

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2018



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Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu government launched Amma Free Wi-Fi zones in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu on 5th April 2018.

This scheme was announced by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J.Jayalalithaa in September 2016. It was said that Wi-Fi zones will be set up in 50 spots, mainly in larger bus terminals, parks and commercial complexes. Amma Free Wi-Fi zones have been introduced at the following five locations namely Labour Statue at Marina, Chennai, Central Bus stand at Salem, Central Bus stand at Tiruchirappalli, Gandhipuram Bus Stand in Coimbatore and Mattu Thavani Bus Stand in Madurai. Users of Amma Free Wi-Fi zones will be offered 20 minutes of free internet service per day. After that the users will be charged Rs 10 per hour. This scheme will be implemented in 50 spots by Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV). Cost of this project is Rs 8.50 crore.

‘Uzhavan’ (farmer)- a bilingual mobile application in a bid to use technology for benefit of farmers was launched by Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palanisamy.

The app available in Tamil and English language will allow ryots to have access to nine types of services, including details about their crop insurance. It will also provide information on available stocks of seeds and fertilisers in local government and private stores. Tamil Nadu Government also launched ‘Amma Bio-Fertiliser’ scheme named after late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa. It is aimed at better management of nature farming and help boost and maintain soil fertility.

Mahindra Defence Systems signed an agreement with ShinMaywa Industries, Japan, to manufacture and assemble amphibious aircraft ShinMaywa US-2 in India

At the 10th edition of DefExpo in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. As per the MoU, both the companies

will develop a strategic partnership. ShinMaywa US-2 is a unique aircraft. It is the only ‘in-service’ open sea-capable amphibian aircraft with advanced equipment suitable for rough sea operations.

The four-day DefExpo begins Tenth edition of India’s mega defence exhibition, DefExpo 2018 began at Thiruvidadanthal (on the outskirts of Chennai) on April 11, 2018.



Highlights of DefExpo 2018:

- i.** DefExpo 2018 was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 12, 2018.
- ii.** This exhibition of weapons and military hardware **showcases India’s defence manufacturing capabilities to the world.**
- iii.** Live demonstrations, flying display and seminars on weapons and military hardware will be held during the course of this four-day event.
- iv.** 670 defence firms, including 154 foreign manufacturers and delegations from US, UK, Russia, France, Israel, Korea, Sweden, are participating in DefExpo 2018.
- v.** Indian Navy’s warships like INS Kamorta and INS Sahyadri will dock at Chennai harbour as a part of Defence Expo 2018. These ships will be open to the general public for visiting on 13th & 15th of April, 2018.
- vi.** Theme of Def Expo 2018 is **“India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub”.**
- vii.** It has been organised over 2.90 lakh square feet space at Thiruvidadanthal and is thus described as the

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“largest” to be conducted so far.

Over 670 defence firms, including 154 foreign manufacturers participated in the exhibition of weapons and military hardware. Over 47 countries, including US, UK, Russia, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Afghanistan, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nepal, Portugal, Seychelles and Vietnam participated in the four-day event. Under this, for the first time project India’s Defence manufacturing capabilities were showcased to the world.

The Madras High Court became first court in south India and overall eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility.

It will pave way for easier and secured way of paying stamp duty. It will also help to tackle sale of counterfeit judicial stamps. The e-stamps can be purchased online through web site of Stock Holding Corporation after simple registration process. Payments for it can be made through net banking or debit cards and so on. The new system will enable litigants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to government through e-stamps, which can be purchased both online and offline. It was jointly launched by **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami** and **Chief Justice Indira Banerjee** at the principal seat of the High Court in Chennai.

NATIONAL

Delhi became the first city in India to supply ultra-clean Bharat Stage (BS) VI grade fuel (both petrol and diesel) with an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi –NCR region.

Other cities in NCR like Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad as well as other 13 major cities, including Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune will roll-out cleaner BS-VI grade fuel from January 1 2019. State-owned oil firms have started supplying the BS-VI fuel (equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norm) at all their 391 petrol pumps in NCT.

The 114th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) between India and Pakistan was held in New Delhi

India’s Indus water commissioner PK Saxena and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officials were part of Indian delegation for annual meeting. Pakistan’s six-member delegation will be led by Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah. The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was signed in 1960. It covers the water distribution and sharing rights of six rivers of Indus river system viz, Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. The treaty specifies that waters from three western rivers viz. Indus, Jhelum and

Chenab are reserved for Pakistan, while waters from eastern rivers viz. Ravi, Sutlej and Beas are reserved for India.

“Rupashree”- a scheme to provide one-time financial support for marriage of poor girls has launched by the West Bengal government to ensure safe future for young women

This scheme was earlier announced by Amit Mitra, the Finance Minister of West Bengal, at the time of budget. Before marriage an amount of Rs 25,000 will be credited to girl’s bank account. A woman is required to fill the application form before her marriage and submit it to the office of Block Development Officer or Municipality Office to avail benefits under Rupashree. No minimum educational qualifications are required to apply for the scheme. Women should be more than 18 years of age at the time of their marriage. Annual income of a family should be less than 1.5 lakh. Beneficiary must be the permanent resident of the West Bengal.
Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

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Bharatmala Programme



Context: In order to keep up the pace to implement ambitious Bharatmala Programme, the NHAI is planning to award 3,000-odd km of projects in the next couple of months of the new fiscal. The increase in awarding of the project in FY18 is due to Bharatmala Programme. Bharatmala Project is **the second largest highways construction project in the country since NHDP**, under which almost 50,000 km or highway roads were targeted across the country. Bharatmala will look to improve connectivity particularly on economic corridors, border areas and far flung areas with an aim of quicker movement of cargo and boosting exports. Bharatmala includes economic corridors of around 9,000 km, inter-corridor and feeder routes of around 6,000 km, 5,000 km roads under the National Corridors Efficiency Program, border and international connectivity roads of around 2,000 km, coastal and port connectivity roads of around 2,000 km, expressways of around 800 km and 10,000 km of NHDP roads. The total length in phase 1 comes to around 34,800 km. **Significance of the project:**

The project is expected to create nearly 100 million man days of jobs during the road construction and subsequently 22 million jobs as a result of the increased economic activity across the country.

About NHAI:

The National Highways Authority of India was constituted by an act of Parliament, the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

It is responsible for the development, maintenance and management of NATIONAL

Highways entrusted to it and for matters connected or incidental thereto. The Authority was operationalised in Feb, 1995.

India's longest elevated road

Context: India's longest elevated road was recently inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh.

Key facts:

- The expressway is a 10.3 km long elevated road, making it the longest elevated road in the country.
- The **Hindon Elevated Road** will be connecting **Raj Nagar Extension** in **Ghaziabad** to UP Gate.

India is now second largest mobile phone producer:

Context: India has emerged as the second largest mobile phone producer in the world after China.

Key facts:

- According to the data shared by ICA, annual production of mobile phones in India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to 11 million units in 2017.
- India replaced **Vietnam** to become second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017.
- With the rise in mobile phone production, imports of the devices in the country also reduced to less than half in 2017-18.

"Thank You India" Campaign 2018:

What is it? The exiled government of Tibet has launched a year-long "Thank you India" campaign to mark the **60th year** of the arrival of the **spiritual leader Dalai Lama** to India.

World-Class tourist amenities at Konark Sun Temple coincided with Utkal Diwas the foundation day of Odisha State was inaugurated by Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Visitor-friendly infrastructure and facilities at Konark Sun Temple have been developed by Indian Oil Foundation (IOF), a trust formed by Indian Oil Corporation. Most prominent amenity at the temple is the world class interpretation centre which will not only educate tourists about the temple's rich history but will also showcase natural and cultural heritage of Odisha.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2018 or NIRF-3 released by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

This year it is third edition NIRF survey and was released as part of India Rankings 2018 for the Educational Institutions. The Indian Institute of Sciences, Bengaluru topped the list of Overall Rankings followed by IIT Madras at 2nd position, IIT Bombay at 3rd, IIT Delhi at 4th and IIT Kharagpur at fifth position. IISC Bengaluru also topped the University rankings, followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University and Benares Hindu University at second and third position, respectively. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) was adjudged best engineering college and Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) the best management institution. Delhi University's Miranda House was adjudged best college, AIIMS-Delhi as best medical college and NLSIU-Bengaluru as best law school in country.

Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) programme with an aim to promote breastfeeding was launched by Himachal Pradesh Health Minister Vipin Parmar on March 4, 2018.

The main objective is to create awareness among masses about the importance of breastfeeding. Breastfeeding helps in reducing incidence of infant mortality and early childhood mortality and provides complete nutrition to a child.

Jammu's first tulip garden has been set up at Sanasar health resort in Ramban district of Jammu region.

This is the first tulip garden in Jammu region. A tulip garden is present in Srinagar region of Jammu and Kashmir. **The tulip garden was developed by the Floriculture Department.** There are no time restrictions for visiting the garden. Also, no fee is charged from

visitors. This garden has been set up on half an acre of land near the Sanasar lake. Red, yellow and white tulips have been grown in the garden this year.

The Union Ministry of Tribal affairs has approved establishment of the first multipurpose "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh for value addition of Forest Produce.

It is an important part of Central Government's scheme of "Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support price (MSP) and development of Value chain for MFP". It will provide skill upgradation and capacity building training and will have primary processing and value addition facility. Initially, this Kendra will have processing facility for Tamarind brick making, Mahua flower storage facility and chironjee cleaning and packaging.

The Union Cabinet has approved closure of Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) Burn Standard Company Ltd (BSCL) under Ministry of Railways.

The closure of company will save public funds, which are

currently being used for loss making BSCL and can be used for other developmental work. This decision was taken in view of continuous poor physical and financial performance of company for more than decade despite financial assistance and other support from government and low probability of its revival in future.

The Union Cabinet chaired gave its approval for rightsizing Competition Commission of India (CCI) from one Chairperson and six Members (totalling seven) to one Chairperson and three Members (totalling four).

The downsizing proposal of CCI is expected to result in reduction of three Posts of members CCI in pursuance of Government's objective of "Minimum Government – Maximum Governance". It will be done by not filling existing two vacancies of members and one more additional vacancy,

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which is expected in September 2018 when one incumbent member complete his term.

A MoU signed between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector was approved by the union cabinet.

The MoU will provide platform to Indian Railways to interact and share latest developments and knowledge in railway sector. It will facilitate exchange of information, expert meetings, technical visits and implementation of jointly agreed cooperation projects between both countries. The MoU was signed in February 2018 with Federal Transport Authority – Land & Maritime of UAE.

The Union Cabinet on April 4, 2018 approved the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018, aimed at protection and promotion of human rights in India.

It proposes to include the 'National Commission for Protection of Child Rights' as deemed Member of the National Human Rights Commission. The Bill aims to strengthen the human rights institutions of India for effective discharge of their mandates, roles and responsibilities.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated first flight from Delhi to Pathankot (in Punjab), at a ceremony held at the Indira

Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on 5th April 2018. It is the 21st airport in India, which has become operational for passengers.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched a transformation campaign to improve the standard of education in the government schools of Uttarakhand.

The main purpose of this campaign is to start smart classes in government schools and provide them with all basic facilities required by students like safe buildings, clean drinking water, furniture, fans, heaters, sports material and computers.

On 5th April 2018, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched the modernisation of the Government Press.

The Government Press serves both the Houses of Parliament during session for printing services. It also prints important gazette notifications, ordinances and budget related materials. The Government Press will be modernised with advanced technology and machineries after it is re-developed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). It will be made ready by 2020. Amount sanctioned for the total project is Rs 338.56 crore. Out of this Rs 100 crore has been allotted for plant and machineries.

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) approved the sale of its tower and fibre business by Reliance Communications Ltd (RCom).

Earlier, NCLAT prevented RCom from selling any asset without its permission, following a legal challenge from Swedish telecoms gear maker Ericsson. Proceeds of the sale will be deposited with the State Bank of India.

The Union Minister of State for MSME Giriraj Singh launched a mobile phone application for locating 4000 Khadi stores in the country.

There are more than 8000 Khadi stores in India, the rest of stores will also be available on the store locator by the end of month. The Khadi products are manufactured by about 7 lakh privately owned household units which are funded through schemes like the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

The Indian Railways has inducted three 09-3x Dynamic Tamping Express machines for improved mechanised Track Maintenance.

It is latest high output integrated tamping machine having multiple functions, so far being carried out by different machines. It can measure pre and post track geometry, correct track to required geometry tamp three sleepers simultaneously, stabilize and measure post tamping track parameters under load to ensure quality of work done. These machines have been manufactured in India under Make in India initiative with imported components. Indian Railways is planning to induct 42 more such

machines in its maintenance fleet over next 3 years. This advanced technology simulator is presently only available in five countries including India.

Maharashtra Government have signed US \$420 million loan agreement with World Bank for Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture to help small and marginal farmers in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra.

The project aims to help in increasing climate resilient practices in agriculture and ensuring that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity for them. It will be implemented in rural areas largely dependent upon rain fed agriculture. It will take up series of activities at farm and watershed level. The loan will be provided from World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). It will have maturity of 24 years and grace period of 6 years. This project is expected to benefit over 7 million people that are spread over area of 3.0 million hectares and cover 5142 villages across 15 most climate vulnerable districts of Maharashtra.

The imports of hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in livestock industry, where it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals has banned by the union govt. It has asked customs officials to step up vigilance against those likely to try and smuggle oxytocin into India.

Oxytocin, often called **love hormone**, is released naturally in human bonding activities such as sex, childbirth and breastfeeding. It is uterine stimulant hormone, prescribed for initiation of uterine contractions and induction of labour in women as well as stimulation of contractions during labour.

India has agreed to build strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu in Nepal to facilitate people-to-people (P2P) contact and bulk movement of goods.

This announcement was made after delegation-level talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma**. The proposal to link Raxaul to

Kathmandu with railway line comes nearly two years after China in March 2016, agreed to construct strategic railway link with Nepal through Tibet with apparent aim of reducing landlocked Nepal's dependence on India for transit connectivity. The new electrified rail line between Kathmandu and Raxaul will be financed by India. As first step towards building railway connectivity, India in consultation with Nepal will carry out preparatory survey work within one year. There are three other railway projects in pipeline between both countries viz. Nautanwa-Bhairahawa, New Jalpaiguri-Kakarbhitta and Nepalgunj Road-Nepalgunj.

The two-day Assam Spring Festival was held at Manas National Park organised by Indian Weavers' Association and Swankar Mithinga Onsai Afat, an association of reformed poachers in Manas.

The aim of the festival was to promote local food and culture of fringe villagers. It also attempted to create model of alternative livelihood through food, handloom and culture.

Uttarakhand's second Mega Food Park in Udham Singh Nagar district inaugurated by Union Food Processing Industries Minister, Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

Central Processing Centre (CPC) of this Mega Food Park will have a Multi-Purpose Cold Storage, Aseptic Brick Filling Line, Dry Warehouse, Fruit & Vegetable Processing Line, Quality Control & Food Testing Lab and other related food processing facilities. This Mega Food Park will benefit around 25000 farmers in Udham Singh Nagar district as well as neighbouring districts of Nainital, Garhwal, Almora and Champawat. Besides, it will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5000 persons. Uttarakhand's first Mega Food Park is located at Haridwar and has already become operational.

Kerala State Government will start a 'community radio' to update farmers about the latest developments in the sector in May-June

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2018 under the Farm Information Bureau (FIB) of the Kerala State's Agriculture Department.

This 'community radio' will serve as a platform to provide range of information to farmers including climate change and environment issues, tips and information on various aspects of agriculture and agrarian crisis and alerts. This will be the first such community radio in India, under Government initiative to get connected with the farming community. The farm radio will start broadcast from **Kuttanad in Alappuzha** district of Kerala and will serve farmers in a 20 square kilometre radius in the region. Kuttanad was once popularly known as the 'rice bowl of Kerala.

13th edition of Goa fest organised by the Advertising Club along with the Advertising Agencies Association of India was held at Grand Hyatt Hotel, in Bambolim, Goa from 5th to 7th April, 2018.

Social Street won the Creative Agency of the Year award, with three gold, seven silver and seven bronze metals and a score of 94. Social Street was started by Pratap Bose three years ago. Early Man Film won the Grand Prix in Creative Abby Awards.

The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific , co-organized by Ministry of Housing and Affairs, Japan's Environment Ministry, and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

The theme of this edition of forum was "Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency– A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities". The event saw participation of around 40 mayors of cities around the world and mayors of more than 100 cities across India. The Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific was launched in 2009 in Tokyo, Japan with objective of integrating 3Rs– reduce, reuse and recycle in policy, planning and development.

The 8th edition of Theatre Olympics which was inaugurated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu

in February 2018 at the majestic Red Fort in New Delhi was concluded in Mumbai, Maharashtra after glorious run of 51 days across 17 cities of India and showcasing rich heritage and culture across length and breadth of the country.

The 8th Theatre Olympics was biggest international theatre festival held in India for first time. It staged more than 400 plays and hosted 78 allied events including 34 Living Legend series, 29 Master Classes, seven Interfaces, six national and international seminars and two workshops across 17 cities. Besides, about 600 ambience performances and 250 youth forum shows were also held during the nationwide event. It was organised by National School of Drama (NSD) under Ministry of Culture. The theme of the festival was – "Flag of Friendship".

A linguist Prof Panchanan Mohanty from the University of Hyderabad (UoH) has discovered two languages recently called Walmiki and Malhar, which were "lying hidden from linguists".

The languages are categorised 'endangered' as it is spoken by a very small number of people. The Malhar is spoken by just 75 people including children from a particular community. These people live in a remote and isolated hamlet about 165 kms from Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha.

The state government of Maharashtra has announced that cancer patients would be provided with free chemotherapy treatment at district hospitals.

The first phase of the plan would start in June 2018. The move aims to ease the travelling and lodging problems of cancer patients who come to Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital in Parel, which is one of the country's premier cancer treatment facilities, for six-week chemotherapy course as a part of their treatment.

Odisha Public e-library set up by Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) and Odisha Society of America (OSA) has

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started functioning from the Berhampur Town Hall in Odisha.

The Odisha Public e-library is expected to support the library movement of Odisha and help computer literate students. The library was opened for the public on 4th April 2018. The BeMC will connect with the National Informatics Center (NIC) so that its e-Granthalaya can also be accessed. The library has employed two staff members and one technical worker. OSA (Odisha Society of America) is an association of Odia people living in the US. OSA had offered Rs 20 lakh for the e-library through chief minister's relief fund.

Gujarat is to set up India's largest 5,000MW solar park in Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR).

It will be established on 11,000 hectares of land along the Gulf of Khambhat in the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR). The construction of this solar park will attract an investment of Rs 25,000 crore and provide employment for more than 20,000 people. Gujarat state government has also planned to set up a 200MW wind park in DSIR. It would attract additional investment of Rs 1,400 crore.

Animal Husbandry Secretary Tarun Shridhar launched a website of Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh, the topmost body for state veterinary associations.

Tarun Shridhar inaugurated the website 'www.pashuchikitsakmahasangh.in'. He dedicated it to veterinarians.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport entered the club of the top 20 airports across the world, as per the Airport Council International's preliminary report on airport traffic for 2017, published on April 9, 2018.

Indira Gandhi International Airport climbed up from the year. The airport was ranked as India's busiest 22nd to the 16th position as the busiest airport in the world this airport for passenger traffic, which grew by 14.1 percent year over year. While, New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport

was pushed out of the top 20 club, with the entry of the IGI Airport.

The National Convention of Swachhagrahis (cleanliness ambassadors) at Motihari, in East Champaran district of Bihar was addressed by PM Modi to celebrate the centenary of Champaran Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhiji with the theme "Satyagraha se Swachhagrah".

According to recently published study, over quarter of nitrogen on Earth (26% of nitrogen in natural ecosystems) comes from weathering of planet's bedrock.

For centuries, prevailing science indicated that all of nitrogen on Earth available to plants comes from atmosphere. This study could greatly improve climate change projections.

'Project Dhoop' to address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD), particularly amongst the young people was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) along with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) as well as North MCD Schools.

The project aims to encourage schools to shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, mainly between 11 am to 1 pm to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.

Union Cabinet has given its approval for delegating the powers to Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Finance Minister

To award the Blocks/Contract Areas to successful bidders under Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) after International Competitive Bidding (ICB).

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The revision of pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories was approved by the union cabinet.

The revision will bring the pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories at par with that of the Secretary to the Government of India. Pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories was last revised with effect from January 1, 2006 from Rs. 26,000/- (fixed) per month to Rs.80000/- (fixed) per month plus dearness allowance, sumptuary allowance at the rate of Rs. 4,000/- per month and local allowances. After that, with effect from January 1, 2016, pay of officers of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India was revised from Rs. 80,000/- to Rs. 2,25,000/- per month as per Central Civil Services (Revised) Pay Rules, 2016. Thus, with this approval, pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories too has been revised from Rs. 80,000/- to Rs. 2,25,000/- per month with effect from January 1, 2016.

The Supreme Court on April 10, 2018 ruled that the provision of Aadhaar Act, 2016 that seeks to validate the collection of data from 2009 to 2016, the time before the Act was enacted, has been "badly " drafted.

The five judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra also noted that the supposed deemed consent for parting with biometric data can't be extended to mean giving up of fundamental right to privacy of the people.

The first international conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' was inaugurated in Kathmandu, Nepal on April 10, 2018.

The 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) ministerial meeting began in New Delhi, India on April 10, 2018. It would conclude on April 12. The theme of the forum is "The Future of Global Energy Security: Transition, Technology, Trade and Investment".

The Supreme Court ruled on April 11, 2018 that the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the 'first among equals' and has the constitutional authority to decide allocation of cases and setting up of benches to hear them.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud ruled this while dismissing a PIL seeking framing of guidelines for rational and transparent allocation of cases and constitution of benches to hear them. The PIL was filed in the backdrop of the January 12, 2018 press conference by senior-most apex court judges- J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph.

The newly constituted NITI Forum first meeting for Northeast was held in Agartala, Tripura which was organised by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER) and North Eastern Council (NEC).

Representatives of all eight member northeastern states Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura participated in it. It was constituted in February 2018 with an aim to ensure sustainable economic growth of North Eastern Region (NER) and periodically review the development status in NER. It has its Secretariat in the Ministry of DoNER. The highlights of meeting are i) They were outlined for promoting sectors like horticulture, tourism and food processing in the region. Other missions will cover bamboo-based handicrafts and medium scale industries with focus on 'Make in North-East'. The focus of development projects in region will be based on the concept of "HIRA" which stands for Highways, Internet ways, Railways and Airways. There will be also emphasis on education, health and skill development in the region.

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Cabinet committee on economic affairs approved the framework for Coal Bed Methane Extraction by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its Subsidiaries.

This decision came in line with Government's 'Ease of Doing Business Initiative'. It will expedite the exploration and exploitation of CBM, enhance the availability of natural gas and reduce the gap in demand and supply of natural gas. Besides, it will also generate employment opportunities in CBM operations and in related industries.

12-member committee headed by Regional Director (Western Region) Manmohan Juneja to review enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions has been constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) under Companies Act, 2013.

It will revisit guidelines for enforcement of CSR provisions and basis, including structure of Centralised Scrutiny and Prosecution Mechanism (CSPM).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first high-speed electric locomotive with 12000 horsepower (HP) engine with maximum speed of 110 km per hour from Madhepura Electric Locomotive Factory in Bihar.

It is first big Make-in-India project developed and completed by Indian Railways in collaboration with French firm Alstome. Till now, most powerful electric engine in Indian Railways was of 6,000 HP. With this, India joins elite list of countries, including Russia, China, Germany and Sweden that have 12,000 HP and above capacity electric locomotive. With 100% electrification, they will bring down operating costs of Indian Railways and also significantly cut down greenhouse gas emission.

The 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting from 10-12th April 2018 was hosted by India in New Delhi.

This is second time India hosting IEF Ministerial meeting. It had earlier hosted 5th IEF Ministerial in 1996 at Goa. This was inaugurated by PM Modi with the theme of 2018 was "The Future of Global Energy Security: Transition, Technology, Trade and Investment". It was attended by Petroleum Ministers from 42 countries and was co-hosted by China and South Korea. It was aimed to improve policy and investment decisions, and through increased knowledge and experience sharing. The IEF is an inter-governmental arrangement set up in 1991 and based (Secretariat) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The IEF Ministerial Meetings are held biennially and is world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers who engage in dialogue on global energy issues.

The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued Expression of Interest (EoI) for first offshore wind energy project of India.

The proposed area first offshore wind energy project is located 23-40 km seaward side from Pipavav port in Gujarat. MNRE is planning to install at least 5 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2022. Under it, Chennai based NIWE was designated nodal agency to carry out necessary studies and surveys before final bidding of offshore wind project sites. NIWE has identified areas off coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu for development of offshore wind power. It had had installed first offshore LiDAR in Gulf of Khambhat for measurement of wind resource and is collecting wind speed data from November 2017. It will install second LiDAR off Tamil Nadu coast by September, 2018.

A MoU was signed between India and Morocco in the field of Mining and Geology for a period of 5 years to promote mineral exploration in New Delhi after the bilateral discussions

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between Mines Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and his Moroccan counterpart Aziz Rabbah.

