

FreshersLive's Current Affairs

Weekly Edition (3rd Dec'18 - 09th Dec'18)

SC introduced Witness
Protection Scheme, 2018



Nagaland celebrated
Hornbill Festival



ISRO launched GSAT-11
satellite

1st Week Current Affairs December 2018



Yasir Shah becomes
fastest bowler

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TAKE THE QUIZ



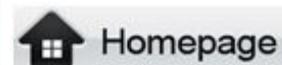
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

China, U.S. declare 90 day halt to new tariffs

- **China** and the **United States** have agreed to halt new tariffs as both nations engage in trade talks with the goal of reaching an agreement within **90 days**, the White House announced after US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping held high-stakes talks in Argentina G20 summit
- Mr Trump agreed not to boost tariffs on **US \$200 billion** (\$274 billion) of Chinese goods to **25%** on Jan 1 as previously announced
- US has imposed tariffs on **\$250 billion** in **Chinese goods**, and China has responded by imposing duties on **\$110 billion** in **US goods**

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador became first leftist president of Mexico

- He became as President and signed an agreement with three Central American counterparts to create a plan to stem the flow of migrants seeking asylum in the USA
- **About Mexico:-**
 - **Capital:** Mexico City
 - **National language:** Spanish
 - **Currency:** Peso (MXN)

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Australia Become first Country To Recognise Orphanage Trafficking As Slavery

- **Australia** becomes the first country in the world to recognize ‘orphanage trafficking’ as a form of modern slavery
- Children from smaller countries are recruited in orphanages in the West for the purpose of profit through foreign aid

UAE passport tops the Global Passport Power Rank 2018

- As per the ratings released by **Passport Index**, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has **topped** the Global Passport Power Rank 2018, emerging as the country with the most powerful passport in world
- UAE passport holders can now fly to **113 countries** without a visa, and 54 others with a visa-on-arrival
- **Singapore** and **Germany** ranks **second** with 166 countries
- **India** ranked **66th** in Global Passport Power Rank 2018

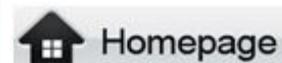
Qatar to pull out from OPEC

- **Qatar** is to leave the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** in **January 2019** in order to focus on gas production
- Qatar has been a member of OPEC **since 1961**, and the decision to pull out after all these decades comes at a turbulent time in Gulf politics,



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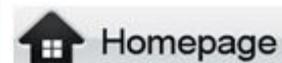


with Doha under a boycott by former neighboring allies, including Saudi Arabia, for 18 months

- Qatar is the world's biggest supplier of **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**, producing almost 30 percent of the world total
- The decision to **increase the supply of natural gas** is to develop a future strategy based on growth and expansion, both in its activities at home and abroad

Panama 1st Latin American nation to join Belt and Road Initiative

- **Panama** has become the first Latin American country to join **China's** Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- China established diplomatic relations with Panama last year
- Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Panamanian counterpart, Juan Carlos Varela signed 19 deals, including:
 - An extradition treaty
 - An arrangement where China will provide a non-specified amount of non-reimbursable aid to carry out various projects
 - Memoranda of understanding on commercial, tourist, educational matters
 - Other deals on trade, infrastructure and banking

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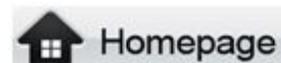
Luxembourg to become first country to make all public transport free

- **Luxembourg** is set to become the first country in the world to make all **public transport free**, implementing the move in 2020
- The move is aimed at addressing environmental issues and the problem of traffic congestion
- Earlier this year, Luxembourg introduced free transport for all people under the age of 20



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Salman Khan tops Forbes richest Indian celebrity list for third time

- **Salman Khan** has been named the **highest-earning** celebrity in India for the third time in a row by Forbes, with earnings of **Rs.253.25 crore**
- The second spot was captured by Indian cricket team skipper **Virat Kohli**, with Rs.228.09 crore to his name, to become the **first sportsperson** to reach the position
- **Akshay Kumar** came **third** on the Forbes India Celebrity 100 2018 with Rs.185 crore, followed by Deepika
- The fifth spot went to former Indian cricket team captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** who earned Rs.101.77 crore during 2018

Deepika Padukone becomes first woman to rank among the Forbes top five richest celebrities in India

- The 32-year-old Indian actress was placed fourth in the Forbes India Celebrity 100 list with her earnings reaching **Rs 112.80 crore** during 2018
- Other women to feature on the Forbes India Celebrity 100 include:



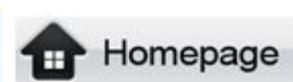
- Actresses Alia Bhatt (Rank 12, Rs 58.83 crore)
- Anushka Sharma (Rank 16, Rs 45.83 crore)
- Katrina Kaif (Rank 21, Rs 33.67 crore)
- Priyanka Chopra (Rank 49, Rs 18 crore)
- Shuttlers PV Sindhu (Rank 20, Rs 36.50 crore)
- Saina Nehwal (Rank 58, Rs 16.54 crore)
- Comedian Bharti Singh (Rank 74, Rs 13.95 crore)

Kohli India's top-paid sportsperson of 2018 at 228 crore: Forbes

- Team India captain **Virat Kohli** has featured as the **highest-earning sportsperson** in the **2018** Forbes India Celebrity 100 list with **₹228.09-crore** earnings
- Kohli was also the top-paid sportsperson in 2016 and 2017 with ₹134.44 crore and ₹100.72 crore earnings respectively
- Former captain **MS Dhoni** follows Kohli as the **second** highest-paid sportsperson in the 2018 list with ₹101.77-crore earnings

PM to inaugurate India's longest railroad bridge on December 25

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **Bogibeel Bridge**, India's **longest** rail-cum-road bridge, falling in the eastern part of **Assam** and **Arunachal Pradesh** on December 25



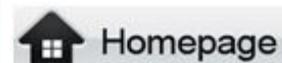
- This project was first cleared by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda in **1997**
- The bridge spans over the Brahmaputra river in the north eastern state of Assam between Dhemaji district and Dibrugarh district

SC introduced Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 in India

- The **Supreme Court (SC)** introduced a **witness protection regime** in the country noting that one of the main reasons for witnesses turning hostile is that they are not given security by the State
- It also announced that the **Witness Protection Scheme, 2018** will come into effect **immediately across all States**. This scheme is aimed at enabling a **witness to depose fearlessly and truthfully**, would be the law of the land till Parliament enacted suitable legislation
- Under the scheme, the witness protection may be as simple as providing a police escort to the witness up to the courtroom or, in more complex cases involving an organized criminal group, taking extraordinary measures such as offering temporary residence in a safe house, giving a new identity, and relocation at an undisclosed place

India is the third-highest contributor of CO₂

- Researchers at the **University of East Anglia (UEA)** and the **Global Carbon Project** said that Global carbon emissions are set to hit an all-time high of **37.1 billion tonnes** of CO₂ in 2018
- India has projected to see emissions rise by 6.3% from 2017

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- Limiting global warming to the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of keeping the global temperature increase this century to well below 2°C, would need carbon dioxide emissions to decline by 50% by 2030 and reach net zero by about 2050

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland

- Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the 10-day-long **Hornbill Festival of Nagaland at Naga Heritage Village Kisama** on 1st December 2018. More than **60,000** people have visited the Hornbill Festival
- The assistant director of Tourism department (Statistics) T. Khakihe Sumi said that altogether **63,032** visitors with **780 foreigners** have visited the picturesque venue. The inaugural day had 19,953 visitors. The count increased up to 43,079 on the second day of the festival
- The visitors were treated with cultural performances from across the country including Odisha, Assam, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir

Nagaland becomes second state to adopt pan-India women helpline

- **Nagaland** became the first state in the Northeast and second in the country, after **Himachal Pradesh**, to launch a pan-India single emergency number '112' under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)



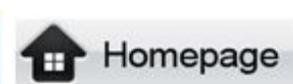
- The launch coincided with the state’s formation day and the inaugural day of the 2018 edition of the Hornbill Festival
- The Union Government has allocated **Rs 321.69 crore** under the **Nirbhaya Fund** for the implementation of the ERSS project across the nation. Nagaland alone has been allocated **Rs 4.88 crore** for the project
- The Justice Verma Committee, in the backdrop of the unfortunate Nirbhaya incident in December 2012, suggested for the implementation of the ‘Emergency Response Support System’ (ERSS) across India

Punjab cabinet approves international airport near Ludhiana

- The Punjab Cabinet approved the setting up of a new **international** civil terminal at Indian Air Force (IAF) Station, **Halwara** 32 kms from Ludhiana
- The terminal will be jointly developed by the state government and Airports Authority of India (AAI). While AAI would have majority stake of **51 per cent**, the Punjab Government, through the Greater Ludhiana Development Authority (**GLADA**), will have **49 per cent** stake in the project
- The state already has two international airports at Mohali and Amritsar

TN government approved Rs.7.60 crore for clearing fallen trees

- The Tamil Nadu State government has approved Rs.7.60 crore for procuring heavy duty chainsaws, winch machines, shredders, and wood



splitter machines to clear trees that were felled by Cyclone Gaja in delta districts

