

# MANTHAN

## Current Affairs Supplement

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### April, 2018

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# Preface

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**Dear Readers,**

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the month for the upcoming exams like Banking, Insurance, CLAT, MBA etc. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfil aspirations.

Happy Reading!

**Best Wishes**

**Team CL**

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## **POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

### **National**



#### **Permanent Indus Commission meet took place in New Delhi**

- **India and Pakistan** went ahead with **talks on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** at the **114th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)** took place in New Delhi.
- The **Permanent Indus Commission** is a **bilateral commission** consisting of **officials from India and Pakistan**, created to **implement and manage the goals and objectives and outlines of the Indus Waters Treaty**.

**Indus Water Treaty** was signed in **September 1960**, according to this treaty, **waters of the three western rivers (the Jhelum, the Chenab, and the Indus itself)** were allocated to **Pakistan**, and those of the **three eastern rivers (the Ravi, the Beas, and the Sutlej)** were allocated to **India**.

#### **First International Justice Conference**

- **Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Law and Justice P.P. Chaudhary** embarked on an official visit to **Marrakech, Morocco**, for the **first International Justice Conference**.
- The conference is being organised by **parliamentary constitutional monarchy Morocco** in celebration of the judicial reforms undertaken by it in 2017.

#### **Six monuments or historical sites in North Eastern States identified for listing under World Heritage Site**

- As many as **6 monuments/historical sites** in the **North Eastern states** have been **identified tentatively for listing under World Heritage Site**.
- They are; 1. **Apatani Cultural Landscape**, **Arunachal Pradesh**, 2. **Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India**, 3. **Moidams – the Mound – Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty**, **Assam**, 4. **Namdapha National Park**, **Arunachal Pradesh**, 5. **River Island of Majuli in midstream of Brahmaputra River** in **Assam**, 6. **Thembang Fortified Village**, **Arunachal Pradesh**.

#### **India-Japan-US trilateral in New Delhi**

- **New Delhi** will host the **strategically important trilateral dialogue** between **India, Japan and the US**.
- The **India-Japan-US trilateral** was **launched in December 2011** when **Hillary Clinton** was the **Secretary of State**. For the **first several rounds** the **trilateral** was held at the **director or assistant secretary level**.

The **inaugural ministerial trilateral** was held on **September 29, 2015**, in **New York** on the **sidelines of the UN General Assembly Session**. It was hosted by the then **US Secretary of State John Kerry**. The **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** and **Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida** represented their respective countries. The **last ministerial dialogue** was also held in **New York** in **September 2017**.

## West Bengal introduces 'Rupashree' marriage assistance for girls

- The West Bengal government has introduced a new scheme "Rupashree" for marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families with a budgetary allocation of Rs 1,500 crore.
- A one-time assistance of Rs 25,000 to the family of the girl with an annual income upto Rs 1.5 lakh at the time of marriage after attaining the age of 18 years".

Keshari Nath Tripathi is the present Governor of West Bengal and Mamata Banerjee is the current and 8th Chief Minister of West Bengal. She is the first woman to hold the office. The British East India Company cemented their hold on the region following the Battle of Plassey in 1757, and Calcutta served for many years as the capital of British India.

## Arun jaitley re-appointed Leader of House in Rajya Sabha

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has been re-appointed as Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.
- Article 80 of the Constitution lays down the maximum strength of Rajya Sabha as 250, out of which 12 members are nominated by the President and 238 are representatives of the States and of the two Union Territories. The present strength of Rajya Sabha, however, is 245, out of which 233 are representatives of the States and Union territories of Delhi and Puducherry and 12 are nominated by the President.

Jaitley previously held the cabinet portfolios of Commerce and Industry and Law and Justice in the Vajpayee government (1998–2004) and served as the Minister of Defence in the Narendra Modi government as additional charge. From 2009 to 2014 he served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. He is a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India.

## India, Korea Coast Guards held joint exercise on April 5

- The Indian Coast Guard and the Korea Coast Guard was held a joint exercise off Chennai on April 5.
- The joint exercise, named Sahyog - Hyeoblyeog 2018 is part of a proposed establishment of a MoU between the two Coast Guards to improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

## NIRF India Rankings 2018' for Higher Education Institutions released

- The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar has released the NIRF India Rankings 2018 in various categories on the basis of performance of Higher Educational Institutions in a programme held in New Delhi.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, retained its position as India's top-ranked university for the third year in a row. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was ranked second, followed by Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in the third place.
- IIT-Madras was first among the engineering colleges, IIM-Ahmedabad the best management school. AIIMS-Delhi topped among medical institutions.

## Cabinet gives nod to right size CCI to 4 members

- The Cabinet approved rightsizing of antitrust watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) by halving the number of its members to three.
- CCI currently has one chairperson and six members.
- It will now have one chairperson and three members. Devender Kumar Sikri is the current Chairperson of the CCI.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established under the Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation and enforcement of the Act, and was duly constituted in March 2009.

## I&B sets up panel to frame regulations for online news portals

- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry set up a committee to frame laws to regulate online media and news portals. The ten-member committee will be headed by Information and Broadcasting Secretary.
- The committee will “analyse the international scenario” for similar regulations and will also have to define the scope of what all can be regulated in online news and media sphere.

Smriti Zubin Irani is the current Information and Broadcasting and Textiles Minister in the Government of India.

## Election Commission will set up pink polling booths for the first time in Karnataka

- The Election Commission (EC) will set up sakhi or pink polling booths for the first time in Karnataka.
- These pink polling booths will have completely female staff including presiding officers, polling officers, micro observers and security personnel.
- The pink booths are aimed at empowering women and increasing their participation in the poll process".

## Prime Minister to inaugurate International Energy Forum in New Delhi

- India is set to host the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting from 10-12th April 2018 in New Delhi.
- The biennial IEF Ministerial Meetings are the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers who engage in a dialogue on global energy issues.

International Energy Forum countries account for more than 90 percent of global oil and gas supply and demand. The IEF is promoted by a permanent Secretariat based in the Diplomatic Quarter of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

## Uttarakhand's second Mega Food Park inaugurated at Udham Singh Nagar

- Union Food Processing Industries Minister Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the second Mega Food Park in Uttarakhand at Mahuakhera Ganj in Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district ie 8th April 2018.
- The first Mega Food Park in the state at Haridwar has already become operational.

## Ganga Hariteema Yojana being launched in 27 districts

- In Uttar Pradesh Ganga Hariteema Yojana (Ganga Greenery scheme) is being launched in 27 districts of the state located on the bank of river Ganga.
- Objectives of the schemes include enhancing green cover in the catchment areas of the river Ganga and to control the land erosion.

## The first ever “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” launched at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh

- The Ministry of Tribal affairs has approved establishment of the first multipurpose “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” on pilot basis for establishment in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh State for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility..

TRIFED has assigned the work for establishment of this pilot Vikas Kendra in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh to CGMFP Federation and Collector, Bijapur would be the coordinating force. The selection of the tribal beneficiaries and formation of the SHGs has been undertaken by TRIFED and the training is scheduled to start from 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

## Chhattisgarh awarded 'State of the Year'

- Chhattisgarh bagged the 'State of the Year' Award under the 'business leader' category as part of the India Business Leadership for the remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors.
- "The industrial growth rate of the state is constantly more than the national growth rate. The priority is on core sector, non-core sector and sunrise sector. The state has 24 hours best quality power supply and better rail, road and air connectivity,"

Chhattisgarh was formed on 1 November 2000 by partitioning 10 Chhattisgarhi and 6 Gondi speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. The capital city is Raipur. Balram Das Tandon is present Governor of Chhattisgarh. Raman Singh is the current Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh state since 7 December 2003.

## Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme: An initiative to empower rural women in India

- Government of India has approved a new scheme namely Mahila Shakti Kendra for 2017-18 up to 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation.
- The scheme is envisaged to work at various levels, and at the National level (domain based knowledge support) and State level (State Resource Centre for Women) technical support to the respective governments on issues related to women is provided.
- The Scheme is implemented through the State Government /UT Administration with a cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between centre and states except for NE & Special Category States where the funding ratio is 90:10.

## Jammu gets its first tulip garden at Sanasar

- Jammu's gets its first tulip garden at Sanasar is attracting nature enthusiasts from all over the country.
- Sanasar is located in Ramban district of Jammu region with the snow-clad Nathatop peak in the backdrop.

This is the first tulip garden of Jammu region and second after the tulip garden of Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. The first tulip garden of Jammu has come up at Sanasar health resort.

## Kerala is the first state to issue brain death certification guidelines

- Kerala has become the first state to adopt a standard operating procedure (SOP) for determining brain death cases.
- All government and private hospitals in the state will have to follow these guidelines for organ donation from the deceased.

According to the SOP, a medical board comprising four doctors — at least one should be from the government service — will be authorised to declare a patient brain dead. As per the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, two experts are required for brain death certification.

## Tripura CM launches state component of PMKVY

- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb la.unched the state component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in Agartala.
- Tripura is the first state in Northeast India to implement the state component of PMKVY through the Directorate of Skill Development (DSD).

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is a skill development initiative scheme of the Government of India for recognition and standardisation of skills. The scheme has a target to train 1 crore Indian youth from 2016-20.



## President Ram Nath Kovind in Equatorial Guinea

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, reached Equatorial Guinea on the first leg of his State Visit to three African nations –Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia. This is the first ever visit of a Head of State from India to Equatorial Guinea.
- President Kovind was conferred with the Condecoracion, the highest honour accorded to a non-citizen by the government of Equatorial Guinea, and previously given to select Heads of State from friendly countries.

## Andhra Pradesh becomes second state to get happiness department

- The Andhra Pradesh government will soon constitute a Happiness Commission headed by chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu that will take up a series of programmes to promote “happiness” in the state.
- Andhra Pradesh became the second state in the country to introduce an exclusive ministry for happiness in April 2017. Madhya Pradesh is the first to introduce an exclusive ministry for happiness.

Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to be formed under the State reorganisation act in 1956 and first state to be created based on the language in India.

## PM Modi participated in centenary celebration of Champaran Satyagraha in Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Bihar to participate in the concluding ceremony of Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha at Motihari in East Champaran district.
- The theme of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagrah is "Satyagrah se Swachhagrah".

The Bihar Government had in April 2017 launched an year-long celebrations to mark the centenary of Champaran Satyagraha movement of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi had launched his first agitation against the British rule Champaran by protesting against the indigo cultivation order on farmers in 1917.

## First Meeting of the NITI Forum for North East held in Agartala

- The first meeting of newly constituted NITI Forum for North East was held in Agartala, Tripura.
- The meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Rajeev Kumar and the co-Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh. Chief Ministers of NE States and leading lights from the region will attend the deliberations.

## Vice President to inaugurate Scientific Convention on World Homoeopathy Day

- A two-day scientific convention is organised in New Delhi by Ministry of AYUSH on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day, on 10-11th April 2018.
- This day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann.

## Modi, Oli put India's first overseas petroleum pipeline project on track

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart K P Sharma Oli launched the ground-breaking ceremony of the Rs 3.24 billion India-Nepal petroleum products pipeline from Motihari to Amlekhgunj.
- This is the first international cross-country pipeline project in India.

Indian Oil Corporation supplies the complete requirements of major petroleum products of Nepal from its Barauni Refinery and Raxaul depot in Bihar to Amlekhganj depot of Nepal Oil Corporation.



## First India-Nordic summit to boost ties with 5 nations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets leaders of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark & Iceland for the first India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm on April 17.
- Modi was the first Indian PM to visit Stockholm since 1988. The only other instance of a similar Nordic summit was during President Barack Obama's tenure when heads of state or governments participated.

Nordic countries are a group of countries in Northern Europe. These countries include Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, and the territories of the Aland Islands and the Faroe Islands.

## PM Modi inaugurated 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi.
- It is the largest gathering of Ministers from energy consuming, producing and transit countries. Ministers, Industry leaders and heads of key international organizations will debate the future of global energy.

The International Energy Forum also known as IEF, is the world's largest recurring gathering of energy ministers. IEF permanent Secretariat is based in the Diplomatic Quarter of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

## Satyarthi among leading Indians at CHOGM events

- Nobel Peace prize winner Kailash Satyarthi and journalist P Sainath are among leading Indians participating in a series of events linked to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London and Windsor during April 16-20.
- During this event, Britain take over as chairman of the grouping for the next two years, is being attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and 52 heads of government.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is a biennial summit meeting of the heads of government from all Commonwealth nations. Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth. The first CHOGM was held in 1971, and there have been 24 held in total: the most recent was held in London, England.

## PM Modi flags off Indian Railways' first high speed electric locomotive in Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Indian Railways' first high-speed electric locomotive developed at the Electric Locomotive Factory, collaboration between India and France, in Madhepura.
- The 12,000 horsepower high-speed train is the first Make-in-India project of this magnitude completed along with French rolling stock giant Alstom.
- With this India will join the countries like Russia, China, Germany and Sweden, which have 12,000 horsepower and above electric locomotives.

## India to build strategic railway link between Kathmandu and Raxaul in Bihar

- India will build a strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu in Nepal to facilitate people-to-people contact and bulk movement of goods.
- The two prime ministers agreed to construct the new electrified rail line, which will be financed by India, connecting the border city in India to Nepal.

## 'Expression of Interest' for first offshore wind energy project of 1000 MW capacity

- The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), an autonomous body under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has called for 'Expression of Interest' (EoI) for the first offshore wind energy project of India.

- The global EoI is intended to shortlist prospective offshore wind energy developers for a 1000 MW offshore wind energy project in **Gulf of Khambhat, off the coast of Gujarat.**

### India and World Expo 2020 Dubai signs MoU to foster innovation-creativity

- For India's pavilion in the prestigious World Expo 2020 Dubai, India and World Expo 2020 has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to showcase the inventions of Industrial Revolution
- This will give great opportunity to India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates first health centre under Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the aspirational district programme as well as India's first wellness centre under Ayushman Bharat on April 14 at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.
- The two programmes are key initiatives of the NITI Aayog.
- Under the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme, the government aims to quickly and effectively transform the 115 districts based on real-time monitoring.

Under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, the government aims to open 1.5 lakh health and wellness centre by 2022, which would be equipped to treat host of diseases, including blood pressure, diabetes, cancer and old-age illness.

### Maharashtra launches centre for tribal development

- The Maharashtra government set up an institution to evaluate and quantify special development budget allocations and their impact on tribal development.
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched the institution — QUEST — in Mumbai.

QUEST is known as Quality Evaluation for Sustainable Transformation centre, the Maharashtra state has taken the first initiative in the country to ensure every rupee awarded is not only accounted for but the development in lives of tribal people through the projects undertaken is also quantified.

### Jayant Sinha to head task force for fast-tracking roll-out of UAV technology

- Centre has decided to constitute a task force under the chairmanship of Minister of State Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technology.
- The task force will develop a roadmap with implementable recommendations for Centre as well as State Governments, Industry and Research Institutions.

### NHAI signs agreement for its First International Project

- To provide seamless vehicular movement for enhancing trade, business, health, education and tourism between Indian, Myanmar and Thailand, the National Highways Authority of India has signed an agreement for upgradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lane with earthen shoulder.
- The agreement was signed by NHAI with M/s Punj Lloyd Ltd. – Varaha Infra Ltd. (JV). The project has been funded by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and would be executed on EPC mode at a cost of Rs.1177 crores.

### Smart Imprest Cards & E- Measurement Book on PFMS Portal for CPWD launched

- Shri HardeepPuri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs has launched Smart Imprest Cards & e- Measurement Book (e-MB) on PFMS portal for CPWD.
- With the launch of e-MB module on PFMS Portal in CPWD, this will be the first integrated web based module in Civil Ministries to monitor both the financial progress i.e. utilization of funds along with related physical progress captured as per schedule of various items of works through e-MB in all projects/works undertaken by CPWD.

The launch of Smart Imprest cards with end to end digitization of entire process introduced for the first time in Civil Ministry will enable maximization of Digital payments to achieve ultimately 100% digitization of payments in MoHUA thereby also fulfilling objectives of Digital India mission.

### Home Minister Rajnath Singh launches web-based application e-FRRO for foreigners

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the web-based application e-FRRO (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office) scheme under which foreigners can avail, various visa and immigration-related services online.
- Under this scheme, foreigners will be not be required to visit Foreigners Registration Office (FRO) or Foreigner Regional Registration Office anymore, unless specifically called upon.

### Bihar has highest rate of crime against SC/STs, Bengal lowest

- Bihar reports the highest rate of crimes against Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe population, while West Bengal reports the lowest, according to latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau.
- For crimes against SCs specifically, Madhya Pradesh is highest at 43.4 per cent, and West Bengal is lowest at 6 per cent. For crimes against the ST population specifically, Rajasthan is the highest at 12.9 per cent, with West Bengal being the lowest at 1.6 per cent.

### Tripura govt sanctions Rs 50 crore for IIIT at Bodhjungnagar

- The council of ministers approved Rs 50.67 crore to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bodhjungnagar in Mohanpur block, Tripura.
- The institute, which was decided to be set up in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in 2012, was stalled for six years due to non-clearance of funds from the previous Left Front government.

### Gobar-dhan Yojana's national launch from Haryana on April 30

- 'Gobar-dhan Yojana', the central scheme for managing and converting cattle dung into manure and biogas, will be launched at the national level from Karnal in Haryana on April 30.
- "With over 300 million cattle -- said to be the highest in the world -- nearly three million tonnes of cattle dung and urine is produced every day. A few European countries and China have made large-scale production of biogas by utilisation of cattle dung".

### Exercise Gagan shakti-2018

- As part of the ongoing massive IAF exercise 'Gagan shakti-2018', the Indian Air Force conducted a Mass Casualty Air Evacuation Drill in the Northern sector. 88 Casualties were airlifted from Leh and taken to Chandigarh by C-17.

Gagan Shakti is the biggest military exercise in decades undertaken by India to showcase its air dominance over the entire extended area of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

### Odisha's second longest river bridge opened

- The much-awaited 'Ib Setu' bridge built over the Ib River in Sambalpur district, Odisha was thrown open to the public by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- The 2.5-km-long bridge, which is the State's second longest bridge, has been built in three years at a cost of Rs. 117.50 crore.
- The bridge has helped establish direct road connectivity between Sambalpur and Brajarajnagar and the distance has now been reduced by 50 km. Hirakud Dam built on Mahanadi River is situated in Odisha.

**Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Setu (also called Netaji Setu) is a bridge over the river Kathajodi a tributary of Mahanadi connecting Belleview Point near Judicial Academy in Cuttack to Trishulia. The length of the bridge is 2.88 Km and is the longest bridge in Odisha.**

### Manali set to become first 'honk free' town

- After claiming to have become first town in the country to impose complete ban on plastic in 1995, Manali is doing all possible to become first “honk free” town of country.
- Kullu administration is starting road safety week from April 23 and 30 and the no honking campaign will continue with it in Manali.

**Manali is a valley nestled in the mountains of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh near the northern end of the Kullu Valley.**

### India hosted India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in cooperation with Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has hosted the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 in New Delhi on April 16-17.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) was the industry partner for the event.
- The title of the Conference is 'Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540'.

**The Wiesbaden Process was initiated by the Government of Germany in 2012 to strengthen the implementation of UNSC 1540 through Government-Industry partnerships. India, with its long-standing commitment to international non-proliferation, has established a legally backed robust export control system to implement UNSC 1540.**

### Express highway connecting Delhi and Mumbai to be built at cost of Rs one lakh crore

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari has announced development of a new highway alignment between Delhi and Mumbai.
- A sum of one lakh crore rupees will be spent on this expressway. The Minister also disclosed plans for a Chambal Expressway which would be connected to this Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, and is likely to benefit states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, where the backward areas will also shine like Gurugram.

**Nitin Jairam Gadkari was served as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party from 2010-2013. Gadkari contested 2014 Loksabha election successfully from Nagpur constituency, Maharashtra and won it.**

### First Meeting of National Council under POSHAN Abhiyaan held in New Delhi

- First meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan was held on April 18, 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- "NITI Aayog will work to rank the states on their efforts to reduce malnutrition. This will help continuously monitor the implementation of Poshan Abhiyaan".

### India, Sweden agree upon 'win-win' joint action plan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Swedish counterpart, Stefan Lofven agreed upon a joint action plan (JAP) for both countries to take forward a wide range of initiatives in defence, trade and investment, counterterrorism, renewable energy, smart cities, women's skill development, space and science and healthcare.



- Characterising the JAP as a “win-win partnership” for New Delhi and Stockholm, Mr. Modi underscored the critical role of the defence sector and security initiatives as a pillar of the bilateral relationship.

Sweden is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe. Stockholm is the capital of Sweden and the most populous city in the Nordic countries. The Riksdag is the national legislature and the supreme decision-making body of Sweden. The krona has been the currency of Sweden since 1873. Carl XVI Gustaf is the King of Sweden.

### India signs USD 48 mn loan pact with WB for Meghalaya

- India has signed an agreement with the World Bank for a USD 48 million loan to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected area in Meghalaya.
- Closing date for 'Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)' is June 30, 2023.

### India wins elections to key UN subsidiary bodies

- India has won an election to a crucial non-governmental organisation committee in the UN after garnering the highest number of votes besides getting elected by acclamation to other subsidiary bodies in five separate polls.
- The UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held elections to a number of its subsidiary bodies.
- The ECOSOC focusses on advancing the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental.
- India topped the election to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

ECOSOC, one of the six main organs of the United Nations established by the UN Charter in 1946, is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

### Atal Tinkering Labs Celebrate Annual Community Day

- Atal Tinkering Labs, under the Atal Innovation Mission of the NITI Aayog, were envisioned as innovative makerspaces, setup across India, in every school, accessible to every child.
- Equipped with modern technologies to help navigate and impart crucial skills in the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the ATLs are at the vanguard of the promoting scientific temper and an entrepreneurial spirit in children.

The first phase of Atal Tinkering Labs brought India a step closer to the mission of Creating One Million Neoteric Child Innovators in India by 2020. 2441 schools across the country have been selected to establish an Atal Tinkering Lab. Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students (Class 6th to Class 12th) learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India. The labs are powered to acquaint students with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics & electronics development tools, IoT & sensors etc.

### ‘Study in India’ portal of HRD Ministry launched in New Delhi

- In another ground-breaking initiative, the ‘Study in India’ portal ([www.studyinindia.gov.in](http://www.studyinindia.gov.in)) of HRD Ministry was launched at the India Habitat Centre by the Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj in the presence of Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar.
- The portal will enable students from 30 countries across South Asia, Africa, CIS and Middle East to select and apply for different courses from 150 select Indian institutions which are high on NAAC and NIRF ranking. The Study in India is aimed at making India a preferred destination for the foreign students to pursue their education.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj is the current Minister of External Affairs of India and she is a Member of Parliament from the Vidisha constituency in Madhya Pradesh.

### Venkaiah Naidu launches Assam govt's cashless health scheme

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched a health scheme of the Assam government that offers free medical care of up to 2 lakh rupees for every individual from Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.
- The cashless scheme Atal Amrit Abhiyan will cover 92 percent of the state's population with annual income below 5 lakh rupees.

Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu is the current & 15<sup>th</sup> Vice-President of India, in office since 11 August 2017. Previously, he served as the Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Urban Development and Information and Broadcasting in the Modi Cabinet.

### Madhya Pradesh wins Most Film Friendly State Award

- Madhya Pradesh has bagged the Most Film Friendly State Award given by the central government for its efforts to ease filming in the state by creating a well-structured website, film friendly infrastructure and more.
- The award, which was earlier, conferred on Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh by the Chairman of the Jury and filmmaker Ramesh Sippy.
- The award will be presented by President Ram Nath Kovind on May 3 during the presentation of the 65th National Film Awards in New Delhi.

Uttarakhand has been given a Special Mention certificate to recognise the efforts made by the state towards creating a film friendly environment.

### NSA-headed committee for higher defence management

- In an effort to improve higher defence management, the government constituted a new committee headed by the National Security Advisor.
- According to a government notification, the Defence Planning Committee (DPC) headed by NSA Ajit Doval, will prepare a draft national security strategy, develop a capability development plan, work on defence diplomacy issues and improving defence manufacturing in India.

The DPC will have the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, three service chiefs, secretaries of the ministries of defence, expenditure and foreign affairs as its members. The Chief of Integrated Staff in the MoD will be the member secretary of DPC, and his headquarters will be the secretariat for the committee.

### Rural Maharashtra has become open defecation free

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has declared rural areas of the state open defecation-free and claimed the state has constructed the highest number of toilets in the country.
- According to the baseline survey of 2012, around 55 per cent of the families in the state in rural areas did not have access to toilets.

### India, US set up joint task force on natural gas

- India and the US decided to set up a joint task force on natural gas with a view to promote strategic and economic interest of the two nations.
- The two sides, during the ministerial level talks, also reaffirmed their commitment to early and full implementation of their civil nuclear partnership, including the Westinghouse civil nuclear project at Kovvada.



## India to host global event for youths with disabilities

- India will host the Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC) this year, which is expected to be attended by people from 24 Asia-Pacific countries.
- The event will be held in the national capital from November 8 to 11.
- The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry's disability division signed an MoU with the Rehabilitation International, Korea, to host the GITC.

## Vijay Goel launches Central Project Monitoring Unit for e-Vidhan project

- Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Shri Vijay Goel has inaugurated the new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for the e-Vidhan project of the Government at the Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.
- e-Vidhan is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless. Vijay Goel was elected to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan in 2014.

## Exercise Gagan Shakti-2018

- The exercise 'Gagan Shakti-2018' is the biggest ever war combat game exercise conducted in the high hills of Northern and North-Eastern Sector on the Pakistan and China border.
- The aim of the exercise was to validate the capability of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army to quickly transfer and redeploy acclimatized troops, in the simulated objective area.

The IAF is conducting all terrain operations - desert, high altitude, maritime scenarios and special operations- in real time with specific focus on key areas like aerial combat, air to surface combat, paratrooper assault and medical evacuation.

## Delhi hosted third annual 5G India Congress 2018

- Nexgen Conferences, one of India's leading conferences and B2B event organizers, has hosted third edition of the Annual 5G India Congress 2018 held on April 20 in New Delhi.
- It was supported by well-known brands and industry bodies including Huawei, Nokia, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and 5G India Forum.

According to the Global Mobile Operators Association (GMOA), 5G will account for 14 percent of global wireless connections by 2025. Another recent report published on Indian telecom market states that as 5G becomes increasingly integral to industrial businesses and digitalisation, the revenue from 5G-enabled digitisation in India will reach USD 25.9 billion by 2026.

## "Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges" concludes

- Two day Regional Conference on "Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges" concluded in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Gujarat Council along with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), an autonomous research organization under the Ministry of External Affairs.

## India-Nepal cross border petroleum pipeline project to be completed soon

- Work is at full swing to complete Nepal-India cross border petroleum pipeline project from Motihari to Amlekhgunj. The 69-km pipeline with a capacity of supplying 2 million tons of petroleum products per annum is expected to be completed in another 45 days.

## CM Yogi Adityanath's Facebook page most popular among all CMs

- UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath's Facebook page has been judged the most popular among all other chief ministers in the country.
- In ranking released by the social media platform, Yogi's page beat those of Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje and Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani to emerge as the most popular.

## Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance cleared

- The Union Cabinet approved the promulgation of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018, which would empower the government to seize the domestic assets of those deemed by a court to be fugitive economic offenders.
- "The ordinance would lay down the measures to empower Indian authorities to attach and confiscate proceeds of crime associated with economic offenders and the properties of the economic offenders and thereby deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts".

The provisions of the ordinance will apply to economic offenders who have left the country to avoid facing prosecution, or refuse to return to face prosecution, persons against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for a scheduled offence, as well as wilful bank loan defaulters with outstanding of over Rs 100 crore. It provides for confiscating assets even without conviction and paying off lenders by selling the fugitive's properties. Such economic offenders will be tried under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

## Manipur's Karang India's first cashless island

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured bureaucrats for making Manipur's Karang the first cashless island of the country, and implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other priority initiatives of the Centre.
- Assam's Dhemaji and Telangana's Karimnagar were awarded for the best implementation of 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana', aimed at adding diversity to the incomes of poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youths.
- Himachal Pradesh's Kangra and Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch were awarded for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) aimed at providing pucca houses with basic amenities to all homeless people.

The Karang island is located in the middle of Loktak, the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India. Akodara, a village in Gujarat, had attained the unique status to be India's first digital village in 2015.

## Digambarpur is the India's best Gram Panchayat

- West Bengal has once again topped in the country with Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP) bagging the Centre's award for the best GP in the country.
- A survey was conducted to find out the best Gram Panchayat in the country and in a letter to the state government the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has stated that Digambarpur GP at Patharpratima block in South 24-Parganas has come up as the best out of 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country.

West Bengal is first in implementing the scheme of 100 days work in rural employment creation.

## Indian airports get their first woman firefighter

- The last all-male bastion of Indian aviation has fallen with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) appointing its first ever woman firefighter.
- The state-run authority currently has 3,310 firefighters at its airports as having fire service is a mandatory condition for planes to land anywhere.

- Now, **Kolkata girl TaniyaSanyal** will join their ranks after completing training that she is undergoing in the city.

Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, an IAS officer of 1986 batch (Gujarat Cadre), is the **Chairman of Airports Authority of India, India's largest Airport Operator** and **sole Air Navigation Service (ANS) provider** in the country. **AAI is a Mini-Ratna Category-I public Sector Enterprise.**

### India to Join 8 Countries Having Sex Offenders Database

- **India will join a club of eight countries with a sexual offender database** to monitor and track those convicted of such crimes.
- The Cabinet **approved promulgation of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 to award death sentence to child rapists** and said that the National Crime Records Bureau will maintain a national database and profile of sexual offenders.

The **registry in the US is public**, in other countries like **Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa,Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom**, where **such data of convicted sex offenders is maintained**, it is purely for the consumption of the law enforcement authorities.

