

# *FreshersLive's Current Affairs*

*Weekly Edition (10th Dec'18 - 16th Dec'18)*

Indian Air Force conducted  
Exercise 'Cross Bow 18'



Shaktikanta Das appointed  
as RBI Governor



Vanessa Ponce de Leon  
crowned as Miss World

## 2nd Week Current Affairs December 2018



Djokovic and Halep  
wins 2018 ITF world  
champions

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## **5 STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION**

### **RESULT 2018**

- The Election Commission of India announced single phase assembly elections in **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana** and **Mizoram** and two-phase polls for **Chhattisgarh**
- Vote Counting for 5 states was held on December 11
- **Telangana Assembly election - TRS won the 119-member assembly for second straight term**
  - **Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)** has won **60 seats** in Telangana, while Congress is in second position with 13 seats
  - TRS chief **K Chandrashekar Rao** won from his constituency **Gajwel** by 58,290 votes
  - Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (**AIMIM**) won **seven** of the eight seats it contested in the Telangana assembly polls
- **Rajasthan Assembly Election 2018 - Congress won with 99 seats**
  - BJP has secured **73 seats** in the 200-member state assembly as compared to 163 in 2013 state Assembly elections

- The Bahujan Samaj Party won 6 seats, CPI(M) 2, Independents 13 and other parties got 6
- Rajasthan Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** submitted her resignation to Governor Kalyan Singh on December 11
- **Chhattisgarh Assembly elections - Congress beats BJP after 15 years**
  - **Congress** has secured the required majority in the **90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly** and will form the government in the state for the first time in 15 years
  - It has secured **47 seats** so far, while the BJP, which has been in power in the state since 2003, has won 10 seats
  - BJP chief minister **Raman Singh**, who governed Chhattisgarh for 15 years, resigned
- **Madhya Pradesh Assembly Election 2018 - Congress emerged as the single largest party by securing 114 seats**
  - As per the final results of Madhya Pradesh Assembly election 2018 (**230-seat** Assembly) declared by the Election Commission after 24 hours of counting, the **Congress** won **114 seats** while the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (**BJP**) won **109 seats**
  - The Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has won two seats and the Samajwadi Party (SP) has won one seat



- **Mizoram Election Results 2018 - Mizo National Front (MNF) returned to power**

- In the state's 40-member assembly, Zoramthanga-led **MNF** bagged **26**, securing absolute majority on its own. **Congress**, which had been in power since 2008, came third with just **5 seats**

- **Newly Elected Chief Ministers of 5 states after 2018 Assembly Election:**

<b>State</b>	<b>Government before</b>	<b>Government after</b>	<b>Elected Chief Minister</b>
Chhattisgarh	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Indian National Congress (INC)	Bhupesh Baghel (INC)
Madhya Pradesh	Bharatiya Janata Party	Indian National Congress	Kamal Nath (INC)
Mizoram	Indian National Congress	Mizo National Front	Zoramthanga (MNF)
Rajasthan	Bharatiya Janata Party	Indian National Congress	Ashok Gehlot (INC)
Telangana	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	K. Chandrashekar Rao (TRS)

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **Vanessa Ponce de Leon crowned as Miss World**

- **Miss Mexico Vanessa Ponce de Leon**, 26, a Mexican model and volunteer, has been crowned **Miss World** at a glitzy event on the tropical Chinese island of Hainan. She holds a degree in international business, volunteers for “**Migrantes en el Camino**” and is on the board of directors of a rehab centre for girls
- She was crowned as the **68th Miss World** by last year’s winner, Manushi Chhillar of India, in the coastal city of Sanya
- First runner-up was Thailand’s **Nicolene Pichapa Limsnukan**, a 20-year-old studying business administration. Miss Belarus Maria Vasilevich, Miss Jamaica Kadijah Robinson and Miss Uganda Quin Abenakyo were among the final five
- It is the eighth time the Miss World final has been held in Sanya, which first hosted the pageant in 2003

### **World's 100 Most Powerful Women List 2018 by Forbes**

- Four Indian women namely
  - HCL Tech Vice Chairperson **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** (ranked 51st)
  - Biocon Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** (ranked 60)

