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The Most Important Current Affairs MAY 2018

Acquisition of Bhushan Steel under IBC | A Milestone in Bankruptcy Proceedings

You all must be aware of the **historic Acquisition of the Bhushan Steel Ltd** by Tata Steel's wholly-owned subsidiary **Bamnipal Steel Ltd (BNPL)** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**. **BNPL has control of 72.65% of stake** in Bhushan Steel Ltd (BSL). Now the question comes **what exactly the IBC, 2016 is?**

So in order to answer that we need to understand the defining line of IBC by the **Ministry of Law and Justice** which says that- "It is an act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganisation and insolvency resolution of **corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals** in a time bound manner for maximisation of value of assets of such persons, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders".

Key Highlights of IBC, 2016:

1. Corporate Debtors: Two-Stage Process-

To initiate an insolvency process for corporate debtors, the default should be at least INR 100,000 (USD 1495) (which limit may be increased up to INR 10,000,000 (USD 149,500) by the Government). The Code proposes two independent stages:

- (a) **Insolvency Resolution Process (IRP)**, during which financial creditors assess whether the debtor's business is viable to continue and the options for its rescue and revival; and
- (b) **Liquidation-** if the insolvency resolution process fails or financial creditors decide to wind down and distribute the assets of the debtor.

2. Insolvency Resolution Process for Individuals/Unlimited Partnerships-

- ☞ For individuals and unlimited partnerships, the Code applies in all cases where the minimum default amount is INR 1000 (USD 15) and above (the Government may later revise the minimum amount of default to a higher threshold).
- ☞ The Code envisages two distinct processes in case of insolvencies: automatic fresh start and insolvency resolution.

Where does India stand globally on the **ease of resolving insolvencies**?

India currently ranks **136** out of 189 countries in the **World Bank's index on the ease of resolving insolvencies**. India's weak insolvency regime, its significant inefficiencies and systematic abuse are some of the reasons for the distressed state of credit markets in India.

How Do Banks Get Benefit from this Acquisition?

- ☞ For a banking sector that has suffered back-to-back bad news for a while now, this acquisition offers a ray of

hope. Bamnipal Steel Ltd (BNPL) announced the completion of its acquisition of Bhushan Steel, **marking the resolution of the first case** under IBC, 2016.

- ☞ **This was among the first lot of 12 companies** that the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had pushed to the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** for bankruptcy proceedings in 2017.
- ☞ **Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal** (who recently took the finance ministry's charge from Arun Jaitley in wake of the latter's ill health) described it as a **"historic breakthrough"** in resolving legacy issues of banks.
- ☞ **The most important outcome of the deal is that banks will pocket Rs 35,200 crore immediately**, which covers most of the principal amount Bhushan Steel owes to its lenders, besides a 12 percent stake in the company.
- ☞ The cash payment immediately lessens the burden on a group of banks including fraud-hit Punjab National Bank (PNB). The top three banks that had given loans to the Bhushan Steel are **State Bank of India (Rs 12,800 Crore)**, **Punjab National Bank (Rs 4,900 crore)**, and **Canara Bank (Rs 2,860 crore)**.
- ☞ Moreover, over a roughly three-and-a-half year period, from mid-2014 to the end-December 2017, India's public sector banks (PSBs) have written-off loans worth Rs 2,72,558 crore. Of the amount, a meagre Rs 29,343 crore has been recovered, according to data available with the RBI.

Key Appointments in Bhushan Steels after acquisition:

- ☞ **Rajeev Singhal** has taken over as the new Managing Director of the steelmaker, while **Krishnava Dutt** has been appointed an Independent Director.
- ☞ The new board comprises of three non-executive directors - **Anand Sen**, **Shuva Mandal** and **Dibyendu Dutta**.

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Smart Cities Mission: 1,333 Projects worth Rs. 50,626 Crores Completed or Under Implementation

- ✓ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs able to achieve substantial milestones in both physical and financial terms in so far as mission objectives/targets are concerned.
- ✓ During the year 2017-18, while the total cumulative grants released was Rs. 46,663 crores, Utilization Certificates were due only for the grants released upto March 2016, i.e. for approximately Rs. 10,365 crores.
- ✓ Overall projects worth **Rs.2,03,979** crores have been identified for all 99 smart cities across the country.
- ✓ The timeline for the completion of smart city projects according to the rounds in which they were selected is given below:
 1. Round 1 cities- 2019-20 to 2020-21
 2. Round 2 cities- 2019-20 to 2021-22
 3. Round 3 cities- 2020-21 to 2021-22
 4. Round 4 cities- 2020-21 to 2022-23

AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)

- ✎ Under AMRUT, out of State Annual Action Plan(SAAP) size of Rs. 77,640 crores, projects worth Rs. 65,075 crores (84%) are under various stages of implementation including projects tendered and where DPRs have been approved.
- ✎ More than 22 crores urban population will benefit from this mission. Total of Rs. 11,945 crores has been released so far.

PMAY(U) (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban)

- ✎ Total of Rs. 24,475 crores has been released to the States under the scheme. So far, 45.86 lakh houses have been sanctioned under the scheme; out of these 23.43 lakh houses have been grounded and 7.02 lakh houses have been completed so far (including incomplete houses of earlier scheme).

DAY - NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission)

- ✎ Under the Mission, Rs.1907.5 crores have been released so far. The Mission has been extended to all the statutory towns. Since the beginning of the mission, employment has been generated for 6,36,956 beneficiaries.

HRIDAY (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana)

- ✎ City HRIDAY Plans (CHPs) for **12 cities** have been approved. 66 DPRs amounting to Rs. 421.47 crores have been approved and Rs. 261.31 crores have been released to 12 cities for implementation of the scheme.
- ✎ Total expenditure under the scheme so far is Rs.209.5 crores. 58 projects are under implementation at various stages. All works will be completed by September 2018.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)

- ✎ A total of Rs. 6,592 crores have been released to states. Total number of 48.67 lakh individual household toilets and 3.3 lakh Community/Public Toilet (CT/PT) seats have already been constructed and 8.3 lakh individual toilets and 0.37 lakh CT/PT are under construction.
- ✎ 2679 cities have been so far self-declared Open Defecation Free and after third-party certification, 2,133 cities/ ULBs have been certified as Open Defecation Free (ODF).

Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards 2018 Announced

- ✎ Bollywood actors **Bhumi Pednekar, Sonam Kapoor** and **Akshay Kumar** bagged the best actress and best actor awards at the Dadasaheb Phalke awards, given by Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation, held in **Mumbai**.
- ✎ **Manisha** Koirala won the **'Most Versatile Actress'** award. Veteran actor-director **Rakesh Roshan** was given the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the industry as an actor, producer and a director.
- ✎ The complete list of all the winners of Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards 2018:

Category	Winner
Best Actor	Akshay Kumar, for Padman (Jury) and for Toilet: Ek Prem Katha
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Sonam Kapoor, for Padman
Best Actress	Bhumi Pednekar, for Toilet: Ek Prem Katha
Lifetime Achievement Award	Rakesh Roshan
Saraswatibai Dadasaheb Phalke Best Actress (Lifetime) award	Farida Jalal
'Most Versatile Actress' Award	Manisha Koirala
Best Actor in a Character Role	Rajesh Sharma
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Neeti Mohan
Best TV Anchor	Aditya Narayan Jha
Best Entertainer (TV)	Manish Paul
Best Playback Singer (jury)	Bhumi Trivedi
Best Stage Anchor	Siddharth Kannan
Best Producer (Short Films)	Sandip Marwah
Most Entertaining Film (Sonu ki Titu ki Sweety)	Luv Ranjan

Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018: Complete List of Winners

- ☞ Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018 honoured the individuals from the entertainment industry for their outstanding contribution towards the growth and development of cinema and/or television.
- ☞ The complete list of the winners of the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018:

Category	Winner
Best actor (male)	Shahid Kapoor
Best actor people's choice award	Ranveer Singh
Entertainer of the year	Kartik Aryan
Best actress (critics)	Aditi Rao Hydari
Lifetime achievement award	Simi Garewal
Pride of Indian cinema	Sanjay Dutt
Path-breaking producer of the year	Anushka Sharma and Karnesh Sharma
Best director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari
Outstanding performance male	Raj Kumar Rao, Rana Daggubati
Outstanding performance female	Tamannah Bhatia, Kriti Sanon
Promising face of the year	Aahana Kumra
Best actress drama award	Jennifer Winget
Best actor (male) Television	Karan Patel
Best reality show judge	Shilpa Shetty
Best talk show host	Karan Johar
Best lyricist	Manoj Muntashir
Best performance in a short film	Divya Khosla Kumar
Iconic contribution towards music	Hans Raj Hans



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Venkaiah Naidu 3-Nation Visit: Complete Highlights

- ☞ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited to South America's Guatemala, Peru and Panama. Bilateral trade and investments were discussed during the visit.
- ☞ This was the Vice President's first overseas visit after assuming office. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Jasvantsinh Sumanbahi Bhabhor.

