released 'Strategy for New India @75'**, its comprehensive national Strategy for New India which defines clear objectives for 2022-23. The Strategy was released by the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- **The Assam government** has approved **debt relief scheme for the farmers of the state.** The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal, held in Guwahati on December 17, 2018.
- **The government will infuse 83000 crore in Public Sector Banks in next few months in the current fiscal.**
- The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** on December 20, 2018 announced **the results of the first ever States' Start-up Ranking 2018.** DIPP began the exercise to review the Start-up ecosystem of the states from January 2016.
- **Gujarat was ranked as the "Best Performer"** in the States' Start-up Ranking 2018.
- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation **Nitin Gadkari inaugurated projects worth Rs 9533 crore at separate events in Roing and Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The Union Government has decided **to set up an expert committee to look into all the taxation issues being faced by startups and angel investors.** The information was shared by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** on December 20, 2018.
- **Naveen Patnaik unveiled a Rs 100 billion scheme for farmers titled Krushak Assistance for Livelihoods & Income Augmentation (KALIA).** The scheme to benefit both farmers and share croppers was approved at a meeting of the Agriculture Cabinet. **The scheme envisages Rs 101.8 billion expenditure over three years till 2020-21.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India** has shortlisted six major IT companies, including **TCS, Wipro and IBM India, to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR)** for capturing details of all borrowers and wilful defaulters.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Swedish furniture giant **IKEA for the investment of Rs 5,000 crore to set up an integrated commercial project, including a store, in Noida.**
- State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has launched a **special card for Kumbh Mela 2019.**
- **India and Japan** on December 21, 2018 signed **Exchange of Notes and Loan Agreements on Japan's Official Development Assistance Loan to India.**
- Facilitating its customers to receive remittances faster, **J&K Bank Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Instant Global Money Transfer Company** for online money transfer.
- **The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on December 22, 2018 slashed GST Rates for 23 commonly used goods and services.** The reduced rates will come into effect from January 1, 2019.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth around Rs 15,000 crore in Odisha** on Monday.
- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) **has constituted a Logistics Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman of EAC-PM** to assess key challenges and suggest reforms in logistics development and associated commerce.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon **introduce a new Rs 20 currency note with additional features,** as per a document of the central bank.
- **The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has proposed to establish a governing council to ensure efficient delivery of all export-related interventions,** as a part of its action plan to boost shipments from micro, small and medium enterprises.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the Union Government, on December 26, 2018 **constituted an Expert Committee on Economic Capital Framework. The Committee will be headed by Bimal Jalan,** while, former secretary Rakesh Mohan was named as the Vice Chairman.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on December 26, 2018 launched a '**Survey on Retail Payment Habits of Individuals (SRPHi)**'.
- The Government has reviewed guidelines for **Foreign Direct Investment in E-commerce companies** to protect the interests of domestic players.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to set up an **Integrated Compliance and Tracking System** portal to supervise cybersecurity measures of payment system providers (PSPs).
- The Reserve Bank has increased the withdrawal limit for depositors of **City Co-operative Bank Ltd, Mumbai**, to Rs 5,000.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved increase in the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of "Milling Copra"** to Rs 9521 per quintal for 2019 season from Rs 7511 per quintal in 2018.
- The **Maharashtra Government** on December 27, 2018 implemented the recommendations of the **7th Pay Commission**, a move that is expected to benefit as many as 20.50 lakh employees of the state government.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has announced a **Rs 4,500 crore financial assistance to Bhutan** for its 12th five-year plan after holding wide-ranging talks with his **Bhutanese counterpart Dr. Lotay Tshering**.
- **ESAF small finance bank** which received the first banking license in Kerala since independence has got RBI approval to operate as scheduled bank.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** would set up a **compliance and tracking system** portal to tackle the proliferation of cyber-fraud and seeks to establish a better redressal mechanism for consumers.
- **Public sector banks** have approved more than **1.12 lakh loan applications of MSMEs** totalling Rs 37,412 crore under the '**59 minutes**' loan scheme launched by the government in November.
- The number of ATMs has declined marginally to **2.07 lakh** in FY18 from **2.08 lakh** in FY17, primarily due to **branch rationalisation** by a few public sector banks, the Reserve Bank said in its annual report Friday.
- The Reserve Bank of India is exploring the possibility of **mobile phone-based solution** to help visually-impaired people easily identify the currency notes.
- The Reserve Bank of India has extended the relaxation offered to banks for offering liquidity support to NBFCs up to **March 31**.
- **Frauds in the banking industry** increased by **72 per cent** to **Rs 412 billion** in **2017-2018**, against **Rs 239 billion** in the previous year. This jump was mainly on account of the **Rs 140 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud**, said a report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.
