

# Current Affairs

## India

1. In July 2018, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched a campaign called "Paudhagir". The aim was to increase the green cover of the state.
2. On July 17th, 2018, IIT Delhi signed an agreement with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) to launch projects to give scientific validation to the ancient medical science of Ayurveda and integrate it with technology.
3. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced its partnership with a French energy company "Total" to develop a digital innovation centre in India.
4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would issue new Rs. 100 note with motif of 'Rani Ki Vav' in 2018. The base colour of the note is lavender.
5. Indian Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United Kingdom to obtain help in enhancing overall public transport system in India. The MoU was signed by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, India, and Transport for London (TFL) to develop public transport in India.
6. According to Travel + Leisure's World's Best Cities report, the city of Udaipur was ranked 3rd among the 15 of the world's best cities. The top 2 cities are both in Mexico—San Miguel de Allende and Oaxaca.
7. In July 2018, Indian Government announced the launch of a new MicroDot Technology that would help check on vehicle thefts.
8. National School of Drama (NSD) will be hosting the 8th edition of Theatre Olympics in Mumbai this is the first time India is hosting the festival from 24th March 2018 to 7th April 2018. Concept of Theatre Olympics was established in 1993 in Greece.
9. On October 3rd, 2018, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh declared Manipur as the 23rd state in the country to become Open Defecation Free (ODF) in India. It is the 5th North-Eastern state to get the tag.
10. Punjab tourism and cultural affairs minister Navjot Singh Sidhu has finalized a blue print to further develop Virasat-e-Khalsa, a museum of the Sikhs, at Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.
11. The Uttar Pradesh Police decided to hire digital volunteers to

control the issue of rumours and eliminate illegal activities.

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**12.** On March 19th, 2018, Karnataka State Government under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah approved the separate religion status for the Lingayat community. The community constitutes about 17% of Karnataka's population mainly residing in northern parts of the state.

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**13.** The Central Government of India has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District of Jharkhand. The park would be set up at a cost of Rs. 120 crores over an area of 150 acres.

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**14.** Mukesh Ambani has been named the richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year with a net worth of \$47.3 billion, as per the "Forbes India Rich List 2018".

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**15.** On October 4th, 2018, National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) hosted the 2-day BPM (Business Process Management) Strategy Summit 2018 in Bengaluru. NASSCOM published its study and stated that Indian BPM industry continues to be the largest in the world.

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**16.** On September 24th, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Sikkim and was received by Governor Ganga Prasad, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling. He inaugurated Sikkim's first airport and nation's 100th operational airport—Pakyong Airport in Sikkim. This was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 605 crores under the UDAN scheme.

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**17.** In September 2018, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences & Environment and Forest and Climate change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated an air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) in New Delhi.

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**18.** On 27th September 2018, a joint border conference was held between India and Bangladesh at Aizawl, Mizoram. A discussion about the border issues between both the countries including demarcation of the border between the two countries along Mizoram was carried out.

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**19.** In September 2018, the Hyderabad Metro Rail's (HMR) 46-km Corridor One became India's second largest metro network after Delhi. It is also the world's largest metro project under the public-private-partnership (PPP) worth over Rs 20,000 crores.

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**20.** PM Narendra Modi inaugurated an Army exhibition named "Parakram Parv" in Jodhpur, Rajasthan in September 2018. He also

attended the Combined Commanders' Conference along with the Defence Minister.

21. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi and Swachh Bharat Mission.
22. India won 26 gold medals in the Commonwealth Games 2018.
23. Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad and the Minister for Development of Information Technologies and Communications, Uzbekistan Mr Shuhrat Sadikov signed 2 MOUs on infrastructure and capacity building in ICT sector.
24. India and Japan sign Loan Agreement for Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (I) and Kolkata East West Metro Project (III) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in New Delhi.
25. NITI Aayog on behalf of government of India signed the 'Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022'.
26. On 29th September 2018, India's first corn festival began in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh. This festival is a one-of-its-kind international event.
27. According to "The Annual World Airport Traffic Report 2018" by Airport Council International (ACI), Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) was the 16th busiest in the world. It jumped 6 places from 22nd position in 2016.
28. Kerala topped the list of best-governed states as per Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2018 released by the think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
29. Along with Christmas, Good Governance Day is also observed across India on 25th December.
30. Punjab has imposed a complete ban on manufacturing, sale, production, storage, supply, and usage of the kite-flying thread made out of nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material in the state.
31. In September 2018, the World Bank (WB) – Asian Development Bank (ADB) team jointly conducted Rapid Damage Assessment

and Need Analysis (RDNA). In its report it estimated that the main sectors of Kerala had suffered a loss of Rs. 25,050 crores.