1. On 1st Leg Visited Guatemala:

- ☞ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu arrived in Guatemala on the first leg of his three-nation tour to Latin America. During his stay in Guatemala city, Mr Naidu met the leadership of the nation.
- ☞ A pact has been signed between India and Guatemala for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes in the educational field.

2. On 2nd Leg Visited Panama:

- ☞ On 2nd leg, Mr Naidu visited Panama where India and Panama have signed 2 agreements on the exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports and in the field of Agriculture.
- ☞ During the talks with Panamanian leaders, Mr Naidu also announced a total of US \$ 25 million Line of Credit for setting up a Centre of Bio-diversity and Drug Tracking and a Centre for Innovation and Technology.

3. On 3rd Leg Visited Peru:

- ☞ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu arrived in Peru on the third and final leg of his three-nation visit to Latin America. India and Peru signed an agreement in the field of Renewable Energy at Lima.
- ☞ The pact was signed in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and the Prime Minister Cesar Villanueva Arevalo.

Static Points related to the countries

- ☞ Guatemala Capital- Guatemala City, Currency- Guatemalan quetzal.
- ☞ Peru Capital- Lima, Currency- Sol.
- ☞ Panama Capital- Panama City, Currencies- United States Dollar, Panamanian balboa.

PM Modi visited China: Important Highlights

- ☞ Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in New Delhi after a two-day informal summit meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan. He was received at the airport by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- ☞ He wrapped up his two-day visit to China with both the countries underlining the importance of maintaining peace and tranquility in all areas of their border region in the larger interest of the overall development of bilateral relations.

During his visit, both leaders took a long walk by Wuhan's iconic East Lake. They also agreed to issue "strategic guidance" to their militaries to strengthen communications and to build trust and understanding. After the walk the talk followed a Naav (Boat) pe charcha. The two leaders took a boat ride on a traditional Chinese wooden boat sporting a pagoda. Wuhan is a city of freshwater lakes along the banks of the Yangtze River.

Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs

- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs5 crore on South Indian Bank (SIB) for non-compliance with its directions on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and treasury function.
- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's biggest lender, reported a loss of Rs. 7,718 crore in the January-March quarter, hurt by higher provisions for bad loans.
- Bank of Baroda successfully located most of its operational activities at a **shared service centre (SSC)** at the GIFT City near Ahmedabad.
- **Common Service Centre (CSC)** SPV and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed an MoU for providing financial support to CSCs across the country in the presence of Minister of Electronics & IT and Law & Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has revised its interest higher on retail fixed deposits or FDs below Rs. 1 crore. SBI has revision interest rates by up to 25 basis points in select maturities.
- RBI announced that **it will buy Rs. 10,000 crores (\$1.50 billion) of government bonds via open market operation (OMO)**. Note: 10-year government bond yield rose to **7.75%** from **7.74%**.
- YES Bank is all set to roll out a **capacity building project with farmers in Haryana & Rajasthan** under its 'Livelihood & Water Security' **CSR** initiative.
- India's total export of finished steel increased by 16.7% to 9.6 million tonnes, in 2017-18. The country exported 8.2 million tonnes finished steel during 2016-17 fiscal, according to the Joint Plant Committee report.
- Chinese bank, **Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** launched the country's **first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund**. The fund, named the ICBC Credit Suisse India Market Fund. It is China's first publicly offered fund for investing in India.
- **Fino Payments Bank** launched a suite of digital products.
- Paytm introduced **automatic recurring payments, a new feature that lets users configure the payments app** to pay for periodic recurring expenses automatically.
- **YES Bank & YES Global Institute** launched **Agenda 25x25**, which pledges to create a **synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs** in India. It would ensure that by 2025 at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women.

- **BSE Ltd became first Indian exchange** to be designated as **Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM)** by United States Securities and Exchange Commission (US-SEC).
- India's economy is projected to grow **7.6%** in fiscal year 2018-19, remaining the fastest growing economy in the world, according to a **United Nations report**.
- ICRA Ltd expects gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the fourth quarter of the fiscal 2017-18 at 7.4%.
- NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar exuded confidence that Indian economy will achieve **9%** growth rate on sustained basis by 2022 on the back of reforms like GST, demonetisation and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- **India's Multi Commodity** Exchange had launched the country's **first copper** options contracts. Three contracts with a lot size of 1 tonne were launched.
- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has asked its field offices to credit 8.55% rate of interest for 2017-18 into the Provident Fund accounts of around 5 crore subscribers.
- Moody's Investors Service report has cut India's GDP growth forecast to 7.3% in 2018 & growth expectation for 2019 remains unchanged at 7.5%.
- Indian tea industry **recorded the highest ever production as well as exports in FY18**. The total tea production was 1325.05 million kgs.
- **Both retail (Consumer Price Index) & producer (Wholesale Price Index or WPI) inflation** showing a surge raising the possibility of a policy rate hike by RBI in the near future. CPI pushed to 4.58% in April.
- **US-based retail giant Walmart** has confirmed that it will buy **77% stake** in India's largest e-commerce startup **Flipkart for \$16 billion**. The acquisition, which is the largest e-commerce deal in the world, will value the startup at a reported amount of \$20.8 billion.
- **SEBI came out with a detailed framework for risk-based KYC** documentation of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). SEBI made it clear that non-resident Indians (NRIs), overseas citizens of India (OCI) & resident Indians cannot be beneficial owners of FPIs.
- Leading digital financial services platform, MobiKwik, announced the launch of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its platform via its own Virtual payment address (VPA) **handle @ikwik**.
- BMGI, a global management consulting firm, has entered into a strategic partnership with SmartConnect Technologies, which provides Social / Digital Process Transformation through its **IP-suite UNFYD@COMPASS** across Marketing, Sales, Customer Service, mobility and field service operations.
- Tata Steel, whose bid for debt-ridden Bhushan Steel was approved by NCLT, would implement the resolution plan through its step-down subsidiary Bamnival Steel Ltd. Bamnival Steel would invest in the debt-ridden company and acquire control on the closing date. Bamnival Steel Limited (BNPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata

Steel, will initially subscribe to 72.65% equity share capital.

- Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has received environment clearance for the expansion and optimisation of its **petrochemical complex at Nagothane in Raigad district of Maharashtra** at an estimated cost of Rs 2,338 crore.
- Microsoft has surpassed Google's parent company Alphabet in market capitalisation for the first time in three years. Microsoft has now become the third most valuable firm globally after Apple and Amazon.
- Indian Oil Corporation has emerged as India's most profitable state-owned company for the second consecutive year. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries is the most profitable company for the third straight year, posting highest ever profit of Rs36,075 crore.
- Infosys has completed the acquisition of **WongDoody** Holding Company, a US-based digital creative and consumer insights agency, for a total consideration of upto \$75 million.
- **UK marketing analytics firm Cambridge Analytica**, which has been at the heart of the Facebook data scandal, announced **to cease all its operations immediately** & filing for insolvency in Britain & the United States.
- **IT firm Cognizant acquired Belgium based Hedera Consulting**, a move that will strengthen the former's consulting & digital transformation capabilities for clients in Belgium & the Netherlands.
- **Google's philanthropic arm Google.org** announced **\$3 million in grants for teacher training & educational content creation in India**. The organisation committed \$1 million to **TheTeacherApp** to help them reach **5,00,000 teachers** in two years, besides a \$2-million grant & technical assistance from YouTube to the Central Square Foundation.
- In an effort to better secure & control **Internet of Things (IoT) devices**, **Google** launched Android Things. With this, each connected device that uses the platform will receive three years of OS updates directly from Google for free.
- **Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba** purchased leading **Pakistani online retailer 'Daraz'**.
- Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan & UAE Minister of State & Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Group CEO Dr. Sultan Al Jaber **flagged off the first consignment of 2 million barrels of ADNOC crude for Mangalore Cavern**.
- **FIH Mobile**, the investment subsidiary of Foxconn Technology Group, the world's largest contract manufacturing giant, **has written off an additional \$40 million of its \$200 million bet on Gurgaon-based online marketplace Snapdeal**.
- The government approved **the merger of the local unit of Norway's Telenor with Bharti Airtel**, clearing the last hurdle for the deal to go through.

