



1-5 November 2018

1) It was disclosed in media reports of November 2018 that a major global card payment entity had complained that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was using nationalism to promote the use of a domestic payments network RuPay. Which entity is this? – **MasterCard**

Explanation: During November 2018 it was disclosed that American multinational financial services corporation MasterCard, which operates global card payment services to process payments between the banks of merchants and the card issuing banks, had in June 2018 complained that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was using nationalism to promote the use of a domestic payments network RuPay.

- It told the United States government that India's protectionist policies were hurting foreign payment companies as PM Modi has been advocating that using RuPay was like serving the country as its transaction fee stays within India.

- It is worth mentioning that more than half of India's 1 billion debit and credit cards now go through the RuPay payment system, and that means companies such as Mastercard face an uphill task to expand rapidly in one of the world's biggest payments growth markets.

2) During November 2018 the RBI initiated steps to set up a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture details of all borrowers, including wilful defaulters. A committee headed by whom had recommended setting up of PCR? – **Y.M. Deosthalee**

Explanation: A committee headed by Y.M. Deosthalee had during 2017 recommended setting up of a wide-based digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) primarily to help banks distinguish between a bad and a good borrower.

- The banks can accordingly offer attractive interest rates to good borrowers and higher interest rates to bad borrowers. PCR will thus address information asymmetry, improve access to credit and strengthen the credit culture among consumers.

- It can also go a long way in addressing the bad loans problem facing the banking system, as corporate borrowers will be unable to lend from multiple banks without disclosing their existing debt.

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3) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2 November 2018 launched an ambitious portal for which sector that would enable the units to get a loan up to Rs. 1 crore in just 59 minutes? – **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector**

Explanation: On 2 November 2018 Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 12 measures to boost the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, including a portal that would enable the units to get a loan up to Rs. 1 crore in just 59 minutes and interest subvention of 2%.

- Firms registered on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) portal would be able to avail themselves of this facility on the portal itself. He also announced a 2% interest subvention on fresh or incremental loans for all GST-registered MSMEs.

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4) According to a disclosure made by the Indian Railways on 2 November 2018, of the total 16 railway zones how many have been eliminated unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) on broad gauge route? – **12**

Explanation: The Indian Railways on 2 November 2018 announced that it has eliminated all unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) on broad gauge route from 12 of its total 16 zones. The 12 zones to achieve this

distinction are - Central Railway, Eastern Railway, East Central Railway, East Coast Railway, North Eastern Railway, North East Frontier Railway, Southern Railway, South Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, South East Central Railway and West Central Railway.

- Most of the UMLCs have been eliminated either by provision of subway, road under bridges or by manning. As of October 2018, accidents at UMLCs have reduced from 65 in 2009-2010 to three in 2018-2019.

5) Which airport of Odisha was officially renamed as "Veer SurendraSai Airport" after the Union Cabinet approved Odisha Government's proposal to rename it? – **Jharsuguda**

Explanation: Jharsuguda airport of Odisha has been officially renamed as "Veer SurendraSai Airport, Jharsuguda" after the Union Government chaired by Prime Minister NarendraModi on 1 November 2018 gave its approval to the proposal. This was a long-standing demand of the Odisha Government.

- Veer SurendraSai was a well-known freedom fighter of Odisha.



6) During November 2018 who became the fifth Indian to be inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame? – **Rahul Dravid**

Explanation: Former India captain Rahul Dravid was officially inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame on 1 November 2018. This induction was done before the start of the fifth and final One-day International between India and the West Indies in Thiruvananthapuram. Dravid was presented the ICC Hall of Fame memento by the legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar.

- Dravid became only the fifth player from India after Bishan Singh Bedi, KapilDev, Sunil Gavaskar and Anil Kumble to be named on the elite list. He had

aggregated 13,288 runs in 164 Tests with 36 centuries and 10,889 runs in 344 ODIs with 12 centuries.