- The Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, **Hardeep Singh Puri** said on **December 31, 2018** that the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** loan subsidy for middle-income group has been extended till **March 31, 2020**.
- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Ministry has established an **export promotion cell** to create a sustainable ecosystem for MSMEs.
- **Axis Bank** on Monday said its Managing Director and CEO **Shikha Sharma** has retired, effective **December 31, 2018**.

Non-financial One Liner Current Affairs

- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** will be **Chief Guest at India's 70th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2019**.
- **India and Sweden** on Monday signed **two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in the Renewable Energy sector** to enhance the technology and bring in energy efficiency in India.
- **India's first locomotive-less aka engineless train** breached the **180 kmph** mark during the test run on Sunday, a senior official said. It has been named '**Train18**'.
- The **Uttar Pradesh and Nepal** governments will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to **declare Ayodhya and Janakpur as twin cities**, an official said on Monday.

- Continuing in its efforts to enhance the educational landscape through technology, **Microsoft India is organising the first Microsoft Education Days 2018 in Gurugram on December 4 and 5.**
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched media campaign **"Heart Attack Rewind"**, calling for **elimination of industrially produced trans-fat in the food supply.**
- The Union Government's Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) to enable safe flying **of Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) popularly referred to as drones** came into effect on December 1, 2018. The Government had announced the release of the regulations in August 2018.
- The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on December 1, 2018 launched **the single emergency number '112' under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for the state of Nagaland.**
- **Delhi Minister of Food Supplies, Environment and Forest and Elections Imran Hussain was awarded by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)-India for banning the Chinese manjha,** or the glass-coated kite strings, across Delhi -- on December 1.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India will host the G20 Summit in 2022,** when the country celebrates its 75 years of Independence.
- **The World Bank unveiled USD 200 billion in climate action investment for 2021 to 2025,** thus, doubling its current five-year funding.
- **Qatar decided to withdraw its membership from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 2019.**
- **The 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP24) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began on December 3, 2018 at Katowice, Poland.**
- **The Asia Pacific Summit 2018 began on December 1, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal.** The Summit will continue till December 3, 2018.
- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed globally on **December 3, 2018** with the theme **"Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".**
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery was observed globally on **December 2, 2018.**
- World AIDS Day was observed across the world on **1 December, 2018.** The theme of 2018 World AIDS Day was **Know your HIV status.**
- **The second meeting of the NITI Forum for North East was held in Guwahati on December 4, 2018.** The meeting was presided over by Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar and co-chaired by Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region, Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- **The four-day International conference on bears began in Agra, Uttar Pradesh** on December 4, 2018.
- The 182-metre tall **'Statue of Unity'**, dedicated to Sardar Patel in Gujarat's Narmada district has slowly become one of India's top tourist spots.
- **India and China** on Tuesday exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest.
- **Mahindra's Igatpuri plant has become India's first carbon neutral manufacturing facility** and has been certified by Bureau Veritas (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- The **National Commission for Women (NCW) has decided to support northeast livelihood programmes for women,** particularly for those falling under the younger age group, through skill development and specialised training.
- Elon Musk's SpaceX on December 3, 2018 launched **its Falcon 9 rocket carrying 64 small satellites into low orbit around the Earth, setting a new US record.**
- The UN Security Council convened on December 4, 2018 to discuss on **the Iran missile launch issue.**
- **Pawan Singh has become the first Indian to be elected one of seven members of the Judges Committee of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).**
- Veteran leftist leader **Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador** was sworn in as the 58th President of **Mexico** on December 1, 2018
- **The 47th Indian Navy Day was celebrated on December 4, 2018** across India
- Indian batsman **Gautam Gambhir has announced his retirement from cricket** on Tuesday (December 4).
- Croatian Captain and midfielder **Luka Modric,** who had led **Croatia** to its maiden Cup final before they lost to France in the summit clash, **has won the 2018 Ballon d'Or.**

- **The National Rail Museum (NRM)** of the Railways Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **the Madame Tussauds Wax Museum** to foster tourism in Delhi NCR region.
- India's heaviest and most-advanced communication satellite **GSAT-11**, also called the "**Big Bird**", was successfully launched into space on December 5, 2018 from **the Spaceport in French Guiana, South America**.
- **India** and the Republic of **Peru** on December 5, 2018 signed an agreement for **co-operation and mutual assistance in customs matters**.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development will soon *formulate guidelines for children's hostels, prescribing the minimum standards of care that should be provided to the children*.
- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated **India Water Impact Summit 2018 in New Delhi**.
- **Bihar government fixed Rs 100 as the charge** for people to get their property registered after division of family's immovable assets.
- The two-day conference on partnership between the **European Union and India** commenced in **New Delhi for Cultural Heritage Conservation**.
