

**SEPTEMBER CURRENT AFFAIRS– 2018**  
**ENGLISH VERSION**



- ❖ Justice Tahira Safdar has been sworn-in as the first woman Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court at a ceremony held at the Governor House in Baluchistan. She will remain in this post until 4 October 2019.
- ❖ The 4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) 2018 has been inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik at Leiden, the Netherlands on September 1. The congress would focus on promotion and propagation of Ayurveda in the Netherlands and its neighboring countries of Europe.
- ❖ Pranab Bardhan (60) and Shibnath Sarkar (56) have created history by clinching India's first-ever gold in bridge at the Asian Games. They finished at the top after scoring 384 points in the final of the men's bridge pair event at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
- ❖ Sunil Mehta, the MD & chief executive of Punjab National Bank (PNB), has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Banks Association (IBA) for 2018-19.
- ❖ Binoy Kumar, the 1983 batch IAS officer of the Telengana cadre, has assumed charged as the new Secretary of the Ministry of Steel on September 1, 2018.
- ❖ Two Indians, Dr. Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2018 on August 31. The award, which is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize, was established in 1957.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated a 400-bed Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharamshala in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is a rest house for pilgrims, which is located on the banks of the Bagmati River.
- ❖ Renowned Digambar Jain Muni Tarun Sagar ji (51), who was popularly known for his sermons titled 'Kadve Pravachan', has passed away in New Delhi on September 1, 2018.
- ❖ On September 1, Indian boxer Amit Panghal from Haryana won a historic gold after beating Rio Olympics gold medalist Hasanboy Dusmatov in the final of Men's Light Flyweight 49kg category at the Jakarta Asian Games 2018. It is India's only boxing gold at the 18th Asian games.
- ❖ Well-known neurosurgeon Dr. Basant Kumar Mishra from Odisha has been named for prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award for year 2018 as Eminent Medical Person of the Year. It is the highest medical honour of India, which will be given away by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 1, 2019.

- ❖ Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee (18) became the first female athlete to be named the Most Valuable Player at Asian Games after she scooped an unprecedented six gold medals in the Jakarta pool. With this, Ikee also became the first female athlete in any sport to win six gold medals at a single Asian Games.
- ❖ The Rajasthan government has decided to organise special employment camps in all district headquarters of the state to give government jobs to at least one person from the family of those who were martyred. As per officials, there are more than 1,100 such martyrs in the state whose kin had not been given government jobs.
- ❖ In Men's hockey, Indian men's national field hockey team defeated arch rival Pakistan 2-1 to clinch a Bronze at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
- ❖ Singapore is currently holding the Chair of ASEAN. There, the 6th East Asia Summit-Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) was held in September 1, 2018.
- ❖ Rani Rampal, the Indian women hockey captain, was India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of the 18th Asian Games 2018. India ended their Asian Games 2018 campaign with the highest medal tally at the tournament ever, with a total of 69 medals which includes 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze medals.
- ❖ The book "Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office" has been authored by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, which was recently released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (I/C) Col Rajyavardhan Rathore has approved the participation of Kho Kho team from India at the First International Kho Kho Championship in England from 1st to 4th September, 2018, with financial support from the Government of India.
- ❖ The major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise (drill) "IOWave18" has started from September 4, which is being organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
- ❖ Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela became the first set of Indian shooters to secure quota places for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ On September 3, India and Cyprus signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in the field of environment in the presence of President Ram Nath Kovind and his Cypriot counterpart Nicos Anastasiades in Nicosia.