The signing of Host country (Headquarters) agreement between India and International Solar Alliance (ISA) was approved by the Union Cabinet. The agreement gives ISA juridical personality power to contract, acquire and dispose of movable and immovable properties and also to institute and defend legal proceedings. The agreement was signed between Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and ISA in March, 2018.

The Maharashtra state government on April 11, 2018 announced cash prizes for all the players from the state who have bagged medals in the ongoing Commonwealth Games Gold Coast. An official notification from the state's Chief Minister's office mentioned that **each gold medal winner will be rewarded with a cash prize of 50 lakh rupees, silver medalists with 30 lakh rupees and bronze medalists will be awarded 20 lakh rupees each bronze.** Madhurika Patkar and Pooja Sahasrabuddhe, both from Thane, and Sanil Shetty have bagged gold in table tennis. Chirag C Shetty of Vile Parle has also bagged a gold medal in badminton. Besides, Heena Sidhu, who lives in the Mumbai suburb of Goregaon, also won a gold and silver medal in two categories of pistol shooting. The coaches would also be honoured with **12.5 lakh rupees, 7.5 lakh rupees and 5 lakh rupees, respectively for each gold, silver and bronze medal won by the players from the state.**

A committee was constituted by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development on April 11, 2018 under the Chairmanship of Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama to eliminate the fear of maths among the students.

The committee will also suggest the ways to make the maths subject easy and will submit its report in July 2018.

The Supreme Court on April 11, 2018 asked the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board to show documents signed by Mughal emperor Shah

Jahan to prove its ownership on the iconic Taj Mahal, a 17th century monument.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud asked the Waqf board counsel to authenticate through documents that Shah Jahan had executed a 'Waqfnama' in favour of the waqf board. Waqfnama is a document through which a person conveys intention to donate a property or land to waqf for charitable.

An agreement for up gradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lane with earthen shoulder was signed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

This project is part of India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway and will be NHAI's first international project. The project aims to provide seamless vehicular movement for enhancing trade, business, health, education and tourism between Indian, Myanmar and Thailand.

A 13-member task force has been constituted by the union government to prepare road map and fast-track implementation of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology or drones in the country.

It will be headed by Minister of State (MoS) for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha and will have representatives from government, PSUs, industry and sectoral experts.

According to Amnesty International's global report 'Death Sentences and Executions', the Indian courts gave away 109 death sentences in 2017 but no executions were carried out.

The report was released on April 12, 2018. The report stated that the number of death sentences imposed by the Indian courts in 2017 had come down by 27, as in 2016 the courts had pronounced 136 death sentences.

Indian Dalit organisations on April 12, 2018 announced to observe 14 April, the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar, as the Protect Constitution Day.

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These groups have also demanded that the Union government should immediately bring an ordinance to restore the original Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. They also urged for the inclusion of the Act in the Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution to ensure that there can't be any more revisions in the Act.

Haryana State Government has approved the slum-in-situ rehabilitation policy in line with Housing for All-2018, under which, urban slum dwellers on Government land will be provided housing facility without relocating them to other areas.

Rs 1.67 lakh per dwelling unit will be provided to developer for construction of houses for these urban slum dwellers as per the policy approved by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

Ministry of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs launched Smart Imprest Cards & e-Measurement Book (e-MB) on PFMS portal for CPWD (Central Public Works Department).

This is the first integrated web based module in Civil Ministries to monitor and track both the financial progress – utilization of funds and related physical progress captured through e-MB of various works in CPWD projects.

Phase-1 of FAME India Scheme to provide financial support to electric and hybrid vehicles was extended by another six months till 30 September 2018 or till launch of phase-II by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

The second edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC-2018) organised by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) will be held in New Delhi on October 25-27, 2018.

The theme of second edition of IMC is NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS Connect, Create, innovate. It expects participation of more than 200,000 professionals. The exhibition would feature more than 1,300 exhibitors. The first IMC held in

September 2017 was attended by around 2,000 delegates, 32,000 visitors, 152 speakers, 100 exhibitors and 100 start-ups.

forex (foreign exchange) reserves have touched record high of \$424.864 billion in April 2018 according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). India's

The surge was due to massive spike in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a key component of the reserves.

Prime Minister Modi launched first of 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres, planned under the recently launched Ayushman Bharat Scheme, at Jangla village in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14, 2018.

Ayushman Bharat Scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet on March 21, 2018 with budgetary support of Rs 10500 crore.

Tripura State Government approved Rs 50.67 crore to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bodhjungle,

located 15 km away from Agartala on April 12, 2018. Bodhjungle is one of North Eastern region's biggest industrial zones. Decision to set up IIIT at Bodhjungle in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode was taken in 2012. However, the project could not take off due to non clearance of funds from the previous Left Front government. The institute would be set up on 52.08 acres land and the total project cost would be Rs 128 crore.

Andhra transforming its capital into world class city in its de facto capital Amaravati.

Nearly 3840 apartments in 61 towers are under construction in the Amaravati capital region.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has signed a MoU with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to provide skill training to 500 youth and women at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.

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As per the terms of the MoU, firstly, NSDC will conduct a baseline survey in 19 villages in Tirunelveli district to assess nature and extent of talent gap and will accordingly identify job roles for the training. Thereafter, NSDC will impart training through its approved training partners near KKNPP. The objective is to provide gainful employment (wage and self-employment) to nearly 70 percent of the trained candidates post-training.

AFSPA lifted in Meghalaya



Context: The Centre has removed the AFSPA from Meghalaya, from April 1 onwards. Earlier, the Act was effective in the State in the 20 km area along its border with Assam. In Arunachal Pradesh, the AFSPA has been restricted to eight police stations, instead of 16 earlier.

In simple terms, AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “**disturbed areas**”. They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law. If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search a premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.

Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest

police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.

The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area. A suitable notification would have to be made in the Official Gazette. As per Section 3, it can be invoked in places where “**the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary**”.

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament and it was approved by the President on **September 11, 1958**. It became known as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958.

Sagar Kavach:



Context: Coastal security exercise “Sagar Kavach” was recently held in Goa.

Key facts:

- The exercise is conducted half yearly with an objective to check coastal security mechanism and validate standard operating procedures.
- The organisations participating in the exercise are Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Police, Police Special Branch, Intelligence Bureau, Customs, Department of Port, Department of Fisheries, Director General of Lighthouses and light ships and Fishing Community.

Scheduled areas

What are Scheduled Areas?

- Indian Constitution, under Article 244(1) of the Fifth Schedule, defines the term 'Scheduled Areas' as "such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas"
- The Scheduled Areas, have been declared in eight States, viz A.P., Bihar, Gujarat, H.P., Maharashtra, M.P., Odisha and Rajasthan.
- The president may schedule, reschedule and alter Scheduled Areas in a state after consultation with the Governor of that state.

Context: The Union Cabinet has given approval to the declaration of Scheduled Areas in respect of Rajasthan under Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India. This will ensure that the Scheduled Tribes of Rajasthan will get benefits of protective measures available under the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

What are scheduled areas?

As per the Fifth Schedule {Article 244(1)} to the Constitution of India, the expression 'Scheduled Areas' means 'such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas'.

Alternation of boundaries: In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6(2) of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution, the President may at any time by order increase the area of any Scheduled Area in a State after consultation with the Governor of that State; rescind, in relation to any State or States, any order or orders made under this paragraph, and in consultation with the Governor of the State concerned, make fresh orders redefining the areas which are to be Scheduled Areas.

The current fifth scheduled areas are in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

Administration of these areas:

- The Executive power of the Union shall extend to giving directions to the respective States

regarding the administration of the Scheduled Areas.

- The Governors of the State in which there are "Scheduled areas" have to submit reports to the President regarding the administration of such Areas, annually or whenever required by the President.
- Tribes Advisory Councils are to be constituted to give advice on such matters as welfare and advancement of the Scheduled Tribes.
- The Governor is authorised to direct that any particular Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of the State shall not apply to a Scheduled Area or shall apply, only subject to exceptions or modifications. The Governor is also authorised to make regulations to prohibit or restrict the transfer of land by, or among members of the Scheduled Tribes.
- The Governor may make regulations for the peace and good government of any area in a State which is for the time being a Scheduled Area.
- These provisions of the Constitution relating to the administration of the Scheduled Areas and Tribes may be altered by Parliament or by ordinary legislation.
- The Constitution provides for the appointment of a Commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled Areas and the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the States.
- The President may appoint such Commission at any time, but the appointment of such Commission at the end of 10 years from the commencement of the Constitution was obligatory.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0



Context: Human Resource Development Ministry has launched Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0.

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About Unnat Bharat Abhiyan:

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Human Resources Development, with the intention to enrich Rural India.
- It aims to leverage the knowledge base and resources of the Premier Institutions of the country to bring in transformational change in rural developmental process.
- It also aims to create a vibrant relationship between the society and the higher educational institutes, with the latter providing the knowledge and technology support to improve the livelihoods in rural areas and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and private organisations in the society.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0:

- Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0, the institutions have been selected on a Challenge Mode and the scheme has been extended to 750 reputed Higher Educational Institutes (both public and private) of the country.
- Also, scope for providing Subject Expert Groups and Regional Coordinating Institutes to handhold and guide the participating institutions has been strengthened.
- ***IIT Delhi has been designated to function as the National Coordinating Institute for this programme*** and the Ministry intends to extend the coverage to all the reputed Higher Educational Institutes, in a phased manner. Each selected institute would adopt a cluster of villages / panchayats and gradually expand the outreach over a period of time.

Significance of the programme:

Institutes through their faculty and students, will carry out studies of living conditions in the adopted villages, assess the local problems and needs, workout the possibilities of leveraging the technological interventions and the need to improve the processes in implementation of various government schemes, prepare workable action plans for the selected villages. Such knowledge inputs would make their way into the development programmes in rural areas.

The Institutes would be expected to closely coordinate with the district administration, elected public representatives of panchayat / villages and other stakeholders and will become very much a part of the process of development planning and their implementation.

National Bamboo Mission



Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Bamboo Mission (NBM) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) during remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20). The Mission would ensure holistic development of the bamboo sector by addressing complete value chain and establishing effective linkage of producers (farmers) with industry.

Implementation: The Mission will focus on development of bamboo in limited States where it has social, commercial and economical advantage with focus on genetically superior planting material of bamboo species of commercial and industrial demand.

Beneficiaries:

The scheme will benefit directly and indirectly the farmers as well as local artisans and associated personnels engaged in bamboo sector including associated industries. Since it is proposed to bring about one lakh ha area under plantation, it is expected that about one lakh farmers would be directly benefitted in terms of plantation.

States/ districts covered:

The Mission will focus on development of bamboo in limited States where it has social, commercial and economical advantage, particularly in the North Eastern region and States including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The first regional conference of eastern states on Water Resources was held in Kolkata, West Bengal in bid

To address outstanding water resources issues. The conference was aimed at addressing outstanding water resources issues, inter-state issues, intra and inter-basin issues among five eastern states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.

The biannual Army Commanders' Conference will begin in New Delhi on April 16, 2018.

Chaired by Army Chief General Bipin Rawat, the senior commanders will deliberate on specific issues to Army formations and Army as a whole at the conference. The Army Commanders' Conference is held biannually for formulating important policy decisions through collegiate deliberations. It is an important event for planning and execution process of the Indian Army. The important issues that are likely to come up for discussion include management of the extant security dynamics, mitigation of future security threats and enhancement of combat edge over potential adversaries.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a 2.5-km-long bridge built over the Ib river in Sambalpur district on 15th April 2018.

This is Odisha's second longest bridge and has been built at a cost of Rs. 117.50 crore. The bridge has enabled direct road connectivity between Sambalpur and Brajarajnagar in Jharsuguda district. By Commuting through this bridge, distance between these two places is reduced by 50km.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018.

The amended Rules state that, the phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP) is now applicable to MLP that are non-recyclable, or non-energy recoverable, or with no alternate use. Rule 15 of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018 on "explicit pricing of carry bags" has been omitted. The Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018, was notified by the ministry on 27th March 2018. The amended Rules state that i) a central registration system for the registration of the producer/importer/brand owner is prescribed ii) any mechanism for the registration should be automated and should take into account ease of doing business for producers, recyclers and manufacturers iii) the centralised registration system will be developed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the registration of the producer/importer/brand owner iv) a national registry is prescribed for producers with presence in more than two states v) a state-level registration has been prescribed for smaller producers/brand owners operating within one or two states.

POSHAN Abhiyaan - the first meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges was held in New Delhi. POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan in March 2018. POSHAN stands for Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition. It aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.

A draft of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) proposing multiple strategies to reduce air pollution was released by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

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The goal of NCAP is to meet prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in country in a stipulated time frame. It aims to tackle increasing air pollution problem across country in comprehensive manner.

The Supreme Court of India on April 16, 2018 struck down the order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that had declared the Amarnath cave shrine as a 'silence zone' and prohibited religious offerings such as chanting of hymns and ringing bells beyond the entry point

Gujarat launched 'Haemophilia Jagruti, a magazine to spread awareness about haemophilia, a hereditary and genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to control blood clotting. The magazine aims to share knowledge and the research being done on Hemophilia that affects over 6000 people in the state.

The Union Government have announced to provide smartphones, instead of tablets, to Anganwadi workers

To promote Poshan Abhiyaan nutrition scheme. The decision was taken during the first meeting of National Council on India's nutrition challenges under 'Poshan Abhiyaan' which was chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar. The Council has been set up under 'Poshan Abhiyaan' and serves as the apex body to formulate overall policies, guide and monitor all nutrition based schemes.

Defence Planning Committee (DPC), a new integrated institutional mechanism that will drive country's military and security strategy and guide defence equipment acquisitions was formed by the Union Government under the chairmanship of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

The committee will operate through four sub-committees: on Policy and Strategy, Defence Diplomacy, Plans and Capability Development and Defence Manufacturing system.

In a bid to make education system in India more transparent, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched integration of e-SANAD portal and NAD – National Academic Depository. e-Sanad is

project aimed at online submission and verification of documents with ultimate object to extend contact less, cashless, faceless and paperless document attestation service. NAD is 24X7 online store house of all academic awards viz. diplomas certificates, degrees, mark-sheets etc. duly digitised and lodged by academic boards, institutions, eligibility assessment bodies.

A new draft rules to make mandatory for automobile manufacturers to provide high security registration plates (HSRP) to all new vehicles has published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) from January 1, 2019.

HSRPs will have in-built security features, such as self-destructive sticker with engine and chassis numbers. It will be fitted on front and rear of vehicles and windscreens will have number plate tag with hologram.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is recommended to be declared as a public body by the Law Commission of India (LCI).

BCCI's monopolistic activities, directly and indirectly, affect the fundamental rights of citizens, players, and other functionaries. Private citizen should be able to move highest court against BCCI for any violation of his fundamental rights.

One Nation One Tax policy for seamless movement of commercial vehicles across the country has been proposed by the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

It will allow transfer of vehicles from one state to another without levying road tax. It will put check on people registering their vehicles in low tax

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states and running them in other states. It will also bring necessary relief to genuine cases requiring transfer of vehicles. The two day meeting of GoM held in Guwahati, Assam was attended by transport ministers from Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Kerala, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya and Jharkhand. The GoM is headed by Rajasthan transport minister Yoonus Khan. Centre has the powers to decide principles on which motor vehicles tax can be levied. The uniform tax should be based on invoice price of vehicles in three slabs. 8% tax on vehicles below 10 lakhs, 10% for vehicles costing between 10 -20 lakh, and 12% for vehicles above 20 lakh. Diesel vehicles may have to pay 2% extra taxes, while electric vehicles will be given 2% discount.

25th meeting of the Common wealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 (CHOGM) was held in London, UK.

The theme of CHOGM 2018 was “Towards a Common Future“.It was also first CHOGM held following United Kingdom’s decision to withdraw from European Union. This decision has resulted for Britain to strengthen its economic ties with and play greater role in Commonwealth. India was represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The first International SME (Small, Medium Enterprises) convention organised by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises will be held in New Delhi from 22nd to 24th April, 2018.

The four day International SME convention will see participation of 150 participants from 31 countries and 400 entrepreneurs from India. It has specific focus on inclusion of MSMEs in Make in India program and empowering women entrepreneurs. It aims to provide platform to allow Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur (E2E) exchange of ideas, free and fair business discussions, mutual sizing of opportunities and ways to address them.

Under Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) system, India and Finland have reached an agreement on the tax dispute with Nokia .

This paves way for the sale of Nokia’s Chennai (Sriperumbudu) plant, which has been

shuttered since November 2014. The resolution covers disputes pertaining to Nokia India as well as Nokia Corp. This involves payment of Rs 1,600 crore, a sum that was deposited with government by Nokia in March 2018.

‘Integrated initiative for prevention & control of viral hepatitis’ under National Health Mission (NHM) for prevention and control of viral hepatitis has been decided to roll out by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Under this initiative, the ministry will scale up to 100 treatment and 665 testing centres over period of next three years in all states. The initiative will have budgetary support of more than Rs. 517 crore for three years. India is committed to eliminating the viral hepatitis by 2030.

A new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for e-Vidhan project of Government was inaugurated by the Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs at Parliament House Annexe.

e-Vidhan is mission mode project to digitize and make functioning of State Legislatures in India to make them paperless. It is a part of broader Digital India Programme of Central Government.

The restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It will be implemented during period from April 2018 to March 2022 with total proposed cost of the scheme is Rs. 7255 crore. The restructured scheme will focus on training, building infrastructure, stepping up initiatives for e-governance under e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP). The fund sharing ratio for scheme for state components will be 60:40 barring Northeast and hilly states where it will be 90:10. For UTs, central share will be 100%.

The Union Cabinet has approved promulgation of Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance to

provide death penalty for rapists of girls below 12 years.

The ordinance amends Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Indian Evidence Act. It provides for stringent punishment of jail term of minimum 20 years or life imprisonment or death for rape of girl less than 12 years. It increases minimum punishment from 10 years to 20 years for crime of rape of girl under 16 years, which can be extended to imprisonment for rest of 7 years to 10 years, which can be extended to life imprisonment.

The Madras High Court became first court in south India and overall eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility.

It will pave way for easier and secured way of paying stamp duty. It will also help to tackle sale of counterfeit judicial stamps. The e-stamps can be purchased online through web site of Stock Holding Corporation after simple registration process. Payments for it can be made through net banking or debit cards and so on. The new system will enable litigants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to government through e-stamps, which can be purchased both online and offline. It was jointly launched by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee at the [seat of principal the High Court in Chennai](#).

Bengaluru Smart City is testing prototype of an intelligent traffic management solution in collaboration with the Electronics City Township Authority (ELCITA) to improve traffic management in the city.

It involves capturing video streams from several cameras and processing them using artificial intelligence. This will help in automation of traffic management tasks such as vehicle detection, traffic density estimation and control of traffic lights for real-time performance.

Diu Smart City has become first city in India to run on 100% renewable energy during daytime.

Diu was importing 73% of its power from Gujarat until last year. But now it has adopted two-

pronged approach to reduce dependence on Gujarat for power requirements through renewable energy. With this, it has set new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green.

The Justice Rajesh Bindal committee has submitted on legal issues related to inter country removal & retention of children its report to Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD).

The recommendations of Committee includes government should establish 'Inter Country Parental Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority (ICPCRDRA)' and stressed upon need for mediation as first step. The authority will be chaired by retired High Court Judge and shall have members from Legal and Social sector background along with representatives from key Ministries. It will envisaged to provide one window solution in cases of inter country removal and retention of children.

A six-decade-old protected area permit (PAP) regime to allow foreign tourists to access border areas of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur has relaxed by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for five years with effect from April 1, 2018 with protected area permit (PAP).

The protected areas currently include whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim, besides parts of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. Some parts of Sikkim fall under protected area regime while others under restricted area regime.

Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to two more craft forms from Telangana viz. Adilabad dokra and Warangal Dhurries.

Adilabad Dokra is an ancient bell metal craft and Warangal Dhurries is a popular traditional cotton rug. **Adilabad Dokra is a form of ancient bell metal craft practiced by Woj community native to Adilabad district of Telangana.** They use ancient casting technique called cire perdue (lost wax casting technique), a technique wherein

duplicate metal sculpture is cast from an original sculpture. **Warangal Dhurries** is a popular traditional thick cotton rug in which weavers create beautiful patterns and dye them using vegetable colours, which are washed in flowing water after the printing process.

The Supreme Court of India on April 23, 2018 sought a response from the Central Government on pleas challenging the Indian Penal Code's Section 377, which criminalises homosexuality.

The response was sought by a 3-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice A M Khanwilkar and Justice D Y Chandrachud on a plea by hotelier and LGBT activist Kesav Suri. The bench tagged Suri's plea with an earlier pending challenge to Section 377. Following this, senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi urged the court to ask the government to respond to the plea.

Minister Narendra Modi on National Panchayati Raj Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at Ramnagar, tribal-dominated district of Madhya Pradesh was launched by Prime Day (24 April).

It is central government scheme that aims at making rural local bodies self-sustainable, financially stable and more efficient. It seeks to address critical gaps that hinder success of Panchayats by enhancing their capacities and effectiveness, and promote devolution of powers and responsibilities. It will be implemented during period from April 2018 to March 2022 with outlay of Rs. 7255 crore.

The Union Government, Madhya Pradesh Government and World Bank have signed \$210 million loan agreement for Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project.

The project will cover 10,510 km stretch of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh that fall under Chief Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (CMGSY) program. Of this 10,000 km will be upgraded from existing gravel to bituminous surface roads, while 510 km of new roads will be built to same bituminous surface standard. It will enhance rural road connectivity instate which will open up opportunities for economic development and access to social services

for beneficiary communities in the state and help in reducing poverty. The project will focus on improving road safety by collecting accident data and analysing it at central and state levels through implementation of Road Accident Database Management System (RADMS) and strengthen road safety capacity at central level and focus on training territorial waters i.e. 12 nautical miles.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the centrally sponsored scheme 'National Bamboo Mission' (NBM) under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for the remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20).

The National Bamboo Mission will ensure integrated development of the bamboo sector by establishing effective linkage of farmers with industry. Besides, the CCEA also approved the Empowerment of Executive Committee for formulation of guidelines of the National Bamboo Mission and to make the changes therein.

The state cabinet of Jammu and Kashmir on April 24, 2018 approved the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018

That provides death penalty to the rapists of children below the age of 12 years.

The Supreme Court on April 24, 2018 asked the Centre and all the States to remove all the provisions that refer to leprosy as a disability from statute books.

The move came after the apex court observed that the leprosy is curable and patients suffering from it should not be victims of social stigma. The Supreme Court bench noted that the references to leprosy as a disability in the written laws led to the "statutory stigma." And these laws must be amended to bring in the parity as with the advancement of medical science, leprosy is no longer an incurable disease.

India was placed at 138th rank out of 180 nations surveyed worldwide in terms of press

freedom in 2018 in recently released World Press Freedom Index (WPI) 2018 by Reporters Without Borders.

It was ranked at the 135th in WPI 2017.

The 23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat under the chairmanship of Union home minister Rajnath Singh.

The meeting was attended by chief ministers of Maharashtra and Gujarat, ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, administrator of UTs of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and senior officers from Central and state governments

The state government of Meghalaya on April 26, 2018 installed a software at Shillong district jail to integrate information about its inmates, as a part of its initiative to modernise correctional homes in the state.

The e-prisons software, developed by the Union government, aims to keep a tab on prisoners of all states. It is a significant step towards digitization and modernization of prisons. It will digitize the jail records and ensure transparency and accountability in the system. It will be implemented in all the correctional facilities across the state.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi launched the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh.

While speaking at the launch, the Prime Minister said that the Van Dhan scheme along with others like Jan Dhan and Gobar-Dhan schemes had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system. Hence, he stated that all the three schemes need to be promoted by the state governments.

President of India visits Madhya Pradesh on April 28 and 29

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, visited Madhya Pradesh on 28th and 29th April, 2018.

Overview of President's visit to Madhya Pradesh:



i. On April 28, 2018, President Kovind graced the 27th convocation of Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar.

ii. He also attended the Satguru Kabir Saheb Mahotsav, organised on the occasion of 620th Pragatosav of Satguru Kabir in Sagar.

iii. On April 29, 2018, President attended an 'Asangathit Shramik Sammelan' organised by Government of Madhya Pradesh, in Guna district. In Guna, he also addressed a function related to **Mini Smart City Mission of Government of Madhya Pradesh.**

Central assistance for irrigation projects drought prone areas of Maharashtra

On April 27, 2018, Expenditure Finance Committee of Union Finance Ministry accepted the proposal of Union Ministry of Water Resources to provide Central Assistance for completion of **8 Major/Medium Irrigation projects and 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects in Vidarbha, Marathwada** and drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra.



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Central assistance for irrigation projects in Maharashtra:

- i. Estimated cost for completion of these projects is **Rs. 13651.61 Crore.**
- ii. Although Central Government will provide financial assistance to meet the cost, Maharashtra State Government too will have to raise a part of it, which can be done by availing a loan from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- iii. All these projects are expected to be completed latest by 2022-23. **Post completion, additional irrigation potential of 3.77 lakh ha will be created** in the above stated regions.

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

On 28th April 2018, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) K E Krishnamurthy initiated Andhra Pradesh government's 'Bhu Seva' (land hub) project aimed at offering integrated services related with land.