### Manipur observed KhongjomDay

- **Manipur is observed Khongjom Day** to pay tributes to the great warriors of **Anglo-Manipur battle of 1891** at Khongjom in Thoubal district.
- Floral tributes were also paid at the **statue of Major PaonaBrajabasi, who led the Manipuri warriors against the British forces**. Religious offering paid at the Khongjom River near the battlefield.
- The warriors laid down their lives safeguarding the freedom of the state.

### Telangana announces 2% quota for sportspersons in govt jobs

- **Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced 2 per cent reservation** in state government jobs for sportspersons.
- K. C. Rao made this announcement after a team of 18 members, who participated in the recently **concluded Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, Australia**.

### Diu Smart City first in India to run on 100 pc renewable energy during daytime

- **The Diu Smart City has become the first city in India that runs on 100 per cent renewable energy** during the daytime, setting a bench-mark for other cities to follow. **Diu had been importing 73 per cent of its power** from Gujarat till last year, it added.
- On other smart cities, the release said **Bengaluru Smart City is working on implementation of solution to improve traffic management**, while **Jaipur Smart City Ltd (JSCL)** has planned to develop night bazaar at Chaura Rasta, **in the heart of Pink city**.

### Cabinet approves the restructured Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs **chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** gave its approval for **restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**.
- This scheme will extend to **all States and UTs of the Country** and will also **include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist**.

### Venkaiah Naidu rejects CJI impeachment notice

- **Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu rejected the impeachment notice signed by 71 opposition MPs of the Upper House**, seven of whom retired last month, **against Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra**, citing absence of any **“proved misbehaviour” or “incapacity” on the part of the senior judge**.

As per Article 124(4) of the Constitution, a Supreme Court judge can be impeached only if there is a case of “proved misbehaviour” or “incapacity” on his part.

### Madras High Court became the first court in south India to introduce e-court fee payment facility

- The Madras High Court has become the first court in south India and eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility.
- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee jointly launched the facility at the principal seat of the High Court as well as its Madurai Bench.

Madras High Court is the high court of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The court is one of the three High Courts in India established in the three Presidency Towns of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras by Letters patent granted by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, bearing date 26 June 1862.

### AFSPA removed from Assam, Meghalaya and parts of Arunachal

- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act has been removed from Assam, Meghalaya and parts of Arunachal Pradesh by the Union Government.
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju said, "The revocation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act by Home Ministry from Assam, Meghalaya and most areas of Arunachal Pradesh is due to significant improvement of security scenario in North-East India in last 4 years."

### The two-day Secure India Conclave held in New Delhi

- The two-day Secure India Conclave got underway in New Delhi. The conclave is being organised by Global Counter Terrorism keeping in view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of New India: Secure India 2018.

### E-commerce think tank held its first meeting in New Delhi

- The think tank set up by the government to deliberate on issues related to e-commerce sector and cross-border digital trade held its first meeting in New Delhi on April 24.
- Issues that would be taken up at the meeting include cross border data flow, non-discriminatory treatment of digital products, data localisation, protection and disclosure of source code, desirability of permanent moratorium on payment of customs duty on electronically transmitted goods, and online consumer protection, said a source -- who did not wish to be named.

### First International SME Convention concludes in New Delhi

- The first International SME Convention organised by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises concluded in New Delhi on 24th April. 160 SMEs from 39 countries participated in the three day event where issues of international best practices on SME development and cooperation, global business opportunities for SMEs, problems faced by women entrepreneurs were discussed.

### PIL in Punjab and Haryana HC for quashing impeachment provisions in Judges Act

- A Chandigarh based lawyer has filed a PIL in Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking quashing of the impeachment provisions in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. The lawyer, Hari Chand Arora, has contended that there are 228 MPs in the Parliament who are facing criminal cases and their interest is in conflict with the law.

The concept of public interest litigation (PIL) is in consonance with the principles enshrined in Article 39A of the Constitution of India to protect and deliver prompt social justice with the help of law. PIL in India is more or less an improved version of PIL filed in USA. Justice P. N. Bhagwati and Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer were among the first judges to admit PILs in court.



## Tribal-dominated Rajasthan districts to be included under fifth Schedule

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the **inclusion of tribal-dominated areas in Rajasthan under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution** to extend the **protective measures under it to the tribals living in these areas.**
- The Cabinet, **chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, gave its approval by revoking a **Constitution order dated February 12, 1981**, and promulgating a new order.

**Under Fifth Schedule**, the most **important institution is the Tribes Advisory Council**. In the Tribes Advisory Council, **Scheduled Tribe MLA's in the state consists of its three-fourth membership**. Since Tribes Advisory Council is **formed by the provisions of the Fifth Schedule** it has the status of a constitutional body.

## PM releases commemorative postage stamp on Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna

- The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** released a **commemorative postage stamp on former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Late Shri Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna.**

**Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna** was a **Congress Party leader** and **former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**; he later joined **Bharatiya Lok Dal** and worked with **Charan Singh**.

## Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018

- As part of ongoing **Indo-Malaysian defence cooperation**, a **joint training exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI** is being conducted in the dense forests of **Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia** from 30 April 18 to 13 May 18.
- The exercise is **aimed at bolstering cooperation & coordination between armed forces of both the nations** and to share the expertise of both the contingents in conduct of counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain.

## Naga accord is nearly final

- The **Central government and Naga armed groups** are said to have finalised the **substantive portions of the peace accord** which is likely to be signed before the monsoon session of Parliament. The final draft of the accord, which hopes to **finally bring India's oldest insurgency to a close**, is now looking to jump the final hurdle: **an agreement over the Naga demand for a separate flag for the state.**
- The **accord does not change the boundary of states**; **provides autonomous Naga territorial councils** for Arunachal and Manipur; a common cultural body for Nagas across states; specific institutions for state's development, integration and rehabilitation of non-state Naga militia and the removal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.

## Indu Malhotra has become the seventh woman judge of the Supreme Court

- **Senior advocate Indu Malhotra**, who has become the **seventh woman judge of the Supreme Court** and the **first to be elevated directly from the Bar**, has contributed to legal intervention in several fields including human rights, arbitration and commercial matters.
- She had framed guidelines for the **Good Samaritan law for protection of those who help victims of road accidents**. She was a **member of the Vishaka Committee on sexual harassment at workplaces**, and of a committee constituted by the Supreme Court to deal with complaints of sexual harassment within the court.

## NITI Aayog to open applications for Atal New India Challenge

- The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** under the **NITI Aayog** shall be launching the **Atal New India Challenge** in New Delhi on April 26.
- **Under the Atal New India Challenge**, which shall be run in **collaboration with five ministries**, AIM will invite prospective **innovators/MSMEs/start-ups** to design **market-ready products**, using cutting edge technologies or prototypes across **17 identified focus areas** such as **Climate Smart Agriculture, Smart Mobility, Predictive Maintenance of Rolling Stock, Waste Management** etc.

## HRD ministry launches second edition of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- The **HRD ministry** launched the second edition of the **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** in New Delhi under which **students from 750 higher educational institutions from across the country will adopt villages** and visit them to get acquainted with lifestyle of people there and the problems faced by them.
- The minister **advised the students to involve local village people at every stage of problem identification** and solving issues relating to health, cleanliness, waste management, plantation, financial inclusion, women and child development.

**Prakash Javadekar** is the **incumbent Union Minister of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**, Government of India. He was elected to the upper house **Rajya Sabha** as a **Member of Parliament from Maharashtra** in 2008, and re-elected from **Madhya Pradesh** in 2014.

## Meghalaya governor Ganga Prasad launched ‘Mission Lakadong’

- **Meghalaya government** has come up with **Lakadong Mission Document** launched by **Governor Ganga Prasad**, to set a **target of production to 50,000 Metric Tonnes of Lakadong** in a period of five years.
- Over 450 **Turmeric farmers from the Laskein and Thadlaskien Block of Jaintia Hills** attended the programme held at the State Convention center.

## BJP lawmakers top list in hate speech related cases

- The **BJP lawmakers** have the **maximum number of declared cases related to hate speech**, an analysis of election affidavits by the **Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)** and **National Elections Watch (NEW)** has revealed. According to the analysis a total of 58 current MPs and MLAs have declared cases related to hate speech, of which 27 lawmakers are from the BJP.
- The other MPs with **such cases against them are from the AIUDF, TRS, PMK, AIMIM and SHS**, it said. While the **other MLAs with such cases against them belong to five each from the TRS and AIMIM, three from TDP**, two each from the Congress, AITC, JD (U) and SHS, and one each from DMK, BSP and SP. Political leaders such as Union Minister Uma Bharti (BSP), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) and Badruddin Ajmal (AIUDF) have declared cases related to hate speech against themselves. **Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of lawmakers (15) with declared cases.**

## Van Dhan Scheme launched to help increase tribal income through Value Addition

- The **Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi** launched the **Van Dhan Scheme** of **Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED** on 14th April, 2018 during the celebrations of **Ambedkar Jayanti** at **Bijapur, Chattisgarh**. Emphasizing the **important role of value addition in increasing tribal incomes**, he stated that **Van Dhan, Jan Dhan and Gobar-Dhan Schemes** had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system. All these three schemes in tandem need to be promoted for this purpose by the State Governments.
- The establishment of “**Van Dhan Vikas Kendra**” is for **providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility**. This **first model Van Dhan Vikas Kendra in Bijapuris** being implemented for training of 300 training beneficiaries with a total outlay of Rs.43.38 lakhs for training, providing equipments & tools for primary level processing and infrastructure & building for housing the Kendra.

## A first of its kind Israeli Modern Art Exhibition inaugurated in New Delhi

- The **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi** in collaboration with the **Embassy of Israel in India** and the **Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Israel** is **organizing an exhibition titled ‘To the End of Land’**-contemporary art from Israel on the occasion of 25 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.



- The **exhibition was inaugurated** on 28th of April, 2018 **at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi** in the presence of the Minister for Culture (I/c) and Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

### First “Indian Culinary Museum” opened at ICI campus

- The **first Indian Culinary Institute (ICI), Noida campus was inaugurated by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism Shri K. J. Alphons** in presence of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma for starting culinary courses.
- The **NOIDA campus of ICI will also have a state of the art “Indian Culinary Museum”** where the rich historical and diversified culinary objects and other literature will be displayed. This will provide a unique platform for preserving the Indian culinary heritage.
- This is in line with the commitment of creating specialized skilled manpower in the **field of hospitality and posturing the research and development in Culinary Arts.**

### Delhi govt to set up Rogi Kalyan Samiti in every Assembly constituency

- To provide support to the health institutions in the national capital, the **Delhi government will set up 'Rogi Kalyan Samitis' in each Assembly constituency and 'Jan Swasthaya Samitis' in state-run dispensaries, poly clinics and mohalla clinics.**

### LCA Tejas fires Israeli Derby Air-to-Air BVR missile, combat capabilities get a boost

- **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Indian Air Force's indigenous supersonic jet**, is well on its way to becoming one of the most potent fighters in the four-plus generation combat aircraft class.
- Just days after the IAF tested its war-waging capabilities in a possible two-front scenario **involving Pakistan and China during Gagan Shakti 2018**, the Tejas took a step forward towards achieving the Final Operational Clearance (FOC) by **successfully firing the Israeli Derby Air-to-Air beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile for the second time.**

### Shri Rajnath Singh chairs third meeting of Island Development Agency

- The **Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, chaired the third meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) held in Delhi.**
- The Island Development Agency reviewed the progress made towards preparation of Development Plans **for identified Islands (four in A&N Islands i.e. Smith, Ross, Long, Avis and five in Lakshadweep i.e. Minicoy, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Cheriya, Suheli).** For these Islands, Final Site Suitability Reports have been prepared, Carrying Capacity determined and Environmental zoning carried out to ensure sustainable development.

The IDA was set up on June 1, 2017 following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's review meeting for the development of islands. The meetings of the agency are chaired by the Union Home Minister. Members of the IDA include cabinet secretary, home secretary, secretary (environment, forests and climate change), secretary (tourism) and secretary (tribal welfare).

### Sikkim's Pawan Chamling becomes longest serving Chief Minister

- **Sikkim Chief Minister and Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) founder Pawan Kumar Chamling surpassed the record of former West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu by becoming the longest serving Chief Minister of any Indian state.**
- While veteran communist Jyoti Basu ruled West Bengal for 23 years from June 21, 1977 till November 6, 2000, Pawan Kumar Chamling became Chief Minister of the Himalayan state on December 12, 1994 and completed his 24th year in office on 29th April 2018.

- **A Bhanu Puraskar (2010) awarded poet with pen name ‘Kiran’ and father of four sons and four daughters from two wives, Chamling joined politics in 1973 and became member of the Legislative Assembly in 1985. He founded SDF in 1993 and formed the state government next year toppling the 179-day government of Sanchaman Limboo.**

### **Lands get unique number in Andhra's new project 'Bhu Seva'**

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- **Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) K E Krishnamurthy initiated Andhra Pradesh government's new project called 'Bhu Seva' (land hub), which aims at providing integrated services related with the land.**
- **Under this project, each land parcel will be given a Bhudhar Number, an 11 digit unique number. It will be useful for easy identification of the details of land parcel as a unique ID.**
- **A pilot project of the same was launched on April 11, 2018 in Jaggaiah Peta Mandal and Vuyyur Nagar Panchayat of Krishna district.**

## International



### Mekong countries' leaders call for USD 66 billion investment

- The leaders of six countries along the Mekong River adopted an ambitious investment plan worth USD 66 billion over the next five years. At least USD 7 billion will come from the Asian Development Bank.
- The plan was adopted at a summit in Vietnam that included the prime ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as a vice president of Myanmar and the Chinese foreign minister.

The Mekong is a trans-boundary river in Southeast Asia. From the Tibetan Plateau the river runs through China's Yunnan Province, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In 1995, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam established the Mekong River Commission (MRC) to assist in the management and coordinated use of the Mekong's resources.

### U.S and South Korea begin joint military exercises

- The United States and South Korea began their joint military training exercises as diplomatic relations has been thawing on the Korean Peninsula.
- The planned drills, known as Foal Eagle and Key Resolve, take place before the April 27 summit between North and South Korea

### Nepal launches accessible trekking trail for differently-abled, elderly

- Nepal has launched its first “accessible” trekking trail in Pokhara city for the differently-abled and the elderly.
- The trail was inaugurated as a part of three-day international conference on Accessible Tourism’ held for the first time in the Himalayan nation from March 29 to March 31 in Pokhara.

### Carlos Alvarado elected as President of Costa Rica

- Voters in Costa Rica have elected centre-left candidate Carlos Alvarado to be their next president.
- The former minister and fiction writer won 61 percent of the vote from 95 percent of polling centres.

Costa Rica is a country in Central America, San Jose is the capital and largest city of Costa Rica. The colon is the currency of Costa Rica.

### Bahrain discovers largest oilfield in decades

- Bahrain had discovered the country’s largest oilfield in decades, located off the west coast of the kingdom.
- The oil discovery is the kingdom’s largest since 1932.

- Bahrain is an Arab constitutional monarchy in the Persian Gulf. Manama is the capital and largest city of Bahrain. The dinar is the currency of Bahrain.

## Malaysia becomes first country to outlaw 'fake news'

- Malaysia's parliament has approved a new law for publishing and sharing false information on digital platforms and social media.
- Malaysia is the first country to outlaw "fake news" and offenders could land in prison for up to six years.

Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy located in Southeast Asia. Kuala Lumpur is the national capital of Malaysia as well as its largest city in the country. Malaysian ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. Sultan Muhammad V is the 15th and the current Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia and the Sultan of Kelantan.

## Putin, Erdogan launched construction of Turkey's first nuclear power plant

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin launched the construction of Turkey's first nuclear power plant in the Mediterranean Mersin region. Mr. Erdogan ordered through a video link the launch of the \$20-billion Akkuyu nuclear power plant project.

Ankara is the capital of the Republic of Turkey. The Turkish lira is the currency of Turkey. Binali Yıldırım is the 27th and current Prime Minister of Turkey.

## Saudi Arabia's first new cinema in decades to open on April 18

- Saudi Arabia's first cinema in more than 35 years will open on April 18 in Riyadh, the capital after agreeing with AMC Entertainment Holdings to open up to 40 theatres over the next five years.
- Movie theatres will not be segregated by gender like most other public places in the deeply conservative Muslim kingdom, and the first screening will be Marvel's superhero movie "Black Panther".

## Sierra Leone declares opposition leader the new president

- In Sierra Leone, the Election Commission has declared main opposition candidate Julius Maada Bio as the West African nation's new president, giving the opposition party its first presidency in 10 years.

Freetown is the capital and largest city of Sierra Leone. The leone is the currency of Sierra Leone. Julius Maada Wonie Bio is the 5th and current president of Sierra Leone since April 4, 2018.

## Qatar introduces national service for women

- Qatar is introducing national service for women for the first time while extending the time for conscripted men in the military under a law issued by the country's Emir.
- Women aged over 18 will be able to volunteer for national service which comes into immediate effect, while men will now serve a year instead of three months in the military service.

## VII Moscow Conference on International Security

- Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman attended 'VII Moscow Conference on International Security' from 03 to 05 April 2018. The theme of the conference is 'Global Security in a Polycentric World' covering aspects related to current global defence, security and strategic scenario on April 4 in the Russian capital.

## S. Korea's former President Park gets 24 years jail

- South Korea's former President Park Geun-hye was jailed for 24 years for corruption, completing a dramatic fall from grace for the country's first woman leader who became a figure of public fury and ridicule.

- Park served as the 11th President of South Korea from 2013 to 2017. Park was the first female president popularly elected as head of state in East Asia. Seoul is the capital and largest metropolis of the Republic of South Korea. The won is the currency of South Korea.

## UK opens its first Persian Gulf military base in Bahrain

- Britain opened its first permanent military base in the Middle East in more than four decades in the Persian Gulf country of Bahrain, giving the U.K. an expansive presence along key international shipping routes.
- British officials have described it as the first permanent British base east of the Suez Canal since 1971.

London is the capital and most populous city of England and the United Kingdom. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom. Theresa Mary May is serving as the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms. She is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch as well as the world's longest-reigning queen regnant and female head of state, the oldest and longest-reigning current monarch and the oldest and longest-serving current head of state.

## China launches first ship to bury people at sea

- The ship, named Guobin 9, made two trips on the first mission, with a total crew of 380 to scatter the cremated remains of 62 people into the sea.
- The concept of sea burials is recent in China and two of its leaders, Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping, had chosen to have their ashes scattered at sea.

Sea burials have been taking place in China since the 1990s. Most of these burials have used the services of conventional ferries and this is the first time that a customised ship made especially for sea burials has been launched.

## Japan's military activated its first marine unit since World War II

- Japanese Self-Defense Forces, Japan's unified military command, activated its first marine component since World War II and conducted a training exercise.
- Dubbed the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade, or ARDB, the newly formed group displayed their ability to repel and recapture islands from other occupying forces.

## Indian-origin MP elected leader of Singapore's main opposition party

- Pritam Singh, an Indian-origin lawmaker in Singapore, was elected unopposed as the new secretary-general of the city-state's main opposition Workers' Party.

Singapore is a sovereign city-state and island country in Southeast Asia. Singapore dollar is the official currency of Singapore. Lee Hsien Loong is the current Prime Minister of Singapore. Halimah binti Yacob is the current President of Singapore. She is the first female president in the country's history.

## UAE, Malaysia conclude joint military exercise

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia concluded "Desert Tiger 5" joint military exercise aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions in Dubai.
- Deputy Commander of the UAE land forces Brigadier Saeed Rashid Al Shehi and Malaysian Army Chief General Dato' Sri Zulkiple bin Hj Kassim attended the conclusion ceremony of the joint military drill.

## Viktor Orban re-elected for third term as Prime Minister of Hungary

- Hungary's right-wing Prime Minister Viktor Orban has claimed a landslide victory in general election.
- He will serve a third consecutive term in office, with his party Fidesz projected to win a two-thirds majority in parliament.



Hungary's capital and its largest city and metropolis is Budapest. The forint is the official currency of Hungary. Janos Ader has been the President of Hungary since 10 May 2012.

### India Signs MOU with World EXPO 2020 Dubai

- India and World Expo 2020 signed participant's contract for India's pavilion in the prestigious World Expo 2020 held once in 5 years.
- This is tune with the great opportunity for economic activity that India provides on the way to becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

### China remains world's top executioner

- China has remained the world's top executioner amid a decline in global executions, according to Amnesty International's annual report on capital punishment.
- Amnesty International recorded at least 993 executions in 23 countries in 2017, down by 4 per cent from 2016 (1,032 executions).
- Besides China, 84 per cent of all reported executions took place in just four countries -- Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan.

Amnesty International is a London-based non-governmental organization focused on human rights. Salil Shetty is currently serves as Secretary General of the human rights organization Amnesty International.

### US announces GSP eligibility review of India

- Based on the market access concerns it has with India, the US announced eligibility review of India for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).
- US has also announced eligibility review of other two countries -- Indonesia and Kazakhstan, which it said was based on concerns about the countries' compliance with the programme.

The GSP is the largest and oldest US trade preference programme and is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.

### France gets world's first long-range electric bus line

- World's first long-distance electric bus line was inaugurated in Paris. Chinese e-buses would operate on world's first electric routes in France.
- A Germany-based bus company, FlexiBus, has invested in Chinese e-buses which will now be operated on trial on long-distance electric-routes between Paris and Amiens.

France is a unitary semi-presidential republic with its capital in Paris. Emmanuel Macron is serving as President of France and ex officio Co-Prince of Andorra since 14 May 2017. Edouard Philippe is serving as Prime Minister of France. The euro is the official currency of France. The euro is the second largest reserve currency as well as the second most traded currency in the world after the United States dollar.

### UN launches road safety trust fund

- Citing tragic road accidents in India and Canada, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed termed traffic deaths an urgent global concern as the world body launched a trust fund aimed at spurring action to help save lives in road accidents.
- "Road traffic deaths and injuries have become a serious and urgent global concern. Around 1.3 million drivers, passengers and pedestrians die each year, and up to 50 million are injured on the world's roads".



## Pak inaugurates strategic hydropower project in PoK

- Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has inaugurated the first unit of a key hydropower mega project built with the financial and technical support of China in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- The 969- MW Neelum Jehlum Hydropower Project near Muzaffarabad was announced more than 12 years ago.

## Pakistan bars former PM Sharif from holding office for life

- Pakistan's Supreme Court has disqualified deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for life from holding any public office.
- In a landmark judgement, a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Saqib Nisar ruled that disqualification handed down under Article 62 (1)(f) of the Constitution is for life and such a person cannot contest elections or become a member of parliament.

Nawaz Sharif served as the Prime Minister of Pakistan from 2013 until he was disqualified for life from office by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2017. He was Pakistan's longest-serving prime minister.

## Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting was held in London

- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 was held in London and Windsor during April 16-20.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British Counterpart Theresa May agreed on the importance of working together to build more sustainable, prosperous, secure and fairer future for all their citizens.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is a biennial summit meeting of the heads of government from all Commonwealth nations. Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth. The first CHOGM was held in 1971.

## Bisket Jatra being celebrated in Nepal

- In Nepal the famous Bisket Jatra is being celebrated in Bhaktapur and other parts of Kathmandu valley.
- The nine day annual festival marks beginning of Nepali New Year.
- The Jatra begins four days before the start of New Year. It is believed that the festival started during Malla dynasty.

According to a myth whosoever marries local princes dies on the very first night of the marriage.

## Armenia's ex-president elected as PM

- Armenia's Parliament has voted to appoint the country's former President Serge Sargsyan as Prime Minister, despite pressure from tens of thousands of protesters who accuse him of a power grab.
- He has become head of government under a new political system that gives the president less authority and has the prime minister taking a dominant role.

Armenia is a country in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia. Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia as well as one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. The dram is the monetary unit of Armenia. Armen Vardani Sarkissian is the current President of Armenia.

## Miguel Diaz-Canel set to be Cuba's first non-Castro president in six decades

- Cuba selected 57-year-old First Vice President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez as sole candidate to succeed Raul Castro as president of Cuba. The virtually certain unanimous approval of the National Assembly

will install someone from outside the Castro family in the country's highest government office for the first time in nearly six decades..

Havana is the capital city, largest city, and leading commercial center of Cuba. The peso is one of two official currencies in use in Cuba, the other being the convertible peso. Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermudez is serving as the 19th and current President of Cuba. He was previously First Vice President from 2013 to 2018.

### Kyrgyzstan parliament names Mukhammed kaliy Abylgazyev Prime Minister

- Kyrgyzstan's Parliament named Mukhammed kaliy Abylgazyev Prime Minister after his nomination by the Social Democratic party which leads the ruling coalition.
- Abylgazyev, previously chief of staff in President Sooronbai Jeenbekov's office, replaced Sapar Isakov whose cabinet lost a no-confidence vote.

Bishkek is the capital and largest city of Kyrgyzstan. The som is the currency of the Kyrgyz Republic. Sooronbay Sharipovich Jeenbekov is the current President of Kyrgyzstan. Supreme Council is the unicameral Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic.

### AMC to open first commercial cinema in Saudi Arabia in 35 year

- Chinese-owned AMC Entertainment will open the first commercial cinema on Saudi Arabian soil in 35 years.
- The kingdom closed its cinemas in the early 1980s following a revival of hardline Islamic sentiment, but late last year announced reform measures pursued by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

### Republican Congressman Jim Bridenstine Confirmed as New NASA Chief

- The US Senate has confirmed Jim Bridenstine to head up the NASA space agency.
- Bridenstine currently serves as a Republican US Representative from Oklahoma, making him the first politician to take the reins at NASA.

Jim Bridenstine, US Navy veteran and former pilot, was confirmed on a 50-49 vote, and will become the 13th administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

### The King of Swaziland renames the country 'the Kingdom of eSwatini'

- The King of Swaziland has announced that he was officially renaming Swaziland to the Kingdom of eSwatini at Golden Jubilee independence celebrations which corresponded with his 50th birthday.
- Swaziland was known as the Kingdom of eSwatini prior to being colonised by the British.
- The announcement will create quite a job for the country's bureaucrats who will have to amend more than 200 references to Swaziland in the country's constitution, as well as change the country's currency which bears the name of the Central Bank of Swaziland along with images of the King.

Swaziland is a sovereign state in Southern Africa. Mbabane is the capital and largest city in Swaziland. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini is the Prime Minister of Swaziland. Mswati III is the King of eSwatini (former Swaziland) and head of the Swazi Royal Family.

### Syria returns Legion d'honneur award to France

- Syria has returned to France the prestigious Légion d'honneur presented to President Bashar al-Assad.
- France recently joined the US and Britain in bombing Syrian targets over an alleged chemical weapons attack.

Syria is a country in Western Asia; Damascus is the capital of the Syrian Arab Republic. Syrian pound or Syrian Lira is the currency of Syria and is issued by the Central Bank of Syria. Bashar Hafez al-Assad is the 19th and current President of Syria. Imad Mohammad Deeb Khamis has been Prime Minister of Syria since 2016.

### Germany: Centre-left Social Democrats elect first female leader

- Germany's centre-left Social Democrats elected **Andrea Nahles**, a combative and outspoken former Labour Minister, as the first woman leader of the 155-year-old party.

**Andrea Maria Nahles** has served as **Leader of the Social Democratic Party (SPD)** since April 2018 and the **leader of the SPD in the Bundestag** since September 2017. She served as a **Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs from 2013 to 2017** and **SPD Youth leader**.

### Conservative's Abdo Benitez wins Paraguay presidential poll

- Mario Abdo Benitez**, who represents **Paraguay's long-dominant Colorado conservatives**, won **presidential poll**, landing the top job in one of Latin America's poorest countries.
- US-educated son of a senior aide to the country's late dictator, **Abdo Benitez won 46.49 per cent of the vote**, with his **centrist opponent Efraim Alegre taking 42.72 per cent** in a race that was far closer than expected.

**Paraguay** is a landlocked country in central South America; **Asuncion** is the capital and largest city of Paraguay.

### Wang Yi to be China's new special representative for border talks with India

- China's Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** will be the new special representative for **India-China boundary talks**.
- He succeeds his senior colleague **Yang Jiechi** who has now become a **politburo member of the Communist Party of China's (CPC)**.

He will be the **first Chinese official** in recent years who will hold the dual posts of **state councillor and foreign minister**.

### Canada to host meeting of female foreign ministers

- Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland** says **Canada and the European Union** will host the world's **first female foreign ministers' meeting** in September. Freeland, who chairs a foreign ministerial meeting of the **G7**, made the announcement.
- The Canadian government says **female foreign ministers from about 30 countries** will be invited to the **gathering**, which is aimed at deepening global discussion on women's empowerment.
- The **Group of Seven or G7** is a group consisting of **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States**. These countries, with the **7 largest advanced economies** in the world, represent more than **62% of the global net wealth (\$280 trillion)**. The **43rd G7 summit** was held in **Taormina (ME), Italy** in May 2017.

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Foreign Ministers held in Beijing

- The **meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** has kicked off in **Beijing in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse**.
- The **foreign ministers** will be preparing for the **SCO summit** that will take place in **Chinese Qingdao** in June. It will be the **first time the SCO heads of states** meet after having admitted new members – **India and Pakistan** – at a summit in **Astana** in 2017.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.

### India's ranking in press freedom falls to 138

- India's ranking in the Press Freedom Index has fallen two places to 138, a watchdog said in an annual report, blaming "physical violence" against journalists like Gauri Lankesh as the key reason behind the country's low ranking.
- Norway topped the list of having the world's freest press for the second year in a row, the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said while North Korea remained the most repressive country followed by Eritrea, Turkmenistan, Syria and then China.

### Korean leaders aim for end of war, "complete denuclearisation" after historic summit

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in embraced after pledging to work for the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula," punctuating a day of smiles and handshakes at the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade.
- The two Koreas announced they would work with the United States and China this year to declare an official end to the 1950s Korean war and seek an agreement to establish "permanent" and "solid" peace in its place.

### UN chief appoints Christine Burgener of Switzerland as special envoy on Myanmar

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as his new special envoy on Myanmar. Until her appointment, Burgener was the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Germany since 2015.
- Burgener has over 25 years of experience in diplomacy having served in various high-level government positions in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.
- From 2009 to 2015, she served as Ambassador to Thailand and led efforts to mediate between the two sides in the violence that erupted in Thailand in 2010.