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- HT Media MD **Shobhana Bhartia** (ranked 88th)
- Actress **Priyanka Chopra** (placed at 94)

have been named in Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list 2018

- The list, which featured four Indians, has been **topped** by German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** for the **eighth** consecutive year
- Others in the list include Serena Williams and Melinda Gates

### **As many as 164 countries adopted first-ever global migration agreement in Morocco**

- The UN's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration aims to enhance international cooperation on **migration issues**
- The **US, Australia, Austria, Chile, Hungary and Poland** are among the nations that have pulled out from the non-binding pact
- It comprises **23 objectives** for better management of migration at local, national, regional and global levels

### **Japan chose Disaster as symbol for 2018**

- Japan selected the Chinese character for '**disaster**' as its '**defining symbol**' for 2018. The country selected it as it was hit by deadly floods, earthquakes, and storms. The event was organized by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation

- Japanese TV stations broadcast the annual announcement live, with Seihan Mori, master of the ancient Kiyomizu temple in Kyoto, writing the character on a huge white panel with an ink-soaked calligraphy brush

### **First International Conference on Sustainable Water Management Held in Mohali**

- The first International Conference on ‘Sustainable Water Management’ was held at **Indian School of Business (ISB)** in Mohali, Punjab
- The theme of the international conference is ‘**Sustainable Water Management**’

### **Climate Change Performance Index: Sweden tops in the Ranking, India at 11th position**

- U.S. dropped from **56th to 59th** place due to high emissions and poor ratings for the federal government’s policies
- The bottom 5 consisted of: Saudi Arabia (60), US (59), Iran (58), Korea (57), Chinese Taipei (56)

### **Theresa May to step down as British Prime Minister before 2022**

- May's statement came after she won a vote of no confidence triggered by MPs of her own party over her Brexit plan



- She secured victory by 200 votes to 117 after telling lawmakers at a private meeting that she would hand over power to another Conservative leader before the next election

### **Germany adds Third Gender, 'Diverse', on Birth Certificates**

- This comes after Chancellor Angela Merkel's left-right coalition had passed legislation permitting children born intersex to be registered as “miscellaneous”.
- Those born with sex traits for which the usual binary notion of male and female is inadequate can be identified by this third choice.
- Austria, Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada and Portugal have all introduced legislation for a third gender option.

### **Philippines' Catriona Gray crowned Miss Universe 2018**

- Catriona Elisa Gray became the **fourth** woman from the country to win the title
- **Tamaryn Green** from South Africa was named the first **runner-up** while Miss Venezuela **Sthefany Gutiérrez** stood **third** at the pageant which was held in Bangkok, Thailand
- India was represented by 22-year-old **Nehal Chudasama**, who couldn't qualify for top 20

## **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **Kerala gets its 4th international airport in Kannur**

- Kerala's fourth international airport at Kannur (north Kerala) was inaugurated jointly by Union **Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu** and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by flagging off the maiden Air India Express flight to **Abu Dhabi**
- International flights to the **UAE, Oman and Qatar** will be operated from Kannur airport. For regional connectivity, flights to Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai will be available
- Kerala already has three international airports, at Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode
- **Kochi**, also built under PPP model, is one of the fastest growing airports of the country

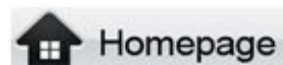
### **India's first underwater museum to open off Puducherry coast in INS Cuddalore**

- **Indian Navy** agreed to gift **INS Cuddalore**, a decommissioned Pondicherry-class vessel, to the Union territory of Puducherry for the creation of country's **first underwater museum**
- The 60 m long and 12 m wide vessel was decommissioned in March 2018 after sailing 13000 nautical miles



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- It would be sent to the seabed at a depth of 26 m and 7 km off the Pondicherry coast to act as an underwater marine museum for scuba diving and snorkeling activities
- This would enhance tourism in the UT

### **Shi Yomi becomes 23rd district of Arunachal Pradesh**

- The number of districts in **Arunachal Pradesh** increased to 23 with the formal inauguration of **Shi Yomi district** by Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** in presence of Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju
- Two more districts would be formally inaugurated in the state within this week taking the total to **25**
- The state Assembly on August 29 this year passed a bill for the creation of three new districts, **Pakke-Kesang, Lepa Rada and Shi Yomi**, in the state

