

## Current affairs

- 1. Who heads the Lokpal Search Committee to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal: Ranjana Prakash Desai.**  
**Explanation:** The Union government has recently constituted an 8-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend the chairperson and members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.
- 2. NITI Aayog has recently signed pact with which cloud services provider to curb the distribution of fake drugs using blockchain: Oracle.**  
**Explanation:** NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with cloud services provider Oracle to curb the distribution of fake drugs using new technologies. Apollo Hospitals and Strides Pharma Sciences will partner in this effort. The partners will pilot a real drug supply chain using blockchain decentralized ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software.
- 3. Who heads the High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to look into global trade challenges: Surjit S Bhalla.**  
**Explanation:** Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu has recently approved the constitution of a High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to look into the opportunities and ways to address the ongoing challenges in the global trade scenario. The HLAG will be headed by Surjit S. Bhalla, Director of Oxus Research and Investments.
- 4. Which is the India's best institute, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2019: IISc Bengaluru.**  
**Explanation:** No Indian institution figures in the top 250 of the Times Higher Education's (THE) world university rankings 2019. Though, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has retained its position as the highest-ranked centre in India.
- 5. India's first methanol-based alternative cooking fuel is to be established in which state: Assam.**  
**Explanation:** Public sector Assam Petrochemicals Limited will roll out India's first methanol-based alternative cooking fuel at Namrup methanol plant in Dibrugarh district, Assam on October 5. The pilot project involves 500 burners and stoves, each fuelled by a 1.2-litre canister of methanol. It will be priced at around Rs 32 and about 18 of them would be equivalent to one conventional domestic LPG cylinder.
- 6. What is the theme of 2018 World Rabies Day (WRD): Rabies: Share the message. Save a life.**  
**Explanation:** The World Rabies Day (WRD) is observed every year on September 28 to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease. The day also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.
- 7. The 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship has started in which city recently: Thiruvananthapuram.**  
**Explanation:** Kerala is hosting the 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship 2018 at the Jimmy George indoor stadium in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The event will witness around 500 participants representing 14 Asian countries showcasing their yoga skills. Yogaratna Awards will be given away to foreign delegates who were instrumental in popularising yoga in their respective countries.