Bhu Seva:

- i. As per the Bhu Seva project, each land parcel will be given a Bhudhar Number. **The Bhudhar Number is an 11 digit unique number.**
- ii. It will help in easy identification of the details of land parcel. A pilot project of this scheme was launched on 11th April 2018 in Jaggaiah Peta Mandal and Vuyyur Nagar Panchayat of Krishna district.
- iii. K E Krishnamurthy said that, Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to complete geotagging of each land parcel in the state. Ch Vijayamohan is the

Mission Director of Bhu Seva Mission.

Some museums in Andhra Pradesh:

- ◆ Bhagwan Mahavir Government Museum
- ◆ Victoria Jubilee Museum
- ◆ Visakha Museum (Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Museum)

Centre to launch National Disaster Database

Indian Government will soon launch a uniform and credible national-level disaster database on UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR's) insistence to implement its commitment to the Sendai Framework.

About National Disaster Database:

- i. India's National Disaster Database will be a **dynamic platform having locally obtained and validated data** on nationwide losses of properties and lives occurring due to disasters.
- ii. The state authorities will be directed to mandatorily report and feed all disaster-related losses in the platform on real time basis.
- iii. Having National Disaster Database will not only reduce dependence on estimates given by external entities about the losses caused by man-made and natural disasters in India but will also **help Central Government in deciding the quantum of future investments in critical infrastructure.**
- iv. During 2005 and 2014, India was affected by 167 disasters that caused damages to the tune of \$47 billion.
- v. According to UNISDR, India ranks among the top four countries in the world with highest number of reported disasters.

Indian Culinary Institute inaugurated

On 27th April 2018, K.J.Alphons, Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology inaugurated the Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) at Noida.

Noida Campus of the Indian Culinary Institute inaugurated:

- i. The Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) has been set up by the Ministry of Tourism. Dr.Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change was the Chief Guest of the event.

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- ii. The Noida campus is one of the two ICI campuses. The other one is developed at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- iii. The Noida campus has been set up on an area of 5 acres. The total project cost is **Rs.98 crore**.
- iv. It comprises academic block, commercial area, hostels for boys and girls, guesthouse for visiting faculties, water harvesting, etc.
- v. ICI offers courses in Diploma, Under Graduation, and Post-Graduation and research in Culinary Arts.
- vi. It has well equipped kitchen labs, micro biology lab, Cuisine theatre, Training Restaurants, fully equipped class rooms, library, and a modern hostel which can accommodate 400 students.

Some stadiums in Uttar Pradesh:

- ◆ Green Park Stadium
- ◆ D. Singh Babu Stadium
- ◆ Dr. Akhilesh Das Stadium

Naveen Patnaik launches Odisha Skills, Dharmendra Pradhan opens 3 facilities

On 28th April 2018, **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated ‘Odisha Skills 2018’, the state-level chapter of India Skill competition **organised by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** in Cuttack, Odisha.



ack, Odisha.

Odisha Skills 2018:

- i. The Odisha Skills 2018 coincided with the birth anniversary of the architect of modern Odisha Madhusudan Das. It is a two-day competition.
- ii. It saw participation from nearly 7000 participants in six sectors and 25 skills from all over Odisha.
- iii. **Union Petroleum and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** also inaugurated a skill-cum-common facility centre for filigree craftsman of Cuttack.
- iv. He also launched a Pipe-Fitter-City Gas Distribution course that will begin at the Skill

Development Institute at Bhubaneswar from 9th May 2018.

- v. He also launched the Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline skilling project in Sukinda in Jajpur district.
- vi. The project will offer training to semi-skilled and unskilled workers involved in the Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra natural gas project.
- vii. He said that within six months Cuttack will host an International Filigree Exhibition-cum-Workshop.
- viii. **A tripartite MoU was signed between NSDC and Gems and Jewellery Skill Council of India and Edujobs Academy** to work for the Cuttack facility, on the occasion.
- ix. He awarded pre-learning certificates issued by the Skill Development Institute to five goldsmiths. He said that within two years all goldsmiths and filigree artisans of the city will be offered training and certificates.

About National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC):

- ◆ MD & CEO – Manish Kumar
- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi

HP CM inaugurates Rs 39.65 crore water supply scheme in Mandi

On 27th April 2018, **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur** inaugurated the **Kanda Pattan-Sarkaghat Water Supply Scheme** at Cholthara in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh.

Kanda Pattan-Sarkaghat Water Supply Scheme:

- i. Jai Ram Thakur said that, the Kanda Pattan-Sarkaghat water supply scheme has been developed at a cost of **Rs 39.65 crore**. It will benefit more than 31,000 people of that region.
- ii. He said that 30 new developmental schemes are present in the first budget presented by his government.
- iii. He said that, out of 69 highways sanctioned for Himachal Pradesh, tenders have been floated for 53 projects.
- iv. He added that, the age for getting old age pension without any income criteria has been decreased to 70 years from 80 years.
- v. He announced Rs 1.40 crore for construction and metalling of several roads, Rs 2 crore for building bridges, Rs 1 crore each for establishing laboratory and building science blocks in four senior

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secondary schools of that area.

Some National Parks in Himachal Pradesh:

- ◆ Great Himalayan National Park
- ◆ Inderkilla National Park
- ◆ Khirganga National Park

Sikkim C.M becomes India's Longest serving C.M

On 29th April 2018, Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling surpassed the record of former West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu as the longest serving Chief Minister of any Indian state.



Sikkim C.M becomes India's Longest serving C.M:

- Jyoti Basu was Chief Minister of West Bengal for 23 years from 21st June 1977 till 6th November 2000.
- Pawan Kumar Chamling became Chief Minister of Sikkim on 12th December 1994. He completed his 24th year as Sikkim Chief Minister on 29th April 2018.
- He entered politics in 1973. He became a member of the Legislative Assembly in 1985.
- He founded Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) in 1993. He formed the state government in 1994.
- He is also a poet with pen name 'Kiran'. He received Bhanu Puraskar award in 2010.

Some wildlife sanctuaries in Sikkim:

- ◆ Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary
- ◆ Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary
- ◆ Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary

Govt. collects Rs 7.41 trillion from GST

As per data provided by Union Finance Ministry, Government has collected Rs 7.41 trillion in taxes in the first year of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) ending March 31, 2018.



GST collection figure:

- Rs. 7.41 trillion collection includes **Rs 1.19 trillion of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), Rs 1.72 trillion of State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), Rs 3.66 trillion of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and Rs 620.21 billion of cess** for first eight months and Rs 240 billion addition for March 2018.
- Tax collected under GST regime is split 50:50 between the Centre (CGST) and the states (SGST) while tax on inter-state movement of goods as well as imports is Integrated-GST (IGST), that accrues to the Centre.
- Besides, cess levied over/above these taxes on sin and luxury goods is used to compensate revenue shortfall faced by states on account of implementation of GST.

Quick Facts about GST:

- ◆ Rolled out on – July 1, 2017
- ◆ Type – Indirect Tax
- ◆ Tax Slabs – 5%, 12%, 18% 28%

Government declares all protected areas 'plastic free zones'

The environment ministry has banned plastics in all protected areas throughout India, declaring them "plastic free zones".

Plastic free zones:



- i. This initiative has been taken prior to the World Environment Day on 5th June. States and Union territories have been directed to conduct awareness campaigns to enlighten people about this issue.
- ii. India will host the World Environment Day for 2018. **United Nations environment chief Erik Solheim** visited India recently and signed a letter of intent declaring India to host the World Environment Day.
- iii. **Environment secretary C K Mishra** said all protected areas and forest reserves will be plastic free zones. This will be mandatorily enforced. He added that, alternatives to plastics will be made available gradually.

Some UNESCO Natural Sites in India:

- ◆ Manas Wildlife Sanctuary – Assam
- ◆ Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks – Uttarakhand
- ◆ Sundarbans National Park – West Bengal

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

DAC Approves Capital Acquisition Proposals Worth Rs 3687 Crore

On April 27, 2018, **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman**, approved Capital Acquisition Proposals of defence equipments/ammunition valued at over Rs 3687 crore



Capital Acquisition Proposals approved by DAC:

- i. DAC approved **procurement of NAG Missile System (NAMIS)** comprising third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG, along with the Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA).
- ii. NAMIS has been designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It will be procured at a cost of Rs. 524 crore.
- iii. **DAC also approved procurement of thirteen 127 mm calibre guns for Indian Navy.** The Indian Navy has been asking for these guns since long time. Having a strike range of 24 km, these guns will be fitted on-board new construction ships for undertaking surface engagements.
- iv. The thirteen 127 mm calibre guns will be procured from BAE Systems (United States of America) at an approximate cost of over Rs 3000 crore.

INTERNATIONAL

Malaysia approves law against fake news:

Context: Malaysia has approved a law banning fake news ahead of elections.

Key facts: The law makes “fake news” punishable with a maximum six-year jail term. The law covers all media and extends even to foreigners outside Malaysia.

Concerns: Critics fear the law will be abused to silence dissent ahead of a general election.

Context: Second lead-up Conference to 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on ‘Enhancing Port and Coastal Infrastructure’ is being held Visakhapatnam. The Regional Conference is being organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with AIIB, CII and Research and Infrastructure System (RIS) for Developing Countries.

The panel discusses various issues relating to trade promotion through sea route, building-up robust port & coastal infrastructure and revising & relaxing maritime regulatory issues to promote blue economy in India.



Gaganshakti-2018:

Context: An all encompassing coordinated and composite exercise named Gaganshakti is being conducted by the IAF.

The aim of this exercise is real time coordination, deployment and employment of Air Power in a short & intense battle scenario. During Gaganshakti IAF will exercise the entire machinery to validate its concept of operations and war waging capability.

‘Chakravat’:

Context: Kochi along with Indian Navy is hosting multi-agency rescue exercise- Chakravat. It is for

the first time that the yearly exercise is being conducted in Kochi.

Participants: Chakravat’ meaning ‘cyclone’ will see participation by the three Services, the Coast Guard, State administration, State Disaster Management Authority, National Disaster Response Force, Fisheries Department, Coastal Police, and members of the fishing community.

Sahyog – Hyeoblyeog 2018:



What

is it? It is a bilateral joint search and rescue exercise between Indian Coast Guard and Korea Coast Guard. The joint exercise is part of a proposed establishment of a MoU between the two Coast Guards to improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

The recently held exercise included scenarios of the hijacking of a merchant vessel and its subsequent rescue, interdiction of a pirate vessel, cross boarding, external fire fighting and the SAR (search and rescue) demonstration.

Railway link between India and Nepal:

Context: 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.

Significance: The proposal to link Raxaul to Kathmandu gains significance as it comes nearly two years after China, in March 2016, agreed to construct a strategic railway link with Nepal through Tibet with an apparent aim of reducing Kathmandu’s dependence on India. It also comes in the backdrop of recent Chinese linkages with Nepal as it took on building three highways to be completed by 2020.

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“Desert Tiger 5”:



What is it? It is a joint military exercise between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia. It is aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions.

The drill was also aimed at raising the level of performance and combat efficiency and working together based on a strategy to improve the overall ability and combat readiness of the ground forces.

Sugar tax comes into effect in the UK:

Context: The sugar tax has come into force in the UK placing a levy on soft drink manufacturers. The money from the tax will go to the Department for Education.

What necessitated this move? The move aims to help tackle childhood obesity. Sugar-sweetened soft drinks are now the single biggest source of dietary sugar for children and teenagers.

Where else has it been tried? A similar scheme has been tried in a handful of Scandinavian countries as well as France and Hungary. Mexico and Norway have shown positive outcomes.

Headquarters Agreement between India and the International Solar Alliance



Context: The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for entering into Headquarters (Host country) Agreement between India and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and authorizing the Ministry of External Affairs for signing the Headquarter Agreement.

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)



The Partnership
for Maternal, Newborn
& Child Health

Context: PMNCH Delegation recently called on the Prime Minister and presented the logo for the 2018 Partners' Forum.

About PMNCH Delegation:

- The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (The Partnership, PMNCH) is an alliance of more than 1000 organizations in 77 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities, as well as health influencing sectors.
- The Partnership is governed by a Board, and administered by a Secretariat hosted at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Partnership provides a platform for organizations to align objectives, strategies and resources, and agree on interventions to improve maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.
- The Partnership's role complements the work and accountability processes of its individual members, enabling them to deliver more collectively than they would alone.
- This Partner-centric approach mobilizes, engages and empowers different implementing partners. It allows them to coordinate their

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actions and activities, and encourages and promotes mutual accountability.

WHO directives call for support for breastfeeding

Context: The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have issued a new 10-step guidance to increase support for breastfeeding in health facilities that provide maternity and newborn services, which provide the immediate health system platform to help mothers initiate breastfeeding within the first hour and breastfeed exclusively for six months.

Highlights:

- The guidelines describe how hospitals should have a written breastfeeding policy in place, required staff competencies, and antenatal and post-birth care, including breastfeeding support for mothers.
- It also recommends limited use of breast milk substitutes, rooming-in, responsive feeding, educating parents on the use of bottles and pacifiers, and support when mothers and babies are discharged from hospital.

Significance of breastfeeding:

Breastfeeding is an important efficient and cost-effective intervention promoting child survival and health. Breastfeeding within an hour of birth could prevent 20% of the newborn deaths. Infants who are not breastfed are 15 times more likely to die from pneumonia and 11 times more likely to die from diarrhoea than children who are exclusively breastfed, which are two leading causes of death in children under-five years of age. In addition, children who were not breastfed are at increased risk for diabetes, obesity, allergies, asthma, childhood leukemia, sudden infant death syndrome etc. Apart from mortality and morbidity benefits, breastfeeding also has tremendous impact on improved IQ.

MAA programme:

To intensify the efforts further for promotion of breastfeeding, the Health Ministry has initiated a nationwide programme called “MAA-Mother’s

Absolute Affection” to bring undiluted focus on promotion of breastfeeding and provision of services towards supporting breastfeeding, along with ongoing efforts of routine health systems.

- The key components of the MAA programme are awareness generation, promotion of breastfeeding & inter personal counselling at community level, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points and monitoring and Award/ recognition of health facility.
- Under this programme, ASHA has been incentivized for reaching out to pregnant and lactating mothers and provide information on benefits and techniques of successful breastfeeding during interpersonal communication. ANMs at all sub-centres and health personnel at all delivery points are being trained for providing skilled support to Under NHM, funding support has been mothers referred with issues related to breastfeeding.
- recommended for all States and UTs for successful implementation of the MAA programme.

India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway



Context: Work on the 1,000 km-long India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway officially started with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signing an agreement with a joint-venture (JV) between Punj Lloyd and Varaha Infra to upgrade the Yagyi-Kalewa section of the India-Myanmar Friendship Road in Myanmar.

This is NHAI’s first international project agreement. The project has been funded by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

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and would be executed on EPC mode at a cost of Rs.1177 crores.

About IMT Highway:

The 1,000 km India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway will run from Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. The highway will facilitate easy movement of goods and people among the three countries.

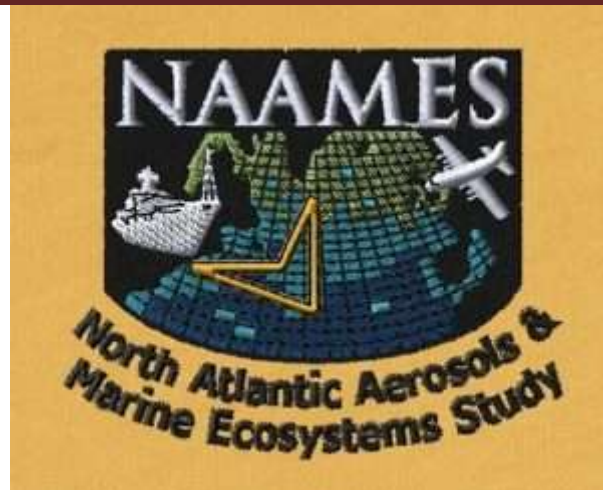
Significance of the Highway:

Once completed, greater flows of trade and investment will take place along the route, stimulating the movement of goods and people, creating jobs, promoting tourism as well as raising the livelihoods of the peoples in the region.

Why is this highway crucial for India?

- First, it will help improve connectivity between India's remote Northeastern part and Southeast Asia. For long, the lack of physical connectivity with Southeast Asia has been an Achilles' heel in India's "Act-East Policy." The trilateral highway will improve India's connectivity with Myanmar and Thailand, and in the future there are plans to connect it with pre-existing roads and take it all the way to Vietnam.
- Secondly, with the construction of this road, which started as the India-Myanmar friendship road way back in 2001, the recent non-attendance by India at China's Belt and Road Forum in Beijing seems to have injected a new measure of earnestness among Indian policy planners when it comes to executing such road projects.
- Thirdly, Northeast India has been lagging behind other parts of the country when it comes to infrastructure. When completed, the IMT highway will also give easy access to the Northeastern states to the sea (via Myanmar).

NAAMES Mission



Context: In a first, NASA is conducting a study of the world's largest phytoplankton bloom in the North Atlantic, named the North Atlantic Aerosols and Marine Ecosystems Study (NAAMES) mission, to see how the tiny sea critters influence the climate in every season.

- It is the first research mission to conduct an integrated study of all four distinct phases of the world's largest phytoplankton bloom.

About NAAMES Mission:

- The North Atlantic Aerosols and Marine Ecosystems Study (NAAMES) is an interdisciplinary investigation resolving key processes controlling marine ecosystems and aerosols that are essential to our understanding of Earth system function and future change.
- NAAMES is funded by the NASA Earth Venture Suborbital Program and is the first EV-S mission focused on studying the coupled ocean ecosystem and atmosphere.
- NAAMES consists of four, combined ship and aircraft field campaigns that are each aligned to a specific event in the annual plankton lifecycle.

Scientific objectives:

The North Atlantic Aerosols and Marine Ecosystems Study (NAAMES) studies the world's largest plankton bloom and how it gives rise to small organic particles that leave the ocean and end

up in the atmosphere, ultimately influencing clouds and climate.

Background:

The North Atlantic plankton bloom is among the most conspicuous biological events annually recorded by satellite ocean color measurements, yet even fundamental controls on the bloom's magnitude and interannual variability are controversial. The bloom climax is one event within an annual plankton cycle that essentially oscillates between a decreasing-biomass phase beginning in the summer and an increasing-biomass phase beginning in Winter-Spring and ending with the bloom climax in Spring.

UN launches road safety trust fund



Context: UN has launched road safety trust fund aimed at spurring action to help save lives in road accidents.

About the Fund:

- The United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund aims to accelerate progress in improving global road safety by bridging the gaps in the mobilization of resources for effective action at all levels.
- The Fund will mobilize resources from governments, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and individuals.
- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will be the secretariat for the Trust Fund.
- The Trust Fund will support efforts along the five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, which include

strengthened road safety management capacities, improved safety of road infrastructure and broader transport networks, enhanced safety of vehicles, improved behaviour of road users and improved post-crash care.

Significance of the fund:

- It is estimated that every \$1,500 contributed to the Fund could save one life, prevent 10 serious injuries and leverage \$51,000 towards investments in road safety.
- The United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund has the potential to galvanize our global efforts to address the road safety situation, building on the progress made and experience gained over the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

A global concern:

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.

Beyond human suffering, road traffic deaths and injuries cause significant economic losses to individuals and societies, keeping millions of people in poverty and creating an estimated \$1.85 trillion burden on the global economy each year. This makes addressing road safety one of the most pressing social, economic, health and development challenges of our time.

Resolution on road safety:

The UN General Assembly also adopted a resolution on road safety, sponsored by Russia, in which it called for a host of measures to prevent road accidents and to minimising the resulting damage. One of the measures, it urged, the adoption policies and measures to implement vehicle safety regulations to ensure that all new motor vehicles meet applicable minimum regulations for the protection of occupants and other road users, with seat belts, airbags and active safety systems fitted as standard equipment.

Facts for Prelims:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015, contains targets on road safety in two of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals:

- Sustainable Development Goal 3: “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.
- Target 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths from road traffic accidents.
- Sustainable Development Goal 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

Commonwealth innovation index

Context: A new Commonwealth Innovation Index has been launched as part of a new Commonwealth Innovation Hub on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) being held in London.

About the index:

- The index has been created in partnership with the United Nations **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its annual Global Innovation Index (GII)**.
- It is aimed at providing a tool that allows member states, organisations and citizens to benchmark themselves against 53 countries of the Commonwealth, with the new innovation hub offering a dedicated online space for Commonwealth countries to showcase what they have to offer and share with other members.

Performance of countries:

- India is ranked 10th.
- Bangladesh has been ranked 24th.
- The index is topped by the UK, Singapore and Canada.



About GII:

The Global Innovation Index (GII), co-published by World-Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD with CII as a Knowledge Partner since inception, has been ranking world economies including India since 2007 according to their innovation capabilities and outcomes using 82 indicators among a host of other important parameters.

HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018:

Context: As part of ongoing Indo-Malaysian defence cooperation, a joint training exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI is being conducted in Malaysia.

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.

Bhabha Kavach:

What is it? It is an armour panel developed by BARC which gives personal protection against bullets of different threat levels.

Key features:

- Bhabha Kavach made up of BARC Nano-Sheets are lighter in weight with reduced trauma level with respect to the existing jackets.
- The jacket is made using extremely hard boron carbide ceramics that is hot-pressed with carbon nano-tubes and composite polymer.

World Press Freedom Index

Along with the Index, RSF calculates a global indicator and regional indicators that evaluate the overall performance of countries (in the world and

in each region) as regards media freedom. It is an absolute measure that complements the Index's comparative rankings. The global indicator is the average of the regional indicators, each of which is obtained by averaging the scores of all the countries in the region, weighted according to their population as given by the World Bank.

Press freedom map:

The press freedom map, which is distributed in print and digital versions, offers a visual overview of the situation in each country in the Index. The colour categories are assigned as follows: good (white), fairly good (yellow), problematic (yellow), bad (red) and very bad (black).

Press Freedom Index 2018- Highlights:

- In this year's index, Norway is first for the second year running, followed — as it was last year — by Sweden.
- India has dropped from rank 136 last year to rank 138 this year. India fared poorly on indicators such as hate speeches, attacks on journalists on social media, trolling them and targeting their reputation.
- SAARC nations: Afghanistan (118), Bhutan (94), Nepal (106), the Maldives (120), and Sri Lanka (131), all performed better than India; with Pakistan (139) and Bangladesh (146) performing worse.
- North Korea continues to rank last.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification

Context: A four-day Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of the United Nations Convention to

Combat Desertification (UNCCD), jointly hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and UNCCD Secretariat, to build the capacity of the Asia-Pacific Region to monitor and report on land degradation, was recently held in New Delhi.

About UNCCD:

- Established in 1994, the United Nations to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is *the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management*.
- It is *the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21*.
- To help publicise the Convention, 2006 was declared "International Year of Deserts and Desertification".
- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- Its 197 Parties aim, through partnerships, to implement the Convention and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The end goal is to protect land from over-use and drought, so it can continue to provide food, water and energy.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry for this Convention.

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on April 4, 2018 comfortably defeated the no-confidence motion moved by the joint opposition against him, securing the majority support in the 225-member Parliament.

Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI will be conducted in Malaysia from 30 April 18 to 13 May 18 "Harimau Shakti", a joint training exercise between India and Malaysia will be conducted in the forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat,

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Malaysia from 30 April 2018 to 13 May 2018.



HARIMAU SHAKTI:

- i. Harimau Shakti is aimed to enhance cooperation & coordination between armed forces of India and Malaysia and to share the expertise of both the contingents.
- ii. Counter insurgency operations will be conducted

in jungle terrain. **Indian contingent will be represented by 4 GRENADIERS**, one of the oldest infantry battalions.

iii. The Malaysian contingent will be represented by soldiers from **1 Royal Ranjer Regiment and the Royal Malay Regiment**.

iv. This is the first time a joint training exercise of this magnitude comprising Indian and Malaysian soldiers is conducted in Malaysia.

v. **Main focus of the exercise will be on tactical operations in jungle warfare.** A cross training phase and a field training phase of seven days in the jungles of Hulu Langat will be carried out.
Rawat

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

Dilip Chenoy new Secretary General of FICCI

On 17th April 2018, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) informed that, it has appointed Dilip Chenoy as its new Secretary General.



- i. **Dilip Chenoy replaces Sanjaya Baru** as the Secretary General of FICCI. Sanjaya Baru had decided to step down from his position.
- ii. Dilip Chenoy joined FICCI as Director General. Earlier, he was working as MD & CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) from May 2010 till October 2015.
- iii. He was also Director General of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) from

2004 till 2010.

About Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI):

- ◆ President – Rashesh Shah
- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi

Rahul Kulshreshth appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Egypt

Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Rahul Kulshreshth as the next Ambassador of India to Egypt.

i. Kulshreshth is a member of the 1985 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

ii. He is **currently serving as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Turkey.**

QuickFactsaboutEgypt:

- ◆ Capital – Cairo
- ◆ Currency – Egyptian pound
- ◆ Current President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- ◆ Neighbouring Countries – Sudan, Israel, Libya

Sanjay Bhattacharya appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkey

Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Sanjay Bhattacharya as the next Ambassador of India to Turkey.

i. Bhattacharya is a member of the 1987 batch of the

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Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

ii. He is currently serving as **Ambassador of India to Egypt**.

