

# WEEKLY GK UPDATES

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*“Don’t let what you can’t do interfere with what you can do.” – John Wooden*

## Economy & Banking

### 1. Muthoot Microfin eyes Rs.1000 cr from IPO

- It has recently received markets regulator SEBI's approval for initial public offering. It plans to raise about Rs.1,000 crore from share sale.
- The firm plans to hit the market in the first half of the 2019. By that time, market conditions will be conducive to raise about Rs.1,000 crore from the IPO.

- *Muthoot Microfin Limited (MML) is a part of the Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG).*
- *MPG is one of the leading business conglomerates, with presence in multiple verticals.*
- *Muthoot Microfin Limited is a leading microfinance institution focused on providing micro loans to women customers predominantly in rural regions of India.*

### 2. Direct Tax base widened sharply over 4 years as per CBDT data

- The data released by CBDT showed a growth of more than 80% in the number of returns filed in the last four financial years from 3.79 crore in financial year (FY) 2013-14 to 6.85 crore (these figures include revised returns) in FY 2017-18.
- Also the number of persons filing income tax returns also increased by about 65% during this period from 3.31 crore in FY 2013-14 to 5.44 crore in FY 2017-18.
- The number of individual taxpayers disclosing income above Rs.1 crore increased during the period under reference from 48,416 to 81,344 , growing by 68%.

- *CBDT The Central Board of Direct Taxes is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.*
- *The officials of the Board in their ex-officio capacity also function as a Division of the Ministry of Finance dealing with matters relating to levy and collection of direct taxes.*
- *It consists of a Chairman and six Members. Present Chairman is Sushil Chandra.*

### 3. ILC recommended adopting UN model on cross-border insolvency

- The Insolvency Law Committee( Chairman Mr. Injeti Srinivas) has recommended that India adopt the United Nations' model to handle cross-border insolvency cases.
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency, 1997 provides for a comprehensive framework to deal with cross-border insolvency issues.
- Also it has been adopted in 44 countries and hence forms part of international best practices in dealing with cross border insolvency issues. The model law gives precedence to domestic proceedings and protection of public interest.

- *The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was enacted to provide a time-bound process to resolve insolvency among companies and individuals.*
- *Insolvency is a situation where an individual or company is unable to repay their outstanding debt.*
- *ILC (14 members) was set up to look into the requirements and suggestions for amending the IBC to further enhance its outcomes.*

### 4. H1-B labour certification: TCS in top 10

- Indian Software multinational Tata Consultancy Services is the only Indian company among the top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for 2018-19 according to official data.
- Ernst & Young was ranked No 1.
- The visa programme allows employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in the U.S. on a non-immigrant basis in specialty occupations. The H-1B visas are the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals.

- *The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows companies to employ foreigners for a period of up to six years.*
- *This visa is aimed at helping companies employ foreigners in positions for which they have been unable to find American employees.*

### 5. Domestic aviation traffic up by 18.9% in September

- Domestic aviation traffic witnessed a growth of 18.95% in September with Indian carriers ferrying 11.39 million passengers as compared with 9.58 million during September 2017.
- IndiGo has the highest market share this calendar year at 43.2%. GoAir was a surprise as the most punctual airline last month, followed by SpiceJet.

- Airlines collectively paid ₹ 26.7 million for passengers affected due to cancellations, delays and denied boarding.

#### **6. Seed stage funding of start-ups falls by 20.9%**

- Seed stage funding of start-ups in India fell 20.9% year-on-year to \$151 million until September this year, even as investments in these new firms increased 100%.
- This continuous decline in seed stage funding as per Debjani Ghosh, president of Nasscom. Investors are moving towards growth stage start-ups.

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies is a trade association of Indian Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing industry.*
- Established in 1988, NASSCOM is a non-profit organisation. Rishad Premji is current chairman of the body.*

#### **7. Essar steel goes to Arcelor Mittal**

- The Committee of Creditors selected ArcelorMittal as the 'successful applicant' with a lower bid of Rs.50,000 crore.
- The resolution plan of the winning consortium (of which Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. are a part) includes upfront payment of about Rs.42,000 crore and a further injection of Rs.8,000 crore into Essar Steel towards operational improvement and higher production levels.
- Essar Steel's resolution plan will now go before the National Company Law Tribunal for formal acceptance.

