

# 1-2 September 2018

India Post Payments Bank |  
India growth rate |  
Largest mobile company |  
Census 2021 |  
Motor Insurance

## Indian Posts –

Payment Banks

Which payments bank 100% owned by the Govt. of India was officially launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 September 2018? – **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**

**Explanation:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on 1 September 2018. This new bank has been set up under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, with 100% equity owned by Government of India.

- IPPB will focus on providing banking and financial services to people in rural areas, by leveraging the reach of 1.55 lakh post office branches. On the day of launch the bank has 650 branches and 3,250 access points spread across the country. The government is now aiming to link all the 1.55 lakh post offices to the IPPB system by 31 December, 2018.

- IPPB offers a range of products such as savings and current accounts, money transfer, direct benefit transfers, bill and utility payments, and enterprise and merchant payments. The bank offers 4% interest rate on savings accounts.

- It is worth mentioning that the pilot operations of IPPB started operations on 30 January, 2017 at Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi (Jharkhand).

## Economy

What was the growth rate of the Indian economy during April-June quarter of financial Year 2018-19, which is the highest in last 15 quarters? – **8.2%**

**Explanation:** The Indian economy grew at a 15-quarter high of 8.2% in the April-June quarter of current fiscal (2018-19), as was disclosed in the data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 31 August 2018. The growth thus cemented India's position as the fastest growing major economy, clocking higher expansion rate than China's 6.7 in the same quarter.

Manufacturing grew in double digits at 13.5% in the June quarter from a contraction of 1.8% in the same quarter a year ago, while construction made strong recovery to grow at 8.7% against 1.8% during same period last year. Agriculture also grew at a robust 5.3% in the June quarter against 3% during the same quarter a year ago.

The previous high quarterly GDP growth was recorded in July-September period in 2014-15 at 8.4%. Economic growth had dipped to 5.6% in the April to June 2017 quarter as companies reduced stocks ahead of the rollout of the goods and services tax (GST) in July last year.

## Corporate

Which telecom entity became the new leader in India's mobile space with an effective customer base of 408 million and thus replacing Bharti Airtel? - Vodafone Idea Ltd.

**Explanation:** India now has a new leader in the mobile operator segment with the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular officially announced on 31 August 2018. This merger became effective after the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave its approval to this mega-merger. To be called Vodafone Idea Ltd, the operator has a subscriber base of over 408 million overtaking Bharti Airtel.



- The new board of directors of the company comprises of 12 directors (including 6 independent directors) has been constituted, with Kumar Mangalam Birla as the Chairman. The board has appointed Balesh Sharma as the CEO.

- The merged entity has a pan India revenue market share of 32.2%. It has a large spectrum portfolio of ~1850 MHz and an adequate number of broadband carriers and distribution reach with over 1.7 million retailers and around 15,000 branded stores to service customers.

## Automobile Insurance

Which new rule for motor insurance was put into force by general insurance companies from 1

## September 2018? - Long-term third-party motor insurance covers for new cars and two-wheelers

**Explanation:** Indian general insurance companies started providing long-term third-party motor insurance covers for new cars and two-wheelers from 1 September 2018. Accordingly, third party cover for new cars will be for three years and for new two-wheelers, five years.

- At present, third party cover is mandatory under law but is offered only for one year. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) had given pertaining directive after the Supreme Court gave its order in this regard during July 2018.

- This new rule is expected to increase the penetration levels for motor insurance in the country. According to estimates, about 60% of two-wheelers and 35-40% of four-wheelers are being driven without any motor insurance cover.

## Census

Which new set of data will be collected in the Census 2021, as was disclosed by the Union Home Ministry on 31 August 2018? – **Data pertaining to OBCs**

**Explanation:** The government will collect data on Other Backwards Classes (OBCs), for the first time, in the Census 2021. This was disclosed by the Union Home Ministry on 31 August 2018.



- India has been collecting data on Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) since 1951, when the first census after Independence was conducted, but has not collected data on OBCs.

## 3-5 September 2018

18th Asian Games |  
Hangzhou Asian Games |  
Justice Ranjan Gogoi |  
Arif Alvi |  
Mahindra Marazzo |

## Sports



The 18th Asian Games closed on 2 September 2018 in a dazzling closing ceremony held at Jakarta's Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium. China topped the medals tally once again followed by Japan and Korea. What was India's place in the medals table? – **8th**

**Explanation:** India achieved its best ever performance in Asian Games at the 18th Asian Games held in Jakarta-Palembang. India won a total of 69 medals with 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze medals. India was placed at eighth position in the medals tally. Before this India's best performance in Asian Games came in 2010 Games (held in Guangzhou in China) where India won 65 medals with 14 gold, 17 silver and 34 bronze medals.

- China topped the medals table once again with a total of 289 medals (132 gold, 92 silver and 65 bronze medals). It was followed by Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Iran, Chinese Taipei, India, Kazakhstan and North Korea (in top 10).

## Sports –Asian Games



Which city will host the 19th edition of Asian Games in 2022? – **Hangzhou (China)**

**Explanation:** Hangzhou city of China's Zhejiang province would host the 19th edition of Asian Games in 2022. It will be the third Chinese city to host the Asian Games, after Beijing 1990 and Guangzhou 2010.

- Mayor of Hangzhou Xu Liyi received the Games flag for the 2022 Games from Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan and South Sumatra Governor Alex Noerdin at the closing ceremony of 2018 Games on 2 September 2018.