- **Deepika Padukone** has become the first woman ever to feature in the top 5 of this list. With Rs 112.8 crore earning—courtesy Padmaavat and her many brand endorsements—she features at the fourth position. Bollywood actor **Salman Khan** tops the list with a total earning of Rs 253.25 crore between **October 1, 2017, and September 30, 2018**.
- **United States** warned **Russia** that it will withdraw from a major Cold War treaty limiting mid-range nuclear arms, if **Moscow does not dismantle missiles within 60 days**.
- The **United States** re-established a "**permanent diplomatic presence**" in **Somalia** for the first time in 27 years.
- The **World Soil Day** was observed across the world on **December 5, 2018**. 2018 Theme: The theme of the day this year is '**Be the Solution to Soil Pollution**'.
- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on December 5, 2018 launched the '**Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana**' which offers free travel packages for senior citizens from Delhi to five religious circuits. 1,100 senior citizens from every constituency of Delhi will be able to avail this facility at one go.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday approved implementation of **Shahpurkandi Dam Project, Punjab on river Ravi**, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said.
- Centre today approved an **additional assistance of over 3048 crore rupees to Kerala** in view of recent devastating flood in the state.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh on Thursday laid the foundation stone of **Pusa Kisan Haat in ICAR's Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC)**.
- Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the **National Mission on interdisciplinary Cyber- physical system** which will be implemented by Department of Science and Technology at a **total outlay of Rs 3660 crore for a period of five years**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard** has conducted the **Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled 'Clean Sea - 2018' at sea off Port Blair** today.
- Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad today launched **National Challenge - 'Ideate for India - creative solutions using technology'** for school students in New Delhi.
- Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju today **inaugurated the 19th All India Police (AIPDM) Shooting Competition-2018 at Manesar, Gurugram in Haryana**.
- India paid homage to Bharat Ratna **Dr BR Ambedkar** on his 63rd Mahaparinirvan Diwas on December 6, 2018.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi emerged as the most popular global leader on social media platform Instagram with 14.8 million followers**.
- The members of **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries** and other oil-producing countries are scheduled to meet in **Vienna** to discuss ways to manage the oil output, supply glut and demand slowdown.
- Noted agriculturalist **Jayaraman**, who pioneered **the protection and propagation of indigenous paddy varieties in Tamil Nadu**, passed away in Chennai on December 6, 2018.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate on December 25 ***the Bogibeel Bridge, India's longest rail-road bridge, connecting the north and south banks of the Brahmaputra***, falling in the eastern part of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, a senior railway official said as per PTI.
- India is set to get its first underwater museum off the Puducherry coast, giving a boost to tourism in the Union territory.
- South Korean auto major **Kia Motors** on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state of Andhra Pradesh to collaborate on the partnership for future eco mobility.
- Union Government included **Gangotri** and **Yamunotri** in Uttarakhand, **Amarkantak** in Madhya Pradesh and **Parasnath** in Jharkhand under ***Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)*** to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country.
- India, ***with 18 percent of the world's population, has a disproportionately 26 percent of the global premature deaths and disease burden due to air pollution.***
- The Union Ministry of Tourism has formulated the guidelines for approval and re-approval of **Online Travel Aggregators** to ensure adequate safeguards against deficiency of service, alternate arrangements and punitive deterrence.
- **Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric)** will soon get Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- India has voiced strong opposition to **Pakistan's move to declare Gilgit-Baltistan as its fifth province.**
- **NITI Aayog** in partnership with **Perlin**, a Singapore-based AI start up, has launched '**AI 4 All Global Hackathon**' to further expand the idea of '**Artificial Intelligence, AI for All**' articulated in the National AI Strategy.
- The three days India Water Summit concluded in New Delhi today. Key issues including afforestation, biodiversity, urban river management, innovation in sewage and sewerage management were discussed during the event.
- **Foreign Minister of Iceland Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson** today met **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** in New Delhi and held discussions on bilateral, multilateral and international issues of interest.
- VP M Venkaiah Naidu released two volumes of selected speeches of **President Ram Nath Kovind - The Republican Ethic and Loktantra ke Swar** in New Delhi
- China has launched a rover on December 8, 2018, ***that will land on the far side of the moon***, a global first that would boost Beijing's ambitions to become a space superpower.
- India is the fourth highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, accounting for 7 per cent of global emissions in 2017, a study by the Global Carbon Project released on December 5 says.
- India became the world's first to successfully perform a telerobotic coronary intervention on December 5 by an Ahmedabad base cardiologist in Gujarat.
- The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on December 6, 2018 launched a new framework titled '**UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact**' to combat international terrorism and coordinate efforts across the peace and security, humanitarian, human rights and sustainable development sectors.