- ❖ India will host its first-ever official FIBA 3×3 World Tour Masters 2018 in Hyderabad, which is scheduled to be held from September 22.
- ❖ The Government of India (GoI) will observe September as National Nutrition Month (NNM) across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition. During this month, various programmes have been organized by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry to spread broad awareness on the issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children.
- ❖ Nepal is hosting the International Women Entrepreneurs Summit (IWES) 2018 in Kathmandu with theme “Equality begins with Economic Empowerment” from September 3.
- ❖ The joint military exercise “Rapid Trident 2018” has started in the western Ukrainian village of Starychi, which will continue from September 2 to 15.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has recently announced to launch Mars Mission “HOPE”, which is expected to be launched by 2020.
- ❖ The first round of the ‘two-plus-two dialogue’ between India and the US will be held in New Delhi on September 6. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold talks with their counterparts US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Defence Secretary James N Mattis.
- ❖ The 2018 edition of Maralal International Camel Derby event was held at Maralal town in Kenya.
- ❖ In a bid to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s flagship ‘Digital India’ campaign, the Rajasthan government has decided to provide free mobile phones to women of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under the Bhamashah Yojana.
- ❖ The International Aviation Summit 2018 was held in New Delhi from September 3-4, which was jointly organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the Airports Authority India (AAI) and International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ Dr Arif Alvi has been elected as the new President of Pakistan and will take the oath of the office on September 9.
- ❖ Aurora Prize Laureate Kyaw Hla Aung, a noted lawyer and activist from Myanmar, has recently announced to donate his \$1 million award money towards humanitarian relief work among Rohingya refugees. He was given the 2018 award for his fight against injustice and advocating on behalf of the Rohingya people.



- ❖ Indian Shooter Om Prakash Mitharwal clinched his first gold in the 50m pistol event at the 2018 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championships in Changwon, South Korea.
- ❖ The joint maritime naval exercise “SLINEX-2018” will be held between Indian & Sri Lankan navy at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from September 7 to 13.
- ❖ India and France has recently signed an agreement to collaborate on ISRO’s first human spaceflight programme “Gaganyaan”. It was announcement by French space agency president Jean-Yves Le Gall at the 6th edition of the Bengaluru Space Expo.
- ❖ Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched Coffee Connect – India coffee field force app & Coffee KrishiTharanga – an IVR-based digital mobile extension service for coffee sector which would help farmers increase production and improve quality.
- ❖ Justice Ranjan Gogoi, the son of former Assam chief minister Keshab Chandra Gogoi, will become the 46th Chief Justice of India (CJI), after the current CJI Dipak Misra retires on October 2. He will have tenure of 13 months – till November 17, 2019.
- ❖ The Indo-Kazakhstan joint Army exercise ‘KAZIND 2018’ will be conducted between the Indian and Kazakhstan Army from 10 to 23 Sep 2018 in Otar region, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu will address the 2nd World Hindu Congress (WHC) 2018, which is scheduled to be held in Chicago, United States on September 7 to 9.
- ❖ Turkey is hosting the 87th Izmir International tradeshow 2018 in Izmir from Sep.7th to 11th, in which India is the Partner Country.
- ❖ At the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, Indian athlete Govindan Lakshamanan won bronze but was later stripped as he was disqualified for lane infringement.
- ❖ The 3-day Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference – 2018 has started in New Delhi to enable nation become self-reliant in Home Land Security (HLS) & defence sector.
- ❖ Olympic bronze medalist Mary Kom has been appointed the new Brand Ambassador of state-run telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) for two years.
- ❖ In a landmark judgement on September 6, the Supreme Court of India (SCI) struck down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and decriminalized homosexuality.

- ❖ Indian movie ‘Gold’ has created history by becoming the first Bollywood film ever to release in Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC-2018) will be organized by the Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in New Delhi from September 29 to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ India Blue has won the 57th edition of Duleep Trophy 2018 by defeating India Red in the final by an innings and 187 runs to win.
- ❖ India is hosting the 4th edition of World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA 2018) in New Delhi from September 7 with theme “Challenges and Opportunities in Outcome-Based Accreditation”.
- ❖ Indian sprinter Hima Das has been officially named as the Sports Ambassador of Assam for her recent achievements in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games and IAAF World U-20 Championship 2018 at a function held at Srimanta Sankardev International Auditorium, Guwahati.
- ❖ The book “The Rule Breakers” has been authored by Preeti Shenoy i.e. expected to release on September 17. It’s an inspirational tale for those who find it difficult to stand up for what they want in life.
- ❖ Noted Odia poet Satrugna Pandav will be honoured with the prestigious 39th edition of the ‘Sarala Puraskar’ award 2018 for his poetry collection ‘Misra Dhrupad’.
- ❖ Dr. Bibek Debroy, an Indian economist, indologist and author, has been conferred ‘Honoris Causa’ by the University of Engineering & Management (UEM) in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ On September 6, the Odisha Assembly has passed a resolution for establishing Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad or second House of legislature).
- ❖ Akshay Kumar, the National Award-winning actor, has been made the first Honorary Ambassador of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Foundation. It is the social organisation founded by the family of India’s second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- ❖ The Chagos Archipelago (or Chagos Islands) is a group of 7 atolls consists of more than 60 individual tropical islands in the Indian Ocean about 500 km south of the Maldives archipelago. The sovereignty over the Islands is disputed between Mauritius and the United Kingdom (UK).