## Person-law

Who will replace Justice Dipak Misra as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI) after his name was recommended by Justice Misra to the Union Government on 4 September 2018? – **Justice Ranjan Gogoi**

**Explanation:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra on 4 September 2018, sent a letter to the Central government recommending Justice Ranjan Gogoi as his successor. Justice Gogoi will be sworn in as the next CJI on 3 October 2018.

- Justice Gogoi is the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court. Justice Misra is retiring on 2 October 2018.

## International

Who was elected the new President of Pakistan on 4 September 2018? – **Arif Alvi**

**Explanation:** Arif Alvi, a close ally of Prime Minister Imran Khan and one of the founding members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was elected as President of Pakistan on 4 September 2018. He bagged 212 of the 430 votes.

- 69-year old Alvi is a former dentist. He defeated Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidate Aitzaz Ahsan and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) nominee Maulana Fazlur Rehman to become the 13th President.

## Automobile

On 3 September 2018 which company launched "Marazzo", a new multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) that it pitted against some of the most popular MPVs on Indian roads like Toyota Innova Crysta and Maruti Suzuki Ertiga? – **Mahindra**

**Explanation:** Mahindra's latest MPV, the Mahindra Marazzo, was launched in India on 3 September 2018. This new offering is pitted against established contenders in the segment like the Toyota Innova Crysta, Maruti Suzuki Ertiga, Honda Mobilio and Tata Hexa.

- It has a 1.5 litre four-cylinder diesel engine, 6-speed manual gearbox and has been developed from scratch by Mahindra in collaboration with Pininfarina in Italy. The company has spent almost \$200 million for the same.



# 6 September 2018

Largest share in FDI |  
Japan typhoon |  
First AI-based supermarket |  
SAIL Dividend |

## Telecommunication

Which sector has for the first time dethroned manufacturing sector for largest share in foreign direct investments (FDI), as was disclosed in RBI's report on FDI released during September 2018? –

### Telecommunication

**Explanation:** In financial year 2018, FDI inflows into telecommunication services touched over \$8.8 billion (around Rs. 63,000 crore), rising nearly 50% from the previous fiscal. This increase has for the first time helped telecom sector dethrone manufacturing sector, which had received the biggest share of FDI for the last nine years. In financial year 2017, manufacturing had received around \$11 billion in inflows while the figure for 2018 stands at just \$7.06 billion.

- This fact was disclosed according to the provisional numbers in a report released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during September 2018.

- One of the key reasons for telecom's prominence in FDI is the heavy losses the industry has suffered in recent years, particularly since the disruptive entry of Reliance Jio in November 2016.

- After telecommunications and manufacturing retail and wholesale trade is the largest sector (\$4.5 billion) followed by financial services (\$4.0 billion) and computer services (\$3.2 billion) to complete the top 5 list.

## International



2) What is the name of the deadly typhoon that struck Japan on 3-4 September 2018 and killed at

least 11 deaths amidst widespread destruction in the Kansai region? – **Typhoon Jebi**

**Explanation:** Typhoon Jebi is considered to be the strongest typhoon to strike Japan since Typhoon Yancy in 1993. It initiated as a slow weakening trend on 2 September and made landfall over Shikoku and then the Kansai region of Japan as a very strong typhoon on 4 September 2018.

- It affected Taiwan and Japan and brought very widespread destruction in Japan's Kansai area. At least 11 deaths and more than 600 injuries were reported across the region. Kansai International Airport, one of the most important transport hubs in Japan, was completely shut down because of flooding.

- Jebi had originated as the twenty-first named storm of the annual typhoon season on 28 August 2018 and is known as Typhoon Maymay in the Philippines. The highest speed attained by this typhoon in Japan was around 280 km/hr.

## Place



India's first-ever Artificial intelligence (AI)-based supermarket, that is capable of operating unmanned 24/7 with the help of a combination of Artificial Intelligence, camera technology and other sensors, was opened on 3 September 2018 in which city? – **Kochi (Kerala)**

**Explanation:** Watasale – is the name of India's first automated supermarket that offers the facility of shopping without any human interface. It was opened on 3 September 2018 at Kochi's Gold Souk Grande Mall.

- The store utilises a combination of Artificial Intelligence, camera technology and other sensors enabling it to operate 24/7 unmanned. To pay, all one has to do is install the Watasale app on one's phone – it automatically scans the QR code when one enters.

- The customer can choose any product that will be virtually added to the cart in the app or removed if one wishes to return the product. There are sensors

installed to do this for the customers. And once a customer walks out, the store debits the amount from their card.

## Corporate

Which state-owned Maharatna company declined a government call for a dividend for the last financial year, as was reported in a section of media during September 2018? - **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)**



सेल SAIL  
स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इण्डिया लिमिटेड  
STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED

**Explanation:** State-owned Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has declined a government call for a dividend for the last financial year, saying it did not have “any cash and bank balance”. It also declared that its debt-to-income ratio was much higher than agreed with some lenders.

- SAIL’s refusal could make it harder for the government to meet its budgeted target of raising 1.06 trillion rupees (\$14.95 billion) from the dividends and profit of state-owned companies this fiscal year ending March.

## 7 September 2018

Section 377 |  
India-US |  
COMCASA |  
PMJDY |  
Telangana Assembly |  
IL&FS

## Judiciary

The Supreme Court on 6 September 2018 gave its historic verdict on Section 377 - the colonial law criminalizing homosexuality in India by decriminalizing it. In which year a Supreme Court bench had overturned a Delhi High Court order that had ruled in favour of decriminalizing section 377? – **In 2013**

**Explanation:** Section 377 criminalises sexual intercourse that is penile and non-vaginal, deeming it “against the order of nature”. The law affects the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) population, in particular, but its provisions can also be applied to heterosexual citizens.