7) On 31 October 2018 AnupamKher announced his decision to step down from the position of the Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) due to international professional commitments. What is an important fact associated with his resignation? – **He became the first-ever Chairman of FTII to resign before his tenure**

Explanation: Ace actor AnupamKher became the first-ever Chairman of Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) to resign before his tenure as he resigned from his post on 31 October 2018.

- The actor was appointed as the FTII chairman last year (in 2017), a few months, after the controversial stint of his predecessor GajendraChauhan had ended.

- Kher is currently associated with the American medical drama TV series titled "New Amsterdam".



6-10 November 2018

1) On 9 November 2018 Indian Army received two new howitzer guns in the form of the M777 American Ultra-Light Howitzers and K9 Vajra gun. What is the significance of these new heavy guns? – **These are the first heavy artillery guns in the Indian Army since the Swedish Bofors guns were imported in the late 1980s**

Explanation: The Indian Army got two of each gun – K9 Vajra and M777 Howitzers at Devlali Field Rangers near Nashik in Maharashtra on 9 November 2018. The induction function was held in the presence of Defence Minister NirmalaSitharaman and Army Chief Gen. BipinRawat.

- The development assumes critical importance especially in the backdrop of the fact that this is the

first move to induct heavy artillery guns in the Indian Army since the Swedish Bofors guns were imported in the late 1980s.

- M777, the 155mm-calibre guns manufactured by BAE Systems are being acquired under the \$737 million deal called Letter of Agreement and Acceptance (LoA) signed with the US in November 2016.

- On the other hand, the K9 Vajra gun is a variant of the South Korean K9 Thunder. It is the first-ever artillery gun manufactured by the Indian private sector.

2) During November 2018 who was appointed as the new chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)? - **Ashok Kumar Gupta**

Explanation: According to an official announcement made on 9 November 2018, former IAS officer Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

- The appointment would be till 25 October 2022 - the date when he attains the age of 65 years - or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. He replaced acting chairperson SudhirMital.

- The CCI keeps a tab on unfair business practices across sectors. Gupta, a former IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, would receive a consolidated salary of Rs 4,50,000 per month, without house and car.



3) India's newest commissioned stadium in Lucknow – the Ekana International Cricket Stadium was on 5 November 2018 named after which former Prime Minister? - **AtalBihari Vajpayee**

Explanation: The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government changed the name of the Ekana International Cricket Stadium to “Bharat RatanAtalBihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium” on 5 November 2018.

- It is the newest commissioned stadium in country and the first-ever full-fledged international match was played here on 6 November 2018 in the form of a T20 match between India and the West Indies.

4) According to a latest report by research firm Canalis, during July-September 2018 quarter India overtook which country to emerge as the second largest smartphone market after China? – **United States**

Explanation: India has overtaken the US to become the second largest smartphone market in the July-September 2018 quarter, according to a report by research firm Canalis.

- The report released on 8 November 2018 stated that India saw a shipment of 40.4 million units during the third quarter while that of the US stood at 40 million. China remained the largest smartphone market with shipments worth 100.6 million smartphones.

- Worldwide smartphone shipments fell by 7.2% year-on-year to 348.9 million units during July-September 2018. Samsung led the vendor tally with 20.4 % share in the said quarter, followed by Huawei (14.9%), Apple (13.4%), Xiaomi (9.6%) and Oppo (8.9%).



5) France's highest civilian honour (Knight of the Legion of Honour) was bestowed on which Indian personality on 9 November 2018? - **JawaharLalSarin**

Explanation: JawaharLalSarin, the President of the Governing Body of the Alliance française de Delhi, was on 9 November 2018 conferred France's highest civilian honour - the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour).

- He was bestowed with this honour in recognition of his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.

- A former civil servant with tremendous international exposure, 75-year old Sarin has been engaged in voluntary work for the Alliance Française de Delhi (AFD). He has been a member of its Governing Body continuously since 2002. In terms of number of students, AFD now figures among the five largest Alliances in the world.