- ❖ The 6th International Geriatric Orthopaedic Society of India Conference 2018 has been inaugurated by Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on September 7.
- ❖ The Bogibeel Bridge is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam, which is expected to complete at the end of 2018.
- ❖ The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a committee, headed by former Reserve Bank of India governor Bimal Jalan, to select the next Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).
- ❖ Nehal Chudasama from Mumbai has been crowned the Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva – Miss Universe India 2018 at a star-studded grand finale event in Mumbai. Now, she will represent at the 67th Miss Universe 2018 pageant, which is scheduled to be held in Bangkok on December 2018.
- ❖ In the US Open Tennis, Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the Men's singles final by defeating Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 in straight sets.
- ❖ The 12th edition of Aero India 2019 will be held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 20 to 24. This 5-day event will combine a major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.
- ❖ The researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal have developed cheaper and more flexible organic solar cells using a synthetic derivative of vitamin B12.
- ❖ Naomi Osaka has become the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam singles title. She lifted the women's singles title of US Open 2018 by defeating Serena Williams in straight sets 6-2, 6-4.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force has successfully carried out the first-ever mid-air refuelling of the indigenously build fighter aircraft Tejas MK 1 with an IL-78 MKI tanker of the 78 Sqn.
- ❖ The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru is set to become the first airport in Asia to use face recognition as the boarding procedure for passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport.
- ❖ Haryana government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up an ethanol plant in Panipat with an outlay of over Rs 900 crore.

- ❖ The first-ever joint military exercise of BIMSTEC, named MILEX-18, has started at Aundh Military Station in Pune from September 10 to enhance cooperation in dealing with the challenge of terrorism in the region.
- ❖ The Rajasthan government has decided to hold convention on preserving heritage properties & promoting heritage tourism in Bharatpur on September 13-14.
- ❖ The 2018 Global Summit on Climate Action will be held at San Francisco in California, United States from September 12 to 14, 2018.
- ❖ India and France have signed an implementation agreement on Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme in New Delhi on September 7. The aim of MYC is to support three pilot cities – Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad – in their efforts to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.
- ❖ At the first-ever Women in Film and Television (WIFT-2018) India Award, Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has been honoured with the Meryl Streep Award for Excellence in Washington, United States.
- ❖ The Government of India (GoI) has set up a group of secretaries to look into the issues raised on some proposals of the draft e-commerce policy. The group will be chaired by Ramesh Abhishek, the secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- ❖ The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with Financial Software and Systems (FSS) to create payments network for unorganized retail. FSS is a payments technology company that enables micro-merchants to accept payments online, or via Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Quick-Response (QR) codes, Aadhaar and IPPB accounts.
- ❖ The 14th edition of the joint military exercise “Yudh Abhyas 2018” will be conducted between India and United States in the foothills of Himalayas at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand from September 16 to 29.
- ❖ Actor R Madhavan will host the National Geographic’s new series ‘Mega Icons’, which examines the success stories of five prominent personalities.
- ❖ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has recently re-commissioned an upgraded version of nuclear research reactor ‘Apsara-U’ with a higher capacity, which was shut down permanently in 2009 for revamp.