- In 2009, the Delhi High Court had ruled in favour of decriminalising section 377, a decision which was overturned only to by a two-judge Supreme Court bench in 2013, in the Suresh Kumar Koushal versus Naz Foundation case.

- In a historic order on 6 September 2018, the Chief Justice of India Justice Dipak Misra said the LGBT community has same fundamental rights as other citizens. The bench headed by him, however, made it clear that no one should be under the impression that it will scrap section 377 altogether as it will lead to anarchy and rise in crimes relating to forced unnatural acts.

## Foreign Relation

Which historic agreement between India and the United States (US) was signed on 6 September 2018 that ushered a new era of military and security cooperation between the two countries? - **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)**

**Explanation:** India and the United States on 6 September 2018 began a new generation of military and security cooperation by signing the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA).

- This historic agreement was signed on the sidelines of the inaugural 2+2 dialogue held in New Delhi. The bilateral dialogue was attended by U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis and their Indian counterparts Sushma Swaraj and Nirmala Sitharaman.

- COMCASA is one the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries. This agreement allows India to procure encrypted communication systems from the U.S. for military platforms like the C-17, C-130 and P-8Is. Due to non-signing of COMCASA, these platforms were using commercially available communication systems.

- India and the U.S. would also hold a first-ever tri-service exercise on the east coast of India in 2019.

## Policy

The Union Cabinet on 5 September 2018 took which important decision with regard to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)? – **To make PMJDY an open-ended scheme**

**Explanation:** The Cabinet on 5 September 2018 gave its nod to turn the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) into an open-ended scheme with higher insurance cover and double the overdraft (OD) facility. This decision was taken to continue the scheme beyond 28 August 2018.

- PMJDY, also known as National Mission on Financial Inclusion (NMFI), has 32.41 crore accounts and deposits worth Rs. 81.2 crore.
- The government has increased the overdraft limit to Rs. 10,000 from the existing Rs. 5,000. In addition, no condition will be attached for any overdraft up to Rs. 2,000. Also, the accident insurance cover for new RuPay cardholders has been raised to Rs. 2 lakh.

## Political

In a surprise decision, the Telangana Government headed by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao on 6 September 2018 dissolved the Telangana state legislative assembly much ahead of its full 5-year term. The Assembly had its tenure till which month? – **June 2019**

**Explanation:** In a bewildering political decision, the council of ministers headed by chief minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao on 6 September 2018 approved a resolution to dissolve the Telangana state legislative assembly almost eight months ahead of its five-year term.

- Chief Minister Rao handed over the cabinet resolution copy recommending the dissolution of the state assembly to Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan on the same day. The Governor requested Rao and his council of ministers to continue in the government.
- The Telangana government headed by K.Chandrasekhara Rao was formed on 2 June 2014 on the day of formal division of the undivided Andhra Pradesh while the elections were held in April-May period in the same year.

## Financial



According to media reports appearing in a section of media on 6 September 2018, which financial institution has defaulted on a loan repayment recently, making it the first case of an Indian large financial institution making such default? - **IL&FS**

**Explanation:** Facing intense liquidity pressures, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) has defaulted on a loan repayment to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), according to media reports appearing on 6 September 2018. Reports also mentioned that it was a short-term loan amounting to Rs 10 billion.

- This is the first-ever instance in India where a large financial institution has defaulted on a loan repayment. IL&FS is a leading infrastructure development and finance company with its headquarters in Mumbai. Its projects includes India's longest tunnel, Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, which was opened for traffic on 2 April 2017.

## 8 September 2018

RBI penalty | Bimal Jalan |  
Indian pharma acquisition |  
Permanent Residency |  
Qatar





## Banking

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 7 September 2018 imposed a penalty of Rs. 1 crore each on which three banks for delay in fraud detection? - **Union Bank of India (UBI), Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra**

**Explanation:** The Reserve Bank imposed a total penalty of Rs. 3 crore (Rs. 1 crore each) on three state-run banks of Union Bank of India, Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra for delay in detection and reporting of fraud in some accounts. This announcement was made by the RBI in three separate releases on 7 September 2018.

## Person

The Union Govt. appointed a committee under whom to select the next Chief Economic Adviser in the Finance Ministry? – **Bimal Jalan**

**Explanation:** Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan is heading the committee that was formed by the Union Government to select the next Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) in the Finance Ministry. This committee was constituted two months after it sought applications for the post.

- Apart from Jalan, secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training C. Chandramouli and Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg are the other two members of the committee.

- Arvind Subramanian resigned from his post before his tenure ended in May 2019 citing personal reasons. He has since joined as a visiting professor at Harvard University.

## Corporate



Which Indian pharmaceutical company acquired Sandoz's generic business in the US for \$900 million, as was announced on 5 September 2018? – **Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals**

**Explanation:** In the largest ever overseas pharma transaction, Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals has announced the acquisition of Sandoz's generic business in the US for \$900 million. This deal is the largest such deal in pharma sector in the country.

- The deal gives the Hyderabad based company access to Sandoz's portfolio of oral solids and dermatology drugs and manufacturing footprint and makes it the second largest generic player in the US-based on prescriptions.

## International

Which country became the first Gulf country to make permanent residency an option for a limited number of foreigners, after such decree was issued during September 2018? – **Qatar**

**Explanation:** Qatar has officially made permanent residency an option for a limited number of foreigners. This step is seen as a landmark development in the energy-rich Gulf.

- Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on 4 September 2018 issued a decree allowing a maximum of 100 expatriates to gain permanent residency each year, giving them access to a generous welfare system and commercial rights. Expatriates make up more than 90% of Qatar's 2.7 million people.