11-22 November 2018



1) On 14 November 2018 India's heaviest rocket GSLV Mark – III successfully placed the sophisticated communications satellite GSAT-29 in the orbit. What was the total weight of this rocket? - **641 tons**

Explanation: India's heaviest rocket, referred to as "Baahubali", successfully placed the sophisticated communications satellite GSAT-29 in the orbit on 14 November 2018. India space agency ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk-III-D2), on its second developmental flight, lifted off from Sriharikota, India's rocket port in Andhra Pradesh on the coast of the Bay of Bengal.

This was the 67th launch from Sriharikota and the GSAT-29 is the 33rd communications satellite made by India. The GSLV Mk- III weighs 641 tons, which is equal to the weight of five fully loaded passenger planes. At 43 meters tall, it is higher than a 13-storey building.

On the other hand the advanced communications satellite weighs 3,423 kg and will help provide internet connectivity, especially in the remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir and north-eastern India.

2) T.N. Srinivasan, who passed away on 10 November 2018, was an iconic personality associated with which field? – **Economics**

Explanation: Distinguished economist Thirukodikaval Nilakanta Srinivasan, better known as Prof. TN Srinivasan, passed away in Chennai on 10 November 2018 at the age of 85 years.

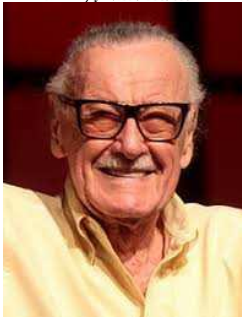
- He was known for having provided an intellectual framework along with Jagdish Bhagwati and Padma Desai for economic reforms that India undertook in 1991 when the balance of payments crisis hit it hard.

- Srinivasan earned a doctorate in Economics from Yale University, in 1962 and has since been teaching and working in the US. The Government of India conferred on him the Padma Bhushan in 2007.

3) During November 2018 which public sector bank entered 100th year of its formation? – **Union Bank of India (UBI)**

Explanation: Union Bank of India on 11 November 2018 celebrated its 100th Foundation Day in Mumbai. Established on 11 November 1919, the bank's corporate office in Mumbai was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi.

- The bank presently has assets of US\$ 13.45 billion and around 4,300 branches including 4 overseas branches in Hong Kong, Dubai, Antwerp and Sydney.



4) Stan Lee, the inspiration behind superhero characters such as Spider-Man, Iron Man and the Hulk, passed away on 12 November 2018 in New York. He was associated with which comic book brand? –

Marvel

Explanation: As a writer and editor, Stan Lee, in collaboration with artists such as Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, was key to the ascension of Marvel into a comic book titan in the 1960s. They created super successful superheroes like Spider-Man, Iron Man, the Hulk, the Fantastic Four, Black Panther, Daredevil, Doctor Strange, and Ant-Man.

- These characters became mythic figures in pop culture with soaring success at the movie box office. Lee passed away on 12 November 2018 at the age of 95.

- In 2008, Lee was awarded the National Medal of Arts, the highest government award for creative artists.



5) Union Minister and senior BJP leader H.N. Ananth Kumar passed away on 12 November 2018. What portfolios he was holding in the Union Government? –

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and Chemicals and Fertilizers

Explanation: Union Minister H.N. Ananth Kumar passed away in the early hours of 12 November 2018 at a private hospital in Bengaluru. He was 59. He was the Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and Chemicals and Fertilizers.

- He was diagnosed with lung cancer at an advanced stage in June 2018. A six-time member of parliament from Bengaluru South Lok Sabha seat, Ananth Kumar was representing it continuously since 1996.

- He held civil aviation, urban development and tourism portfolios in Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet during 1999-2004.



6) The iconic Jawa Motorcycles were re-launched in India on 15 November 2018, more than two decades after they disappeared from Indian roads, by Classic Legends Pvt. Limited. Classic Legends is a subsidiary of which renowned auto company? – **Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd.**

Explanation: Classic Legends Pvt. Ltd, a subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd, on 15 November 2018 launched two bikes – Jawa Classic and Jawa 42.

- Having first entered the Indian market in the early 1960s, Jawa was founded in Czechoslovakia more than 90 years ago. These motorcycles became very popular across India. In its heyday, Jawa bikes were exported to more than 120 countries. But due to low demand the Indian operations of Jawa were wound up in 1996.