Ravi Thapar appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Nicaragua

Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Ravi Thapar as the next Ambassador of India to Nicaragua.



i. Ravi Thapar is a member of the 1983 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

ii. He is currently serving as **Ambassador of India to Panam**.

QuickFactsabout Nicaragua:

- ◆ Capital – Managua
- ◆ Currency – Cordoba
- ◆ Current President – Daniel Ortega

US Senate confirms appointment of Jim Bridenstine as NASA Administrator

i. On April 19, 2018 **Jim Bridenstine**, a Republican congressman from Oklahoma became 13th Administrator for the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**. The appointment has been confirmed by acting NASA Administrator Robert Lightfoot.

ii. Alan Stern, chairman of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation said that “NASA needs dedicated and inspired leadership, and Rep. Bridenstine is an outstanding choice to provide precisely that.”

Charles to succeed Queen as Commonwealth Head:

Reports

On April 20 2018, Prince Charles was confirmed as the successor to Queen Elizabeth as **head of the**

Commonwealth at a meeting of the group’s heads of **government in Windsor at Buckingham Palace in London, Britain**.



i. The Commonwealth evolved out of the British empire in the mid-20th century, and the queen has been its head since her reign began in 1952.

ii. This week’s Commonwealth summit has seen thousands of delegates from across the globe descend on London, debating issues such as the environment, women’s rights and trade.

iii. The biennial meeting, taking place in Britain for the first time in 20 years. The next summit is due to be held in Malaysia in 2020.

Cuba elects its first non-Castro president in 60 years: Miguel Diaz-Canel

On April 19, 2018 The Cuban government has selected the country’s **57-year-old first vice-president, Miguel Díaz-Canel**, as the country’s President, replacing Raúl Castro.



i. He is the first leader outside the Castro dynasty to lead the country since the 1959 revolution. Raúl became Cuba’s President in 2008 after taking over from his brother Fidel Castro.

About Republic of Cuba

- ◆ Capital – Havana
- ◆ Official languages – Spanish
- ◆ President – Miguel Díaz-Canel

Suresh Kumar assumes additional charge as Coal India CMD

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On 23rd April 2018, Suresh Kumar took the additional charge as chairman and managing director of Coal India Ltd.

Suresh Kumar – additional charge as Coal India CMD:

i. Suresh Kumar is an additional secretary with the Coal Ministry. He has **replaced Gopal Singh as chairman and managing director of Coal India Ltd.**

ii. Gopal Singh had succeeded Sutirtha Bhattacharya who retired from the post of Coal India CMD on 31st August 2017.

About Coal India Limited:

- ◆ Headquarters – Kolkata
- ◆ Founded – 1975

Indu Malhotra first woman lawyer to become SC judge

On 26th April 2018, sources in the Law Ministry said that, the government has cleared the appointment of senior advocate Indu Malhotra as a judge of the Supreme Court, making her the first woman lawyer to become Supreme Court judge.



i. Indu Malhotra will be the first woman judge to be appointed as Supreme Court judge directly from the bar.

ii. She is 61 years old. She will be the seventh woman to become a Supreme Court judge.

iii. Previously, Justices M. Fathima Beevi, Sujata Manohar, Ruma Pal, Ranjana Desai, Gyan Sudha Misra and R. Banumathi, held the post of Supreme Court judge.

Some of the Chief Justices of High Court in India:

- ◆ Jammu and Kashmir High Court – Badar Durrez Ahmed
- ◆ Manipur High Court – Abhilash Kumari
- ◆ Gujarat High Court – R. Subhash Reddy

Gauri became Brand Ambassador for Haryana

Haryana State Government has appointed **international female shooter Gauri Sheoran** as the brand ambassador for its two health-related programmes viz. measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).



Gauri Sheoran – Brand ambassador for Haryana’s two health-related programmes:

i. Under measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign, about 80 lakh children aged between nine months and 15 would be vaccinated.

ii. **RBSK involves screening children enrolled in government and government-aided schools and anganwadi centres (AWCs) for detecting deficiencies, diseases, and development delays including disability.**

iii. Post screening, children found with any of the above stated deficiencies are referred to the nearest health facility or the District Early Intervention Centre for further treatment.

iv. Accomplishments of Gauri Sheoran: won Gold medal in the 7th World University Shooting Championship held in Kuala Lumpur in March 2018, won a bronze medal at the World Championships in Suhl, Germany, clinched two gold and two silver medals in the National Championship at Thiruvananthapuram.

Quick Facts about Haryana:

- ◆ Capital – Chandigarh
- ◆ Current Governor – Kaptan Singh Solanki
- ◆ Current Chief Minister – Manohar Lal Khattar
- ◆ Important National Park – Sultanpur National Park

Mike Pompeo sworn in as US secretary of state
Mike Pompeo former CIA Director, has been sworn in as the 70th US secretary of state.

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Mike Pompeo – US secretary of state:

- i. Mike Pompeo was elected as the US secretary of state by the Senate with votes 57-42. He is a former Army officer.
- ii. As soon as he was sworn in as US secretary of state, the State Department said that, he will visit Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel on the weekend after attending a NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) meeting in Brussels on 27th April 2018.

Lt Gen Bipin Puri takes over as Senior Colonel Commandant of AMC

On 26th April 2018, Lt Gen Bipin Puri took charge as Senior Col Commandant of the Army Medical Corps.

- i. Lt Gen Bipin Puri assumed the appointment of Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) on 1st November 2017.
- ii. Lt Gen Bipin Puri is a paediatric surgeon. He was awarded the GOC-in-C Commendation in 2010 and the COAS Commendation in 2001 and 2012.
- iii. He was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2017. He was Honorary Surgeon to The President of India (PHS) from June 2016.
- iv. He was awarded 'Double Helical's National Health Awards-2017' by Indian Medical Association.
- v. The Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) awarded him the Award of Fellowship ad hominem in November 2017.

Some important airports in India:

- ◆ Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport – Indore
- ◆ Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport – Lucknow

Narinder Chauhan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic

On 26th April 2018, Narinder Chauhan was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic.



Narinder Chauhan – next Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic:

- i. Narinder Chauhan is an Indian Foreign Service Officer (IFS) of the batch 1985. She is at present the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia.
- ii. She has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic. She will take up this new assignment soon.

Rajiv Kumar Nagpal appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

On 26th April 2018, Rajiv Kumar Nagpal was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

- i. Rajiv Kumar Nagpal is currently the Ambassador of India to Iceland. He has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
- ii. He will take up this new assignment soon.

Krishan Kumar appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway

On 26th April 2018, Krishan Kumar was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway.

- i. Krishan Kumar is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer of the 1984 batch. He is at present the Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic.
- ii. He has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway. He will take up this assignment shortly.

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IndiGo president Aditya Ghosh resigns; Rahul Bhatia named interim CEO

InterGlobe Aviation, the operator of IndiGo airlines, announced that **Aditya Ghosh, the President and whole-time Director of IndiGo has resigned from his position.**



Resignation of Aditya Ghosh:

- i.** IndiGo announced that its Chairman, **Rahul Bhatia, will serve as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Director of IndiGo.**
- ii.** Aditya Ghosh has worked with IndiGo for ten years. His resignation as President of IndiGo will be effective from 31 July 2018.
- iii.** IndiGo also said that Greg Taylor has returned to its Board as a Senior Advisor.

SBI rejigs portfolio of top brass

India's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI) has reshuffled the roles of its top management.

New roles of SBI Top Management:

- i.** **Padmaja Chundur**, who was in charge of digital banking and new businesses **will now be in charge of SBI's global treasury operations** while C Venkat Nageswar, who was in charge of global treasury operations will be the new MD & CEO of SBI Capital Markets.
- ii.** PN Prasad, who was heading mid corporate group will be the chief risk officer while DA Tambe will be the new chief information officer.
- iii.** Among other important reassignments, Arijit Basu, who was earlier heading SBI Life, will now head corporate accounts group while **Sanjeev Nautiyal has been appointed as CEO of SBI Life.**

Quick Facts about State Bank of India (SBI):

- ◆ Renamed in – 1955
- ◆ Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ◆ Current Chairman – Rajnish Kumar

Nirmal Singh resigns as J-K Deputy CM & Kavinder Gupta sworn in as Deputy CM

On 29th April 2018, Nirmal Singh resigned as Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Kavinder Gupta (Gandhinagar MLA) took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.



Kavinder Gupta took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir:

i. The following persons took charge as ministers of state:

- Mohammad Khalil Band (Pulwama MLA)
- Sat Paul Sharma (BJP's state unit chief)
- Mohammad Ashraf Mir (Sonwar MLA)
- Rajiv Jasrotia (Kathua MLA)
- Devinder Kumar Manyal (Sambha MLA)
- Shakti Raj (Doda MLA)

ii. Sunil Kumar Sharma, who was the minister of state for transport, was promoted to the rank of cabinet minister.

iii. On 17th April 2018, BJP had asked all its nine ministers in the Jammu and Kashmir state government to submit their resignations to introduce new faces.

Some museums in Jammu and Kashmir:

- ◆ Munshi Aziz Bhat Museum of Central Asian and Kargil Trade Artifacts
- ◆ Dogra Art Museum

Rajiv Bakshi appointed CMO of Intex Technologies

Intex Technologies has appointed Rajiv Bakshi as its Chief Marketing Officer (CMO).

Rajiv Bakshi appointed CMO of Intex Technologies:

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i. Rajiv Rajiv Bakshi has headed brand development, business transformation, consumer acquisition and digital strategy for long term growth and profitability.

ii. Before joining Intex, he worked with Discovery Networks India and South Asia region as vice president and head of marketing and products.

iii. As the CMO, Rajiv Bakshi will head the generation of consumer insights for product development and planning, expand sales and distribution network in general trade, e-commerce portals, large format stores and retail network.

About Intex Technologies:

◆ Director – Keshav Bansal

◆ Incorporated – 1996

Uday Kotak redesignated as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

The board of directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank has redesignated Uday Kotak as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer with effect from 1st May 2018.

Saudi Aramco appoints first woman to the board

On 29th April 2018, Saudi Aramco appointed a woman to its board, by recruiting American Lynn Laverty Elsenhans to its 11-member board.



Saudi Aramco appoints first woman to the board:

i. Lynn Laverty Elsenhans is a former chief executive and chairperson of US oil refinery Sunoco. She was named as one of the world's most powerful women in 2008 by Forbes magazine.

ii. Before joining Sunoco, she was a senior executive at Royal Dutch Shell. She is also on the board of GlaxoSmithKline.

iii. The government of Saudi Arabia has set a goal

of raising female participation in the workforce from 22% to 30% by 2030.

About Saudi Aramco (Saudi Arabian Oil Company):

◆ President – Amin H. Nasser

◆ Headquarters – Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Balram Bhargava, professor of AIIMS was appointed as the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of the Department of Health Research.

He will have tenure of three years or until attainment of age of 60 years. ICMR is India's apex scientific body for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research. It was established in 1911.

Senior IPS officer Rajesh Ranjan was appointed as the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). He will have tenure till November 30, 2020.

Labour Secretary M Sathiyavathy(IAS officer of 1982 batch) took charge as member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). She was administered oath of office and secrecy as member by Vinay Mittal, Chairman, UPSC.

Inspector General KR Nautiyal has been appointed as the new Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard)

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh was re-appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Bandhan Bank for a period of three years with effect from July 10, 2018.

Inspector General Vijay Chafekar was appointed as the new Flag Officer of Indian Coast Guard (West Region) on April 11, 2018.

Bhanu Pratap Sharma was appointed as the chairman of Banks Board Bureau (BBB). He replaces earlier BBB headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai as its two-year term ended in March 2018. The reconstituted BBB will have two-year tenure, same as its predecessor.

IG Vijay Chafekar appointed as Flag Officer of ICG West

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On 10th April 2018, Inspector General Vijay Chafekar took charge as the new Flag Officer, Indian Coast Guard (West Region) from IG K.R. Nautiyal.

IG Vijay Chafekar – Flag Officer of ICG West:

- i.** K.R. Nautiyal has been promoted as Additional Director General and ICG Commander, Eastern Seaboard.
- ii.** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) – West consists of an important area that stretches to the outer limits of Exclusive Economic Zone from the coasts of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep.
- iii.** Vijay Chafekar has an M.Phil. in Defence and Strategic Studies. Earlier, he was Deputy Director (Policy and Plans) at the ICG Headquarters, New Delhi. He has received Tatrakshak Medal and the President's Tatrakshak Medal.



- i.** Chandra Shekhar Ghosh's re-appointment is subject to regulatory clearances. It was approved by Bandhan Bank board recently.
- ii.** Bandhan Bank was listed on 27 March 2018. Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh was appointed to this post in July 2015.
- iii.** Bandhan Bank had recently announced the resignation of its part-time, non-executive chairman Ashoke Kumar Lahiri.

About Bandhan Bank:

- ◆ Tag line – Aapka Bhalai, Sabki Bhalai
- ◆ Headquarters – Kolkata

Former RBI deputy governor Harun Rasid Khan joins Bandhan Bank board

Former deputy governor at Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Harun Rasid Khan, has joined Bandhan Bank board.

Harun Rasid Khan joins Bandhan Bank board:

- i.** Harun Rasid Khan joined the board of Bandhan Bank two weeks ago. **He has replaced PK Saha in Bandhan Bank board.**

- ii.** He had headed RBI's vision on payment system. He had handled financial market, foreign exchange, financial inclusion, etc. in RBI. He served as deputy governor of RBI from 2011 to 2016.

Sripriya Ranganathan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea

On 11th April 2018, Sripriya Ranganathan was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea.

- i.** Sripriya Ranganathan is an Indian Foreign Service Officer (IFS) of 1994 batch. She is at present Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ii.** She has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea. She will take up the new assignment soon.

Former DoPT Secretary Bhanu Pratap Sharma appointed chairman of Bank Board Bureau (BBB)

On 12th April 2018, former DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) Secretary Bhanu Pratap Sharma was appointed the Chairman of Banks Board Bureau (BBB) by the government.



- i.** Bhanu Pratap Sharma succeeds Vinod Rai. Vinod Rai was appointed as the first chairman of BBB for a period of two years.
- ii.** Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said that, Bhanu Pratap Sharma will be given the same mandate as that of Vinod Rai.
- iii.** Bhanu Pratap Sharma has been appointed for a two year term. Other members of the BBB are:

- Vedika Bhandarkar (former MD Credit Suisse India)
- P Pradeep Kumar (former MD SBI)
- Pradip P Shah (founder MD Crisil)

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About Banks Board Bureau (BBB):

- ◆ Set up – 2016
- ◆ BBB has replaced – Appointments Board for appointment of Whole-time Directors and non-Executive Chairman of PSBs

Manu Bhaker will be the brand ambassador of Haryana's Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign

Indian shooter Manu Bhaker has been named the brand ambassador of Haryana's Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign.



Manu Bhaker – brand ambassador of Haryana's Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign:

- This campaign will be launched by **Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar** on 25th April 2017.
- Vaccination for around 85 lakh children aged between nine months and 15 years will be done in this campaign.
- This campaign will continue for 5-6 weeks. Decision regarding this was taken in a meeting of State Level Steering Committee for Measles Rubella Campaign chaired by Chief Secretary, D S Dhesi.
- As part of this campaign, immunisation will be done in 22,626 government and private schools, 25,771 Anganwadi centres, construction sites, brick kilns, poultry farms, other high risk zones and urban areas.

AIIMS professor Balram Bhargava appointed DG of ICMR

On 10th April 2018, Balram Bhargava was appointed the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of the Department of Health Research.

Balram Bhargava – DG of ICMR:

- Balram Bhargava is currently Professor/Senior

Consultant Cardiologist at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). He has been appointed the DG of ICMR for a 3 year term or until 60 years of age, as per an order issued by the Personnel Ministry.

- Also, scientist **Renu Swaroop has been appointed the Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology.**

- Renu Swaroop is at present senior adviser in the Department of Biotechnology. She has been appointed as Secretary for a two year term or until 60 years of age.

About Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR):

- ◆ Headquarters – Delhi
- ◆ Formed – 1911

Ban Ki-moon elected as Chairman of Boao Forum

On 9th April 2018, former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was elected chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia.



- Ban Ki-moon replaces Japan's Yasuo Fukuda. His appointment took place at the annual session of the forum named the "Asian Davos". The annual session takes place between 8th and 11th April 2018.
- Also, former governor of the People's Bank of China **Zhou Xiaochuan was appointed vice-chairman of Boao Forum for Asia.**
- Over 2,000 political and economic leaders, including heads of large multinational firms, take part in this annual session.

About Boao Forum for Asia:

- ◆ Formed – 2001
- ◆ Secretariat of Boao Forum for Asia – Beijing, China

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Labour Secretary M Sathiyavathy took charge as member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

On 9th April 2018, Labour Secretary M Sathiyavathy took charge as a member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

M Sathiyavathy – member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

i. U P Singh has been given additional charge as secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment. He is a senior IAS officer. He is currently secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

ii. M Sathiyavathy is an IAS officer of 1982 batch of Union Territories cadre. Vinay Mittal, chairman of the UPSC, administered her oath.

iii. She was the first woman chief of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). She was joint director general in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Controller, ISRO Satellite Centre, Department of Space, member secretary, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, and additional secretary and financial adviser, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

About Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

- ◆ Chairman – Vinay Mittal
- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi

Rishad Premji appointed Nasscom chairman for 2018-19

On 10th April 2018, Nasscom (National Association of Software and Services Companies) announced that it has appointed Rishad Premji as its chairman for 2018-19.



Rishad Premji – Nasscom chairman for 2018-19:

i. Rishad Premji is Wipro's Chief Strategy Officer and Board member. Also, **Keshav Muruges, CEO of WNS Group, has been appointed the**

vice chairman for 2018-19.

ii. Rishad Premji has been a member of Nasscom's Executive Council. He was the vice chairman of Nasscom for 2017-18.

iii. Rishad Premji replaces Raman Roy, Chairman and Managing Director of Quattro Global Services.

About Nasscom:

- ◆ President – Debjani Ghosh
- ◆ Established – 1988

Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban wins new term

On 8th April 2018, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban won a third consecutive term as Prime Minister.



Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban wins new term:

i. Viktor Orban is 54 years old. He will serve a third consecutive term as Hungarian Prime Minister.

ii. Hungary's National Election Office said that, Viktor Orban's party Fidesz won nearly half of the votes, with 93% of votes counted. Fidesz is expected to win a two-thirds majority in parliament.

iii. Hence Viktor Orban might have a two-thirds majority for the third time.

About Hungary:

- ◆ Capital–Budapest
- ◆ Currency–Forint
- ◆ Official language–Hungaria
- ◆ President – János Áder

Ashok Gehlot appointed member of Congress central election panel

Congress general secretary Ashok Gehlot has been made a member of Congress central election committee.;

i. The Congress central election committee selects

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candidates during elections. It has been said that Ashok Gehlot will become a member of the key committee chaired by Congress president Rahul Gandhi with immediate effect.

ii. Ashok Gehlot is a former chief minister of Rajasthan. He was appointed the AICC (All India Congress Committee) general secretary in charge of organisation and training of party cadres, recently.

About Indian National Congress:

- ◆ President – Rahul Gandhi
- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi

Rakesh Kumar Vats given additional charge of NPPA Chairman

Rakesh Kumar Vats has been given the additional charge of chairman of NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority) with immediate effect.



i. Rakesh Kumar Vats replaces Bhupendra Singh as Chairman of NPPA. Bhupendra Singh has been appointed as chairperson of National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention under the Cabinet Secretariat.

ii. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had issued an order regarding this. Rakesh Kumar Vats is an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

iii. The NPPA fixes and revises prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations. It enforces prices and availability of the medicines in India.

iv. It also overlooks the prices of decontrolled drugs to prevent them from hitting high levels. It also recovers the amount overcharged by manufacturers for controlled drugs from customers.

About National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority(NPPA):

- ◆ Functions under – Department of

Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar will hold additional portfolio of Information, Public Relations and Languages department
Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will also hold the additional portfolio of Information, Public Relations and Languages, now.

Manohar Lal Khattar – additional portfolio of Information, Public Relations and Languages:

i. A notification issued on this regard stated that, **Harayana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki** has allocated the portfolio of Information, Public Relations and Languages to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar with immediate effect.

ii. Earlier this portfolio was held by Haryana Women and Child Development Minister Kavita Jain.

Myntra hires PepsiCo India's Mithun Sundar as chief revenue officer

Fashion retailer Myntra has appointed Mithun Sundar as its chief revenue officer.

Mithun Sundar – chief revenue officer of Myntra:

i. Mithun Sundar was PepsiCo India's Head of Strategy. He will take charge as chief revenue officer of Myntra in June 2018. He will report directly to Chief Executive Officer Ananth Narayanan.

ii. He succeeds Naresh Krishnaswamy. Mithun Sundar has 13 years of experience in sales, marketing and strategy. Earlier he had worked with McKinsey and Unilever.

About PepsiCo:

- ◆ Chairman & CEO – Indra Nooyi
- ◆ Headquarters – New York, United States

Julius Maada Bio elected as Sierra Leone's President

On 5th April 2018, Julius Maada Bio was elected the new President of Sierra Leone.



Julius Maada Bio – Sierra Leone’s President:

- i. On 5th April 2018, National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone announced that Julius Maada Bio won the presidential elections with 51.8 percent votes. He belongs to the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP).
- ii. He defeated Samura Kamara. Samura Kamara was the candidate of All People’s Congress, which is the ruling party.
- iii. The presidential elections were conducted on 31st March 2018. **Julius Maada Bio succeeds Ernest Bai Koroma.**
- iv. Julius Maada Bio ruled Sierra Leone as the military head in 1996, along with former foreign affairs minister Kamara.
- v. Julius Maada Bio took oath as the new President of Sierra Leone on 5th April 2018.

About Sierra Leone:

- ◆ Capital – Freetown
- ◆ Official language – English
- ◆ Currency – Leone

Himanta Biswa Sarma elected as President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) On 3rd April 2018, Himanta Biswa Sarma was elected as the President of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for the next 4 years.

- i. Himanta Biswa Sarma is a Cabinet Minister in Assam. He took charge as the interim President of BAI in 2017 following the death of former BAI president Akhilesh Das Gupta.
- ii. He was elected as president of the BAI unopposed at its annual general body meeting and election in Goa on 3rd April 2018.
- iii. Former Tamil Nadu Badminton Association president and Lok Sabha MP from Dharmapuri constituency, **Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss was elected as the treasurer uncontested.**

iv. **Ajay Singhania** of Haryana Badminton Association was elected as **General Secretary of BAI.**

v. Maharashtra Badminton Association President, **Arun Lakhani, was elected as the Senior Vice-President unopposed.**

vi. **Omar Rashid**, Secretary of Assam Badminton Association was elected unopposed as the **Secretary (events).**

About Badminton Association of India:

- ◆ Purpose – to regulate, promote, manage and develop the sport of ‘B



adminton’ in India transparently

- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi

Former Yes Bank senior president joins Rubique as COO

On April 3, 2018, **Rubique, an online marketplace for loan, credit card and insurance** announced the appointment of Ajay Desai as its Chief Operating Officer (COO).

i. Ajay Desai has 20+ years experience in banking sector.

ii. Until recently he was **holding the position of Senior President and Chief Financial Inclusion Officer in Yes Bank.**

iii. Rubique has taken Ajay Desai onboard to leverage his exceptional expertise in Small and Medium Enterprise (SME), financial exclusion and Financial Technology (Fintech).

iv. At Rubique, Ajay Desai will focus on deployment of technology interventions/solutions to address the credit gap.

QuickFactsaboutYesBank:

- ◆ Founded in – 2004
- ◆ Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ◆ Current MD & CEO – Rana Kapoor
- ◆ Tagline – ‘Experience our Expertise’

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SBI Life Insurance appoints Sanjeev Nautiyal as new MD & CEO

On April 3, 2018, SBI Life Insurance Company Limited appointed Sanjeev Nautiyal as its new MD and CEO.



- i. Nautiyal started his career with State Bank of India (SBI) in 1985 as a probationary officer.
- ii. During the course of this career with SBI, Nautiyal held various important roles and responsibilities in areas of credit, human resources, and international banking.
- iii. **Immediately before being appointed as MD & CEO of SBI Life Insurance, he was chief general manager at SBI's Ahmedabad circle.**
- iv. **Sanjeev Nautiyal replaces Arijit Basu as MD & CEO of SBI Life Insurance.** Arijit Basu will be taking over a key role in the State Bank of India Group.

Quick Facts about SBI Life Insurance:

- ◆ Founded in – 2001
- ◆ Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ◆ Joint Venture between – State Bank of India (SBI) and BNP Paribas Cardif

Actor Rituparna Sengupta appointed Shilpi Sansad chairperson

On 2nd April 2018, actor Rituparna Sengupta was appointed the chairperson of Shilpi Sansad.

Rituparna Sengupta – chairperson of Shilpi Sansad:

- i. Rituparna Sengupta replaces Supriya Devi. Supriya Devi passed away recently.
- ii. Shilpi Sansad was set up by Uttam Kumar in 1968. It offers financial security to retired and experienced artistes of Bengali film industry.
- iii. It provides financial assistance to artistes in times of emergency and for medical treatments.