Static Awareness Related to Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs

- ✓ Founded by Vinod Karate in 2016, TheTeacherApp is a non-profit Delhi-based organisation.
- ✓ Google CEO- Sundar Pichai, Parent organization- Alphabet Inc., HQ:- the USA.
- ✓ Prof Mahendra Kumar Chouhan is the Chairman, Independent Director of FINO Payments Bank. **Rishi Gupta** is the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of FINO Payments Bank. FINO Payments Bank Limited HQ: in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- ✓ BSE is Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. It was established in 1875, making it Asia's first stock exchange.
- ✓ ICRA Limited (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) was set up in 1991 by leading financial/investment institutions, commercial banks and financial services companies.
- ✓ Mr. Naresh Takkar is the Managing Director & Group CEO of ICRA.
- ✓ The Managing Director of **MCX** is **Mrugank Paranjape**.
- ✓ Salim Gangadharan is the Chairman of South Indian Bank. SIB headquarters in Thrissur, Kerala.
- ✓ Bipin Preet Singh is the founder and CEO of Gurugram-Headquartered **MobiKwik**.
- ✓ Chairman of SIDBI- Mohammed Mustafa, Founded- 2 April 1990, Headquarter- Lucknow.
- ✓ Microsoft Corporation is an America Based technology company.
- ✓ CEO- Satya Nadella, Headquarters- Washington DC.


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Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched **'Samagra Shiksha scheme'** for school education. An annual grant of 5,000 to 20,000 rupees

will be provided for **strengthening libraries in schools**. The scheme will be focused on **digital education**. It is a program that unifies learning from the pre-school to class 12 levels.

- E-Way Bill system for intra-State movement of goods will be implemented in seven more states and Union Territories from 27th May 2018. The States are Maharashtra, Manipur, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep. The number of States, where the system is being implemented, will go up to 27.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a survey on the **NaMo App**, asking people to rate the performance of the government at the Centre and MPs and MLAs in their constituencies.
- Union Environment Ministry launched the **Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)** with an aim to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in the country.
- **Green Good Deeds**, the societal movement launched by Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to protect the environment and promote good living has found acceptance by the global community.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched '**My MP Rojgar Portal**' to provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills and interest and ensure availability of able candidates to employers as per the need of their business.
- Railway's Online Travel Portal, www.irctc.co.in has launched **beta version** of its new User Interface. By creating Next Generation e-Ticketing (NGeT) system the new online ticket booking system of Railways provides an easy and fast way of booking rail tickets by automating the journey planning and purchase of tickets.
- RK Singh, Minister of State for **Power**, launched the web portal and an app namely '**PRAAPTI**' that stands for '**Payment ratification and analysis in power procurement for bringing transparency in invoicing of generators**'. It is developed to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and DISCOMs.
- Indian government launched a **Pilot Scheme for procurement of aggregate power of 2500 MW on competitive basis for three years** under medium term from commissioned power plants without power purchase agreements.
- Union Minister for Drinking Water & Sanitation, Uma Bharti, launched the **GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources)- DHAN** scheme in Karnal, Haryana. It aims to positively impact village cleanliness & generate wealth & energy from cattle & organic waste.
- **HRD Ministry** launched a major & unique initiative of online **professional development** of **1.5 million higher education faculty using the Massive Open Online Courses platform SWAYAM**. In the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs)


have been identified. NRCs are tasked to prepare online training material with the focus on new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements & methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.

- **Manipur CM N. Biren Singh** launched '**Go to Village' mission** throughout the state from Konuma ground. The mission was launched in 60 villages of all the 60 Assembly constituencies.
- Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology **Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the **website of Digital India Internship Scheme** in New Delhi. Under this scheme, 25 interns will be inducted for a period of three months.
- Aimed at empowering vulnerable & marginalised women by imparting skills training, **the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has announced to set up a skill development centre at '**Bharosa**,' an integrated support centre for distressed women & children in **Hyderabad**.
- Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) unveiled a **National Wind- solar Hybrid Policy** which seeks to **promote new projects as well as hybridisation of the existing ones**. Under this, the government would bid out wind-solar hybrid projects on tariff-based competitive bidding & these projects can be set up anywhere across the country depending on feasibility & land availability with bidders.

Static Takeaways from Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

- ✓ Raj Kumar Singh is the Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Power.
- ✓ Kaptan Singh Solanki|Governor of Haryana. CM of Haryana is Manohar Lal Khattar.
- ✓ Manipur CM- Nongthombam Biren Singh, Governor- Dr Najma A. Heptulla.





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National & State Related Current Affairs

- Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Netherlands **Mark Rutte arrived in India** for a two-day official visit. Rutte is scheduled to meet a Business Delegation at Hotel Taj Diplomatic and then participate in the Clean Ganga Event.
- Queen Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands who is also the United Nations Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development has arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit to India.
- India launched its second **IT corridor in China** to cash in on the burgeoning Chinese software market. The **National Association of Software and Services Companies** (NASSCOM) has established one more Sino-Indian Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform in China.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a three-nation visit to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. During his five-day visit, the PM will hold delegation level talks with the leadership of the three countries, on matters of mutual interest.
- PM Modi and Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral and international issues at the Hyderabad House. The Netherlands has become the 64th signatory member of the International Solar Alliance. PM Modi noted that the first Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence CoE in Vegetables had started in Baramati, Maharashtra. India also welcomed the Netherlands as the Partner Country for the TechSummit in 2019.
- In New Delhi, Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte inaugurated the Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum to take forward an MoU signed between the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and the Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment of the Netherlands in June 2017.
- India will be the host country for celebrations of World Environment Day 2018. The theme for this year is **'Beat Plastic Pollution'**. The World Environment Day will be celebrated on 5th of June.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurate Bangladesh Bhawan at Shanti Niketan in West Bengal. This is the first time in Indian history, that two prime ministers attended a convocation ceremony.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation its first smart and green highway, the Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh. The 135-kilometer six-lane access-controlled expressway is eco-friendly and has world-class safety features. It envisages signal-free connectivity between **Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Palwal**. It has been built at a cost of 11,000 crore rupees. It is India's first highway to be lit by solar power besides provisions of rainwater harvesting.
- **Bhubaneswar (capital city of Odisha)** becomes the fourth National data centre of National Informatics Centre (NIC) after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a day-long visit to Jammu and Kashmir. During his visit, Prime Minister laid down the foundation stone of **'Zojila Tunnel'** on the **Srinagar-Leh National Highway** in Leh. The **14.2-kilometre** long Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel.
- India's **Shivangi Pathak** has become youngest women of the country to scale Mt Everest from Nepal side.
- Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte, will be on a two-day official visit to India with an aim to boost the economic and political cooperation between the two countries.
- Prime Minister chaired twenty-sixth interaction through PRAGATI. He Reviewed progress of handling and grievance redressal related to post offices and railways.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala** as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport. CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999.
- In the Cabinet rejig, **Piyush Goyal to take additional charge as Finance Minister** until Finance Minister is under treatment. **Smriti Irani to handle only the Ministry of Textiles & Rajvardhan Rathore has been given the charge of Information & Broadcasting Ministry**.
- **15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** will be held in the holy city of **Varanasi** in January 2019 with the Indian diaspora having an option to participate in Kumbha Mela & attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. This year's event would be **inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi & his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth**. The theme will be "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India".
- **India surpassed France to become one of the world's five largest military spenders**, as per Sweden's Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report. India spent \$63.9 billion on its military in 2017. The other countries in top five include the US, China, Saudi Arabia, & Russia.
- **India signed a loan deal worth \$ 200 million with the World Bank** for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan). The loan would help India in achieving its goal of reducing stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022.
- A pact **signed between India & Guatemala for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes** in the educational field. The agreement was inked after a meeting between Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu & his Guatemala counterpart, Jafeth Cabrera Franco in Guatemala city.
- **India & Panama signed 2 agreements on the exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports & in the field of Agriculture**. These agreements were signed during the second leg visit of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu to Panama.