32. India has become the only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products. The Quit call number is: '1800-11-2356'.
33. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has secured number one position among Indian universities in the Times Higher Education's World University Rankings for 2019 released on 26th September 2018.
34. Dharmendra Kumar was appointed as the Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) on 20th August 2017.
35. New Delhi hosted the 2018 Secure India Conclave.
36. The Tata Consultancy Services Company became the first listed Indian IT firm to hit USD 100 billion market capitalisation mark.
37. On 27th September 2018, the government appointed Rajni Kant Mishra as the Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF). Rajni Kant Mishra replaces K.K. Sharma.
38. The city Kolkata became the first one to get a floating market in January 2018.
39. The Indian state of Assam published the first draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).
40. Madhya Pradesh is the first Indian state to set its financial year to Jan-Dec format.
41. Ashok Lavasa has taken charge as the Election Commissioner of India succeeding Om Prakash Rawat.
42. On 18th January 2018, HDFC bank became the first Indian bank to cross 5 trillion rupees in market capitalisation at Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
43. Uttarakhand High Court has recognised Ganga and Yamuna rivers as living entities. It is the first such instance in India where a non-human has been given the tag.
44. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Palestine in February 2018 to become the first Prime Minister to make an official visit to that country.
45. Bihar has permanently banned the sale of loose cigarettes.

## World

46. On 18th July 2018, Nelson Mandela International Day was observed all over the world. The Nelson Mandela Foundation has also dedicated this day to Action against Poverty.
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47. In July 2018, Amazon's stock market value reached \$900 billion for the first time, posing a threat to replace Apple as the Wall Street's most valuable firm.
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48. According to Bloomberg Billionaires index 2018, Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon Inc., is the richest man in modern history with a net worth of \$160 billion.
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49. Sierra Leone, a West African country has become the first country in the world to deploy blockchain technology in election process. The blockchain based solution was developed by a Switzerland based voting technology company, Agora.
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50. In 2018, Qatar announced a \$50 million donation to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). It was announced at the extraordinary ministerial meeting of UNRWA held in Rome, Italy.
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51. Singapore is the most expensive city in the world as per the Worldwide Cost of Living 2018 which is a bi-annual study of 133 cities conducted by London-headquartered Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
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52. In March 2018, Paris secured 1st rank in the global list of Travellers' Choice awards for Destinations. It is followed by London (UK), Rome (Italy), Bali (Indonesia) and Crete (Greece).
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53. On March 19th, 2018, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order making it illegal for US citizens to purchase any crypto currency issued by Venezuela. The order prohibits U.S. citizens from engaging in transactions using Venezuela's oil-backed currency, called the Petro.
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54. In 2018, Bank of America started rolling out Erica, its chatbot that can help customers check balances, remind about bills and answer bank-related questions. Erica has been rolled out to customers in Rhode Island. Customers of Bank of America will be able to interact with Erica via voice or text and it will help them with routine day to day banking transactions.
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55. On August 1st, 2018, India and Germany signed an agreement on

financial and technical cooperation. According to this agreement, Germany will give nearly Rs 8,500 crores (1,055 million Euros) for development of India. This will focus on sustainable urban development and renewable energy in areas of sanitation, solid waste management and promotion of urban mobility.

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**56.** In August 2018, a team from the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi and stakeholders in the Bamboo handicraft sector of Tripura took part in a workshop called 'Bridging Japan and India by Bamboo'.

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**57.** Russia continues to be the largest arms supplier to India as per report produced by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

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**58.** The National People's Congress has appointed Xi Jinping as China's president and Wang Qishan as vice president. The National People's Congress recently removed the two-term limit for Chinese President. Hence Xi Jinping can serve as President without any term limit.

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**59.** On 20th March 2018, Sudan, the last surviving northern white male rhinoceros of the world, died after suffering age related ailments at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia national park, Kenya. It was the only surviving male northern white rhino. Now, only two female rhinoceros of that sub-species are living.