### Bangladesh's first satellite to go aloft on May 7

- Bangladesh is all set to become a member of the exclusive club of satellite-owning countries as its first commercial satellite "Bangabandhu-1" will likely be flying to space on May 7 from the US. The satellite will be launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral.
- In September 2016, Bangladesh signed a 14-billion-taka (about \$180 million) loan agreement with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) to finance the country's first-ever satellite "Bangabandhu-I".

### Mike Pompeo sworn in as US secretary of state

- Mike Pompeo took over as America's top diplomat after being confirmed by the Senate and sworn in across the street minutes later. The new secretary of state immediately dashed off to Europe in an energetic start befitting the high-stakes issues awaiting him from Iran to North Korea.

He currently serves as the 70th United States Secretary of State. Previously, he was the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and before that a member of the United States House of Representatives for Kansas's 4th congressional district from 2011 to 2017.

### India-China Informal Summit

- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and President of People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping held their first Informal Summit in Wuhan, to exchange views on overarching issues of bilateral and global

importance, and to elaborate their respective visions and priorities for national development in the context of the current and future international situation.

### Kazakhstan introduces 72-hour free transit visa for Indian citizens

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- **Visa-related cooperation between Kazakhstan and India** will undergo a further positive change with the **Government of Kazakhstan introducing a 72-hour-long transit visa free regime for Indian citizens** from April 17 to December 31, 2018.
- **Kazakhstan's Ambassador to India Bulat Sarsenbayev** said that **only those citizens of India would be eligible for this facility who fly with Kazakhstan's national carrier Air Astana or any other Kazakh airline** and are transiting via international airports in Astana and/or Almaty to a third country or returning from a third country via Astana and/or Almaty.

Nursultan Nazarbayev is a Kazakh statesman serving as President of Kazakhstan since the office was created on April 24, 1990. Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country and the ninth largest in the world. Astana is the capital city of Kazakhstan. The tenge is the currency of Kazakhstan.

### India imported metals from North Korea in violation of UNSC resolutions

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- **India imported about 2.4 million dollars worth of iron and steel, iron and steel products, copper and zinc from North Korea last year and exported precious metals and stones worth USD 578,994 to the country in violation of UN Security Council resolutions banning such trade with North Korea**, according to a report by an UN panel of experts.
- According to a **March report of the Panel of Experts established by the Secretary-General regarding implementation of the sanctions and UNSC resolutions relating to North Korea**, the country exported a total of USD 62,184,815 in iron and steel between January and September 2017 to Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, India, Ireland, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines and Russia.

### Meeting of Inter-Governmental Committee between India and Nepal held at Kathmandu

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- An **India-Nepal Inter Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade**, led by Commerce Secretaries of the two Governments, is functioning under the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade and India-Nepal Treaty of Transit. **It provides a platform for discussing and reviewing bilateral trade and transit related issues.**
- A meeting of the **IGC was held on 26-27 April 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal** with the Indian delegation led by Ms. Rita Teatia, Commerce Secretary and the Nepali delegation headed by Shri Chandra Kumar Ghimire, Commerce Secretary of Nepal.



## ECONOMY AND FINANCE



### Economy News

#### E-way bill mandatory from April 1: Karnataka only state to notify inter, intra-state movement

- As the country prepares for the **nationwide mandatory rollout of the e-way bill system for inter-state movement of goods from April 1** under the goods and services tax (GST) regime, Karnataka will be an exception having notified the e-way bill for both inter-state as well as intra-state movement of goods
- The **simultaneous rollout of e-way bill for both intra-state and inter-state movement of goods** is critical in the context that the **last time the e-way bill system was rolled out on February 1, 2018.**

**EWay Bill** is an electronic way bill for movement of goods which can be generated on the **eWay Bill Portal**. Transport of goods of more than Rs. 50,000 (Single Invoice/bill/delivery challan) in value in a vehicle cannot be made by a registered person without an eway bill.

#### Ultra-clean petrol, diesel in Delhi

- **New Delhi will be the first city in the country to leapfrog from Euro-IV grade petrol and diesel to Euro-VI.**
- Cities in the national capital region like **Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad** as well as **13 major cities including Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune** will switch over to cleaner Euro-VI grade fuel from **January 1, 2019**. Rest of the country will follow suit from **April 2020**.

#### UK soft drink sugar tax comes into force

- **The tax on soft drink sugar has been put in place in UK to help curb obesity levels**, as one in three children leaves primary school overweight.
- The **UK's soft drink sugar tax** follows in the footsteps of countries including **France, Norway and Mexico.**

#### India replaces Vietnam to become second largest producer of mobile phones

- **India is now the second-largest mobile phone producer in the world after China.** According to the data shared by Indian Cellular Association with the government, annual production of mobile phones in **India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to 11 million units in 2017.**
- With this, **India replaced Vietnam to become the second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017.**
- **Vietnam is the easternmost country on the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia. Hanoi is the capital of Vietnam.** The dong has been the currency of Vietnam since **May 3, 1978**. **Tran Dai Quang** is the current President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



## World's longest sea bridge opened in China

- The major work of the world's longest sea bridge was completed in China.
- The bridge, which connects Hong Kong and Macau with mainland China, is 55 km long and six lanes wide. The project is aimed at bringing these three places closer by reducing the journey time to just about an hour long.

## India is now the world's No 1 almond importer

- The health-conscious Indian seems to be gobbling almonds like never before, leading the country to topple China and Spain to emerge as the world's largest consumer of the nut in recent times.
- Almond imports into India rose 7 per cent to worth \$600 million (about Rs 3,900 crore) last year against \$560 million (Rs 3,640 crore) in 2016.

## Hyderabad takes top spot in JLL global city momentum index

- Several Indian cities dominated the 'short term momentum ranking' in consultancy company JLL's recently released annual global report 'City Momentum Index' (CMI) 2018.
- The report ranked Hyderabad (1st), Bengaluru (2nd), Pune (4th), Kolkata (5th) and Delhi (8th) in the top 10 cities out of the 30 top global short-term growth cities. Chennai (14th) and Mumbai (20th) completed India's stellar show on the annual rankings.

Hyderabad and Bengaluru have been leading the country's prowess in the global IT/ ITes and BPM domain.

## SIDBI Celebrates it's Foundation day with launch of ' Samridhi - the virtual assistant' & ' Bankability Kit'

- SIDBI celebrated its foundation day as day of Sampark (connect), Sanwad (interaction), Suraksha (security) and Sampreshan (disseminate).
- Chairman Managing Director of SIDBI Shri Mohammad Mustafa launched a 'Bankability Kit' (brought in partnership with Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank). It is a step to look beyond financial literacy and be a trusted guide for aspirants and existing entrepreneurs to know entrepreneurial self, know banker & know banking.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) set up on 2nd April 1990 under an Act of Indian Parliament, acts as the Principal Financial Institution for Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector as well as for co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities.

## Mangaluru Airport Adjudged India's Cleanest

- Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has been declared as the cleanest and best-maintained airport in the country under the 1.5 million to 5 million passenger handling airport category. In the survey conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), among AAI-run airports across India, MIA pipped Trivandrum International Airport and Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, aka Guwahati International Airport, for this coveted award.

Airports Authority of India or AAI under the Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

## Chamling announces monthly pension for organic farmers

- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling announced monthly pension for farmers engaged in organic farming in the state. The farmers involved in organic farming will get a monthly pension of Rs 1000.
- Sikkim is the first fully organic state in the country.

## Mukesh Ambani, four other Indians in Bloomberg Billionaires Index's top 100

- As many as **24 Indians** feature in the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2018** of the world's **500 richest people**.
- As per the index, **Reliance Industries (RIL)** chairman **Mukesh Ambani** is the **richest person in India** with a **net worth of \$38 billion**. Also, the **RIL chief** is the **third richest Asian** as per the list.
- **Alibaba's Jack Ma** is **Asia's richest person** with **\$47.2 billion net worth** followed by **Tencent co-founder** and **CEO Pony Ma** with **\$41.1 billion net worth**.

The **Bloomberg Billionaires Index** is a **daily ranking of the world's richest people**. The **index debuted in March 2012** and **tracks the net worth of the 500 wealthiest people** on the planet. The **index is updated every day at the close of trading in New York**.

## India's first block chain implementation goes live

- **Three trade receivable discounting systems (TReDS) digital invoice discounting platforms**—approved so far by the **RBI** have **jointly implemented a blockchain solution**, which is expected to **help reduce frauds in bills discounting or receivable financing**.
- The **platforms—RXIL, A.TReDS and M1xchange**—had been **set up to bring together buyers, sellers and financiers for discounting the MSME invoices** and provide them with **timely funding**.
- This is **billed as India's first live blockchain implementation** in the enterprise financial segment.

## India becomes second largest manufacturer of crude steel

- In a major achievement, **India has overtaken Japan to become the world's second largest producer of crude steel** in February, according to the **Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI)**.
- At present, **China is the largest producer of crude steel in the world**, accounting for more than **50% of the production**.

## Shri Piyush Goyal launches UTTAM APP for Coal Quality Monitoring

- The **Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal** launched **UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring**. **UTTAM** stands for – **Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal** ([uttam.coalindia.in](http://uttam.coalindia.in)).
- **UTTAM aims to provide an App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries**.

## India ranks 3rd among nations facing most cyber threats

- **India ranked third in the list of countries where the highest number of cyber threats was detected and second in terms of targeted attacks in 2017**, according to security software firm **Symantec**.
- The **United States led the pack**, followed by **China at the second spot**.

## Income tax department forms committee to look into tax risk of super-rich leaving India

- The **income tax department has set up a committee to look into the tax implications of the super-rich leaving the country to settle abroad** and also arrive at the country's stand on such migrations.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has **set up a five-member working group led by a joint secretary-rank official and four revenue officers** to look into the **taxation aspects of such high-net worth individuals (HNIs)**.

The **Income Tax Department** is a **government agency in charge of monitoring the income tax collection** by the Government of India. It **functions under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance**. It was **formed in 1922**.

## Shimla gets its first grid-connected solar plant

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur recently inaugurated the first grid-connected solar power plant in Shimla having a capacity of 35 KW, installed on the rooftop of the Department of Environment, Science and Technology.

## ‘IGI among world’s top 20 busiest airports’

- Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has climbed six positions to enter the club of the top 20 airports across the world, the Airport Council International’s preliminary report on airport traffic for 2017 has stated.
- “IGI, the country’s busiest airport for passenger traffic, grew by 14.1% year over year, pushing it up from the 22nd to the 16th busiest airport in the world”.

## World's largest solar park to come up in Gujarat

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani approved setting up a 5,000 MW capacity solar park at the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion.
- The proposed solar power generation project would be set up with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore.

The project will contribute significantly in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s target of producing 175 gigawatt of electricity through renewable energy sources by 2022.

## UIDAI puts digitally signed QR code with photo on eAadhaar

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has brought in secure digitally-signed QR code on eAadhaar that will now contain photograph of the Aadhaar holder too, in addition to demographic details, to facilitate better offline verification of an individual.

## 5 states to roll out intra-state e-way Bill from April 15

- The e-way Bill system for intra-state movement of goods will be implemented from April 15 in five states. According to the GST Council, the five states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Telengana and Uttar Pradesh.
- Already, e-way Bill system for intra-state movement of goods is operational in Karnataka from April 1, 2018.

## Cabinet approves agreement to formalise ISA HQ in India

- The Union Cabinet gave its ex post facto approval to an agreement that would formalise the headquarters of the International Solar Alliance in India (ISA).
- The headquarters agreement will institutionalise the functional arrangements between India and ISA.

The creation of ISA will lead to accelerated solar technology development and deployment in ISA member-countries, including India.” The agreement was signed on March 26, 2018.

## India jumps 13 places in latest annual Index of Economic Freedom

- India has jumped 13 places in the last one year to 130th spot in the latest annual Index of Economic Freedom released by a top American think-tank the Heritage Foundation.
- In 2017, India with a score of 52.6 points was ranked at 143 among 180 countries, two spots below neighbour Pakistan.
- As per the latest Index of Economic Freedom, China has jumped one spot and Pakistan is now at 131 position. China with 57.4 points was ranked 111 in the 2017.

**Hong Kong and Singapore** each logged increases in their **Index** scores, finishing first and second in the rankings for the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

### India's first dedicated defence and aerospace SME fund to come up soon

- With an aim to channelise investments and help the small and medium industries, Ministry of Defence will soon set up a dedicated defence and aerospace SME fund, registered with SEBI where minority stake could be taken by investors. This fund would help channelise investments into the two defence corridors announced by the governments of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

### India pips Germany to be No. 4 car market

- Top-gear growth in sales of cars and SUVs has led to India becoming the fourth-largest passenger vehicle (PV) market globally for the first time ever, unseating Germany, in January and February 2018.
- As a result, India is now behind China, US and Japan in the global pecking order with Germany in the fifth position, followed by Brazil and France.

### India Mobile Congress 2018 to be held between October 25-27

- India Mobile Congress will be held from 25th to 27th of October this year at Aerocity in New Delhi.
- It is one of the biggest marquee Mobile, Internet and Technology events in Asia, organized by Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India.

### Startups with up to Rs 10 crore investment to get tax concession

- The government allowed startups to avail tax concession only if total investment including funding from angel investors does not exceed Rs 10 crore.
- As per a notification by the commerce and industry ministry, an angel investor picking up stakes in a startup should have a minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore or should have an average returned income of over Rs 25 lakh in the preceding three financial years.

### India will work with China on OPEC's 'Asian Premium' issue

- India will coordinate with China and other Asian countries to voice against the "Asian Premium" being charged by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 14 nations as of February 2018, founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela), and headquartered since 1965 in Vienna, Austria.

### 'MADAD' app: Indian Railway's dedicated app for lodging complaints

- The national transporter is going to launch a dedicated mobile application -- rather appropriately named 'MADAD' (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) -- later this month to enable its passengers to lodge complaints, be it over food quality or dirty toilets.
- Move over Twitter, Facebook, helplines and complaint registers, if you are looking to lodge your grievances with the Railways. They can also requests emergency services through the app.
- The complaint lodged through the app will directly reach the relevant officials of the divisions concerned and the action taken can be relayed online, thus fast tracking the entire process of registration and redressal of grievances.



## India among 170 countries to ink deal to reduce shipping emissions by 2050

- Over 170 countries, including India, signed an agreement in London earlier this week to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 50 per cent (based on 2008 levels) from shipping by 2050.
- The deal, which was struck after intense negotiations at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), will force the industry to redesign its fleet and switch from using fossil fuels to running vessels on renewable energy.

Zero emission from shipping by 2035 was the most ambitious proposal on the table at the IMO, made by the climate-vulnerable Marshall Islands and allies. According to a UN report, compared to China, India and Brazil were minor players in the shipping industry with 1.21 per cent and 0.88 per cent, respectively, of the overall world share.

## Secretary Economic Affairs participates in the BRICS Finance Ministers meeting

- The first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held in the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings on 19th April, 2018 in Washington D.C. Ministry of Finance, Government of India was represented in the meeting by Shri Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (EA).
- The main issues that the meeting discussed were related to enhancing the project pipelines of New Development Bank (NDB) evenly across member countries, expansion of NDB's membership, the proposal of the South African Presidency for setting up a working group on illicit financial flows and a BRICS Task Force on Public Private Partnership.

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (or "the BRICs"), before the induction of South Africa in 2010.

## First ever Private Sector project by ITDC

- India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) signed a MoU with Hyderabad based firm M/s Suraas Impex Pvt. Ltd. for developing a Mega Tourism Destination project at Bhairav Lanka in Kakinada, East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 550 crores.
- This is the first of its kind project for the state owned ITDC, which got preferred against several private contenders.

## E Godavari, first district with complete LED street lighting

- East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh has become the country's first 'LED street light district'.
- The rural LED street lighting programme in the district entailing the installation of around 3.1 lakh LED street lights has been completed.
- The exercise is expected to save around 34 Million Units (MU) annually.
- The State Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has declared the district as the first to be equipped with 100 per cent LED street lighting on April 24.

## Finance secretary Garg leads India team to WB-IMF spring meetings

- Economic affairs secretary Subhash Garg has led the Indian delegation to the World Bank-International Monetary Fund spring meetings beginning in Washington.
- Garg, as economic affairs secretary, is the "alternate governor" for India on the IMF's board of governors, and heads the team in the absence of the designated governor, finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who is undergoing treatment for a kidney ailment.



- Every IMF member country has a governor and alternate governor on the IMF's board of governors, which is its highest decision-making body.

### Bengaluru is highest paying city for talent: Randstad study

- The garden city of Bengaluru, which topped the list of salary trends in 2017, continues to lead the pack as the highest paying city in the country, with an average annual cost to company (CTC) for talent across all levels and functions standing at about Rs 11 lakh, according to Randstad Insights, the research and analysis division of Randstad India.

Pune stands second at around Rs 10 lakh, followed by NCR and Mumbai with an average annual CTC figure of a little under Rs 10 lakh and around Rs 9 lakh, respectively. Chennai (Rs 8 lakh), Hyderabad (a little under Rs 8 lakh) and Kolkata (around Rs 7 lakh) are the other three names in the list of Indian cities paying the highest average salaries for professionals.

### India needs 8.1 million jobs a year

- India needs to create 8.1 million jobs a year to maintain its employment rate, according to a World Bank report which projected the country's growth to accelerate to 7.3% in the current financial year.
- It also projected the growth rate to increase further to 7.5% in the following two years.
- In its twice-a-year South Asia Economic Focus (SAEF) titled 'Jobless Growth', the bank also said India had recovered from the withdrawal of large denomination bank notes in November 2016 and the Goods and Services Tax (GST), rolled out on July 1, 2017.

### India ranks 10th on new Commonwealth innovation index

- India was ranked 10th on a new Commonwealth Innovation Index, topped by the UK, Singapore and Canada.
- The index was launched as part of a new Commonwealth Innovation Hub on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
- It has been created in partnership with the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its annual Global Innovation Index (GII).

### IMF pegs India growth at 7.4 per cent for FY19

- India's economy is forecast to grow 7.4% in the current fiscal from 6.7% in FY18 and accelerate further in FY20 to 7.8%, shows the IMF's latest forecast.
- "Growth in India is projected to increase from 6.7% in 2017 to 7.4% in 2018 and 7.8% in 2019 (unchanged from the October WEO).

The IMF, also known as the Fund, was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, in July 1944. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., of ". At present there are 189 countries are the member countries.

### Kochi to host India Skills Kerala 2018

- Kerala will host the India Skills Kerala 2018 – in Kochi from April 28 to 30, as part of the World Skills India 2018.
- The event is aimed at identifying and training talents to get medals at the World Skills Competition Kazan 2019.

- Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE), the **State Skill Development Mission (SSDM)** and **Industrial Training Department under the Department of Labour** and Skills are spearheading the activities for the event.

### UK joins International Solar Alliance

- The **United Kingdom** joined the **India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
- At an event held at the **London Stock Exchange** as part of the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 (CHOGM)**, Britain formally announced its membership of the alliance, which aims to raise **\$1 trillion** of private and public finance to provide affordable and sustainable energy for all by 2030.

### Electrosteel becomes first to be resolved under IBC

- **Electrosteel Steels** has become the first of the 'Dirty Dozen' to be resolved under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** approving the resolution plan submitted by Resources conglomerate Vedanta.
- The **Committee of Creditors** to the debt-laden **Electrosteel Steels** had chosen Vedanta as the highest bidder for the company, backing the earlier decision of the resolution professional.

**Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** was set up on **1st October 2016** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code)**. It is a unique regulator: regulates a profession as well as processes. It has regulatory oversight over the **Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies and Information Utilities**. It writes and enforces rules for transactions, namely, corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code. **Dr. M. S. Sahoo** is currently serves as Chairperson of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**.

### India is world's sixth largest economy at \$2.6 trillion

- **India** is now the world's sixth largest economy, displacing **France**. According to the **database of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO)** for April 2018. The five economies ahead are the **United States, China, Japan, Germany and United Kingdom**.

**India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, the worth of the economy, clocked in at **\$2.6 trillion for 2017**, according to the **database of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO)** for April 2018.

### India pools into USD 5mn small states fund at CHOGM

- **India** is among four countries to pool into an innovative **USD 5 million fund for small states** to obtain easier access to international trade finance to diversify their economies and achieve the sustainable development goals.
- The announcement of the **Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility** came at the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)** held in London.

### Commerce Minister Prabhu launches digital platform for MSME Exporters

- Eyeing at assisting the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** engaged in exports, **Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu** launched the **FIEO GlobalLinker platform for MSME exporters**.
- This initiative will help in expanding **India's multi-focused export strategy** and also aid in connecting art and artisans to the market.
- Minister also informed that **at least 300 Geographical Indications** will be registered very soon, which will give a major boost to exports.

**Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu** is the current **Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation of India**, under the **Narendra Modi** government. He currently represents **Andhra Pradesh** in the **Upper House of Indian Parliament**. He was the **Union Railway Minister of India** from **November 2014 to September 2017**.

## UIDAI introduces new QR code for offline verification

- To provide an extra layer of privacy to Aadhaar, UIDAI has introduced an updated 'QR code' that holds non-sensitive details like name, address, photo, and date of birth, and can be used for offline user verification without the 12-digit ID number.

## ‘Jio-fication’ gets Mukesh Ambani a spot on World’s Greatest Leaders list

- Business tycoon and India’s richest man, Mukesh Ambani, and human rights lawyer Indira Jaising have been named by Fortune magazine as the World’s Greatest Leaders of 2018.
- The Fortune magazine’s 2018 ranking of the 50 Greatest Leaders released also has architect Balkrishna Doshi in the list which includes Apple CEO Tim Cook, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and football coach Nick Saban.

## 150 participants from 31 countries expected at first ever International SME convention

- Over one hundred and fifty participants from 31 countries and 400 entrepreneurs from India were participated in the four day International SME convention held in New Delhi from 22nd to 24th April.
- The Ministry of MSME has engaged with over 35 International Trade Development organisations to attract and invite able and willing entrepreneurs and encourage people to people contact with select Indian Entrepreneurs from key sectors of the International counterparts.

## At 190 million, India has second largest unbanked population

- About 190 million Indian adults still don't have a bank account, second only to China, despite the account ownership more than doubling from 35 per cent in 2011 to 80 per cent in 2017, a World Bank report.
- The Global Findex Report released there has been a rapid increase in financial inclusion with the number of account holders in the country having risen from 35 per cent of the adults in 2011 and 53 per cent in 2014 to 80 per cent in 2017.

World Bank report said while China is home to 225 million adults without a bank account, India has 190 million. They are followed by Pakistan (100 million) and Indonesia (95 million). "These four economies, together with three others - Nigeria, Mexico and Bangladesh - are home to nearly half the world's unbanked population," the report said.

## Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts cross Rs 80,000 crore

- Total deposits in Jan Dhan accounts crossed Rs 80,000 crore mark with more people joining the flagship financial inclusion programme, according to official data.
- India's financial inclusion efforts have won recognition from the World Bank as their data indicate that 55 per cent of new bank accounts opened are from India.

## India received \$69 billion remittances in 2017, retains top slot

- India has retained its position as the top remittances receiving country with its diaspora sending about \$69 billion back home in 2017, according to the latest report by World Bank. Remittances to India picked up sharply by 9.9% to \$69 billion in 2017, reversing the previous year's dip, but were still short of \$70.4 billion received in 2014.

The World Bank said remittance inflows improved in all regions and the top remittance recipients were India with \$69 billion, followed by China (\$64 billion), the Philippines (\$33 billion), Mexico (\$31 billion), Nigeria (\$22 billion), and Egypt (\$20 billion).

## India tops list of websites blocked, its telcos filter the most

- **Indian internet service providers (ISPs) have installed the highest number of Internet filtering systems and blocked the maximum number of web pages, an investigation covering 10 countries by University of Toronto-based Citizen Lab, along with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and The Indian Express in India, has found.**
- **Covering 10 countries where technologies marketed by Canadian company Netsweeper “appear to be filtering content for national-level, consumer-facing ISPs”, Citizen Lab spotted 42 of these installations by 12 ISPs in India — Pakistan came second with 20 installations. The highest number of blocked unique URLs in these countries — 1,158 out of 2,464 — was also found in India.** This only accounts for representative samples of censorship coinciding with the testing period between August 2017 and April 2018, and is probably a fraction of the censored content.

## Chandrababu Naidu inaugurates AP Cyber Security Operations Center

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Center (APCSOC) in Amaravati.**
- **APCSOC is an initiative of the state Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (IT and E&C) ministry.**
- **"The Center will combat cyber security threats and provide real time intelligence sharing and threat analysis to all state government departments and entities," Naidu said in a statement.**

## India signs loan agreement with World Bank for “Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project”

- **A Loan Agreement for IBRD credit of US\$ 125 (equivalent) for the “Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project” was signed with the World Bank on 24th April, 2018 in New Delhi.** The Loan Agreement was signed by Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Hisham Abdo, Acting Country Director, World Bank (India) on behalf of the World Bank.
- **The Objectives of the project is to nurture indigenous innovation, foster local product development and accelerate commercialization process** by bridging critical skill and infrastructure gaps to promote affordable and innovative healthcare products generation for inclusive development and increasing competitiveness in India.

## Microsoft is India's most attractive employer, followed by Amazon: Randstad survey

- **Technology giant Microsoft India has been declared the most attractive employer brand, followed by e-commerce giant Amazon India.** The winners were named by HR service provider Randstad's Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2018. Other names in the list include Hindustan Unilever, IBM India, ITC Group, Larsen & Toubro, Mercedes-Benz India, Samsung India, Sony India and Tata Consultancy Services. **Sector wise, Tata Consultancy Services is most favoured in IT, while Larsen & Toubro tops Infrastructure & Construction and Hindustan Unilever emerges the winner in FMCG.**

## Cabinet approves Minimum Support Prices for Raw Jute for 2018-19 season

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2018-19 season.**
- **The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Raw Jute has been increased to Rs.3700/- per quintal for 2018-19 season from Rs. 3500/- per quintal in 2017-18 season.**

## Bureau of Indian Standards grants first license for Liquid Chlorine on All India Basis

- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) granted First Licence to M/s Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd for Liquid Chlorine on All India basis.**



- **This is the First Licence granted on All India basis. This product is in liquid form and stored in metal containers.** It is usually used as a gas obtained by evaporating the liquid from the metal container. **It is used mainly in paper, pulp, textile bleaching, water sterilization and manufacture of chemicals.**

### Women in India make on-average 16% less than men

- **Women in India make on-average 16.1 per cent less than men, similar to the global average,** as the percentage of the fairer sex in higher-paying roles is less, says a Korn Ferry report.
- According to the **Korn Ferry Gender Pay Index, women across the globe make on-average 16.1 per cent less than men.** However, the pay gap becomes much smaller while analysing same job level, same company, same function.
- The **gender pay-gap in India is more than China, which stood at 12.1 per cent.** The pay gap in some of the representative nations like Brazil stood at 26.2 per cent, France 14.1 per cent, Germany 16.8 per cent, the UK 23.8 per cent and the US 17.6 per cent.

### India gets ‘first’ industrial microgrid with battery storage

- **Swedish-Swiss multinational giant ABB announced it has commissioned India’s first industrial solar microgrid at its Vadodara manufacturing facility in Gujarat.**
- ABB has installed the technology at its Vadodara manufacturing facility in the state of Gujarat.
- A solar-wind hybrid project was also recently commissioned in India.

The Vadodara factory is ABB’s largest facility in India with over 3,000 employees and among its biggest manufacturing hubs in the world. “The microgrid is the first-of-its-kind to be installed at a manufacturing campus in India.

### Modi government collects Rs 7.41 trillion from GST in 2017-18

- **India collected Rs 7.41 trillion in taxes in the first year of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)** with revenues for a good part of four months not being accounted for because of the mid-year rollout and an accounting lag.
- The government had last reported a GST collection of Rs 7.17 trillion for the first eight months since the new tax regime that subsumed 17 central and state taxes on sale of goods and rendering of services was rolled out in July.

### Fitch retains India’s rating at BBB- with stable outlook

- **Fitch has kept India’s rating unchanged with a stable outlook,** saying the rating balances a strong medium-term growth outlook and favourable external balances with weak fiscal finances and some lagging structural factors, including governance standards and a still-difficult, but improving, business environment.
- The agency affirmed India’s rating at BBB-, which is at the junk bond or lowest investment grade with a stable outlook.

Last year Moody’s Investors Service had upgraded India’s sovereign rating after a gap of nearly 14 years, while Standard & Poor’s retained its BBB- rating with a stable outlook. A rating upgrade changes the profile of the country and makes it attractive to investors.

### Government launches Pilot scheme Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW for three years

- The Government kicks off a Pilot Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW on competitive basis for 3 (three) years under medium term i.e. from generators with commissioned projects but without Power Purchase Agreement. The Ministry of Power had recently issued the model bid documents, model PAPP and PPSA on 6th April, 2018. The Guidelines for the said scheme were issued on 10th April, 2018.



- PFC Consulting Limited (A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Ltd) has been **appointed as Nodal Agency and PTC India Limited as the Aggregator**. PTC India would sign three-year (mid-term) Agreement for Procurement of Power with successful bidders and Power Supply Agreement with the Discoms.

### Banks in News

#### Jio Payments Bank begins operations

- Mukesh Ambani-led **Jio Payments Bank Limited** has commenced operations as a payments bank with effect from April 3, 2018.
- The RBI had issued license to the bank under section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on the business of payments bank in India.

#### IndusInd first bank to use WhatsApp for basic services

- **IndusInd Bank** has become the first lender to start using WhatsApp enterprise solution to provide basic banking services to customers.
  - Using the widely-used messaging service, customers can check their balance, obtain a mini statement, check reward points as well as update Aadhaar.
  - The private sector lender is the first bank to participate in the WhatsApp pilot.
- **IndusInd Bank Limited** is a Mumbai based Indian new generation bank, established in 1994. It was founded by Srichand Parmanand Hinduja.