- Japanese investment giant SoftBank has hired Facebook executive **Kirthiga Reddy** as a venture partner for its **\$100 billion Vision Fund**.
- A former senior Indian diplomat, **Preeti Saran** was on December 6, 2018 elected unopposed to an Asia Pacific seat on the **United Nation's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)**.
- **The Indian Navy is celebrating Submarine Day on 8th December, 2018.**
- **International Civil Aviation Day 2018** was observed globally on **7 December, 2018**. For 2015-2018 inclusive the Council has selected the following theme: ***Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind.***
- **7th December marks the Armed Forces Flag Day**. It is a day to express gratitude to the martyrs as well as the men and women in uniform.
- Food and Agriculture organisation, **FAO Council** has approved ***India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023.***
- Home Ministry launched a Twitter account '**@CyberDost**' to spread awareness about cybercrimes and normal precautions to be taken.
- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the fourth Partners' Forum on December 12, 2018 at New Delhi.**

- India's first Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence established by the European Union was inaugurated at the Department of European Studies (DES) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education here on Saturday by Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to India and Bhutan, Tomasz Kozlowski.
- Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on December 10, 2018 signed a bill ending the two-decade-old **treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership between Ukraine and Russia**.
- Former Indian Test batsman **VVS Laxman** was recently in Mumbai for the book launch of his **autobiography 281 and Beyond**.
- International Mountain Day was observed across the world on **11 December, 2018**. The theme of 2018 International Mountain Day is **#MountainsMatter**.
- **Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was murdered in October at his country's Istanbul consulate, was on Tuesday named Time magazine's "Person of the Year"** alongside several other journalists.
- **Rattan Lal**, a distinguished university professor of soil science at the Ohio State University, won the **'Glinka World Soil Prize 2018'** in a ceremony at the headquarters of UN FAO in Rome.
- Veteran Congress leader and former Kerala minister **C N Balakrishnan** died at a private hospital here, party sources said Tuesday.
- **Professor Mushirul Hasan**, a renowned historian and former vice-chancellor Jamia Millia Islamia, passed away at the age of 71 early on Monday morning.
- Member of Parliament and Chief of Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) **Upendra Kushwaha resigned from the Union council of ministers on December 9, 2018**.
- **India has started granting visa on arrival to South Korean nationals**, a move that makes South Korea the second nation to be given the privilege after Japan, whose citizens have been getting the privilege since March 2016.
- The indigenously built **Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Agni-5 has been test-fired successfully from Abdul Kalam island under Chandipur Interim Test Range** on Monday.
- The Union Government has notified four commonly used medical devices including **nebulisers, blood pressure monitors, digital thermometers and glucometers as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act**.
- The Tamil Nadu government on December 9, 2018 **launched a 24-hour toll-free helpline '181' for women facing domestic violence and sexual harassment**.
- The 7th India and China joint military exercise - **'Hand in Hand'** will begin on December 1, 2018 in the southwest Chinese city of Chengdu.
- **The Kannur international Airport-KIAL in Kerala began its operations on December 9, 2018** with Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu and Kerala Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan jointly lighting the lamp inside the terminal building, marking its inauguration.
- The 18th **All India Annual Conference of the Heads of Science Centre's and Museums began on December 8, 2018 in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **The first International Conference on 'Sustainable Water Management' began on December 10, 2018 at Indian School of Business (ISB) in Mohali, Punjab**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has, in a landmark decision, decided to increase the representation of **Emirati women in the Federal National Council to 50 per cent from the coming Parliamentary term**.
- President Trump said on December 8, 2018 that his chief of staff, **John F. Kelly, would step down by the end of December 2018**.
- The **Human Rights Day 2018 was observed across the world on December 10, 2018** to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Theme of the 2018 Human Rights Day was **'Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity'**.
- The Delhi High Court on December 12, 2018 ordered a **ban on the sale of online medicines by e-pharmacists across the country**.
- The Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to establish **an umbrella university to control all the medical and dental colleges and nursing institutions in the state**.
- The government has approved the auction of **683 private FM Radio channels in 236 cities, some of them in remote areas**.

- **Rajiv Mehrishi**, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, **was elected as the Vice-Chair of United Nations Panel of External Auditors on December 12, 2018.**
- **Uday Shankar**, who currently serves as President, 21st Century Fox, Asia, and Chairman and CEO of Star India, will become **Chairman, Star and Disney India, and President, The Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific.**
- Mizo National Front (MNF) President **Zoramthanga would be sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram on December 15, 2018 at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl.**
- The President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), **K Chandrasekhar Rao**, who led his party to a massive win in the Telangana Legislative Assembly Elections 2018, **was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of the state for a second straight term on December 13, 2018.**
- **Bharat Bhushan Vyas** took the Oath of Office and Secrecy as Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- The Supreme Court collegium recommended the appointment of **Justice Ravindra Bhat** as the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.