- The government would be procuring 500 chainsaws and 20 winches, 20 wood splitters, 20 shredder-cum-pulverizers and 20 wood chipper machines with trolley and rent them to farmers at nominal rates or lent to them to clear their farmlands
- The proposal is to pulverize leaves and small branches and convert them into organic manure, drag trunks out of fields and place them on the boundary so that they can be chopped later. Used the wood chipper machine, the trunks can be pulverized

India opposes move to declare Gilgit-Baltistan as fifth province

- India voiced strong opposition to Pakistan's reported move to declare Gilgit-Baltistan as its fifth province
- The entire state of Jammu and Kashmir has been and shall remain part of India
- India called upon Pakistan to vacate all occupied territory

BANKING & FINANCE

State Bank of Mauritius gets RBI approval for subsidiary

- Mauritius based SBM group granted a license by Reserve Bank of India to operate SBM Bank (India) Limited through Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) mode under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with effect from December 1, 2018
- Now at present SBM operate its branches in Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Ramachandrapuram since 1994
- It plans to open six new branches in Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Jaipur by next year

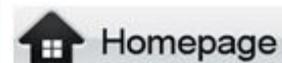
World Bank unveils USD 200 billion in climate action investment for 2021-25

- World Bank unveiled USD **200 billion** in climate action investment for 2021-25, adding this amounts to a doubling of its current five-year funding
- The move coincides with a UN climate summit in Katowice (Poland)
- The breakdown of 200 billion dollars would comprise approximately 100 billion in direct finance from the World Bank. Around one-third of the remaining funding will come from two World Bank Group agencies with the rest private capital mobilized by the World Bank Group



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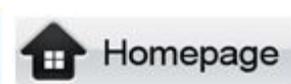


State Bank of India ropes in Swapna Barman as brand ambassador for YONO

- State Bank of India (SBI) roped in Asian Games gold medalist Swapna Barman as brand ambassador for its digital app **YONO (You only need one)**
- YONO is an integrated digital banking platform offered by State Bank of India (SBI) to enable users to access a variety of financial and other services such as taxi bookings, online shopping, or medical bill payments

RBI to inject Rs.10,000 crore through OMO on 6th December

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said it will be injecting **Rs.10,000 crore** into the system through the purchase of government securities on **December 6 to increase liquidity**
- RBI’s decision is based on an assessment of prevailing liquidity conditions. The purchase will be made through **Open Market Operations (OMOs)**. The OMO operation will help ease tight liquidity situation triggered by a series of defaults by group companies of IL&FS
- The eligible participants should submit their offers in electronic format on the **RBI Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber)** system. The result of the auction will be announced on the same day and payment to successful participants will be made on the following day



- **E-Kuber:**

- E-Kuber is the Core Banking Solution of RBI
- E-Kuber provides the provision of a single current account for each bank across the country, with decentralized access to this account from anywhere-anytime using portal based services in a safe manner

- **Core Banking Solutions (CBS):**

- CBS refers to a centralized system established by a bank which allows its customers to conduct their business irrespective of the bank's branch
- It thus removes the impediments of geo-specific transactions

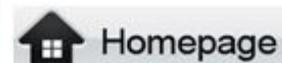
India and UAE signed 3,500 crore currency swap agreement

- This agreement will boost investment and enable direct trade without using dollars or other international currencies
- The agreement was signed after the 12th India-UAE joint commission meeting co-chaired by External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and the UAE's Foreign Minister **Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan** in Abu Dhabi
- In 2015, **China's** central bank extended a currency swap agreement with the UAE Central bank worth \$5.54 billion



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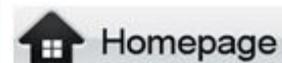
Exim Bank Extends USD 500 mn Loan To Tanzania

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) extended a credit facility of USD 500 million to Tanzania for water supply projects in the country
- Exim Bank signed an agreement in May 2018, with the Tanzania government for making available a Government of India-supported line of credit of USD 500 million for the purpose of financing water supply schemes



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BUSINESS & ECONOMY

GlaxoSmithKline merges with HUL

- **GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Ltd.** is to merge with **Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL)**, India's biggest consumer goods company, in a deal worth **Rs.31,70 0 crore**
- Because of this transaction HUL's parent, **Unilever will gain** control of popular health drink brand Horlicks while other brands from GSK CH, such as Boost, Maltova, and Viva, will be a part of the merged entity in India
- GSK CH had acquired Maltova and Boost from Jagatjit Industries in 2000
- On the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**, HUL shares gained 4.12%, or Rs.72.30, to close at Rs.1,825.90. Shares of GSK CH closed the day at Rs. 7,542.85, rising 3.75% or Rs.272.90

Gowda said the Govt is to clear fertiliser subsidy arrears of Rs 10K crore by March

- Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Sadananda Gowda said that the fertilizer subsidy arrears to the industry have come down by 75% to Rs.10,000 crore in the last four years and the outstanding amount is expected to be cleared by March



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- Mr.Gowda also said that the Central government will also not raise the Minimum Retail Price (MRP) of urea to protect farmers interest
- He also said the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme in the fertilizer sector has been a great success as 55 million tonnes of nutrients have been sold to 138 million farmers through around 2 lakh PoS machines

KIL plans to demerge its tyre business into a separate company

- B.K.Birla group company Kesoram Industries Ltd. (KIL) plans to demerge its tyre business into a separate company
- Post-merger, the resulting company, Birla Tyres Ltd. will be listed on the BSE and the NSE. It will issue to KIL's existing shareholders one equity share of Rs.10 for every share
- The demerger would be effective January 1, 2019
- KIL is now engaged in the manufacture of cement (Birla Shakti brand) and automotive tyres and tubes (Birla Tyres brand).It is said that approximately Rs.1,000 crore of the Rs.3,500 crore debt of KIL will get transferred to the demerged tyre company
- KIL expects the separation will enable a dedicated management focus as each of the two businesses had competitive dynamics
- It will also enable the companies to access varied funding sources

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Bank of Maharashtra appoints A.S. Rajeev as MD and CEO

- The 54-year-old previously served as the Executive Director of Indian Bank and had also been the CFO of Vijaya Bank
- He will hold the position for a period of **three years** or till further orders, whichever is earlier

Sunil Arora took charge as new Chief Election Commissioner

- **Sunil Arora**, the senior-most election commissioner, on Dec 2 took charge as the **23rd** Chief Election Commissioner, succeeding **OP Rawat** who demitted office on December 1
- Besides the Parliamentary polls, the 2019 assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim will be held during his tenure
- He will be in office till October **2021**

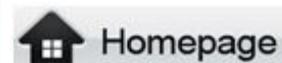
Raninder Singh becomes first Indian to be elected ISSF Vice President

- The elections were held during the **General Assembly meeting** of ISSF in Munich in which Raninder secured 161 votes to make it to the coveted position



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- The 51-year-old Raninder is currently the **president** of the National Rifle Association of India (**NRAI**)
- The NRAI president was also awarded the ISSF diploma of honor gold medal at the General Assembly by the outgoing longest-serving president of the ISSF, **Olegario Vázquez Raña**, who was at the helm for 38 years
- Vladimir Lisin, of Russia, was elected as the seventh president of ISSF and Alexander Rather was elected as the new secretary general of ISSF in the same General Assembly meeting
- Indian Shooter and 2008 Olympic gold medalist, **Abhinav Bindra** was honored with the prestigious **Blue Cross**, the highest recognition of the ISSF in the meeting

Pawan Singh is the first Indian to be elected in ISSF judges committee

- **Pawan Singh** is also the Joint Secretary General of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)
- He was a former coach of the Indian shooting team
- Members of the administrative council of ISSF voted to select the committee, at the elections held at Munich
- The Judges Committee consists of a Chairman and 7 members



- It is responsible for the uniform application of shooting rules

Government of India appointed Ajay Narayan Jha as new Finance Secretary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has cleared Jha's appointment to the post after incumbent **Hasmukh Adhia**, a 1981-batch Gujarat cadre officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), retired on November 30
- After Jha retires on 31 January, economic affairs secretary **Subhash Chandra Garg**, a 1983 batch Rajasthan cadre IAS officer, who will become the senior most secretary in the ministry is likely to take charge as the finance secretary

Indian-origin woman Shamila Batohi named South Africa's 1st female chief prosecutor

- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed Indian-origin **Shamila Batohi** as the country's **first female** chief prosecutor
- Batohi will start her new role as the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) in February 2019
- Batohi is a former state prosecutor from KwaZulu-Natal and has served as a senior adviser to the prosecutor in the International Criminal Court since 2009

IL&FS Investment Managers board appointed Nand Kishore and Kaushik Modak as new additional directors

- IL&FS Investment Managers board approved the appointment of Nand Kishore and Kaushik Modak as additional directors in the company
- They have been appointed to the board in the capacity of nominee directors of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Service (IL&FS)

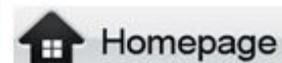
Atul Sahai appointed CMD of New India Assurance

- Atul Sahai appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the country's largest general insurance company New India Assurance for a five year period
- The post had been lying vacant since July 2018 after former chairman and managing director G Srinivasan retired



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AWARDS

3 Best Performing Award Under Swachhta Pakhwada Of Ministry In Civil Aviation, Government Of India

- Based on the swachhta related activities carried out by all the organizations of MoCA, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Civil Aviation, declared and awarded
 - **Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL),**
 - **Airports Authority of India (AAI) and**
 - **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)**as the 3 best performing organizations under MoCA during this Swachhta Pakhwada