- ❖ The Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has rolled out its ambitious project to deliver public services at the doorstep of residents. It's first of kind service in the country for doorstep delivery of essential government services.
- ❖ NITI Aayog has collaborated with Intel and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI).
- ❖ The 13th edition of 12 days long exercise Indo-Mongolian joint military exercise “Nomadic Elephant 2018” has commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area in Ullanbaatar on September 10.
- ❖ On September 11, India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul during which implementation of the Chabahar port project and a host of other issues discussed.
- ❖ The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), which is India's first railway university, has recently started operations in Vadodara, Gujarat. This institute is located in the National Academy of Indian Railway (NAIR).
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has banned the manufacture, sale (including online sale), distribution, trade, display, marketing, import and possession of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), which are popularly known as e-cigarettes, with an immediate effect in the state.
- ❖ The second edition of the 10-day Nepal-China joint military exercise “Sagarmatha Friendship-2018” will be held at Chengdu, the capital of China's southwestern Sichuan Province, from September 17.
- ❖ Veteran BJP leader L K Advani has been renominated as the chairman of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee by Speaker Sumitra Mahajan. The Committee examines complaints relating to unethical conduct by members of Parliament.
- ❖ Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami has become the first bowler in women's cricket to pick 300 international wickets. Earlier, Indian Cricketer Mithali Raj became the most capped player in the history of Women's ODIs cricket.
- ❖ Prof. Arul Chinnaiyan, has been awarded an “Outstanding Investigator Award” along with a grant of \$6.5 million by the U.S. National Cancer Institute to identify cancer biomarkers.
- ❖ The Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has recently launched an indigenously designed and developed India's first 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck (Model

BH205-E) in its Mysuru plant, with an objective of strengthening the ‘Make in India’ initiative.

- ❖ As per culture study survey by US-based multi-national workforce management firm Kronos Incorporated, India leads the way as the world’s hardest working country with 69% of full-time employees are happy with 5-day workweek.
- ❖ The book “The Twice-Born – Life and Death on the Ganges” has been authored by Aatish Taseer, who is son of late Pakistani politician Salman Taseer and Delhi journalist Tavleen Singh.
- ❖ India’s first tribal circuit tourism project under the Swadesh Darshan scheme has launched at Gangrel in Chhattisgarh on September 13. It covers 13 sites in Chhattisgarh which are Jashpur, Kunkuri, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Kurdar, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Jagdalpur, Chitrakoot and Tirthgarh.
- ❖ The 2018 G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting was held at Mar del Plata in Argentina on September 12-13. From India, Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu participated in the meeting.
- ❖ Under article 124 of the constitution, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Ranjan Gogoi as the 46th Chief Justice of India (CJI). He will assume office after the current CJI Dipak Misra retires on October 2. He will have tenure of 13 months – till November 17, 2019.
- ❖ The agricultural festival of Nuakhai has started in Odisha on 13th September 2018. The word ‘nua’ means new and ‘khai’ means food, so the name means the farmers are in possession of the newly harvested rice.
- ❖ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh has recently launched Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) in New Delhi with an outlay of Rs 10881 crore.
- ❖ The book “Bastar Dispatches: A Passage through the Wilds” has been authored by Narendra, which explores lives of Bastar’s Abujhmad tribals.
- ❖ India will hold its first-ever global tourism mart at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from September 16-18. It is modelled on the ITB Berlin, the world’s largest tourism trade fair. The ten major tourist organisations like FHRAI, HAI, and IATO are involved in this mega event.

- ❖ India has been ranked 130 among 189 countries in the latest Human Development Index (HDI) report 2018, which is released by the United Nations Development Programme.
- ❖ The first edition of the World Heritage Cuisine Summit and food festival will be held at the Qila Gobindgarh in Amritsar, Punjab from October 12-14.
- ❖ The Delhi government has signed a “Friendship and Cooperation Agreement” with the Seoul Metropolitan Government under which the two cities would exchange expertise for betterment in 12 fields including environment, transport, tourism, solid waste management and public health.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard has commissioned indigenously built patrol vessel ‘Vijaya’ in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to contain oil spill in sea.
- ❖ India’s first underwater robotic drone “EyeROV TUNA” was launched and handed over to Kochi-based DRDO lab “Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)”. The drone can send real-time videos of ships and other underwater structures to help with their repair and maintenance.
- ❖ The Rajasthan government has recently inaugurated the first lion safari of the state at Nahargarh Biological Park (NBP), which is located about 12 km from Jaipur on the Jaipur-Delhi highway.
- ❖ The scientist at Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences claim to have developed India’s first indigenous medical kit that may ensure protection from serious injuries and faster healing of wounds resulting from nuclear warfare or radioactive leakage.
- ❖ India’s first exclusive and certified ‘Dog Park’ has come up in Hyderabad, which is spread over 1.3 acres. The park has been developed by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) at a cost of Rs. 1.1 crore on a site which was earlier a dump yard.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism is organizing the festival of tourism “Paryatan Parv 2018” in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stake holders at Rajpath Lawns in New Delhi from September 17 and will continue across the country till 27 of this month.
- ❖ Recently, Indian Mountaineers Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatua created history by climbing Asia’s highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand in Iran. The