#### RBI decides to set up Data Sciences Lab

- Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up **Data Sciences Lab** to improve its forecasting, surveillance and early warning detection abilities which will aid policy formulation.
- The lab will comprise experts and budding analysts, who are trained in Computer Science, Data Analytics, Statistics, Economics, Econometrics and Finance.

#### India, World Bank signed \$210 million deal to improve Madhya Pradesh rural roads

- The Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the World Bank signed a 210 million dollar loan agreement for the Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project.
- The new joint project will cover 10,510 km stretch of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh that fall under the Chief Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (CMGSY) programme

#### ICICI facilitates seamless money transfer for NRIs via 'Money2India'

- Leading private lender **ICICI Bank** announced the launch of a service that enables Non Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to a beneficiary in India using social media platforms like WhatsApp and e-mail.
- Christened 'Social Pay', this is the first-of-its-kind service available on Money2India (M2I), the bank's app for remittances.

#### ICICI Bank first to get Swift's new cross-border payment service

- According to the global financial messaging cooperative Swift, **ICICI Bank** has become its first Indian client to go live with an improved cross-border payments service.
- The **Swift platform** was allegedly used by erring officials of PNB to initiate messages based on which payments were made to Modi's purported overseas suppliers.

**ICICI Bank, stands for Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, it is an Indian multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai. Chanda Kochhar is the current managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank.**

### Centre, Maharashtra Govt & World Bank signed 420 million dollar project

- The Centre, Maharashtra Government and the World Bank have signed a 420 million dollar project to help small and marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha region of the state.
- The Maharashtra Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture will be implemented in rural areas largely dependent upon rain-fed agriculture. The project will take up a series of activities at the farm and watershed level.

### RBI bars banks from crypto services, plans e-currency

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a major crackdown on cryptocurrencies even as it unveiled plans to create its own digital currency.
- In its first policy for FY19, the RBI has instructed the banks and other regulated entities cannot provide services to users, holders and traders of cryptocurrencies.

### RBI defers Ind-AS adoption by 1 year as banks found to be unprepared

- The Reserve Bank of India has deferred the adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by banks, for a year, due to unpreparedness of banks to migrate to the new accounting system.
- Accounting Standards are written policy documents issued by expert accounting body or by the government or other regulatory body covering the aspects of recognition, measurement, treatment, presentation, and disclosure of accounting transactions in financial statements

**According to a February 2016 RBI circular, commercial banks, barring regional rural banks, had to implement the new accounting standards from April 1, 2018.**

### RBI dumps GVA model, switches back to GDP to measure economy

- The Reserve Bank switched back to the gross domestic product (GDP)-based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology, citing global best practices.
- Government had started analysing growth estimates using GVA methodology from January 2015 and had also changed the base year to 2018 from January.

**GVA gives a picture of the state of economic activity from the producers' side or supply side, while GDP model gives the picture from the consumers' side or demand perspective.**

### India's forex reserves rise to life-time high of \$424 billion

- The country's foreign exchange reserves hit a life-time high of \$424.361 billion after rising by \$1.828 billion in the week to March 30, helped by rise in foreign currency assets.
- The reserves had touched a record high of \$421.914 billion on February 9.
- It had crossed the \$400-billion mark for the first time in the week to September 8, 2017, but has since been fluctuating.

**Foreign exchange reserves of India are India's holdings of cash, bank deposits, bonds, and other financial assets denominated in currencies other than India's national currency, the Indian rupee. The reserves are managed by the Reserve Bank of India for the Indian government.**

### SBI to invest Rs 80 bn in hydropower project of Nepal

- The **State Bank of India** will be investing a total of **Rs 80 billion** in the **Arun III hydropower project of Nepal**, which has 900 megawatts (MW) electricity production capacities.
- The **SJVN**, which has been awarded with the construction of the mega power project of Nepal, has made an informal agreement with the SBI to acquire the investment as a loan.
- "The **1.4 trillion rupees** over the project will be expended for the construction of the structures and **additional 11 billion rupees** for the transmission lines".

### Bandhan Bank among top 50 most valuable publicly traded firms in India

- **Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank Ltd** became one of the **top 50 most valuable publicly traded firms in India**.
- The market capitalization of Bandhan Bank was at **Rs64,000crore**, claiming **50th rank**, according to BSE data.
- **Tata Consultancy Services Ltd** is the most valuable company in India, followed by **Reliance Industries Ltd** and **HDFC Bank Ltd**.

### Kotak Bank goes past SBI to become India's 2nd most valuable lender

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, once known for broking and deal making, surpassed the country's largest state-run commercial lender **State Bank of India** in market value for the first time to become the second-most valuable bank in India after **HDFC Bank**.
- **HDFC Bank**, with **Rs 5.03 lakh crore** market cap, is still the undisputed leader in the banking sector.

### Yes Bank launches overdraft facility for MSMEs

- **Private sector lending major Yes Bank** recently announced the launch of '**YES GST**', an **OD (over draft)** facility for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- Through this **first-of-its-kind**, industry first initiative, an MSME can avail **OD up to Rs. 1 crore**, based on their annual turnover, backed by **GST returns**.
- Any **additional assessment of balance sheet or bank statements** will not be required.
- This **OD facility** can be availed by a MSME against mortgage of residential or commercial property.

### Nabard approves Rs 14,690 cr funding to Rajasthan

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has extended **total credit support of Rs 14,690 crore** to **Rajasthan** for 2017-18.
- **Rajasthan** has been one of the biggest beneficiaries under the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** of NABARD, under which NABARD disbursed concessional loan of **Rs 1,851.29 crore** to the state government during 2017-18,".

### SBI India's most trusted bank, ICICI tops in private sector

- At a time when the banking sector in the going through a topsy-turvy phase, the **TRA Brand Trust Report 2018** said the **State Bank of India** was the **most-trusted bank (both public and private sector)** in the country and **ICICI Bank** topped the chart among the private ones.
- "This year, **State Bank of India** tops the chart of **BFSI (Banking and Financial Services Institutions)** super-category despite seeing a dip in its overall brand trust index rankings from 13th in 2017 to 21st this year".

The leader among the private banks is ICICI Bank, rising nine ranks in overall ranking." In the overall ranking comparing brands from across sectors, ICICI Bank ranked 38th in 2018. It further observed that 51 brands from the BFSI sector got listed among the 1,000 most trusted brands in the country this year, compared to 23 brands listed in 2017. The public sector major Punjab National Bank, which in February witnessed a multi-crore fraud, ranks sixth among the public sector banks (PSB) and is 297th in the overall ranking, according to the survey.

### India to invest more than 1 billion pounds in UK

- India will invest more than 1 billion pounds in the UK that will create or safeguard 5,750 British jobs, as part of a new partnership forged during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit as the two sides signed a wide range of MoUs, agreements and initiatives across technology, trade and investment.
- The British government announced a new India-UK trade partnership after Prime Minister Modi held talks with his British counterpart Theresa May.
- According to DIT figures, total trade in goods and services between the UK and India was 18 billion pounds in 2017, a 15 per cent increase from 2016.

### Yes Bank gets RBI nod to open offices in London, Singapore

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has received Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to open two representative offices in London and Singapore.
- The two New Global Financial and Technology HUBs would also act as a perfect platform for servicing Yes Bank's existing global client base in addition to providing networking coverage for the Bank's large investor community in these parts of the world", according to the Rana Kapoor, MD & CEO, Yes Bank

Yes Bank opened its first representative office in Abu Dhabi in April 2015 and also launched IFSC banking unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, in the same year.

### SBI allows customers to withdraw cash at PoS units

- State Bank of India (SBI) is allowing debit cardholders withdraw money from its nearly 5 lakh Point of Sale (PoS) terminals without any charges.
- Cash withdrawal at PoS terminals enables recycling of cash with merchants.

### World Bank projects India's growth rate at 7.3 per cent for the current fiscal

- The World Bank has projected a growth rate of 7.3 per cent for India this year and 7.5 per cent for 2019 and 2020. The bank also noted that Indian economy has recovered from the effects of demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax.
- The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

### 1.55 lakh post offices to be empowered as Payments Banks

- The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government aims to empower 1.55 lakh post offices after integration with 650 Payments Banks to enable an array of digital services including financial inclusion for 130 crore Indians.
- "In 5-6 months, 1.5 lakh postal offices will function as Post Payments Banks. In a lesser time, nearly 32 crore have opened bank accounts, and hence the government decided to open Payments Banks to facilitate transactions for all citizens".

Payments banks are a new model of banks conceptualised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These banks can accept a restricted deposit, which is currently limited to Rs.1 lakh per customer and may be increased further. These banks cannot issue loans and credit cards. Both current account and savings accounts can be operated by these banks. Payments banks can issue services like ATM cards, debit cards, net-banking and mobile-banking. Bharti Airtel set up India's first live payments bank.

### NABARD to expand its long-term lending to Rs 80,000 cr in FY19

- Development finance institution NABARD aims to increase its long-term on-lending or refinance portfolio to about Rs 80,000 crore in the current fiscal as part of its effort to improve the rural economy.

NABARD came into existence on 12 July 1982 by transferring the agricultural credit functions of RBI and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC). NABARD is headquartered at Mumbai. The Bank has been entrusted with "matters concerning policy, planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India".

### Centre rejobs Banks Board Bureau

- The finance ministry has reconstituted the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) and appointed Bhanu Pratap Sharma as the new chairman.
- Mr. Sharma was the former chairman of the Recruitment and Assessment centre of DRDO and former principal secretary (Finance), in the Bihar government.
- He replaces Vinod Rai, former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), who was appointed as BBB's first chairman in April 2016.

### AIIB decides to invest \$140M to improve Rural Connectivity in India

- Approximately 1.5 Million rural residents in State of Madhya Pradesh are going to directly benefit from improved livelihoods, education and mobility with the USD \$ 140-Million loan approved by the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in a Meeting held recently in Beijing.

AIIB is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region. It is headquartered in Beijing, China. Jin Liqun is the current President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

### Reserve Bank tightens reporting norms for Liberalised Remittance Scheme

- Reserve Bank tightened reporting norms for the Liberalised Remittance Scheme under which an individual can transfer upto 2, 50,000 US Dollars abroad in a year.

### SBI sets up 60 sbiINTOUCH digital branches

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has set up 60 digital branches across the country with an aim to offer advanced banking services like instant loan approvals, assistance in choosing investment portfolios and access to latest mutual funds among others.
- SBI has set up branches, called sbiINTOUCH, in partnership with Dimension Data, a global technology integrator and managed services provider.

### RBI imposes Rs 3 crore penalty on IDBI Bank for violation of asset classification norms

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed, through an order dated April 09, 2018, a monetary penalty of Rs 30 million on IDBI Bank Limited (the bank) for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms."



## SBI launches UK subsidiary with 225 mn pounds capital

- The SBI has announced the launch of its UK subsidiary, SBI (UK) Limited, with an initial capital commitment of 225 million pounds from its parent entity.
- India's largest state-owned bank, which celebrated the new subsidiary with a special event in London, becomes the first foreign bank in the UK to ringfence its retail division from its wholesale business.

## NABARD frames self-healing norms for RRBs

- The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has come out with a 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework' framework for regional rural banks (RRBs), much like the revised one the RBI unveiled for scheduled commercial banks nearly a year ago.
- This framework is aimed at enabling RRBs that fail to meet prudential requirements relating to capital adequacy, net non-performing assets (NNPAs) and return on assets (ROA) to take self-corrective action to arrest further deterioration in their financial position.

## ICICI Bank launches digital form for opening current accounts

- Private sector lender ICICI Bank has introduced a 'digital form' which will help open current accounts in a few hours.
- Claiming that this is a first of its kind service by any lender in India.

## World Bank approves 'historic' \$13-billion capital increase

- In a major development, the World Bank Group has endorsed an ambitious package of measures that include a USD 13 billion increase in paid-in capital.
- The decision came along with a series of internal reforms, and a set of policy measures that greatly strengthen the global poverty fighting institution's ability to scale up resources and deliver on its mission in areas of the world that need the most assistance.

## Central Bank of Iran Bans Banks from Crypto Dealings

- The central bank of Iran has banned domestic banks and other financial institutions from dealing in cryptocurrencies, citing money-laundering concerns first rose in a circular from December 2017.
- The ban comes as the country braces itself for the possible renewal of U.S. sanctions on May 12, which has seen the national currency, the rial, and plunge to unprecedented lows.

## India and World Bank signed legal agreement on National Biopharma Mission

- The National Biopharma Mission is being implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) - a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- The Mission has been approved at a total cost of US\$250 million for five years with 50% funding through World Bank Loan, with an aim to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products such as vaccines, biologics and medical devices for combating public health concerns.

## Govt to soon acquire RBI's stake in National Housing Bank

- The government will soon acquire the stake of Reserve Bank of India in housing finance regulator National Housing Bank (NHB).
- RBI currently holds 100 per cent stake in the NHB.
- The Finance Bill 2018 has amended the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, for transferring RBI's stake in the NHB to the government.

**National Housing Bank (NHB)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was set up on 9 July 1988 under the National Housing Bank Act; 1987. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

### India's GDP likely to grow 7.5% in FY19: Deutsche Bank report

- The **Indian economy** is witnessing a “cyclical upswing” and the country is likely clock a **GDP growth of 7.5% this financial year**, says a **Deutsche Bank research report**. “Our current growth forecast for 2018-19 is 7.5% (RBI estimate is 7.4%), which will mark an improvement from the 6.7% likely outturn in 2017-18,” the global financial services major said.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** expects India's economic growth rate to strengthen to **7.4% in the current fiscal, from 6.6% in 2017-18**, on account of revival in investment activity. The report, however, noted that **higher global oil prices, risk of an earlier than anticipated rate hike cycle from the RBI** and the potential negative impact of the banking sector frauds on credit and overall growth are some of the factors that pose downside risk to its baseline GDP estimate.

### HDFC Bank launches interactive humanoid IRA 2.0 in Bengaluru

- **HDFC Bank** has announced the **launch of IRA 2.0, its interactive humanoid**. In its new avatar, IRA will enhance user experience for customers visiting the **Koramangala branch in Bengaluru**.
- **IRA will interact with customers, answer bank-related queries**, frequently asked questions, and guide them inside the branch with voice-based navigation. **HDFC Bank also launched its virtual assistant ‘EVA’ on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant**.
- **IRA 2.0 has been developed by HDFC Bank in collaboration with its technology partners Invento Makerspaces and Senseforth Technologies**. HDFC Bank first launched a humanoid for customer service in **January 2017** at the bank's **Kamala Mills Branch in Mumbai**. The first version of IRA is currently stationed at the **Palarivattom branch in Kochi**.

## Firms in News

### Alibaba-funded SenseTime becomes world's most valuable AI startup

- **SenseTime Group Ltd.** has raised **\$600 million from Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.** and other investors at a valuation of **more than \$3 billion**, becoming the **world's most valuable artificial intelligence (AI) startup**.

**Alibaba Group Holding Limited** is a Chinese multinational e-commerce, retail, Internet, AI and technology conglomerate founded in 1999 that provides consumer-to-consumer, business-to-consumer and business-to-business sales services via web portals, as well as electronic payment services, shopping search engines and cloud computing services. **Alibaba is the world's largest and most valuable retailer since April 2016** with operations in over 200 countries as well as one of the largest Internet companies.

### Debjeni Ghosh assumes charge as Nasscom President

- Former **Intel executive Debjeni Ghosh** has taken over as the **President of the IT industry association**.
- She succeeds **R Chandrashekhar**, who is leaving office upon the completion of his term.

The **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** is a **trade association of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry**. It was established in 1988, **NASSCOM is a non-profit organisation**. **NASSCOM is headquartered in New Delhi**.

## JICA signs agreement with Centre to provide loan of Rs 500 Crore

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed an agreement with the Government of India to provide loan assistance of 8,082 million Japanese Yen (approximately Rs 500 crore) for installation of intelligent transport systems in Chennai.

## BSE launches arbitrage rate index

- Asia Index, a joint venture between S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE, has launched arbitrage rate index.
- It will provide market participants with a transparent benchmark to compare the performance of similar arbitrage strategies.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. It was established in 1875. BSE is Asia's first stock exchange. BSE claims to be the world's fastest stock exchange, with a median trade speed of 6 microseconds.

## Rishad Premji appointed Nasscom chairman for 2018-19

- IT industry body Nasscom has appointed Wipro chief strategy officer and board member Rishad Premji as its chairman for 2018-19.
- Besides, Nasscom has appointed WNS Group CEO Keshav Murugesh as the vice chairman.
- Mr. Premji has been a member of Nasscom's executive council and was the vice chairman for 2017-18.

## Rakesh Bharti Mittal new CII President

- Bharti Enterprises Vice-Chairman Rakesh Bharti Mittal assumed office of the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2018-19 year.

## FSSAI launches initiative to address Vitamin D deficiency

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched 'Project Dhoop', an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
- The project was launched at National Bal Bhavan in New Delhi, and saw participation of around 600 students from NCERT, NDMC and North MCD Schools.

## Mahindra & Mahindra joins Rs 1-trillion m-cap club

- Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd entered the coveted Rs 1 trillion market capitalisation club.
- Following the jump in its m-cap, M&M has joined the ranks of Ultra Tech Cement, Power Grid Corporation, and IndusInd Bank.

## NSE's IISL launches Nifty 200 Quality 30 index

- Leading stock exchange NSE's arm IISL launched Nifty 200 Quality 30 index, which will track the performance of select firms based on profitability and earnings growth variability.
- The new index includes top 30 companies from its parent Nifty 200 index, selected on the basis of their 'quality' scores, India Index Services & Products Limited (IISL) said in a statement.
- The quality score for each company will be determined based on return on equity, financial leverage (debt-equity ratio) and earnings growth variability analysed during the previous five years.

## 34 global tech firms sign key accord against cyber attacks

- Top 34 global technology and securities firms, led by Microsoft and Facebook, have signed a "Cybersecurity Tech Accord" to defend people from malicious attacks by cybercriminals and nation-states.

- The watershed agreement will prevent them help governments launch cyber-attacks against innocent citizens and enterprises.
- The 34 companies include Cisco, HP, Nokia, Oracle, VMware, Dell, CA Technologies, Symantec, Bitdefender, F-Secure, RSA and Trend Micro, among others.

### TCS becomes first Indian company to hit \$100 billion m-cap

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- **Tata Consultancy Services became only the second Indian company to cross the \$100 billion mark in market capitalisation**, buoyed by a robust outlook for its business and a weakening rupee. The software major, which listed in 2004, follows Reliance Industries Ltd., which touched the milestone on October 29, 2007.
- IT bellwether TCS created history by becoming the first Indian listed company to hit the coveted \$100 billion m-cap figure.

In contrast, RIL's current market capitalisation is about \$89 billion, while TCS's smaller competitor Infosys Ltd. has a market value of \$38.8 billion. Though much larger than TCS, the global \$100 billion club includes Apple Inc., Microsoft Corp., Alphabet Inc., Amazon, Facebook, ExxonMobil, Walmart Inc. and Samsung.

### Tata Sons appoints former foreign secretary Jaishankar as global corporate affairs head

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- **Tata Sons announced the appointment of former Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar as Tata Group's President, Global Corporate Affairs.** Jaishankar will report to Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran..
- Tata Sons further said Jaishankar, who was **Indian foreign secretary from January 2015 to January 2018**, will **work with Tata companies to help them strengthen their business presence and positioning in their respective geographies globally.**

### Hero Future Energies sets up country's first hybrid renewable power plant

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- **Hero Future Energies has commissioned the country's first large-scale hybrid renewable energy project a combination of sun and wind power in Karnataka's Raichur district.**
- The company has added a **28.8 MW solar project to an existing 50 MW wind project set up two years ago.**
- A hybrid project has several advantages over a standalone solar or wind project, including saving on land.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**



### **NASA spots farthest star**

- **NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered the farthest individual star ever seen** — an enormous blue stellar body nicknamed **Icarus** located over halfway across the universe. It takes **nine billion years** for **Icarus' light** to reach Earth.

### **Project to Support ASEAN Countries**

- **ISRO is pursuing a proposal to support Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries** to receive and process data from **Indian remote sensing satellites (RESOURCESAT-2 and OCEANSAT-2)** and also to provide training in space science, technology and applications.

**All the 10 members of ASEAN, viz., Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, will get benefitted from this project.**

### **ISRO set to launch navigation satellite IRNSS-1I**

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation is set to launch IRNSS-1I -- the ninth satellite in the NavIC navigation satellite constellation -- on April 12.**
- **IRNSS-1I is expected to replace IRNSS-1A, the first of the seven navigation satellites, which was rendered ineffective after its three rubidium atomic clocks failed.**
- **IRNSS-1I is the ninth in the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) series of satellites, after IRNSS-1A, IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1C, IRNSS-1D, IRNSS-1E, IRNSS-1F, IRNSS-1G and IRNSS-1H.**

### **Union Government bans imports of hormone oxytocin**

- The **Union government banned imports of the hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in the livestock industry, where activists say it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals.**
- **Often called the 'love hormone', oxytocin is released naturally in human bonding activities such as sex, childbirth and breastfeeding.**

### **CSMCRI uses seaweed to remove lead, chromium and dyes from wastewater**

- **Researchers at CSIR-Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavanagar, Gujarat have synthesised a graphene-iron sulphide nanocomposite to remove these toxic materials from wastewater.**
- **The nanocomposite was prepared by mixing dried green seaweed *Ulva fasciata* with iron chloride and heated to 150 degree C for 30 minutes to remove all moisture and then heated at 800 degree C for three hours in inert condition.**



- Hydrogen sulphide gas, which is produced when seaweed is heated, reacts with iron to form iron sulphide.

### RH300 sounding rocket launched

- The RH300 sounding rocket, developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre as part of a study to enrich available atmospheric data, was launched from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station.
- This was the 21st launch of RH300 sounding rocket.
- Under the programme, the RH-300 MKII sounding rocket is utilised to study the Equatorial E and lower ionosphere regions of the atmosphere.

The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) is a major space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), focusing on rocket and space vehicles for India's satellite programme. It is located in Thiruvananthapuram, in the Indian state of Kerala.

### Humanity's first flight to Sun in July

- NASA's Parker Solar Probe humanity's first mission to the Sun is undergoing final preparations for its launch scheduled for July 31.
- It will be launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- After launch, it will orbit directly through the solar atmosphere the corona closer to the surface than any human-made object has ever gone.

Parker Solar Probe is a planned NASA robotic spacecraft to probe the outer corona of the Sun. This was the first time a NASA spacecraft was named after a living person, honoring physicist Eugene Parker.

### MIMO laboratory to be rolled out this week at IIT-D

- A massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) radio laboratory is being rolled out at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. According to IIT Delhi, this will be the first such lab in India.
- Research to standardize the fifth generation cellular communication technology (5G) where the base station towers can have few hundreds of antennas, also known as MIMO technology, is going to be undertaken at this lab.

### ISRO set to launch first privately built satellite

- India could see its first privately built satellite in space this week as Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) gears up for a launch to boost its Navic fleet.
- A consortium of mid- and small-sized firms led by Bengaluru-based aerospace firm Alpha Design Technologies has built IRNSS-1L, the backup navigation satellite with a new atomic clock, under the watchful eyes of Isro.
- It is also the first satellite to be built at a special Isro facility for private firms.

### India completes NavIC constellation with 7th satellite

- India early put into space a new satellite under its regional navigation satellite system also called NavIC adding to the constellation of six operational satellites.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) thus completed the constellation, which needed seven functional satellites to provide foolproof satellite-based navigation signals.
- ISRO carried out a textbook launch of the Indian Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System-II (IRNSS-II), the latest satellite for the NavIC system, which replaces a faulty spacecraft (IRNSS-1A) in orbit.

## China successfully launches remote sensing satellites

- China successfully launched the first group of Yaogan-31 remote sensing satellites into space, which will be used for electromagnetic environment surveys and other related technology tests.
- A micro nano technology experiment satellite was also carried by a Long March-4C rocket into the orbit.

## GMAIL revamp

- E-mail service provider Gmail has added a new feature that will allow users to stop recipients from forwarding certain emails or restrict their ability to copy, download, or print them. Google has released arguably its biggest update to Gmail in its 14-year history.

Gmail is a free, advertising-supported email service developed by Google. Users can access Gmail on the web and using third-party programs that synchronize email content through POP or IMAP protocols. Gmail started as a limited beta release on April 1, 2004, and ended its testing phase on July 7, 2009.

## Pakistan successfully test fires enhanced version of Babur cruise missile

- Pakistan successfully test fired an enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile that can deliver conventional and non-conventional weapons with a range of 700 kilometres.
- 'Babur Weapon System-1 (B)' incorporates advanced aerodynamics and avionics that can strike targets both at land and sea with high accuracy.
- President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi appreciated the scientists and engineers on the successful conduct of the missile test.

## NASA Planet Hunter on Its Way to Orbit

- NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) launched on the first-of-its-kind mission to find worlds beyond our solar system, including some that could support life.
- TESS will be watching for phenomena called transits. A transit occurs when a planet passes in front of its star from the observer's perspective, causing a periodic and regular dip in the star's brightness. More than 78 percent of the approximately 3,700 confirmed exoplanets have been found using transits.

NASA's Kepler spacecraft found more than 2,600 exoplanets, most orbiting faint stars between 300 and 3,000 light-years from Earth, using this same method of watching for transits. TESS will focus on stars between 30 and 300 light-years away and 30 to 100 times brighter than Kepler's targets.

## Now, only mangoes from Konkan to be called Hapus

- From now on, mango produced only within the Konkan region of Maharashtra will be called Hapus (also known as Alp- honso mango), which is considered a superior variety of the fruit, with great demand worldwide.
- The districts included are Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri and Raigad. The decision was taken by the Geographical Indications (GI) registrar in Mumbai.

## Graphene sets a new record on squeezing light to one atom

- The Institute of Photonic Sciences in Barcelona, Spain, along with other members of the Graphene Flagship, reached the ultimate level of light confinement. They have been able to confine light down to a space one atom, the smallest possible.
- Light can function as an ultra-fast communication channel, for example between different sections of a computer chip, but it can also be used for ultra-sensitive sensors or on-chip nanoscale lasers.

## ISRO recalls mega GSAT-11 from Kourou for re-tests

- Just over a fortnight after flying **GSAT-11 out to Kourou for launch**, the **Indian Space Research Organisation has recalled the heaviest communication satellite** it has built. The reason is said to be for conducting additional technical checks in Bengaluru, where it was built.
- The **5,700-kg high-throughput or Internet broadband satellite** had **reached French Guiana in South America** on March 30 and was slated for launch on May 26 (IST), according to its launch agency Arianespace.

## NASA's lunar 'Gateway' space station to soon begin construction

- **NASA's goal of returning to the moon** should see a major push in early 2019, when the **agency awards its first contract for the lunar 'Gateway' program**. The **Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway is NASA's planned 'staging' area** intended for studies of the moon and the deep-space environment. Eventually, it will function as a way station for astronauts traveling to and from Mars.
- **NASA's first spending for the platform** will be for power and propulsion elements early next year, followed by habitation components. They **will probably be launched moonward**, in that order, **starting in 2022**.

## Commissioning of Third Ship of Landing Craft Utility Mk-IV 'IN LCU L53'

- The **third ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV project** was inducted into the Indian Navy at **Port Blair**. The ship was **commissioned as INLCU L53** by **Vice Admiral Bimal Verma, AVSM, ADC, Commander-in-Chief A&N Command**. **Designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**, the ship showcases the immense potential of the country's indigenous ship building capability and is in consonance with the national goal of 'Make in India'.
- **LCU MK-IV ship is an amphibious ship with a displacement of 830 Tons** and is capable of transporting combat equipment such as Main Battle Tanks Arjun, T72 and other Armoured Vehicles. The **ship is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment and advanced systems such as the Integrated Bridge System (IBS) and the Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)**.

## Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) developed first indigenous bulletproof vest

- The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed a next-generation bulletproof jacket for the Indian armed forces, which is not only cheaper but also much lighter.
- Bhabha Kavach, named after nuclear physicist Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, the jacket was developed at BARC's Trombay centre in response to a request from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## India's first VBN facility set up at AIIMS

- The **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** has become the country's first hospital to set up **Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN)**, an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of patients with small tumour-like spots in the lungs, which can be cancerous.

## Inventions/Discoveries

### Malaria Summit held in London

- The **Malaria Summit** was held in London, United Kingdom organisations to make game-changing commitments towards beating malaria. **India** was absent at the summit despite having the **third largest malaria cases in the world** after Congo and Nigeria.
- It was **organized by non-profit organisation Malaria No More** in conjunction with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and supported by British Prime Minister Theresa May.

### Indian-Led Scientists' Team Develops Electronic Device That Mimics Human Brain

- A team of scientists at Northwestern University, USA, led by an Indian, has developed an electronic device that can mimic the human brain.
- This device named "memtransistor" combines the functions of a memristor and a "transistor".
- The memtransistor has tremendous potential in Artificial Intelligence (AI), which requires unprecedented analytical and computational capabilities.

The device, which has futuristic applications even in healthcare, has been designed by DrVinod Kumar Swagwan, a post-doctoral researcher at Northwestern University and a team of scientists.

### Second magnetic field protecting our planet discovered by ESA

- The Earth's magnetic field surrounds our planet like an invisible force field -- protecting life from harmful solar radiation by deflecting charged particles away.
- The European Space Agency's 4-year long Swarm Mission revealed that Earth has an additional magnetic field.
- These satellites show details of the steady swell of a magnetic field produced by the ocean's tides.

### New class of antibiotics to fight drug resistance

- **Researchers of the University of Illinois at Chicago and Nosopharm**, a biotechnology company in France, are part of a team reporting on the **discovery of a new class of antibiotics**.
- **First identified by Nosopharm**, it is unique and promising on two fronts: its unconventional source and its distinct way of killing bacteria, both of which suggest the compound may be **effective at treating drug-resistant or hard-to-treat infections**.
- The compound called **odilorhabdins**, or ODLs, the antibiotics are produced by symbiotic bacteria found in **soil-dwelling nematode worms that colonise insects for food**.