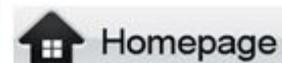
Croatia star Luka Modric wins Ballon d'Or to end Ronaldo, Messi era

- Midfielder **Luka Modrić**, who led **Croatia** to their first-ever **FIFA World Cup** final, won this year's Ballon d'Or
- He was named 2018 FIFA World Cup's **best player** and had also won this year's The Best FIFA Men's Player award
- This is the first time since 2007 that neither Cristiano Ronaldo nor Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or



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- France World Cup winner **Kylian Mbappe** won the Kopa Trophy - for the best player under the age of 21

Ada Hegerberg won the first ever women's Ballon d'Or

- Olympique Lyonnais striker **Ada Hegerberg** became the first woman to be awarded a Ballon d'Or at a grand ceremony in Paris
- The 23-year-old was announced the first ever winner of the Women's Ballon d'Or by former **France international player David Ginola** before she gave an inspiring speech encouraging more girls to play **football**
- She has won four league and three Champions League titles with Lyon

Delhi Minister Imran Hussain Gets PETA Hero to Animals Award

- 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
- The award, named 'Hero to Animals,' was also given to three other individuals and companies that have pushed animal rights forward. Other winners of Hero to Animals Award 2018

S.Ramakrishnan won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2018 for Sancharam

- **S.Ramakrishnan**, a Tamil writer, traveller, essayist, and scriptwriter, has won **the Sahitya Akademi Award 2018** for his novel **Sancharam**. It poignantly captures the lives of nagaswaram players in karisal bhoomi, the arid land, of Tamil Nadu. The novel places their music and struggle for a livelihood in the context of the **decline of agriculture**
- Mr. Ramakrishnan has dropped his doctoral thesis on William Faulkner to become a full-time writer. He said that the prize comes as recognition for a person who opted for a career in writing, it also sheds light on the lives of the nagaswaram players
- **Sancharam** talks about the shattered dreams of nagaswaram player Pakkiri, who wants to scale the heights of music after learning about great musicians and their music from his father

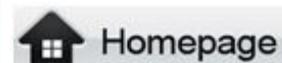
Professor Rattan Lal honoured with Glinka World Soil Prize 2018

- Rattan Lal, a distinguished university professor of soil science at the Ohio State University, has won the Glinka World Soil Prize 2018 in a ceremony at the Rome headquarters of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for his outstanding contribution to sustainable soil management



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- The Glinka World Soil Prize, named after the pioneering Russian scientist Konstantin D. Glinka, is considered the highest honour in the soil science profession
- Rattan Lal has been listed among the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds (2012) and among the top one percent of all researchers in agriculture

Kipchoge and Ibarguen won 'IAAF Athletes of the Year' awards

- World marathon record holder Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya and 2018 triple and long jump Diamond League champion Caterine Ibarguen of Colombia are the 2018 IAAF Male and Female Athletes of the Year
- Both are first-time winners of the award. Kipchoge is just the second Kenyan ever to win the award after David Rudisha in 2010

Black Panther, Bohemian Rhapsody nominated at 96th Golden Globe Awards

- Chadwick Boseman starrer 'Black Panther' and Rami Malek's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' are among the films nominated in the 'Best Film - Drama' category at the 2019 Golden Globe Awards. Comedy-drama film 'Vice' has landed six nominations, including one in the 'Best Film - Musical or Comedy' category
- 'Crazy Rich Asians' and 'Mary Poppins Returns' have also been nominated in this category

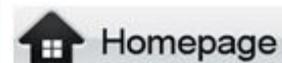
Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper nominated for Golden Globe awards

- Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper have earned nominations at the 2019 Golden Globe awards for their performances in the film 'A Star is Born'
- Gaga was nominated alongside Nicole Kidman and Melissa McCarthy in the 'Best Actress - Drama' category
- Cooper was nominated in the 'Best Actor - Drama' category along with 'Bohemian Rhapsody' star Rami Malek, among others



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

First manned Soyuz mission to ISS was launched successfully

- After the October launch failure, a **Soyuz rocket** carrying Russian, American and Canadian astronauts took off from Kazakhstan and reached orbit on **3rd December** in the **first manned mission**
- Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko, Anne McClain of NASA and David Saint-Jacques of the Canadian Space Agency were launched off for a six-and-a-half month mission on the **International Space Station(ISS)**.