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**60.** According to a report called on October 5th, 2018, the "Best 100 Global Brands 2018" by global brand consultancy "Interbrand", Apple topped the chart as the best brand of 2018. Apple is valued at \$1 trillion and is followed by Google, Amazon, Microsoft and Coca Cola.

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**61.** On September 30th, 2018, the Goa government inked a pact with Portugal in the field of water supply, waste water management and sanitation for a period of 2 years. The MoU was signed between Goa Public Works Department Minister Sudin Dhavalikar and Portugal's Minister of Environment Joao Pedro de Matos Fernandes.

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**62.** Nepal is likely to become the first country in the world to double its tiger population. It has been announced that there are an estimated 235 wild tigers currently in Nepal which has almost doubled from 121 tigers in 2009.

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**63.** World No Tobacco Day is observed on 31st May all over the world.

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**64.** United States of America established an official, permanent military base, an air defense base in the heart of the Negev desert, Israel.

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65. As of March 2018, Facebook, the United States based social media company was accused of data breach in relation to the Cambridge Analytica controversy.
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66. In October 2017, Shinzo Abe was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Japan.
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67. The world's highest sandcastle standing 16.68 meters (54.72 feet) tall was built in Germany in September 2017.
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68. Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has beaten Alibaba founder Jack Ma to become the richest man in Asia.
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69. In September 2018, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was elected the new President of Maldives. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih will be 6th President of Maldives.
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70. Canada has legalised the recreational use of marijuana nationwide.
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71. As of October 2017, the US President Donald Trump was the world's most followed leader on Twitter.
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72. International Mother Language Day is celebrated on 21st February every year.
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## Sports

73. FIFA 2018 was the 21st edition of the tournament. This was the first World Cup to be held in Eastern Europe. France won the title with a 4-2 goal against Croatia.
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74. In July, 2018, According to Women's Tennis Association (WTA), American tennis player Serena Williams ranked 28th in the list with a jump of 153 places. Simona Halep (Romania) topped the ranking by attaining 1st Position.
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75. The city Birmingham in England will host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
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76. India has improved one spot and has reached the 5th position in the men's hockey world rankings released by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). Australia, that had won the Champions Trophy, remained on the top spot.
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77. On 18th July 2018, Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won gold medal at the Sotteville Athletics Meet in France. He made a throw of 85.17m and won the gold medal.
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78. In 2018, the International Cricket Council (ICC) released the latest

ODI rankings and Indian captain Virat Kohli has topped in Batting Category with a score of 911 points a career high for him.

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**79.** 28th Meeting of Shooting Hopes junior International Championship was held from July 11th to 15th, in Pilsen, Czech Republic. Manu Bhaker won her 9th International Gold medal in the championship.

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**80.** On 15th March 2018, Nepal cricket team gained One-Day International (ODI) status for the first time. It has gained ODI status after it won over Papua New Guinea by six wickets in the World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe.

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**81.** Paralympic Winter Games Pyeongchang 2018 in South Korea concluded with Team USA having its most successful performance in 16 years. It grabbed a total of 36 medals and topped the overall medal count.

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**82.** Jasprit Bumrah topped in the Bowling category and Shakib Al Hasan topped in the list of ODI all Rounder Category for 2018.

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**83.** In 2018, The International Olympic Committee (IOC) in its Tokyo 2020 Olympics schedule announced that it had added 7 medal events to its 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. These events include—women’s monobob, Big Air freestyle skiing for men and women, plus mixed team events in short track speed skating, ski jumping, ski aerials and snowboard cross.

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**84.** In September 2018, Badminton player and Olympian PV Sindhu was the only sportsperson to feature in the Forbes India’s first “Tycoons of Tomorrow” list of 22 young achievers in the fields of business, acting and sports.

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**85.** France Football magazine announced that, a Women’s Ballon d’Or will be awarded for the first time. This is the first time it has been introduced for women.

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**86.** On October 7th, 2018, Four-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the 2018 Japanese Grand Prix.

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**87.** In October 2018, Central Information Commission ruled that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was covered under the RTI Act and is answerable to the people of India.

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**88.** From 17th to 23rd September 2018, Junior World Wrestling Championship was held in Trnava, Slovakia. India won 7 medals—4 silver and 3 bronze in the Junior World Wrestling Championship.

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**89.** On 25th September 2018, Indian women defeated Sri Lankan



women by 51 runs in the fifth and final T20 International and won the series 4-0 at Katunayake, Sri Lanka.