- It is worth mentioning that these rights were till now reserved only for citizens of Qatar. It is the world's biggest exporter of natural gas.



## 9–13 September 2018

US Open 2018 |  
Naomi Osaka |  
James Anderson |  
Unlisted companies |



## Sports

Who became the first Japanese to win a tennis Grand Slam title by winning the women's singles final of the U.S. Open on 8 September 2018? - **Naomi Osaka**

**Explanation:** 20-year old Naomi Osaka created history as she defeated women's tennis legend Serena Williams (United States) in the women's singles final of the U.S. Open on 8 September 2018. She won quite easily by 6-2, 6-4.

- Osaka, playing in her first Grand Slam final and against her idol, showed no fear as her aggressive approach led to multiple Williams' errors.

- The match was marked by intense drama as an angry Serena Williams accused the umpire Carlos Ramos of being a „thief“ after he judged a gesture from coach Patrick Mouratoglou to be coaching. Williams received her first code violation after this. She then received another for a racquet smash at 3-2 in the second set.

## Sports

Novak Djokovic defeated which player for the men's singles title of U.S. Open on 9 September 2018 to win his 14th Grand Slam title and thus equaling Pete Sampras' record? – **Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina)**

**Explanation:** Novak Djokovic (Serbia) equaled Pete Sampras' record of 14 men's singles Grand Slam titles as he defeated Argentinian Juan Martin del Potro by 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 to win the men's singles title of U.S. Open on 9 September 2018.

- This was Djokovic's second major of the year, and his 14th overall. del Potro had won the US Open singles title in 2009.

## Sports



3) On 11 September 2018 who overtook Glenn McGrath to become the most successful fast bowler in Test cricket? - **James Anderson (England)**

**Explanation:** England's James Anderson took the final wicket of the Indian innings in the final test match at the oval on 11 September 2018 to become the most successful fast bowler in Test cricket. It also secured a convincing 4-1 series victory for England

- He bowled Mohammed Shami to claim his 564th wicket, surpassing the record of Australia's Glenn McGrath. Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan is the leading wicket-taker in Test cricket with 800 wickets in 133 Test matches. He is followed by Shane Warne (Australia) with 708 wickets in 145 Test matches and India's Anil Kumble 619 wickets in 132 Test matches. All the three were spinners.

- James Anderson is now at fourth place in this all-time great list with 564 wickets in 143 Test matches.

## Policy

The Union Government on 10 September 2018 came out with which new regulation for unlisted companies? – **It made it mandatory for unlisted companies to issue and transfer their shares in dematerialised form from 2 October 2018**

**Explanation:** The Corporate Affairs Ministry on 10 September 2018 made it mandatory for unlisted companies to issue and transfer their shares in dematerialised (demat) form from 2 October 2018. This step was taken as a measure for further enhancing transparency, investor protection and governance in the corporate sector.

- This new rule eliminates risks associated with physical certificates such as loss, theft, mutilation and fraud. It will also improve the corporate governance system by increasing transparency and preventing malpractice such as benami shareholding and back-dated issuance of shares.

## 14 September 2018

### Key Words

PM-AASHA |  
Maruti Suzuki |  
Gurgaon plant |  
Goldman Sachs |  
Beetle car |

### Mission

What is the name of the new umbrella scheme announced by the Union Government on 12 September 2018 which aims to provide minimum support price (MSP) assurance to farmers? - **„Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan“ (PM-AASHA)**

**Explanation:** „Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan“ (PM-AASHA) is the name of the new scheme announced by the Union Government on 12 September 2018. This scheme has been designed to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce as announced in the General Budget earlier this year.

- The new scheme has three components- Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), and Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS). It will be officially launched later.

## Automobile

India's leading automobile company Maruti Suzuki has planned to relocate which of its 35-year old Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) Chairman R.C. Bhargava has stated has stated that relocation car manufacturing plant to a less inhabited area due to congestion and environmental problems? – **Gurugram**

**Explanation:** of Maruti Suzuki's plant in Gurugram (Gurgaon) to a less inhabited area is inevitable. 35-year old Gurgaon plant was the company's first manufacturing facility and has a capacity to make about 700,000 cars every year.

- The relocation of this plant will be done in a phased manner as it accounts for over one-third of the company's total production capacity. This plant is now located in the middle of the city. Besides Gurugram, the country's largest car maker has another manufacturing unit in Haryana, at Manesar with a capacity of 800,000 units.

- More than 4,000 trucks enter and leave the company's two plants in Haryana every day. The two plants receive raw materials and components from the 2,500 vendors in more than 3,400 trucks daily and send out 650 trailers loaded with cars every day. That obviously means a lot of congestion and traffic hassles for the residents.

## Person

Who was named next President of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. on 13 September 2018? - **John Waldron**

**Explanation:** Incoming CEO David Solomon named John Waldron on 13 September 2018 to be Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s next President and Chief Operating Officer (COO). The post of President and COO is the second-most-powerful position in the financial behemoth.

- In the process, Solomon abandoned Goldman Sachs's long-cherished practice of letting top performers split such weighty roles. Waldron, who runs investment banking, will assume the new post on 1 October 2018.

- Within the bank, Waldron was widely seen as the frontrunner to become president, a post often shared between two executives. He and Solomon are known to be close after climbing together through the investment-banking division.

## Automobile



German automobile giant Volkswagen AG is ending production of which of its iconic car from 2019, as was decided by the company during September 2018? – **Beetle**

**Explanation:** Volkswagen is ending production of its Beetle in 2019, closing the door on one of the world's most iconic car designs. As per the announcement made by the company on 13 September 2018, the company will stop production of the car at its plant in Mexico next July after production of celebration models.