*Essar Steel's (founded in 1998) resolution plan will now go before the National Company Law Tribunal for formal acceptance.*

#### **8. Axis Bank sold 4.95% NSDL stake to HDFC Bank**

- Axis Bank sold 4.95% stake in National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to HDFC Bank for Rs.163.34 crore.
- Now Axis Bank would be left with 0.05% holding in NSDL.
- With the acquisition, HDFC Bank's holding will increase from 5% to 9.95%.

*National Securities Depository Limited is central securities depository of India. Its headquarter is in Mumbai. It was established on 8 November 1996 as the first electronic securities depository in India with national coverage.*

### 9. WTO panel to examine India-U.S. export case

- The World Trade Organization's dispute settlement body has set up a panel to examine the US complaint against certain export-subsidy measures by India as both the sides failed to resolve the issue at consultation level.
- In March, the US dragged India to the global trade body's dispute settlement mechanism over export subsidies, saying that these incentives were harming the American companies. The US has requested for the establishment of a dispute panel to examine the allegations on India's export incentive measures.
- Seeking consultation under the aegis of the WTO is the first step of dispute settlement process. If the two nations are not able to reach a mutually agreed solution through consultation, the complainant can request for a WTO dispute settlement panel to review the matter.

**The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.**

**Headquarter- Geneva**

**Director General- Roberto Azevedo of Brazil, since 1 September 2013.**

### 10. India, Japan sign \$75 billion currency swap agreement

- India and Japan signed a currency swap agreement worth \$75 billion during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan.
- The currency swap agreement is an important measure in improving the confidence in the Indian market and it would not only enable the agreed amount of capital being available to India, but it will also bring down the cost of capital for Indian entities while accessing the foreign capital market.
- With this arrangement in place, prospects of India would further improve in tapping foreign capital for country's developmental needs.

- ***A currency swap involves exchanging principal and fixed interest payments on a loan in one currency for principal and fixed interest payments on a similar loan in another currency.***
- ***Currency swap is usually done by business firms and sometimes by governments.***
- ***The main advantage of currency swap is that it reduces foreign exchange risks. Similarly, it reduces interest rate risk also.***

### 11. SBI cuts ATM withdrawal limit

- State Bank of India has halved the daily cash withdrawal limit from ATMs for certain debit-card holders to Rs.20,000 from Wednesday.
- The withdrawal limit has been curtailed on Classic and Maestro debit cards, held by a large number of the bank customers. However, customers with other variants of SBI debit card can continue to enjoy higher daily withdrawal from ATMs.
- As per a senior SBI official, the average cash withdrawal from ATMs per card is less than Rs. 20,000 and the move will promote digital transaction.

- ***State Bank of India (SBI) Group is the biggest financial services conglomerate in India.***
- ***Headquartered in Mumbai. The Group comprises of State Bank of India (SBI), its various non-banking subsidiaries/ joint ventures, and foreign banking subsidiaries/ joint ventures.***

### 12. Liquidity, economy figure in FSDC meet

- At the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) meeting, issue of real interest rate, current liquidity situation, including segmental liquidity position in NBFCs and the mutual fund space were discussed.
- The panel also decided that the regulators and the government will keep a close watch on developments and take all necessary measures.

***The FSDC is headed by the Finance Minister and comprises the RBI Governor, the SEBI Chairman, and heads of regulators such as PFRDA, IRDAI and the Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board.***



## Government & Polity

### 1. CBI names its No. 2 Rakesh Asthana in bribery case

- CBI has named its second-in-command Rakesh Asthana as an accused in a bribery case along with another official and two private persons.
- Mr. Asthana, CBI Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Kumar, Dubai-based investment banker Manoj Prasad and his brother Somesh Prasad has been named in the FIR.
- More than Rs.3 crore in bribes was paid by the complainant (Satish Sana Babu, a Hyderabad businessman, who had first been summoned by Devender Kumar, investigating officer in the Moin Qureshi case, in October 2017) for getting relief in a case against meat exporter Moin Qureshi and others, the agency said.

- *As per CBI, the amended provision of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which mandates prior approval for initiating a probe against senior government official, would not apply here.*
- *Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2018 was passed by the Parliament in July 2018 to enhance transparency and accountability of the government. Accordingly a police officer will need prior approval of relevant authority or government to begin investigation. However, the same does not apply when the accused is caught red-handed.*

### 2. PM inaugurates revamped National Police Memorial

- PM Narendra Modi opened a revamped National Police Memorial and a museum at Chankayapuri New Delhi on National Police Commemoration Day.
- The earlier memorial was brought down on the order of the Delhi High Court in 2008 because it violated environmental norms.
- He also announced a decoration in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary men engaged in disaster relief.