**90.** In September 2018, International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that, Madrid would host the first two new-format Davis Cup finals in 2019 and 2020.

**91.** On September 28th, 2018, 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan formally inaugurated the event.

**92.** In September 2018, India defeated Bangladesh by 3 wickets in the final and won the Asia Cup for a record-extending 7th time, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai.

**93.** Brazilian footballer Neymar has been appointed as the permanent captain of Brazil's national football team. Neymar is a striker of the Paris Saint-Germain team. Brazil's head football coach Tite has removed the captaincy rotation policy of the team to give Neymar the permanent captain position.

**94.** Aruna Budda Reddy created history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to win an individual medal at the 2018 Gymnastics World Cup.

**95.** England won the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017.

**96.** Suresh Raina, an Indian cricketer, has been chosen as the ambassador for "Swachh Bharat" drive in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

**97.** New Zealand hosted the Under-19 World Cup Cricket 2018.

**98.** Sloane Stephens won the US OPEN 2017 women's singles title defeating Madison Keys in the final.

**99.** PV Sindhu was the flag bearer of Indian contingent at the Commonwealth Games 2018.

**100.** Australia won the gold medal at the Hockey World League Final.

**101.** Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee has been named as the Most Valuable Player after she bagged six gold and two silver medals at the Asian Games 2018.

**102.** Pranab Bardhan at 60, has become the oldest gold medalist of Asian Games 2018 from India. He won gold medal at sport of Bridge Event with Shibhnath Sarkar. The duo bagged first-ever gold in men's pair bridge event.

- 103.** Amit Panghal clinched gold in the men's Boxing 49kg final in Asian Games 2018. He defeated 2016 Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov.
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- 104.** AB de Villiers announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on 23rd May 2018.
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- 105.** Cristiano Ronaldo was named as the world's best player in 2016 by FIFA.
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- 106.** West Indian Chris Gayle has become the first batsman in the world to score 10,000 runs in Twenty20 cricket.
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- 107.** The Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi announced his retirement from T20 International cricket in February 2017.
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### **Awards and Entertainment**

- 108.** Monkey Business, the first co-working in South Asia that also provides onsite childcare, was launched in South Point Mall, Gurugram, Haryana. It is spread over 3000 sq ft, Monkey Business has thoughtfully designed play zone and includes a nap area, a feeding and diaper changing room.
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- 109.** In 2018, Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the "Swachh Campus rankings" under various categories such as Cleanest Government universities, cleanest residential campuses of private universities, cleanest non-residential campuses of private universities.
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- 110.** On September 26th, 2018, Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated three days long Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur. Near about 6000 delegates from MNC's of different countries, researchers, CEO's of different Smart cities, Mayors and corporates participated in the expo.
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- 111.** On 25th September 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind conferred Tenzing Norgay National Adventure awards 2017 to 10 recipients at an event in Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award is the highest national recognition for remarkable achievements in adventure on land, sea and air.
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- 112.** Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri won the Best Drama Motion Picture Award in the 75th Golden Globe Awards.
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- 113.** The movie Shape of Water directed by Guillermo Del Toro won the award for Best Picture at the 90th Oscars Academy Awards 2018.
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- 114.** Marilyn Monroe's Golden Globes award was auctioned out at a price 1.79 crores.
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- 115.** In March, 2018, Indian actress Simi Garewal received the "UK Golden Flame Award" at the opening ceremony of the Tongues of Fire UK Asian Film Festival in London. It is held in London, Leicester, Manchester and Edinburgh.
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- 116.** On 16th March 2018, Bhawana Kanth became the second woman pilot of Indian Air Force to fly solo in a fighter aircraft. Flying Officer Bhawana Kanth flew in a MiG-21 Bison aircraft from Ambala Air Force Station on 16th March 2018. The name of the pilot pilot is Avani Chaturvedi.
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- 117.** Incredibles 2 set the record of highest grossing animated movie of all time in November 2018.
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- 118.** Parineeti Chopra became the first Indian woman ambassador for 'Australian Tourism'.
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- 119.** Moonlight won the Best Film Award in 2017 Oscars.
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- 120.** Emma Stone, an American actress, won the Best Actress in leading role award in 2017 Oscars. She was the highest-paid actress in the world in 2017.
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- 121.** An exceptional song collection named "DAMN." By Kendrick Lamar won the Pulitzer's Prize 2018 under the Music category.
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- 122.** Pawel Pawlikowski director of the movie "Cold War" won the Best Director award at the Cannes Festival 2018.
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- 123.** The TV series "Game of Thrones" won the Outstanding Drama Series in the 70th Emmy Awards, 2018.
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- 124.** The Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters said that, Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands has been named the winner of the Abel Prize for 2018. Robert Langlands will receive 6 million Norwegian kroner (\$776,000) from Norway's King Harald V.
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- 125.** Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif has been named the brand ambassador of 'Educate Girls', an international non-profit organisation. As brand ambassador of Educate Girls, Katrina Kaif will work towards creating equal opportunities for girls to access quality education.
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- 126.** China has announced that, it is constructing the world's fastest wind tunnel. A Chinese researcher has said that, the 265 meter-long tunnel would be used to test hypersonic aircraft that can