- India has released **grant of Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 18.07 crore for river training & construction of embankments** along Lalbakeya, Bagmati & Kamla rivers in Nepal. Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri handed over a cheque.
- In a first, a **Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK)** run by an all-woman team has started operations in Phagwara, Punjab. It was 192nd POPSK in the country, but the first one to be operated by an all-woman team.
- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, laid the foundation stone of various projects of the Government of India and Government of Jharkhand, at an event in Sindri. The total cost of these projects is **Rs. 27,000 crores**.
- The Gujarat government unveiled its **'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy'** which aims to reduce the state's dependence on freshwater sources like the Narmada river. The policy will promote the use of treated wastewater and will see the setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP) in all major towns and cities of Gujarat.
- Himachal Pradesh government will spend 25 crore rupees on renovating and developing the historic British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate as a major tourist attraction.
- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an advisory to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and the Lakshadweep archipelago over cyclonic storm **'SAGAR'**.
- Guwahati now has India's first railway station run by solar power. Around 2352 solar modules with a capacity of generating 700 kwp has been set up over the roof of the Guwahati railway station.
- Goa celebrates its Statehood Day** as people's demand for full statehood was attained on 30th May 1987, when Goa became India's 25th state. Daman and Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory.
- Maharashtra became the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts)**, which would check irregularities & bring in transparency. The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land & is primarily used by farmers while applying for loans.
- Madhya Pradesh government launched the country's first Integrated Control & Command Centre (ICCC)** for all 7 smart cities of the state, in Bhopal. Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Satna, & Sagar are the seven smart cities under SCM in Madhya Pradesh.
- Telangana government introduced Rythu Bandhu, a scheme to provide Rs. 4,000 per acre each to land-owning farmers for Rabi & Kharif seasons**, & issued special passbooks for them.
- Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu inaugurated the state's biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park** in the presence of Power Minister Tamiyo Taga in Itanagar. It has a capacity of 1 MW.
- The **department of youth & cultural affairs of the Gujarat government will be co-organisers for the**

centenary celebrations to mark the independence of Poland in Delhi & other parts of the world.

- The states of **HP, J&K, Haryana & Uttarakhand agreed to implement the ambitious national health protection mission, which aims to provide an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family.**
- Rishad Premji** is the chairman of **NASSCOM**. China Capital- Beijing, Currency- Renminbi, President- Xi Jinping.

Static Takeaways from National & State Related Current Affairs

- ✓ **Jayakwadi** Dam built over Godavari River is located in Maharashtra.
- ✓ POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan was launched by PM in March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- ✓ Mouling National Park is situated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ **Arunima Sinha** was the first Indian amputee to climb Mt Everest.
- ✓ Jharkhand CM- Raghubar Das, Governor- Draupadi Murmu.
- ✓ National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976. Its Headquarters in New Delhi.
- ✓ Ravi Shankar Prasad is the Minister of Law & Justice, Electronics & Information Technology.
- ✓ **UNEP** was founded as result of United Nations Conference on Human Environment in June 1972.
- ✓ It is headquartered in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
- ✓ **Goa Governor-** Mridula Sinha, **Chief Minister-** Manohar Parrikar.
- ✓ Om Prakash Kohli is the Present Governor of Gujarat. Sardar Sarovar Dam, built over Narmada River is located in Gujarat.



RPF SUB INSPECTORS 2018
PHASE-I

10 FULL-LENGTH MOCKS

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New Appointments (National & International)

- BJP leaders Ganeshi Lal and Kummanam Rajasekharan were appointed as Governors of Odisha and Mizoram, respectively. Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik had been given additional charge of Odisha. The President appointed Kerala BJP chief Kummanam Rajasekharan as the Governor of Mizoram.
- The Caribbean island of Barbados has elected Mia Mottley as its first female Prime Minister since gaining independence from the UK in 1966.
- Former Pakistan Chief Justice Nasirul Mulk was appointed as the interim Prime Minister of the country until the general elections are held on July 25.
- Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's sister Susheela Jayapal became the first South Asian to be elected in Oregon in the western US State.
- The President of India has appointed Uttam Pacharne, as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi. Mr Pacharne is an eminent artist and sculptor.
- The U.S India Business Council named Ambika Sharma as its head for India.
- US Senate confirmed Gina Haspel as the first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- BS Yeddyurappa resigned 55 hours after taking oath as the Karnataka CM, ahead of the floor test. BJP, with 104 seats, was seven short of the required number of 111.
- Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro was reelected for a second six-year term in presidential elections, according to the National Electoral Council (CNE).
- AAC approved the appointment of Mahanadi Coalfields chief Anil Kumar Jha as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India.
- New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) has promoted **Stacey Cunningham to President**, making her the first sole woman head of the 226-year-old exchange.
- State-run power equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has appointed Pravin L. Agrawal as a part-time official director on its board.
- The JD(S)-Congress coalition government head HD Kumaraswamy was sworn-in as the New Chief Minister of Karnataka. Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of office and secrecy to Kumaraswamy. Congress Leader G. Parameshwara was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.
- Airtel Payments Bank has appointed **Anubrata Biswas** as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Biswas fills the position, which was lying vacant since end-December, after Shashi Arora quit the post.
- **NSDL** executive Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed the first-ever **chief financial officer (CFO)** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). She will be the 12th executive director of the RBI and will have a three-year term.
- Paraguay gets first interim woman President **Alicia Pucheta** for the first time in its history after outgoing leader Horacio Cartes stepped down ahead of schedule.
- Justice **R.K. Agrawal** has been appointed as the President of the **National Consumer Disputes Redressal**

- Commission (NCDRC). He has replaced Justice D.K. Jain, who retired recently.
- Hockey India appointed Harendra Singh as coach of India's men's team, while Sjoerd Marijne will take over as chief coach of women's side.
- WhatsApp Co-founder & CEO Jan Koum announced his resignation from the parent company Facebook. This comes shortly after a report claimed Koum would leave due to disagreements over data privacy & weakening encryption.
- Mr Sitanshu Ranjan Kar (1983 batch officer of Indian Information Service) took over as the 27th Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India & Director General of Press Information Bureau in New Delhi. He succeeds Mr Frank Noronha.
- Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer has been appointed as Australian cricket team's head coach for all three formats. Langer replaces Darren Lehmann.
- ICICI Bank's board appointed Radhakrishnan Nair as an additional (independent) director of the bank for five years.
- Subhash Chandra Khuntia, a 1981-batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer has been appointed as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI). He is appointed for a period of three years.
- Vladimir Putin was sworn-in as the President of Russia for the fourth time, renewing another six-year term in office. He won the presidential elections with over 76% of the votes.
- Facebook has announced that the company's Vice President of Product **Chris Daniels** will be taking over Whatsapp after Co-founder Jan Koum announced his departure, recently.
- Armenia's parliament elected **Nikol Pashinyan** as a new PM in a 59-42 vote. His election comes after Serzh Sargsyan's resignation as PM of Armenia.
- Google had appointed **Nitin Bawankule** as the country head for its **cloud business in India**, as the search giant looks at taking a larger share of the booming demand for those services in the country.
- **Carlos Alvarado** was sworn in as the new President of Costa Rica. Alvarado swept to victory against conservative Protestant singer Fabricio Alvarado Munoz. At 39, Alvarado is the country's youngest president in modern history.
- Mahathir Mohamad was sworn in as PM of Malaysia. He took the oath at the Istana Negara Palace in Kuala Lumpur. He has replaced Najib Razak.
- Former BCCI President Shashank Manohar will serve a second two-year term as the independent chairman of the International Cricket Council after he was elected unopposed by the governing body's Board.
- ✓ **Note:** The head office of IRDAI is in Hyderabad.
- ✓ Odisha CM- Naveen Patnaik, Mizoram CM- Lal Thanhawla.

Sports Current Affairs

- The inaugural National Para Games, on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018 in Bengaluru.
- Indian women's Hockey team failed to defend its crown at the fifth Asian Champions Trophy, as it lost to hosts South Korea, 0-1 in the summit clash at Donghae City, South Korea.
- Coimbatore racer Bala Prasath has won the Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- In Tennis, Rafael Nadal of Spain has beaten Germany's Alexander Zverev to win Italian Open title for a record eighth time. With this win, Nadal regained the world number one ranking before the French Open beginning.
- Star South African batsman AB de Villiers has announced his decision to retire from international cricket with immediate effect. Some of the Phenomenal Records of ABD are: World Record for the fastest ODI 50 (16 balls), 100 (31 balls) and 150 (64 balls), the second highest individual Test score for South Africa (278*), the highest points (935) by a South African on the ICC Test ranking.
- Commonwealth gold medal winning table tennis star Manika Batra and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu have signed multi-year agreements with sports management firm IOS.
- The second stage of Archery World Cup 2018 has been started in Antalya, Turkey. India opened its account with a silver and a bronze medal in the compound section. India's women compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Muskan Kirar and Divya Dhayal settle for a silver.
- Former World Shooting Champion Tejaswini Sawant had bagged the gold in the Grand Prix in Munich, Germany. In Men: 50m rifle prone: Gold- Matthew Emmons (USA) & Silver- Chain Singh (India). In Women: 50m rifle prone: Silver- Anjum Moudgil (India).
- A new video campaign has been launched targeting football fans on the occasion of the World Cup 2018 to promote healthier and more active lives.
- Japan's women clinched the Uber Cup, breezing by surprise finalists Thailand 3-0 in Bangkok to end a 37-year wait to regain the title.
- The Uber Cup, sometimes called the World Team Championships for Women, is a major international badminton competition contested by women's national badminton teams.
- Real Madrid has lifted Champions Trophy defeating Liverpool 3-1 in Kiev, Ukraine.
- **Indian skipper Virat Kohli** has emerged as the **International Cricketer of the Year at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards**, which were presented in Mumbai. **Other CEAT Cricket Ratings awards Presented are:**
 - ✓ **International Batsman of the Year Award:** Shikhar Dhawan (India).

