

First ever in Banking, India, Sports and World

First in Banking, Economy and Finance

Reliance receives India's first LC payment via blockchain from HSBC

- Banking major HSBC in November announced **India's first trade finance transaction through blockchain, with the bank executing one for an export from Reliance Industries (RIL) to one of its American clients.**
- According to a statement from HSBC and RIL, the blockchain-enabled letter of credit (LC) transaction facilitated a shipment between Reliance and the US-based Tricon Energy, massively reducing the time taken for processing the documents.

YES BANK launches village adoption programme YES Digi Villages

- YES BANK, India's fourth largest private sector bank launched **a first-of-its-kind village adoption programme, one of the largest in India, by committing to adopt 2000 villages across the country.**
- Digital and Financial inclusion of villages by furthering literacy and technology infrastructure – YES SCALE Agritech Accelerator to support the programme

IndusInd Bank launches India's first interactive credit card with buttons

- **IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of IndusInd Bank Nexxt Credit Card**, which empowers customers with a choice of payment options such as EMI, Reward Points or Credit at the push of a button, on the card, at the point of sale (POS).
- **The bank claims it to be the nation's first interactive credit card with buttons.**
- According to the bank, this card provides customers with the flexibility of 3 payment options at a POS terminal — Credit, Converting Transactions into EMIs with 4 tenure options (6, 12, 18 & 24 months) or using accumulated Reward Points, by simply pushing a button on the card.

First-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue being held

- **The first-ever India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held at St. Petersburg in Russia on November 25, 2018.**
- The Indian side was led by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, while the Russian delegation was headed by Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin.

Casio launches world's first GST calculator

- Japanese electronics company '**CASIO**' launched **world's first Goods and Services Tax (GST) calculator in India for simplifying the GST calculations for tax payers.**
- The company has two variants of GST calculators MJ-120GST and MJ-12GST in the Indian market.
- These new GST calculators will provide solutions for GST based invoicing.
- These GST calculators feature built-in GST tabs for all five tabs- 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
- It includes separate buttons for GST slabs to reduce time required for processing invoice.

First in India and states events

IIT-Madras creates 'Shakti', India's first microprocessor

- India's first indigenous microprocessor may soon power your mobile phones, surveillance cameras and smart meters.
- 'Shakti', designed, developed and booted by Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and with a microchip fabricated in the **Semi-Conductor Laboratory of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)** at **Chandigarh**, will reduce dependency on imported microchips and the risk of cyber attacks making it ideal for communication and defence sectors.

India and Japan for the first time to cooperate in Yoga, Ayurveda

- **India and Japan** in November decided to cooperate for the **first time in the areas of Indian traditional medicinal systems such as Yoga and Ayurveda** to provide holistic healthcare and wellness in both the countries.
- The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India's Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) and the Kanagawa Prefectural Government was signed during the ongoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan.

INS Arihant: India's first indigenous nuclear-powered submarine completes Nuclear Triad

- The indigenous **INS Arihant India's first nuclear-powered submarine successfully completed its first deterrence patrol**. The ship submersible ballistic, nuclear (SSBN) submarine is part of Indian Navy's India's Eastern Naval Command.
- The name Arihant derives from two words – Ari meaning enemy and Hanth meaning destroy. The second SSBN under the project, INS Aridhaman, is undergoing sea trials.

Maharashtra Government approves conversion of aircraft carrier INS Viraat into floating museum

- Maharashtra State Cabinet approved conversion of **Indian Navy's longest-serving aircraft carrier INS Viraat into India's first-ever maritime museum-cum-marine adventure centre**.
- At present, INS Viraat is at Mumbai's Naval dockyard after it was decommissioned (retired) in 2017.
- As per state government's plan, INS Viraat's conversion will be on public private partnership (PPP) basis.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates first India-built war memorial in France

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu **inaugurated the first India-built war memorial in northern France** to pay tribute to thousands of Indian soldiers who fought selflessly and made supreme sacrifices during the World War I.
- Naidu, who is on a three-day visit to Paris starting, also interacted with French armed forces veterans and children at the inauguration of the Indian War Memorial at Villers Guislain.

India's first specialised hospital for elephants opens in Mathura

- India's first specialized hospital for elephants was in November formally opened by Agra Divisional Commissioner Anil Kumar at Farah block's Churmura village.
- The unique medical centre offers wireless digital X-ray, laser treatment, dental X-ray, thermal imaging, ultrasonography, hydrotherapy and quarantine facilities.

Reliance Jio launches India's first VoLTE international roaming

- Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. (Jio) in November announced the launch of VoLTE-based inbound international roaming between India and Japan.
- With this, Jio has become India's first 4G mobile operator to provide VoLTE-based international roaming services in India, whereby international roamers will be enjoying HD voice and LTE high-speed data.

Delhi government launches portal for spotting location of cluster buses

- Delhi bus commuters will now be able to spot locations of cluster buses at intervals of 10 seconds with the help of open transit data (OTD) which will be shared on a dedicated portal launched by the Delhi government.
- Delhi becomes the first city in the country to open up transit data of city buses, that will provide static and real time data through the website — www.otd.delhi.gov.in — including geo-coordinates of bus stops, route maps, timetables, and real time GPS feeds of bus locations every 10 seconds, said a government statement.

ISRO launched new imaging satellite 'HysIS'

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched 'HysIS', the country's first hyperspectral imaging satellite for advanced Earth observation.
- About 30 small satellites of foreign customers was its co-passengers on the PSLV launcher, numbered C-43.