- Anand Mahindra-led Mahindra Group, Anupam Thareja and Boman Irani are the shareholders of Classic Legends, with Mahindra holding a majority stake of 60%.



7) Popular advertising and theatre personality Alyque Padamsee passed away in Mumbai on 17 November 2018. During his prime years he was

associated with which advertising agency for which he produced some of the most iconic ads? – **Lintas**

Explanation: Padamsee was an advertising professional who headed the advertising company Lintas India for 14 years as its Chief Executive. During this period he built over 100 brands and was known as the Brand Father of Indian advertising. He went on to become the Regional Co-ordinator of Lintas South Asia and is the only Indian to be voted into the International Clio Hall of Fame, the Oscars of World Advertising.

- He was also an eminent theatre personality was known for his English language theatre productions in India like “Evita”, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Tuglaq”. However, he was best known in the English-speaking world for playing Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the film ‘Gandhi’.

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8) Carlos Ghosn, who was arrested on 19 November 2018 on charges of corruption, is the Chairman of which Japanese automobile company? - **Nissan Motor Co Ltd.**

Explanation: Nissan Motor Co Ltd.'s Chairman Carlos Ghosn was arrested on 19 November 2018 on charges that he had used company money for personal use. He had under-reported nearly 10 billion yen (\$88.70 million) in compensation as nearly 5 billion yen. The under-reporting took place over five years, from 2011.

- Nissan was moving to terminate Carlos Ghosn from his chairman's post after finding that the charges against him were true.

- The news comes as a shock in Japan where Ghosn, a rare foreign top executive, is well regarded for having turned Nissan around from near bankruptcy. Ghosn is also chairman and chief executive of France's Renault.

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9) Who was appointed the first-ever India head of messaging service WhatsApp on 21 November 2018? - **Abhijit Bose**

Explanation: Facebook Inc.-owned messaging service WhatsApp on 21 November 2018 appointed Abhijit Bose as head of WhatsApp India. He will work to establish WhatsApp India, expected to begin its operations next year.

- Bose is the co-founder and chief executive officer of enterprise payments solutions firm Ezetap. He will build WhatsApp's first full country team outside of California.

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10) What was the name of the severe cyclonic storm that hit parts of Tamil Nadu during November 2018 resulting in death of 46 persons? – **'Gaja'**

Explanation: “Gaja” was the name given to the severe cyclonic storm that hit Tamil Nadu with huge intensity on 16 November 2018. The districts affected by this storm are Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Ramanathapuram and Pudukottai. The storm later brought incessant rains in eastern and southern areas of Tamil Nadu.

- At least 46 persons were killed due to “Gaja” storm. The storm emerged from a low pressure system that formed over the Gulf of Thailand on 5 November 2018. Later by 11 November 2018 the deep depression strengthened into a cyclonic storm, and was named 'Gaja'.

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11) The 33rd edition of ASEAN Summit was held from 11 to 15 November 2018 in which country? – **Singapore**

Explanation: Singapore hosted the 33rd edition of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit from 11 to 15 November 2018. The theme of this Summit was 'Resilient and innovative ASEAN'. ASEAN is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten Southeast Asian countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the East Asia Summit and Associated meetings of ASEAN that were held on 14th and 15th November in Singapore on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit.

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23-26 November 2018



1) Indian woman boxer M.C. Mary Kom struck her record 6th gold medal at the World Boxing Championships in New Delhi on 24 November 2018 to become the most successful woman boxer of all time. Now she is tied with which legendary Cuban boxer for the distinction of joint most successful boxer (Men and Women) in the history of World Championships? -

Felix Savon

Explanation: Mary Kom struck her record 6th gold medal at the World Boxing Championships as she defeated Ukraine's Hanna Okhota via a 5-0 unanimous decision on 24 November 2018.

- In doing so, the Manipur boxer became the joint most successful boxer (Men and Women) in the history of World Championships, tied with the Cuban legend Felix Savon, who had also won six gold medals at the World Championships. It is Kom's 7th medal overall in the tournament – 6 gold and 1 silver.