- The Beetle has its roots in Nazi Germany with the creation of a "people's car", but went on to star in a series of successful Disney films as a vehicle called Herbie. But sales, particularly in the key US market, have fallen in recent years.

- The Beetle was originally designed in the 1930s by legendary engineer Ferdinand Porsche - a name now synonymous with fast cars - at the behest of Adolf Hitler, who wanted to see a cheap and practical mass-produced car made available to the German people. Production began to take off in the late 1940s, and by 1955 a million of the cars were driving on German roads.

## 15-18 September 2018

### Most Important Key Words

3 bank merger |  
Nambi Narayanan |  
Florence |  
ISRO |  
Time magazine |  
National Insurance Co. |

## Banking

The Union Government on 17 September 2018 proposed to merge which three public-sector banks to create an amalgamated banking entity of more

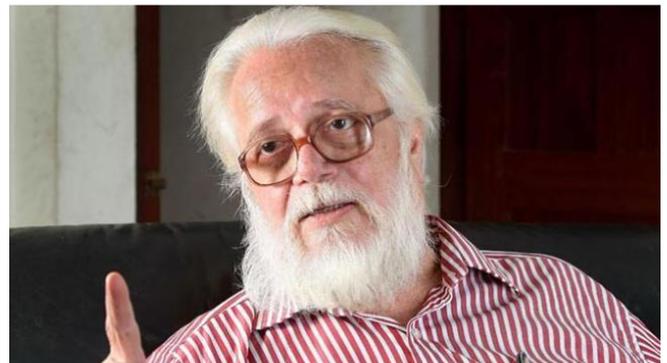
than Rs 14.82 trillion? - **Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank**

**Explanation:** The Union Government on 17 September 2018 moved towards consolidation of the banking sector, proposing an amalgamation of state-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to create India's third largest bank. The new amalgamated bank will have a total business of more than Rs 14.82 trillion and will be the third largest bank in India.

- The government expects that the amalgamated bank will be a strong competitive bank with economies of scale.

- While Dena Bank has been placed under the prompt corrective action framework by the Reserve Bank of India with restrictions on lending, Vijaya Bank is among the only two lenders to have reported a profit in 2017-18.

## Judiciary



The Supreme Court on 14 September 2018 appointed a three-member panel headed by its former judge to probe the harrowing arrest and alleged torture of former space scientist Nambi Narayanan in the ISRO spy scandal. In which year Narayanan was arrested in the alleged case? – **1994**

**Explanation:** The charges on scientist Nambi Narayanan in the spy scandal case turned out to be fake. He was in-charge of the cryogenics division in ISRO and was falsely charged with espionage and arrested in 1994.

- The charges against him were dismissed by the CBI in 1996, and the Supreme Court declared him not guilty in 1998. On 14 September 2018, three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra also awarded Narayanan Rs. 50 lakh in compensation for the "mental cruelty" he suffered all these years.

- The Supreme Court also appointed a three-member panel headed by Supreme Court judge

D.K. Jain to probe Narayanan's wrongful arrest and torture.

## International

What is the name of the tropical storm (hurricane) that hit Carolina states in the United States (U.S.) on 14-15 September 2018 that resulted in death of at least 15 persons? – **Florence**

**Explanation:** Hurricane Florence was the name of the tropical cyclone that hit the states of Carolina (North Carolina and South Carolina) in the United States on 14 September 2018. It was the sixth named storm, third hurricane, and the first major hurricane of the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season. It emerged off the west coast of Africa on 30 August 2018.

- Florence was earlier graded a super-storm but was later downgraded by 14 September 2018, when it made its landfall in North Carolina.

## Space

Two satellites of which country were launched by ISRO on 16 September 2018 from Sriharikota launch station? – **United Kingdom**

**Explanation:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s space launch vehicle PSLV-C42 on 16 September 2018 successfully carried two satellites of the United Kingdom (UK) - NovaSAR and S1-4. This was the 12th launch of a core-alone version of the PSLV.

- The two satellites are owned by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL). The commercial arm of ISRO, Antrix Corporation, earned more than Rs. 220 crore on this launch.

## International



Salesforce co-founder Marc Benioff has agreed to buy which iconic magazine as was disclosed on 16 September 2018? – **"Time"**

**Explanation:** According to an announcement made on 16 September 2018, *Time* magazine is being sold by Meredith Corp. to Marc Benioff, a co-founder of Salesforce, and his wife.

- Meredith Corp. is selling the iconic magazine for \$190 million in cash to Marc Benioff, one of four co-founders of Salesforce, a cloud computing pioneer.

- The Benioffs are purchasing *Time* personally, and the transaction is unrelated to Salesforce.com, where Benioff is chairman and co-CEO and co-founder. However, the Benioffs would not be involved in the day-to-day operations or journalistic decisions at *Time*. Those decisions will continue to be made by *Time*'s current executive leadership team.

- Started by Yale University graduates Henry Luce and Briton Hadden, *Time* first went on sale in March 1923.

## Insurance



Who took over as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Insurance Company Limited (NIC) from 14 September 2018? - **Tajinder Mukherjee**

**Explanation:** Tajinder Mukherjee took over as the new CMD of National Insurance Company Limited (NIC), the public-sector general insurance entity, from 14 September 2018. Prior to her joining the NIC, she was the General Manager and Chief Underwriting Officer of New India Assurance.



Sheva (Jawaharlal Nehru Port) in Mumbai as its chairperson.

- Born Anna Rajam George in Kerala's Ernakulam district in July 1927, she moved to Chennai after her schooling in Kozhikode to pursue higher education at the University of Madras. She later married R.N. Malhotra, who served as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1985 to 1990.