### **Commonwealth Games gold medallist Krishna Poonia becomes an MLA in Rajasthan**

- Discus thrower **Krishna Poonia**, the 2010 CWG gold medallist and **Congress** candidate, won the **Sadulpur** assembly seat in Rajasthan, defeating sitting BSP MLA Manoj Nyangali
- It was Poonia's **second attempt** to get entry in the state legislature, having suffered defeat in the previous elections

## **Allahabad University to be renamed as Prayagraj State University**

- In October 2018, the Uttar Pradesh government had officially renamed **Allahabad** as **Prayagraj**
- A formal proposal has now been sent to the state's Governor seeking his approval to rename Allahabad University as Prayagraj State University

## **India's first private UAV factory inaugurated in Hyderabad**

- India's first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) was inaugurated by Telangana Home Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali at Adani Aerospace Park in Hyderabad, Telangana
- The 50,000 square feet facility has been built by the Adani Group and Israel-based Elbit Systems

## **BANKING & FINANCE**

### **India to retain top position in remittances with USD 80 billion: World Bank**

- The World Bank has said **India** will retain its position as the world's **top recipient of remittances** this year with **\$80 billion**
- India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt, according to World Bank's Migration and Development Brief
- A foreign remittance is money transferred from a foreign worker to their family or other individuals in their home countries

### **PNB to sell 24 bad loan accounts to recover Rs 1,779 crore dues**

- The accounts, whose e-bidding process will take place on December 21, are majorly concentrated in Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata zones of the lender
- Punjab National Bank's (PNB) gross bad loans stood at **Rs 81,250 crore** in the July-September quarter
- The bank posted a staggering loss of **Rs 4,532.35 crore** for the second quarter of the current fiscal on rising bad loans



## **RBI fined Indian Bank Rs 1 crore for cyber security violation**

- The RBI has imposed, by an order dated November 30, 2018, a monetary penalty of **Rs 10 million** on **Indian Bank** for contravention of circular on Cyber Security Framework in banks
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** taking into account the failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid guidelines and directions issued by RBI

## **India and ADB Signed \$31 Million Loan Agreement For Tamil Nadu**

- The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed in New Delhi a Loan Agreement for \$31 million to build-up the State Tourism Industry and boost visitor arrivals in Tamil Nadu
- The signatories to the tranche 4 loan for Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism (IDIPT) were Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary (Fund Bank and ADB), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, who signed for the Government of India, and Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director for ADB in India, who signed for ADB

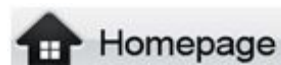
## **Reserve Bank of India grants 40 branch licenses to Bandhan Bank**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bandhan Bank to open as many as 40 new branches, by the end of December releasing the restriction



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that RBI has put on the Bandhan bank's branch opening spree three months back

- The RBI barred the bank from opening new branches in September after the private-sector lender failed to bring down main shareholders stake to below 40 % as mandated in the licensing norms for universal banks
- Bandhan Financial Services (BFSL) the promoter of Bandhan Bank, currently holds 82.28 % stake in the bank

## **DEFENCE**

### **In a first, Indian Air Force conducted Exercise 'CrossBow 18'**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted combined guided weapons firing of **Surface-to-Air Missiles** from the Air Force Station located at **Suryalanka, Andhra Pradesh**
- The first-of-its-kind exercise for the Air Force was code-named '**CROSSBOW-18**'
- CROSSBOW-18 saw the successful firing of four different classes of missiles like **Akash, Spyder, OSA-AK-M and IGLA**

### **India, Russia plans to boost the joint production in defence**

- India and Russia have agreed to simplify export clearances to take forward joint manufacturing in the defence
- This decision was made during the 18th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Russian counterpart General Sergei Shoigu on 13th December 2018
- India is planning for joint production under Make in India

- This includes allowing Indian companies, both Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU) and private sector, to manufacture spares for Russian systems in India
- So far, four military-industry conferences have been held between Russian manufactures and Indian companies to take the process forward, in this regard

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **India successfully test-fired nuclear-capable Agni-5 missile from Odisha coast**

- Indigenously-developed **surface-to-surface** missile **Agni-5** has a strike range of **5,000 km**. Agni-5 is a three-stage missile and is 17 metre tall and 2 metre wide. It is capable of carrying **1.5 tonne** of nuclear warheads
- The Agni-5 is the latest and most advanced variant in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine
- India has in its armoury the Agni missile series: Agni-1 with a range of 700 km, Agni-2 with a range of 2,000 km, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to more than 3,500 km range