travel up to a speed of 30,625 kmph. This speed is 25 times the speed of sound.

**127.** The 2018 Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded to Arthur Ashkin, Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland for their ground-breaking discoveries in 'laser physics'. Donna Strickland became the third female Nobel laureate in physics after Maria Goeppert Mayer in 1963 and Marie Curie in 1903.

**128.** In September 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with 5 other individuals and organisations were recipients of UN's highest environmental honour: Champions of the Earth Award. These awards would be presented during the Champions of the Earth Gala in New York City, on the sidelines of the on-going 73rd UN General Assembly in New York.

**129.** On September 27th, 2018, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on its foundation day released the list of awardees for Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2018. Dr Aditi Sen De is the only female winner this year.

**130.** In 2018, Union Minister for Tourism (IC), K.J. Alphons, presented the National Tourism Awards 2016-17 on the World Tourism Day, in New Delhi. Ahmedabad and Mandi won award for best heritage city, Qutub Minar best monument for differently-abled.

**131.** Actor-director Pankaj Kapur will be presented the 'Icons of Indian Cinema' Award at the closing ceremony of the 9th edition of Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai on 30th September 2018.

**132.** Miss World 2017, Manushi Chhillar, was awarded the Indian of the year special achievement award by Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley, in 2018.

### **Science and Technology**

**133.** In July 2018, China announced that it has planned to launch 300 low-orbit satellites named the Hongyan constellation to offer worldwide communication services and the first in the series will be launched in 2018.

**134.** In 2018, Scientists from IIT Delhi have created a silk-based hydrogel that imitates hair growth, which would help in production of drugs for hair loss treatment without the need for animal tests.

**135.** On 16th July 2018, the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) launched a remotely operable microscope worth Rs. 40 crores,

claimed to be the world's first remotely operable LEAP microscope, which will allow precise view of atoms of a material.

- 136.** In 2018, Facebook announced that it is aiming to launch, 'Athena', its own internet satellite, early in 2019.
- 137.** In 2018, according to a report by online speed testing platform Ookla, India was at 9.12 Mbps in the 4G speed category behind neighbours Pakistan (14.03 Mbps) and Sri Lanka (16.98). India ranks 109th in overall 4G mobile internet speeds.
- 138.** On October 1st, 2018, scientists from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc. Bangalore discovered two new species of lizards belonging to two new genera in Western Ghats.
- 139.** In 2018, NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Parker Solar Probe, the first mission to touch the Sun, successfully completed a flyby of Venus at a distance of 2,415 km during its first gravity assist from Venus.
- 140.** On 6th October 2018, India's Strategic Forces Command successfully test-fired Prithvi-II missile from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore in Odisha.
- 141.** On September 26th, 2018, Finance Ministry launched a mobile application "Jan Dhan Darshak" for Financial Inclusion. It will act as a locator app guiding common people to find financial service touch point at a given location in the country.
- 142.** The world's definition of the kilogram, the ampere, the kelvin and the mole was redefined on 16th November forever.
- 143.** Researchers at Stevens Institute of Technology have evaluated that smart car technologies save drivers \$6.2 billion on fuel costs each year.
- 144.** The latest Android version Pie 9.0 was released on 6th August 2018.
- 145.** Mumbai is the first city in India to have Wi-Fi connectivity in public places.
- 146.** On 15th February 2017, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched 104 satellites in the space.
- 147.** The Mangalyaan Mars Orbiter completed its four years around Mars on 25th September 2018.
- 148.** Dubai is the first city in the world to get its own Microsoft-designed font.