- ✓ **International Bowler of the Year Award:** Trent Boult (New Zealand).
 - ✓ **T20 Bowler of the Year Award:** Rashid Khan (Afghanistan).
 - ✓ **Outstanding Innings of the Year Award:** Harmanpreet Kaur (India).
 - ✓ **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Farokh Engineer (India).
 - ✓ **T20 Batsman of the Year Award:** Colin Munro (New Zealand).
 - ✓ **Domestic Player of the Year Award:** Mayank Agarwal (India).
 - ✓ **U19 Player of the Year award:** Shubman Gill (India).
 - ✓ **Popular Choice Award:** Chris Gayle (West Indies).
- Top Indian discus thrower Vikas Gowda retired after competing at the highest level for more than 15 years, during which he became the first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medal in the discipline.
 - Chennai Super Kings beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 8 wickets in the final of the 2018 Indian Premier League at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. With this, Chennai Super Kings equalled Mumbai Indians' record for winning the most number of Indian Premier League titles. Player of the Match award goes to Chennai Super Kings' Shane Watson in IPL Final 2018.
 - Australian Formula One racer Daniel Ricciardo handed Red Bull a victory in their 250th race in the Formula One at Monaco GP.
 - Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi became the world number one shooter in the 10-metre air pistol category after having won a silver medal in the shooting World Cup in South Korea. Jitu Rai placed at sixth.
 - India's CA Bhavani Devi won a silver medal in the sabre event of the Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland.
 - Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes has won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018 in Baku.
 - Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year.
 - As per the Wimbledon officials, the 2018 men's & women's singles champions will receive £2.25 million.
 - India finished on top in the 7-nation 3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo, Sri Lanka. India ended with 20 gold, 22 silver & 8 bronze medals (Total 50 Medals).
 - Indian Under-16 National Team crowned champions of the Four-Nation Tournament held in Serbia after the Indian Colts defeated Tajikistan.
 - Indian shooter Heena Sidhu clinched gold medal while compatriot P Shri Nivetha settled for bronze in women's 10m air pistol at the International Shooting Competitions of Hannover (ISCH), in Germany.
 - Lewis Hamilton (of Mercedes) won Spanish Grand Prix 2018.
 - ✓ **Note:** Olegario Vazquez Rana of Mexico is the President of International Shooting Sports Federation.

- ✓ Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore is the Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ✓ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the present Director General of WHO.
- ✓ WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

International Current Affairs

- Guatemala has opened an embassy in Jerusalem two days after the U.S. moved its embassy to the contested capital city.
- Russia unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station at a ceremony in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk, where it will be loaded with nuclear fuel before heading to eastern Siberia. Built in Saint Petersburg, the Akademik Lomonosov arrived in Murmansk where it was moored in the port.
- World Health Organization (WHO) declared Nepal as free from Trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. With this, Nepal becomes the first country in WHO's South-East Asia Region to eliminate Trachoma.
- Colombia would be formally joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The announcement was made by the Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos. With the move, Colombia will become the first Latin American nation to be a part of the alliance.
- On the first leg of 3-Nation visit, PM Modi has visited Indonesia. India and Indonesia signed 15 MoUs in the fields of defence, scientific and technological cooperation, railways and health, among others. PM Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo in a joint statement also agreed to develop further cooperation in maritime sector for "immense stability" in the region.
- India has released 33.10 Crore rupees to Nepal towards the cost of two road packages of Birgunj-Thori Road being implemented under Postal Highway Projects in Nepal with Government of India's grant assistance.
- As many as 26 countries, including India, will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific, RIMPAC military exercise, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. It is the world's largest international maritime exercise.
- The Dominican Republic & China established diplomatic relations as the Caribbean country becomes the latest nation to dump Taiwan in the face of Beijing's growing influence. With this, Dominican Republic has broken a 77-year alliance with Taiwan.
- The bilateral trade between India & China through Nathu La border has resumed. The announcement was made by the General Secretary of the Indo-China Border Traders' Welfare Association, Tenzing Tsepel.
- India is organising a cultural festival in Egypt to commemorate the 157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. An exhibition on the paintings of Tagore titled 'Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours' will be held in Giza.

- New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced that he would be resigning from office hours after 4 women accused him of physical violence.
- Israel withdrew from a race against Germany & Belgium for two seats on the United Nations Security Council in 2019-20.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced to hold a climate summit in September 2019 in New York to review the commitments of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Guterres appointed former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy for Climate Action.
- President Trump announced US withdrawal from the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran. Mr Trump signed a fresh set of sanctions against Iran & warned countries against any cooperation with Tehran on its controversial nuclear weapons programme.
- The leaders of China, Japan & South Korea met in Tokyo against the backdrop of historic diplomatic moves by North Korea & a push for the isolated country to give up its nuclear weapons. Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang & South Korean President Moon Jae-in held talks in the first three-way summit in two-and-a-half years.
- World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial trans fats from the global food supply by 2023. WHO calls on governments to use the 'REPLACE' action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the food supply. The global health body estimates that every year, trans fat intake leads to over 5,00,000 deaths worldwide from cardiovascular diseases.
- ✓ Presently, there are 193-member countries in the UN General Assembly.



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Defence Current Affairs

- India successfully test-fired the Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a test range along the Odisha coast to validate some new features. It was conducted to validate its "life extension" technologies developed for the first time in India by DRDO and team Brahmos.
- Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) set the ball rolling for building the next generation defence aircraft, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), by extending an invitation to private players in Coimbatore to build a technology demonstrator.
- Indian Air Force Chief Marshal Birendra Singh Dhanoa left to Israel on a four-day tour of the country. In Israel, the Chief of the Air Staff will be attending a conference on 'Air Superiority as a Bridge to Regional Stability'.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced that the family of a paramilitary jawan who dies in action will be given a minimum compensation of one crore rupees.
- Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII between India and Nepal will be conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. Exercise SURYA KIRAN is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India.
- Indian Navy commissioned the IN LCU L54, the fourth ship of Landing Craft Utility MK-IV, into its fleet at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar.
- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, met in New Delhi and accorded approval for the procurement of equipment for the Defence Forces valued at over Rs. 6900 crore.
- The joint military exercise SURYA KIRAN-13 between India and Nepal began at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. The military exercise is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India every six months.
- India & Pakistan will be part of a multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in September 2018. It will be held in Ural mountains of Russia & almost all SCO member countries China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan & the new members India & Pakistan will be part of it.
- Indian Army's month-long Vijay Prahar exercise concluded in Suratgarh, Rajasthan.
- President Kovind visited the Army base camp in Siachen, becoming the first President of India to visit the world's highest battlefield in 14 years.
- Indian Army has finalised a mega 15,000 crore rupees project under which a range of ammunition for its critical weapons & tanks will be produced indigenously. 11 private firms would be involved in the ambitious project.
- General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army the Staff released the book 'Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System' by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan, former Army Commander & Member 'A', Armed Forces Tribunal, Lucknow Bench.

- General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff was on an official visit to Sri Lanka.
- ✓ DRDO Chairman- S Christopher, Headquarters- New Delhi.
- ✓ The Border Security Force came into existence on 01 Dec 1965, and Mr K F Rustamji was the 1st chief and founding father.
- ✓ BSF Headquarters in New Delhi.
- ✓ KK Sharma is the present Director General of BSF.