### **Google developed a new AI model to help detect diabetic retinopathy**

- Google developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) model that can detect diabetic retinopathy with a level of accuracy on par with human retinal specialists
- Verily, an Alphabet-owned company is working on rolling out the diabetic retinopathy initiative in clinics in India



- Using the new assistive technology, doctors and staff can screen more patients in less time, sparing people from blindness through a more timely diagnosis
- While the blindness can be prevented, diabetic retinopathy often goes undetected because people do not always get screenings

### **ISRO to launch GSAT-7A Communication Satellite on December 19**

- India will launch its latest communication satellite, GSAT-7A from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV-F11 on December 19
- The 2,250 kg GSAT-7A is the 35th Indian Communication satellite built by ISRO
- GSAT-7A can be used by the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army

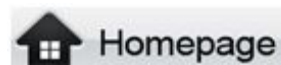
### **NASA's Juno mission to cross halfway to Jupiter next week**

- NASA's Juno mission is to mark the halfway point in next week in data collection by completing the 16th science pass of Jupiter by December 21, at 11:49:48 a.m. EST the spacecraft will be 5,053 kilometres above Jupiter's cloud tops and hurtling by at a healthy clip of 207,287 kilometres per hour
- NASA's Juno spacecraft was launched on August 5, 2011, from Cape Canaveral



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- Juno is a NASA space probe orbiting Jupiter since July 4, 2016. Currently, Juno is in a highly-elliptical 53-day orbit around Jupiter
- Each orbit includes a close passage over the planet's cloud deck where it flies a ground track that extends from Jupiter's north pole to its south pole
- It will provide coverage of the planet every 11.25 degrees of longitude, providing a more detailed picture of what makes the whole of Jupiter tick
- The depth of Jupiter's zonal winds, the generation of its magnetic field, and the structure and evolution of its interior are areas that will be probed

## **AWARDS**

### **Salman, Anurag Kashyap win at Asian Academy Creative Awards**

- **Salman Khan** won the Best Entertainment **Host** for '**Bigg Boss**', and **Anurag Kashyap** won the **Best Direction** [Fiction] for season one of 'Sacred Games' at the inaugural Asian Academy Creative Awards in Singapore
- Other winners from India included Discovery Communications India, which got Best Comedy Programme for 'Queens Of Comedy' and Cartoon Network India's 'Lamput' won Best 2D Animated Programme

### **India's Prathamesh Maulingkar wins Mister Supranational 2018**

- A professional footballer, **Prathamesh** clinched the main title for India the very first time and was slashed by Gabriel Correa Mister Supranational 2017 and he received the trophy from Miss Supranational 2018 Valeria Vazquez
- At the same pageant Mister Supranational Poland **Jakub Kucner** was adjudged **first runner up**
- The second runner up title was won by Mister Supranational Brazil Samuel Costa

## **Imran Siddiqui honoured with Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award 2018**

- Hyderabad-based conservationist **Imran Siddiqui** has been honoured with this year's Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award, which is India's most prestigious award
- Siddiqui, who is an Assistant Director for Conservation Science at WCS-India monitors **tiger** in **10,000 sq km**, including Nagarjunasagar Srisailam, Amrabad and Kawal Tiger Reserves, and corridors connecting to Tadoba and Tirupati Forests

## **Shyam Sundar Besra conferred with Sahitya Akademi Award 2018**

- **Shyam Sundar Besra**, Chief Inspector of Ticket, working in Asansol Division of Eastern Railway of Indian Railways has been conferred with the Sahitya Akademi Award 2018 for his novel '**Marom**'
- Written in Santali language, "Marom" is primarily based upon natural, social, economic and political conditions of **Santhal Pargana**, one of the divisions of **Jharkhand** headquartered at Dumka
- Sahitya Akademi announced its annual Awards in 24 languages on December 5, 2018. Seven books of poetry, six novels, six short stories, three literary criticism and two essays have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018