- 149.** Sophia, a social humanoid robot, became the first robot to receive citizenship of Saudi Arabia. It was developed by Hong Kong-based Company Hanson Robotics.
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- 150.** NASA discovered a new solar system hosting 7 earth-like planets orbiting a star 400 light years away.
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- 151.** Google has appointed Keith Enright as its chief privacy officer. Keith Enright has been Google's privacy lawyer for a long time. Earlier, he worked as the Chief Privacy Officer at Macy's and senior consultant at IBM.
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- 152.** In 2018, Facebook appointed former Hotstar CEO Ajit Mohan as Vice-President and Managing Director of its India operations.
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- 153.** Instagram's co-founders Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger resigned as chief executive officer and chief technical officer respectively of Instagram owned by Facebook Inc. in 2018.
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- 154.** In September 2018, US scientists from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio, for the first time have used stem cells to grow human oesophagus or the food pipe, in the laboratory. They have used pluripotent stem cells (PSCs) in the process.
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- 155.** In September 2018, a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system, Prithvi Defence Vehicle was successfully test fired from Abdul Kalam Island of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha. The Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) would engage in targets in the exo-atmosphere region, 50 kilometres above of the earth's atmosphere.
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- 156.** In 2018, Japan became the world's first country to land 2 robotic rovers in asteroid Ryugu. It is also the first man made robot to have landed in an asteroid. The name of the rover that has landed is MINERVA-II1.
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- 157.** On September 27th, 2018, the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test fired the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) Astra from a Su-30 aircraft over the Bay of Bengal near Chandipur in Odisha. It has been developed by IAF and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) primarily.
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- 158.** On August 3rd, 2018, FICCI Ladies Organisation, the women's wing of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has launched a mobile application called "WOW" (Wellness of Women). This platform allows users to talk to doctors through video conferencing or connect with them via voice or email.
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**159.** On October 2nd, 2018, Alibaba and SoftBank-backed Paytm became the leading contributor to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments with over 33% of overall market share. It also enabled BHIM UPI for offline payments where 5 million offline merchants accept Paytm UPI.

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### **Art and Literature**

**160.** Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has released the book named 'A Tribute to Jagu' as a tribute to former BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya. Avishek, son of Jagmohan Dalmiya, who is the joint secretary of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) received the book.

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**161.** On 14th March 2018, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur released 'Mahila Suraksha', a handbook. The handbook has been brought out by the Shimla administration. It explains personal safety measures and safeguards related to crimes, and also about sexual harassment at workplace. It also has important telephone and helpline numbers.

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**162.** On 15th September 2018, the Urdu version of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book 'Exam Warriors' was released in New Delhi. The book was released by Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar along with other union ministers.

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**163.** On September 5th, 2018, the Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book New Delhi. The Book is: 'Constitutionalizing India: an Ideational Project'. It has been authored by Shri Bidyut Chakrabarty.

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**164.** On 7th September 2018, Preeti Shenoy announced the launch of her new book named "The Rule Breakers". This book covers complex themes of women's equality, gender, inclusion etc. It is published by Westland Books.

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**165.** Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year for 2017 was Feminism.

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**166.** Indian author Kiran Desai won the Man Booker Prize for the book 'The Inheritance of Loss'.

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**167.** Stan Lee, the creator of iconic comic-book heroes including Spider-Man, the X-Men, Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, the Fantastic Four, Black Panther, Daredevil, Doctor Strange and Ant-Man passed away on 12th November 2018.

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**168.** The Nobel Prize in Literature 2016 was awarded to Bob Dylan "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."