### Device offers cat-like hearing to humans

- **Researchers at Case Western Reserve University in the U.S.** are developing atomically thin "drumheads", which are **tens of trillions of times thinner** than the human eardrum, and **will provide cat-like hearing abilities to humans**.

Human eardrums normally have dynamic range of about 60 to 100dB in the range of 10Hz to 10kHz, and our hearing quickly decreases outside this frequency range.

## China develops 3D conic device to increase solar-thermal conversion

- Chinese scientists have developed a new device of 3D hollow-cone structure that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency.
- The device, named ‘Artificial Transpiration’ by Zhu Jia and his team from the Nanjing University, is inspired by the transpiration process of trees.
- It has a special 1D water path within it, which can reduce the energy loss in conduction.

Mr. Zhu’s team first applied this structure to solar waste-water treatment, and the test showed that it could not only retrieve clean water but also recycle heavy metals such as copper and cadmium.

## IACS team designs logic devices for DNA-based computation

- Scientists at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata, have been successful in designing DNA-based logic devices that would find application in DNA-based computation.
- They have designed reusable YES and INHIBIT logic systems by using a small molecule that serves as a fluorescent probe and binds to both a four-stranded DNA structure (G-quadruplex) present in human telomeres and nucleic acid cleaving enzymes (nucleases).

## Scientists accidentally develop plastic-eating enzyme

- Scientists have accidentally developed a plastic-eating enzyme that may be used to combat one of the world's worst pollution problems.
- Researchers from Britain's University of Portsmouth and the US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) made the discovery while examining the structure of a natural enzyme found in a waste recycling centre a few years ago in Japan.
- The enzyme, Ideonella sakaiensis 201-F6, is able to "eat" polyethylene terephthalate, PET, which was patented as a plastic in the 1940s and is used in millions of tonnes of plastic bottles.

## Health/ Disease

### Indian scientists make Ayurvedic drug to cure dengue

- Indian scientists have formulated an Ayurvedic drug to cure dengue, claimed to be the first in the world, and the medicine is likely to be available in the market by next year.
- The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR’s, regional research centre in Belgaum in Karnataka, have already conducted pilot studies which have proved the clinical safety and efficacy of the drug.

### IIT Roorkee develops a potent molecule to treat chikungunya

- A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee has achieved a measure of success by finding a small molecule that has good antiviral activity against chikungunya virus.
- The antiviral activity was so high that the small molecule was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in the virus when 5 microMolar was used.

### First edition of Cancer Screening Mela organized in Mizoram

- A Cancer Screening Mela was organized in Mizoram by the Health Department of Mizoram in collaboration with Public Foundation of India and National Health Mission under the humble initiative of Swasth Uttar Purv.
- The mela was funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) at Kolasib District, Diakkawn YMA Hall in Mizoram. Theme of the mela was: ‘Come on Mizoram, together let’s beat Cancer’.



## **ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**



### **New plant species found in Western Ghats**

- Researchers from the University College in Kerala have reported the discovery of a new plant species from the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.
- Classified as sedge, the grass-like plant has been named *Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis*, after the locality from which it was found.

### **‘Hamar Haathi, Hamar Saathi started by Jharkhand to check man-animal conflict**

- The warning and the information is from a unique three-minute broadcast on an FM radio channel that the Jharkhand forest department started to check growing man-elephant conflicts in the state.
- This special elephant bulletin — called Hamar Haathi, Hamar Saathi or My Elephant, My Friend.

Jharkhand along with Chhattisgarh and Odisha is home to 10% of the country's elephant population, and account for approximately 65% of human casualties in conflicts with wild herds or stray bulls.

### **World's first microfactory to help tackle e-waste hazard**

- An Indian-origin scientist in Australia has launched the world's first microfactory that can transform the components from electronic waste items such as smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use.
- According to Veena Sahajwalla, a professor at the University of New South Wales, the e-waste microfactory has the potential to reduce the rapidly growing problem of vast amounts of electronic waste causing environmental harm and going into landfill. It can also turn many types of consumer waste such as glass, plastic and timber into commercial material and other products.

### **Himachal to develop Fossil Park through ADB funding**

- Himachal Pradesh Suketi Fossil Park in Sirmaur district will be developed through Asian Development Bank (ADB) assistance.
- Asia's first museum and fossil park is at Nagal Suketi.

### **Google, CyArk to build VR models of world's endangered heritage sites**

- Google has joined hands with CyArk, a California-based 3D laser scanning non-profit, to build virtual reality (VR) representations of historical sites around the world that are at risk of destruction due to human conflict or natural disasters.

- The joint effort -- called the **Open Heritage project** -- will use **CyArk's** (short for **cyber archive**) **laser-scanning technology** to capture and archive the imperiled archaeological wonders from all over the world.

### NASA to study how tiny sea creatures affect Earth's climate

- **NASA is conducting a study of the world's largest phytoplankton bloom in the North Atlantic** to see how the tiny sea algae influence the climate every season.
- The study will track **how phytoplanktons give rise to small organic particles that leave the ocean and end up in the atmosphere, influencing cloud formation.**

### Fossil reveals ancient tree which is new to science

- The **dry thorn forests of southeast Gujarat were rich rainforests nearly 55 million years ago.**
- The recent discovery of a wood fossil, whose closest living relatives are rainforest trees, adds proof to this theory.
- Plant fossils can help palaeobotanists reconstruct ancient vegetation. Scientists have discovered numerous such fossils from the 55 million-year-old Vastan lignite mine in Gujarat's Surat district.

### MoEFCC releases details of National Clean Air Programme

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) finally released a **concept note on the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) on April 17.**
- The concept note acknowledges that while recent policy interventions like notification of **sector-specific emission standards, augmentation of air quality monitoring network, banning the burning of biomass and leapfrogging from BSIV to BSVI for vehicles by April 1, 2020** have resulted in marginal improvements in air quality levels, the **need for time-bound initiatives at both city and rural level are absolutely essential to combat the problem of air pollution in our country holistically**, thus substantiating the need for the NCAP.
- The **intended goal of the programme is to meet the "annual average air quality standards** at all locations in the country in a stipulated timeframe".
- In order to achieve this, **all the 100 non-attainment cities would have to design city-specific action plans with specific timelines for implementation of listed initiatives.**

The NCAP aspires to overcome the deficits of the ongoing government initiatives targeted towards air pollution control. It lays down a comprehensive strategy framework for enhanced management of air quality.

### Bacteria help remove sulphur from fossil fuels

- Using novel bacterial strains, **scientists have successfully removed sulphur from fossil fuels** such as **petroleum and coal. Sulphur is one of the major pollutants emitted during the combustion of fossil fuels.**
- **Scientists from CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) in Bhubaneswar** used four bacterial strains that **use dibenzothiophene (an organic sulphur compound which is a major contaminant of fossil fuel)** as an energy source thereby **getting rid of the sulphur.**

### Western Ghats reveal world's smallest land fern

- **Indian researchers have discovered the world's smallest land fern** hiding in the **Ahwa forests of the Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district.** According to a recent study in Scientific Reports, an international journal that publishes multidisciplinary research, the **finger-nail-sized fern belongs to a group known as the adder's-tongue ferns, named after their resemblance to a snake's tongue.**
- The size of the **new Malvi's adder's-tongue fern Ophioglossum malviae – just one centimetre –** is probably the reason why it remained hidden all along, said researcher Mitesh Patel of the Department of Biosciences **at Surat's Veer Narmad South Gujarat University,** who stumbled across the plant during a botanical expedition in 2016.

### New frog species takes historical name of Goa

- In the highland plateaus of the **Western Ghats** parts of Goa, scientists have identified a new species of frog called **Fejervarya goemchi**. The new species is named after the historical name of the state of Goa where the species is discovered.
- Come monsoons and many of these are **large-sized terrestrial frogs** sit next to water bodies making calls to attract females **for mating and breeding**. Although most of these frogs are terrestrial, they need water bodies to continue for survival. The **new species has been found by a team of scientists led by K P Dinesh, from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Pune**, in the state's rooftop village of Surla. The frog derives its name from the state's historical name.

### Ramsar tag likely for Sunderbans

- The **Sunderban Reserve Forest**, spread of 4,260 sq. km. with over 2,000 sq. km. of **mangrove forests and creeks**, is likely to be declared a Ramsar Site soon. **West Bengal government** gave its approval to the State Forest Department to apply for recognition under the Ramsar Convention.

The Ramsar Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

## **SPORTS**



### **Sports Personalities in News**

#### **Srikanth and P.V. Sindhu**

- **Shuttlers ruled the roost as P.V. Sindhu and K. Srikanth were named Sportspersons-of-the-Year with their coach P. Gopi Chand being adjudged best coach at the inaugural ESPN Multi-Sport Awards.**

#### **Sloane Stephens**

- **US Open champion Sloane Stephens beat Latvian Jelena Ostapenko 7-6 (7-5) 6-1 to win her first Miami Open title.**
- **Miami Open is an annual tennis tournament for men and women currently held in Key Biscayne, Florida, an island town just off the coast of Miami.**

#### **John Isner**

- **In Tennis, John Isner has lifted the Men's Singles trophy of the Miami Open.**
- **The 14th seeded American defeated fourth-placed German Alexander Zverev, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 to win his first ever Masters 1,000 title.**

#### **P.Guru Raja**

- **On the first day of competitions at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, India began their campaign with a Silver Medal in Weightlifting.**
- **P Gururaja started the day on a great note as he won the men's 56 kg silver -- India's first medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.**

#### **Himanta Biswa Sarma**

- **Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as the president of the Badminton Association of India unopposed during the federation's annual general body meeting and election in Goa.**

#### **Mirabai Chanu**

- **Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold medal in the 2018 Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, breaking the event's weightlifting records in the process.**

#### **Sangita Chanu**

- **Weightlifter Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu has delivered India its second gold medal of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast City, Australia by dominating the women's 53kg event at the Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre.**

## Sathish Sivalingam

- **Sathish Sivalingam brought India yet another medal in weightlifting after winning Gold in the men's 77kg event. This is India's third gold medal and fifth medal overall at the Games so far. All five medals have come in weightlifting.**

## Leander Paes

- **Leander Paes became the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup as he combined with Rohan Bopanna to not only grab a record 43rd win but also bring India back in the tie against China.**
- **The Davis Cup is the premier international team event in men's tennis.**

## Mithali Raj

- **India captain Mithali Raj etched her name in record books again as she became the most capped player in women's One-Day International (ODI) cricket.**
- **Mithali (192 matches) achieved the feat during the first ODI against the England women at Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur.**
- **Mithali surpassed England's Charlotte Edwards, who retired in September 2017 with 191 ODIs under her belt.**

## Manika Batra

- **Manika Batra inspired India to a historic gold medal with her stunning singles victories, fashioning an unthinkable 3-1 victory over four-time gold medallists Singapore in the final of the women's team event at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.**

## Mehuli Ghosh, Apurvi Chandela

- **Indian shooters continued their medal rush at the 21st Commonwealth Games, with Mehuli Ghosh and Apurvi Chandela bagging silver and bronze respectively in the Women's 10m Air Rifle competition.**
- **17-year old Mehuli fell marginally behind Singapore's Martina Lindsay Veloso, who bagged gold, while Apurvi, with a score of 423.2, set a new qualification Games record.**

## Lionel Messi

- **The UN World Tourism Organisation has appointed FC Barcelona's Argentine star Lionel Messi as an ambassador to promote responsible tourism.**

## Heena Sidhu

- **Decorated shooter Heena Sidhu has won her second medal of the 2018 Commonwealth Games, taking gold in the women's 25m pistol (Precision/Rapid) finals.**

## MC Mary Kom

- **The 35-year-old five-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist M C Mary Kom won the day's first Gold in women boxing's 48 kg category. On the penultimate day of the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, India won Four Gold and Two silver medals.**
- **She was joined by boxer GauravSolanki in men's 52 kg in the top finishers' group. Settling for Silver medals were AmitPanghal (49kg) and Manish Kaushik (60kg).**

## Shreyasi Singh

- **Shreyasi Singh held her nerve and produced some excellent shooting to win the women's double trap gold medal in the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.**



## Kidambi Srikanth

- **Kidambi Srikanth** has scaled the peak of the men's BWF men's singles rankings for the first time, his place at No 1 to further underscore how potent a force he has become in world badminton.
- The 25-year-old shuttler's prolific form in 2017, during which he won a record four Super Series titles, **the best ever by an Indian male badminton player.**

## Saina Nehwal

- **Saina Nehwal** won a second Commonwealth Games women's singles title in style.
- The **former World No. 1** displayed sheer determination and aggression as she put to shade the challenge from compatriot and **current World No. 3 P.V. Sindhu** at 21-18, 23-21 to grab the gold, a feat **she first achieved in New Delhi 2010.**

## Shrimant Jha

- Differently-abled **Indian arm wrestler Shrimant Jha** made the country proud by **picking up a bronze medal at the Asian Armwrestling Championship**, which is held from April 16 to April 22 **in Kazakhstan.**
- The 25-year-old, resident of Naxal-hit Chhattisgarh finished **behind Tajikistan's Firuz and Magolia's Munkhbold to settle for the bronze in the 80kg senior category.**

## 17-year-old Pune swimmer double crosses Bangla Channel, sets world record

- Pune-based 17-year-old swimmer **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar** has set a world record to double cross the **Bangla Channel.** Shelar, is the first person to swim to and fro from Saint Martin's Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh also known as the Bangla Channel.

## Mohamed Salah

- **Mohamed Salah** has won the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award for 2017-18.
- The Liverpool forward, 25, beat Kevin de Bruyne, Harry Kane, Leroy Sane, David Silva and David de Gea in the vote by his fellow players.
- **Manchester City's Sane** won the young player prize, while **Chelsea's Fran Kirby** won the Women's Player of the Year award.
- **Bristol City's Lauren Hemp** was named Women's Young Player of the Year.

## Virat Kohli

- **Virat Kohli** became the eighth player overall and the third Indian captain after **MS Dhoni (244)** and **Gautam Gambhir (170)** to complete 100 matches as a captain in T20 cricket. This was after he led the Royal Challengers Bangalore side on the field against Chennai Super Kings in match 24 of the Indian Premier League at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

## Cricketers Shikhar Dhawan, Smriti Mandhana recommended for Arjuna awards

- The BCCI recommended India opener **Shikhar Dhawan** and women's team player **Smriti Mandhana** for the Arjuna award.
- "We have nominated **Shikhar Dhawan** and **Smriti Mandhana's** names for Arjuna award," BCCI's acting secretary **Amitabh Chaudhary** said.

## Tennis Player Ankita Raina Included in TOPS

- Tennis player **Anikta Raina** was included in the government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

## Sport Events

### Commonwealth Games 2018 opened at Gold Coast in Australia

- The 21st edition of the Commonwealth Games is being started in Gold Coast, Australia, with a colourful opening ceremony.
- The 2018 Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event for members of the Commonwealth that is currently being held in the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, between 4 and 15 April 2018. It is the fifth time Australia has hosted the Commonwealth Games.

### Kerala lifts their sixth Santosh Trophy

- Kerala have lifted their sixth Santosh Trophy Football title. In a thrilling final at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, they held their nerves to beat defending champions and 32-time winners Bengal via penalty shootout.

### First gender-equal Games

- The XXI Commonwealth Games is all set to become the first multi-discipline sports event to offer an equal number of medals to men and women.
- Of the 275 sets of medals on offer, 133 each will be presented to men and women, while the remaining nine medals have been reserved for mixed events.

### India wins 5th Women's South Asian Handball Championship

- The Handball Federation of India, in collaboration with the South Asian Handball Federation, recently organised the 5th Women's South Asian Handball Championship.
- The championship was held in the northern Indian city of Lucknow and finished with the home nation taking the title in impressive fashion after they won all four of their games in the round-robin tournament.

### Asia Cup 2018 moved from India to UAE

- The United Arab Emirates has been awarded the 2018 Asia Cup that was originally slated to be held in India.
- The tournament will be played between September 13 and 28, in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

### Kohli and Mithali voted world's best

- The England women's trio of Heather Knight, Natalie Sciver and Anya Shrubsole have all been selected among Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year in a landmark move by the sport's 'bible'.
- Meanwhile India captains Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj were named as the leading men's and women's cricketers in the world respectively.
- Kohli won his award for the second year in a row after again starring in all formats, while Raj was acknowledged after a year in which she became the leading run-scorer in women's One-Day Internationals during India's run to the World Cup final.

### Weightlifters Continue To Shine, Pardeep Singh Wins Silver

- India's weightlifting contingent's dream run in the 2018 Commonwealth Games continued as Pardeep Singh clinched the silver medal in the men's 105kg event.
- This was India's third silver medal and 13th medal overall at the 2018 CWG in Gold Coast, Australia.

### India's 500th CWG medal

- India, which had a fine run in the Games, landed its 500th medal in the event. The historic medal was gained by Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal while taking silver in the women's doubles in squash.

- **Rashid Anwar** was the nation's first medal winner at the Games, winning bronze in men's 74kg wrestling in London 1934.

### Bengaluru FC wins Super Cup Football tournament

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- **Bengaluru FC** has thrashed East Bengal to win the inaugural Super Cup football tournament held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

### Mumbai Football Arena to host Intercontinental Cup

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The **Mumbai Football Arena**, the new hub of Indian football will play host to the inaugural edition of the four-nation Intercontinental Cup from June 1 to 10.

### India wins 8th South Asian Judo Championship

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- **India** has clinched the title of team champion in the 8th series of South Asian Judo Championship held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- In the men's team category, **India** defeated arch-rivals **Pakistan 3-2** in the finals to claim the title. Under the women's team category, **India** thrashed hosts **Nepal 5-0** to seal the title.

### India win 10 gold medals at 8th South Asian Judo Championship

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- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has congratulated **Indian women and men athletes** for winning gold medals at the 8th South Asian Judo Championship in Nepal.

### Barcelona win fourth Copa del Rey in a row

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- **Barcelona** became the first team in 85 years to win four straight Copa del Rey titles after blowing away Sevilla 5-0 in the final.

### ICC converts 2021 Champions Trophy to be held in India into a World T20 event

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- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** decided to convert the **2021 Champions Trophy, scheduled in India, into a World T20 event**, finally scrapping the eight-team ODI tournament, the context and relevance of which has been questioned repeatedly.
- At the end of its five-day board meeting, ICC Chief Executive **Dave Richardson** said the global body had "unanimously agreed" that the **2021 meet in India would now be a 16-team event in the shortest format**.

### Neeraj Chopra recommended for Khel Ratna

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- **Commonwealth Games 2018 gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra** has been recommended for the country's highest sporting honour the **Khel Ratna Award** by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- The 20-year-old Neeraj, who also won the gold medal in the 2016 world junior championships, **has also been recommended for the Arjuna Award by the federation**.
- The federation has also nominated legendary athlete turned coach **PT Usha** and **India youth team coach, Sanjay Garnaik** for the **Dronacharya Award**.

### BAI recommends Sikki Reddy for Arjuna Award

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- **Women's doubles shuttler N Sikki Reddy** has been recommended for **Arjuna Award** by the **Badminton Association of India (BAI)**.
  - **G Sudhakar Reddy**, who coached **Kidambi Srikanth** in his early days, **has been recommended for Dronacharya Award**, according to **BAI**.
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## AWARDS



### Guntur doctor wins Natgeo award for physical therapy app

- **Therax Portal** helps physiotherapists to share home exercise programmes with patients
- A neuro physical therapist from Guntur has won the National Geographic Chasing Genius Challenge in the U.S. for designing a web/mobile application that helps patients with home exercise programmes in their native language.
- **Dr. Asha's** web application — **Therax Portal** — is now helping physiotherapists to prescribe, customise and share home exercise programmes with their patients in their native language.

### Anupam Kher nominated for TV BAFTA for 'The Boy with the Topknot'

- Veteran actor **Anupam Kher** has secured a nomination in the Best Supporting Actor category at the **British Academy Television Awards 2018** for his role in the drama **The Boy with the Topknot**.

### Anushka Sharma to be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award

- The **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award for 2018** is being awarded to **Anushka Sharma** for her efforts in backing clutter-breaking content that has become genre-defining success stories. The actor started off her career as a producer with **NH10** under the production banner **Clean Slate Films**.

### Ranveer Singh to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award

- Bollywood's powerhouse actor **Ranveer Singh** has been finalised for the **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award** as Best Actor this year for his movie **'Padmaavat'**.

### 'Hamilton' takes 7 prizes at UK stage Olivier Awards

- Historical hip-hop musical **Hamilton** took seven trophies including best new musical at **British theater's Olivier Awards**. **Lin-Manuel Miranda's** musical about U.S. founding father **Alexander Hamilton** was nominated in a record 13 categories at Britain's equivalent of the **Tony Awards**.

### 65th National Film Awards for 2017 announced

- Veteran Hindi film actor **ShriVinod Khanna** was awarded the **DadasahebPhalke Award** for his contribution to Indian Cinema.
- Some of the other prominent winners in various categories for this year **National Film Awards** included Assamese movie **'Village Rockstars'** in **Best Feature Film** category and **'Baahubali - The Conclusion'** in the **Best Popular Film** providing **Wholesome Entertainment** category. **Indira Gandhi Award** for Best Debut Film of a Director was given to the **Jasari** language movie **'Sinjar'** directed by **Pampally**.

- Marathi Movie 'Dhappa' was awarded the NargisDutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration. Jayaraj was awarded the Best Direction in the Feature Film category for the movie 'Bhayanakam' and Nagraj Manjule won the award for the Best Direction in the Non Feature Film Category. Riddhi Sen and Sridevi got the award for the Best Actor (movie- Nagarkirtan) and Best Actress award (movie- Mom) respectively .
- Malayalam Movie 'Aalorukkam', directed by V.C.Abhilash was awarded the Best Film on Social Issues. 'Water Baby' directed by Pia Shah, won the Best Debut Film of a Director in the Non Feature Film category.
- Late eminent Actress, Sridevi awarded Best Actress for the Hindi movie Mom.
- RiddhiSen to be given Best Actor award for the film Nagarkirtan.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals. It was first presented in 1969; the award was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema.

### NYT, New Yorker win Pulitzer Prize for Harvey Weinstein revelations

- The prestigious Pulitzer Prize was awarded to the New York Times team led by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey and New Yorker contributor Ronan Farrow, for reports that disgraced the Hollywood mogul and sparked an avalanche of accusations against other powerful men.

The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-born) Joseph Pulitzer who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher, and is administered by Columbia University in New York City.

### Dharmendra to receive Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award

- Veteran actor Dharmendra and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be conferred with the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement and Raj Kapoor Special Contribution awards, respectively.

### 'Game of Thrones' to Receive Special BAFTA Award

- The production team behind HBO's blockbuster "Game of Thrones" will be given the BAFTA Special Award at this year's British Academy Television Craft Awards.

### Amjad Ali Khan, Asha Bhosle honoured with Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

- Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, legendary singer Asha Bhosle and veteran actor Anupam Kher have received the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award on April 24 for their contribution to their respective fields.
- While Bhosle was awarded Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Lifetime Award, Kher has received Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Special Award for contribution to Indian Theatre and Cinema.

### Kendrick Lamar first rapper to win Pulitzer Prize for music

- The 30-year-old Californian has become the first non-classical or jazz artist to collect the award.
- Called the "voice of a generation", 30-year-old Kendrick Lamar mixes hip-hop with poetry and political protest.

### Aditi Rao Hydari to receive Dada saheb Phalke Award for Bhoomi

- Aditi Rao Hydari added another trophy to her achievements as she has received Dada Saheb Phalke excellence award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award) for her memorable performance in 'Bhoomi'.



- The award honoured the individuals from the entertainment industry for their outstanding contribution towards the growth and development of cinema and/or television.

**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 and Lifetime achievement award: Simi Garewal.**

### BCCI recommends Virat Kohli for Khel Ratna

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has recommended Virat Kohli for Khel Ratna Awards once again while legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar has been recommended for Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports. Former India captain Rahul Dravid's name has been sent for Dronacharya Award.
- If Kohli wins the prestigious award, he will become the third Indian cricketer after Sachin Tendulkar (1998) and MS Dhoni (2007) to do so. The 29-year-old Kohli had earlier been awarded the Padma Shri in 2017 and had also won an Arjuna award in 2013.

The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, officially known as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games, is the highest sporting honour of the Republic of India. The award is named after Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. It was instituted in 1991–92. The first recipient of the award was Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand.

### Gujarati writer Sitanshu Yashaschandra to be conferred Saraswati Samman

- Gujarati poet, playwright and academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra has been selected for the 2017 Saraswati Samman for his collection of verses titled Vakhar.
- The award, now in its 27th year, is presented by the KK Birla Foundation, a literary and cultural organisation that also gives the Vyas Samman for Hindi and Bihari Puraskar for Hindi and Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan.

The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India. It was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation. It consists of Rs 15 lakh, a citation and a plaque.

### President confers 3 Kirti Chakras, 13 Shaurya Chakras to armed forces personnel

- President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred three Kirti Chakras and thirteen Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel for displaying "conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty". Two Kirti Chakras and two of the Shaurya Chakras were given posthumously.
- Kirti Chakra: Pramod Kumar, commandant, 49 battalions, central reserve police force (posthumous) and Havildar Girisgurung, fourth battalion the first Gorkha Rifles (posthumous).
- Shaurya Chakra: Major Gosavikunalmunnagir, regiment of Artillery 166th battalion the medium regiment (posthumous) and Lance Naikraghubeer Singh, the Mahar regiments, 1st battalion the Rashtriya Rifles (posthumous).

### Mahmoud Abu Zeid won 2018 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize

- Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, known as Shawkan, has been selected by an independent international jury of media professionals as the laureate of the 2018 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize.
- The Prize will be awarded on 2 May on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, celebrated in Ghana this year and whose theme is Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law.

Prize is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogotá, Colombia, on 17 December 1986.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Ola co-founder, Deepika, Kohli among TIME's 100 most influential people

- Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal, Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone, Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and India-born CEO of Microsoft Satya Nadella have been named in Time magazine's list of 100 most influential people in the world, in an annual selection of honorees that includes U.S. President Donald Trump.

### Meghan Markle to join Prince Harry as Commonwealth youth ambassador

- Britain's Prince Harry and his American actress fiancée Meghan Markle embarked on a new role as youth ambassadors of the Commonwealth at the launch of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

### K-Pop Group BTS wins TIME 100 Reader Poll

- K-pop group BTS can add another accolade to their list of successes: **winner of the 2018 TIME 100 reader poll**. The seven-person group of multitalented South Korean artists has been tapping a vein of global popularity since 2013.

### Dilip Chenoy takes over as FICCI Secretary General

- Dilip Chenoy was appointed as the Secretary General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from succeeding Sanjaya Baru. Chenoy was working as Director General of the industry body till now.

### Steven Spielberg becomes first director to gross \$10b at global BO

- Three-time Oscar winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg has created history by becoming the first director whose films have globally taken in over \$10 billion.
- E! Online quoted Box Office Mojo that with a global total of \$475.1 million, his latest film 'Ready Player One' has helped the 71-year-old achieve this milestone.
- 'The Lord of the Rings' filmmaker, Peter Jackson, and 'Transformers' Michael Bay are the next two highest grossing directors.

### Karan Johar is first Bollywood Filmmaker to get wax statue at Madame Tussauds

- Filmmaker Karan Johar will get a wax statue at Madame Tussauds London.
- He will be Bollywood's first filmmaker to get a wax figure at the museum. "Karan Johar's talent and career goes well beyond just filmmaking which makes him an exciting and entertaining personality for them to add to the many other iconic International wax figures.

Madame Tussauds London already has wax figures of Indian personalities like Amitabh Bachchan, Sachin Tendulkar, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Katrina Kaif and others.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Over 1,300 robots dance together to break Guinness World Record

- A new Guinness record has been set in Italy for the most number of robots dancing simultaneously, with 1,372 humanoids syncing their different moves to music. The event was held in Italy, using the Alpha 1S robot which is just under 40 cm tall and made of aluminium alloy with a plastic coating.
- Since 2016, technology companies have been setting up armies of dancing robots and battling it out for the Guinness World Records title 'Most robots dancing simultaneously'. In August last year, 1,069 'Dobi' machines set a record in China, but the mark has now been raised to 1,372.

### The fifth Indo-Kyrgyzstan Joint Training Exercise KHANJAR-V culminated

- The fifth Indo-Kyrgyzstan Joint Training Exercise KHANJAR-V culminated, after a joint tactical validation exercise and a closing ceremony held at Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School, Mizoram.

### Two new languages discovered by University of Hyderabad professor

- Prof Panchanan Mohanty, former dean of the School of Humanities at University of Hyderabad (UoH) has discovered two languages 'Walmiki and Malhar', which have been lying hidden from linguists. They are spoken in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- Linguists do not know that these two languages exist. Only a few people living in the forest and hilly areas speak these languages.

### EAM Sushma Swaraj visits Azerbaijan to attend NAM meet

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj begins her three-day visit to Azerbaijan to participate in the Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Ms Swaraj attended the Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of NAM in Baku.

### Exercise Gaganshakti-2018

- An all-encompassing coordinated and composite exercise named Gaganshakti is being conducted by the IAF from 08-22 Apr 18.
- For the first time, the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas will be taking part in the exercise.

### Southern Naval Command conducts exercise 'Chakravath'

- A joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise 'Chakravath,' organised by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Kerala government.

### Largest floating bookstore

- MV Logos Hope, considered the world's largest floating bookstore, has docked at Veracruz in Mexico to provide "knowledge, help and hope".

### World-Class Interpretation Centre inaugurated at Konark Sun Temple

- Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the world-class Interpretation Centre and tourist facilities at Konark Sun Temple at Konark, which coincides with Utkal Divas celebrations in Odisha.

Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE sun temple at Konark about 35 kilometres northeast from Puri on the coastline of Odisha, India. The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty about 1250 CE.