Some National Parks in West Bengal:

- ◆ Jaldapara National Park
- ◆ Neora Valley National Park
- ◆ Singalila National Park

Debjani Ghosh appointed NASSCOM President

On 2nd April 2018, Debjani Ghosh took charge as the President of NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies).

NASSCOM®

Debjani Ghosh
President-Designate
NASSCOM



Debjani Ghosh – NASSCOM President:

- i. Debjani Ghosh replaces R Chandrashekar. R Chandrashekar has completed his five-year term as head of NASSCOM.
- ii. Debjani Ghosh is the former Managing Director of Intel South Asia. She was the first woman to lead Intel India and MAIT (Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology).

About NASSCOM:

- ◆ Chairman – Raman Roy
- ◆ Established – 1988

Subrata Bhattacharjee appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia

On 3rd April 2018, Subrata Bhattacharjee was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia.

Subrata Bhattacharjee – next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia:

- i. Subrata Bhattacharjee is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of 1989 batch. He is Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs at present.
- ii. He has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia. He will take up this assignment soon.

Aashish Kapoor replaces Venkatesh Prasad in BCCI junior selection committee

On 3rd April 2018, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Aashish Kapoor

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has replaced Venkatesh Prasad in the three-member All-India Junior Selection Committee.

Aashish Kapoor replaces Venkatesh Prasad in BCCI junior selection committee:

i. Other two members of the All-India Junior Selection Committee are Gyanendra Pandey and Rakesh Parikh. Aashish Kapoor is a former off-spinner in the Indian cricket team.

ii. He had represented India in four Tests and 17 ODIs. He had also been a part of 128 first-class games and 93 List A matches.

About Board of Control for Cricket in India(BCCI):

◆ Founded – 1926

◆ Acting President – C K Khanna

Former CBSE chairman Vineet Joshi is National Testing Agency D-G

On March 30, 2018, Central Government appointed **former chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Vineet Joshi as the Director General (D-G) of the National Testing Agency (NTA)**, which will conduct various entrance examinations across India.

Vineet Joshi's appointment as D-G of NTA:

i. Currently, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducts Joint Engineering Entrance (JEE) Exam, National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Central Teacher Eligibility Test (twice a year) UGC's National Eligibility Test (twice a year) and the entrance test for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. These exams/tests are in addition to CBSE's own board exams.

ii. With the creation of National Testing Agency (NTA), CBSE and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will be relieved from conducting the above stated exams/tests.

iii. Setting up of NTA was announced by Finance Ministry Arun Jaitley while presenting Union Budget 2017-18. Subsequently, on November 10, 2017, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cleared a proposal for creation of NTA.

iv. Structure of NTA: An eminent educationist appointed by Union Human Resources Development Ministry will be the Chairperson of NTA. The CEO of NTA will be the Director General, and will be appointed by the government.

Director General will be assisted by nine verticals headed by academicians and experts. NTA will also have a Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions.

v. Vineet Joshi is a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Manipur cadre, and has been appointed to the post of D-G, NTA for five years.

M L Srivastava appointed protem chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi

On 31st March 2018, it was announced that, M L Srivastava has been appointed as the protem chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi.

M L Srivastava – protem chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi:

i. M L Srivastava is Joint Secretary (Akademies) at the Ministry of Culture. He has been appointed the Protem Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi with immediate effect by the President based on the recommendation of the Minister of Culture.

ii. He will hold this post until a regular chairman is appointed. The previous administrator of Lalit Kala Akademi is CS Krishna Setty.

About Lalit Kala Akademi:

◆ Location – New Delhi

◆ Inaugurated – 1954

BCCI appoints former Rajasthan DGP Ajit Singh as head of its Anti Corruption Unit

On March 31, 2018, **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has appointed former Rajasthan DGP, Ajit Singh as the Head of its Anti-Corruption Unit.

Ajit Singh appointed as head of BCCI's Anti Corruption Unit:

i. Ajit Singh will replace former Delhi Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar, who has been assigned advisory role in the ACU till May 31, 2018.

ii. Mr. Singh has served in Indian Police Service (IPS) for 36 years. He is experienced in anti-corruption operations, investigative work and field policing.

iii. He has also been the head of Rajasthan's anti-corruption bureau.

iv. Mr. Singh's appointment has been made just ahead of Indian Premier League (IPL), scheduled to commence from April 7, 2018.

AWARDS

65th National Film Awards:

i. The 65th National Film Awards will be presented by President Ram Nath Kovind on 3rd May 2018.

ii. The Feature Film Central panel was headed by Shekhar Kapur. The Non- Feature Film panel was headed by Nakul Kamte and the Best Cinema on Writing jury was headed by Anant Vijay.

On 13th April 2018, the 65th National Film Awards for 2017 was announced by Ministry of



Information and Broadcasting

List of winners is as follows:

- **Best Actress: Sridevi for 'Mom'**
- **Best Actor: Riddhi Sen for 'Nagar Kirtan'**
- **Best Director: Jayaraj for 'Bhayanakam'**
- **Best Film: Village Rockstars (Assamese)**
- Best Action Direction: 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'
- Best Choreography: Ganesh Acharya for 'Gori Tu Latth Maar' from the film 'Toilet Ek Prem Katha'
- Best Special Effects: 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'
- **Special Jury Award: Nagar Kirtan (Bengali)**
- Best Lyrics: Muthurathinam
- **Best Music Direction: AR Rahman for 'Katr Veliyidayi'**
- Best Make-up Artist: Ram Rajak for 'Nagar Kirtan'
- Best Costume: Gobinda Mandal for 'Nagar Kirtan'

- Best Production Design: Santosh Rajan 'Take Off'
- Best Editing: Rima Das for 'Village Rockstar'
- Best Sound Design: 'Walking With The Wind'
- Best Audiography (Location Sound): Mallika Das, Village Rockstar
- Best Location Sound Recording: Mallika Das for 'Village Rockstar'
- Best Screenplay Original: Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
- Best Screenplay Adapted: Bhayanakam
- Best Cinematography: Bhayanakam
- Best Female Playback Singer: Sashaa Tirupati for 'Katr Veliyidayi'
- Best Male Playback Singer: K.J Yesudas for the song 'Poy Maranja Kalam' from 'Viswasapoorvam Mansoor'
- **Best Child Artist: Anita Das for 'Village Rockstar'**
- **Best Children's Film: 'Mhorkya'**
- Best Film on Environmental Conservation: 'Irada'
- **Best Direction: Jayaraj for 'Bhayanakam'**
- Best Feature Film on National Integration: Dhappa (Marathi)
- Best Debut Film of a Director: 'Sinjar'
- **Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'**

Best Regional Films Special Mention:

- Marathi – Mhorkya
- Malayalam – Take Off

Best Regional Films:

- Hindi – Newton
- Ladakh – Walking With The Wind
- Lakshadweep – Sinjar
- Tulu – Paddayi
- Marathi – Kachcha Limboo

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- Malayalam – Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
- Kannada – Hebbettu Ramakka
- Bengali – Mayurakshi
- Assamese – Ishu
- Telugu – Ghazi
- Gujarati – Dhh
- Odiya – Hello Arsi
- Tamil – To Let

About FTII (Film and Television Institute of India):

- ◆ Established – 1960
- ◆ Chairman – Anupam Kher

Dharmendra to receive Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award

Veteran actor Dharmendra will be conferred Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement by Maharashtra State Government.



Maharashtra State Government's Awards to Film Personalities:

- Along with Dharmendra, **Director Rajkumar Hirani will get the Raj Kapoor Special Contributions Award, veteran Marathi actor Vijay Chavhan will get Chitrapati V Shantaram Jivangaurav Puraskar (Lifetime Achievement Award) and actress-director Mrinal Kulkarni will get Chitrapati V Shantaram Vishesh Yogdaan Puraskar (Special Contributions Award).**
- Announcement in this regard was made by Maharashtra Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Vinod Tawde on April 15, 2018.

Winners Of 2018 Pulitzer Prize

The prestigious Pulitzer Prizes for achievements in journalism, literature and musical composition were announced on April 16, 2018. This was the 102nd edition of Pulitzer Prizes.

iii. 82-year old Dharmendra has earned himself the sobriquet of “He-Man”. “Sholay”, “Chupke Chupke”, “Yaadon Ki Baaraat”, “Satyakam” and “Seeta Aur Geeta” are some of the popular movies in which he played the lead role.

iv. These awards were instituted by Maharashtra State Government. **Both the lifetime achievement awards carry a citation and cash reward of Rs 500000 while the special contribution awards carry a citation and Rs 300000 cash prize each.**

v. The awards will be given away at the 55th Maharashtra State Marathi Film Festival.

“Game of Thrones” to receive Special BAFTA recognition

The production team of “Game of Thrones” drama will be awarded the BAFTA Special Award at this year’s British Academy Television Craft Awards.



Game of Thrones’ – BAFTA Special Award:

- The BAFTA Craft Awards will be held on 22nd April 2018 in London. Hannah Murray and John Bradley will receive the award on behalf of the “Game of Thrones” production team.
 - “Game of Thrones” is being honoured for revolutionising several aspects of production in shooting the drama.
 - The award is also given to recognise the support that “Game of Thrones” has provided for high-end TV production in the UK.
- ◆ Formed – 16 April 1947

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Andrew Sean Greer’s ‘Less’ wins 2018 Pulitzer Prize for fiction:

Coming as a positive surprise, a comic novel, ‘Less’, written by Andrew Sean Greer has won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. This year’s winner defied the unwritten convention that Pulitzer Prize for fiction is awarded to books based on a serious theme.

- ‘Less’ is about a 49-year-old struggling San Francisco-based author, Arthur Less, who decides to tour the world to escape himself.
- As per Pulitzer Prize Committee, “‘Less’ is “a generous book, musical in its prose and expansive in its structure and range, about growing older and the essential nature of love.”

Kendrick Lamar becomes 1st rapper to win the Pulitzer Prize:

On April 16, 2018, 30-year old Kendrick Lamar became the first rapper to win a Pulitzer Prize for music.

- Lamar has won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Music for his album ‘DAMN’.

<u>Pulitzer Prize for Music has Explanatory Reporting</u>	Staffs of The Arizona Republic and USA Today Network
<u>Local Reporting</u>	The Cincinnati Enquirer Staff
<u>National Reporting</u>	Staffs of The New York Times and The Washington Post
<u>International Reporting</u>	Clare Baldwin, Andrew R.C. Marshall and Manuel Mogato of Reuters
<u>Feature Writing</u>	Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, freelance reporter, GQ
<u>Commentary</u>	John Archibald of Alabama Media Group, Birmingham, Alabama
<u>Criticism</u>	Jerry Saltz of New York magazine
<u>Editorial Writing</u>	Andie Dominick of The Des Moines Register
<u>Editorial Cartooning</u>	Jake Halpern, freelance writer, and Michael Sloan, freelance cartoonist, The New York Times
<u>Breaking News Photography</u>	Ryan Kelly of The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Virginia

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Feature Photography

Photography Staff of Reuters

Quick Facts about Pulitzer Prize:

- ◆ Awarded For: Outstanding achievements in journalism, literature and musical composition
- ◆ First Awarded in: 1917, by provisions in the will of **Joseph Pulitzer**, a Hungarian-American newspaper publisher
- ◆ Administered By: Columbia University
- ◆ Prize: Gold Medal for the winner in Public Service Category of Journalism. All other winners
 - receive Certificate and \$15000 Cash prize been awarded 67 times since its inception in 1943.
 - However, this was the first time that it has been given to an artist outside of the classical or jazz community.

Winners of 2018 Pulitzer Prize – Letters, Drama & Music:

Category	Winners
Fiction	Less, by Andrew Sean Greer
Drama	Cost of Living, by Martyna Majok
Poetry	Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016, by Frank Bidart
History	The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea, by Jack E. Davis
General Nonfiction	Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America, by James Forman Jr.
Biography	Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Frase
Music	DAMN, by Kendrick Lamar

Winners of 2018 Pulitzer Prize – Journalism:

The coveted Pulitzer Prize in Public Service category went to **The New York Times** and **The New Yorker** for their revelations of sexual harassment and abuse in Hollywood.

Category	Winners
Public Service	The New York Times, for reporting led by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, and The New Yorker, for reporting by Ronan Farrow
Breaking News Reporting	Staff of The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, California

Investigative Reporting

Staff of The Washington Post

Aditi Rao Hydari to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award for ‘Bhoomi’

Aditi Rao Hydari will be awarded the **Dada Saheb Phalke excellence award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award)** for her performance in the Bollywood movie ‘Bhoomi’.



Aditi Rao Hydari – Dada Saheb Phalke excellence award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (CriticsAward):

- i.** The film ‘Bhoomi’ also featured actor Sanjay Dutt. The story revolved around a protective father who saved his daughter from all evils surrounding her.
- ii.** The award ceremony will be held on 21st April 2018, at St. Andrews Auditorium in Mumbai. The event will see participation from producers, directors, distributors, exhibitors etc.

Winners Of Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018

Dadahaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018, honouring individuals from the entertainment industry for their outstanding contribution towards the growth and development of cinema and/or television were presented on April 21, 2018.



- This was the fourth edition of Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards.
- These awards were given by a Mumbai-based organisation called Dadasaheb Phalke Foundation.
- It is to be noted that these awards are different from the Government of India-instituted Dadasaheb Phalke Award, which is India’s highest cinematic honour.

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Winners of Dadahaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Winner</u>
<u>Best actor (male)</u>	<u>Shahid Kapoor</u>
<u>Best actor people's choice award</u>	<u>Ranveer Singh</u>
<u>Best actor (female) Marathi</u>	<u>Pooja Sawant</u>
<u>Entertainer of the year</u>	<u>Kartik Aryan</u>
<u>Best actress (critics)</u>	<u>Aditi Rao Hydari</u>
<u>Lifetime achievement award</u>	<u>Simi Garewal</u>
<u>Pride of Indian cinema</u>	<u>Sanjay Dutt</u>
<u>Path breaking producer of the year</u>	<u>Anushka Sharma and Karnesh Sharma</u>
<u>Best director</u>	<u>Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari</u>
<u>Outstanding performance male</u>	<u>Raj Kumar Rao, Rana Daggubati</u>
<u>Outstanding performance female</u>	<u>Tamannah Bhatia, Kriti Sanon</u>
<u>Promising face of the year</u>	<u>Aahana Kumra</u>
<u>Best actor (male) Marathi</u>	<u>Vaibhav Tatwawaadi</u>
	<u>Best actor (female) Marathi</u>
	<u>Best fashion designer of the year</u>
	<u>Socially conscious performance of the year</u>
	<u>Best comic role</u>
	<u>Entertaining performance in reality show Bigg Boss</u>
	<u>Best actress drama award</u>
	<u>Best actor (male) Television</u>
	<u>Best reality show judge</u>
	<u>Best talk show host</u>
	<u>Best lyricist</u>
	<u>Best performance in a short film</u>
	<u>Rani Mukherjee</u>
	<u>Hina Khan</u>
	<u>Jennifer Winget</u>
	<u>Karan Patel</u>
	<u>Shilpa Shetty</u>
	<u>Karan Johar</u>
	<u>Manoj Muntashir</u>
	<u>Divya Khosla Kumar</u>

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Iconic contribution towards music	Hans Raj Hans
Comic performer of the year	Sumona Chakraborty
Versatile singer	Rani Hazarika
Social and business entrepreneur of the year	Jaya Misra
Best Couple of the Year	Prince Narula and Yuvika Ch
Break Through Artist Of The Year	Vikas Gupta
People's Choice Award	Rohan Mehra, Lopamudra Raut
Style Influencer of the Year	Karan Singh Grover



Highlights of 2018 TIME 100 Most Influential People List:

Four Indian who have featured in 2018 TIME 100 are **Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal, Bollywood star Deepika Padukone and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.**

- Sachin Tendulkar wrote Virat Kohli's TIME profile while Deepika's profile has been written by her 'xXx: Return of Xander Cage' co-star Vin Diesel.
- Bhavish Aggarwal's profile has been written by Flipkart's executive chairman Sachin Bansal and Walter Isaacson, the former TIME managing editor wrote Satya Nadella's profile.
- Surprisingly, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not feature in this year's list. Some of the world leaders who made it to the list are **United States President Donald Trump, North Korea Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un, French President Emmanuel Macron, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.**
- 14-year-old English actress and Model, **Millie Bobby Brown has become the youngest person to be named as one of the world's 100 most influential people by TIME.**

2018 TIME 100 Most Influential People List

2018 TIME 100 Most Influential People List, featuring some of the world's most significant artists, leaders, scientists, activists and entrepreneurs was announced on April 19, 2018.

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- K-pop group BTS, a seven-person group of multitalented South Korean artists is the winner of the 2018 TIME 100 reader poll.

About TIME 100:

TIME 100 is an annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world compiled by the American news magazine 'Time'.

- It was first published in 1999 as the result of a debate among American academics, politicians, and journalists.
- The final list of influential individuals is exclusively chosen by Time editors with nominations coming from the TIME 100 alumni and the magazine's international writing staff. However, the winner of the Reader's Poll is chosen by the general public.
- As stated by TIME, individuals featuring in the final list are recognized for changing the world, irrespective of the consequences of their actions.
- **Winners of the '1st Print Biennale India 2018' given away awards in New Delhi**
The awards of Print Biennale India 2018 were given at a function in New Delhi on April 20, 2018.
Print Biennale India 2018 Awards:
 - i. 'Print Biennale India 2018', the first-ever International Exhibition of Graphic Prints was inaugurated in New Delhi on March 25, 2018.
 - ii. It was **hosted by India's National Academy of Art, the Lalit Kala Akademi.**
 - iii. The exhibition brought together participants from 17 countries such as USA, UK, Sri Lanka, Mexico, China, Sweden, Poland, Argentina, Greece, Bangladesh, and Mauritius.
 - iv. A total of 1126 entries of 415 artists across the globe (including 364 of Indian artists) were received.
 - v. Winners of the '1st Print Biennale India 2018': Arup Kumar Kuity (Andhra Pradesh), Satya Narayana Gavara (Andhra

Pradesh), Purvi Parmar (Gujrat), Preya Bhagat (Uttar Pradesh) and Sonal Varshneya (Uttar Pradesh).

vi. In addition to above five awards, eight other printmakers were chosen for appreciation mention by the jury of the competition.

- **IOC President Thomas Bach presents memento to Abhinav Bindra, Vijender Singh**

On Apr. 20 2018, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president **Thomas Bach** presented a memento to Indian Olympic medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra and boxer Vijender Singh.



i. A dinner was hosted last night in honour of IOC president Bach during his second visit of India. On this occasion **Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President Narinder Dhruv Batra,** Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) President HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Sabah were also present.

ii. On this occasion IOC President presented a memento to Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra and bronze medallist Vijender Singh. During the dinner former Indian Olympians and players were also present.

- **Boycott shooting from 2022 CWG huge setback for India: Abhinav Bindra**

On April 19 2018, **Indian Olympics Association President Narinder Batra** calls for boycotting the 2022 Commonwealth Games over the absence of shooting from the event's roster are going a "bit too extreme".

i. The Birmingham Organising Committee has

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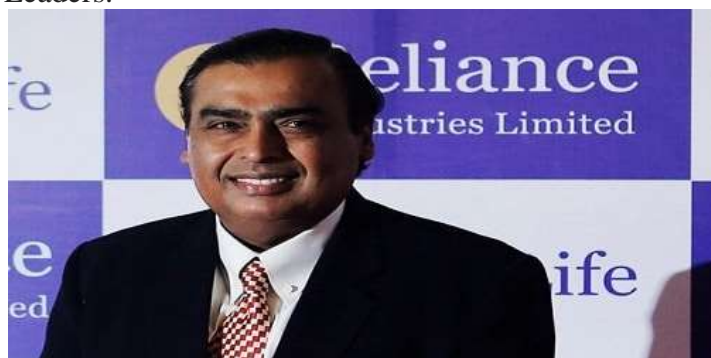
decided to exclude shooting from the 2022 Games. **National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Raninder Singh** had called for the 2022 Games' boycott if shooting was not reinstated at the next CWG.

ii. In the recent Gold Coast Common Wealth Games ,India has bagged 16 medals includes seven gold Medals.

iii. Shooting has been played in every edition since Kingston 1966, except once in Edinburgh in 1970 at CWG.

Mukesh Ambani named by Fortune magazine as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018

Richest Indian, Mukesh Ambani and human rights lawyer Indira Jaising have featured in Fortune magazine's 2018 ranking of the 50 Greatest Leaders.



World's 50 Greatest Leaders, 2018:

i. **Mukesh Ambani has ranked 24th on the list.** Launch of Reliance Jio ushered in a new era of affordable mobile data for the Indian masses. This phenomenon, referred to as 'Jio-fication' radically altered the telecom industry landscape, as older operators were compelled to reduce prices.

ii. **Indira Jaising, the lawyer who has dedicated her life to battling injustice ranked at 20th.** Ms Jaising has fought on behalf of victims of 1984 Bhopal Gas disaster and has played instrumental role in drafting India's first domestic violence law.

iii. **Architect Balkrishna Doshi (43rd rank)** is another Indian who has made it to the list along with Mukesh Ambani and Indira Jaising.

Quick Facts about Fortune Magazine:

- ◆ Founded in – 1929
- ◆ Founded by – Henry Luce
- ◆ Published and Owned by – Time Inc.

President Confers Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards

On 23rd April 2018, **President and Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces Ram Nath Kovind** conferred Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards at an event at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi.

Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards:

i. Ram Nath Kovind conferred **3 Kirti Chakras and 13 Shaurya Chakras** to Armed Forces Personnel for displaying courage and devotion to duty.

ii. **2 Kirti Chakras and 2 Shaurya Chakras were awarded posthumously.** The President also conferred **13 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 2 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 2 Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals and 26 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals** to senior officers of the Armed Forces for distinguished service of an exceptional order.

iii. The list of awardees is as follows:

Kirti Chakra:

- Pramod kumar (posthumous)
- Giris gurung (posthumous)
- Preetam Singh Kunwar

Shaurya Chakra:

- Gosavi Kunal Munnagir (posthumous)
- Raghubeer Singh (posthumous)
- Kashmir singh
- Shabir ahmed
- Vikash jakhar
- Riyazalam ansari
- Deepak ale
- Pradeep shoury arya
- Manchu
- Rabindra thapa
- Narender singh
- Akhil raj rv
- Devendra Mehta

Param Vishisht Seva Medal:

- Sarath chand
- Dewan rabindranath soni
- Devrajanbu

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- Cherish mathson
- Abhay raghunath karve
- Chandrashekharan hari kumar
- Anil khosla
- Rajendra ram rao nimbhorkar
- Sanjay kumar jha
- Gurpratap singh dhillon
- Parminderjit singh pannu
- Kanwaljeet singh gill
- Sanjay thapa

Uttam Yuddh Seva Medal:

- Jaswinder singh sandhu
- Amarjeet singh bedi

Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medal:

- Ranbir singh
- Lalit kumar pandey

Some important museums in India:

- ◆ Folklore Museum – Mysore, Karnataka
- ◆ Jayachamarajendra Museum – Mysore, Karnataka
- ◆ Government Museum (Shivappa Nayaka Palace) – Shivamogga, Karnataka

Abu Zeid: Jailed Egyptian Photographer wins 2018 UNESCO Press Freedom Prize
On 23rd April 2018, jailed Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid won the 2018 Press Freedom Prize awarded by UNESCO.



Jailed

Egyptian photojournalist wins 2018 UNESCO Press Freedom Prize:

i. In spite of warnings from Egypt, UNESCO has awarded the World Press Freedom prize to Egyptian photographer Abu Zeid. He is also known as Shawkan.

ii. He is in jail as he was arrested in Cairo in August 2013 for covering a demonstration at Rabaa Al-Adawiya Square.

iii. The Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize will be awarded on 2nd May 2018 in connection with World Press Freedom Day.

Nadiya Shafi has won the 2018's Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in women's empowerment
Nadiya Shafi, a video reporter from Srinagar, has received 2018's 'Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment', with a cash prize of Rs 1.50 lakh.



Nadiya Shafi – 2018's Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in women's empowerment:

- This award is given in recognition of Nadiya Shafi's contribution to gender equality and leading gender discussion clubs in Srinagar.
 - The award has been instituted in the memory of Dr. Martha Farrell, an eminent activist for gender equality and women's empowerment. She was killed in Kabul in a terrorist attack in 2015.
 - The award is co-sponsored by Rizwan Adatia Foundation (RAF) and Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and supported by Martha Farrell Foundation (MFF).
 - The 'best organisation for gender equality' award, was awarded to Maharashtra-based Resource and Support Centre for Development (RSCD) for promoting inclusion of women in political processes in 30 districts of Maharashtra.
- Some important wildlife sanctuaries in Jammu And Kashmir:**

- ◆ Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary
- ◆ Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary

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CSIR wins National Intellectual Property Award 2018

On 26th April 2018, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was awarded the National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018 in the category ‘Top R&D Institution/Organisation for Patents and Commercialisation’.