- **International Day of Neutrality** was observed across the world on **12 December, 2018.**
- **International Universal Health Coverage Day** was observed across the world on **12 December, 2018.** The theme for the 2018 UHC Day is: **"Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the Time for Collective Action."**
- The Manipur Government on December 11, 2018 honoured AIBA World Women Boxing Gold medallist **MC Mary Kom** with the title **"Meethoileima"** (par excellent queen) at a function in **Imphal.**
- **Japan selected the Chinese character for 'disaster' as its defining symbol for 2018**, a year that saw the country hit by deadly floods, earthquakes and storms.
- **The first National Workshop on Explosives Detection** was inaugurated today at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory Pune.
- **India and Saudi Arabia** on December 13, 2018 signed the bilateral annual Haj 2019 agreement at Jeddah.
- **India's first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) opened at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad.**
- Google has unveiled **Google Shopping**, a dedicated search engine intended to provide an immersive and improved online shopping experience.
- The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on December 13, 2018 nominated **'CID' Director-producer Brijendra Pal Singh** as the new President of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and as the Chairman of FTII Governing Council.
- **Ashok Gehlot** is likely to be sworn-in as Rajasthan Chief Minister for the third time. While, **Sachin Pilot** will take oath as the Deputy CM of Rajasthan.
- Noted English writer **Amitav Ghosh** has been honoured with this year's Jnanpith Award, a literary award given to an author for "outstanding contribution towards literature".
- **Jharkhand** has been selected for "Krishi Karman" award in the rice category from the Union Ministry of Agriculture.
- The **Nepal government** has banned the use of Indian currency notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations, according to a media report.
- **The International Monetary Fund has revealed in a report that the global debt has reached an all-time high of 184 trillion US dollars**, which is the equivalent to 225 per cent of the world GDP in 2017.
- **Sweden is banning outdoor smoking** in certain public places including playgrounds and train station platforms.
- **Railway Minister Piyush Goyal** dedicated India's first Railway University to the nation in Vadodara yesterday.
- **Telangana** became the first state in the country to have Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) integrated with the **Crime and Criminals Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)** project that facilitates transparency and speed in police service delivery.
- In a bid to ensure quality diagnostics at all level of healthcare facilities, **the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has formulated draft of new **National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL).**

- Ministry of Power has launched the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, an **Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R)**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir administration** Saturday gave its nod for the **establishment of the first ever university in Ladakh**.
- **J&K has become first state in the country to have a law explicitly banning sexual exploitation of women by those in positions of authority**, having a fiduciary relationship or a public servant.
- President Ramnath Kovind today laid the **foundation stone of new ultra-modern Railway Station at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat**
- **National Energy Conservation Day 2018 observed across India on 14 December, 2018.**
- **India and Maldives signed four agreements** on various fields in New Delhi.
- A team from the **Aircraft Systems and Testing Establishment (ASTE)**, Indian Air Force's (IAF) premier testing establishment, **flew India's first military flight using blended bio-jet fuel on Russian-made An-32 transport aircraft**
- The Severe Cyclonic Storm 'PHETHAI' over west central Bay of Bengal moved further northwards with a speed of 24 kmph, weakened into a cyclonic storm and lay centred over west central Bay of Bengal.
- **An Internet of Things (IoT)-based solution from IIT Bhubaneswar that can store, track and analyse data related to consumers' LPG consumption** has won the first edition of 'The Grand India IoT Innovation Challenge' by Tata Communications.
- **A new 100-rupee coin with the image of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be launched soon.**
- Senior Congress leader **Kamal Nath was sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on December 17, 2018.**
- Chhattisgarh Congress president **Bhupesh Baghel was on December 17, 2018 sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.**
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) **elected Sandip Somany, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of HSIL Limited, as its President for 2018-19.**
- Olympic silver medallist **PV Sindhu made history** on December 16, 2018 **by becoming the first Indian to win the BWF World Tour Finals.**
- **In Hockey, Belgium has claimed their first ever World Cup title. They defeated Netherlands 3-2 in a dramatic shoot-out in the final of the Men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar**
- **Merriam-Webster has chosen "justice" as its 2018 word of the year.**
- Merriam-Webster's word of the year follows the **Oxford Dictionaries choice of "toxic" and Dictionary.com's pick of "misinformation."**
- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on December 16, 2018 **reappointed Ranil Wickremesinghe as the Prime Minister of the country**, after suddenly dismissing him from the post nearly two months ago.