## Political

BJP MP and former Minister Major General B.C. Khanduri was on 18 September 2018 removed as Chairman of the Standing committee on Defence. Who replaced him? – **Kalraj Misra**

**Explanation:** Former Union Minister Kalraj Mishra replaced B.C. Khanduri as Chairman of the standing committee on Defence on 18 September 2018.

- Khanduri had been delivering a series of critical reports on the defence preparedness and the latest among them, tabled in March this year, slammed the government for critical low stock of armaments. The March report said that 68% of equipment with the armed forces was in the vintage category.

## Space



Who is poised to become SpaceX's first moon traveller, as was announced by Elon Musk on 17 September 2018? - **Yusaku Maezawa**

**Explanation:** Yusaku Maezawa, a Japanese billionaire and online fashion tycoon, will be the first man to fly on a monster SpaceX rocket around the Moon as early as 2023. This announcement was made by SpaceX owner Elon Musk in presence of Maezawa on 17 September 2018.

- 42-year old Maezawa will be the first lunar traveller since the last US Apollo mission in 1972. He paid an unspecified amount of money for the privilege. He is chief executive of Japan's largest online fashion

# 19-20 September 2018

## First woman IAS

Anna Rajam  
Standing committee on Defence  
SpaceX  
Danske Bank



## National

Anna Rajam Malhotra, who passed away at the age of 91 on 17 September 2018, had which distinction to her name? - **India's first woman IAS officer after Independence**

**Explanation:** India's first woman IAS officer after Independence, Anna Rajam Malhotra, passed away in Mumbai on 17 September 2018. She was 91. She joined the civil services in 1951 and opted for the Madras cadre.

- She had served in the Madras State under then Chief Minister C. Rajagopalachari and at the Central government. She also successfully executed the construction of India's first computerised port Nhava

mall, and is the 18th richest person in Japan with a fortune of \$3 billion.

## International



What is the name of the chief executive of Denmark's Danske Bank who resigned from his post on 19 September 2018 after an investigation revealed suspicious payments totalling 200 billion euros? - **Thomas Borgen**

**Explanation:** Thomas Borgen, the Chief Executive of Denmark's Danske Bank resigned from his post on 19 September 2018. He resigned as an investigation revealed payments totalling 200 billion euros (\$234 billion) through its Estonian branch, many of which the bank said were suspicious.

- Borgen was in charge of Danske Bank's international operations, including Estonia, between 2009 and 2012.

## 21- 22 September 2018

Small Savings

National Database on Sexual Offenders

Odisha cyclonic storm

Accident Insurance

## Financial

Union Government raised the interest rates on small savings schemes by how much on 20 September 2018? – **Up to 0.4%**

**Explanation:** The Union Government on 20 September 2018 raised interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF, by up to 0.4% for the October-December quarter, in line with rising deposit rates in the banks.

- Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will fetch an annual interest rate of 8% as compared to existing 7.6%, while Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) will yield 7.7% and mature in 112 months as against 118 months in the previous quarter.

- The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi account will earn higher interest rate of 8.5%, 0.4% more than the current rate. The interest rate for the five-year term deposit, recurring deposit, Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been raised to 7.8, 7.3 and 8.7%, respectively.

## India

The first-of-its-kind national sex offenders' registry called National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO) was launched by the Union Government on 20 September 2018. With this India became .....country in the world to have such registry? – **Ninth**

**Explanation:** India became the ninth (9th) country in the world to have a National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO), as the registry was launched by Union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi on 20 September 2018.

- On its launch day NDSO had names and details of some 4.4 lakh people convicted for various sexual offences across the country. The database is for those convicted for sexual offences 2005 onwards. It includes name, address, photograph and fingerprint details of the convict.

- NDSO will be accessible only to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of "investigation and monitoring". The proposal to set up a registry was mooted by the UPA government after the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape case in New Delhi.

- The database will be maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which will also track whether the State police were updating the records on time.

## India –State

What is the name given to the cyclonic storm that made landfall in Odisha on 21 September 2018 and

brought heavy rains in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh? – **Cyclone Daye**

**Explanation:** Cyclone Daye is the name given to the cyclonic storm that struck the state of Odisha on 21 September 2018. It originally formed as a depression over the Bay of Bengal on 19 September 2018 and moved in northwest direction. It intensified further and was classified as a cyclonic storm.

- The storm weakened with its progress but brought intense rains in Odisha and the adjoining regions of Andhra Pradesh. Malkangiri district of Odisha was the worst affected. Heavy rains were also experienced in West Bengal and parts of eastern and central India.

## Insurance

How much accidental insurance cover has been made mandatory all car and bike owners, as was announced on 21 September 2018? – **Rs. 15 lakh**

**Explanation:** According to a notification issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on 21 September 2018, all car and bike owners will have to get a compulsory personal accident cover of Rs. 15 lakh under their motor insurance policies. Earlier, the mandatory cover was Rs. 2 lakh for cars and Rs 1 lakh for two-wheelers.

- A premium of Rs. 750 per annum will be applicable for the Rs 15-lakh cover, a significant jump from the Rs. 100 premium for cars and Rs 50 for two-wheelers earlier. The expense is over and above the mandatory third party insurance product.

## 23-24 September 2018

Ayushman Bharat  
PMJAY  
Jharsuguda airport  
Village Rockstars  
Iran terror attack

## Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 23 September 2018 launched Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, which has been called

"world's largest government funded healthcare programme", at which place? – **Ranchi (Jharkhand)**

**Explanation:** Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY) was officially launched on 23 September 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ranchi in Jharkhand. The scheme will provide a cover of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. Over 10.74 crore vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) will be eligible for these benefits.