Uttarakhand CM Rawat launches India's first hi-tech State Data Centre

- Uttarakhand Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat in November launched the "country's first hi-tech" State Data Centre (SDC) stating online data repository of all departments would help check leakages of funds besides speeding up delivery and generating employment for local youth.
- Amit Sinha, director ITDA, said the three-tier State Data Centre was developed by Information Technology Development Agency.
- He dubbed the SDC as the first such centre in the country with 100% software based on the Hyper Converged Infrastructure technology.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to launch Single Emergency Number '112'

- Himachal Pradesh on November 28, 2018 became the first Indian state to launch a single emergency number '112' which will connect to police, fire, health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre (ERC) in the state.

- The emergency number was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh under the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).
- For this purpose, state established an ERC in Shimla along with 12 District Command Centres (DCCs) covering the entire state.
- The ERC has been integrated with police (100), fire (101), health (108) and women helpline (1090) services to provide emergency services via single emergency number 112.

India's first indigenous film festival to be hosted in Odisha

- **India's first international indigenous film festival will take place in February next year in Odisha.**
- An initiative of activist film collective Video Republic, that has been campaigning for indigenous communities in the State, the three-stop event will kick off in Bhubaneswar on February 19 and 20, moving on to Puri from February 21 to 23 to eventually culminate in an interaction with the adivasi communities at Niyamgiri.

India, Australia sign five agreements

- **India and Australia** on November 22, 2018 signed five agreements to boost investments and enhance cooperation in areas including services to the disabled, bilateral investment, scientific collaboration and agricultural research and education.
- **The Indian President has become the first-ever Indian head of state to visit Australia. He arrived in the country on November 21, as a part of the second leg of his two-nation trip.**

First Ever Appointments

Person Name	Appointed As	Organisation/Country
Hima Das	India's first ever Youth Ambassador	United Nations Children's Fund-India (UNICEF)
Nahid Afrin	first 'Youth Advocate' of the north-eastern region	UNICEF India

World's First and Biggest events

First interstellar object Oumuamua could be alien probe, say Harvard scientists

- The cigar-shaped interstellar object -- originating from a star system not our own -- discovered last year and nicknamed **Oumuamua** may actually be an alien probe, states a new study by Harvard scientists.
- **Oumuamua**, which means "a messenger from afar arriving first" in Hawaiian, looped around the sun on September 9 and made its closest pass by Earth on October 14.
- It was first thought to be an asteroid. But when its trajectory and velocity was measured, that was ruled out and then it was thought to be a comet.

World's first AI news anchor unveiled in China

- China's state news agency Xinhua this week introduced the newest members of its newsroom: **World's first AI anchors** who will report "tirelessly" all day every day, from anywhere in the country.
- Chinese viewers were greeted with a **digital version of a regular Xinhua news anchor named Qiu Hao**. The anchor, wearing a red tie and pin-striped suit, nods his head in emphasis, blinking and raising his eyebrows slightly.

Palau Becomes First Nation to Ban Chemical Sunscreens

- **Palau is the first country to ban "reef-toxic" sunscreens. It passed a law this week banning sunscreens that contain any one of ten chemicals**, including oxybenzone and octinoxate, which are the same chemicals targeted in Hawaii's chemical sunscreen ban earlier this year.
- Palau, which is home to 500 islands and over 21,000 people in the Micronesia region of the Pacific Ocean, is drawing ever greater numbers of tourists, but with this has come environmental degradation.

World's largest 'human brain' supercomputer with 1 million processors switched on

- The world's largest neuromorphic supercomputer designed and built to work in the same way a human brain does has been fitted with its landmark one-millionth processor core and is being switched on for the first time.
- **The newly formed million-processor-core 'Spiking Neural Network Architecture' or 'SpiNNaker'** machine is capable of completing more than 200 million actions per second, with each of its chips having 100 million transistors.

Kenya hosts inaugural Sustainable Blue Economy conference

- Africa is hosting a historic conference that has to do with environmental protection. **The first ever Sustainable Blue Conference starts in November in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.**
- The three-day conference has high global support with over twenty world leaders in Nairobi for the event. A number of environment friendly civil society organizations are also in attendance.

Turkey unveils world's largest airport in Istanbul

- **The world's largest airport was unveiled by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan outside Istanbul.**
- The new \$11.7 billion will be one of the world's busiest, though it will not be fully operational until January. The name of the new airport will be Istanbul Airport.
- The airport uses mobile applications and artificial intelligence for customers, is energy efficient and boasts of a high-tech security system.

Records in Sports

Manipur hosts 1st Northeast Olympic Games

- Players of national and international level geared up for **the first-ever Northeast Olympic Games in Manipur's host city Imphal.**
- Organized by the Manipur Olympic Association under the aegis of Northeast Olympic Association, the championship acted as a platform for the players to showcase and nurture their talent in different sports discipline.
- The game was a first-of-its-kind which saw a competition in 12 different disciplines including Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football, Judo, Karate-Do, Shooting, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Weightlifting and Wushu.

Uber joins forces with ICC in world first partnership to support ICC Women's World T20

- Cab aggregator **Uber** and the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced a **world first partnership to support the first ever standalone ICC Women's World T20 in the West Indies.**
- Uber and the ICC aim to leverage one of the world's most popular sports to engage the broader cricketing community in a conversation around the important role sport plays in empowering girls and women around the world.

Mary Kom wins record sixth World Championships gold

- **Mary Kom scripted history by clinching a record sixth World Championship Gold medal in the light flyweight 48 kilogram category after outclassing Ukraine's Hanna Okhota** by an unanimous 5:0 verdict.
- The 35-year-old Mary, a mother of three and a pre-tournament favourite for the gold, rewrote the record books when she eclipsed her joint haul of five golds with Katie Taylor of Ireland. Watch this video to know more.