expedition team comprised of 3 members – Siddhanta, Mousumi and Bhaswati Chatterjee.

- ❖ Sawai Singh Shekhawat, the Jaipur-based poet and writer, will be honoured with Meera Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy for his contribution to Hindi literature.
- ❖ Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has been sworn-in as the new Prime Minister of Sudan at the presidential palace in Khartoum on September 15, 2018.
- ❖ On September 16, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the NovaSAR and S1-4 earth observation satellites of U.K from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Kerala Tourism has bagged two prestigious gold awards of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns at Langkawi, Malaysia during PATA Travel Mart 2018.
- ❖ ISRO chairman Dr. K Sivan has launched an S-band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota spaceport, Andhra Pradesh on September 16, 2018. This Radar was indigenously developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore.
- ❖ India's first 'smart fence' pilot project was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh along the Indo-Pak border at the BSF Headquarters in Ploura, Jammu on September 18, 2018. The purpose of the project is to make security system more strong and effective.
- ❖ Dr. Subramanya Jaishankar, the former foreign secretary of India, has joined the board of the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). Currently, he is the president of Global Corporate Affairs for the Tata Group.
- ❖ The Odisha government has launched a 'Star-Rating' system for industries to check air pollution. It's a first-of-its-kind initiative in the state to ensure transparency in compliance to pollution standards.
- ❖ The Government of India has proposed to merge state-owned Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda (BoB) to create India's third largest lender as parts of reforms in the public sector banking segment.
- ❖ Germany has recently rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train 'Coradia iLint' that only emit steam and water.



- ❖ According to the ‘Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018’ report, India has been ranked third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion.
- ❖ The third and final book of Vineet Bajpai’s Harappa trilogy “Kashi: Secret of the Black Temple” has recently launched in New Delhi.
- ❖ The first international maqom musical was held in Uzbekistan. The festival was initiated by President Shavkat Mirizoyev to promote the Uzbek national maqom art at home and abroad.
- ❖ The 2nd edition of the Nepal-China joint military exercise “Mt Everest Friendship Exercise (or Sagarmatha Friendship-2018” has started at Chengdu, the capital of China’s southwestern Sichuan Province, from September 17.
- ❖ Recently, the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba has launched an online ‘e-Sahaj’ portal for grant of security clearance to businesses. The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.
- ❖ The West Bengal government has rolled out a scheme “Swayangsiddha” in different districts of the state to combat human trafficking. The aim of the scheme is to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage.
- ❖ On 2018 World Ozone Day, the Union Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released a draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and a booklet on ‘Montreal Protocol – India’s Success Story’.
- ❖ Bollywood actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have been signed as ambassadors of Skill India Campaign to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission.
- ❖ ISRO has recently launched its first Space Technology Incubation Centre at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala via remote from Bengaluru.
- ❖ The 5th edition of the Track Asia Cup cycling will be held at the Indira Gandhi Cycling Velodrome in New Delhi from September 21-23, 2018.
- ❖ Anna Rajam Malhotra (91) was the India’s first woman IAS officer after Independence, who passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on September 17, 2018.