ISRO's heaviest satellite GSAT-11 launched, will increase internet speed

- France-based **Arianespace** successfully launched **GSAT-11**, the **heaviest** satellite built by ISRO from its port in French Guiana
- Weighing **5,854 kg**, the GSAT-11 will boost broadband speeds and provide high bandwidth connectivity with up to **14 gigabit per second (GBPS)** data transfer speed. The satellite's designed lifetime is more than **15 years**

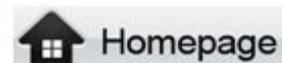
NASA's 'OSIRIS-REx' reached asteroid Bennu

- NASA's 'Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer' (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft arrived at the asteroid named 'Bennu' on 3rd December 2018



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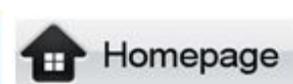
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- The spacecraft’s mission involves a close-up survey of the asteroid Benu
- It is the part of NASA’s New Frontiers Programme. ‘OSIRIS-REx’ was launched in September 2016

Scientists discovered over 100 new exoplanets using NASAs Kepler Space Telescope

- Using data from NASA’s Kepler Space Telescope and the ground-based observatories, the NASA scientists have discovered a cache over 100 new exoplanets
- The diverse planets are expected to play a large role in developing the research field of exoplanets and life in the Universe
- Exoplanets revolve around stars other than the sun. They have been actively researched in recent years
- If a planet crosses in front of its parent star, then the observed brightness of the star drops by a small amount



DEFENCE

Defence Ministry approves military procurement worth Rs 3000 crore

- The approved deal includes procurement of indigenous **BrahMos missiles** for two Indian Navy ships that are to be built in Russia
- The Defence Acquisition Council also approved the procurement of **Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs)** for the Indian Army's main battle tank, **Arjun**
- Jointly developed by India and Russia, the BrahMos missile flies at almost **three times** the speed of sound

First India Japan Air Exercise SHINYUU Maitri 2018 began

- A bilateral air exercise '**SHINYUU Maitri-18**', between the **Japanese** Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) and **Indian** Air Force (IAF) began on December 3, 2018 at Air Force Station **Agra**. The exercise will end on December 7, 2018
- The theme of the exercise is joint Mobility/Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft
- IAF is participating with **An-32 and C-17** aircraft with aircrew & observers



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SUMMITS

India to host G20 summit in 2022

- **India** is to host the annual **G20 summit in 2022** as it will be celebrating its **75th anniversary of Independence**. This will be India's first time to host the G20 summit
- The announcement was made by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at the closing ceremony of the **13th G20 summit in the Argentinian** capital on 1st December 2018. The Prime Minister thanked Italy for allowing India to play the host as it was to host the summit in 2022

First India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit Held in New Delhi

- The first India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit was held in **New Delhi**
- It was organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in association with the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Ministry of External Affairs

Startup India venture capital summit 2018 to be held in Goa from December 7

- The annual 'startup India Venture Capital Summit', a joint initiative by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Industrial Policy Promotion (DIPP) and the government of Goa is set to begin in Goa on Friday, Dec 7, 2018

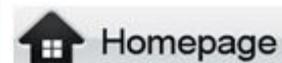


- Startup India Venture Capital Summit 2018 promising to attract global capital in the Indian Setup Ecosystem, Goa is aiming to make it to the list of top 25 Startup destination in Asia
- The theme of the year 2018 is ‘Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India’
- This year’s event aimed to ‘start-up opportunities to attract global capital to the Indian market’



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SPORTS

Delhi Daredevils renamed as Delhi Capitals ahead of 2019 IPL season

- The change in name comes close on the heels of JSW Sports picking up a 50 percent stake in the franchise
- Ahead of the 2019 IPL auctions, the Delhi Daredevils released former captain **Gautam Gambhir** and a host of international stars which include Jason Roy, Glenn Maxwell and Liam Plunkett, along with Indian paceman Mohammed Shami

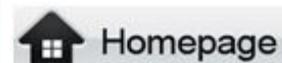
IPL auction to be held in Jaipur on December 18

- The player auction for the 2019 **Indian Premier League** (IPL) season will take place on December 18 in **Jaipur**
- As many as **70 players** including 20 overseas cricketers will be up for grabs for the eight franchises, who are left with a total purse of **₹145.25 crore**
- **Yuvraj Singh** was released by **KXIP** while Delhi Daredevils let go of Gautam Gambhir



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Ullas Narayana won India's first international medal in ultra running

- **Ullas Narayana** became the first Indian individual medal winner in an international ultra running event by winning bronze in the 2018 **International Association of Ultra Running (IAU)** 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in Taipei, Taiwan
- Ultra races consisted of running over extremely long distances which are much longer than the traditional races
- They are contested in **2 different types of race modalities**: over a set distance or a set time