● **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018 Winners List:**

● **Poetry Section:**

- Samanta Tanti (Assamese)
- Paresh Narendra Kamat (Konkani)
- S Ramesan Nair (Malayalam)
- Dr Mohanjit (Punjabi)
- Dr Rakesh Kumar Vyas (Rajasthani)
- Dr Rama Kant Shukla (Sanskrit)
- Khiman U Mulani (Sindhi)

● **Novels Section:**

- Inderjeet Kesar (Dogri)
- Anees Salim (English)
- Chitra Mudgal (Hindi)
- Shyam Besra (Santali)
- S Ramakrishnan (Tamil)
- Rahman Abbas (Urdu)

● **Short stories Section:**

- Sanjib Chattopadhyay (Bengali)
- Rituraj Basumatary (Bodo)
- Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq (Kashmiri)
- Prof. Bina Thakur (Maithili)
- Bidhichandra Heisnamba (Manipuri)
- Lok Nath Upadhyay Chapagain (Nepali)



- **Literary Criticism Section:**
  - K. G. Nagarajappa (Kannada)
  - Ma. Su. Patil (Marathi)
  - Dasarathi Das (Odia)
- **Essays Section:**
  - Sharifa Vijliwala (Gujarati)
  - Dr. Kolakaluri Enoch (Telugu)

### **Anushka, Kartik named India's Hottest Vegetarians by PETA**

- Actors **Anushka Sharma** and **Kartik Aaryan** have been named India's Hottest Vegetarians, according to votes on the official website of **People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** India
- Anushka Sharma is the only woman to bag this title twice. She previously won in **2015**
- **Rajkummar Rao, Alia Bhatt** were named India's Hottest Vegetarians by PETA last year

### **Slain Journalist Khashoggi named Time Magazine's Person of the Year**

- Saudi journalist **Jamal Khashoggi**, who was murdered in October 2018 at his country's Istanbul consulate, has been named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" alongside several other journalists

- The magazine also honored Philippine journalist Maria Ressa, Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, currently imprisoned in Myanmar and the staff of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, including five members killed in a June shooting

## **Manika Batra was awarded ITTF Breakthrough Star Award 2018**

- **Manika Batra**, India's star paddler, was awarded the International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) **Breakthrough Star Award 2018** during a ceremony at the Grand Hyatt Hotel
- In the Commonwealth Games 2018 at Gold Coast, Manika won four medals including a historic women's singles gold, team gold, women's doubles silver (with Mouma Das) and mixed doubles bronze (with G.Sathiyam)
- She had also bagged the bronze in mixed doubles (with A. Sharath Kamal) at the 2018 Asian Games

## **Eight parliamentarians were honoured by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu**

- NCP chief and Rajya Sabha MP **Sharad Pawar** and veteran BJP leader **Murli Manohar Joshi** were presented the **Lifetime Achievement** award
- Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha **Ghulam Nabi Azad** and BJP MP **Nishikant Dubey** were selected for the **Best Parliamentarians** award

- Four women MPs from both Houses were also be awarded for their contribution
- While actor-turned-politician **Hema Malini** was awarded for her outstanding work inside and outside Parliament as a first-time MP, Lok Sabha MP **Rama Devi** was selected as the **Best Woman Parliamentarian**
- DMK leader **Kanimozhi** was presented the award for the Best Woman Parliamentarian in the Rajya Sabha
- The Best **Debut** Woman Parliamentarian award was be presented to **Chhaya Verma**. The Lokmat Parliamentary Awards is the brainchild of Lokmat Media group chairman Vijay Darda

### **Iranian Film Dark Room bags 'Suvarna Chakoram' award at Kerala film festival**

- Iranian director Ruhollah Hejazi's "**The Dark Room**" was selected as best film at the **23rd International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK)** in Thiruvananthapuram, India
- The award for best director went to Lijo Jose Pellissery for his film "Ee.Ma.Yau" from India. Iranian director Asghar Farhadi's latest movie "Everybody Knows" was the opening film of the festival

## **Ashok Amritraj was honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit**

- Producer Ashok Amritraj was honoured with the French Knight of the National Order of Merit
- French Minister of Europe and Foreign Minister, Mr. Jean Yves Le Drian presided over the occasion
- Mr. Amritraj has been the producer of Hollywood films such as Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance with Nicholas Cage and 99 Homes starring Andrew Garfield
- The former CEO of National Geographic Films and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador was lauded for his contribution to the world of cinema and Indo-French film industry