Ranks/ Indexes Released

- As per Swachh Survekshan-2018 results, Indore has once again emerged as the cleanest city in India. Bhopal has been ranked 2nd. Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh is India's cleanest big city with a population of over 10 lakh. Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh is 'Fastest Mover' big city. New Delhi Municipal Council is country's cleanest small city having a population between one lakh to three lakh. Jharkhand has been declared the best-performing state, followed by Maharashtra.
- India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of 8,230 billion US dollars. As per the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review, the US is the wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of 62,584 billion dollars.
- India rose one place to 44th this year in the global competitive rankings out of 63 countries that were ranked by the IMD World Competitiveness Center. The top 3 most competitive economies in the world are: 1. The USA, 2. Hong Kong, 3. Singapore.
- India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare, according to a Lancet study. In 2016, India's healthcare access and quality scored at 41.2 (up from 24.7 in 1990). The top 3 countries with the highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016: 1. Iceland (97.1 points), 2. Norway (96.6), 3. The Netherlands (96.1).
- India is ranked joint-sixth in the list of doping violations with 69 cases, same as that of Russia, as per World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report for samples collected in 2016. Italy topped the rankings.
- India has been projected to be the second fastest growing country in the world for air passenger traffic. As per the Airports Council International (ACI), by 2022 passenger traffic in emerging economies like India will surpass advanced economies. ACI put Vietnam at the top position with an 8.5% growth rate, followed by India at 7.5%.
- As per the data released by WHO, 14 Indian cities figure in a list of worlds' 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016. WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database ranked Kanpur as the most polluted city among 4300 world cities.
- Global consultant AT Kearney released the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index 2018, an annual survey which tracks the impact of political, economic & regulatory changes on the FDI preferences

of CEOs & Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of the country. **United States (US) topped the index.** Index ranked **India at the 11th spot.**

- **US state California's economy surpassed UK** to become the world's fifth largest, as per the new federal data. With a GDP of \$2.7 trillion, California is now only behind the US, China, Japan & Germany. The UK & India are next on the list.

- **India ranked fourth out of 25 nations in the Asia-Pacific region** on an index that measures their overall power. **US has topped the list.** India has been pegged as a "giant of the future". The Lowy Institute Asia Power Index measures power across 25 countries & territories in the Asia-Pacific region.

- **PM Modi has been ranked ninth on Forbes' 2018 list of 'the world's most powerful people'.** Chinese President Xi Jinping ranked first, followed by Russian President Vladimir Putin & US President Donald Trump at the second & third rank. The only other Indian to feature on the list is Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani at 32.

- **India was ranked 6th on Global Optimism Index released as part of Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR)** in the first quarter of 2018. Top five nations in the report are Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands & the US.

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** reaffirmed that India will be the fastest-growing major economy in 2018, with a growth rate of 7.4% that rises to 7.8% in 2019 with medium-term prospects remaining positive, according to the IMF's Asia & Pacific Regional Economic Outlook report.

- Fitch has stated that India's economic growth will **accelerate to 7.3% in the current financial year (2018-19) & 7.5% in the next fiscal (2019-20).**

- **India has become the largest remittance-receiving country in the world, with migrant workers from the country sending home 69 billion US dollars in 2017.** As per the report 'RemitSCOPE – Remittance markets & opportunities – Asia & the Pacific'. India, China with 64 billion Dollars & the Philippines with 33 billion Dollars are the three largest remittance-receiving countries in the world in 2017.

- **India emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017 behind China & the US,** as per report of Mercom Communications India. India has grown at a CAGR of approximately 170% since 2010.

- ✓ **Note:** Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the present Director General of WHO. WHO HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.

Important Days

- Every year, on 31 May, World Health Organization and partners mark World No Tobacco Day (WNTD). The theme of World No Tobacco Day 2018 is "Tobacco and heart disease."
- Anti Terrorism Day is observed on 21 May every year in our country to make the people aware of the anti-social

act of terrorism and its impact on human suffering and lives.

- International Day for Biological Diversity is observed across the world on May 22 with the theme 'Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity'.
- The International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed across the world on May 29. The theme is 'UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice'.
- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was observed across the world on May 17 with the theme "Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All".
- International Labour Day is also known as International Worker's Day, Labour Day & May Day. The theme was "Uniting Workers for Social & Economic Advancement".
- Every year, 3 May is a date which celebrated as the World Press Freedom Day to evaluate press freedom around the world. This year's global theme was 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice & The Rule of Law'.
- May 8 is celebrated globally as the World Red Cross Day. The theme of 2018 is "Memorable smiles from around the world".
- Every year, 'National Technology Day' is celebrated across India on May 11 to memorize the anniversary of Shakti, the Pokhran nuclear test held on 11 May 1998. The theme is "Science & Technology for a Sustainable Future".
- International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated every year all around the world on 12th of May to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Florence Nightingale. The theme was "Nurses A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right" for IND 2018.
- International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year.



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Agreement Signed

- NMDC Limited and NLC India Limited (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) has decided to invest over USD 26 million for setting up an R&D facility for developing innovative technologies in iron and steel making.
- Union Finance Ministry has tied up with 40 entities including Flipkart, Swiggy, Patanjali and Amul for extending loans to small entrepreneurs under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).
- NITI Aayog and Sushant Singh Rajput have decided to collaborate towards promoting two major initiatives of NITI Aayog, promotion of BHIM and the Women Entrepreneurship Platform.
- NITI Aayog and ABB India have signed a pact to help the country derive the benefits of latest technologies including robotics and artificial intelligence. The Statement of Intent to work together to realise the ambitious make in India vision of the government was signed in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
- The BCCI and UN Environment signed an agreement to promote 'green' Cricket in India. BCCI acting Secretary Amitabh Choudhary and Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment, signed a letter of intent in Mumbai.
- An Agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 21.7 Million from the World Bank for the Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project was signed in New Delhi. The Project duration is 5 years.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India** signed an MoU with **Department of Women and Child Development, Government of UP**, in New Delhi for management of Home of Widows at **Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan**. The MoU shall be in force for a period of 2 years.
- **The Government of India and the World Bank** signed a **\$500 million loan agreement** to provide additional financing for the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project**, implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, which will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.
- **NITI Aayog & IBM** signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence to provide real-time advisory to farmers in Aspirational Districts.
- **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** notified the protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India & Kuwait.
- **India & Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information** & other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries. This was announced at 3rd bilateral meeting between delegations from India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) & Sri Lanka's Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) on narcotics, drugs & psychotropic substances in New Delhi.
- **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) & Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, together joined hands to amplify the "Gram Swaraj

Abhiyaan" of the current incumbent government which is promoting social harmony & awareness around the pro-poor initiatives of the government.

- **VP Naidu visited Guatemala**. During his stay, MoUs are expected to be signed in the fields of protection of wildlife, human resource training, education & exchanges between training institutes. Jimmy Morales is the present President of Guatemala.
- Aiming to foster growth for **India's nascent Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning (ML) ecosystem**, **NITI Aayog & Google signed a Statement of Intent (SoI)** to work on a range of initiatives to help build the AI ecosystem across the country.
- **National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed an MoU with Ministry of MSME for 2018-19**. It envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its marketing, financial, technology & other support services schemes, for MSMEs.
- **India & Peru** signed an agreement in the field of Renewable Energy at Lima. The pact was signed in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu & the PM Cesar Villanueva Arevalo.
- **India & Nepal agreed to expand their partnership for socio-economic development** on the basis of principles of equality, trust, respect & mutual benefit.
- **NTPC inked a pact with Bihar & its power utilities to acquire their entire stake in two joint ventures at Nabinagar & Kanti** & to buy Barauni thermal plant. The transactions would enable NTPC to have 100% stake in Nabinagar & Kanti JV projects.
- **Aluminium major & Navratna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has signed MoU with the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India**, setting highest ever target of Rs 9350 crore revenue from operations for FY 2018-19 which is 15% higher than 2017.

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Awards & Recognition

- Veteran Bollywood actor Sridevi was honoured with the TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival.
- NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) Limited has bagged the prestigious S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category held at London.
- Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has won the European Golden Shoe for the fifth time.
- Prajnesh Gunneswaran won the prestigious T.K. Ramanathan award for the year 2017-18 at the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA).
- Asian, Arab, and women filmmakers scored big at the closing ceremony of the 71st Cannes Film Festival, while Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda took home the top prize -- the Palme d'Or. Kore-eda.
- Polish author Olga Tokarczuk has won the Man Booker International Prize for her novel 'Flights'. The novel, translated by Jennifer Croft, interweaves narratives of travel with explorations of the human body. Tokarczuk becoming the first Polish writer to win the award.
- Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi presented the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 to the members of the INSV Tarini team in New Delhi. The Six-member all-women team led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi have received the Puraskar from the Minister.
- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category.
- **Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa** (president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment) received the prestigious **Linnean Medal in Botany** from the Linnean Society of London
- **Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony** has won an international award, in the best caricature category. Antony is among the nine winners at the **13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards**, instituted by an organisation based in Lisbon, Portugal.
- **Indian star cricketer Yuvraj Singh** has been awarded the 'most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare' award by the **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF)** for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare.
- Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for her contribution in the field of Indian music. Sharmila Tagore was the Chief Guest at the event who also presented the prestigious award to Asha Bhosle.
- Indian pugilist Neeraj Goyat conferred with the 'WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award'. Neeraj is the current WBC Asia champion in welterweight category.
- Swedish Academy has decided to postpone the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature, with the intention of awarding it in 2019. The decision has been taken in the wake of a

sexual & financial scandal that has engulfed the Swedish Academy.