- *The National Police Commemoration Day is observed on October 21 every year to pay homage to the 10 men of the Central Reserve Police Force killed in an ambush by Chinese troops in 1959 in Ladakh's Hot Spring area.*



### 3. Supreme Court Allows Sale, Use of Safer Firecrackers with Conditions

- SC, on the basis of a petition filed by two infants in 2015 to safeguard their right to life, allowed manufacture and sale of only “green” and reduced emission “improved” crackers through licensed traders only.
- It banned firecrackers which are loud and toxic to man, animal or environment. It also banned joined firecrackers (popularly known as “ladi”).
- A Bench of Justices A.K. Sikri and Ashok Bhushan held that only green or improved crackers would be used during religious festivals and other occasions, including weddings.
- The judgment reduced the time for bursting crackers during Deepavali and other festivals to two hours: between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. For Christmas and New Year, the time slot allowed is half-an-hour, between 11.55 p.m. and half-past midnight.

- *Article 124 provides for the establishment and constitution of Supreme Court of India, which is the apex court of India. It was established on 28th January, 1950 i.e. two days after the commencement of the Constitution. The Chief Justice and other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President of India. Ranjan Gogoi is the 46th and current Chief Justice of India since 3 October 2018. His term as Chief Justice ends on 17 November*

### 4. Centre sets up GoM on sexual harassment

- The Centre established a Group of Ministers to recommend measures to effectively implement the law against sexual harassment at the workplace and to strengthen the legal and institutional framework in response to the #MeToo campaign.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh will head the GoM, which includes Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi.
- The GoM will come up with a comprehensive plan within three months and devise ways to ensure its time-bound implementation

*The Me Too movement is a movement against sexual harassment and sexual assault. #MeToo spread virally in October 2017 as a hashtag used on social media in an attempt to demonstrate the widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment, especially in the workplace. It followed soon after the sexual misconduct allegations against Harvey Weinstein (American film producer).*

### 5. Sale ban on BS-IV vehicles from 2020

- The Supreme Court of India banned the sale and registration of motor vehicles conforming to the emission standard Bharat Stage-IV in the entire country from April 1, 2020.
- The decision was announced by a three-judge Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur, S. Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta.
- The country will have to shift to the cleaner Bharat- VI fuel from April 1, 2020. Bharat Stage (BS) emission norms are standards instituted by the government to regulate output of air pollutants from motor vehicles.
- The BS-IV norms have been enforced across the country since April 2017. In 2016, the Centre had announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020.

- *The BS-IV compliant fuels have sulphur concentration of 50 parts per million (ppm). This will come down to as low as 10 ppm in BS-VI compliant fuels and auto engines.*
- *The switch to BS-VI norms will also reduce concentration of carbon monoxide, unburnt hydrocarbons, nitrous oxide and particulate matter from emissions.*

#### 6. Disqualification of T.N. MLAs upheld

- Madras High Court upheld the validity of an order passed by Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker P. Dhanapal( AIADMK) on September 18, 2017, disqualifying 18 AIADMK MLAs owing allegiance to T.T.V. Dhinakaran under the anti-defection law.
- Deciding the case afresh at the request of counsel for the litigants, following a split verdict on June 14, Justice Sathyanarayanan categorically held that the Speaker's order did not suffer from any of the grounds of attack, be it breach of constitutional mandate, mala fide intentions, perversity or non-adherence to principles of natural justice .
- This verdict is a relief for ruling AIADMK government as the disqualification of the rebel MLAs allowed the party to retain majority in the house.

- *All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is an Indian political party in the state of Tamil Nadu and in the union territory of Puducherry. It is currently in power in the state of Tamil Nadu and is the third largest party in the Lok Sabha.*

#### 7. Govt. notifies rules on granting citizenship

- The Union Home Ministry has empowered the Collectors of certain districts in seven States to accept online applications to grant citizenship to "persecuted minorities" from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh living in India.

- A parliamentary committee has been examining the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 which is still pending. Home Ministry gave powers to the Collectors in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to grant citizenship and naturalization certificates to the migrants under Sections 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Citizenship will be granted after the verification reports are received from the States and the Centre.

***Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 proposes to grant citizenship to six persecuted minorities: Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists who came to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh before 2014.***

#### **8. 'India among nations that face grave danger to soil biodiversity'**

- India's soil biodiversity is in grave peril, according to the Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by the World Wide Fund for Nature.
- The WWF's 'risk index' for the globe — indicating threats from loss of above-ground diversity, pollution and nutrient over-loading, over-grazing, intensive agriculture, fire, soil erosion, desertification and climate change — shows India among countries whose soil biodiversity faces the highest level of risk.
- Such countries are colored red on the Atlas and these include Pakistan, China, several countries in Africa and Europe, and most of North America.

***The World Wide Fund for Nature is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1961, working in the field of the wilderness preservation, and the reduction of human impact on the environment.***

## International

### 1. U.S. to pull out of Russia missile pact

- U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed that the U.S. would pull out of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with Russia.
- It is a crucial Cold War-era treaty which bans the development, testing and possession of short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with a range of 500-5,000 km. John Bolton ( U.S. National Security Advisor) is in Moscow on a visit and is expected to convey the decision to the Russians.
- The reason for current pull out is Russia's alleged development and deployment of the Novator 9M729 missile, also known as the SSC-8. It could strike Europe at short notice. However Russia has always denied this allegation.

*Russia - It is the world's largest nation and touches the border of European and Asian countries as well as the Pacific and Arctic oceans. Its capital is Moscow and currency is Russian Ruble. Vladimir Putin is the current president of the nation.*

### 2. Xi Jinping opens world's longest sea bridge

- Chinese President Xi Jinping inaugurated a 55-km bridge between Hong Kong ,Macao and the rest of China.
- It is the world's longest sea-crossing bridge. It took about a decade to build the \$20 billion bridge. It is located at the heart of an integrated Greater Bay Area (GBA) covering 11 major neighbouring cities.
- The giant GBA comprising 68 million people is expected to rival the San Francisco Bay Area of the U.S., as well as the Tokyo Bay Area of Japan. It is being seen as a symbol validating the 'One country, Two Systems' formula under which Hong Kong and Macao have substantial political autonomy while remaining part of China.
- It has been built to withstand super-typhoons, a magnitude-8 earthquake, and hits by super-sized cargo ships. A 6.7 km underground sea tunnel is also part of the bridge's design.

### 3. China, Japan to partner in building Asia infrastructure

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has arrived in China to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the China-Japan treaty of friendship.
- During Mr. Abe's talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang, the leaders are expected to seek areas of convergence between China's Belt and Road Initiative and Japan's concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

- Analysts say that they are expected to discuss joint development of infrastructure in Asia and Africa during the talks.

*The Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and the People's Republic of China is a peace treaty concluded between the People's Republic of China and Japan on August 12, 1978.*

#### 4. Sri Lanka unity govt. falls, Rajapaksa sworn in as PM

- In a sudden move, President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena pulled his faction out of Sri Lanka's ruling coalition and within hours appointed former President Mahinda Rajapaksa as Prime Minister.
- Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP), however, maintained that Mr. Rajapaksa's appointment was "illegal and unconstitutional."
- Mr. Sirisena said he was using his powers to remove him from the post of Prime Minister with immediate effect. Mr. Wickremesinghe, in turn, in a letter to the President said he was the constitutionally appointed Prime Minister, and commanded "the confidence" of parliament. Both leaders cited Article 42(4) of Sri Lanka's Constitution to declare contradictory positions.

*Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) is an island nation south of India in the Indian Ocean. Its capital is Colombo and currency is Sri Lankan rupee.*

#### 5. Sirisena suspends Parliament

- Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena on Saturday suspended Parliament, a day after he sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and replaced him with former President Mahinda Rajapaksa.
- The announcement came just as Mr. Wickremesinghe declared he had the majority in Parliament. Meanwhile, members of the Sirisena-Rajapaksa combine said they too had a majority of "120 plus" in the 225-member House. India is yet to comment on the recent changes in the neighboring nation.

#### 6. China will consider new inputs on Azhar

- China has assured India that it will, in future, consider any additional information that is provided on Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar to designate him as an international terrorist.
- The assurance was given by Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China, Zhao Kezhi, to Home Minister Rajnath Singh at a high-level meeting held in New Delhi last week.
- China had blocked India's proposal to designate Azhar as an international terrorist at a UN sanctions committee.

#### 7. Ireland re-elects President Higgins

- Ireland re-elected its President for a second term. Michael D. Higgins, a left-wing former Arts Minister who enjoyed the support of three of the four largest political parties, easily won re-election to the largely ceremonial role with 56% of the vote.