## Nandita Das' 'Manto' gets a space at Cannes

- **Manto**, directed by actor-filmmaker Nandita Das, will be competing in the 71st Cannes Film Festival's official "Un Certain Regard" section.
- The biographical film on the celebrated Indo-Pakistani writer Saadat Hasan Manto, with Nawazuddin Siddiqui in the titular role, is the only Indian film to have made it to the official selection at the festival this year.

## Assam's Spring Festival begins in Manas National Park

- The two-day Assam Spring Festival began at the Manas National Park where visitors will get to experience the state's local food, music, handloom and handicrafts.
- The National park which is also a tiger and rhino reserve covers five districts of Assam -- Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang, Udalguri and Barpeta.

## Haryana govt announces special benefits to TB patients

- Haryana state government has decided to provide special benefits, including nutritional support, to tuberculosis patients in an effort to eliminate the infectious disease by 2025.
- To make the state tuberculosis-free, the Haryana government would provide nutritional support of Rs 500 per month during treatment to notified TB patients with effect from April 1 this year through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

## IPS officer Rajesh Ranjan appointed DG CISF

- Senior IPS officer Rajesh Ranjan was appointed as Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

## Government extends phase 1 of FAME-India by another 6 months

- The government announced extension of phase 1 of the FAME-India scheme entailing incentives for mass adoption of electric and strong hybrid vehicles by six months till September-end or till its second phase is approved, whichever is earlier.

## The book 'Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp' received by President

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book 'Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp' from the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, who formally released it at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan to mark Dr B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary.

## Prime Minister Inaugurates 'Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial' in Delhi

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the "Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial (DANM)" at 26, Alipore Road, Delhi at the place of Mahaparinirvana of Dr. Ambedkar.
- The memorial is dedicated to the life and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Constitution of India. The Foundation stone of DANM was laid by the Prime Minister on 21st March, 2016.

## Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana launched in Telangana

- The Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan said the number of LPG distribution points in the State will be increased to 1,000 from the existing 707 for quicker and efficient delivery of gas cylinders.
- Mr Pradhan promised to create 20 lakh 'happy homes' in the State through free LPG gas connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)-- the scheme providing free cooking gas connections to below the poverty line families.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Ballia in 2016. The scheme aims to provide cooking gas connections to five crore below-poverty-line beneficiaries over the next three years.

### Island Tourism Festival to begin in Andaman and Nicobar

- **Andaman & Nicobar** Administration is **organised Islands Tourism Festival from 18<sup>th</sup> April to 22 April 2018**. During this five days festival, cultural programmes, adventure sports, flea market and traditional games were organised.

### Cabinet approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs **chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** gave its approval for **restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**.
- The Scheme will be implemented during the period from **01.04.2018 to 31.03.2022** at the total cost of **Rs. 7255.50 crore** with the Central Share of **Rs. 4500 crore** and that of State Share of **Rs. 2755.50 crore**.

The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.55 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources.

### Target year of completing PMGSY-1 advanced to 2019 from 2022

- The Union Rural Development Ministry said the government has advanced its target year for completion of phase one of PMGSY, a rural road scheme, to 2019 from 2022.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), since its inception in 2000, has been able to provide connectivity to 1.52 lakh habitations (85.37 per cent against of the total 1.78 lakh eligible habitations)".

### 235 districts to be covered in Phase-II of POSHAN Abhiyaan

- The government will cover 235 districts in the second phase of its POSHAN Abhiyaan which aims to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia among children, women and adolescent girls along with reducing low birth weight in the country.
- The decision was taken in the first meeting of the National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under the POSHAN Abhiyaan, chaired by vice chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar in New Delhi.

### Tourist spots in Valley, Ladakh region declared 'no polythene' zones

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has declared tourist destinations and resorts in the Valley and Ladakh region as polythene-free zones, and banned the use of non-biodegradable plastic on its properties.

### Telangana bagged Geographical Indication (GI) tags for Adilabad Dokra

- Telangana bagged two more Geographical Indication (GI) tags for craft forms that are unique to the state. They include Adilabad Dokra, an ancient metal craft and Warangal durries or rugs, woven in handloom.

### Former PM Manmohan Singh launches economist Rao's book

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released a book by former Planning Commission and Finance Commission member C H Hanumantha Rao.
- While launching Rao's book, 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism', Singh called Rao 'a most creative thinker, social activist, and distinguished economist.'



### Shooter Gauri Sheoran made brand ambassador for Haryana's health programmes

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- The Haryana government has appointed international shooter Gauri Sheoran the brand ambassador for its two health-related programmes.
- The decision was announced by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the launch of the measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign. Under the campaign, about 80 lakh children aged between nine months and 15 would be vaccinated.

### Vice President releases the book 'Smart Cities Unbundled'

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- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that the Smart Cities Mission is the beginning of India's urban renaissance. He was addressing the gathering after releasing the Book 'Smart Cities Unbundled' authored by Dr. Sameer Sharma in New Delhi.

### NDMA conducts its first-ever Mock Exercise on Bio-Disasters at Patna airport

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- A five-day Day training programme, aimed at enhancing the preparedness of Airport Emergency Handlers (AEHs) to respond to CBRN emergencies at the airports, concluded at the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Airport in Patna. The training programme was conducted in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS).
- During the training, NDMA jointly with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) also conducted its first-ever full-scale Biological Management Emergency Exercise. The exercise was based on a suspected Ebola outbreak scenario.

### Budgam shortlisted for PM Modi's excellence award

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- Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district has been shortlisted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's excellence award for promoting digital payments and cashless economy.
- Under the supervision of District authorities, digital payments facility has been installed at 670 places across the district so far.

### World's largest plane poised to take off soon

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- The world's largest plane is set to take flight within the next few months after successfully conducting three more taxi tests. A brainchild of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, Stratolaunch is the world's largest aircraft by wingspan and largest all-composite plane ever built — its wingspan is the length of an American football field or 117.3 metres.
- Built by California-based Scaled Composites, the twin-fuselage aircraft uses six 747 jet engines and is designed to carry rockets up to high altitude and launch them to space from there. Seen as an alternative to conventional rocket launches, the giant carrier aircraft could provide an affordable and efficient way to place satellites in orbit.

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Mine Awareness Day-4 April

- On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- The theme for the 2018 is: Advancing Protection, Peace and Development.

### National Maritime Day in India

- National Maritime Day is celebrated every year on April 5.
- It was on this day 99 years ago in 1919 when the country's navigation history set sail with SS Loyalty, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd started for the United Kingdom from Mumbai (then British Bombay).

### International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

- The General Assembly of the United Nations decided to proclaim on 6 April as "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace."
- This date commemorates the inauguration, in 1896, of the first Olympic games of the modern era, in Athens.

### World Health Day - 7 April 2018

- The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as other related organisations. In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly.
- The theme of World Health Day is: Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere. The slogan is "Health for All".

### April 12 – the World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day!

- On April 12 the whole World celebrates an Aviation and Cosmonautics Day – a date to commemorate the first ever flight of human in space.
- On April 12, 1961 a citizen of the Soviet Union, first lieutenant Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth onboard "Vostok" spacecraft for the first time in mankind history, thus opening the era of manned space missions.

### Ambedkar Jayanti

- Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti is an annual festival observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B. R. Ambedkar.
- It marks Ambedkar's birthday in 1891 and since 2015 is an official public holiday throughout India.

### Civil Services Day

- April 21, is commemorated as the Civil Services Day in India. The Government of India observes this day every year as one dedicated to the civil servants since it was on this day in 1947 when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, independent India's first home minister, had addressed the soon-to-be independent country's first batch of civil servants at Metcalf House in Delhi.

### World Heritage Day being celebrated

- World Heritage Day is an annual event celebrated on 18 April with an aim to preserve heritage and recognize the efforts of all relevant organizations in the field.

- In 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) announced, 18 April as the "World Heritage Day", approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983, with the aim of enhancing awareness of the importance of the cultural heritage of humankind, and redouble efforts to protect and conserve the human heritage.
- At present, Italy leads with 53 sites followed by China with 52 sites. In India, there are 36 sites that have been declared as World Heritage.

### World Hemophilia Day

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- World Hemophilia Day is an international observance held annually on April 17 by the WFH.
- It is an awareness day for hemophilia and other bleeding disorders, which also serves to raise funds and attract volunteers for the WFH.
- It was started in 1989; April 17 was chosen in honor of Frank Schnabel's birthday.

### World Creativity and Innovation Day

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- On April 21, 2018, the first official World Creativity and Innovation Day (#WCID) was celebrated. Observed six days after Leonardo da Vinci's birthday and one day before International Mother Earth Day, #WCID is well positioned to encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking to help us achieve the sustainable future we want.

### World Liver Day being observed

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- World Liver day is observed on the 19 April every year to spread awareness about the second largest organ in the body.
- Liver diseases can be caused by hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs. Viral Hepatitis occurs due to consumption of contaminated food and water, unsafe sexual practices and drug abuse.
- According to WHO, liver diseases are the 10th most common cause of death in India.

### World Book and Copyright Day 23 April

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- World Book Day or World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on April 23. It is also known as International Day of the Book or World Book Days.
- The World Book and Copyright Day is being organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to promote reading, publishing and copyright.
- The 2018 edition is entitled "READING, it's my right!", and it was an opportunity to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### Earth Day 2018

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- World Earth Day is used to celebrate on the 22nd April by the people in the World. It is celebrated by lots of people by encouraging the people to save the Earth by providing them with knowledge about the security of the Environment as well as provide them ideas and plans to protect the Environment.
- The theme for the World Earth day in the year 2018 is "End Plastic Pollution Countdown to April 22".

### World Lab Animal Day

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- World Day For Animals In Laboratories (WDAIL) (also known as World Lab Animal Day) is observed every year on 24 April. The surrounding week has come to be known as "World Week for Animals In Laboratories". The National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) describe the day as an "international day of commemoration" for animals in laboratories.

### World Malaria Day

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- World Malaria Day (WMD) is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April and recognizes global efforts to control malaria. Globally, 3.3 billion people in 106 countries are at risk of malaria.

- The theme of World Malaria Day 2018 is, "Ready To Beat Malaria". Malaria is caused by plasmodium parasite and is transmitted in humans through the bite of Anopheles mosquito. After an infected mosquito bites a human, the parasites begin to multiply in the person's liver.

### World Intellectual Property Day

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- World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on 26 April. The event was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000 to "raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks and designs impact on daily life" and "to celebrate creativity, and the contribution made by creators and innovators to the development of societies across the globe".
- The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2018 is – Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity.

### World Day for Safety and Health at Work

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- The campaign aims to accelerate action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.8 of safe and secure working environments for all workers by 2030 and SDG target 8.7 of ending all forms of child labour by 2025.

### International Dance Day

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- International Dance Day is a global celebration of dance, created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO.
- The event takes place every year on 29th April, the anniversary of the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), the creator of modern ballet.

## QUESTIONS

1. Recently, the 114th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) took place in:  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Lahore (c) Islamabad (d) New Delhi
2. In April 2018, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the world-class Interpretation Centre and tourist facilities at:  
(a) Brihadeeswara Temple (b) Ramanathaswamy (Rameshwaram) Temple  
(c) Konark Sun Temple (d) Lord Jagannath Temple
3. Recently, the leaders of six countries along the Mekong River adopted an ambitious investment plan worth USD 66 billion over the next five years. Which of the following countries is not among Mekong countries?  
(a) Vietnam (b) Cambodia (c) Myanmar (d) Malaysia
4. Recently, the three-day international conference on 'Accessible Tourism' was held for the first time in:  
(a) India (b) Nepal (c) Bhutan (d) China
5. Recently, E-way bill was made mandatory from April 1. Which is the only Indian state to notify inter, intra-state movement?  
(a) Sikkim (b) Maharashtra (c) Punjab (d) Karnataka
6. Which is the first city in India to leapfrog from Euro-IV grade petrol and diesel to Euro-VI (equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norms)?  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Dehradun (c) New Delhi (d) Pune
7. According to the data shared by Indian Cellular Association with the government, India has replaced \_\_\_\_\_ to become the second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017.  
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) Finland (d) Vietnam
8. Which of the following Indian states has started special elephant bulletin called Hamar Haathi, Hamar Saathi or My Elephant, My Friend on FM radio channel?  
(a) Odisha (b) Jharkhand (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu
9. Who has won the women's single title at Miami Open 2018?  
(a) Sloane Stephens (b) J. Ostapenko (c) Simona Halep (d) Venus Williams
10. Which of the following Indian states government has introduced a new scheme "Rupashree" for marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families recently?  
(a) Odisha (b) Jharkhand (c) West Bengal (d) Assam
11. Which among the following place will host the strategically important trilateral dialogue between India, Japan and the US in April 2018?  
(a) Kyoto (b) New York (c) New Delhi (d) Chicago
12. Recently, Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Law and Justice P.P. Chaudhary embarked on an official visit to..... for the first International Justice Conference.  
(a) New York, USA (b) Marrakech, Morocco  
(c) Mexico City, Mexico (d) Zurich, Switzerland



13. Researchers are developing atomically thin "drumheads", which are tens of trillions of times thinner than the human eardrum, and will provide \_\_\_\_\_ like hearing abilities to humans.  
(a) Bat (b) Cat (c) Lion (d) Tiger
14. Recently, Carlos Alvarado has been elected as the next president of:  
(a) Costa Rica (b) El Salvador (c) Fiji (d) Peru
15. Which of the following countries has become the world's No 1 almond importer recently?  
(a) Japan (b) India (c) France (d) Russia
16. According to the annual global report 'City Momentum Index' (CMI) 2018, which of the following cities ranked first out of the 30 top global short-term growth cities?  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Lucknow (c) Jaipur (d) Hyderabad
17. Recently, SIDBI celebrated its foundation day as day of Sampark (connect), Sanwad (interaction), Suraksha (security) and Sampreshan (disseminate). The foundation day of SIDBI is on:  
(a) 31st March (b) 1st April (c) 19th March (d) 2nd April
18. The XXI Commonwealth Games is all set to become the first multi-discipline sports event to offer an equal number of medals to men and women. The XXI Commonwealth Games is being held in:  
(a) Victoria, Canada (b) Gold Coast, Australia  
(c) Glasgow, Scotland (d) Birmingham, England
19. Recently, a new Guinness record has been set in \_\_\_\_\_ for the most number of robots dancing simultaneously, with 1,372 humanoids syncing their different moves to music.  
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) Italy (d) China
20. Which of the following is the first country in the world to outlaw "fake news"?  
(a) Indonesia (b) Malaysia (c) Singapore (d) Vietnam
21. The joint exercise, named Sahyog - Hyeoblyeog 2018 is part of a proposed establishment of a MoU between:  
(a) India and Vietnam (b) India and South Korea  
(c) India and Japan (d) India and Singapore
22. Recently, who has been appointed as Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha?  
(a) Nirmala Sitaraman (b) Smriti Irani (c) Amit Shah (d) Arun Jaitley
23. Recently, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the construction of which of the following country's first nuclear power plant in the Mediterranean Mersin region?  
(a) Turkey (b) Greece (c) Egypt (d) Cyprus
24. The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar, released the NIRF India Rankings 2018 recently. Which of the following has retained its position as India's top-ranked university for the third year in a row?  
(a) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru  
(b) Banaras Hindu University (BHU)  
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)  
(d) Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)

25. According to the survey conducted across 53 airports in the country by Airports Authority of India (AAI), which of the following Airports has been adjudged the cleanest airport in the country?  
(a) Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport  
(b) Coimbatore International Airport  
(c) Mangalore International Airport  
(d) Trivandrum International Airport
26. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2018 of the world's 500 richest people, who is Asia's richest person with \$47.2 billion net worth?  
(a) Mukesh Ambani (b) Pony Ma (c) Jack Ma (d) Li Ka-Shing
27. Recently, the Cabinet approved rightsizing of antitrust watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) by halving the number of its members to:  
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five
28. Saudi Arabia's first cinema in more than 35 years will open up in:  
(a) Riyadh (b) Dammam (c) Jeddah (d) Jubail
29. According to the Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI), India has overtaken \_\_\_\_\_ to become the world's second largest producer of crude steel in February 2018.  
(a) China (b) USA (c) Japan (d) Germany
30. Recently, which of the following Indian states has announced monthly pension for farmers engaged in organic farming?  
(a) Punjab (b) Goa (c) Sikkim (d) Nagaland
31. Which of the following banks has become the first bank to start using WhatsApp enterprise solution to provide basic banking services to customers?  
(a) ICICI Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) RBL Bank (d) IndusInd Bank
32. Recently, Julius Maada Bio has been elected as the new president of West African nation:  
(a) Mali (b) Senegal (c) Sierra Leone (d) Nigeria
33. Name the veteran Indian actor, who has secured a nomination in the Best Supporting Actor category at the British Academy Television Awards 2018.  
(a) Paresh Rawal (b) Anupam Kher (c) Manoj Joshi (d) Nawazuddin Siddhiqui
34. On the first day of competitions at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, who has won the first medal for India?  
(a) P.Guru Raja (b) P.V.Sindhu (c) Jignesh Phogat (d) Pankaj Advani
35. International Mine Awareness Day is observed every year on:  
(a) 1st April (b) 29th March (c) 25th March (d) 4th April
36. Which of the following countries has introduced national service for women for the first time under a law issued by the country's Emir?  
(a) Oman (b) Bahrain (c) Qatar (d) Kuwait
37. Recently, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry set up a committee to frame laws to regulate online media and news portals. How many members are there in this committee?  
(a) Four (b) Seven (c) Ten (d) Fifteen

38. Recently, Government of India has launched UTTAM App for quality monitoring in:  
(a) Railways (b) Coal (c) Power (d) Gold
39. According to security software firm Symantec, India ranked \_\_\_\_\_ in the list of countries where the highest number of cyber threats was detected and second in terms of targeted attacks in 2017.  
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Seventh
40. Which of the following private lender has announced the launch of a service that enables Non Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to a beneficiary in India using social media platforms like WhatsApp and e-mail?  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) Axis Bank (d) Kotak Mahindra
41. Which of the following has decided to set up Data Sciences Lab to improve its forecasting, surveillance and early warning detection abilities?  
(a) Finance Ministry (b) Reserve Bank of India  
(c) SEBI (d) SBI
42. In the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018, India has lifted the first Gold in Women's Weightlifting by:  
(a) Punam Yadav (b) Mirabai Chanu  
(c) Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu (d) Pratima Kumari
43. The National Maritime Day in India is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 1st April (b) 2nd April (c) 4th April (d) 5th April
44. NASA and Lockheed Martin will develop a supersonic plane that is expected to fly faster than the speed of:  
(a) Sound (b) Light (c) Ultrasonic Waves (d) Gamma Rays
45. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is set to launch first ever "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" for value addition of forest produce in:  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Mizoram
46. The former President Park Geun-hye was jailed for 24 years for corruption, she is associated with which among the following countries?  
(a) South Korea (b) Thailand (c) Vietnam (d) Cambodia
47. Which of the following Indian states launched Ganga Hariteema Yojana (Ganga Greenery scheme) in 27 districts of the state located on the bank of river Ganga?  
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Bihar (d) West Bengal
48. Recently, a joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise 'Chakravath,' is organised by the Indian Navy in coordination with the:  
(a) Goa Government (b) Maharashtra Government  
(c) Kerala Government (d) Tamil Nadu Government
49. Recently, the Centre, Maharastra Government and the \_\_\_\_\_ have signed a 420 million dollar project to help small and marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha region of the state.  
(a) World Bank (b) Reserve Bank of India  
(c) International Monetary Fund (d) New Development Bank
50. Which of the following Indian banks has become the first to get global financial messaging cooperative Swifts new cross-border payment service?  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) Kotak Mahindra Bank (d) Axis Bank

51. Recently, the Reserve Bank switched back to the \_\_\_\_\_ based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology, citing global best practices.  
(a) Gross National Product (GNP) (b) Gross Domestic Product (GDP)  
(c) Net Primary Productivity (NPP) (d) National Property Index (NPI)
52. The Indian Space Research Organisation is set to launch \_\_\_\_\_ the eighth satellite in the NavIC navigation satellite constellation on April 12.  
(a) IRNSS-1L (b) IRNSS-1J (c) IRNSS-1I (d) IRNSS-1K
53. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed on:  
(a) 3rd April (b) 4th April (c) 5th April (d) 6th April
54. Which Indian state has bagged the 'State of the Year' Award under the 'business leader' category as part of the India Business Leadership for the remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors?  
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Telangana (d) Jharkhand
55. Recently, Jammu got its first tulip garden in which of the following districts?  
(a) Reasi (b) Kathua (c) Ramban (d) Doda
56. Which country has imposed soft drink sugar tax that has been put in place to help curb obesity levels, recently?  
(a) UK (b) Germany (c) Italy (d) Spain
57. Recently, the Union government has banned imports of the hormone \_\_\_\_\_ to stop its misuse in the livestock industry, which causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals.  
(a) Prolactin (b) Trenbolone (c) Oxytocin (d) Oestradiol
58. Recently, Prof Panchanan Mohanty has discovered two languages 'Walmiki and Malhar', which have been lying hidden from linguists. These languages are spoken in:  
(a) Odisha and Chhattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra  
(c) Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (d) Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh
59. Who has become the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup recently?  
(a) Mahesh Bhupathi (b) Sania Mirza (c) Leander Paes (d) Rohan Bopanna
60. World Health Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 5th April (b) 6th April (c) 7th April (d) 8th April
61. Which of the following has become the first state to adopt a standard operating procedure (SOP) for determining brain death cases in India?  
(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Uttarakhand (d) Maharashtra
62. Which of the following is the first state in Northeast India to implement the state component of PMKVY through the Directorate of Skill Development (DSD)?  
(a) Nagaland (b) Manipur (c) Mizoram (d) Tripura
63. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind is on his State Visit to three African nations. This is the first ever visit of a Head of State from India to:  
(a) Equatorial Guinea (b) Mali (c) Namibia (d) Liberia

64. Recently, Pritam Singh was elected unopposed as the new secretary-general of country's main opposition Workers' Party. The country referred here is:  
(a) Singapore (b) Fiji (c) Mauritius (d) Suriname
65. 'Gobar-dhan Yojana', the central scheme for managing and converting cattle dung into manure and biogas will be launched at the national level from:  
(a) Varanasi (b) Chandigarh (c) Karnal (d) Kapoorthala
66. Recently, Britain opened its first permanent military base in the Middle East in more than four decades in the Persian Gulf country of:  
(a) Qatar (b) Oman (c) Bahrain (d) Kuwait
67. Who among the following Bollywood actress will be bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards?  
(a) Deepika Padukone (b) Priyanka Chopra (c) Kangana Ranaut (d) Anushka Sharma
68. Recently, who among the following women cricketer became the most capped player in women's One-Day International (ODI) cricket?  
(a) Jhulan Goswami (b) Ellyse Perry (c) Megan Schutt (d) Mithali Raj
69. Who among the following has won Bahrain Grand Prix formula one race recently?  
(a) V. Bottas (b) Sebastian Vettel (c) Kimi Raikkonen (d) Lewis Hamilton
70. Humanity's first mission to the Sun is undergoing final preparations for its launch. Humanity is the solar probe of:  
(a) European Space Agency  
(b) National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
(c) Russian Federal Space Agency  
(d) Indian Space Research Organisation
71. Recently, India and Nepal launched Rs 3.24 billion India-Nepal petroleum products pipeline which is the first international cross-country pipeline project in India will connect:  
(a) Gopalganj and Nagarkot (b) Motihari to Amlekhgunj  
(c) Narkatiaganj and Bhaktapur (d) Kathiyar and Pokhara
72. Which of the following Indian states will constitute a Happiness Commission that will take up a series of programmes to promote "happiness" in the state?  
(a) Telangana (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Assam
73. The first meeting of newly constituted NITI Forum for North East will be held in:  
(a) Shillong (b) Aizawl (c) Agartala (d) Kohima
74. A two-day scientific convention is organised in \_\_\_\_\_ by Ministry of AYUSH on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day on 10th April 2018.  
(a) Kanpur (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Kolkata
75. Which of the following Indian banks will be investing a total of Rs 80 billion in the Arun III hydropower project of Nepal?  
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) Union Bank of India  
(c) State Bank of India (d) Bank of Maharashtra



76. The joint military exercise "Desert Tiger 5" aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions was concluded between:  
(a) Malaysia and Indonesia (b) United Arab Emirates and Malaysia  
(c) Bahrain and Indonesia (d) Kuwait and Qatar
77. Recently, Viktor Orban has claimed a landslide victory in general election. He will serve a third consecutive term in:  
(a) Bulgaria (b) Latvia (c) Hungary (d) Finland
78. Recently, which of the following became the world's most valuable artificial intelligence (AI) startup?  
(a) Arterys (b) SenseTime (c) SoundHound (d) Freenome
79. According to the Airport Council International's preliminary report on airport traffic for 2017, which Indian International airports is the 16th busiest airport in the world?  
(a) Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport  
(b) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport  
(c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport  
(d) Kempegowda International Airport
80. Which of the following Bollywood actors has been finalised for the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award as Best Actor this year?  
(a) Shahid Kapoor (b) Ranbir Kapoor (c) Ranveer Singh (d) Rajkumar Rao
81. In April 2018, the first India-Nordic Summit was held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Stockholm (c) Helsinki (d) Copenhagen
82. Who has inaugurated the 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi?  
(a) Shri Narendra Modi (b) Shri R.K. Singh  
(c) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan (d) Shri Rajnath Singh
83. Who had been appointed as Chairman of IT industry body NASSCOM for 2018-19?  
(a) Keshav Murugesh (b) Rishad Premji (c) Aziz Premji (d) Shiv Nadar
84. Recently, which of the following Indian banks becomes the first foreign bank in the UK to ring-fence its retail division from its wholesale business?  
(a) Bank of Baroda (b) Punjab National Bank (c) State Bank of India (d) Union Bank of India
85. In how many states the e-way Bill system for intra-state movement of goods is being implemented from April 15th 2018?  
(a) Four (b) Five (c) Seven (d) Twelve
86. Which Indian state has approved setting up a 5,000 MW capacity solar park, which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion?  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Punjab (c) Haryana (d) Gujarat
87. Recently, India and \_\_\_\_\_ signed an agreement on their proposed nearly 130 km oil pipeline aimed at pumping Indian oil with a capacity of 1 million tonnes per annum.  
(a) Nepal (b) Bangladesh (c) Bhutan (d) Myanmar
88. India will build a strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and \_\_\_\_\_ to facilitate people-to-people contact and bulk movement of goods.