- Nisha Bhalla, a 46-year-old holistic coach & consultant from Mumbai was felicitated at the recently concluded Annual Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2018 Awards. WEF is the largest global gathering of women entrepreneurs & leaders worldwide.
- Nobel laureate & noted economist Muhammad Yunus was honoured with the 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 at a function held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar was honoured with the Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami. Mangeshkar, 88, was conferred with the award at her residence in Mumbai.
- Neymar was named as France's player of the year at an awards ceremony in Paris, France despite the Paris Saint-Germain superstar missing the last three months of the season due to injury.
- Senior journalist Mark Tully will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Red Ink Awards in Mumbai. Tully worked with the BBC for three decades & was the broadcaster's Chief of Bureau for Delhi for 20 years.
- US-based Kathak dancer Anindita Anaam was honoured with the prestigious 'Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018' for outstanding contribution to the field of art.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gave away the DRDO Awards- 2016 & 2017 to various DRDO scientists for their outstanding contributions while commemorating the National Technology Day (11 May).
- Former Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri & Director General, DRDO Dr VK Saraswat was given DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award - 2017.
- Former Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri & Director General, DRDO Dr Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre was awarded for DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award - 2016.

Summits/Events Held

- The two-day conference named SCO-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Legal Experts (RATS) of legal experts took place in Islamabad under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which comprises China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan.
- 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held at Malmo, Sweden. The Indian delegation was led by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences.
- For the first time, an international rail coach expo, displaying rail coaches and train-sets held in Chennai.
- Minister of State for Culture, Dr Mahesh Sharma led the Indian delegation to the 15th Meeting of the Cultural Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) Member States held in Sanya, China.

- NITI Aayog, in association with Vision India Foundation, is organising the Venture Capital Symposium 2018 to deepen the economic relationships between France and India. The Venture Capital Symposium 2018 is a three-day event where the French investors will be interacting with 100 early to mid-stage Indian start-ups.
- 71st World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The Indian Delegation was led by Union Health Minister of India, Mr J P Nadda at World Health Assembly.
- A three-day Smart Cities India 2018 Expo, began in New Delhi.
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India, along with Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia organized the 5th India-CLMV Business Conclave in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- I&B Minister Col. Rajyavardhana Rathore launches six-day ASEAN India Film Festival in New Delhi. India and ASEAN share historical and cultural links.
- Ministry of Culture organised 3-Day long diversified cultural festival 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' festival which was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat, Near Tehri Lake, Uttarakhand. It is the ninth edition of this festival.
- The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany in September 2018.
- The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations will be held at Dehradun in Uttarakhand on 21st of June. Secretary AYUSH Ministry Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha has announced that Dehradun has been selected as the venue for Mass Yoga Demonstration of International Yoga Day.
- **The Gaj Yatra campaign** was flagged off by the **Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) Brand Ambassador Ms Dia Mirza** at an event organised in Meghalaya. 'Gaj Yatra', a "journey celebrating India's national heritage animal", aims at securing 100 elephant corridors across India.
- **The Third Home Affairs' Dialogue between India and U.K.** was held in New Delhi. The Government of India Delegation was led by **Mr Rajiv Gauba, Union Home Secretary** and the Delegation from Home Office of the U.K. was led by its **Second Permanent Secretary, Ms. Patsy Wilkinson**.
- 9th India Japan Energy Dialogue held in New Delhi. Both the countries agreed to work together for energy security, energy access & climate change issues.
- International Buddhist Conference 2018 concluded in Lumbini, Nepal, the birthplace of Gautama Buddha.
- 'Vibrant North East 2018', an event in which people would be made aware of central govt's schemes & programmes, was held in Guwahati, Assam.
- 4th Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient & Digital Infrastructure' organized by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with CII, & Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) concluded in Bengaluru.
- 11th Executive Committee meeting of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved the project encompassing the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology for Namami Gange programme with a total budget of Rs 86.84 crore.
- 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Manila, Philippines, on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of ADB. Finance Minister of Nepal Yuba Raj Khatriwada chaired the meeting.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment organised a 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' at Huda Convention Centre in Faridabad, Haryana. Under the Assistance to Disabled persons (ADIP) scheme of the DEPwD, there is a provision for Cochlear Implant surgeries of hearing impaired children up to the age of 5 years at the cost of Rs 6.00 Lakhs per unit.
- Mr Hardeep Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs inaugurated the 'First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities' in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- India would be hosting the **15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi**. The theme was "Telling our Stories Asia & More".
- 3rd edition of United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) inaugurated in New Delhi.
- **15th Asia Media Summit (AMS)** held in New Delhi. The theme of the Summit is 'Telling our Stories - Asia & More'. AMS 2018, an annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur, is a prestigious summit in the Asia Pacific Region & India is hosting the event for the first time.
- **2018 World Robot Conference (WRC)** will be held in Beijing, China in August 2018. The event will see over 12,000 competing teams & 50,000 participants from more than 10 countries & regions.
- In collaboration with the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program & the Government of India, US Trade & Development Agency (USTDA) is hosted the 6th U.S.-India Aviation Summit in Mumbai, India.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism & Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, K. J. Alphons attended the Tourism Ministers' conference by **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Wuhan, China**.
- Inaugural session of the Indian Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival 2018 was held at Cannes, France. It was hosted by noted actor Sharad Kelkar.
- Indian Customs & Department of India Posts held a first-ever Joint Conference in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi to deliberate on streamlining of imports & exports by post.
- A meeting of stakeholders on '**Samarth**' - **Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector under the Skill India Mission** was held in New Delhi to familiarize the stakeholders about the scheme & its guidelines. The broad objective of the new scheme is to skill the youth for gainful & sustainable employment in the textile sector covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning & weaving.

- The Cell for IPR Promotion & Management (CIPAM), a professional body under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, organized a conference on successful completion of two years of the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy adopted by the Government of India, in New Delhi.
- Governor of Assam, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi inaugurated a Seminar being organized by the Ministry of Finance on the theme of "Physical & Social Infrastructure for Regional Development" in Guwahati, Assam.
- President Kovind **has inaugurated the 4th edition of Global Exhibition on services in Mumbai.**

Miscellaneous includes the Visits, Science & Tech, Indian Railways & Other topics.

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani'.
- Minister of State for External Affairs General VK Singh visits North Korea, the first high-level visit from India in 20 years. General VK Singh held talks with his North Korean counterpart and a host of other leaders.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has left on a day-long visit to Russia. Mr Modi will hold an informal summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi. The interaction will be part of regular consultation between the leadership of the two countries.
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted a High-Level Group consisting of eminent experts from across the country to examine the strengths and weaknesses for enabling balanced expansion of Health Sector. High-Level Group on Health Sector will have Convenor by Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS (New Delhi).
- Sangeeta Bahl, a 53-year-old former model, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.
- Film actor Akshay Kumar launched the twin pit toilet technology campaign in New Delhi. The actor appealed everybody to spread the awareness on the issue and make the cleanliness drive more effective. The twin pit toilet technology is an Indian invention that collects defecation for a period of five years and then it turns into a valuable organic compost.
- **Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's Patanjali launched a new swadeshi messaging application called 'Kimbho' to compete with WhatsApp.**
- VP Naidu visited South America's Guatemala, Peru & Panama. Bilateral trade & investments are expected to be mainly discussed during the visit.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovich Alimov arrived in New Delhi to hold talks with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj & other Union ministers. Sushma Swaraj will hold a bilateral meeting with Alimov in Delhi.
- Sushma Swaraj left on a visit to Myanmar. The visit is part of ongoing high-level interaction between the governments of India & Myanmar.