- Mary Kom won a silver medal in the inaugural edition in 2001, and then went on to win a gold medal in the next five consecutive editions – 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010.



2) Veteran film actor and former Union Minister Ambareesh, who passed away on 24 November 2018, was an iconic actor primarily associated with which film industry? – **Kannada**

Explanation: Veteran Kannada actor and former minister Ambareesh passed away on 24 November 2018 in a Bengaluru hospital after suffering from a

heart attack. He was 66. His original name was Malavalli Huchche Gowda Amarnath and belonged to Mandya district of Karnataka.

- He served as a union minister in the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh. The actor was an MP from 1998-99, 1999-2004 and 2004-2009. He was also the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from 2006 to 2008.

- Ambareesh has appeared in about 208 films and had surpassed the records of two other Kannada legends Rajkumar and Vishnuvardhan. He had the national award for his debut film Naagarahaavu in 1972 and was known as 'Rebel star' especially after his film Chakravyuha.



3) Which US institution successfully developed first-of-its-kind silent airplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines, as was reported in 'Nature' journal? - **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**

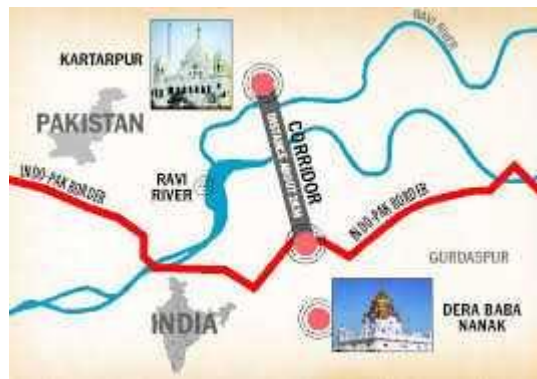
Explanation: Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have, in a breakthrough, built and flown the first-ever silent airplane with no moving propellers or jet turbines.

- Since the Wright Brothers launched the first airplane over 100 years ago, every aircraft has flown with the help of moving parts such as propellers, turbine blades, and fans, which are powered by the combustion of fossil fuels or by battery packs that produce a persistent, whining buzz.

- This plane carries neither propellers or turbines, nor it depends on fossil fuels to fly. It is powered by an "ionic wind" - a silent but mighty flow of ions that is produced aboard the plane, that generates enough thrust to propel the plane over a sustained, steady flight.



27-28 November 2018



4) On 21 November 2018 who was elected the new Chief of Interpol, the international police agency? - **Kim Jong-yang**

Explanation: Interim President Kim Jong-yang was elected to a two-year term at the helm of the international police agency in a vote on 21 November 2018. He defeated Aleksandr Prokopchuk, a Russian police general, who was strongly opposed by the United States, Britain, and other European states.

- The election was needed to replace Interpol's former president, Meng Hongwei, who was China's vice minister of public security and who went missing while on a trip to China in September 2018. China later said Meng resigned after being charged with accepting bribes.

5) Who won the men's and women's singles title (respectively) of Syed Modi International Badminton Championship in Lucknow on 25 November 2018? - **Sameer Verma (India) and Han Yue (China)**

Explanation: Sameer Verma (India) and Han Yue (China) respectively won the men's and women's singles title of Syed Modi International Badminton Championship on 25 November 2018.

- World number 16 Sameer Verma of India defeated world number 36 Lu Guangzu of China in the men's singles final by 16-21, 21-19, 21-14 while world number nine Saina Nehwal of India lost to world number 27 Han Yue of China by 18-21, 8-21.