PMJAY will provide cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service. It will help mitigate the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes. When fully implemented, PMJAY will become the world's largest fully government-financed health protection scheme.

- The ambitious scheme will target poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers' families, 8.03 crore in rural and 2.33 crore in urban areas, as per the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.

## Aviation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 September 2018 inaugurated which airport in Odisha that became state's second operational airport after capital Bhubaneswar? – **Jharsuguda**

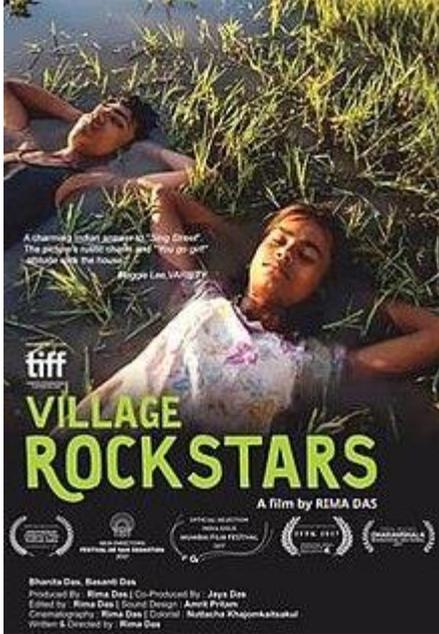


**Explanation:** Odisha's second airport – Jharsuguda was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 September 2018. It is state's second operational airport after capital Bhubaneswar's Biju Patnaik International Airport.

- The Jharsuguda airport has been developed by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) in collaboration with state government at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.10 billion. With a 2,390-meter-long runway, the airport will be able to park Airbus A-320 and Boeing aircrafts. The area of terminal building of the airport is 4,000 square metre and has five check-in counters and one arrival carousel with peak hour handling capacity of 300 passengers.

- The airport is capable of handling 20 million passengers annually. It provides necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under UDAN.

## Awards



Which film was chosen as India's official entry for the best foreign language film category of the 2019 Academy (Oscar) Awards, as was announced on 22 September 2018? – **"Village Rockstars"**

**Explanation:** "Village Rockstars", an Assamese language feature by National Award-winning filmmaker Rima Das, was selected as India's official entry for the best foreign language film category of the 2019 Academy (Oscar) Awards. This announcement was made by Film Federation of India (FFI) Chairman Rajendra Singh Babu on 22 September 2018.

- "Village Rockstars" beat 27 other contenders, including Hichki, Padmaavat, Raazi, Love Sonia, Nude, Pihu and Padman for making it into the Oscars.

- This film tells the story of 10-year-old Dhunu, a young girl from a remote village in Assam, who dreams of owning a guitar and forming a rock band despite the abysmal financial situation at home.

## International

A terror attack on an Iranian military parade was carried out in which Iranian city on 22 September 2018 that resulted in death of at least 29 deaths? – **Ahvaz**

**Explanation:** On 22 September 2018, a military parade was attacked in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz. This was the deadliest terrorist attack in Iran since the 2010 Chabahar Suicide Bombings and resulted in death of at least 29 people. Both the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz (ASMLA) and the ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.

- The attack was done on an annual parade that was a part of the annual commemoration, known as the Sacred Defence Week, of the start in 1980 of the Iran–Iraq War. The parade included the soldiers of the prestigious Revolutionary Guards. Four gunmen wearing military uniforms disguised as Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and Basiji (volunteers) began shooting at the parade.

## 25 September 2018 Newsletter

Pakyong  
Sikkim Airport  
Maldive's presidential election  
Abhilash Tomy  
Facebook India |

## India –State

Which state became the part of India's aviation map on 24 September 2018 with the inauguration of a new airport at Pakyong? – **Sikkim**

**Explanation:** Sikkim became the part of India's aviation map as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the state's first airport at Pakyong on 24 September 2018. This airport also got the distinction of the 100th operational airport of India.

- The airport is spread over 201 acres and is located on top of a hill about two km from Pakyong village, at 4,500 feet above sea level. The airport was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 605 crore.

- In the absence of flights to the State, people headed for Gangtok would fly to Bagdogra airport in West Bengal's Siliguri district, and then journey over 100 km to reach Gangtok.

- Under the Union government's UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) regional connectivity scheme, the private carrier SpiceJet will be operating daily direct flights between Pakyong and Kolkata from 4 October

and between Pakyong and Guwahati from 16 October 2018. Pakyong is SpiceJet's ninth destination under the scheme.

## Foreign Affairs

What is the name of the opposition leader who won the Maldives' presidential election and thus resulted in a surprise defeat for President Abdulla Yameen?

- **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**

**Explanation:** Maldives' opposition leader Ibrahim scored a decisive win over President Abdulla Yameen by securing 58.3% of popular votes, as was announced the country's Elections Commission on 24 September 2018. Solih is the leader of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP).



- Solih had the backing of a united opposition trying to oust Yameen but struggled for visibility with the electorate, with the local media fearful of falling afoul of heavy-handed decrees and reporting restrictions. The elections were held on 23 September 2018 and had recorded a high polling percentage of around 88%

- Later Yameen conceded defeat and ensured that he will do all that is necessary for smooth transfer of power. The polls were closely watched by regional rivals India and China, who are jostling to influence Indian Ocean nations.