- The UN Climate Conference (COP24) on December 14, 2018 saw the adoption of 'Katowice package', the **rulebook for implementation of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.**
- **The nation celebrated Vijay Diwas on 16 December, 2018 to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 war.**
- **Miss Philippines Catriona Gray was crowned Miss Universe after she won the final round of the Miss Universe 2018 pageant**, held in Bangkok, Thailand on December 17, 2018.
- Renowned classical singer **Pandit Arun Bhaduri** passed away in Kolkata after a prolonged illness. He was 75 and survived by wife and son.
- **The Tamil Nadu government has launched a scheme to provide the door-step registration for Aadhaar for children under the age of five.** The scheme, worth Rs. 13.61 crore, will help collect the biometric data of children from their homes to issue them their unique Aadhaar number, an official statement said.
- **The central government has appointed advocate Madhavi Goradia Divan as additional solicitor general (ASG) in the Supreme Court.** She is the third woman to be appointed as ASG in the apex court.
- Interim CBI director **M Nageswar Rao**, promoted to the rank of **an additional director by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.**

- Senior Advocate Rajendra Tiwari has been appointed as the Advocate General for the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- Capgemini on Tuesday elevated Ashwin Yardi as the chief executive officer (CEO) of its Indian operations. Incumbent Srinivas Kandula will take over as the chairman of Capgemini India.
- India has been ranked 108th in World Economic Forum (WEF) gender gap index, same as 2017, while recording improvement in wage equality for similar work and fully closing its tertiary education gender gap for the first time.
- Sonam Kapoor, a vegan, has been named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2018.
- Period. End of Sentence, a film about women in India fighting against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation and delving upon the work of real life Pad Man Arunachalam Muruganathan, has made it to the Oscar shortlist in the Documentary Short Subject category.
- Scientists have discovered the most-distant body ever observed in our solar system 2018 VG18, nicknamed 'Farout', located over 100 times farther than Earth is from the Sun.
- The first AC local train in north India will hit the tracks next year, with the railways planning to launch the state-of-the-art train for passengers travelling short distances from Delhi.
- The Indian space research Organisation ISRO on Wednesday successfully launched geostationary communication satellite GSAT-7A onboard Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV-F11.
- Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram has said that every block with more than 50 per cent Schedule Tribe, ST population and at least 20 thousand tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has retained the highest aviation safety ranking for India.
- The Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry on December 18, 2018 asked states to facilitate acceptance of driving licence and other documents such as vehicle registration certificates in electronic format by enforcement agencies.
- Late human rights activist, Asma Jahangir was on December 18, 2018 awarded with the UN Human Rights Prize 2018, posthumously.
- In New Zealand, regulations for mandatory phase-out of single-use plastic shopping bags will take effect from July 1, 2019.
- Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel has resigned amid pressure on his government over his support for the UN global compact on migration.
- The International Migrants Day was observed on December 18, 2018 with the theme 'Migration with Dignity'.
- The Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) on December 19, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maruti Suzuki India Ltd for training rural youth for skill development under the flagship Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).
- India's largest cancer hospital, National Cancer Institute (NCI) began the trial run of its Outpatient Department on December 18, 2018.
- The Department of Posts recently released the commemorative Postage Stamp on Rajkumar Shukla, who was associated with Champaran Satyagraha of 1917.
- National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for transfer of three acres of land for the construction of storage facility for films and film material.
- India appointed Harsh Vardhan Shringla as the next Ambassador of India to the United States on December 20, 2018.
- Pranab Kumar Das was appointed as the Chairman of CBIC with effect from January 2019.
- Global professional networking company LinkedIn on Thursday announced the appointment of Mahesh Narayanan, as Country Manager for India, effective January 7, 2019.

- **Nilanjan Roy** was appointed as **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of IT major **Infosys** with effect from March 1-2019.
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on December 20, 2018 launched the **“Asiatic Lion Conservation Project”** to protect and conserve **the population of Asiatic Lion and its associated ecosystem**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the commemorative **coin and postage stamp in memory of Paika Rebellion on December 24, 2018** during his visit to Bhubaneswar to commemorate Paika Rebellion.
- The Assam government has approved the release of second instalment of the **Chah Bagicha (tea estate) Dhan Puraskar Mela**.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma and her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi co-chaired **the first-ever meeting of India-China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges in New Delhi** on December 21, 2018.
- The NITI Aayog on December 21, 2018 released the **Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2018**, documenting the progress made by India’s States and Union Territories (UTs) towards implementation of **the 2030 SDG targets. Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu ranked as Front Runners**
- **Bharti Airtel** on Thursday announced **the appointment of Badal Bagri as chief financial officer and key managerial person with effect from March 1, 2019**, following the exit of company veteran Nilanjan Roy.