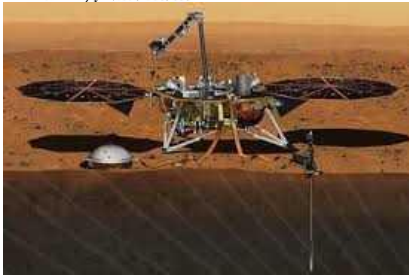
1) On 26 November 2018, Indian Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the Dera Baba Nanak - Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. What will be the main objective of this corridor? - **To allow Indian Sikh pilgrims the facility of unhindered access to the holy Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara across Indian border**

Explanation: Kartarpur Corridor is a proposed border-corridor (border gate) between India and Pakistan connecting the Sikh Holy shrine of Dera Baba Nanak Sahib to the holy shrine of Kartarpur Sahib (also referred to as Kartarpur Gurudwara) states of Punjab in India and Pakistan.

- When this corridor gets ready, it will facilitate the crossing of religious devotees to visit the Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, located in Narowal District, Pakistan, 120 km from Lahore but only three kilometres from the Indian side of the border.

- The historical Kartarpur Gurudwara also known as Darbar Sahib Kartarpur is situated on the banks of river Ravi and is considered to be the first Gurudwara ever built. Guru Nanak is believed to have spent 18 years here and it was here that he ended his life.

- On 22nd November 2018, The Indian Government Approved for Building Kartarpur Corridor from Indian Side. The foundation stone for the same was laid by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of Punjab Chief Minister Amrinder Singh on 26 November 2018.

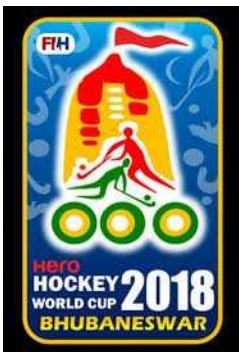


2) What is the name of NASA's robotic lander that successfully landed on the surface of Mars on 26 November 2018? – **InSight**

Explanation: "InSight" is the name of NASA's robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of the planet Mars. It was launched from the Earth on 5 May 2018 and it successfully landed on the surface of Mars at Elysium Planitia on 26 November 2018 after a journey of over 485 million km.

- The name "InSight" is an acronym for 'Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport'. The mission is managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for NASA. The lander was manufactured by Lockheed Martin Space Systems.

- The mission sent the first picture of the landscape of Mars just within minutes of landing on the planet. It is since continuously sending pictures of the Red Planet.



3) Which Indian city is hosting the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup, the inauguration ceremony of which was held on 27 November? – **Bhubaneswar (Odisha)**

Explanation: Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha is hosting the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup, which is the 14th edition of this prestigious FIH tournament. The tournament is being held at the Kalinga Stadium in the city.

- Bhubaneswar is the third Indian city to host Men's Hockey World Cup after Bombay (1982) and New Delhi (2010). 16 teams are taking part in this World

Cup – Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Spain. Australia is the defending champion.

- Ollie, the Olive Ridley turtle, is the official mascot of 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup. The tournament will conclude on 16 December 2018.

4) A 3-day martial law was imposed in Ukraine by country's Parliament on 26 November 2018 due to which reason? – **Due to Russia's seizure of three Ukrainian ships**

Explanation: The parliament of Ukraine on 26 November 2018 backed a decree imposing martial law for 30 days following Russia's seizure of three Ukrainian ships near the Crimean Peninsula.

- In an emergency session of the lower-house, Ukrainian parliamentarians voted in favour of President Petro Poroshenko's proposal to roll out the extraordinary measure from 28 November 2018.

- The move came barely 24 hours after Russian forces opened fire on the three Ukrainian ships near the Kerch Strait, a narrow sea passage that divides Crimea from mainland Russia.



5) Europe's Airbus on 26 November 2018 delivered the first edition of which new plane that is being pitted against Boeing's popular 787? - **Airbus A330neo**

Explanation: Europe's Airbus SE delivered its first A330neo jet to TAP Portugal on 26 November 2018. With this new plane, it seeks to trump US rival Boeing Co. in the fiercely competitive battle at the lower end of the market for long-haul jets.

- The face-off between Airbus A330neo and Boeing 787 pits two generations of jetliner against each other in the long-haul jet segment.