India submits official interest to host 2032 Olympics

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has submitted a formal expression of interest to bid for **2032 Olympics**
- **Mumbai** and **Delhi** are the top two options under consideration by Indian Olympic Association (IOA), which has approached the International Olympic Committee
- India is holding on to its dream of hosting the Olympic games for the **first time**
- The bidding process is expected to start in 2022 and a host city will be decided by 2025



Gautam Gambhir announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir represented India in 58 Tests, 147 ODIs and 37 T20Is
- He made his debut in **2003** and last played for India in a Test against England in Rajkot in 2016. He retires with nine Test centuries and 11 ODI centuries to his name
- He played key roles in India's title victories in the **2007 World T20** and the **2011 World Cup**, top-scoring for India with 75 and 97 in the respective finals

After Breaking 82 year old Record Yasir Shah becomes fastest bowler to take 200 Test wickets

- Pakistan's leg-spinner Yasir Shah became the fastest cricketer to take 200 Test wickets breaking an 82-year-old record, beating Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett record of 36 Tests set against South Africa in Johannesburg in 1936
- Yasir achieved this by taking New Zealand's batsman Will Somerville wicket in Abu Dhabi

OBITUARY

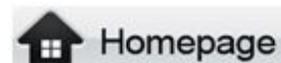
Former US President George HW Bush passed away at 94

- George HW Bush became **41st** president of the United States in **1989** after serving as vice-president under Ronald Reagan
- His son, George W. Bush was also elected president and served two terms between 2001 and 2009
- George HW Bush presided over the **end** of the **Cold War** and routed **Saddam Hussein's** Iraqi army but lost a chance for a second term after breaking a no-new-taxes pledge



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IMPORTANT DAYS

India celebrates the Indian Navy Day on 4th December

- The **Indian Navy Day** is celebrated on **December 4** every year to commemorate Operation Trident, an attack on the Karachi harbor during the **Indo-Pakistan war in 1971**
- The Indian Navy is the **fifth largest in the world**, employing 67,109 personnel
- The Indian Navy has **three commands**:
 - Eastern Command headquartered in Visakhapatnam
 - Western Command in Mumbai
 - Southern Command in Kochi
- The Navy operates in 66 bases under the Commands
- It operates three classes of submarines: Chakra (under which is the nuclear-powered INS Chakra), Sindhughosh, and Shishumar
- Marine Commandos or MARCOS, part of a special unit of the Navy, are made to undergo an excruciating training which only 10% of the trainees successfully complete



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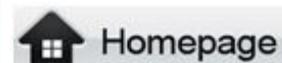
World Soil Day is observed on 5 December

- **World Soil Day** is celebrated annually on the 5th of December at the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, the regional offices and through national and local events
- **#StopSoilPollution** is the objective of this World Soil Day on 5 December and throughout the year



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QUIZ CORNER

1) Who has featured as the highest-earning sportsperson in the 2018 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list with ₹228.09-crore earnings?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. PV Sindhu
- C. MS Dhoni
- D. Sachin Tendulkar

Answer: A

2) The 'Ex Cope India-18' is a military exercise that is held between Indian Air Force (IAF) and _____.

- A. US
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. UK

Answer: A

3) India is to host the annual G20 summit in _____ as it will be celebrating its 75th anniversary of Independence.



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- A.2019
- B.2020
- C.2021
- D.2022

Answer: D

4) The Ministry of Defence on December 1 cleared the proposal for procurement of military equipment worth ₹ _____ crore.

- A.1,000
- B.2,000
- C.3,000
- D.4,000

Answer: C

5) In which State does the people celebrate the famous HornBill festival?

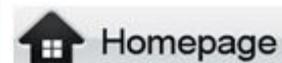
- A.Assam
- B.Tripura
- C.Nagaland
- D.Meghalaya

Answer: C



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6) Former US President George HW Bush passed away at 94. He became _____ president of the United States in 1989 after serving as vice-president under Ronald Reagan.

- A.40th
- B.41st
- C.42nd
- D.43rd

Answer: B

7) Sunil Arora, on December 2 took charge as the _____ Chief Election Commissioner of India.

- A.22nd
- B.21st
- C.23rd
- D.20th

Answer: C

8) Who becomes first Indian to be elected ISSF Vice President?

- A.Shri Raninder Singh
- B.Shri Suresh Kumar
- C.Shri Rajeev Singh



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D. Shri Naresh Karthick

Answer: A

9) Which becomes the first country to Recognise 'Orphanage Trafficking' As Slavery?

- A. Australia
- B. Pakistan
- C. Indonesia
- D. Saudi Arabia

Answer: A

10) Which state became the second in the country, after Himachal Pradesh, to launch a pan-India single emergency number '112' under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Assam
- D. Nagaland

Answer: D



11) Which of the following is the first manned mission to the International Space Station (ISS)?