- (a) Biratnagar in Nepal    (b) Janakpur in Nepal    (c) Butwal in Nepal    (d) Kathmandu in Nepal
89. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Indian Railways' first high-speed electric locomotive developed at the Electric Locomotive Factory, collaboration between India and France in:  
(a) Purnia    (b) Madhepura    (c) Kathiyar    (d) Karnal
90. Recently, a massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) radio laboratory is being rolled out. It will be the first such lab in India at:  
(a) IISc Bengaluru    (b) IIT Delhi    (c) IIT Roorkee    (d) IIT Bombay
91. What is the rank of India in the latest 2018 annual Index of Economic Freedom released by a top American think-tank the Heritage Foundation?  
(a) 114th    (b) 118th    (c) 130th    (d) 145th
92. Recently, the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) has called for 'Expression of Interest' (EoI) for the first offshore wind energy project of India in:  
(a) Gulf of Khambat    (b) Gulf of Mannar    (c) Gulf of Kachchh    (d) Bay of Bengal
93. World Expo 2020 is to be hosted by:  
(a) Melbourne    (b) Ottawa    (c) Dubai    (d) Paris
94. Recently, the Union Cabinet gave its ex post facto approval to an agreement that would formalise the headquarters of the International Solar Alliance in:  
(a) India    (b) Australia    (c) France    (d) Russia
95. Recently, who has been reappointed as managing director and chief executive officer of Bandhan Bank for a period of three years from July 10, 2018?  
(a) Pinaki Chandra Basu    (b) Achyut Narayan Singh  
(c) Chandra Shekhar Ghosh    (d) Ravi Rama Reddy
96. Which among the following has launched 'Project Dhoop', an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight?  
(a) Ministry of Women & Child Development    (b) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)  
(c) ICSE    (d) Delhi Government
97. Which of the following countries has successfully launched the first group of Yaogan-31 remote sensing satellites into space?  
(a) Thailand    (b) Japan    (c) China    (d) South Korea
98. Who among the following women cricketers has become the first woman to grace Wisden's famous yellow jacket in 2018?  
(a) Mithali Raj    (b) Natalie Sciver    (c) Anya Shrubsole    (d) Harmanpreet Kaur
99. Recently, World's first long-distance electric bus line was inaugurated in:  
(a) Paris    (b) London    (c) Beijing    (d) Moscow
100. According to Amnesty International's annual report on capital punishment for year 2017, which country is the world's top executioner amid a decline in global executions?  
(a) India    (b) China    (c) Pakistan    (d) Saudi Arabia

101. Which of the following Indian state governments has set up an institution "QUEST" to evaluate and quantify special development budget allocations and their impact on tribal development?  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat
102. Recently, centre has decided to constitute a task force under the chairmanship of \_\_\_\_\_ for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technology.  
(a) Shri Suresh Prabhu (b) Shri Jayant Sinha (c) Shri Arun Jaitley (d) Smt Smriti Irani
103. Which of the following state's Suketi Fossil Park will be developed through Asian Development Bank (ADB) assistance?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Telangana
104. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the aspirational district programme as well as India's first wellness centre under Ayushman Bharat in:  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Haryana (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Karnataka
105. Development finance institution NABARD aims to increase its long-term on-lending or refinance portfolio to about .....in the current fiscal as part of its effort to improve the rural economy.  
(a) Rs 70,000 crore (b) Rs 80,000 crore (c) Rs 90,000 crore (d) Rs 95,000 crore
106. Recently, the finance ministry has reconstituted the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) and appointed .....as the new chairman.  
(a) Vedika Bhandarkar (b) P. Pradeep Kumar  
(c) Bhanu Pratap Sharma (d) Pradip Shah
107. Recently, Reserve Bank tightened reporting norms for the Liberalised Remittance Scheme under which an individual can transfer upto .....abroad in a year.  
(a) 1,50,000 US Dollars (b) 2, 00,000 US Dollars  
(c) 2, 25,000 US Dollars (d) 2, 50,000 US Dollars
108. Who has been awarded with the 2017 Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contribution to Indian Cinema recently?  
(a) Sridevi (b) VinodKhanna (c) Om Puri (d) ShekharKapur
109. Recently, Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the web-based application e-FRRO for:  
(a) Media persons (b) Military Personals (c) Acid attack victims (d) Foreigners
110. Recently, India became the fourth-largest passenger vehicle (PV) market globally for the first time ever, unseating \_\_\_\_\_ in January and February 2018.  
(a) Japan (b) Canada (c) Germany (d) UK
111. According to latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau, which Indian states reports the highest rate of crimes against Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe population?  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar
112. India Mobile Congress 2018 will be held in:  
(a) Kolkata (b) Nagpur (c) New Delhi (d) Hyderabad
113. Recently, the government allowed startups to avail tax concession only if total investment including funding from angel investors does not exceed Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore.  
(a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 20 (d) 50

114. Recently, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the "Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial (DANM)" in:  
(a) UK (b) Maharashtra (c) Delhi (d) Madhya Pradesh
115. Who has been awarded as Best Actress at 65th National Film Awards for 2017?  
(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Deepika Padukone (c) Sridevi (d) Vidhya Balan
116. Recently, India decided to coordinate with China and other Asian countries to voice against the "Asian Premium". Asian Premium is charged by:  
(a) World Trade Organization (WTO)  
(b) International Labour Organization (ILO)  
(c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
(d) Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
117. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first centre under Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Ayushman Bharat Scheme is a:  
(a) Health Scheme (b) Financial Inclusion Scheme  
(c) Sports Scheme (d) Power Scheme
118. Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti is observed every year on:  
(a) 8th April (b) 12th April (c) 14th April (d) 15th April
119. Recently, The government announced extension of phase 1 of the FAME-India scheme entailing incentives for mass adoption of electric and strong hybrid vehicles by:  
(a) Three Months (b) Six Months (c) One Year (d) Two Years
120. Recently, the state council of ministers approved to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bodhjungnagar in:  
(a) Meghalaya (b) Tripura (c) Manipur (d) Jammu & Kashmir
121. Recently, who has become the first Indian player to win Singles Gold twice at the Commonwealth Games?  
(a) Jitu Rai (b) Deepika Pallikal (c) Saina Nehwal (d) P.V.Sindhu
122. Name the Indian swimmer, who has set a world record to double cross the Bangla Channel recently.  
(a) Shubham Gehlot (b) Anandwardhan  
(c) Subhash Rameshwar Rathore (d) Sampanna Ramesh Shelar
123. Recently, Odisha's second longest river bridge is opened on \_\_\_\_\_ river.  
(a) Mahanadi (b) Brahmani (c) Ib (d) Sankh
124. Which among the following has launched a dedicated mobile application 'MADAD' (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) recently?  
(a) Indian Aviation Ministry (b) Indian Railways  
(c) Delhi Metro (d) Indigo Airlines
125. Recently, India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) signed a MoU with M/s Suraas Impex Pvt. Ltd. for developing a Mega Tourism Destination project at an estimated cost of Rs. 550 crores in:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Goa (d) Himachal Pradesh

126. Who among the following Bollywood actors will be conferred with the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement?  
(a) Jeetendra (b) Manoj Kumar (c) Anupam Kher (d) Dharmendra
127. Which of the following districts has become the country's first 'LED street light district'?  
(a) East Godavari (Andhra Pradesh) (b) Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)  
(c) Patan (Gujarat) (d) Alwar (Rajasthan)
128. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in cooperation with Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has hosted the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Nagpur (d) Kochi
129. According to BSE data, which of the following is the most valuable company in India?  
(a) Reliance Industries Ltd (b) Tata Consultancy Services Ltd  
(c) Bandhan Bank Ltd (d) HDFC Bank Ltd.
130. Recently, A team of scientists at Northwestern University, USA, led by an Indian, has developed an electronic device that can mimic the human brain. This device is named as:  
(a) Resistotrics (b) Mimicrater (c) Meganet (d) Memtransistor
131. Recently, the World Bank has projected a growth rate of .....for India this year.  
(a) 6.4% (b) 6.8% (c) 7.3 % (d) 7.9%
132. Who among the following is the "alternate governor" for India on the IMF's board of governors, and heads the team in the absence of the designated governor?  
(a) Governor of Reserve Bank of India (b) Economic Affairs Secretary  
(c) Minister of State, Finance (d) Revenue Secretary
133. According to Randstad Insights, the research and analysis division of Randstad India, which of the following cities topped the list of salary trends in 2017?  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Pune (c) Bengaluru (d) Mumbai
134. Recently, Pakistan successfully test fired an enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile that can deliver conventional and non-conventional weapons with a range of:  
(a) 400 Kilometers (b) 500 Kilometers (c) 700 Kilometers (d) 840 Kilometers
135. Which of the following countries scientists have developed a new device of 3D hollow-cone structure that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency?  
(a) India (b) Japan (c) China (d) USA
136. Recently, Shri Nitin Gadkari has announced development of a new highway alignment between Delhi and Mumbai which will be built at cost of:  
(a) Rs Fifty Thousand Crore (b) Rs One Lakh Crore  
(c) RsTwo Lakh Crore (d) Rs Two Lakh Fifty Thousandcrore
137. Recently, Hero Future Energies has commissioned India's first large-scale hybrid renewable energy project a combination of sun and wind power in:  
(a) Fazilka (b) Raichur (c) Udaipur (d) Amritsar
138. According to the new Commonwealth Innovation Index 2018, what is the rank of India?  
(a) 4th (b) 7th (c) 10th (d) 14th



139. Which of the following Indian banks became India's second most valuable lender in market value for the first time?  
(a) ICICI Bank (b) Axis Bank (c) Bandhan Bank (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
140. Which of the following cities is set to become first 'hunk free' town of India?  
(a) Manali (b) Darjeeling (c) Nainital (d) Shimla
141. Recently, India has signed an agreement with the \_\_\_\_\_ for a USD 48 million loan to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected area in Meghalaya.  
(a) IMF (b) World Bank  
(c) Asian Development Bank (d) New Development Bank
142. Which of the following Indian banks recently announced the launch of an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)?  
(a) Bank of Baroda (b) IDFC Bank (c) RBL Bank (d) Yes Bank
143. Recently, which of the following companies became the first of the 12 large loan defaulters identified by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to win court approval to exit bankruptcy?  
(a) Jaypee Infratech Ltd (b) Electrosteel Steels  
(c) ABG Shipyard Ltd (d) Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd
144. Who among the following Bollywood actors will receive Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Special Award for contribution to Indian Theatre and Cinema at the 76th Dinanath Mangeshkar Awards?  
(a) Paresh Rawal (b) Anupam Kher (c) K.K. Menon (d) Irrfan Khan
145. Which of the following Indian actress has received Dada Saheb Phalke excellence award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award)?  
(a) Deepika Padukone (b) Swara Bhaskar (c) Aditi Rao Hydari (d) Sonam Kapoor
146. Recently, Commerce and Industry Minister has launched the FIEO GlobalLinker platform for:  
(a) Heavy Industries exporters (b) MSME exporters  
(c) Cottage Industries (d) Bank Employees
147. According to the database of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO) for April 2018, what is the present rank of India in world's largest economy?  
(a) Third (b) Fifth (c) Sixth (d) Tenth
148. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018, also known as CHOGM 2018 is the current and 25th meeting of the heads of government of the Commonwealth of Nations is held in:  
(a) United Kingdom (b) New Zealand (c) Canada (d) Australia
149. According to the decision was taken in the first meeting of the National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under the POSHAN Abhiyaan. How many districts will be covered in the second phase of POSHAN Abhiyaan?  
(a) 145 (b) 185 (c) 235 (d) 342
150. Recently, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched a health scheme of \_\_\_\_\_ that offers free medical care of up to 2 lakh rupees for every individual from Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.  
(a) Tripura (b) Manipur (c) Assam (d) Meghalaya
151. Recently, Indian scientists have formulated an Ayurvedic drug to cure \_\_\_\_\_ claimed to be the first in the world.  
(a) Malaria (b) Jaundice (c) Dengue (d) Typhoid

152. Recently, World Heritage Day which is an annual event was celebrated on:  
(a) 15th April (b) 16th April (c) 17th April (d) 18th April
153. Who among the following is the first Bollywood filmmaker to get wax statue at Madame Tussauds London?  
(a) Anurag Kashyap (b) Deepa Mehta (c) Karan Johar (d) Vishal Bharadwaj
154. Who has become the first non-classical or jazz artist to win Pulitzer Prize for music recently?  
(a) Caroline Shaw (b) Kevin Puts (c) Kendrick Lamar (d) Henry Threadgill
155. Who among the following is set to be Cuba's first non-Castro president in six decades?  
(a) Jorge Dominguez (b) Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez  
(c) William Leo Grande (d) Eduardo Gamarra
156. Who among the following has been named by Fortune magazine as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018?  
(a) Savitri Jindal (b) Mithali Raj (c) Indira Jaising (d) Arundhati Roy
157. Which of the following countries will host the Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC) in 2018?  
(a) Japan (b) Singapore (c) India (d) France
158. Recently, In an effort to improve higher defence management, the government constituted a new committee headed by:  
(a) Defence Minister (b) Defence State Minister  
(c) National Security Advisor (d) Chief of Integrated Staff in MoD
159. AMC is set to open first commercial cinema in Saudi Arabia in 35 year. AMC Entertainment is owned by:  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Germany (d) France
160. Which of the following Indian states has bagged the Most Film Friendly State Award given by the central government for its efforts to ease filming in the state?  
(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Assam (d) Madhya Pradesh
161. According to TRA Brand Trust Report 2018, which is the most-trusted bank (both public and private sector) in India?  
(a) Bank of Baroda (b) Union Bank of India (c) State Bank of India (d) Punjab National Bank
162. Who has been appointed as the Secretary General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) recently?  
(a) Dilip Chenoy (b) Sanjeev Darpan (c) Akhilesh Lamba (d) Deepak Rana
163. The first official World Creativity and Innovation Day (#WCID) was celebrated on:  
(a) 21st April (b) 23rd April (c) 27th April (d) 30th April
164. Recently, the first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held in the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in:  
(a) New York (b) Washington D.C. (c) London (d) Geneva
165. Recently, Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shri Vijay Goel inaugurated the new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for the e-Vidhan project of the Government. e-Vidhan is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of:  
(a) State Legislatures (b) State Councils (c) RBI (d) PMO

166. Nexgen Conferences, one of India's leading conferences and B2B event organizers, has announced the third edition of the Annual 5G India Congress 2018 was held in:  
(a) Delhi (b) Karnataka (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu
167. Nepal-India cross border petroleum pipeline project from Motihari to Amlekhgunj is about to complete. The length of this pipeline is:  
(a) 37 kilometers (b) 48 kilometers (c) 69 kilometers (d) 81 kilometers
168. Recently which of the following countries has returned the prestigious Legion D'honneur to France?  
(a) Libya (b) Syria (c) Yemen (d) Iraq
169. Who has been confirmed the first elected official to serve as NASA Administrator by the US Senate recently?  
(a) Maj. Jim Bridenstine (b) Sean O'Keefe  
(c) Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Charles F. Bolden, Jr. (d) Christopher Scolese
170. Recently, the two day Regional Conference on "Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges" was concluded in:  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Ahmedabad
171. According to the Global Findex Report, which of the following countries has largest unbanked population?  
(a) China (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) Brazil
172. Which of the following teams has won the inaugural edition of Super Cup Football tournament in Bhubaneswar?  
(a) East Bengal (b) Churchill Brothers (c) Bengaluru FC (d) Mohun Bagan
173. Recently, The King of Swaziland announced that he is officially renaming Swaziland to the Kingdom of eSwatini. Swaziland is the Kingdom nation in continent of:  
(a) Africa (b) South America (c) Asia (d) North America
174. Recently, which of the following state's chief minister Facebook page has been judged the most popular among all other chief ministers in the country?  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Uttar Pradesh
175. Recently, The Malaria Summit which was organized by non-profit organisation Malaria No More in conjunction with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was held in:  
(a) Paris (b) London (c) New York (d) Washington D.C.
176. The four day International SME convention is being held in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Hyderabad
177. In India Civil Services Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 18th April (b) 20th April (c) 21st April (d) 23rd April
178. Name the differently-abled Indian arm wrestler, who made the country proud by picking up a bronze medal at the Asian Armwrestling Championship held in Kazakhstan.  
(a) Anunaya Ram (b) SaukatRahman (c) ArjunRanawat (d) ShrimantJha
179. Indian football will play host to the inaugural edition of the four-nation Intercontinental Cup to be held in:  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Mumbai (c) Kolkata (d) Guwahati

180. Recently, A team of researchers at the \_\_\_\_\_ has achieved a measure of success by finding a small molecule that has good antiviral activity against chikungunya virus.  
(a) IISc Bengaluru (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
181. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured bureaucrats for making Karang the first cashless island of the country. Karang is located in:  
(a) Assam (b) West Bengal (c) Manipur (d) Gujarat
182. Which of the following Indian states observed "Khongjom Day"?  
(a) Manipur (b) Tripura (c) Mizoram (d) Tripura
183. Which of the following gram panchayats of India has been awarded the best gram panchayat in the country?  
(a) Bankati (Uttar Pradesh) (b) Digambarpur (West Bengal)  
(c) Dimapur (Assam) (d) Akodara (Gujarat)
184. Who has been appointed as first ever woman fire fighter of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) recently?  
(a) Natasha Surie (b) Avantika Lahiri (c) Sushma Devpal (d) Taniya Sanyal
185. Who has won Paraguay presidential poll recently?  
(a) Roberto Mariacaz (b) Mario Abdo Benitez (c) Efrain Alegre (d) Shuatuz Derilite
186. Recently, which of the following companies became the first Indian listed company to hit the coveted \$100 billion m-cap figures?  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) Adani Group (c) TCS (d) RIL
187. "Earth Day" is observed every year on:  
(a) 19th April (b) 20th April (c) 21st April (d) 22nd April
188. Recently, the 8th South Asian Judo Championship was held in:  
(a) South Korea (b) India (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
189. Which of the following Indian Smart Cities has become the first city in India that runs on 100 per cent renewable energy during the daytime?  
(a) Varanasi (b) Surat (c) Agra (d) Diu
190. As per Article \_\_\_\_\_ of the Indian Constitution, a Supreme Court judge can be impeached only if there is a case of "proved misbehaviour" or "incapacity" on his part.  
(a) Article 123 (3) (b) Article 143 (3) (c) Article 142 (4) (d) Article 124(4)
191. Which of the following countries will host the world's first female foreign ministers' meeting in September 2018?  
(a) USA (b) Canada (c) India (d) China
192. The meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has kicked off in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Paris (c) Beijing (d) Astana
193. Which of the following companies has become only the second Indian company to cross the \$100 billion mark in market capitalization?  
(a) Wifro Consultancy Services (b) Bharati Airtel Ltd  
(c) Tata Consultancy Services (d) Reliance Industries Ltd

194. The central bank of \_\_\_\_\_ has banned domestic banks and other financial institutions from dealing in cryptocurrencies in April 2018.  
(a) Iran (b) Iraq (c) India (d) Brazil
195. According to the latest report by World Bank, which among the following countries has retained its position as the top remittances receiving country in the world?  
(a) China (b) USA (c) UK (d) India
196. Who has been appointed as the Tata Group's President, Global Corporate Affairs in April 2018?  
(a) Vijay Kumar (b) S Jaishankar (c) Murali Manohar (d) Anurag Jain
197. A team of researchers at the \_\_\_\_\_ has achieved a measure of success by finding a small molecule that has good antiviral activity against chikungunya virus.  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) New Delhi (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Chennai
198. World Book Day or World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) April 20 (b) April 21 (c) April 22 (d) April 23
199. Which among the following has become the first court in south India and eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility?  
(a) Hyderabad High Court (b) Mumbai High Court  
(c) Madras High Court (d) Thiruvananthapuram High Court
200. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Center (APCSOC) in:  
(a) Amaravati (b) Machilipatnam (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Hyderabad
201. What is the India rank in the Press Freedom Index 2018 released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)?  
(a) 140 (b) 150 (c) 138 (d) 128
202. The Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the \_\_\_\_\_ signed a 210 million dollar loan agreement for the Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project.  
(a) World Bank (b) ADB (c) BRICS Bank (d) IMF
203. President Ram Nath Kovind has presented \_\_\_\_\_ Kirti Chakras and \_\_\_\_\_ Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel for displaying "conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty".  
(a) 2 and 10 (b) 3 and 13 (c) 4 and 10 (d) 5 and 15
204. Which among the following states of India has bagged two Geographical Indication (GI) tags for 'Adilabad Dokra and Warangal durries in April 2018?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu
205. The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh has chaired the third meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Hyderabad (d) Jaipur
206. Who has been selected by an independent international jury of media professionals as the laureate of the 2018 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize?  
(a) Mahmoud Abu Zeid (b) Bob Woodward (c) Barbara Walters (d) Carl Bernstein



207. Who among the following has won the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award for 2017-18?  
(a) Mohamed Ali (b) Lionel Messi (c) Mohamed Salah (d) Cristiano Ronaldo
208. The first International SME Convention organised by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises concluded in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Hyderabad (c) New Delhi (d) Jaipur
209. A Chandigarh based lawyer has filed a PIL in Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking quashing of the impeachment provisions in the Judges (Inquiry) Act of:  
(a) 1960 (b) 1968 (c) 1990 (d) 1999
210. India has signed a loan agreement for "Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project" with which among the following organizations?  
(a) United Nations Organizations (b) BRICS Bank  
(c) World Bank (d) International Monetary Fund
211. Mario Abdo Benitez has been elected as the new president of:  
(a) Chile (b) Mexico (c) Argentina (d) Paraguay
212. According to the Randstad's Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2018 report, which of the following has been declared the most attractive employer brand in 2018?  
(a) Mercedes-Benz India (b) Samsung India (c) Microsoft India (d) Amazon India
213. The Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway is the planned 'staging' area intended for studies of the moon by:  
(a) NASA (b) ISRO (c) CERN (d) JAXA
214. Indian researchers have discovered the world's smallest land fern hiding in the Ahwa forests of:  
(a) Eastern Ghats (b) Western Ghats (c) Himalaya Mountains (d) Aravali Mountains
215. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has recommended \_\_\_\_\_ for Khel Ratna Awards in April 2018.  
(a) M.S. Dhoni (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Rahul Dravid (d) Virat Kohli
216. World Malaria Day (WMD) is an international observance commemorated every year on:  
(a) April 22 (b) April 23 (c) April 24 (d) April 25
217. The joint training exercise 'HARIMAU SHAKTI' is being conducted between India and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Thailand (b) China (c) France (d) Malaysia
218. Senior advocate Indu Malhotra, who has become the \_\_\_\_\_ woman judge of the Supreme Court and the first to be elevated directly from the Bar in April 2018.  
(a) Fifth (b) Sixth (c) Seventh (d) Eighth
219. Which of the following Indian States has launched 'Lakadong Mission Document' in April 2017?  
(a) Meghalaya (b) Mizoram (c) Manipur (d) Madhya Pradesh
220. According to the an analysis of election affidavits by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), which of the following parties lawmakers have the maximum number of declared cases related to hate speech?  
(a) Congress (b) BJP (c) TDP (d) BSP

221. Moon Jae-in is associated with which among the following countries?  
(a) South Sudan (b) China (c) North Korea (d) South Korea
222. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as his new special envoy on  
(a) China (b) Thailand (c) Myanmar (d) Germany
223. The third ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV project was inducted into the Indian Navy in:  
(a) Chennai (b) Mumbai (c) Port Blair (d) Kolkata
224. The BCCI recommended India opener \_\_\_\_\_ and women's team player Smriti Mandhana for the Arjuna award in April 2018.  
(a) Shikhar Dhawan (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Ajinka Rahane (d) Hardik Pandaya
225. World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on:  
(a) April 22 (b) April 23 (c) April 25 (d) April 26
226. In India, first of its kind Israeli Modern Art Exhibition was inaugurated in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Chennai (d) Bengaluru
227. Which of the following Indian State Governments has appointed international shooter Gauri Sheoran the brand ambassador for its two health-related programmes in April 2018?  
(a) Haryana (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Jharkhand
228. The HRD ministry launched the second edition of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in \_\_\_\_\_ under which students from 750 higher educational institutions from across the country will adopt villages.  
(a) Jaipur (b) Bhopal (c) New Delhi (d) Chandigarh
229. \_\_\_\_\_ is all set to become a member of the exclusive club of satellite-owning countries as its first commercial satellite "Bangabandhu-1" will be flying to space on May 7 from the US.  
(a) Bhutan (b) Nepal (c) Afghanistan (d) Bangladesh
230. Nursultan Nazarbayev is the current President of:  
(a) Kazakhstan (b) Argentina (c) Paraguay (d) Zambia
231. Mike Pompeo took over as new secretary of state of which among the following countries?  
(a) France (b) USA (c) Germany (d) Japan
232. The \_\_\_\_\_ has developed a next-generation bulletproof jacket for the Indian armed forces, which is not only cheaper but also much lighter.  
(a) BARC (b) ISRO (c) DRDO (d) Both a and b
233. Scientists from Zoological Survey of India have identified a new species of frog called 'Fejervarya goemchi'. The new species is named after the historical name of the India state of:  
(a) Sikkim (b) Kerala (c) Goa (d) Gujarat
234. The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book 'Smart Cities Unbundled' authored by:  
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Kapil Sibal (c) Dr. Suresh Kumar (d) Dr. Sameer Sharma

235. Who has been selected for the 2017 Saraswati Samman for his collection of verses titled Vakhar?  
(a) Sumit Vyas (b) Dharmendra Acharya  
(c) Jitendra Ahuja (d) Sitanshu Yashaschandra
236. Recently, an industrial microgrid with battery energy storage, believed to be the first in India, has been inaugurated in:  
(a) Gorakhpur (b) Vadodra (c) Cochin (d) Pune
237. Recently, First "Indian Culinary Museum" was opened in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Nagpur (c) Noida (d) Kanpur
238. Which of the following hospitals became the country's first hospital to set up Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN) recently?  
(a) AFMC, Pune (b) AIIMS, Delhi (c) SGPGI, Lucknow (d) Medanta, Gurugram
239. Recently, Fitch retains India's rating at .....with stable outlook.  
(a) ABB (b) BBB- (c) BBC+ (d) CCC-
240. Recently, Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, released a book 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism'. This book is authored by:  
(a) C H Hanumantha Rao (b) BG Satyam Rameshwaram  
(c) Pranab Mukherjee (d) R H Sarvedeshwara Ramoji
241. Who has become longest serving Chief Minister of any Indian state in April 2018?  
(a) Nitish Kumar (b) Shiraj Singh Chowhan  
(c) Pawan Kumar Chamling (d) N.Chandrababu Naidu
242. Which of the state governments has initiated government's new project called 'Bhu Seva' (land hub) in April 2018?  
(a) Bihar (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
243. Which among the following countries has imported metals from North Korea in violation of UNSC resolutions?  
(a) India (b) China (c) Pakistan (d) Brazil
244. An India-Nepal Inter Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade was held in:  
(a) Kathmandu (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
245. According to the latest Deutsche Bank research report, The Indian economy is likely clock a GDP growth of \_\_\_\_\_% this financial year.  
(a) 6.5 (b) 6.9 (c) 7.2 (d) 7.5
246. Which among the following Indian banks has announced the launch of IRA 2.0, its interactive humanoid in April 2018?  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) SBI Bank (d) Axis Bank
247. The world's largest plane 'Stratolaunch' is set to take flight within the next few months after successfully conducting three more taxi tests. Stratolaunch is a brainchild of:  
(a) Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen (b) Google co-founder Pichai Sundararajan  
(c) Google co-founder Ruth Porat (d) Apple founder Tim Cook

248. International Dance Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) April 25 (b) April 26 (c) April 27 (d) April 29
249. Who has been recommended for the country's highest sporting honour the Khel Ratna Award by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) in April 2018?  
(a) Dutee Chand (b) Anju Bobby George (c) Neeraj Chopra (d) Seema Punia
250. Who has been recommended for the Dronacharya Award by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) in April 2018?  
(a) PT Usha (b) Sanjay Garnaik (c) P. Gopichand (d) Both a and b



## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. d The 114th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) took place in New Delhi.
2. c Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the world-class Interpretation Centre and tourist facilities at Konark Sun Temple at Konark
3. d The plan was adopted at a summit in Vietnam that included the prime ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as a vice president of Myanmar and the Chinese foreign minister.
4. b Nepal has launched its first "accessible" trekking trail in Pokhara city for the differently-abled and the elderly. The trail was inaugurated as a part of three-day international conference on Accessible Tourism' held for the first time in the Himalayan nation from March 29 to March 31 in Pokhara.
5. d Karnataka is an exception having notified the e-way bill for both inter-state as well as intra-state movement of goods
6. c New Delhi is the first city in the country to leapfrog from Euro-IV grade petrol and diesel to Euro-VI.
7. d According to the data shared by Indian Cellular Association with the government, annual production of mobile phones in India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to 11 million units in 2017. With this, India replaced Vietnam to become the second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017.
8. b The warning and the information is from a unique three-minute broadcast on an FM radio channel that the Jharkhand forest department started to check growing man-elephant conflicts in the state. This special elephant bulletin called Hamar Haathi, Hamar Saathi or My Elephant, My Friend.
9. a US Open champion Sloane Stephens beat Latvian Jelena Ostapenko 7-6 (7-5) 6-1 to win her first Miami Open title.
10. c The West Bengal government introduced a new scheme "Rupashree" for marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families with a budgetary allocation of Rs 1,500 crore.
11. c New Delhi will host the strategically important trilateral dialogue between India, Japan and the US.
12. b Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Law and Justice P.P. Chaudhary embarked on an official visit to Marrakech, Morocco, for the first International Justice Conference.
13. b Researchers are developing atomically thin "drumheads", which are tens of trillions of times thinner than the human eardrum, and will provide cat-like hearing abilities to humans.
14. a Voters in Costa Rica have elected centre-left candidate Carlos Alvarado to be their next president.
15. b Almond imports into India rose 7 per cent to worth \$600 million (about Rs 3,900 crore) last year against \$560 million (Rs 3,640 crore) in 2016.
16. d The report ranked Hyderabad (1st), Bengaluru (2nd), Pune (4th), Kolkata (5th) and Delhi (8th) in the top 10 cities out of the 30 top global short-term growth cities. Chennai (14th) and Mumbai (20th) completed India's stellar show on the annual rankings.
17. d Set up on April 2, 1990 through an Act of Parliament, SIDBI acts as the Principal Financial Institution for the Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and for co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities.
18. b The 2018 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXI Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Gold Coast 2018. Of the 275 sets of medals on offer, 133 each will be presented to men and women, while the remaining nine medals have been reserved for mixed events.



19. c A new Guinness record has been set in Italy for the most number of robots dancing simultaneously, with 1,372 humanoids syncing their different moves to music. The event was held in Italy, using the Alpha 1S robot which is just under 40 cm tall and made of aluminium alloy with a plastic coating.
20. b Malaysia is the first country to outlaw "fake news" and offenders could land in prison for up to six years.
21. b The joint exercise, named Sahyog - Hyeoblyeog 2018 is part of a proposed establishment of a MoU between the two Coast Guards to improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
22. d Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has been re-appointed as Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.
23. a Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin launched the construction of Turkey's first nuclear power plant in the Mediterranean Mersin region.
24. a The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, retained its position as India's top-ranked university for the third year in a row. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was ranked second, followed by Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in the third place.
25. c The Mangalore International Airport has been adjudged the cleanest airport in the country.
26. c Alibaba's Jack Ma is Asia's richest person with \$47.2 billion net worth followed by Tencent co-founder and CEO Pony Ma with \$41.1 billion net worth.
27. b The Cabinet approved rightsizing of antitrust watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) by halving the number of its members to three.
28. a Saudi Arabia's first cinema in more than 35 years will open on April 18 in Riyadh.
29. c In a major achievement, India has overtaken Japan to become the world's second largest producer of crude steel in February, according to the Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI).
30. c Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling announced monthly pension for farmers engaged in organic farming in the state. Sikkim is the first fully organic state in the country.
31. d IndusInd Bank has become the first lender to start using WhatsApp enterprise solution to provide basic banking services to customers.
32. c In Sierra Leone, the Election Commission has declared main opposition candidate Julius Maada Bio as the West African nation's new president, giving the opposition party its first presidency in 10 years.
33. b Veteran actor Anupam Kher has secured a nomination in the Best Supporting Actor category at the British Academy Television Awards 2018 for his role in the drama The Boy with the Topknot.
34. a Weight Lifter P. Guru Raja wins Silver medal. On the first day of competitions at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; India began their campaign with a Silver Medal in Weightlifting.
35. d The General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
36. c Qatar is introducing national service for women for the first time while extending the time for conscripted men in the military under a law issued by the country's Emir.
37. c The Information and Broadcasting Ministry set up a committee to frame laws to regulate online media and news portals. The ten-member committee will be headed by the I&B Secretary.