- 169.** "The English Patient" a book by Michael Ondaatje won the Golden Man Booker Prize in July 2018.
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- 170.** India's first Madame Tussauds wax museum opened in 2017 at the iconic Regal building in New Delhi.
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- 171.** The tallest statue of the world named Statue of Unity took five years to build from October 2013 to October 2018 and was opened to public on 31st October 2018.
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- 172.** The inauguration of a digital museum at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai was held on 2nd October 2018. It is a joint initiative between the railways and Google Arts and Culture Association to make the wait of the commuters at the station more interesting.
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- 173.** On 11th September 2018, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh released a booklet titled 'NCDC-Assisting Cooperatives. Always!' in New Delhi. The booklet highlighted the role and activities assisted by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
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- 174.** In September 2018, the book "Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple" written by Vineet Bajpai was launched in New Delhi. The book was launched by BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia and former Chief Election Commissioner of India, Navin Chawla. This is the 3rd book of Vineet Bajpai's Harappa trilogy.
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- 175.** In September 2018, the Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma released important publication, Sindhu Ghati Sabhyata: Ek Parichay in New Delhi.
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- 176.** In 2018, Westland Books announced that, journalist, author and filmmaker Sundeep Misra, would write a book on sprinter Dutee Chand, who won two silver medals at the 2018 Asian Games. The book is named "Story so far".
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- 177.** On 14th June 2018, Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari released a book 'Water productivity mapping of major Indian crops' published by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) at an event in New Delhi.
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- 178.** In June 2018, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi and Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir jointly



launched “Legal Processes for the Police in Respect of Crime against Children”, a handbook on ways to prevent crimes against children.

**179.** On 20th June 2018, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu received the book “Vedvigyan Alok” (Maharishi Aitareya Mahidas Praneet - Aitareya Brahmina ki Vaigyanik Vyakhya) written by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik.

**180.** India has launched its first-ever comic book named ‘The Great Indian Nature Trail with Uncle Bikky’. The book was launched by Bikram Grewal, ornithologist and author, and Ravi Singh, Secretary and CEO, WWF-India.

**181.** On 24th August 2018, “Atal Ji Ne Kaha” a book on former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Atal Ji Ne Kaha has been written, compiled and edited by Brijendra Rehi.

**182.** In 2018, R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy released a book on “Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System”, at Power System Operation Corporation limited (POSOCO), New Delhi.

**183.** On 9th August 2018, Minister of State for Culture (I/C), Dr. Mahesh Sharma, released 3 books: ‘Jewellery’, ‘Ghats of Banaras’ and ‘Untold Story of Broadcasting’, at IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts), in New Delhi.

**184.** In August 2018, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released the Book ‘Bebak Baat’ written by Vijay Goel, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation, in New Delhi.

**185.** On 13th August 2018, Union Minister for Oil and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Odia edition of the book ‘Exam Warriors’, written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It was earlier released in English and Hindi in February 2018.

**186.** “Sea Prayer”, the new book of writer Khaled Hosseini will be released on 30th August 2018. Earlier “Sea Prayer” was produced in collaboration with UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and released as a Guardian virtual film on 1st September 2017.

**187.** Australia Cricketer and bowling spin legend Shane Warne plan to release his extraordinary cricketing career and his life off the pitch

besides unveiling several unknown facts in his autobiography 'No Spin' which will be published on October 2018.

- 188.** Indian cricketer VVS Laxman, known for the suppleness of his wrists, plans to release his emotional journey as cricket player through his autobiography "281 and Beyond" on November 20th, 2018.

### Important Days Around The Year

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1. 2nd of January     | : World Introvert Day                          |
| 2. 10th of January    | : World Hindi Day                              |
| 3. 15th of January    | : Martin Luther King Day                       |
| 4. 4th of February    | : World Cancer Day                             |
| 5. 20th of February   | : World day of Social Justice                  |
| 6. 17th of March      | : St. Patrick' Day                             |
| 7. 22nd of March      | : World Water Day                              |
| 8. 22nd of April      | : World Earth Day                              |
| 9. 25th of April      | : World Malaria Day                            |
| 10. 23rd of May       | : World Turtle Day                             |
| 11. 29th of May       | : International day of UN Peacekeepers         |
| 12. 14th of June      | : World Blood Donor Day                        |
| 13. 21st of June      | : World Music Day                              |
| 14. 28th of July      | : World Hepatitis Day                          |
| 15. 12th of August    | : International Youth Day                      |
| 16. 19th of August    | : World Humanitarian Day                       |
| 17. 8th of September  | : International Literacy Day                   |
| 18. 28th of September | : World Rabies Day                             |
| 19. 17th of October   | : International day for Eradication of Poverty |
| 20. 24th of October   | : United Nations Day                           |
| 21. 10th of November  | : World Immunization Day                       |
| 22. 13th of November  | : Word Kindness Day                            |
| 23. 9th of December   | : International Anti-corruption Day            |
| 24. 11th of December  | : International Mountain Day                   |

# Answer Sheet