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Shaktikanta Das appointed as the new RBI Governor**

- Former economic affairs secretary **Shaktikanta Das** was named the **25th** governor of the Reserve Bank of India to succeed **Urjit Patel**, who quit abruptly on December 10 amid a bitter dispute over the regulator's autonomy
- The appointment will be for **three** years
- He is a **1980** batch **IAS officer** of the Tamil Nadu cadre and is currently a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. Das also represents India at the G-20 in the role of a sherpa

### **Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer elected leader of Germany's ruling party, to succeed Angela Merkel**

- Germany's ruling **Christian Democratic Union (CDU)** party elected **Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer** to succeed Chancellor Angela Merkel as its new leader
- She likely will lead the CDU into the **2021** federal elections and could become the country's next Chancellor
- She narrowly won the party contest over corporate lawyer **Friedrich Merz** with 51.75% of the vote

- Merkel announced in October that she would step down as CDU leader but will serve as the Chancellor for the remaining three years of her term

## **Arundhati Bhattacharya appointed as the new chairman of SWIFT India Board**

- **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, the ex-SBI chief, is appointed as the new chairman of SWIFT India Board
- Ms.Bhattacharya will succeed former banker M.V. Nair, who is stepping down after completing five years with the company
- **SWIFT India** is a joint venture of top Indian public and private sector banks and SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication)
- The company was created to deliver high quality domestic financial messaging services to the Indian financial community
- Ms.Bhattacharya said the venture has a huge potential to contribute significantly to the financial community in many domains
- SWIFT India **CEO Kiran Shetty** hoped to work closely with the former SBI head

## **Uday Shankar to head Disney-Star merged entity in India**

- Uday Shankar, currently chairman and CEO of Star India and president of 21st Century Fox, Asia, will lead the India and Asia Pacific business of The Walt Disney Company once it completes the acquisition of 21st Century Fox' assets
- Disney agreed to buy Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox for about \$52.4 billion in stock last December



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## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **Sixteenth International Anti-Corruption Day celebrated on December 9, 2018**

- The day has been celebrated since the passage of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 31 October 2003 to raise public awareness for anti-corruption
- UN along with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized a global campaign called “Corruption: An impediment to Sustainable Development Goals” for spreading the awareness on corruption

### **December 10 celebrated annually as International Day of Human Rights as UDHR turned 70 in 2018**

- The theme of the 2018 Human Rights Day is: **#StandUp4HumanRights**
- 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted in 1948 by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights document is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages

## **International Mountain Day observed on December 11**

- The **Theme** for the 2018 edition of the International Mountain Day is: **“#MountainsMatter”**
- It is celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to spread awareness about the contribution of mountains in the biodiversity as it consists of approximately a quarter of the terrestrial biological diversity
- To commemorate the day, there will be an IMD side event on “Mountain adaptation: Vulnerable peaks and people” at **UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice, Poland**

## **National Energy Conservation Day celebrated on December 14**

- The main aim of National Energy Conservation Day is to create awareness among the people about the significance of our energy resources and also to minimize the energy consumption
- In India, Energy Conservation Act was implemented by Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) in 2001
- Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) is a constitutional body which works under Government of India and helps in the development of policies and strategies to reduce use of energy

## **SPORTS**

### **Belgium beat Netherlands to win men's Hockey World Cup for 1st time**

- **Belgium** defeated **Netherlands** in the final at the Kalinga Stadium in **Bhubaneswar** to clinch the men's Hockey World Cup for the first time
- This is the second consecutive time that Netherlands finished second in the tournament
- **Australia** crushed **England** 8-1 to win **Bronze** medal in Odisha World Cup 2018

### **PV Sindhu 1st Indian to win gold at BWF World Tour Finals**

- **PV Sindhu** defeated world number five **Nozomi Okuhara** of **Japan** to record her **300th** career match victory across categories and clinch the BWF World Tour Finals women's singles title
- Sindhu, who is ranked **sixth** worldwide, won the final with scoreline of 21-19, 21-17
- It was the 23-year-old shuttler's **first title** victory in 2018, after having lost five finals this year

## **Djokovic and Halep wins 2018 ITF world champions**

- **Novak Djokovic** and **Simona Halep** have been named as the **2018 International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions** by the governing body of global tennis
- World number one Djokovic receives the honour from the ITF for the sixth time, while it is the first year that Romania's top-ranked Halep has been recognized
- Djokovic had a maximum speed of 36.02kph, better than anyone else but was second to Andy Murray in terms of average speed, the Brit scoring 15.89 kph as compared to Djokovic's 14.89 kph
- Halep, the former French Open finalist, had a maximum speed with 23.04 kph while World No. 1 Angelique Kerber's average speed at 14.27 was the highest.