*Ireland is an island in the North Atlantic separated from Great Britain to its east by the North Channel, the Irish Sea, and St George's Channel.*

#### **8. Bolsonaro elected Brazil President**

- Former Army Captain Jair Bolsonaro was elected President of Brazil. He promised a fundamental change in direction for the country.
- Despite repulsing many with his open support of the torture used by Brazil's former military regime, as well as remarks deemed misogynist, racist and homophobic, Mr. Bolsonaro managed to tap voters' deep anger with corruption, crime and economic malaise.
- Official results gave him 55.13% of the votes in the run-off election, to 44.87% for leftist opponent Fernando Haddad, with 99.99% of the ballots counted.

***Brazil is a South American country.***

***Capital- Brasilia***

***Currency-Brazilian real***

#### **9. Maldives SC suspends Nasheed's jail term**

- The Maldives Supreme Court on Tuesday suspended exiled former President Mohamed Nasheed's 13-year jail sentence, clearing the way for his arrival in capital Male on November 1.
- The top court asked the government, the police and the prison authorities to adhere to the ruling, until it reviews his conviction following a recent request from the Prosecutor-General.
- Following Mr. Nasheed's conviction on terrorism charges in 2012, he sought medical leave to go to the United Kingdom in 2016 and has since lived there in exile.

## States

### 1. U.P. to set up panel to modernize police

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister announced setting up of a three-member commission to recommend steps for strengthening and modernizing the State police force.
- He also announced that by the end of 2019, 1.25 lakh constables will join the force, ending the huge manpower shortage. State government took many initiatives for the police such as an increased compensation to the family of a martyr from Rs.20 lakh to Rs.40 lakh, besides hiking the amount given to their parents to Rs.10 lakh.

***Each state and union territory of India has its own separate police force. Article 246 of the Constitution of India designates the police as a state subject, which means that the state governments frame the rules and regulations that govern each police force***

### 2. Andhra plans “Gaming Garage” to provide jobs, encourage developers

- Banking on the gaming industry to generate employment and encourage entrepreneurs and game developers in view of its growing importance Andhra Pradesh government has chalked out plans to launch the ‘Gaming Garage’ in Vijayawada very soon.
- The government would provide them with “the necessary software and infrastructure free of cost”. It would also encourage them in commercializing their product.
- The gaming became an industry with crores of rupees turnover with the rapid development of computers and Smartphone technologies. The state Cabinet in April gave its nod to animations and visual effects, gaming and comics policy to attract the best from the sector and an investment of about Rs.6,400 crore by 2020

***Andhra Pradesh – Capital Amaravati( On the banks of Krishna river) CM - Nara Chandrababu Naidu , Governor- E. S. L. Narasimhan.***

### 3. Punjab government bans sale of herbicide

- The Punjab government has banned the sale of glyphosate which is extensively used in the State to control a wide variety of weeds in almost all the crops.
- This chemical has been observed to be a Group 2A cancer-causing material.
- It is also known for causing other health problems and has the potential to damage human DNA as per the opinion of experts from PGIMER, Chandigarh. Glyphosate is sold in the country under various trade names such as Round-up, Excell, Glycel, Glider, Glydon, etc.



**Punjab – Governor V.P. Singh Badnore CM- Amarinder Singh**

**4. J&K Governor to end health cover contract**

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik has said that his administration will terminate the contract granted to Reliance General Health Insurance Company Ltd., a month after the government rolled out a Group Mediclaim Health Insurance Scheme for employees, pensioners and accredited journalists of the State.
- Earlier in September the government had said Reliance General Insurance, headed by Anil Ambani, won the contract to provide health insurance cover to Jammu and Kashmir staff after a “rigorous and transparent competitive tender process”. However now it is being terminated on the allegations of kickback charges.

**5. A.P. ranked first, with 10.5% growth**

- As per State Planning Department, Andhra Pradesh has topped in the country with an average growth of 10.5% during the last four years (the average growth in the country stood at 7.3% during the last four years).
- It has surpassed many developed States such as Maharashtra and Gujarat. While Telangana has slipped to the second place and Karnataka to the third.
- The Per Capita Income (PCI) also increased in the state and crossed the Rs.1 lakh mark in 2015-16. PCI was Rs. 1,42,054 in 2017-18 (less than many states but the increase is unmatched). Compared with the all-India PCI of Rs.1.13 lakh in 2017-18, there is a quantum jump in the State's PCI in 2017-18 and 2015-16.