29-30 November 2018



1) Union Government on 28 November 2018 released the revised GDP numbers pertaining to the years between 2005-06 and 2011-12. This new back-series data estimates that India's economic growth under the previous Congress-led coalition government was slower than estimated earlier. What is the base-year for this new data? - **2011-12**

Explanation: According to the back-series data released by the Union Government on 28 November 2018, the Indian economy grew at an average of 6.67% in the nine years ended 31 March 2014 when UPA was in power, slower than the 7.35% achieved in the four years ended 31 March 2018, with Narendra Modi as the prime minister. It also shows that the highest growth rate the Indian economy has so far achieved is 8.5% in 2010-11, against the 10.3% estimated using the older base.

- The new series is based on the 2011-12 as base year instead of 2004-05, and the government presumes it be better for GDP figures. But the release of this new data has sparked-off heated exchange between the Congress and the ruling BJP.



2) What is the name of India's first-ever hyper spectral imaging satellite that was launched through ISRO's PSLV C-43 rocket along with 30 other satellites on 29 November 2018? - **HysIS**

Explanation: 'HysIS' (which stands for Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite) is the name of India's first-ever hyper spectral imaging satellite that was launched and successfully placed in its orbit on 29 November 2018 by ISRO's PSLV C-43 rocket. This

rocket also carried 30 other satellites along with HysIS.

- The launch was done from the SatishDhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. It was the 13th flight of the core-alone version and 45th launch of the PSLV.

- The HysIS is an Earth observation which can provide images far clearer than regular optical or remote sensing cameras. This satellite will be used primarily to assist in a wide range of applications in agriculture, forestry, geological environments, coastal zones, among others.

- The 30 satellites are one each from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Malaysia, Netherlands and Spain, and 23 from the USA.

3) Union Government has decided to go in for a 100% strategic disinvestment of Air India's ground handling subsidiary, as was disclosed on 27 November 2018. What is the name of this subsidiary? - **Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL)**

Explanation: An inter-ministerial panel led by Union Finance Minister ArunJaitley, Air India Specific Alternate Mechanism, on 27 November 2018 decided to divest the government's 100% stake in Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL). This stake sale will be undertaken to partially retire the national passenger carrier's accumulated debt.

- AIATSL provides ground handling service at most of the airports in India. It was operationalised in February 2013.



4) Norwegian grandmaster Magnus Carlsen has his chess world championship title by beating American challenger FabianoCaruana 3-0 in rapid tiebreaker games on 28 November 2018. With this win Carlsen has now won the World chess title how many times? - **Four times**

Explanation: Magnus Carlsen won his fourth World Chess Championship title as took unassailable 3-0

lead over American challenger FabianoCaruana in the best-of-four rapid format on 28 November 2018. Before this their three-week match had ended in 12 draws.

- It's the third time the 27-year-old Carlsen has successfully defended his title after winning it from ViswanathanAnand of India in 2013, while this is overall his fourth title. He defended his title against Anand in 2014, against Russian Sergey Karjakin and now against Caruana.

- 26-year old Caruana was trying to become the first American since Bobby Fischer, who in 1972 became the chess world champion.

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5) Who was appointed the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by President Ram NathKovind on 28 November 2018?
- **ArvindSaxena**

Explanation: The President on 28 November 2018 appointed UPSC-member ArvindSaxena as Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

- Saxena was a student of civil engineering at the Delhi College of Engineering. Later he pursued M.Tech. in Systems Management from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi. He was selected for the Civil Services and joined the Indian Postal Service in 1978.

- His tenure will begin from the date he enters the UPSC office as the chairman. The term of his appointment will be till 7 August 2020 when he attains the age of 65 years or till further orders whichever is earlier. He joined the UPSC as a member in May 2015.

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6) Who was appointed the new Chairman of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by the Union Skills Ministry on 28 November 2018? –
A.M. Naik

Explanation: Engineering and construction major Larsen and Toubro's (L&T's) group chairman A.M. Naik was on 28 November 2018 appointed as chairman of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

- NSDC, the body that oversees the short-term skill development programmes of the government and executes, among others, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), had been functioning without a full-time chairman since November 2016, when then chairman S. Ramadorai resigned from both NSDC and the national skill development agency.

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