## **SAIL Hockey Academy Wins Aga Khan Gold Cup Tournament**

- Steel Authority of India's Hockey Academy beat Army XI Danapur to clinch the 115th All India Aga Khan Gold Cup hockey tournament held at Major Dhyhan Chand hockey stadium in New Delhi
- Jay Prakash Patel scored the match-winning goal for the SAIL Hockey Academy (SHA) in the final match

## **International Cricket Council ropes in Royal Stag as official sponsor for next five years**

- International Cricket Council (ICC) signed a contract with Pernod Ricard India Pvt Ltd, the makers of whiskey brand Royal Stag for a five-year global partnership as an official sponsor
- The size of Royal Stag's sponsorship deal is estimated to be \$5-6 million per year
- The partnership which will last until 2023 would allow Royal Stag a comprehensive presence across broadcast, digital and on-ground activations of all ICC global tournaments, including the 2019 World Cup, T20 World Cup, World Test Championship and U19 World Cup and Women's World Cup

## **QUIZ CORNER**

1) Who has been elected as the leader of Germany's ruling party-Christian Democratic Union (CDU), to replace Angela Merkel?

- A. Volker Kauder
- B. Jens Spahn
- C. Friedrich Merz
- D. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer

**Answer: D**

2) According to World Bank, which country will retain its position as the world's top recipient of remittances this year with \$80 billion?

- A. Philippines
- B. India
- C. Mexico
- D. China

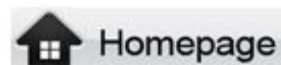
**Answer: B**

3) Who topped this year's Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list?



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- A. Angela Merkel
- B. Theresa May
- C. Mary Barra
- D. Melinda Gates

**Answer: A**

4) Which Indian women has been named in Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women list 2018?

- A. Suneeta Reddy
- B. Chanda Kochhar
- C. Priyanka Chopra
- D. Arundhati Bhattacharya

**Answer: C**

5) Who is crowned as Miss World 2019?

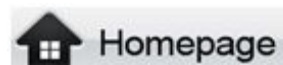
- A. Manushi Chhillar
- B. Belarus Maria Vasilevich
- C. Vanessa Ponce de Leon
- D. Quiin Abenakyo

**Answer: C**



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6) Which of the following is the bilateral Air Force exercise held between the U.S. and India?

- A. Cope India 2018
- B. Samudra Shakti 2018
- C. Vinbax 1 2018
- D. Lamitye VIII 2018

**Answer: A**

7) Arunachal Pradesh got its 23rd district with the formal inauguration of \_\_\_\_\_ district.

- A. Shi Yomi
- B. Pakke-Kesang
- C. Lepa Rada
- D. Anjaw

**Answer: A**

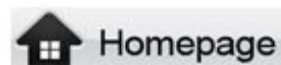
8) In a first-of-its-kind exercise code-named CROSS BOW-18, the Indian Air Force successfully conducted combined guided weapons firing of Surface-to-Air Missiles at \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Odisha



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- B.Rajasthan
- C.Andhra Pradesh
- D.West Bengal

**Answer: C**

9) Which day is celebrated annually as International Day of Human Rights as UDHR turned 70 in 2018?

- A.10th December
- B.6th November
- C.7th March
- D.9th April

**Answer: A**

10) Who has been honoured with this year's Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award?

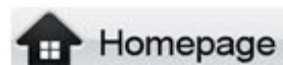
- A.Jayachandran S
- B.Imran Siddiqui
- C.Valmik Thapar
- D.Jyoti Sharma

**Answer: B**



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11) Who is appointed as the new Chairman of SWIFT India?

- A. Arundhati Bhattacharya
- B. Kiran Shetty
- C. Ajay Gupta
- D. Atanu Kumar Das

**Answer: A**

12) Who is awarded for the best woman Parliamentarian Award?