**Andhra Pradesh- CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu**

**Governor- E. S. L. Narasimhan**

**Capital- Amaravati (located on the southern banks of the Krishna River in Guntur district).**

## Sports

### 1. North East Olympic Games from Oct. 24

- Thokchom Radheshyam, president of Manipur Olympic Association( MOA), announced that the state will host the first North East Olympic Games (NEOG) in Imphal from October 24<sup>th</sup>. It would be a 4 day event to be held at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Eastern Ground and D M College Indoor Stadium for football and badminton in the capital city.
- It is being organised by the MOA under the aegis of the North East Olympic Association. It will have 12 disciplines which include Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Judo, Karate-Do, Shooting, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Weightlifting and Wushu.

***Manipur – Capital Imphal ,CM N Biren Singh ,Governor Najma Heptullah***

### 2. Youth Olympics medalists felicitated

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Sunday felicitated the 29 medalists of the 2018 Youth Olympics.
- This was India's best performance in the Games as it finished with a tally of 13 medals — 3 gold, 9 silver and 1 bronze.
- Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore applauded the performance of sports persons and encouraged them. The medalists were awarded Rs.25 lakh, 16.7 lakh and 10 lakh for gold, silver and bronze.

- ***Youth Olympics 2018-6<sup>th</sup> October to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018***
- ***Place- Buenos Aires (Argentina)***
- ***Official Mascot- Pandi, it is inspired by the jaguar, one of the most emblematic wild cat species found in northern Argentina***

### 3. World Wrestling Championship: Bajrang Punia settles for silver

- The Commonwealth Games and Asian Games gold-medalist Bajrang eventually had to settle for a silver, which is his second medal at the Worlds.
- He had won a bronze won on 2013. Bajrang Punia is the fourth Indian ever to make it to the World Championship finals. Japan's Takuto Otoguro stunned Bajrang in the 65kg gold medal match. At 19, Otoguro is Japan's youngest World Champion.

- *The 2018 World Wrestling Championships are the 15th edition of World Wrestling Championships of combined events and were held from October 20 to 28 in Budapest , Hungary.*

#### **4. Serbia won 2018 Women's Volleyball World Championship**

- The Serbian women earned their 2nd World Championship medal, and first-ever World Championship title, on Saturday in Yokohama, Japan.
- It claimed the title for the first time in history at the Volleyball Women's World Championship after edging Italy 3-2 here Saturday, while China hammered the Netherlands in straight sets to get a bronze.

#### **5. I-League from Oct 26**

- The 12<sup>th</sup> Hero I-League will start from 26<sup>th</sup> October. Real Kashmir is making their debut in I-League as the promoted team from the 2017–18 I-League 2nd Division.
- It will have total 11 teams from 10 states. Teams- Aizwal(Mizoram) , Chennai City( Tamil Nadu) ,Churchill Brothers( Goa) , East Bengal( WB), Indian Arrows(Odisha), Gokulam Kerala(Kerala),Minerva Punjab,Mohun Bagan(WB),NEROCA(Manipur),Shillong Lajong , Real Kashmir.

#### **6. Sana Mir rises to top of ODI bowling rankings**

- The veteran Pakistan bowler, topped the wicket-takers' chart even as Pakistan went down 3-0 to Australia in their ICC Women's Championship series.
- But Mir, the 32-year-old former captain, had a good time out in Kuala Lumpur with her off-spin, returning 3/26, 1/37 and 3/53 to end at the top of the MRF Tyres ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings for bowlers with a career-high 663 points.
- She went past Marizanne Kapp of South Africa and Australia's Megan Schutt as well as the out-of-action Jess Jonassen of Australia, who slipped from No.1 to No.4.

#### **7. Virat Kohli: India captain becomes the fastest batsman to reach 10,000 ODI runs**

- India captain Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 10,000 one-day international runs against West Indies in Visakhapatnam.
- He achieved the feat in his 205th innings, surpassed India legend Sachin Tendulkar, who did it in 259 innings in 2001. Of the 13 batsmen who made 10000 runs in ODIs , he achieved the milestone not only in the least number of innings but also least number of balls , 10813.
- Other batsmen in the league are Rahul Dravid, Saurav Ganguly , Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting , M S Dhoni , Brian Lara, Inzamam-ul-Haq etc.

#### 8. Dwayne Bravo retires from international cricket

- All-rounder Dwayne Bravo announced his retirement from international cricket .
- The 35-year-old from West Indies played a grand total of 270 internationals (40 Tests, 164 ODIs, 66 T20Is) between 2004 and 2016 and played a starring role in each of their two World T20 triumphs in 2012 and 2016.