- A.Soyuz mission
- B.Apollo 11 mission
- C.Shenzhou mission
- D.Tiangong-2 mission

Answer: A

12) Who is the winner of the 2018 Ballon d'Or?

- A.Luka Modrić
- B.Cristiano Ronaldo
- C.Lionel Messi
- D.Kylian Mbappe

Answer: A

13) Which of the following countries announced that it is to quit from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in January 2019?

- A.Saudi Arabia
- B.Qatar
- C.Iran



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D.Iraq

Answer: B

14) Which country has topped the Global Passport Power Rank 2018, emerging as the country with the most powerful passport in world?

- A.United Arab Emirates
- B.Singapore
- C.Germany
- D.France

Answer: A

15) From which country India is planning to buy the S-400 Triumf missile defence system?

- A.China
- B.US
- C.UK
- D.Russia

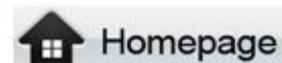
Answer: D

16) Who has been appointed as new Finance Secretary of India?



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- A.Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- B.Hasmukh Adhia
- C.Ajay Narayan Jha
- D.Subhash Chandra Garg

Answer: C

17) First India Japan Air Exercise ‘SHINYUU Maitri 2018’ has begun in

- A.Amritsar
- B.Jodhpur
- C.Kolkata
- D.Agra

Answer: D

18) The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has submitted a formal expression of interest to host _____ Olympics.

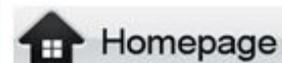
- A.2026
- B.2028
- C.2024
- D.2032

Answer: D



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19) Who won the first ever women's Ballon d'Or award?

- A.Pernille Harder
- B.Lucy Bronze
- C.Ada Hegerberg
- D.Fran Kirby

Answer: C

20) Who gets PETA 'Hero to Animals' Award?

- A.Suresh Varma
- B.Naresh Kumar
- C.Varun Krishnan
- D.Imran Hussain

Answer: D

21) Indian-origin woman, who has been recently named as South Africa's 1st female chief prosecutor is _____.

- A.Rashmi Sinha
- B.Anuja Ravindra Dhir
- C.Kamala Harris
- D.Shamila Batohi

Answer: D



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22) Recently, India and UAE signed a ₹_____ -crore currency swap agreement.

A.4,500

B.3,500

C.2,500

D.1,500

Answer: B

23) Who has been named the highest-earning celebrity in India for the third time in a row by Forbes, with earnings of ₹253.25 crore?

A.Salman Khan

B.Akshay Kumar

C.Amitabh Bachchan

D.Shah Rukh Khan

Answer: A

24) Who became first woman to rank among the Forbes' top five richest celebrities in India?

A.Anushka Sharma

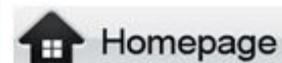
B.Priyanka Chopra

C.Alia Bhatt



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D.Deepika Padukone

Answer: D

25) For which novel did S.Ramakrishnan win the Sahitya Akademi Award 2018?

- A.Nimitham
- B.Sancharam
- C.Thuyil
- D.Upa Pandavam

Answer: B

26) Which of the following bank received SEBI's approval to launch two mutual fund schemes-Yes Liquid Fund and Yes Ultra Short Term Fund?

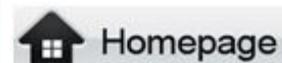
- A.Yes Bank
- B.IDBI Bank
- C.Dena Bank
- D.State Bank of India

Answer: A



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27) Which data did the NASA Scientists use to find the 100 new exoplanets?

- A.NASA's Kepler Space telescope
- B.NASA's Gamma-Ray telescope
- C.NASA's Hubble Space telescope
- D.NASA's James Webb Space telescope

Answer: A

28) Who is the Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

- A.Justice T.S.Thakur
- B.Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel
- C.Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar
- D.Justice Ranjan Gogoi

Answer: B

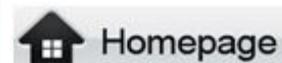
29) Which bowler becomes fastest bowler to take 200 Test wickets After Breaking 82 year old Record?

- A.Yasir Shah
- B.Javagal Srinath
- C.Varon Aaron
- D.Zaheer Khan.



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Answer: A

30) Who Names Heather Nauert As US Ambassador To United Nation?

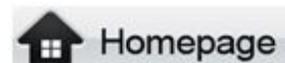
- A. Donald Trump
- B. Barack Obama
- C. Vladimir Putin
- D. Ashraf Ghani

Answer: A



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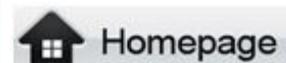
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