- A. Smt. Kanimozhi
- B. Smt. Basava Rajeswari
- C. Smt. Maneka Sanjay
- D. Smt. Mayawati Kumari

**Answer: A**

13) Indigenously-developed surface-to-surface missile Agni-5 has a strike range of \_\_\_\_\_ km.

- A. 2,500
- B. 3,000
- C. 5,000
- D. 7,000

**Answer: C**

14) First International Conference on 'Sustainable Water Management' Held in -----?

- A.Mohali
- B.Hyderabad
- C.New Delhi
- D.Chennai

**Answer: A**

15) Commonwealth Games gold medallist Krishna Poonia becomes an MLA in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A.Madhya Pradesh
- B.Chhattisgarh
- C.Telangana
- D.Rajasthan

**Answer: D**

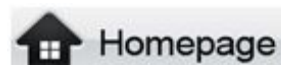
16) How many countries adopted first-ever global migration agreement in Morocco?

- A.136



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- B.148
- C.164
- D.152

**Answer: C**

17) Congress won Rajasthan Assembly Election 2018 with \_\_\_\_\_ seats.

- A.107
- B.84
- C.99
- D.78

**Answer: C**

18) Who was awarded the International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Breakthrough Star Award 2018?

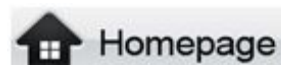
- A.Harmeet Desai
- B.Chee Feng
- C.Madhurika
- D.Manika Batra

**Answer: D**



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19) With which country EU parliament approved 'world's largest' free trade deal?

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. Australia
- D. Germany

**Answer: A**

20) The 2,250 kg GSAT-7A is the \_\_\_\_\_th Indian Communication satellite built by ISRO.

- A. 38
- B. 36
- C. 35
- D. 34

**Answer: C**

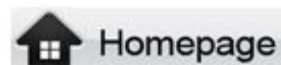
21) India will launch its latest communication satellite, GSAT-7A from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota onboard the \_\_\_\_\_ on December 19.

- A. GSLV-D6
- B. GSLV Mk III



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C.PSLV-C42  
D.GSLV-F11

**Answer: D**

22) In which State does Thane located?

A.Uttar Pradesh  
B.Maharashtra  
C.Haryana  
D.Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: B**

23) Which of the NASA's spacecraft is sent for Jupiter mission?

A.Juno  
B.InSight  
C.Curiosity  
D.Dawn

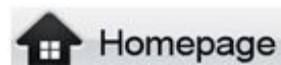
**Answer: A**

24) With which Country did the Indian Tea Association (ITA) sign MoU to promote green and black tea consumption in major tea markets?



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- A.China Tea Marketing Association (CTMA)
- B.Nepal Tea Marketing Association (NTMA)
- C.Kenya Tea Marketing Association (KTMA)
- D.Turkey Tea Marketing Association (TTMA)

**Answer: A**

25) The migratory birds at the Chilika Lake are facing threats due to \_\_\_\_\_ virus.

- A.H1N1
- B.H1N1A
- C.H5N1
- D.H5N1A

**Answer: C**

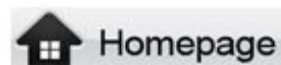
26) National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_th December in India.

- A.14
- B.12
- C.13
- D.15



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**Answer: A**

27) Who is the governor of Jammu and Kashmir?

- A.Keshari Nath Tripathi
- B.Satya Pal Malik
- C.S.C.Jamir
- D.Narinder Nath Vohra

**Answer: B**

28) How many Indian companies have been featured on the world's top 100 arms producers in 2017?

- A.Five
- B.Three
- C.Four
- D.Seven

**Answer: C**

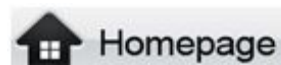
29) Which of the online giant created the Artificial Intelligence (AI) model that can detect diabetic retinopathy?

- A.Oracle
- B.Apple



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C.Google

D.Cisco

**Answer: B**

30) Who was awarded the French Knight of the National Order of Merit?

A.Ashok Amritraj

B.Jacques Weber

C.Kamal Hassan

D.Bruce Jackson

**Answer: A**

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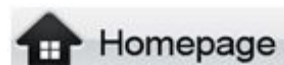
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