#### 9. Wrestling World Championships: Pooja Dhanda wins bronze medal in 57kg category

- India won its second medal at the 2018 Wrestling World Championships after Pooja Dhanda won a bronze medal in the women's freestyle 57kg weight class at Budapest on Thursday.
- Dhanda defeated Grace Bullen of Norway 10-7 at the Papp László Sportaréna to join Bajrang Punia on the exalted list of World Championships medalists

#### 10. Banthia wins Asian junior title

- Siddhant Banthia posted a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Uzbekistan's Sergey Fomin to win the boys singles title of the HCL Asian B1 junior tennis championships at the Deccan Gymkhana courts in Pune.
- Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew won the girls' title, putting it across Indonesia's Priska Madelyn Nugroho 7-6(5), 6-3.
- Olympian and Asian Games gold medalist Dattu Bhoknal and Sundar Mahalingam, Chief Strategy Officer, HCL Corporation and Shiv Nadar Foundation, gave away the prizes.

#### 11. Deodhar Trophy – India C wins a high scoring final

- India C is the Deodhar Trophy 2018/19 champion. It was a high-scoring final with over 600 runs scored. That culminates Deodhar Trophy 2018-19. Up next is Ranji Trophy in the domestic calendar.

*The Deodhar Trophy is a List A cricket competition in Indian domestic cricket. It is named after Prof. D. B. Deodhar and is a 50-over knockout competition played on an annual basis among the 5 zonal teams - North Zone, South Zone, East Zone, West Zone and Central Zone.*

#### 12. Roger Federer wins 99th title

- Roger Federer won his 99th career ATP Tour title, defeating qualifier Marius Copil 7-6(5), 6-4 in the Swiss Indoors final.
- The triumph was the 37-year-old Federer's first in more than four months since winning on grass at Stuttgart in June. It was also his 151st singles final on the ATP tour. He belongs to Switzerland.

### 13. India and Pakistan joint winners of Asian Champions Trophy 2018

- India and Pakistan have been declared as joint winners of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2018 due to the Final being forfeited.
- The two teams were declared joint winners of the continental event. Both the teams have won the tournament twice before.

*The Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2018 was held at Muscat, Oman between October 18–28, 2018. It was the fifth edition of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, a field hockey tournament for the six best Asian national teams.*

### 14. Real Madrid sack Julen Lopetegui after humiliation at Barcelona

- Julen Lopetegui has been dismissed as Real Madrid manager only 138 days into the job.
- He has been sacked by Madrid in the wake of their 5-1 hammering by Barcelona.
- He was appointed in June but five defeats in seven games, the last of it a 5-1 thrashing by Barcelona on Sunday, has convinced Madrid to make a change.

*Real Madrid Club de Fútbol, commonly known as Real Madrid, is a professional football club based in Madrid, Spain.*

## Appointments

### 1. Dr Devi Shetty Appointed Chairperson of IIM Bangalore Board of Governors

- The decision was taken by the Board of Governors of IIM Bangalore at its 167<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- Dr Devi Prasad Shetty is the Chairman and Senior Consultant Cardiac Surgeon of, Narayana Group of Hospitals, Bangalore .
- The term of office of the Chairperson, Board of Governors is four years from October 22, 2018. Dr Shetty founded Narayana Hrudayalaya (NH), a hospital group with pan-India presence. NH manages 32 hospitals and performs approximately 12% of the total heart surgeries in India.

*Indian Institute of Management Bangalore is a public management school and an Institute of National Importance. It was founded in 1973. It was the third IIM to be established, after IIM Calcutta and IIM Ahmadabad.*

### 2. Arun Lal appointed Bengal Ranji team's mentor

- The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) on Tuesday announced the appointment of former Test cricketer Arun Lal as the mentor of the Bengal team for the current domestic season.
- The decision was taken following Bengal's disappointing performance in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Team's coach Sairaj Bahutule, who took up the job in 2015, will serve as the coach in the first two Ranji Trophy matches after a brief period of uncertainty about his continuance.

### 3. Nageswara Rao appointed interim CBI Director

- In an unprecedented move in CBI's 55 year history , its director & special director were sent leave , striped of their powers.
- Later on Appointments Committee of Cabinet ( Head – Prime Minister) appointed joint director M Nageswara Rao as the interim director of CBI with immediate effect.