38. b The Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring.UTTAM stands for - Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal ([uttam.coalindia.in](http://uttam.coalindia.in)).
39. c India ranked third in the list of countries where the highest number of cyber threats was detected and second in terms of targeted attacks in 2017, according to security software firm Symantec.
40. b Leading private lender ICICI Bank announced the launch of a service that enables Non Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to a beneficiary in India using social media platforms like WhatsApp and e-mail.Christened 'Social Pay', this first-of-its-kind service is available on Money2India (M2I), the bank's app for remittances.
41. b Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up Data Sciences Lab to improve its forecasting, surveillance and early warning detection abilities which will aid policy formulation.
42. b Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold medal in the 2018 Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, breaking the event's weightlifting records in the process.
43. d April 5 is celebrated as the National Maritime Day in India every year.
44. a NASA and Lockheed Martin will develop a supersonic plane that is expected to fly faster than the speed of sound without much noise.
45. c Ministry of Tribal Affairs to launch first ever "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh for value addition of Forest Produce.
46. a South Korea's former President Park Geun-hye was jailed for 24 years for corruption, completing a dramatic fall from grace for the country's first woman leader who became a figure of public fury and ridicule.
47. b In Uttar Pradesh Ganga Hariteema Yojana (Ganga Greenery scheme) is being launched in 27 districts of the state located on the bank of river Ganga.
48. c A joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise 'Chakravath,' organised by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Kerala government.
49. a The Centre, Maharastra Government and the World Bank have signed a 420 million dollar project to help small and marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha region of the state.
50. b Global financial messaging cooperative Swift said ICICI Bank has become its first Indian client to go live with an improved cross-border payments service.
51. b The Reserve Bank switched back to the gross domestic product (GDP)-based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology, citing global best practices.
52. c The Indian Space Research Organisation will launch IRNSS-II -- the eighth satellite in the NavIC navigation satellite constellation -- on April 12.
53. d The General Assembly of the United Nations decided to proclaim on 6 April as "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace."
54. a Chhattisgarh bagged the 'State of the Year' Award under the 'business leader' category as part of the India Business Leadership for the remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors.
55. c Situated amid lush green woods with trekking trails, Jammu's first tulip garden at Sanasar is attracting nature enthusiasts from all over the country. Sanasar is located in Ramban district of Jammu region with the snow-clad Nathatop peak in the backdrop.
56. a The UK's soft drink sugar tax follows in the footsteps of countries including France, Norway and Mexico.

57. c The Union government banned imports of the hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in the livestock industry, where activists say it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals.
58. c Prof Panchanan Mohanty, former dean of the School of Humanities at University of Hyderabad (UoH) has discovered two languages, which have been lying hidden from linguists. They are spoken in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
59. c Leander Paes became the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup as he combined with Rohan Bopanna to not only grab a record 43rd win but also bring India back in the tie against China.
60. c The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as other related organisations.
61. b Kerala has become the first state to adopt a standard operating procedure (SOP) for determining brain death cases.
62. d Tripura is the first state in Northeast India to implement the state component of PMKVY through the Directorate of Skill Development (DSD).
63. a The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, reached Equatorial Guinea on the first leg of his State Visit to three African nations -Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia. This is the first ever visit of a Head of State from India to Equatorial Guinea.
64. a Pritam Singh, an Indian-origin lawmaker in Singapore, was elected unopposed as the new secretary-general of the city-state's main opposition Workers' Party.
65. c 'Gobar-dhan Yojana', the central scheme for managing and converting cattle dung into manure and biogas, will be launched at the national level from Karnal in Haryana on April 30.
66. c Britain opened its first permanent military base in the Middle East in more than four decades in the Persian Gulf country of Bahrain, giving the U.K. an expansive presence along key international shipping routes.
67. d Anushka Sharma will be bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards.
68. d India captain Mithali Raj etched her name in record books again as she became the most capped player in women's One-Day International (ODI) cricket.
69. b Sebastian Vettel just held on to win a dramatic Bahrain Grand Prix from pole position, while his Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen accidentally broke a team mechanic's leg after a botched tire change cost him a podium spot.
70. b NASA's Parker Solar Probe humanity's first mission to the Sun is undergoing final preparations for its launch scheduled for July 31.
71. b Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart K P Sharma Oli launched the ground-breaking ceremony of the Rs 3.24 billion India-Nepal petroleum products pipeline from Motihari to Amlekhgunj.
72. b The Andhra Pradesh government will soon constitute a Happiness Commission that will take up a series of programmes to promote "happiness" in the state.
73. c The first meeting of newly constituted NITI Forum for North East will be held in Agartala, Tripura.
74. b A two-day scientific convention is organised in New Delhi by Ministry of AYUSH on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day, on 10-11th April 2018.
75. c The State Bank of India will be investing a total of Rs 80 billion in the Arun III hydropower project of Nepal, which has 900 megawatts (MW) electricity production capacities.

76. b The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia concluded "Desert Tiger 5" joint military exercise aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions.
77. c Hungary's right-wing Prime Minister Viktor Orban has claimed a landslide victory in general election. He will serve a third consecutive term in office, with his party Fidesz projected to win a two-thirds majority in parliament.
78. b SenseTime Group Ltd. has raised \$600 million from Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and other investors at a valuation of more than \$3 billion, becoming the world's most valuable artificial intelligence (AI) startup.
79. a "IGI, the country's busiest airport for passenger traffic, grew by 14.1% year over year, pushing it up from the 22nd to the 16th busiest airport in the world,".
80. c Bollywood's powerhouse actor Ranveer Singh has been finalised for the DadasahebPhalke Excellence Award as Best Actor this year for his movie 'Padmaavat'.
81. b Prime Minister NarendraModi met leaders of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark & Iceland for the first India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm on April 17.
82. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi.
83. b IT industry body Nasscom had appointed Wipro chief strategy officer and board member Rishad Premji as its chairman for 2018-19.
84. c India's largest state-owned bank SBI, which celebrated the new subsidiary with a special event in London, becomes the first foreign bank in the UK to ringfence its retail division from its wholesale business.
85. b The e-way Bill system for intra-state movement of goods is being implemented from April 15 in five states. According to the GST Council, the five states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.
86. d Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani approved setting up a 5,000 MW capacity solar park at the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion.
87. b Bangladesh and India signed an agreement on their proposed nearly 130 km oil pipeline aimed at pumping Indian oil to Bangladesh with a capacity of 1 million tonnes per annum.
88. d India will build a strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu in Nepal to facilitate people-to-people contact and bulk movement of goods.
89. b Prime Minister NarendraModi flagged off Indian Railways' first high-speed electric locomotive developed at the Electric Locomotive Factory, collaboration between India and France, in Madhepura.
90. b A massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) radio laboratory is being rolled out this week at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.
91. c India has jumped 13 places in the last one year to 130th spot in the latest annual Index of Economic Freedom released by a top American think-tank the Heritage Foundation.
92. a The global EoI is intended to shortlist prospective offshore wind energy developers for a 1000 MW offshore wind energy project in Gulf of Khambat, off the coast of Gujarat.
93. c For India's pavilion in the prestigious World Expo 2020 Dubai, India and World Expo 2020 has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to showcase the inventions of Industrial Revolution
94. a The Union Cabinet gave its ex post facto approval to an agreement that would formalise the headquarters of the International Solar Alliance in India (ISA).

95. c Chandra Shekhar Ghosh has been reappointed as managing director and chief executive officer of Bandhan Bank for a period of three years from July 10, 2018.
96. b The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched 'Project Dhoop', an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
97. c China successfully launched the first group of Yaogan-31 remote sensing satellites into space, which will be used for electromagnetic environment surveys and other related technology tests.
98. c Anya Shrubsole becomes first woman to grace Wisden's famous yellow jacket.
99. a World's first long-distance electric bus line was inaugurated in Paris. Chinese e-buses would operate on world's first electric routes in France.
100. b China has remained the world's top executioner amid a decline in global executions, according to Amnesty International's annual report on capital punishment.
101. c The Maharashtra government set up an institution to evaluate and quantify special development budget allocations and their impact on tribal development. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the institution - QUEST - in Mumbai.
102. b Centre has decided to constitute a task force under the chairmanship of Minister of State Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technology.
103. c Himachal Pradesh Suketi Fossil Park in Sirmaur district will be developed through Asian Development Bank (ADB) assistance.
104. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the aspirational district programme as well as India's first wellness centre under Ayushman Bharat on April 14 at Bijapur, Chattisgarh.
105. b Development finance institution NABARD aims to increase its long-term on-lending or refinance portfolio to about Rs 80,000 crore in the current fiscal as part of its effort to improve the rural economy.
106. c The finance ministry has reconstituted the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) and appointed Bhanu Pratap Sharma as the new chairman.
107. d Reserve Bank tightened reporting norms for the Liberalised Remittance Scheme under which an individual can transfer upto 2,50,000 US Dollars abroad in a year.
108. b Veteran Hindi film actor Shri Vinod Khanna was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contribution to Indian Cinema.
109. d Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the web-based application e-FRRO (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office) scheme under which foreigners can avail, various visa and immigration-related services online.
110. d Top-gear growth in sales of cars and SUVs has led to India becoming the fourth-largest passenger vehicle (PV) market globally for the first time ever, unseating Germany, in January and February 2018. As a result, India is now behind China, US and Japan in the global pecking order with Germany in the fifth position, followed by Brazil and France.
111. d Bihar reports the highest rate of crimes against Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe population, while West Bengal reports the lowest, according to latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau.
112. c India Mobile Congress will be held from 25th to 27th of October this year at Aerocity in New Delhi.
113. b The government allowed startups to avail tax concession only if total investment including funding from angel investors does not exceed Rs 10 crore.



114. c The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the "Dr Ambedkar National Memorial (DANM)" at 26, Alipore Road, Delhi at the place of Mahaparinirvana of Dr Ambedkar.
115. c Late eminent Actress, Sridevi awarded Best Actress for the Hindi movie Mom
116. d India will coordinate with China and other Asian countries to voice against the "Asian Premium" being charged by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
117. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first health centre under Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
118. c Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti is an annual festival observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B. R. Ambedkar.
119. b The government announced extension of phase 1 of the FAME-India scheme entailing incentives for mass adoption of electric and strong hybrid vehicles by six months till September-end or till its second phase is approved, whichever is earlier.
120. b Tripura govt sanctions Rs 50 crore for IIIT at Bodhjurnagar.
121. c Saina Nehwal has become the first Indian player to win Singles Gold twice at the Commonwealth Games.
122. d Pune-based 17-year-old swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has set a world record to double cross the Bangla Channel.
123. c The much-awaited bridge built over the Ib river in Sambalpur district was thrown open to the public by CM Naveen Patnaik.
124. b Indian Railways is going to launch a dedicated mobile application -- rather appropriately named 'MADAD' (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) -- later this month to enable its passengers to lodge complaints, be it over food quality or dirty toilets.
125. a India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) signed a MoU with Hyderabad based firm M/s Suraas Impex Pvt. Ltd. for developing a Mega Tourism Destination project at Bhairav Lanka in Kakinada, East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 550 crores.
126. d Veteran actor Dharmendra and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be conferred with the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement and Raj Kapoor Special Contribution awards, respectively.
127. a East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh has become the country's first 'LED street light district'.
128. b The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in cooperation with Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has hosted the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 in the national capital on April 16-17.
129. b Tata Consultancy Services Ltd is the most valuable company in India, followed by Reliance Industries Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.
130. d A team of scientists at Northwestern University, USA, led by an Indian, has developed an electronic device that can mimic the human brain. This device named "memtransistor" combines the functions of a memristor and a "transistor".
131. c The World Bank has projected a growth rate of 7.3 per cent for India this year and 7.5 per cent for 2019 and 2020.
132. b Subhash Garga economic affairs secretary, is the "alternate governor" for India on the IMF's board of governors, and heads the team in the absence of the designated governor, finance minister Arun Jaitley
133. c The garden city of Bengaluru, which topped the list of salary trends in 2017, continues to lead the pack as the highest paying city in the country, with an average annual cost to company (CTC) for talent across all levels and functions standing at about Rs 11 lakh.
134. c Pakistan successfully test fired an enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile that can deliver conventional and non-conventional weapons with a range of 700 kilometres.

135. c Chinese scientists have developed a new device of 3D hollow-cone structure that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency.
136. b Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari has announced development of a new highway alignment between Delhi and Mumbai. A sum of one lakh crore rupees will be spent on this expressway.
137. b Hero Future Energies has commissioned the country's first large-scale hybrid renewable energy project a combination of sun and wind power in Karnataka's Raichur district.
138. c India was ranked 10th on a new Commonwealth Innovation Index, topped by the UK, Singapore and Canada.
139. d Kotak Mahindra Bank, once known for broking and deal making, surpassed the country's largest state-run commercial lender State Bank of India in market value for the first time to become the second-most valuable bank in India after HDFC Bank.
140. a Manali is doing all possible to become first "honk free" town of country. The administration here believes that a series of awareness campaigns, rallies and education programmes will help in making the town noise free.
141. b India has signed an agreement with the World Bank for a USD 48 million loan to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected area in Meghalaya.
142. d Private sector lending major Yes Bank recently announced the launch of 'YES GST', an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Through this first-of-its-kind, industry first initiative, an MSME can avail OD up to Rs. 1 crore, based on their annual turnover, backed by GST returns.
143. b Electrosteel Steels has become the first of the 'Dirty Dozen' to be resolved under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approving the resolution plan submitted by Resources conglomerate Vedanta.
144. b Veteran actor Anupam Kher, who has done exemplary work not only in India but also collaborated with top directors in the west, will be given a special award for his contribution to Indian theatre and cinema.
145. c Aditi Rao Hydari added another trophy to her achievements as she has received Dada Saheb Phalke excellence award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award) for her memorable performance in 'Bhoomi'.
146. b Eyeing at assisting the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in exports, Commerce and Industry Minister launched the FIEO GlobalLinker platform for MSME exporters
147. c India is now the world's sixth largest economy, displacing France. The five economies ahead are the United States, China, Japan, Germany and United Kingdom.
148. a The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018, also known as CHOGM 2018 is the current and 25th meeting of the heads of government of the Commonwealth of Nations. It will be held in the United Kingdom.
149. c The government will cover 235 districts in the second phase of its POSHAN Abhiyaan which aims to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia among children, women and adolescent girls along with reducing low birth weight in the country.
150. c Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched a health scheme of the Assam government that offers free medical care of up to 2 lakh rupees for every individual from Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.
151. c Indian scientists have formulated an Ayurvedic drug to cure dengue, claimed to be the first in the world, and the medicine is likely to be available in the market by next year.
152. d World Heritage Day is an annual event celebrated on 18 April with an aim to preserve heritage and recognize the efforts of all relevant organizations in the field.

153. c Filmmaker Karan Johar will get a wax statue at Madame Tussauds London.
154. c Kendrick Lamar becomes the first rapper to win Pulitzer Prize for music.
155. b Cuba selected First Vice President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez as sole candidate to succeed Raul Castro as president of Cuba
156. c Business tycoon and India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, and human rights lawyer Indira Jaising have been named by Fortune magazine as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018.
157. c India will host the Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC) this year, which is expected to be attended by people from 24 Asia-Pacific countries.
158. c According to a government notification, the Defence Planning Committee (DPC) headed by NSA Ajit Doval, will prepare a draft national security strategy, develop a capability development plan, and work on defence diplomacy issues and improving defence manufacturing in India.
159. b Chinese-owned AMC Entertainment will open the first commercial cinema on Saudi Arabian soil in 35 years in April 2018.
160. d Madhya Pradesh has bagged the Most Film Friendly State Award given by the central government for its efforts to ease filming in the state by creating a well-structured website, film friendly infrastructure and more.
161. c At a time when the banking sector is going through a topsy-turvy phase, the TRA Brand Trust Report 2018 said the State Bank of India was the most-trusted bank (both public and private sector) in the country and ICICI Bank topped the chart among the private ones.
162. a Dilip Chenoy was appointed as the Secretary General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from succeeding Sanjaya Baru. Chenoy was working as Director General of the industry body till now.
163. a On April 21, 2018, the first official World Creativity and Innovation Day (#WCID) was celebrated. Observed six days after Leonardo da Vinci's birthday and one day before International Mother Earth Day, #WCID is well positioned to encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking to help us achieve the sustainable future we want.
164. b The first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held in the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C.
165. a e-Vidhan is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless.
166. a Nexgen Conferences, one of India's leading conferences and B2B event organizers, has announced that the third edition of the Annual 5G India Congress 2018 was held on April 20 in Delhi.
167. c Work is at full swing to complete Nepal-India cross border petroleum pipeline project from Motihari to Amlekhgunj. The 69-km pipeline with a capacity of supplying 2 million tons of petroleum products per annum is expected to be completed in another 45 days.
168. b Syria has returned to France the prestigious Légion d'honneur presented to President Bashar al-Assad.
169. a The US Senate has confirmed Jim Bridenstine to head up the space agency.
170. d Two day Regional Conference on "Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges" concluded in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
171. a About 190 million Indian adults still don't have a bank account, second only to China, despite the account ownership more than doubling from 35 per cent in 2011 to 80 per cent in 2017, a World Bank report.

172. c Skipper Sunil Chhetri led from the front with a brace as Bengaluru FC thrashed 10-man East Bengal 4-1 to win the inaugural Super Cup football tournament.
173. a
174. d UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath's Facebook page has been judged the most popular among all other chief ministers in the country.
175. b The Malaria Summit was held in London, United Kingdom organisations to make game-changing commitments towards beating malaria. It was organized by non-profit organisation Malaria No More in conjunction with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and supported by British Prime Minister Theresa May.
176. b Over one hundred and fifty participants from 31 countries and 400 entrepreneurs from India are expected to participate in the four day International SME convention being held in New Delhi from 22nd to 24th April.
177. c April 21, is commemorated as the Civil Services Day in India. The Government of India observes this day every year as one dedicated to the civil servants since it was on this day in 1947 when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, independent India's first home minister, had addressed the soon-to-be independent country's first batch of civil servants at Metcalf House in Delhi.
178. d Differently-abled Indian arm wrestler Shrimant Jha made the country proud by picking up a bronze medal at the Asian Armwrestling Championship, which is being held from April 16 to April 22 in Kazakhstan.
179. b The Mumbai Football Arena, the new hub of Indian football will play host to the inaugural edition of the four-nation Intercontinental Cup from June 1 to 10.
180. b A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee has achieved a measure of success by finding a small molecule that has good antiviral activity against chikungunya virus. The antiviral activity was so high that the small molecule was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in the virus when 5 micro Molar was used.
181. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured bureaucrats for making Manipur's Karang the first cashless island of the country, and implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other priority initiatives of the Centre.
182. a Manipur is observed Khongjom Day to pay tributes to the great warriors of Anglo-Manipur battle of 1891 at Khongjom in Thoubal district.
183. b Bengal has once again topped in the country with Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP) bagging the Centre's award for the best GP in the country.
184. d Taniya Sanyal has been appointed as first ever woman firefighter of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Kolkata girl Taniya Sanyal will join their ranks after completing training that she is undergoing in the city.
185. b Mario Abdo Benitez, who represents Paraguay's long-dominant Colorado conservatives, won presidential poll, landing the top job in one of Latin America's poorest countries.
186. c IT bellwether TCS created history by becoming the first Indian listed company to hit the coveted \$100 billion m-cap figure.
187. d On the occasion of Earth Day, leaders across India and the world voiced solidarity over protection and preservation of the planet, with emphasis on reduction of plastic use and adopting a sustainable lifestyle.
188. c President Ram Nath Kovind has congratulated Indian women and men athletes for winning gold medals at the 8th South Asian Judo Championship in Nepal.
189. d The Diu Smart City has become the first city in India that runs on 100 per cent renewable energy during the daytime, setting a bench-mark for other cities to follow.

190. d Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu rejected the impeachment notice signed by 71 opposition MPs of the Upper House, seven of whom retired last month, against Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, citing absence of any "proved misbehaviour" or "incapacity" on the part of the senior judge. As per Article 124(4) of the Constitution, a Supreme Court judge can be impeached only if there is a case of "proved misbehaviour" or "incapacity" on his part.
191. b Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland says Canada and the European Union will host the world's first female foreign ministers' meeting in September. Freeland, who chairs a foreign ministerial meeting of the G7, made the announcement.
192. c The meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has kicked off in Beijing in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.
193. c Tata Consultancy Services became only the second Indian company to cross the \$100 billion mark in market capitalisation, buoyed by a robust outlook for its business and a weakening rupee. The software major, which listed in 2004, follows Reliance Industries Ltd., which touched the milestone on October 29, 2007.
194. c The central bank of Iran has banned domestic banks and other financial institutions from dealing in cryptocurrencies, citing money-laundering concerns first raised in a circular from December 2017.
195. d India has retained its position as the top remittances receiving country with its diaspora sending about \$69 billion back home in 2017, according to the latest report by World Bank. Remittances to India picked up sharply by 9.9% to \$69 billion in 2017, reversing the previous year's dip, but were still short of \$70.4 billion received in 2014.
196. b Tata Sons announced the appointment of former Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar as Tata Group's President, Global Corporate Affairs. Jaishankar will report to Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran.
197. b A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee has achieved a measure of success by finding a small molecule that has good antiviral activity against chikungunya virus. The antiviral activity was so high that the small molecule was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in the virus when 5 microMolar was used.
198. d World Book Day or World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on April 23. It is also known as International Day of the Book or World Book Days. The 2018 edition is entitled "READING, it's my right!", and it was an opportunity to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
199. c The Madras High Court became the first court in south India and eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility.
200. a Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Center (APCSOC) in Amaravati.
201. c India's ranking in the Press Freedom Index has fallen two places to 138, in an annual report of Reporters Without Borders (RSF), blaming "physical violence" against journalists like Gauri Lankesh as the key reason behind the country's low ranking. Norway topped the list of having the world's freest press for the second year in a row, the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said while North Korea remained the most repressive country followed by Eritrea, Turkmenistan, Syria and then China.
202. a The Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the World Bank signed a 210 million dollar loan agreement for the Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project.
203. b President Ram Nath Kovind presented gallantry awards and distinguished service decorations at the Defence Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He conferred three Kirti Chakras and thirteen Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel for displaying "conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty". Two Kirti Chakras and two of the Shaurya Chakras were given posthumously.
204. b Telangana bagged two more Geographical Indication (GI) tags for craft forms that are unique to the state. They include Adilabad Dokra, an ancient metal craft and Warangal durries or rugs, woven in handloom.



205. a The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, chaired the third meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA) held in Delhi.
206. a Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, known as Shawkan, has been selected by an independent international jury of media professionals as the laureate of the 2018 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize.
207. c Mohamed Salah has won the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award for 2017-18.
208. c The first International SME Convention organised by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises concluded in New Delhi on 24th April.
209. b A Chandigarh based lawyer has filed a PIL in Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking quashing of the impeachment provisions in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. The lawyer, Hari Chand Arora, has contended that there are 228 MPs in the Parliament who are facing criminal cases and their interest is in conflict with the law.
210. c A Loan Agreement for IBRD credit of US\$ 125 (equivalent) for the "Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project" was signed with the World Bank on 24th April, 2018 in New Delhi.
211. d Mario Abdo Benitez has been elected as the new president of Paraguay.
212. c Technology giant Microsoft India has been declared the most attractive employer brand, followed by e-commerce giant Amazon India. The winners were named by HR service provider Randstad's Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2018.
213. a NASA's goal of returning to the moon should see a major push in early 2019, when the agency awards its first contract for the lunar 'Gateway' program. The Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway is NASA's planned 'staging' area intended for studies of the moon and the deep-space environment. Eventually, it will function as a way station for astronauts traveling to and from Mars.
214. b Indian researchers have discovered the world's smallest land fern hiding in the Ahwa forests of the Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district.
215. d The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has recommended Virat Kohli for Khel Ratna Awards once again while legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar has been recommended for Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports. Former India captain Rahul Dravid's name has been sent for Dronacharya Award.
216. d World Malaria Day (WMD) is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April and recognizes global efforts to control malaria. Globally, 3.3 billion people in 106 countries are at risk of malaria.
217. d As part of ongoing Indo-Malaysian defence cooperation, a joint training exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI is being conducted in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia from 30 April 18 to 13 May 18. The exercise is aimed at bolstering cooperation & coordination between armed forces of both the nations and to share the expertise of both the contingents in conduct of counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain.
218. c Senior advocate Indu Malhotra, who has become the seventh woman judge of the Supreme Court and the first to be elevated directly from the Bar, has contributed to legal intervention in several fields including human rights, arbitration and commercial matters.
219. a Meghalaya government has come up with Lakadong Mission Document launched by Governor Ganga Prasad, to set a target of production to 50,000 Metric Tonnes of Lakadong in a period of five years.
220. b The BJP lawmakers have the maximum number of declared cases related to hate speech, an analysis of election affidavits by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Elections Watch (NEW) has revealed. According to the analysis a total of 58 current MPs and MLAs have declared cases related to hate speech, of which 27 lawmakers are from the BJP.
221. d North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in embraced after pledging to work for the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula," punctuating a day of smiles and handshakes at the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade.

222. c UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as his new special envoy on Myanmar. Until her appointment, Burgener was the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Germany since 2015. Burgener has over 25 years of experience in diplomacy having served in various high-level government positions in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.
223. c The third ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV project was inducted into the Indian Navy at Port Blair. The ship was commissioned as INLCU L53 by Vice Admiral Bimal Verma, AVSM, ADC, and Commander-in-Chief A&N Command. Designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, the ship showcases the immense potential of the country's indigenous ship building capability and is in consonance with the national goal of 'Make in India'.
224. a The BCCI recommended India opener Shikhar Dhawan and women's team player Smriti Mandhana for the Arjuna award.
225. d World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on 26 April. The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2018 is - Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity.
226. b The National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi in collaboration with the Embassy of Israel in India and the Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Israel is organizing an exhibition titled 'To the End of Land'-contemporary art from Israel on the occasion of 25 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The exhibition was inaugurated on 28th of April, 2018 at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
227. a The Haryana government has appointed international shooter Gauri Sheoran the brand ambassador for its two health-related programmes.
228. c The HRD ministry launched the second edition of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in New Delhi under which students from 750 higher educational institutions from across the country will adopt villages and visit them to get acquainted with lifestyle of people there and the problems faced by them.
229. d Bangladesh is all set to become a member of the exclusive club of satellite-owning countries as its first commercial satellite "Bangabandhu-1" will likely be flying to space on May 7 from the US. The satellite will be launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral.
230. a Visa-related cooperation between Kazakhstan and India will undergo a further positive change with the Government of Kazakhstan introducing a 72-hour-long transit visa free regime for Indian citizens from April 17 to December 31, 2018. Nursultan Nazarbayev is a Kazakh statesman serving as President of Kazakhstan since the office was created on April 24, 1990.
231. b Mike Pompeo took over as America's top diplomat after being confirmed by the Senate and sworn in across the street minutes later. The new secretary of state immediately dashed off to Europe in an energetic start befitting the high-stakes issues awaiting him from Iran to North Korea.
232. a The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed a next-generation bulletproof jacket for the Indian armed forces, which is not only cheaper but also much lighter.
233. c In the highland plateaus of the Western Ghats parts of Goa, scientists have identified a new species of frog called Fejervarya goemchi. The new species is named after the historical name of the state of Goa where the species is discovered. The new species has been found by a team of scientists led by K P Dinesh, from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Pune, in the state's rooftop village of Surla. The frog derives its name from the state's historical name.
234. d The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that the Smart Cities Mission is the beginning of India's urban renaissance. He was addressing the gathering after releasing the Book 'Smart Cities Unbundled' authored by Dr. Sameer Sharma in New Delhi.
235. d Gujarati poet, playwright and academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra has been selected for the 2017 Saraswati Samman for his collection of verses titled Vakhar.

236. b An industrial microgrid with battery energy storage, believed to be the first in India, has been inaugurated. ABB has installed the technology at its Vadodra manufacturing facility in the state of Gujarat.
237. c The Indian Culinary Institute (ICI), Noida campus was inaugurated by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism Shri K. J. Alphons in presence of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma for starting culinary courses.
238. b The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has become the country's first hospital to set up Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN), an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of patients with small tumour-like spots in the lungs, which can be cancerous.
239. b The agency affirmed India's rating at BBB-, which is at the junk bond or lowest investment grade with a stable outlook.
240. a Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, released a book by former Planning Commission and Finance Commission member
241. Sikkim Chief Minister and Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) founder Pawan Kumar Chamling surpassed the record of former West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu by becoming the longest serving Chief Minister of any Indian state.
242. b Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) K E Krishnamurthy initiated Andhra Pradesh government's new project called 'Bhu Seva' (land hub), which aims at providing integrated services related with the land. Under this project, each land parcel will be given a Bhudhar Number, an 11 digit unique number. It will be useful for easy identification of the details of land parcel as a unique ID.
243. a India imported about 2.4 million dollars worth of iron and steel, iron and steel products, copper and zinc from North Korea last year and exported precious metals and stones worth USD 578,994 to the country in violation of UN Security Council resolutions banning such trade with North Korea, according to a report by an UN panel of experts.
244. a An India-Nepal Inter Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade, led by Commerce Secretaries of the two Governments, is functioning under the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade and India-Nepal Treaty of Transit. A meeting of the IGC was held on 26-27 April 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal with the Indian delegation led by Ms. Rita Teatota, Commerce Secretary and the Nepali delegation headed by Shri Chandra Kumar Ghimire, Commerce Secretary of Nepal.
245. d The Indian economy is witnessing a "cyclical upswing" and the country is likely clock a GDP growth of 7.5% this financial year, says a Deutsche Bank research report. "Our current growth forecast for 2018-19 is 7.5% (RBI estimate is 7.4%), which will mark an improvement from the 6.7% likely outturn in 2017-18," the global financial services major said.
246. a HDFC Bank has announced the launch of IRA 2.0, its interactive humanoid. In its new avatar, IRA will enhance user experience for customers visiting the Koramangala branch in Bengaluru.
247. a The world's largest plane is set to take flight within the next few months after successfully conducting three more taxi tests. A brainchild of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, Stratolaunch is the world's largest aircraft by wingspan and largest all-composite plane ever built - its wingspan is the length of an American football field or 117.3 metres.
248. d International Dance Day is a global celebration of dance, created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO. The event takes place every year on 29th April, the anniversary of the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), the creator of modern ballet.

249. c Commonwealth Games 2018 gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been recommended for the country's highest sporting honour the Khel Ratna Award by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
250. d The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has nominated legendary athlete turned coach PT Usha and India youth team coach, Sanjay Garnaik for the Dronacharya Award.