- ❖ Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas, the renowned nuclear scientist, has been appointed as the new Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) till May 3, 2021.
- ❖ According to Mercom India Research, the total installed capacity of solar power generation of India has crossed 25 giga watts (GW). Karnataka is the top solar state of India followed by Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan.
- ❖ The joint air tactical exercise “Aviandra-18” has started between Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Air Force of the Russian Federation at Lipetsk, Russia from September 17 to 28. The second session of Aviandra 18 would be conducted in Jodhpur, India from December 10 Dec to 22.
- ❖ India has decided to place four more reactors under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. With this, a total of 26 Indian nuclear facilities will be under the international nuclear energy watchdog IAEA.
- ❖ The Odisha Assembly has recently passed a unanimous resolution to name the newly-built Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the airport on 22 September 2018.
- ❖ All-women crew of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and sailing across the world for 8 long months.
- ❖ Anindo Majumdar, a 1985-batch IAS officer Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Mizoram has been appointed as the new Secretary of Central Vigilance Commission.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has signed a MoU with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to set up a state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response.
- ❖ India’s first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) prototype fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to achieve criticality in 2019. This was stated by Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, at the 62th General Conference of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, on 19th Sept 2018.
- ❖ Indian Cricket Captain Virat Kohli and world champion Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu will honoured with the prestigious 2018 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna by President Ram Nath Kovind on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

- ❖ India and Sri Lanka have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for construction of a 5000-metric ton temperature controlled warehouse in Dambulla of Central Province.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has proposed to the Andhra Pradesh government its plans to establish a drone manufacturing facility in Anantapur district, a cyber security centre in Amaravati, and turn Rajahmundry and Vijayawada airports into asset positioning bases.
- ❖ India's first-ever online and centralised National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO) has been launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on September 20, 2018.
- ❖ Kondapalli Koteswaramma (96), the revolutionary communist leader, writer and feminist, has passed away in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on September 19, 2018. She had written four books, including her autobiography 'Nirjana Varadhi' at the age of 93 in 2012.
- ❖ The indigenously developed surface-to-surface Short-range tactical ballistic missile "Prahar" has been successfully flight tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❖ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has tied up with private life insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd (BALIC) to provide life insurance solutions, especially at the doorstep of every household in the country.
- ❖ Raghupati Singhania, Chairman and MD of JK Tyre & Industries Ltd, has been conferred with the 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico at the 128th National Day of Mexico. The honor is given because of the efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Mexico.
- ❖ Assamese movie "Village Rockstars" has been chosen to represent India in the Best Foreign Language category at the 91st Academy Awards 2019. The film, which is directed by Rima Das, also won the Best Feature film Award at the 65th National Film Awards.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia will be the third "strategic partner" of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It was announced by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

- ❖ India's biggest cyclotron facility "Cyclone-30" has become operational at the Kolkata-based Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) for treatment of cancer.
- ❖ Mayuri Lute has won India's first Gold in the Women's Junior 500 m race at the 5th edition of the Track Asia Cup cycling tournament in New Delhi on Sept 21, 2018.
- ❖ On September 22, President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha (DBHPS) in New Delhi. The main goal of DBHPS is to improve Hindi literacy among the non-Hindi speaking people of South India.
- ❖ The first-ever General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will be held at Delhi-NCR from 2nd October 2018.
- ❖ India has contributed US \$1 million for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the imposing UN building at the world body's headquarters in New York. The contribution will help reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy.
- ❖ The 3rd edition of acclaimed International Business Conference 'MahaBiz 2018' will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 12th and 13th October 2018. MahaBiz is considered a bridge for business opportunities between Maharashtra state and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- ❖ The Asian Para Games is a multi-sport event regulated by the Asian Paralympic Committee that held every four years after every Asian Games for athletes with physical disabilities. Japan will host the 5th edition of Asian Para Games in 2026 in Nagoya.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced a novel scheme for the protection of the exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) plants that flower only once in 12 years. This came after the complaints of packaging and selling of these rare and ecologically unique flowers on commercial basis.
- ❖ Anil Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed the new chairman of the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) till his superannuation in December 2020.
- ❖ Nepal is set to become the world's first country to double its tiger population. On the occasion of 2018 National Conservation Day (NCD), Nepal announced that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the country, nearly doubling the baseline of around 121 tigers in 2009.