CSIR wins National Intellectual Property Award 2018:

- i. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu handed over the award to CSIR Director General Girish Sahni at an event in New Delhi.**
- ii. The event was organised by the Indian Intellectual Property Office and Confederation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (CII) to celebrate the World IP Day.**
- iii. CSIR has been ranked 9th in the world among 1,207 government institutions, with an overall global ranking of 75 in the world, covering 5,250 institutions.**
- iv. IAS officer couple Mayur Maheswari and Ritu Maheswari were awarded a special citation award for their patent invention to enable communication between various health stakeholders.** They assigned it to the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry for free utilization later.
- v. The Indian Intellectual Property Office presents IP Award to outstanding innovators, organisations and companies in the fields of patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications every year on World IP Day.**

About Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR):

- ◆ Director General – Girish Sahni
- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi

Moglix bags SAP ACE AWARD 2018 for Sourcing Excellence

On 26th April 2018, Moglix, a B2B commerce company, announced that it has won 11th edition of SAP ACE Awards 2018 in Sourcing Excellence category.

Moglix – 11th edition of SAP ACE Awards 2018:

- i. SAP India has given this award to Moglix as a**

recognition to its extraordinary innovative procurement technology.

ii. SAP ACE awards recognises excellences in IT innovation in various business sectors, bringing a digital impact in India’s economy.

iii. This year, SAP ACE Awards 2018 received more than 300 project nominations in 16 award categories, with focus on large and midsize companies.



About Moglix:

- ◆ Founder and CEO – Rahul Garg
- ◆ Type – B2B commerce company

Santosh Gangwar gives away NSCI Safety Awards – 2017

On 27th April 2018, Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (Independent charge) Ministry of Labour & Employment presented the National Safety Council’s (NSCI) Safety Awards’ for 2017 at New Delhi.

NSCI Safety Awards – 2017:

- i. The function was presided by Satish Reddy, Chairman, National Safety Council & Chairman, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd.**
- ii. The NSCI Safety Awards are national level Awards in occupational safety, health and environment sector.**
- iii. They are given in recognition for effective Safety Management System and excellent safety & health performance by the organizations in Manufacturing, Construction and MSME Sectors.**
- iv. The Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar under Group A, Group B, Group C, Group D and Group E in Manufacturing Sector were won by: Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd., Bareilly (UP); NPCIL, Kaiga Generating Station 3 & 4, (Karnataka); Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (Automotive Sector), Haridwar, Uttarakhand and Vardhman Acrylics Ltd., Bharuch, Gujarat, respectively.**

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v. Sojitz – L & T Consortium, Jaipur, Rajasthan was awarded **Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar in Construction Sector.**

vi. Parijat Industries (India) Pvt. Ltd., Ambala, Haryana, won the top level award in MSME sector.

vii. A total of 70 organizations won awards in four awards categories: Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Suraksha Puraskar and Prashansa Patra.

viii. Also, 12 client organizations from Construction Sector were awarded. These Awards were adjudged and declared by the National Safety Council.

About National Safety Council:

- ◆ Chairman – Satish Reddy
- ◆ Headquarters – Mumbai

Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra chosen for 2017 Saraswati Samman

K K Birla Foundation has announced that, **Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra's poetry collection "Vakhar" has been selected for the Saraswati Samman for 2017.**

Sitanshu Yashaschandra chosen for 2017 Saraswati Samman:

i. The selection for this award is done by a high level named 'Chayan Parishad' (selection committee). It is presided by former secretary general of Lok Sabha, Subhash C Kashyap.

ii. This award was instituted in 1991. It recognises outstanding literary work every year written in any Indian language and published in the last 10 years.

iii. The 'Vakhar' (poetry) by Sitanshu Yashaschandra was published in 2009. Sitanshu Yashaschandra was born in 1941 in Bhuj.

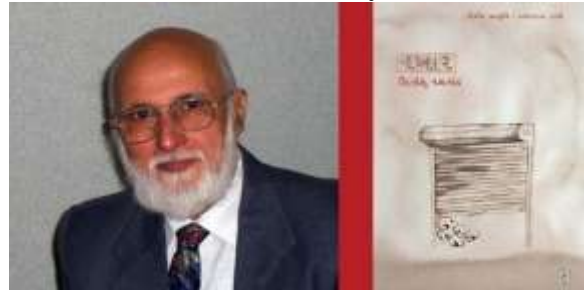
iv. He has written 10 books of plays and three books of criticism. He has received Sahitya Akademi Award, Kabir Samman and Padma Shri etc.

v. The Saraswati Samman award carries a **cash prize of Rs 15 lakhs, a citation and a plaque.**

Some wildlife sanctuaries in Gujarat:

- ◆ Mitiyala Wildlife Sanctuary
- ◆ Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary

◆ Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary



Budgam shortlisted for PM Modi's excellence award

Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir has been shortlisted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's excellence award for promoting digital payments and cashless economy.

i. Digital payments facility has been implemented at 670 places throughout the Budgam district, under the supervision of District authorities.

ii. The places cover 372 ration shops, 285 fertilizer shops and 13 Revenue (Tehsil) offices in Budgam.

iii. The district administration has trained local residents at Common Services Centers (CSC) to execute the digital payments system successfully.

Some stadiums in Jammu & Kashmir:

- ◆ Bakhshi Stadium
- ◆ Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium

Parijat Industries wins prestigious NSCI Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar

Parijat Industries (India) Pvt Ltd, an Indian agrochemical company, has been conferred the "Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar" gold award for the year 2017.



i. The award was given away by **Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment**, at an event in New Delhi.

ii. The award was given for consistent and effective operational safety, performance and executing

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occupational safety and health (OSH) management system procedures at Parijat Industries (India)'s manufacturing plant at Ambala.

iii. The NSCI (National Safety Council, India)

Safety Awards are national level awards for occupational safety, health and environment.

iv. They are awarded for effective Safety Management System and efficient safety and health performance by organisations in manufacturing, construction and MSME sectors.

About Parijat Industries (India):

◆ Chairman and Managing Director – Keshav Anand

◆ Corporate Office – New Delhi

Mahendra Singh Dhoni was honoured with the Padma Bhushan Award by President Ram Nath Kovind at an event in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on 2nd April 2018.

Former Indian Cricket captain, Mahendra Singh Dhoni holds the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel of Indian Army. He received the Padma Bhushan Award in his army uniform. Billiards player Pankaj Advani also received the Padma Bhushan award for his extra ordinary achievements.

Chhattisgarh won the 'State of the Year' Award under the 'business leader' category at the India Business Leader Awards (IBLA) in New Delhi

The India Business Leader Awards (IBLA) was organised by CNBC-TV18 channel. Chhattisgarh was awarded for remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors.

J P Nadda gives away Kayakalp awards, 2017-18

National felicitation ceremony of Kayakalp awardees (2017-18) was held in New Delhi on April 19, 2018.:

i. Launched in 2015, Kayakalp scheme awards public health facilities for their work in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene.

ii. On April 19, 2018, Union Health Minister, J P Nadda gave away Kayakal Awards to the winners under various categories.

iii. All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi got the first prize of Rs. 2.5 crore under the Central Government Hospitals A category.

iv. NEIGRIHMS, Shillong was adjudged the winner in Group B category and was awarded Rs. 1.5 crore.

v. Mr. Nadda also felicitated the District Hospitals, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) for winning the awards in their respective states and union territory.

vi. Mr. Nadda and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Ms. Anupriya Patel released the Kayakalp Coffe Table book along with the Patient Safety Framework and Kayakalp Implementation Guidebook during the ceremony.

BCCL chairman Indu Jain gets lifetime contribution to media award

On 18th April 2018, Indu Jain, chairman of Bennett, Coleman & Co received the All India Management Association's (AIMA's) annual award for



lifetime contribution to media.

Indu Jain – All India Management Association's (AIMA's) annual award for lifetime contribution to media:

i. AIMA honours achievers who created a fundamental difference to society through its annual Managing India Awards.

ii. It has honoured Indu Jain for managing the Times Group and for establishing the Times Foundation.

iii. Indu Jain also received the Padma Bhushan in 2016. She launched the Times Foundation in 2000 to carry out community services, research foundation, and relief funds.

iv. Bennett, Coleman & Co publishes newspapers and magazines like The Times of India.

About All India Management Association (AIMA):

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- ◆ President – Mr T V Mohandas Pai
- ◆ Location – New Delhi

Madhya Pradesh conferred Most Film Friendly Award

Madhya Pradesh will be conferred Most Film Friendly State Award 2017 by Central Government.



Most Film Friendly State Award 2017:

- Announcement in this regard was made on April 19, 2018 by **Ramesh Sippy, Chairman of the jury for selecting the Most Film Friendly State Award 2017**. The jury comprised renowned filmmakers – Nagraj Manjule, Raja Krishna Menon, Vivek Agnihotri and Uday Singh.
- Madhya Pradesh has been selected for the award on account of ease of filming in the state, excellent ground support, filmic infrastructure, informative website and incentives for filmmaking.
- The award will be presented by President Ram Nath Kovind on May 3, 2018 during the presentation of the 65th National Film Awards.
- Madhya Pradesh beat 15 other states that participated in the Most Film Friendly State Award 2017.
- Uttarakhand will be given a Special Mention certificate** in recognition for the efforts made by State Govt. towards creating a film friendly environment.

Quick Facts about Madhya Pradesh:

- ◆ Capital – Bhopal
- ◆ Current Governor – Anandiben Patel
- ◆ Current Chief Minister – Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- ◆ Important National Park – Bandhavgarh National Park

Rana Kapoor Felicitated With Outstanding Brand Builder Award By AAAI

Mr. Rana Kapoor, MD & CEO of Yes Bank, was recognized as an Outstanding Contributor to the

Media and Communication Industry and Indian Brand Builder by Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) at the 13th edition of Goafest 2018.



Rana Kapoor Felicitated With Outstanding Brand Builder Award By AAAI:

- Mr. Rana Kapoor was honoured by AAAI for initiating banking and financing solutions in the Media and Communications Industry.
- Under his leadership, Yes Bank's Media and Entertainment banking knowledge vertical has helped to further corporatize the Indian Film, Media, Entertainment and Communications industry.
- Goafest was hosted by AAAI and the Advertising Club for the advertising industry on April 5th to 7th 2018.

About Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI):

- ◆ President – Nakul Chopra
- ◆ Location – Mumbai

Siddharth Varadarajan, the founding editor of The Wire will receive the Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University on April 16

Siddharth Varadarajan, the founding editor of The Wire, will be awarded the Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University on 16th April 2018.



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Siddharth Varadarajan – Shorenstein

Journalism Award for 2017:

i. The Shorenstein Journalism Award is given every year by Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center. It awards people from the West and Asia.

ii. Nayan Chanda, a member of the jury said that, Siddharth Varadarajan's initiative in independent, web-based journalism as founding editor of The Wire, his well-researched reports, and his commentaries have attributed to his success.

Some important dams in India:

- ◆ Bhakra Dam – Satluj River
- ◆ Pakal Dul Dam – Marusudar River
- ◆ Sardar Sarover Gujarat Dam – Narmada River

Study Khazana, an e-portal has been awarded “For best emerging online Education Portal in North India”

Study Khazana, an e-portal, was awarded “For best emerging online Education Portal in North India” at the ‘World Education Summit and Award 2018’ at New Delhi.

- i. Actress Sharmila Tagore presented the award to Sana Baqai, the Founder of Study Khazana.
- ii. Study Khazana helps education-deprived aspirants get access to quality education irrespective of geographical boundaries and it encourages open knowledge movement.

Some important international boundary lines:

- ◆ 20 Parallel North – Libya & Sudan
- ◆ 22 Parallel North – Egypt & Sudan
- ◆ 25 Parallel North – Mauritania & Mali

Former Yes Bank senior president joins Rubique as COO

On April 3, 2018, **Rubique, an online marketplace for loan, credit card and insurance** announced the appointment of Ajay Desai as its Chief Operating Officer (COO).

- i. Ajay Desai has 20+ years experience in banking sector.
- ii. Until recently he was **holding the position of Senior President and Chief Financial Inclusion Officer in Yes Bank.**
- iii. Rubique has taken Ajay Desai onboard to leverage his exceptional expertise in Small and

Medium Enterprise (SME), financial exclusion and Financial Technology (Fintech).

iv. At Rubique, Ajay Desai will focus on deployment of technology interventions/solutions to address the credit gap.

Quick Facts about Yes Bank:

- ◆ Founded in – 2004
- ◆ Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ◆ Current MD & CEO – Rana Kapoor
- ◆ Tagline – ‘Experience our Expertise’

Mangaluru airport adjudged India's cleanest airport

Mangalore International Airport has been named the cleanest airport in India.



i. **Mangalore Airport director V V Rao received the award at the 23rd annual day function of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in New Delhi on 1st April 2018.**

- ii. AAI conducted a survey in 53 Indian airports. Mangaluru airport was selected as the cleanest airport in India.
- iii. AAI officials had inspected the airport terminal, parking area, toilets, commercial stalls, road leading to the airport and customer lounge.
- iv. Cleanliness management at the Mangaluru airport is handled by Durga Facility Management Services Private Limited.

About Airports Authority of India (AAI):

- ◆ Chairman – Guruprasad Mohapatra
- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi

Mithali Raj adjudged ‘Sportsperson of the Year’

On 31st March 2018, Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj was honoured with the ‘Sportsperson of the Year’ award at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017, in Hyderabad, Telangana.



Mithali Raj – Sportsperson of the Year:

- i.** Mithali Raj's parents received the Sportsperson of the Year award on her behalf from BV Papa Rao, Advisor to the Telangana government.
- ii.** The '**best senior male athlete**' award was presented to shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** by former

BCCI president N Shivalal Yadav.

iii. The '**best senior female athlete**' award was handed to shuttler **P V Sindhu** by tennis player Sania Mirza.

iv. The '**best coach of the year**' award was given to **Pullela Gopichand** for the second consecutive time, by former Indian cricketer VVS Laxman.

Other awardees:

1. Hockey player N Mukesh Kumar – Lifetime Achievement award
2. Hyderabad Cricket team – 'team of the year' award
3. Gymnast B Aruna Reddy – outstanding achievement award

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO has lost contact with India's most powerful communication GSAT-6A satellite in less than 48 hours after it was launched.

This is caused by power system failure or short circuit on the satellite. The GSAT-6A satellite was to be placed in orbit in three phases after its successful textbook launch on March 29, 2018 onboard of GSLV-F08.

Tiangong-1- China's out-of-control space lab has re-entered Earth's atmosphere, landing in middle of the South Pacific Ocean near world's 'spacecraft cemetery or graveyard'.

Most of its parts were burned up during gravity-propelled re-entry process. Tiangong-1 (Heavenly Palace or Celestial Palace-1) was China's first prototype space station or space laboratory. It was placed in orbit in September 2011 as part of China's efforts towards building its own space station independent and unconnected to any other international space-active countries. It was first operational component of Tiangong program, which aims to place a larger, modular station into orbit by 2023, the time when US-led International Space Station is expected to go out of service. Tiangong-1 was originally planned to be decommissioned in 2013 but its mission was repeatedly extended. It reportedly stopped

functioning in 2016. China has launched a second lab, Tiangong-2 in 2017 which continues to be operational. The spacecraft cemetery also known as Point Nemo — considered the most remote place on Earth (at about 2400 km from any spot of land). It often used to crash-land defunct satellites. Between 1971 and mid-2016, space agencies all over the world have dumped between 260 and 300 spacecraft into the region

A new grass-like plant species named Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis in Ponmudi hills within the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot was discovered by the researchers.

The new species of plant belongs to the Cyperaceae family. Its flowering and fruiting were observed from October to March. In India, Cyperaceae genus is represented by 122 species, of which 87 are reported from the Western Ghats. Many of the known Cyperaceae species are medicinal plants or used as fodder.

Rare dinosaur footprints that are 170 million years old have been discovered in the north-east coast of Isle of Skye in Scotland.

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh were involved in this discovery. The

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study has been published in the Scottish Journal of Geology. Majority of the footprints were made by sauropods and theropods. The sauropods were long-necked and two metres tall. The theropods were also of the same size.

ASPIRE (Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment)

To test supersonic parachute that will help its space exploration missions to land on Mars was successfully conducted by NASA. The parachute was launched aboard of sounding rocket from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in US. It was tested in sky, mimicking conditions of entering red planet. The test of ASPIRE was meant to mimic conditions that spacecraft will experience during red planet entry, descent and landing (EDL).

The Hubble Space Telescope of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has discovered the most distant star ever seen named 'Icarus'.

This huge blue star is located over halfway across the universe. It took nine billion years for the Icarus' light to reach the Earth. The star was named as 'Icarus' after the Greek mythological character who flew too near the Sun on wings of feathers and wax that melted.

'SAHYOG- HYEOLYEOG 2018'- the Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy exercise was conducted on April 5, 2018 off the Chennai coast.

This joint exercise is a part of a proposed establishment of a MoU between the Coast Guards of India and Korea to improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region. As part of the exercise, ships of the Indian Coast Guard and the Korean vessel undertook strategic exercises and drills to counter piracy and carry out maritime law enforcement tasks. As a part of this exercise, ships of the Indian Coast Guard and Korean Coast Guard ship 'BADARO' jointly undertook tactical manoeuvres and drills to counter piracy and carry out maritime law enforcement tasks. Along

with ICG Shaurya, C-423, C-431, Indian Coast Guard also deployed a Dornier aircraft to carry out sea-air coordinated search.

A 10-member committee to regulate online portals, including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators has constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B).

The committee will look to bring online information dissemination under regulation. It will propose policy for foreign direct investment (FDI) in this media.

A team of researchers have identified certain DNA variants for a new effective treatment of the Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), the intestinal disorder.

Irritable bowel syndrome is the most common gastrointestinal disorder. More than 10 percent of the population, particularly women, suffer from recurrent symptoms including abdominal pain, gas, diarrhoea, and constipation.

The first group of China's Yaogan-31 remote sensing satellites was launched into space on April 10, 2018.

The satellites were carried by a Long March-4C rocket, the 271st mission for the Long March rocket family. The mission also sent a micro nanotechnology experiment satellite into orbit. The satellites will be used for electromagnetic environment surveys and other related technology tests. China launched the first 'Yaogan' series satellite, Yaogan-1, in 2006.

Scientists have successfully completed the first test drive of a DNA 'unicycle' – a tiny machine made of genetic material powered by chemical energy that could perform directed

movements. The tiny vehicle is only 30 nanometers in size.

Fuel is given by the protein “T7 RNA polymerase”, as per study published in the journal Nature Nanotechnology. Researchers from the University of Bonn in Germany and the University of Michigan in the US used structures made of DNA nano rings to make the vehicle. The two rings are linked like a chain. This enzyme is coupled to the ring that serves as an engine. It synthesizes an RNA strand based on the DNA sequence. It uses the chemical energy released during this process for the rotational movement of the DNA ring. This ever-expanding RNA thread, which comes from the engine as a waste product, is used to keep the tiny vehicle on its path by using markings on a DNA-nanotube track.

ISRO is going to launch first privately built satellite IRNSS-1L, the backup navigation satellite with a new atomic clock.

The satellite has been developed by a consortium of mid and small sized firms led by Bengaluru-based aerospace firm Alpha Design Technologies under the guidance of ISRO. The satellite will be launched from Sriharikota by the home-grown polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) rocket.

ISRO has successfully launched IRNSS-1I navigation satellite from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

It is overall eighth satellite to join ISRO’s NavIC navigation satellite constellation. It replaced IRNSS-1A, the first of seven navigation satellites of IRNSS series that was rendered ineffective after its three rubidium atomic clocks failed. The satellite was launched on board of PSLV-C41 (height of 44.4 meters and weight of 321 tonnes) after the normal lift-off and was successfully placed in the designated orbit. It was overall 20th flight of PSLV-XL version and 41st successful mission of total 43

of PSLV. IRNSS-1I was made by Bengaluru-based Alpha Design Technologies in collaboration with ISRO. It was ISRO’s second attempt to send replacement satellite. The previous mission of a PSLV carrying IRNSS-1H in August 2017 failed after the heat shield covering satellite failed to separate in space after the launch.

The first of its kind 5G lab in the country has been set-up at Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management which was installed by IIT-Delhi. It is a Massive Multiple-Input, Multiple-Output (MIMO) lab on campus for standardisation, R&D and manufacturing of 5G equipment. The lab will serve as 5G base station prototype that will be used to test and verify algorithms and also develop complete 5G base station. It will help in manufacturing of 5G base stations in India with support and collaboration from industry. It will also be instrumental in generating skilled manpower in this technology. 5G is wireless communication technology based on third-generation partnership project (3GPP). It is next generation mobile networks technology after 4G LTE networks. The 5G wireless technology will offer far greater upload and download speed i.e. 100 times faster internet data speed than current 4G networks.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on April 11, 2018 permitted the marketing of the first medical device to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect greater than a mild level of the eye disease diabetic retinopathy in diabetic adults.

Diabetic retinopathy, the most common cause of vision loss for people living with diabetes, occurs when high levels of blood sugar lead to damage in the blood vessels of the retina, the light-sensitive tissue in the back of the eye. The device, called IDx-DR, is a software programme that uses an AI algorithm to analyse images of the eye taken with a retinal camera called the Topcon NW400. If the images are of the desired quality, the software will provide the doctor with one of the two results, either "more than mild diabetic retinopathy detected: refer to an eye care professional" or

"negative for more than mild diabetic retinopathy: re-screen in 12 months."

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has unveiled beta version of portal (www.tariff.trai.gov.in) to enable consumers see tariffs of different TSPs (telecom service providers) and different Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) at single place.

The portal's beta version (now available only for Delhi circle) shows regular tariffs, special tariff vouchers, promotional tariffs and value-added service packs among others. The portal will not only benefit consumers but also help other stakeholders do a comparative analysis

A new 3D conic device that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency named as 'Artificial Transpiration' have developed by a team of Chinese scientists led by Zhu Jia.

This device is inspired by the transpiration process of trees. The device is fixed with a special 1D water path which can reduce the energy loss in conduction. As 10 to 50 percent of sunlight is diffusive, the cone structure of the device could collect more sunlight throughout the day, compared with a flat device.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved use of 'Acuvue Oasys Contact Lenses' with Transitions Light Intelligent Technology, world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to bright light.

It is first of its kind contact lens that incorporates same technology that is used in eyeglasses that automatically darken in the sun. These contact lens are indicated for daily use to correct vision of people with non-diseased eyes who are nearsighted (myopic) or farsighted (hyperopic)

A group of researchers recently developed a plastic-eating enzyme, which can be used to fight one of the world's biggest pollution problems.

The discovery was made by the researchers from Britain's University of Portsmouth and the US Department of Energy's National Renewable

Energy Laboratory (NREL) while examining the structure of a natural enzyme that was 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 plastic in the 1940s.

A team of scientists has recently discovered that Indian mosquito, when contaminated with the Zika Virus (ZIKV), can transmit the infection to suckling mice.

The study demonstrated that how the Indian Aedes Aegypti mosquito, known for infecting people with dengue and chikungunya, is vulnerable to the Zika virus. As part of the study, mosquitoes were experimentally infected with Zika virus (African Strain MR-766) through the oral-feeding route.

China will launch Fengyun-II 09 satellite, a new meteorological satellite, in 2018 to enhance its weather forecasting capabilities.

The satellite will be launched from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province of China. The Fengyun satellites are a series of remote-sensing meteorological satellites developed by China. Fengyun-I and Fengyun-III are polar orbiting weather satellites. Fengyun-II and Fengyun-IV function in geostationary orbit. The Fengyun-II 09 satellite is the last in the Fengyun-II series. It will collect meteorological, maritime, and hydrological data to help weather forecast in China and neighbouring regions.

World's top 34 technology and securities firms, led by Microsoft and Facebook, have signed a "Cyber-security Tech Accord", a watershed agreement among the largest-ever group of companies agreeing to defend people from malicious attacks by cybercriminals and nation-states.

The Cyber-security Tech Accord agreement will prevent them help governments launch cyber attacks against innocent citizens and enterprises. It

will also protect against tampering or exploitation of their products and services through every stage of techno

The launch of India's second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2' has postponed from April 2018 to October-November 2018 by ISRO.

Chandrayaan 2 is India's second mission to Moon and is advanced version of previous Chandrayaan-1 mission (launched in 2008). It has been developed indigenously by ISRO. It is ISRO's first inter-planetary mission to land rover on any celestial body. The spacecraft (orbiter) weighs around 3,290 kg and it will orbit around moon and perform objectives of remote sensing moon.

'Smart Health'- an innovative mobile app to enable 'ASHA' community health workers track the growing burden of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes in the rural areas was developed by the researchers.

The health workers will be trained to identify people suffering from diabetes or are at high risk of the disease in the rural communities. ASHAs will then offer them lifestyle and diet advice and refer them to a doctor for drug treatment.

Reliance Jio topped the charts of 4G availability and was able to provide an LTE signal more than 95 per cent of the time to testers in every single region in India as per the London-based OpenSignal.

Airtel emerged as the clear leader in OpenSignal's speed metrics across 4G providers in the country. Vodafone had the fastest mobile data connection response times and it got both 3G and 4G latency awards with the lowest ping scores.

Indian Scientists have discovered world's first ayurvedic drug to cure dengue which is likely to be available in market by 2019.