- *Based on the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption, CBI was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs(hence It is not a statutory body).*
- *It is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and plays an important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration.*
- *It works under the overall superintendence of Central Vigilance Commission in matters related to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.*

#### 4. Yes Bank finalizes new CEO profile

- Yes Bank on Friday said the panel looking for a successor to MD and CEO Rana Kapoor has finalized the potential candidate profile.
- The Reserve Bank has refused to extend the tenure of Mr. Kapoor beyond January 31, 2019.
- Earlier this month it has appointed U.S.-based head hunter Korn Ferry to assist a panel searching for a successor to Mr. Kapoor. The bank's 'search and selection committee' is headed by independent director Brahm Dutt.

*Yes Bank Limited is India's fourth largest private sector bank, founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapur in 2004. Its headquarter is in Mumbai.*

#### 5. S.K. Mishra is ED's interim Director

- The Centre appointed Indian Revenue Service officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra as interim Director of the Enforcement Directorate for three months.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cleared his name on the last day of the tenure of the incumbent Karnal Singh.

*Directorate of Enforcement is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, which enforces the following laws: -*

*Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)*

*Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)*



## Person/Event/Award

### 1. IAF gets first overhauled Sukhoi

- The IAF's Base Repair Depot (BRD), Ojhar in Maharashtra has successfully overhauled a Su-30 MKI aircraft.
- 11 BRD is the only fighter aircraft repair depot of the force and undertakes repair and overhaul of frontline fighters such as MIG-29 and Sukhoi-30 MKI.
- Indigenous overhauling in-house within the IAF will significantly reduce the time and improve the availability rate of the overall fleet .

*The Su-30MKI procured from Russia and license manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is the mainstay of the IAF's fighter squadron. India has contracted 272 aircraft of which over 240 have been inducted into service.*

### 2. ISRO Completes "Scaled-Down" Test For Safe Landing Of Chandrayaan-2

- Indian Space Research Organization said that it has successfully conducted a scaled-down test for the soft and safe landing of its Chandrayaan-2 lander for India's second Moon mission.
- The moon lander, Vikram, named after the father of Indian space programme Vikram Sarabhai, will carry out various tests on the moon surface. "Scaled-down version of Chandrayaan-2 Lander Vikram completed, critical Lander Actuator Performance Test (LAPT) to demonstrate capabilities of navigation, guidance and control system of Vikram for a safe, soft and precise landing on the Moon

- *The Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. Its vision is to "harness space technology for national development while pursuing space science research and planetary exploration." It was founded by late Vikram Sarabhai in 1969. Mr. K Sivan is the present director.*

### 3. Noted Author Ntozake Shange passed away

- Playwright, poet and author Ntozake Shange, whose most acclaimed theatre piece is the 1975 play For Colored Girls died on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. She was 70.
- The Tony Award-nominated play describes the racism, sexism, violence and rape experienced by seven black women.

#### 4. Former Delhi CM Madan Lal Khurana dies at 82

- Former Delhi Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana died at the age of 82 on Saturday due to prolonged illness.
- The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) member and Bharatiya Janata Party leader served as Delhi's CM from 1993 to 1996. He also served as Governor of Rajasthan in 2004.
- The Delhi government, as mark of respect, has declared a two-day state-mourning following his death.

#### 5. ICF rolls out Train 18, the NextGen Shatabdi

- Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai built the new train which comes fitted with amenities on a par with the best in the world — from on-board Wi-Fi to GPS-based passenger information system, 'touch-free' bio-vacuum toilets, LED lighting, mobile charging points, and a climate control system.
- Named as 'Train 18', it doesn't have a locomotive to pull the coaches as it is a self-propelled, semi-high-speed trainset that will soon replace the box cars of the inter-city Shatabdis.
- The much anticipated Indian-made trainset was unveiled to the public by Indian Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani.

#### 6. PM to unveil Patel statue

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to unveil Sardar Patel's statue, the world's largest, on his birth anniversary on October 31.
- Statue of Unity, as it is called, is built by engineering and infrastructure major L&T on the river Narmada in South Gujarat.
- The Rs.3,000 crore project is funded for the most part by the Gujarat government, with minor contributions from the Centre and Central PSUs.

***Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as Sardar Patel, was the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. He was an Indian barrister and statesman, a senior leader of the Indian National Congress***

***"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." – Margaret Fuller***

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2018**

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# **Weekly GK Updates**

## **General Awareness**

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