- **Former India opener Woorkeri Venkat Raman was on December 20, 2018 appointed as the new Head coach of the Indian women's national cricket team.**
- **Jim Mattis**, the Defence Secretary of the United States abruptly announced his resignation on December 20, 2018, **citing policy differences with President Donald Trump as the main reason behind the move.**
- The US Senate has approved a legislation **to temporarily fund the government in an effort to avoid partial shutdown over President Donald Trump's insistence on setting up border wall with Mexico.**
- **France's data protection agency** said on December 20, 2018 that it had fined **the US ride-hailing group Uber 400,000 euros over a 2016 data breach** that exposed the personal data of some 57 million clients and drivers worldwide.
- **A three-state field-level campaign on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) will be organised by the Union Government** from the first week of January 2019.
- The **Union Government has authorised ten central intelligence, security and tax agencies to intercept, monitor and decrypt all the data** contained in "any" computer system.
- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** on December 22, 2018 launched the **Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram.**
- India today **successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable long-range Inter Continental Ballistic Missile Agni-IV, with a strike range of 4,000 km.**
- **The country's first music museum will be set up with assistance from the Central government in Thiruvaiyaru, Tamilnadu, the birth place of Saint Tyagaraja, one of the Trinities of Carnatic music.**
- **President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Sickle Cell Anaemia, Thalassemia and Other Genetic Blood Disorders at the Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences in Karimnagar, Telangana today (December 22, 2018).**
- **Burundi declared the small central city of Gitega the country's new political capital** on Saturday, in line with a presidential promise made a decade ago.
- **According to the MORI Perils of Perception Survey 2018**, done by Ipsos India, an independent market research company, **Indians stood at 12th rank in the "misperception index"**, behind several countries like, Italy, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Chile and Argentina, among others.
- India celebrated **National Mathematics Day on December 22 to mark the 131st birth anniversary of famous mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative **Rs 100 coin in honour of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament house.**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on December 22, 2018, **banned all mining activities within 10 km radius of the Sariska Tiger Reserve.**
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** constituted an expert committee to devise ways of re-filtration or secondary use of Reverse Osmosis (RO) waste water.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced annual **Sardar Patel Award for National Integration** at the DGPs/IGPs Conference at Kevadia.
- **India has been ranked 108th in World Economic Forum (WEF) gender gap index, same as 2017**, while recording improvement in wage equality for similar work and fully closing its tertiary education gender gap for the first time.
- **P V Bharathi has been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of the Corporation Bank**, according to an order issued by the Personnel Ministry on Monday.
- The **National Consumer Day** was observed across India on **December 24, 2018** with the theme **"Timely Disposal of Consumer Complaints"**.
- **Patrick Shanahan** will be taking over as **the acting US Defence Secretary from January 1, 2019**, replacing James Mattis, who resigned abruptly recently.
- India's **Vedangi Kulkarni has become the fastest Asian to cycle the globe.**
- **Nirupam Sen**, veteran CPI (M) leader, passed away on December 24, 2018 in Kolkata following a cardiac arrest.
- **Ex-Union Minister Jai Narain Prasad Nishad passed away**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 25, 2018 inaugurated **India's longest rail-road bridge 'Bogibeel Bridge' over the Brahmaputra River in Assam** to boost defence along the border with China.
- **The Atal Ayushman Uttarakhanda Yojana has been launched in Uttarakhand.** Under the scheme, each household in the state will be able to avail medical treatment of up to 5 lakh rupees annually.
- **The Uttar Pradesh Police has reportedly issued an order banning namaz at a public park in Noida's Sector-58.**
- **Patna Zoo has been closed for an indefinite period following the confirmation of H5NI virus killing six peacocks in the zoo.**
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on December 25, 2018 launched **Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Schools in Mumbai**, on the occasion of the 94th birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister.
- **Thailand** on December 25, 2018 approved **the licensed use of marijuana for medical use and research.**
- The Iraqi government has declared **Christmas Day a national holiday across the country.**
- **Japan** on December 26, 2018 announced its decision to **withdraw from the International Whaling Commission and said that it will resume commercial whaling from July 2019.**
- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been conferred the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award** for her contribution in the overall development of the state and emerging as the best chief minister in the country.
- **India observed the Good Governance Day on December 25, 2018** to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who passed away on August 16, 2018 at the age of 93.
- **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd** said on Wednesday it appointed retired **Indian Administrative Service official Bijay Kumar** as its deputy managing director.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will rename three islands of **Andaman and Nicobar after Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on December 30, 2018.** These three islands are - Ross Island, Neil Island and Havelock Island.
- **The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill**, also known as **Triple Talaq Bil**, by negating the amendments moved by some opposition members, making all declarations of instant triple talaq void and illegal.