Cyber security Tech Accord to work together on cybersecurity issues was signed by 34 leading

global technology firms including Facebook, Microsoft, HP, ARM, Cisco, and Oracle.

Under it, signatory companies have agreed to collaborate on stronger defence systems, no offensive cyberattacks, and protect against tampering of their products, capacity building and collective action. The participant companies view Tech Accord as Digital Geneva Convention.

Transiting Exo planet Survey Satellite (TESS), a new planet-hunting spacecraft onboard of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Carnival, Florida, US was launched by NASA.

The TESS mission is led by Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research. It is designed to find potential planets orbiting stars close to Earth. The primary mission objective of TESS is to survey brightest stars near Earth for transiting exoplanets over two-year period. TESS has no instruments capable of detecting life. Its main job is to find and characterize planets that will become main targets of future telescopes.

Two small potent molecules Pep-I and Pep-II, for their inhibitory activity to treat Chikungunya disease have identified by the researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee.

Currently, there are no drugs to treat chikungunya or any vaccine to prevent it. The antiviral activity of these molecules was so high that their small amount was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in virus. Pep-I molecule was very efficient in killing the virus, 99% reduction in virus at 5 microMolar and Pep-II molecule showed reduced antiviral activity of only 50% even at a higher concentration of about 200 microMolar.

In order to remove sulphur from fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal, the Scientists from CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) have found four bacterial strains.

The four bacterial strains are Rhodococcus rhodochrous, Arthrobacter sulfureou, Gordonia rubropertinita and Rhodococcus erythropolis. It was

found that four bacteria were able to use almost 99% of sulphur compound in just 10 days. Researchers were also able to identify process of bio-desulfurization of these bacterial strains through specific pathway (4-S pathway). Sulphur is one of the major pollutants emitted during the combustion of fossil fuels.

Scientists have identified signs of the presence of life about 1300 feet below ground in a massive cave in Italy, a discovery that may help detect life on other planets like Mars.

Researchers explored the microbiology and geochemistry of the Frasassi Caves in central Italy and found variations in the isotopic content of atoms in the mineral gypsum, which is a weathering product of the cave's formation. This isotopic variation, in combination with other data, indicates that life played an active role in producing the gypsum.

For the past couple of years, NASA has been partnering with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in Miami, Florida, to encourage student interest in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. Not only scientists with advanced degrees but students are also helping NASA decide what crops to grow in space to expand food options and increase plant diversity.

NASA partners with The Fairchild Challenge, an annual standards-based environmental outreach programme which reaches more than 125,000 students annually, to help determine which edible plants might be suitable for growth in microgravity aboard the International Space Station (ISS) in the vegetable growth chamber. Using equipment that mimics the environmental conditions aboard the ISS, students test factors that may influence plant growth, flavour and nutrition. NASA will use students' data to determine which plants to begin growing in space.

World's smallest land fern named Malvi's adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum malviae*) have discovered by the researchers in Ahwa

forests of Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district.

The fingernail-sized fern belongs to group known as adder's-tongue ferns, named after their resemblance to snake's tongue. Its size is just one centimetre (the most similar adder's-tongue fern is 10 cm tall). Its minuscule seeds (called spores) has unique thick outer layer which is not present in similar species. It is differed from similar ferns in not just size but also in other complex fern features too.

NASA will start work on its Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway by early 2019 when it will award the first contract for the program.

The lunar platform will be NASA's planned 'staging' area for studies of the moon and the deep-space environment. It will eventually also function as a gateway space station for Astronauts travelling to and from Mars.

Fejervarya goemchi - a new species of frog have identified in the highland plateaus of the Western Ghats parts of Goa.

It has been named after state of Goa where the species is discovered.

Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE)

Context: A supersonic parachute that will help NASA missions to land on Mars, was successfully launched into the sky during a key test designed to mimic the conditions of entering the red planet. **The Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE)** was launched aboard a sounding rocket from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in the US.

Background:

An ambitious NASA Mars rover mission set to launch in 2020 will rely on a special parachute to slow the spacecraft down as it enters the Martian at



mosphere at over 12,000 mph (5.4 kilometers per second). The Mars 2020 mission will seek signs of ancient Martian life by investigating evidence in place and by caching drilled samples of Martian rocks for potential future return to Earth.

Scientists develop plastic-eating enzyme

Scientists in Britain and the United States have discovered “PETase” an enzyme that can digest some commonly polluting plastics.

PETase:

i. PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is a strong plastic that is commonly used in bottles. It takes hundreds of years to break down in the environment.

ii. The discovery was made by researchers from Britain’s University of Portsmouth and the US Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

iii. The findings were **published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.**

iv. The discovery was made in Japan. **Ideonella sakaiensis 201-F6 is a bacterium that uses the plastic as its major energy source.**

v. PETase is secreted by **Ideonella sakaiensis 201-F6 to digest plastic. The enzyme is able to digest PET (polyethylene terephthalate).**

Some important museums in India:

- ◆ Kirti Mandir – Porbandar, Gujarat
- ◆ Kutch Museum – Bhuj, Gujarat
- ◆ Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum – Vadodara, Gujarat

Indian scientists make Ayurvedic drug to cure dengue

Indian scientists have formulated **world’s first**

ayurvedic drug to cure dengue, which is likely to be available in the market by 2019.



More information about Ayurvedic drug to cure dengue:

i. Dengue (caused by the aedes aegypti mosquito which breeds in clean water), is the fastest growing mosquito-borne disease across the world as per World Health Organisation (WHO).

ii. first Ayurvedic drug to cure Dengue has been **made with seven herbal ingredients which are in use in Ayurveda system of medicine.**

iii. Pilot studies of this drug (in highly concentrated liquid form) which have proved the clinical safety and efficacy of the drug were already conducted by Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR’s), regional research centre in Belgaum in Karnataka.

iv. Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial (a medical study involving human participants) of the tablet form of this drug is going on in the medical colleges of Belgaum and Kolar in Karnataka.

Scientists discover sweet spot of activity in immune system, key to fight cancer

Scientists in the University of Southampton have discovered that, stimulating a specific location on the surface of immune cells can be targeted with antibodies to help in fighting cancer.

Sweet spot of activity in immune system:

i. This discovery is related to **a receptor called CD40.** CD40 is found on the surface of certain immune cells which regulates their activity.

ii. The CD40 receptors are normally distributed on the surface of resting immune cells. They have to be

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very precisely clustered in order to trigger an immune response against cancer.

iii. Pre-clinical study was performed by scientists from the University of Southampton's Antibody and Vaccine Group and researchers in Biological Sciences and the University of Hamburg.

iv. They also found that the ability of antibody drugs, which bind to the CD40 protein, to cluster the immune cell's receptors, played a major role in triggering the receptors. This study has been **published in Cancer Cell**.

Some important stadiums in India:

- ◆ The Arena – Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- ◆ Tau Devi Lal Stadium – Gurgaon, Haryana
- ◆ Bakhshi Stadium – Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

Sh. Hardeep Puri, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (I/C) launched a Mobile App

On 24th April 2018, **Hardeep Puri, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (I/C)** launched a Mobile App (m-Awas) for allotment of Government accommodations in **General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** in Delhi under the control of the Directorate of Estates.

MobileApp(m-Awas):

- m-Awas was developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre). e-Awas, the application of online allotment will support this App.
- 61,317 residential accommodations of various types are available in Delhi which are allotted to the eligible Central Government employees through Automated System of Allotment (ASA), by using login Id and password.
- This app will enable applicants of the Central Government accommodation in Delhi and people in waiting list, to apply for allotment.
- Users can also view waiting list and allotment lists. The app is user friendly. It can be downloaded and used in an android mobile phone. It can be downloaded for free from the website of GPRA: <https://gpra.nic.in>
- This will be extended to applicants of 8 other

cities where ASA is in operation for the purpose of registration and filling of DE-II form.

About National Informatics Centre(NIC):

- ◆ Headquarters – New Delhi
- ◆ Director General – Neeta Verma

Chandrayaan-2 launch postponed to October-November 2018

On 18th April 2018, 'Chandrayaan-2', India's second moon mission, which was planned to be launched in April 2018 has been postponed to October-November 2018.



i. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Chairman K. Sivan said that the total cost of this mission is **Rs 8 billion**. Rs 2 billion for launching and Rs 6 billion for the satellite.

ii. Chandrayaan-2 will comprise a lander and rover probe which will descend on the surface of the moon. It will observe the lunar surface and send back data for analysis of the lunar soil.

iii. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, said that, Chandrayaan-2 mission is cost-effective, totally indigenous in its expertise, manufacturing and material.

Some important bird sanctuaries in India:

- ◆ Mayani Bird Sanctuary – Maharashtra
- ◆ Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary – Maharashtra

SpaceX blasts off NASA's new planet-hunter, TESS

On 18th April 2018, NASA's latest planet-hunting spacecraft TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) on board a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket took off from Cape Canaveral, in Florida, United States.

Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS):

i. Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is

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a \$337 million satellite. It aims to scan 85 % of the skies for cosmic bodies where life might exist.

ii. The spacecraft is of the size of a washing machine. It is built to search outside the solar system, scanning the nearest, brightest stars for signs of periodic dimming.

iii. These transits will indicate that the planets are in orbit around them. TESS is expected to find 20,000 planets beyond our solar system.

iv. This number includes more than 50 Earth-sized planets and up to 500 planets less than twice the size of the Earth.

v. TESS has four cameras that are only four inches (10 centimeters) across the lenses.

vi. TESS will focus on nearby exoplanets in the range of 30 to 300 light-years away.

vii. Within 10 minutes of the launch, the rocket's first stage returned and landed on a drone ship in the Atlantic Ocean.

viii. NASA has confirmed that the spacecraft's twin solar arrays have been successfully deployed.

ix. **TESS will spend two months moving into the correct orbit. Its first scientific data will be sent in July 2018.**

About SpaceX:

◆ CEO – Elon Musk

◆ Headquarters – California, U.S.

China launches cloud platform for its scientists
China has introduced China Science and Technology Cloud (CSTC) to provide scientists with accessible, accurate and secure data services to promote research and innovation.



China Science and Technology Cloud (CSTC):

i. China Science and Technology Cloud (CSTC) has been **developed by the Computer Network Information Centre of the Chinese Academy of**

Sciences.

ii. CSTC obtains data from the academy's research institutes and major scientific installations, and many Chinese top universities and private innovation centres.

iii. Applications are classified into 5 categories:

- data resources
- cloud computing with artificial intelligence (AI) and supercomputers
- research software support
- research community networks
- outreach to foreign scientists and platforms

ointments by the Union ministry of **Odilorhabdins: New class of antibiotics to fight drug resistance discovered**

A new class of antibiotics named “Odilorhabdins” has been discovered which can help in fighting drug-resistant or hard-to-treat bacterial infections.

Odilorhabdins:

i. The antibiotic called odilorhabdins, or ODLs, are developed by symbiotic bacteria present in soil-dwelling nematode worms that colonise insects for food.

ii. The bacteria helps to kill the insect and secretes the antibiotic to keep competing bacteria away.

iii. Researchers from the University of Illinois (UIC) at Chicago and Nosopharm, a France-based biotechnology company, were involved in this study.

iv. It has been found that ODLs act on the ribosome of bacterial cells. When ODL is bound to ribosome, it disrupts its ability to interpret and translate genetic code.

Some international airports in India:

◆ Kempegowda International Airport – Bengaluru, Karnataka

◆ Cochin International Airport – Kochi, Kerala

◆ Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport – Indore, Madhya Pradesh

SpaceX successfully launched its Falcon 9 rocket
On 2nd April 2018, SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched its Dragon spacecraft – SpaceX's 14th commercial resupply services mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

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SpaceX successfully launched its Falcon 9 rocket:

- i. The spacecraft carries 2,630 kg of research, crew supplies and hardware. **It took off from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on 2nd April 2018.**
- ii. Ten minutes after the take-off, the second stage engine burned out completely and Dragon separated from its Falcon 9 second-stage rocket. Later, the solar arrays were deployed.
- iii. It is expected to reach the International Space Station on 4th April 2018. It will return to Earth in May 2018 with results of a few completed

experiments.

- iv. Flight Engineers Norishege Kanai of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and NASA astronaut Scott Tingle will overlook the operation of the Canadarm2 robotic arm for Dragon's capture.
- v. After capture, mission control in Houston will send ground commands for the station's arm to rotate and install it on the bottom of the station's Harmony module.
- vi. This mission will focus on scientific investigations such as a study on severe thunderstorms on Earth, effects of microgravity on production of high-performance products from metal powders, and food growth in space.
- vii. The spacecraft also carried cargo for testing effects of harsh space environment on materials, coatings and components; identifying potential pathogens on the station and investigating an antibiotic-releasing wound patch.

About SpaceX:

- ◆ CEO – Elon Musk
- ◆ Headquarters – California, U.S

ENVIRONMENT

Fejervarya goemchi: New frog species named after Goa

'Fejervarya goemchi', a large-sized brown frog, measuring 41 to 46mm, has been discovered in Goa.

- i. **Fejervarya goemchi has been named after the state Goa, where it was discovered.**
- ii. It has been discovered by scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Pune. It was discovered in Surla, Goa.

Giant Mosquito Found In China

Chinese entomologists have discovered a giant mosquito belonging to **Holorusia Mikado** species, with a wing size of 11.15 cm in Sichuan province of China.

- i. The giant mosquito belongs to the world's largest mosquito species **Holorusia Mikado**. It was found in August 2017 during a field trip to Mount Qingcheng in Chengdu.
- ii. It was first found in Japan and was named by British entomologist John Obadiah Westwood in

1876. The **Holorusia mikado** species generally has a wing size of nearly 8 cm.

- iii. These mosquitoes do not feed on blood. They feed mainly on nectar. The adults have a life span of a few days.
- iv. **Holorusia mikado** also known as the crane fly are mainly found in the Chengdu plain of the western parts of Sichuan.

Nick names of some Indian cities:

- ◆ Auroville (Pondicherry) – City of Dawn
- ◆ Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) – Steel city, Pittsburg of India
- ◆ Dhanbad (Jharkhand) – Coal Capital of India

Malvi's adder's-tongue fern: World's smallest land fern discovered in Western Ghats

Indian researchers have discovered world's smallest land fern **in the Ahwa forests of the Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district.**

Details about World's smallest land fern:

- i. Researchers have stated that this fern belongs to a

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group known as the adder's-tongue ferns, named after their resemblance to a snake's tongue.

ii. The new **Malvi's adder's-tongue fern**

Ophioglossum malviae is just one centimetre in size. However, the most similar adder's-tongue fern is 10 cm tall.

iii. Researchers from Department of Biosciences at Surat's Veer Narmad South Gujarat University stumbled across this fern during a botanical expedition in 2016.

iv. After studying its morphology in detail, **researchers discovered that it differed from similar ferns in not just size but other complex fern features viz. composition of seeds and DNA.**

1200-year-old Buddha cliff carvings found in Tibet

Cliff carvings of Buddha that are 1,200 years old have been discovered in eastern Tibet.

i. The regional cultural relics protection research institute said that, the Cliff carvings of Buddha were found in Acur township in Chagyab County of the Qamdo City.

ii. The discoveries date back to the Tibetan Tubo Kingdom era. This era is said to be the most powerful period in Tibet's history.

iii. The carvings are inscribed on cliffs that are around 10 metres in total. The carvings are said to be made in 9th century, based on their style.

Some important temples in India:

- ◆ Vaishno Devi Temple – Katra, Jammu & Kashmir
- ◆ Golden Temple – Amritsar, Punjab
- ◆ Tirupati Balaji (Tirumala Venkateswara Temple) – Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

Four kingfisher bird species thriving in Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh

At least four kingfisher species are thriving in the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh.

i. The four kingfisher species were documented and photographed by a team of Wildlife Management Division, Eluru, under the control of wetland expert Allaparthi Appa Rao.

ii. The Forest Department team spotted these kingfisher species during its field visits as a part of a fauna survey.

iii. The species have been identified as **White-throated kingfisher (Halcyon smyrnensis), Pied kingfisher (Ceryle rudis), Black-capped kingfisher (Halcyon pileate) and the Common kingfisher.** The birds are thriving there as the sanctuary is an ideal habitation for prey.

Some important wildlife sanctuaries in India:

- ◆ Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary – Maharashtra
- ◆ Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary – Gujarat
- ◆ Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary – Arunachal Pradesh

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Former PM Manmohan Singh launches economist Rao's book

On 26th April 2018, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released **'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism'**, a book written by former Planning Commission and Finance Commission member **C H Hanumantha Rao.**

My Journey from Marxism-



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Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism:

i. Manmohan Singh said that, C H Hanumantha Rao is a creative thinker, social activist, and distinguished economist.

ii. He said that, the book shows that C H Hanumantha Rao was not very happy with Emergency and the suspension of human rights and civil rights in India, referring to the 1975 Emergency imposed by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Nick names of some Indian cities:

- ◆ Auroville (Pondicherry) – City of Dawn
- ◆ Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) – Steel city, Pittsburg of India
- ◆ Dhanbad (Jharkhand) – Coal Capital of India

Shri Ashwini Choubey releases Handbook on Prevention of Accidents and Awareness of First Aid

On 26th April 2018, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare released a Handbook on Prevention of Accidents and Awareness of First Aid on the occasion of ‘Road Safety Week’ at an event in New Delhi.



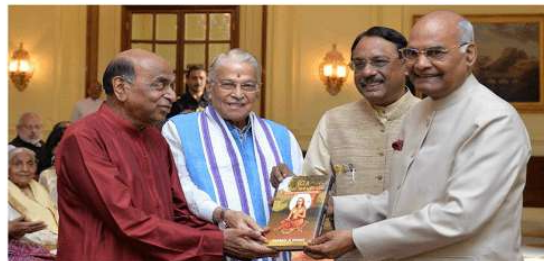
- i. Ashwini Kumar Choubey stressed on the importance of giving medical trauma care to the injured during the first hour of the accident, known as the golden hour.
- ii. He administered an oath to the officers and staff on road safety. A skit was played highlighting the importance of first aid training and administering of first aid.

Some important lakes in India:

- ◆ Hamirsar Lake – Gujarat
- ◆ Kankaria Lake – Gujarat
- ◆ Lakhota Lake – Gujarat

” President Receives the First Copy of “Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism’s Greatest Thinker

On April 21,2018 **The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, received the **first copy of the book “Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism’s Greatest Thinker”**, from the author Shri Pavan Varma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



i. Adi Shankaracharya was born over 1,200 years ago in Kerala. He was a spiritual leader, a Vedantic philosopher, a monk, a scholar and an explorer. His contributions are continued to be a guide to everyday life.

ii. He established **four Peethas – in the north, south, east and west**. These *Peethas* were and are different – and at once they were and are the same. That is the beauty of India.

Nitish Kumar Launches 3 Books On Mahatma Gandhi’s Champaran Movement

On April 22,2018 Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released three **books based on Mahatma Gandhi’s Champaran movement of 1917**.

- i. Nitish Kumar released the books titled- ‘**Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary**’ written by Arvind Mohan, ‘**Champaran Andolan 1917**’ edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar and ‘**Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi**’ collected and edited by Srikan.
- ii. The Champaran movement is acknowledged as the first Satyagraha movement inspired by Mahatma Gandhi.
- iii. Talking about the 1857 rebellion, the chief minister said that a three-day function is being organised from April 23, keeping in mind the important role played by Babu Veer Kuer Singh in the revolt.

sports

Mithali Raj , Captain of Indian Women’s Cricket Team was honoured with the “ Sportsperson of the year” award at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017in Hyderabad, Telangana.”

The best coach of the year award was bagged by Pullela Gopi Chand for the second consecutive time. “ The best male athlete award goes to Kidambi Srikanth and the best female athlete award was bagged by PV Sindhu.

Kerala defeated West Bengal and won its sixth title in the 72nd Santosh Trophy (Football) at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal on 1st April 2018. Kerala had last won Santosh Trophy in 2005. West Bengal had won Santosh Trophy title 32 times.

Kerala defeated West Bengal and won its sixth title in the 72nd Santosh Trophy (Football) at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal on 1st April 2018.

Kerala had last won Santosh Trophy in 2005. West Bengal had won Santosh Trophy title 32 times.

Indian Badminton players, PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth have been named ‘Sportspersons of the Year’ at the inaugural ESPN Multi-Sport Awards

Kidambi Srikanth has been adjudged ‘Sportsperson of the Year – Male’ for winning four Super Series titles. He is the only Indian shuttler and the fourth player ever to accomplish this feat in one calendar year. PV Sindhu has been adjudged ‘Sportsperson of the Year – Female’ for her

outstanding performance in past one year, wherein she won the Indian and Korean Open Super Series titles. PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth’s coach Pullela Gopichand has been adjudged ‘best coach’. Among other winners, Indian National Women’s Hockey Team got the ‘Team of the Year’ title for their first Asia Cup victory in 13 years. ‘Moment of the Year’ award, which was decided through a public poll went to Jeakson Singh for scoring a memorable goal against Columbia in the U-17 FIFA World Cup. Jeakson is the only Indian to score in a FIFA event.

2018 Miami Open, also known as 2018 Miami Masters, a professional men and women’s tennis tournament, took place in Miami, Florida, United States,

from March 19, 2018 to April 1, 2018. 2018 Miami Open was presented by Itaú (a Brazilian Bank). It was the 34th edition of the Miami Open and was played on outdoor hard courts.

. Gnansekaran performance has been on an upward trajectory since past six months as he **won gold in the ITTF Challenge – Spanish Open in November 2017** and reached the pre-quarterfinals of the Qatar Open in March 2018. Veteran Table Tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal has registered a phenomenal jump of 22 places to be at 48 in the latest ITTF Ranking. Soumyajit Ghosh (70), Harmeet Desai (74), Anthony Amalraj (83) and Sanil Shetty (84) are the other Indian Table Tennis players in top 100. **Among Indian Woman Table Tennis Players, Manika Batra continues to rank highest at 58,** followed by Mouma

Indian Table Tennis player Sathiyam Gnansekaran has reached his career-best ranking of 46 in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings Das at 88.

Weightlifter Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu on April 6, 2018 clinched the second Gold Medal for India by winning in the 53 kg Women weightlifting category at the 21st Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre in Gold Coast, Australia.

Sanjita defeated Dika Toua of Papua New Guinea with a total lift (snatch plus clean and jerk) of 192 kg (84 kg snatch + 108 kg clean and Jerk). She broke the Commonwealth Games record in snatch with a lift of 84 kg.

India's Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna pair won Davis Cup by defeating China's Gong Mao Xin and Zhang Ze . Leander Paes secured his 43rd doubles win of his career in the competition, in Tianjin, China.

He has broken the 46-year-old record of Italian player Nicola Pietrangeli and become the Davis Cup's most successful doubles player. 5-7, 7-6, 7-6 in the second round of the zonal Davis Cup tie.

The Indian mixed badminton contingent claimed its maiden Commonwealth Games gold medal on April 9, 2018,

Thrashing three-time defending champions Malaysia in the final at Gold Coast, Australia. India also swept the Table Tennis team events at the CWG with both their men's and women's team bagging the gold medal. The Indian men's table tennis team matched the women's team by claiming a memorable gold medal with a 3-0 win over Nigeria in the final on April 9. It is the first time since the sport's induction into the Commonwealth Games' program that India has topped both categories.

Five-time world champion M C Mary Kom has assured herself a medal on her debut appearance at the ongoing Commonwealth Games.

The 35-year-old Olympic bronze-medalist entered the semi-finals in Gold Coast with a 5-0 win over Scotland's Megan Gordon. Her win has assured the Indian boxing contingent of its first CWG medal.

FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of April 2018 ranked current world champions, Germany at the top,

Brazil, which is ranked at the second position .While Belgium moved up two places to the third rank, Portugal and Argentina each dropped a place to be ranked fourth and fifth respectively.

Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj, captains of Indian men and women's cricket team respectively found a place in the Wisden's leading cricketers of the year.

England's women cricketers Heather Knight, Natalie Sciver and Anya Shrubsole have been selected for Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year. West Indies batsman Shai Hope and Essex bowler Jamie Porter were also chosen for Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year. Stu Forster of Getty Images took a picture of English fast bowler Katherine Brunt taking a selfie at the cricket world cup final at Lord's stadium. This has been selected as the Cricket Photograph of the Year.

Indian tennis star Yuki Bhambri on April 16, 2018 broke back into the top-100 of ATP men's singles ranking for the first time since February 2016.

As per the latest ranking, he jumped 22 places to his career-best rank of 83. This is also the best rank that any Indian has achieved in the ATP singles chart since Somdev Devvarman touched a career-high of 62 in July 2011.

Bhambri's sudden jump in rankings follows his title win at the Santaizi ATP Challenger that was held recently in Taipei City, Taiwan.

Sampanna Ramesh Shelar, a 17-year-old swimmer from Pune has set a world record to double cross the Bangla Channel

Sampanna Ramesh Shelar accomplished this feat on April 13, 2018 by completing the journey of 32.2 kilometers in 9 hours and 10 minutes. Water stretch from Saint Martin's Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh is known as the Bangla Channel.

The FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 on April 18, 2018 unveiled 'Son of Dreams' as the official Mascot of World Cup.

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Born in China on August 8, 2015, Son of Dreams' magical horns give him the power to see in the future, envisioning plays and moves before they actually happen. The mascot finalists were a Chinese dragon ('Son of Dream'), a Siberian tiger ('Speed Tiger') and a lion ('Qiu Qiu').