- PM Modi visited Nepal to take forward the issues of mutual interest & partnership across diverse sectors. This is Mr Modi's third visit to Nepal as PM. Both the leaders will jointly lay the foundation stone for Arun 3 hydropower project. PM Modi will visit historic Janaki temple. Both the PMs will inaugurate Janakpur-Ayodhya bus service & the inclusion of Janakpur in Ramayana circuit.
- PM Modi will visit Russia on for an informal Summit with President Vladimir Putin in Sochi city. As per the External Affairs Ministry, this informal Summit is in keeping with the tradition of regular consultations between India & Russia at the highest level.
- ISRO has developed an atomic clock to be used in navigation satellites. It is supposed to measure precise location data.
- NASA signed a space act agreement with Uber Technologies to explore concepts & technologies related to Urban Air Mobility (UAM) for future air transportation such as flying cars in populated areas.
- **China launched a hyperspectral imaging satellite 'Gaofen-5' for comprehensive observation of the atmosphere,** including air pollution which is one of the country's major problems. The Gaofen-5 satellite was launched off the back of a Long March 4C rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center.
- **California-based aerospace company, SpaceX** blasted off its most powerful Falcon 9 rocket, which is certified to carry humans to space later this year.
- Scientists **discovered the fastest-growing black hole known in the universe,** describing it as a monster that devours (eats) a mass equivalent to our Sun every two days. The discovery of the new supermassive black hole was confirmed using the spectrograph on the Australian National University (ANU) 2.3-metre telescope to split colours into spectral lines.

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- Telecom Commission approved a proposal for allowing people to make phone calls & use internet services in domestic & international flights in India, with certain riders. Telecom Commission (the highest decision-making body of telecom department) also approved regulator TRAI's recommendations on internet telephony in its meeting in New Delhi.
- The government has released the draft of the new Telecom policy named National Digital Communications Policy, 2018. The policy aims at creating 40 lakh new jobs by 2022, attracting 100 billion US dollars investment in the sector & ensuring broadband coverage at 50 mbps for every citizen. It proposes one Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 & 10 Gbps by 2022.
- Cabinet given the approval to accede to the Protocol under WHO Framework Convention on tobacco control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.
- Minister of Commerce & Industry & Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, attended India- South Africa business summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **15th Finance Commission has constituted an advisory council to advise & assist the commission. The six-member council will be headed by the President of Forum for Strategic Initiatives, Arvind Virmani.**
- A parliamentary panel headed by veteran BJP leader Murali Manohar Joshi decided to study the recovery of black money & performance of public sector banks (PSBs) among a host of subjects.
- **Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired a meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC) in New Delhi** for Central Assistance to the States/ UT of Assam (affected by floods during 2017-18), HP (affected by floods/ landslides during 2017-18), Sikkim (affected by floods/ landslides during 2017-18), Lakshadweep (affected by cyclone Ockhi during 2017) & Rajasthan (affected by Kharif drought during 2017).
- IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (CIIE) has launched a Bharat Inclusion Initiative to build knowledge & foster innovation & entrepreneurial activity across areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education & health.

Static Takeaways related to Miscellaneous| Summits| Awards| Agreements based Current Affairs

- ✓ Dr. K Sivan is Chairman of ISRO. ISRO stands for Indian Space Research Organization. HQ: of ISRO- Bengaluru.
- ✓ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President- Liqun Jin. AIIB HQ: in Beijing, China.
- ✓ NITI- National Institution for Transforming India. NITI Aayog Chairman- Narendra Modi, Vice-Chairman- Rajiv Kumar, CEO- Amitabh Kant.
- ✓ Jim Bridenstine has become the 13th administrator of NASA) HQ: Washington, D.C., USA.
- ✓ Mr Piyush Goyal is the Present Railways Minister of India.

- ✓ North Korea Capital- Pyongyang, Supreme leader- Kim Jong-un.
- ✓ NITI- National Institution for Transforming India.
- ✓ NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman- Rajiv Kumar, CEO- Amitabh Kant.
- ✓ Shripad Naik is the Union AYUSH Minister of India.
- ✓ Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy is abbreviated as AYUSH.
- ✓ Uttarakhand CM- Trivendra Singh Rawat, Governor- Dr. Krishan Kant Paul.
- ✓ BCCI Acting Secretary- Amitabh Choudhary, Headquarters in- Mumbai.
- ✓ President of the World Bank- Jim Yong Kim. Headquarters of World Bank- Washington, DC.
- ✓ **Meghalaya CM- Conrad Sangma, Governor- Ganga Prasad.**

Obituaries

- Ravinder Sharma, fondly called Guruji, the founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram died at the age of 65 years.
- Veteran Marathi singer Arun Date, known for his popular song "Shukratara" had passed away in Mumbai. He was 84.
- British film editor Anne V. Coates, who won an Oscar for David Lean's epic film Lawrence of Arabia, has passed away. She was 92.
- Noted Hindi film lyricist, Nandram Das Bairagi, popularly known as Balkavi Bairagi, passed away.
- The actor Margot Kidder, best known for playing Lois Lane in the Superman films in the 1970s & 1980s, has died at the age of 69, a funeral home in Montana, US.
- Veteran writer, novelist Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani, who along with her women counterparts Arikepudi Kousalya Devi and Ranganayakamma, heralded a new era in Telugu fictional literature, passed away at California.
- Former US astronaut Alan Bean, who was the fourth man to walk on the Moon, has died in Texas, United States. He was 86.
- **Former Himachal Pradesh governor and Congress leader Urmila Singh** died due to prolonged illness at a private hospital in Indore. She was 71.

Countries| Capital| Currencies: Part 1

- ❖ Panama Capital- Panama City, Currencies- United States Dollar, Panamanian balboa. President of Panama- Juan Carlos Varela Rodrigues.
- ❖ President of Azerbaijan- Ilham Aliyev, Capital- Baku, Currency- Azerbaijani manat.
- ❖ Armenia Capital- Yerevan, Currency- Armenian dram, President- Armen Sarkissian.
- ❖ Costa Rica Capital- San Jose, Currency- Costa Rican colon.
- ❖ Malaysian Capital- Kuala Lumpur, Currency- Malaysian ringgit.

- ❖ Dominican Republic Capital- Santo Domingo, Currency- Dominican peso, President- Danilo Medina.
- ❖ Sanjay Bhattacharyya is India's Ambassador to Egypt. Cairo is the capital of Egypt. Egyptian pound is the currency of Egypt.
- ❖ Israel Capital- Jerusalem, Currency- Israeli new shekel, Prime Minister- Benjamin Netanyahu.
- ❖ Japan Capital- Tokyo, Currency- Japanese yen. China Capital- Beijing, Currency- Renminbi.
- ❖ South Korea Capital- Seoul, Currency- South Korean won.
- ❖ Guatemala Capital- Guatemala City, Currency- Guatemalan quetzal. Peru Capital- Lima, Currency- Sol. Panama Capital- Panama City, Currencies- United States Dollar, Panamanian balboa.
- ❖ Japan Capital- Tokyo, Currency- Japanese yen, Prime Minister- Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Currency- Nepalese rupee, President- Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister- Khadga Prasad Oli.
- ❖ South Africa Capital- Cape Town, Currency- South African rand.
- ❖ Kuwait Capital- Kuwait City, Currency- Kuwaiti dinar.
- ❖ Sri Lanka Capital- Colombo (commercial capital), Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (Official Capital), Currency- Sri Lankan rupee, President- Maithripala Sirisena.
- ❖ Myanmar State Counsellor- Aung San Suu Kyi, Capital- Naypyidaw, President- Win Myint.
- ❖ Switzerland Capital- Bern, Currency- Swiss franc.
- ❖ Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Currency- Nepalese rupee, President- Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister- Khadga Prasad Oli.
- ❖ Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah, President- Joko Widodo.
- ❖ Malaysia Capital- Kuala Lumpur, Currency- Malaysian ringgit, Prime Minister- Mahathir Mohamad.
- ❖ Singapore Currency- Singapore Dollar, President- Halimah Yacob.
- ❖ Russia Capital- Moscow, Currency- Russian ruble, President- Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ Guatemala Capital- Guatemala City, Currency- Guatemalan quetzal.
- ❖ Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah, President- Joko Widodo.
- ❖ Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira.
- ❖ Venezuela Capital- Caracas, Currency- Venezuelan bolívar.
- ❖ Barbados Capital- Bridgetown, Currency- Barbadian dollar.
- ❖ Pakistan Capital- Islamabad, Currency- Pakistani rupee.
- ❖ Paraguay Capital- Asuncion, Currency- Paraguayan guarani.
- ❖ Netherlands Capital- Amsterdam, Currency- Euro, USD.
- ❖ Cambodia Capital- Phnom Penh, Currency- Cambodian riel.
- ❖ Bangladesh PM- Sheikh Hasina, Capital- Dhaka, Currency- Bangladeshi Taka.

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