- **Andhra Pradesh got its own High Court on December 26, 2018.** It will start functioning from January 1
- NITI Aayog on December 27, 2018 released the Second Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP). The rankings were released by **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu was ranked as the most improved district in the Rankings.**

- As part of the Swachhta Pakhwada held in November 2018, the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** organised a **Swachch Bharat Grand Challenge**.
- **Indian-American Rajesh Subramaniam** was named as the **President and Chief Executive Officer** of US multinational courier delivery giant, **FedEx Express**.
- **CA Kuttappa**, a Dhronacharya awardee, **took over as India's new chief boxing coach during the beginning of the ongoing national camp**, on December 10, 2018.
- Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki declared on December 26, 2018 that **Palestine would initiate an application to gain full state membership at the United Nations in January 2019**.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on December 28, 2018 approved the **Gaganyaan Programme, first Indian Human Spaceflight Initiative of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 28, 2018 approved the proposal for **Amendment in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to make punishment more stringent for committing sexual crimes against children**.
- **The Cabinet approved the draft National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCIM) Bill, 2018**.
- The Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism K J Alphons handed over a Memorandum of Understanding to Resbird Technologies under the **'Adopt a Heritage' project for the development of a mobile audio guide application for five iconic sites** at a function in New Delhi on December 27, 2018.
- Senior bureaucrat **Sanjay Sethi has been appointed as the chairman of the Navi Mumbai-based Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)**, according to a government order.
- Skipper **Virat Kohli** on December 27, 2018 **bettered Rahul Dravid's long-standing record of most runs scored by an Indian in a calendar year overseas**, adding another feather to his illustrious cap.
- Former Australia captain **Ricky Ponting** was formally inducted into the **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame on December 26, 2018**.
- **The Chamba superintendent of police was conferred the 'Champion of Change' award by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** for her exemplary administrative work. The award ceremony was held in Delhi on December 26, 2018.
- The **United Arab Emirates** on December 27, 2018 resumed its diplomatic services at its embassy in **Damascus in Syria** after six years of suspension.
- **The Prime Minister dedicated the 6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) to the nation**. The Institute is built at the campus of **National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC)** in Varanasi.
- The **One District, One Product Regional Summit** was held at **Deendayal Hastakala Sankul (Trade Facilitation Centre & Crafts Museum)** in Varanasi.
- **The panel headed by former Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General (retired) DS Hooda** has recommended that the **Army and the Air Force should sort out their issues such as the ownership of attack helicopter and utilisation of air defence assets** which are common for both the services in a big way.
- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Submission of India's second Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** towards the fulfilment of the reporting obligation under the Convention.
- **The Delhi Police on Friday become the first police force in the country to digitize all malkhanas, rooms for keeping seized arms and ammunition**, across every police station in the state, an official release said.
- The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **12th Global Healthcare Summit organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin** in Mumbai today.
- Budget carrier **IndiGo has become the first domestic airline to have longer range Airbus A321neo plane in its fleet with the first aircraft arriving Saturday morning in New Delhi** from the European aviation major **Airbus' Hamburg facility in Germany**, an airline source said.
- The Government has notified the **appointment of an Acting Chief Justice to helm the newly created Andhra Pradesh High Court at Amaravati**.
- **Legendary filmmaker Mrinal Sen passed away at the age of 95 in Kolkata**.

- **Indian railways will be building country's first vertical-lift bridge connecting Rameswaram in Arabian Sea to mainland India** that will allow ships and steamers to pass through without any hinderance.
- The Delhi government has decided **to erect 'Welcome Gate' at 12 border points of the national capital by next year.**
- Efforts are on to develop **Thuthukkudi (Tuticorin) Airport** as the **fifth international airport** in Tamil Nadu.
- India on December 29, 2018 **submitted its Sixth National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).**
- **India's left-handed opener Smriti Mandhana** has won the **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award** for the **ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year.**
- **Asian Games and Youth Olympic Games champion Saurabh Chaudhary** swept the **10m air pistol trials** at the **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range** by winning the second National trial competitions in both the men's and junior boy's categories on December 31, 2018.
- The **Director General of Sports Authority of India, Neelam Kapur** said that the **sports ministry has earmarked Rs 100 crore for funding the athletes under the (TOPS) Target Olympic Podium Scheme** ahead of 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.
- The **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** meeting in Sonapat on December 30, 2018 revoked suspension of **former national champion Soumyajit Ghosh.**
- **Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** secured her **third consecutive term and fourth overall** with a **landslide victory** in the nation's general elections.
- **Justice T.B.N Radhakrishnan** took oath this morning as the **Chief Justice of the newly formed Telangana High Court.**
- German industrial giant **ThyssenKrupp** Monday announced the **appointment of Vivek Bhatia as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ThyssenKrupp Industries India** effective from January 1, 2019.

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