## Person

What is the name of the Indian naval officer who was rescued hundreds of kilometers off the coast of Western Australia in his yacht on 24 September 2018 by a French fishing vessel after being injured while taking part in a solo yachting race? – **Abhilash Tomy**

**Explanation:** Abhilash Tomy is an Indian naval officer and is the first Indian, second Asian, and seventy-ninth person to complete a solo, unassisted, non-stop circumnavigation under sail.

- He was severely injured while participating in Golden Globe Race - the nonstop, 30,000-mile solo yachting competition that started on 1 July 2018 from France. The race bars the use of modern technology. Tomy was on-board his yacht named "Thuriya" when this vessel was dismantled and he was severely injured after facing a storm in the Indian Ocean.



- He was stranded 3,200 km off the coast of Western Australia after his incident. In a rescue operation, led by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center in Canberra, Australia, with help from Australian, French and Indian naval vessels and other yachts from the competition, Abhilash was rescued on 24 September 2018 by the French fishing vessel, „Osiris“.

## Person

Who was appointed the new Managing Director and Vice-President (MD &VP) of Facebook India by Facebook Inc. on 24 September 2018? – **Ajit Mohan**

**Explanation:** Facebook Inc. on 24 September 2018 announced the appointment of Ajit Mohan as Managing Director and Vice-President (MD &VP) of Facebook India. He is currently serving as the Chief Executive of Star India-owned online video streaming platform Hotstar and will join Facebook early next year.

- Mohan's appointment comes a year after Umang Bedi resigned as the managing director of Facebook India, 15 months after taking over the role. Facebook India was without a senior leader since October 2015.

**26 – 30 September  
2018**

Supreme Court |  
Aadhaar |  
UN Award |  
Narendra Modi |  
Lokpal search Committee |  
RBI |  
Bandhan Bank |  
PTI Chairman |

## Link Aadhaar with PAN



The Supreme Court on 26 September 2018 declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid. The apex court also said the linking of Aadhaar for opening of bank accounts and for mobile connections is not mandatory. However, it made Aadhaar mandatory for which two purposes? – **Filing of IT returns and allotment of PAN**

**Explanation:** In a landmark order on 26 September 2018, the Supreme Court came out with three sets of judgements on the question of validity of Aadhaar scheme.

- The first of the three verdicts was pronounced by Justice A K Sikri who wrote the judgement for himself, CJI and Justice A M Khanwilkar. Justice Sikri said robust data protection regime has to be brought in place as early as possible. His order said there has been minimal demographic and biometric data collected by UIDAI for Aadhaar enrolment.

- Supreme Court added that CBSE, NEET, UGC cannot make Aadhaar mandatory and it is not compulsory for school admissions. The apex court also said the linking of Aadhaar for opening of bank accounts and for mobile connections is not mandatory. However, it made Aadhaar mandatory for filing of IT returns and allotment of Permanent Account Number.

## International

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded which prestigious environmental honour of the United Nations (UN) for his efforts in solar sector, as was announced on 26 September 2018? - **Champion of the Earth Award**

**Explanation:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded with the UN's highest environmental honour, bestowed upon five other individuals and organisations, for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance and pledge to eliminate single use plastic in India by 2022.

- He is among six of the world's most outstanding environmental changemakers have been recognised with the Champion of the Earth Award, the UN's highest environmental honour.

- French President Emmanuel Macron, President of France and Modi have been jointly recognised in the Policy Leadership category for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and promoting new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action, including Macron's work on the Global Pact for the Environment and Modi's unprecedented pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022.

## Judiciary

The Union Government on 27 September 2018 constituted an eight-member search committee, to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal. Who is heading this committee? - **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**

**Explanation:** Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is heading the 8-member search committee constituted by the Union Government on 27 September 2018 to recommend the chairperson and members of Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman.

- The committee, formed despite concerns raised by the Congress, has former chief of State Bank of India (SBI) Arundhati Bhattacharya, Prasar Bharati chairperson A Surya Prakash and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) head A S Kiran Kumar as members.

- Besides them, Justice Sakha Ram Singh Yadav, former judge of Allahabad High Court; Shabbirhusein S Khandwawala, former Gujarat Police head; Lalit K Panwar, retired IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre; and Ranjit Kumar are the other

members of the panel, according to an official order issued by the Personnel Ministry.

Sarkar (Anand Bazar Patrika), M P Veerendra Kumar (Mathrubhumi), R Lakshmi pathy (Dinamalar), Hormusji N Cama (Bombay Samachar), Justice R C Lahoti, Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Shyam Saran and J F Pochkhanawalla.

## Banking

4) The RBI on 28 September 2018 barred which private sector bank from opening new branches without its approval? – **Bandhan Bank**

**Explanation:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred Bandhan Bank from opening new branches without its approval and ordered the bank to freeze the salary of its chief executive Chandra Shekhar Ghosh over its failure to meet shareholding rules. This information was disclosed by the bank on 28 September 2018.

- According to RBI's new bank licencing guidelines, the bank's promoter, Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd, has to reduce its stake from 82% to 40% within three years of commencing the business. The deadline for Bandhan Bank was on 23 August 2018.



## Person



Who was elected the new Chairman of Press Trust of India, the country's largest news agency, on 29 September 2018? – **N. Ravi**

**Explanation:** N Ravi, the publisher of The Hindu Group of Newspapers, was on 29 September 2018, unanimously elected the new Chairman of Press Trust of India, the country's largest news agency. He succeeded Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group.

- Vijay Kumar Chopra, the chief editor of Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers, was elected the new Vice-Chairman.

- Besides Ravi, Chopra and Goenka, the other members of the PTI Board are Mahendra Mohan Gupta (Dainik Jagran), K N Shanth Kumar (Deccan Herald), Vineet Jain (Times of India), Aveek Kumar