- ❖ India has recently celebrated the 100 years of Battle of Haifa with a grand function in New Delhi on September 23, 2018. It is being commemorated in Israel, Delhi and Jaipur. On this day, in 1918, the Indian soldiers from the Mysore, Hyderabad and Jodhpur Lancers liberated the strategically important city of Haifa, known for its deep water bay in the eastern Mediterranean.
- ❖ India will host the Women’s Boxing World Championships after more than a decade, which is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from November 15-24, 2018.
- ❖ On September 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rolled out the Centre’s flagship Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) from Ranchi, Jharkhand. The ambitious scheme aims to provide coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family annually.
- ❖ The Jharkhand government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Insurance Company Ltd (NICL) to provide medical facilities to the people of the state under the Centre’s flagship health scheme – Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The scheme will cover 80% population of the state.
- ❖ The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved a \$525-million loan to Madhya Pradesh for infrastructure projects. The loan will be used by the Indian government for on-lending to the Madhya Pradesh government for rehabilitating major district roads with a total length of about 2,000 km.
- ❖ Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has won the 2018 presidential election of Maldives. He will take office on 17th November 2018, after having defeated President Abdulla Yameen in the election.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of “2018 Ease of Living Index” rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Odisha and Madhya Pradesh bagged second and third best performing awards.
- ❖ Carolina Marin from Spain has won the women’s singles 2018 China Open badminton title. In the final, she defeated Chen Yufei in Changzhou, China.
- ❖ Recently, L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited has commissioned a 16 km stretch of elevated metro & hence completed one full stretch of the three corridor Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) project. Now, the total stretch of Hyderabad metro will be 46 km. With this, it has become the 2nd largest operational metro rail network in India after the Delhi Metro.

- ❖ Luka Modric, who led Croatia to their first-ever FIFA World Cup final, was named The Best FIFA Men’s Player at the Best FIFA Football Awards in London.
- ❖ The United Nations (UN) has recently declared the period from 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in New York on 24 September 2018.
- ❖ The IIT Kharagpur has developed a community supported supply of purified drinking water project at Porapara in West Midnapore district of West Bengal.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India (SCI) has recently constituted a Committee on Prison Reforms chaired by former apex court judge, Justice Amitava Roy, to examine the various problems plaguing prisons in the country.
- ❖ India has been ranked 158th among 195 countries in 2016 for investment in health care and education, according to the first-ever scientific study by University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has signed a cooperation agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support the humanitarian response plan in Yemen, Myanmar and the Congo (DRC), in addition to support ICRC’s budget, totaling \$11 million.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the Interfaith Alliance Forum at the nation’s capital, Abu Dhabi on 19th and 20th November.
- ❖ In Nepal, the famous Indra Jatra festival 2018 is being celebrated in Kathmandu with gaiety and religious fervor. The 8-day long annual festival is observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.
- ❖ Dr Harsh Vardhan, the union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate change (MoEF&CC), has inaugurated air pollution control device – Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit (WAYU) at ITO in New Delhi.
- ❖ India will organise ‘Gandhi March’ from the iconic Peace Palace at The Hague in Netherlands to Grote Kerk on September 25 to launch the two-year long celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded with the UN’s highest environmental honour ‘Champions of the Earth 2018’ for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and pledge to eliminate single use plastic in India by 2022.

- ❖ The Japanese space agency JAXA has made history by successfully landing two robotic rovers on the surface of an asteroid Ryugu. The rovers are collectively known as MINERVA-II1 (Micro Nano Experimental Robot Vehicle for Asteroid, the second generation), which were separated from the Hayabusa2 spacecraft.
- ❖ On September 26, Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The 2nd Global RE-INVEST India-ISA Partnership 2018 will be held in New Delhi from October 3rd to 5th.
- ❖ For the first time, the Defence Ministry has appointed a transaction adviser and a legal adviser for procurement projects under the Strategic Partnership (SP) model. SBI Caps [Capital Markets] has been appointed as the transaction adviser.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) 2018 which aims to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 megabit per second (MBPS) to every citizen. It will also provide one Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
- ❖ India has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number (1800-11-2356) on tobacco products. The Union Health Ministry has already made 85% pictorial health warning mandatory on both sides of packets containing cigarettes, bidis, and chewing tobacco. The quit-line number will be printed on all tobacco products manufactured after September 1, 2018.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$150 million loan to establish India's 1st multi skills park in Bhopal.
- ❖ For the first time in India's strategic atomic energy sector, the transfer of power at the highest level took place in a foreign country. Kamlesh Nilakanth Vyas, the newly-appointed Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) took charge from incumbent Sekhar Basu in Vienna, Austria on September 20, 2018.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) has recently signed pact with Triton Solar Company of the USA to set up a solar battery manufacturing plant in AP under the public private-partnership (PPP) model.
- ❖ Project UNNATI is an initiative by the Ministry of Shipping. It aims to enhance the operational and financial performance of the 12 major ports with selected Indian private ports and best-in class international ports.

- ❖ On September 27, the National Tourism Awards for 2016-17 were presented by Union Tourism Minister K J Alphons in New Delhi as India celebrated the 2018 World Tourism Day (WTD). Ahmedabad and Mandu were jointly declared as the 'Best Heritage City', while Qutub Minar bagged the top award in the differently-abled friendly monument category.
- ❖ On September 27, the joint border conference was held between India and Bangladesh at Aizawl, Mizoram and delegates from both sides expressed their deliberations on the border issues between the two countries.
- ❖ For the first time, the Kerala government has decided to create the post of 'firewomen' in the Kerala State Fire and Rescue Services in a bid to break gender stereotypes.
- ❖ Recently, Five-time world champion boxer MC Mary Kom has been named as the brand ambassador of Tribes India – an initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote tribal artefacts.
- ❖ The Union government has recently constituted an 8-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal. The committee has former chief of State Bank of India (SBI) Arundhati Bhattacharya, Prasar Bharati chairperson A Surya Prakash and ISRO head S Kiran Kumar as members.
- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, India's first corn festival is being held in Chhindwara from September 29 to bring together researchers, industrialists, farmers and other stakeholders from across the country to explore the unrealized potential of the city in becoming a hub for corn based industries.
- ❖ NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with cloud services provider Oracle to curb the distribution of fake drugs using new technologies. Apollo Hospitals and Strides Pharma Sciences will partner in this effort.
- ❖ Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu has recently approved the constitution of a High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to look into the opportunities and ways to address the ongoing challenges in the global trade scenario.
- ❖ No Indian institution figures in the top 250 of the Times Higher Education's (THE) world university rankings 2019. Though, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has retained its position as the highest-ranked centre in India.



- ❖ Public sector Assam Petrochemicals Limited will roll out India's first methanol-based alternative cooking fuel at Namrup methanol plant in Dibrugarh district, Assam on October 5.
- ❖ Kerala is hosting the 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship 2018 at the Jimmy George indoor stadium in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from September 27 to 30.
- ❖ Recently, the Ministry of AYUSH has set up an AYUSH Information Cell at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Romania to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system of medicine.
- ❖ Rajni Kant Mishra, a 1984 batch Indian Police Service officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed the new Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF). He will succeed K.K. Sharma, who is superannuating on September 30, 2018.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM – U), has partnered with Google to launch Loo Review campaign to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- ❖ World Coconut Day (WCD) - September 2  
2018 theme: “Coconut for Good Health, Wealth & Wellness”.
- ❖ International Day of Charity (IDC) - September 5
- ❖ International Literacy Day (ILD) – September 8  
2018 theme: “Literacy and skills development”
- ❖ World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) - September 10.  
2018 theme: “Working Together to Prevent Suicide”
- ❖ National Hindi Divas - September 14  
On this day, in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of India under Article 343.
- ❖ International Day of Democracy - September 15  
2018 theme: “Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World”.
- ❖ National Engineer’s Day (NED) - September 15  
India to appreciate the contributions of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, who was born on this day in 1861 in a village called Muddenahalli in Karnataka.
- ❖ International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer - September 16  
2018 theme: ‘Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol’.
- ❖ International Day of Peace - 21 September  
2018 theme: “The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”.
- ❖ International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) - September 23  
2018 theme: “With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!”
- ❖ International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons - September 26
- ❖ World Tourism Day (WTD) - September 27  
2018 theme: “Tourism and the Digital Transformation”.
- ❖ World Rabies Day (WRD) - September 28  
2018 theme: “Rabies: Share the message. Save a life!”