India won 10 gold medals at 8th South Asian Judo Championship in Lalitpur, Nepal.

Indian women grabbed 7 gold while men won 3 out of total 7 gold medals in the individual category. Indian women such as Garima Chaudhary, C. Jina Devi and Tulika Maan showed their golden performance at the championship. Nepal and Pakistan bagged two gold medals each.

Commonwealth Games XXI

The **2018 Commonwealth Games**, officially known as the **XXI Commonwealth Games or Gold Coast 2018**, which is held in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, between 4 and 15 April 2018. It was the fifth time Australia had hosted the Commonwealth Games. Officially Opened by Charles, Prince of Wales. There were 71 nations competing at 2018 Commonwealth Games and 275 events were conducted in 19 sports. The next Commonwealth Games are to be held in **Birmingham, England** from 27 July to 7 August **2022**, This is the third time England has hosted the Games. The Previous Commonwealth Games took place in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23



Motto:

The official motto for the 2018 Commonwealth Games was **“Share the Dream”**. It was chosen to

highlight the dreams and experience at the games that were shared by participants of the games, ranging from athletes to volunteers and the host country Australia to the world including the Commonwealth nations.

Emblem:

The emblem of the 2018 Commonwealth Games was a **silhouette of the skyline and landscape of Gold Coast**, the host city of the games.



Mascot:

Borobi was named as the mascot of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in 2016. Borobi is a blue koala, with indigenous markings on its body. The term “borobi” means koala in the Yugambeh language, spoken by the indigenous Yugambeh people of the Gold Coast and surrounding areas.

About Commonwealth Games:

Formed in 1932. Headquarters of Commonwealth Games is London, England, United Kingdom. There are 71 Commonwealth Games Association members. **President of Commonwealth Games is Louise Martin, Scotland.**

India best remains 101 in New Delhi (2010) followed by 69 in Manchester (2002).

2018 Commonwealth Games Medal Table

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Rank	CGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	Australia (AUS)*	80	59	59
2	England (ENG)	45	45	46
3	India (IND)	26	20	20
4	Canada (CAN)	15	40	27
5	New Zealand (NZL)	15	16	15
6	South Africa (RSA)	13	11	13
7	Wales (WAL)	10	12	14
8	Scotland (SCO)	9	13	22
9	Nigeria (NGR)	9	9	6
10	Cyprus (CYP)	8	1	5
Total (43 CGAs)		275	276	289

Squash	0	2	0	2	4
Para Powerlifting	0	0	1	1	4

Shooting:

The list of Medal Winners are:

Medals won by India:

Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Rank
Shooting	7	4	5	16	1
Wrestling	5	3	4	12	1
Weightlifting	5	2	2	9	1
Boxing	3	3	3	9	2
Table Tennis	3	2	3	8	1
Badminton	2	3	1	6	1
Athletics	1	1	1	3	14

S.No	Name	Event	Medal
1	Manu Bhaker	Women's 10 metre air pistol	Gold
2	Jitu Rai	Men's 10 metre air pistol	Gold
3	Heena Sidhu	Women's 25 metre Pistol	Gold
4	Shreyasi Singh	Women's Double Trap	Gold
5	Tejaswini Sawant	Women's 50metre rifle 3 Positions	Gold

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6	Anish Bhanwala	Men's 25 metre rapid fire Pistol	Gold	14	Apurvi Chandela	Women's 10 metre air rifle	Bronze																				
7	Sanjeev Rajput	Men's 50metre rifle 3 Positions	Gold	15	Om Prakash Mitharwal	Men's 50 metre pistol	Bronze																				
8	Heena Sidhu	Women's 10 metre air pistol	Silver	16	Ankur Mittal	Men's double trap	Bronze																				
9	Mehuli Ghosh	Women's 10 metre air rifle	Silver	Wrestling:																							
10	Tejaswini Sawant	Women's 50metre rifle prone	Silver	The list of Medal Winners are:																							
11	Anjum Moudgil	Women's 50m rifle 3 Positions	Silver	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No</th> <th>Name</th> <th>Event</th> <th>Medal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Rahul Aware</td> <td>Men's freestyle 57 kg</td> <td>Gold</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Sushil Kumar</td> <td>Men's freestyle 74 kg</td> <td>Gold</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Bajrang Punia</td> <td>Men's freestyle 65 kg</td> <td>Gold</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Sumit Malik</td> <td>Men's freestyle 125 kg</td> <td>Gold</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				S.No	Name	Event	Medal	1	Rahul Aware	Men's freestyle 57 kg	Gold	2	Sushil Kumar	Men's freestyle 74 kg	Gold	3	Bajrang Punia	Men's freestyle 65 kg	Gold	4	Sumit Malik	Men's freestyle 125 kg	Gold
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12	Ravi Kumar	Men's 10 metre air rifle	Bronze																								
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5	Vinesh Phogat	Women's freestyle 50 kg	Gold
6	Babita Kumari	Women's freestyle 53 kg	Silver
7	Pooja Dhanda	Women's freestyle 57 kg	Silver
8	Mausam Khatri	Men's freestyle 97 kg	Silver
9	Kiran Bishnoi	Women's freestyle 76 kg	Bronze
10	Divya Kakran	Women's freestyle 68 kg	Bronze
11	Sakshi Malik	Women's freestyle 62 kg	Bronze
12	Somveer Kadian	Men's freestyle 86 kg	Bronze

S.No	Name	Event	Medal
1	Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Women's 48 kg	Gold
2	Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu	Women's 53 kg	Gold
3	Sathish Sivalingam	Men's 77 kg	Gold
4	Ragala Venkat Rahul	Men's 85 kg	Gold
5	Punam Yadav	Women's 69 kg	Gold
6	Gururaja Poojary	Men's 56 kg	Silver
7	Pardeep Singh	Men's 105 kg	Silver
8	Deepak Lather	Men's 69 kg	Bronze
9	Vikas Thakur	Men's 94 kg	Bronze

Weightlifting:

The list of Medal Winners are:

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Boxing:

The list of Medal Winners are:

S.No	Name	Event	Medal
1	Mary Kom	Women's light flyweight 48 kg	Gold
2	Gaurav Solanki	Men's flyweight 52 kg	Gold
3	Vikas Krishan Yadav	Men's middleweight 75 kg	Gold
4	Amit Panghal	Men's light flyweight 49 kg	Silver
5	Manish Kaushik	Men's lightweight 60 kg	Silver
6	Satish Kumar	Men's super heavyweight (+91 kg)	Silver
7	Naman Tanwar	Men's heavyweight	Bronze

		91 kg	
8	Hussamuddin Mohammed	Men's bantamweight 56 kg	Bronze
9	Manoj Kumar	Men's welterweight 69 kg	Bronze

Table Tennis:

The list of Medal Winners are:

S.No	Name	Event	Medal
1	Manika Batra Mouma Das Sutirtha Mukherjee Madhurika Patkar Pooja Sahasrabudhe	Women's team	Gold
2	Sharath Achanta Anthony Amalraj Harmeet Desai Sanil Shetty Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Men's team	Gold
3	Manika Batra	Women's	Gold

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		singles	
4	Manika Batra Mouma Das	Women's doubles	Silver
5	Sharath Achanta Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Men's doubles	Silver
6	Harmeet Desai Sanil Shetty	Men's doubles	Bronze
7	Manika Batra Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Mixed doubles	Bronze
8	Sharath Achanta	Men's singles	Bronze

	Rankireddy Sikki Reddy Chirag Shetty Gadde Ruthvika Shivani P V Sindhu Kidambi Srikanth		
2	Saina Nehwal	Women's singles	Gold
3	P. V. Sindhu	Women's singles	Silver
4	Kidambi Srikanth	Men's singles	Silver
5	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy Chirag Shetty	Men's doubles	Silver
6	Ashwini Ponnappa Sikki Reddy	Women's doubles	Bronze

Badminton:

The list of Medal Winners are:

S.No	Name	Event	Medal
1	Pranav Chopra Prannoy Kumar Saina Nehwal Ashwini Ponnappa Satwiksairaj	Mixed team	Gold

Athletics:

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The list of Medal Winners are:

S.No	Name	Event	Medal
1	Neeraj Chopra	Men's javelin throw	Gold
2	Seema Antil	Women's discus throw	Silver
3	Navjeet Dhillon	Women's discus throw	Bronze

Squash:

The list of Medal Winners are:

S.No	Name	Event	Medal
1	Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Saurav Ghosal	Mixed doubles	Silver
2	Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Joshna Chinappa	Women's doubles	Silver

Para Powerlifting:

S.No	Name	Event	Medal
1	Sachin Chaudhary	Men's heavyweight	Bronze

India in Commonwealth Games 2018:

India ended its campaign in Gold Coast with a total of **66 medals (26 Gold, 20 Silver, 20 Bronze)**. This is India's third most successful Commonwealth Games. India was the best nation in 5 disciplines, weightlifting, shooting, wrestling, badminton and table tennis, and the second best nation in boxing. **PV Sindhu** was **India's flag bearer**.

India best remains 101 in NewDelhi(2010) followed by 69 in Manchester(2002).



Highlights:

- India won the most highest number of medals in Shooting. This became possible after the emergence of Young Indian Shooter like **Anish Bhanwala** Aged 15, who created history by becoming the country's youngest gold medal winner in Commonwealth Games. He registered a total score of 30, a new Games record.

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- In women's table tennis event, the Indian team won its gold medal which is the first ever gold medal in the Commonwealth Games.
- Ace Tennis player **Manika Batra** Won medal in each event she participated (Women's team, Women's singles, Women's doubles, Mixed doubles). She became the **first women Singles gold medal winner in CWG**.
- **Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu**, Won the **First Gold Medal in Women's 48 kg** in the Commonwealth Games and broke the records in the 'Snatch' section, the 'Clean & Jerk' and the overall games record.
- Following her weightlifter **Deepak Lather** from Haryana became the youngest Weightlifter to claim a Commonwealth Games medal, clinching a Bronze in **men's 69kg Category**.
- Weightlifter **Venkat Rahul Ragala** is the first Indian to win Gold medal in the **85kg Category** in the Commonwealth Games.
- **Neeraj Chopra**, aged 20 years who was the former Junior World Champion won Gold medal. Neeraj thus became the **first Gold medal winner** & the second javelin thrower from India to claim a CWG medal — the first being Kashinath Naik, who fetched a bronze in the 2010 Delhi Games
- **Saina Nehwal** became the first Indian to win two singles golds at the games after defeating P.V. Sindhu. With this win Saina, ranked 12th in the world.
- The Gold Medal won by India's Mixed Badminton team is the country's first Medal in that Category at the Commonwealth Games.

IMPORTANT DAYS

April 1- Utkal Divas or Utkal Dibasa also known as Odisha Formation Day



(as a separate province from 1st April 1936) . Odisha separated from the combined Bengal- Bihar-Orissa province on that day.

April 2- World Autism Awareness Day 2018 was observed all over the world to highlight the necessity to improve the quality of life of people with autism. The theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2018 is:

“Empowering Women and Girls with Autism”.



The first World Autism Awareness Day was observed on 2nd April 2008. On this day, various autism organizations come together and discuss on research, diagnoses, treatment of autism, etc.

April 4- International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was observed all over the world to create awareness about the threat of mines, unexploded grenades and other explosive hazards that prevents the return of normalcy in areas affected by armed conflicts with the theme 2018 is **Advancing Protection, Peace and Development**.

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April 5- **National Maritime Day** (NMD) is observed every year to commemorate the maiden voyage of the first Indian owned ship “SS Loyalty” (the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd) sailed from Bombay to London on 5th April 1919.



This year is 55th edition of NMD and theme is “Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity”. It should be noted that World Maritime Day (WMD) is observed on September 29 to highlight the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace – 6 April

On 6th April 2018, International Day of Sport for Development and Peace was celebrated all over the world.



i. When: In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly declared 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. This day commemorates the inauguration of first Olympic Games of the modern era, in Athens in 1896.

ii. Why: This day is celebrated to highlight the contribution of sports and physical activity to education, human development, healthy lifestyle and a peaceful world.

iii. On this day, people are encouraged to promote the ways through which sport can help countries, communities and individuals to live a peaceful and prosperous life.

iv. For the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2018, Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) has launched the online campaign #PlayforGlobalGoals.

About Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA):

- ◆ Director – Ms. Daniela Bas
- ◆ Headquarters – New York.

April 7 - World Health Day (WHD) is observed every year to mark anniversary of founding of World Health Organization (WHO) on this day in 1948. The theme for year 2018 is “Universal Health Coverage: Health For All”.



April 10 - World Homoeopathy Day (WHD) is observed every year to pay tribute to **Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, founder and father of Homeopathy system of medicine.** On this occasion, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated scientific convention on WHD 2018 in New Delhi organised by Ministry of AYUSH. The theme of two-day convention was “Innovate: Evolve, Progress: Exploring Science since 40 years”.

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April 11- The National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD) is observed every year to create awareness on proper healthcare and maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women. **The theme of 2018 is ‘Respectful Maternity Care’.** The NSMD is an initiative of White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, India (WRAI). India is first country in the world to celebrate National Safe Motherhood Day. At request of WRAI, the Central Government in 2003 had instituted this day on the occasion of birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, wife of Gandhiji.

April 13, 2018 was the 99th anniversary Jallianwallah Bagh Massacre (also known as the Amritsar massacre). Day of Sport for Development and Peace was celebrated all



On April 13, 1919, nearly 15000-20000 people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh, a public garden in Amritsar, Punjab. The gathering took place to celebrate the Punjabi harvest festival of Baisakhi and to protest against the repressive Rowlatt Act that imposed control of the press, arrests without warrant and indefinite detention without trial. Around 50 troops of the British Indian Army, under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer arrived at the spot and fired at the crowd indiscriminately for 10 minutes. According to British Government assessment, 379 individuals died and 1200 were wounded in Jallianwala Bagh massacre. However, as per Indian National Congress’ estimates, more than 1500 were injured and 1000 died.

B.R.Ambedkar Remembrance Day or Ambedkar Jayanti – 14 April

On 14th April 2018, B.R.Ambedkar Remembrance Day also known as Ambedkar Jayanti was observed all over India and in few neighboring regions also.



i. Ambedkar Jayanti is observed every year on 14th April to commemorate the birth anniversary of B.R.Ambedkar who was born on 14 April 1891.

ii. He was the architect of Indian Constitution. He is known as the “Father of Indian Constitution.”

iii. He had dedicated his life for uplifting the deprived section of the society. He had also played a major role in India’s freedom struggle. He had received Bharat Ratna award in 1990.

Some important museums in India:

- ◆ Baroda Museum & Picture Gallery – Vadodara, Gujarat
- ◆ Calico Museum of Textiles – Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- ◆ Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya – Ahmedabad, Gujarat

April 15 – Foundation day of Himachal Pradesh. On 15th April Himachal marks 71st foundation day, awards best performers

On April 15, 2018, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur hoisted the Indian national flag at the Ridge Maidan in Shimla to mark state’s 71st foundation day.



i. The state of Himachal was **founded on April 15, 1948.**

ii. On the occasion of State's 71st foundation days, personnel of Himachal Pradesh state police, home guards, Services Selection Board (SSB) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets took out a parade. Various groups also performed traditional folk dances.

iii. Mr. Thakur, presented **awards to the best performers in the field of administration, sports, health and social work.**

iv. Alpine skier Aanchal Thakur from Manali was awarded Himachal Gaurav Puruskar. Aanchal Thakur is the only Indian who has won a medal in skiing.

Quick Facts about Himachal Pradesh:

- ◆ Capital – Shimla, Dharamshala (second capital, in winter)
- ◆ Current Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat
- ◆ Current Chief Minister – Jai Ram Thakur
- ◆ Important National Park – Pin Valley National Park, Khirganga National Park

April 17-- World Haemophilia Day was observed **all over the world** to create awareness about haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders with the theme of 2018 is **Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger**.

April 18 - World Heritage Day is observed every year across the world with the theme of the day 2018 is **“Heritage for Generations”**, emphasizing on inter-generational transfer of knowledge. Its aims to spread awareness and the importance of protecting and preserving

various sites around world that have achieved world heritage status and having outstanding universal values.

World Liver Day observed on 19th April

On 19th April 2018, World Liver Day was observed all over the world.

i. World Liver Day is observed every year on 19th April to create awareness on importance of liver to our body and how liver ailments can be treated and managed.

ii. According to WHO (World Health Organisation), liver diseases are the 10th most common cause of death in India. Liver is the second largest organ in human body.

iii. Liver diseases can be caused by hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs. Viral Hepatitis occurs due to intake of contaminated food and water, unsafe sexual practices and drug abuse.

iv. **Theme** for World Liver Day 2018: **“Riding new waves in liver diagnosis, staging and treatment.”**

About World Health Organisation (WHO):

- ◆ Director-General – Tedros Adhanom
- ◆ Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

April 21 - National Civil Services Day is observed across India. This year observance of the day focussed on **‘Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts’**. This day coincides with the date on which Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel had addressed the first batch of probationers at All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, New Delhi in 1947. In this famous speech, Sardar Patel had referred to bureaucrats as “steel frame of India”. On this day, the ‘Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration’ is presented in three categories. These awards were instituted in 2006.

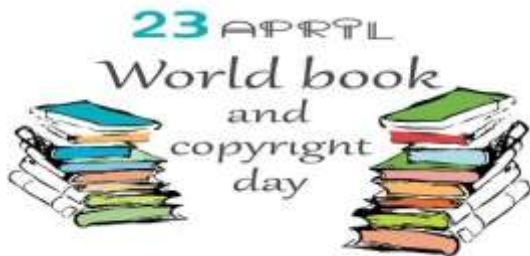
April 22 - Earth Day is observed every year on April 22. It was first celebrated in 1970. The founder of Earth Day is Gaylord Nelson, a US

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senator from Wisconsin. Nelson, who had been witnessed the devastation caused by an enormous oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969. Theme of Earth Day 2018 – ‘End Plastic Pollution’.



April 23- **World Book and Copyright Day** was observed across the world to highlight the power of books and to promote UNESCO’s vision of knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory for all citizens.



World Creativity and Innovation Day – 21 April
On April 21, 2018, **official World Creativity and Innovation Day** (WCID) will be celebrated. This day will be observed six days after Leonardo da Vinci’s birthday and one day before International Mother Earth Day.

- i. WCID, the world is invited to embrace the idea that innovation is essential for harnessing the economic potential of nations. Innovation, creativity and mass entrepreneurship can provide new momentum for economic growth and job creation.
- ii. It can expand opportunities for everyone, including women and youth. It can provide solutions to some of the most pressing problems such as poverty eradication and the elimination of hunger.

National Secretaries day – April 21

- i. **Secretaries Day** also known as **Administrative**

professionals Day or Admin Day is observed in several countries to recognize the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists, and other administrative support professionals.

- ii. National Professional Secretaries Week and National Secretary’s Day was created in 1952 through the work of Harry F. Klemfuss of Young and Rubicam.

April 24 - National Panchayati Raj Diwas day (Day) is celebrated every year since 2010. This day marks the passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993. The 73rd Amendment 1992 added a new Part IX to the constitution titled “**The Panchayats**” covering provisions from Article 243 to 243(O); and a new Eleventh Schedule covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats.

World Lab Animals Day

On 24th April 2018, World Lab Animals Day was observed all over the world.



- i. World Day For Animals In Laboratories (WDAIL) also known as World Lab Animal Day is observed every year on 24 April.
- ii. **World Day for Laboratory Animals** was declared in 1979 by the **British National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS)**.
- iii. It marks the birthday of former NAVS president Hugh Dowding. This day highlights the efforts to end the suffering of animals in laboratories and their replacement with advanced scientific non-animal techniques.

About British National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS):

- ◆ Founded – 1875
- ◆ Chief Executive – Jan Creamer

April 25-World Malaria Day (WMD) is observed every year to recognise the global efforts to control preventable vector borne disease malaria. The theme of 2018 WMD is “**Ready to beat malaria**“. Malaria is mosquito-borne infectious disease most commonly transmitted through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquito.

World Malaria Day, Italy Liberation Day – April 25, 2018

On 25th April 2018, World Malaria Day and Italy Liberation Day were observed.



International Dance Day – April 29, 2018

On 29th April 2018, International Dance Day was celebrated all over the world.

International Dance Day:

i. International Dance Day was founded in 1982 by the Dance Committee of ITI (International Theatre Institute).

ii. International Dance Day is celebrated every year on 29th April, which marks the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet.

iii. Every year a an International Dance Day Message from an outstanding choreographer or dancer is circulated all over the world.

iv. The author of the message is chosen



by the International Dance Committee of ITI and the Executive Council of ITI.

v. This day aims to celebrate dance, cross all political, cultural and ethnic barriers, and bring people together through dance.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work – April 28

On 28th April 2018, the World Day



for Safety and Health at Work was observed all over the world **workers.**

About International Labour Organization (ILO):

◆ Director General – Guy Ryder

◆ Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland.

World Immunization Week



Context: World Immunization Week is celebrated from 24th- 30th of April by the World Health

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Organization (WHO) in order to increase awareness about vaccination.

Aim: It aims to highlight the collective action needed to ensure that every person is protected from vaccine- preventable diseases.

Theme: “Protected together, #VaccinesWork”.

Civil Services Day



Context: 12th Civil Services Day was celebrated on April 21st, 2018. It focussed on ‘Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts’.

About the Civil Services Day:

- The Government of India celebrates April 21 every year as ‘Civil Services day’ as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work.
- This date is chosen to commemorate the day when first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi.
- As part of Civil Servant Day, Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration are presented to Districts/Implementing Units for implementation of Priority programme and innovation categories.

World Intellectual Property Day

On 26th April 2018, World Intellectual Property Day was observed all over the world.



World Intellectual Property Day:

- Every year April 26 is celebrated as World Intellectual Property Day to create awareness on the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- This day was declared by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in 2000. 26 April marks the date on which the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization came to force in 1970.
- The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2018 is – Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity.**

About World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):

- ◆ Director General – Francis Gurry
- ◆ Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

International Jazz Day –April 30, 2018

On 30th April 2018, International Jazz Day was celebrated all over the world.



- In 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared April 30 as International Jazz Day.
- International Jazz Day is celebrated to highlight jazz and its role in uniting people throughout the world.
- International Jazz Day is chaired and led by**

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the UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay and jazz pianist and composer Herbie Hancock. Herbie Hancock is UNESCO Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue and Chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.
iv. Saint Petersburg, Russia is the Global Host City for International Jazz Day 2018.

Some important international boundary lines:

- ◆ Blue Line – Isreal & Lebanon
- ◆ Purple Line – Israel and Syria
- ◆ Green Line – Israel and its neighbours (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which State has bagged the ‘State of the Year’ Award under the ‘business leader’ category at the Indian Business Leader Awards (IBLA) event?
A) **Chhattisgarh** B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Uttar Pradesh D) IMachala Pradesh
2. The joint military exercise “Desert Tiger 5” was held between UAE & which Country?
A) India B) Indonesia
C) **Malaysia** D) South kenea
3. Which state Government has launched mobile app Bi-lingual ‘Uzhavan’ for farmers?
A) Kerala B) Telangana
C) **Tamilnadu** D) Andhra Pradesh
4. Which State hosted the first meeting of NITI forum for North East?
A) **Tripura** B) Meghalaya
C) Assam D) Kalkatta
5. Which Country is hosting the 2018 International Conference on Human Rights in South Asia?
A) **Nepal** B) China
C) India D) Sri lanka
6. Who is the newly elected Chairman of Bozo Forum for Asia (BFA)
A) **Ban ki-Moon** B) Anthonia Kutrose
C) Anbumani Ramadass D) Dhoni
7. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated a Scientific Convention on the world Homoeopathy Day (WHD 2018) in which city?
A) **New Delhi** B) Jaipur
C) Mumbai D) Kalkatta
8. Heena Sidhu bagged gold in the Women’ s which pistol event at the 21st Common Wealth Games 2018?
A) **25 m Pistol event**
B) 10 m air pistol events
C) 50m Rifle
D) 25m rapid fine pistol
9. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2018 – 19?
A) **Rishad Premji**
B) Rahual Tripathi
C) Rishad Prasad
D) Venkat rahavan
10. What is the India’ s rank in the Latest 2018 Index of Economic Freedom?
A) 60th B) **130th**
C) 100th D) 120th
11. Which State is hosting the 10th edition of a biennial exhibition of Weapons and military hardware “DEFEXPO India – 2018
A) Rajasthan B) Delhi
C) Jammu Kashmir D) **Tamil Nadu**

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12. Who authored the Book :- India’ s Heritage of Gahanna music: Pandits of Gwalior?
A) Meeta pandit B) Wahengbane
13. Who has been Conferred with the 2017 Dadasheb Phalke Award?
A) Viond Khanna B) Sri Devi
C) Anushka Sharma D) Rajini Kanth
14. Which neighboring Country of India has decided to end reservation in Government jobs?
A) Bangladesh B) Nepal
C) Myanmar D) Tibet
15. Who has become the first – even Indian woman table tennis player to win a Singles goled at the Common wealth Games?
A) Sathiya **B) Manika Batra**
C) Yumengyu D) P.V.Sindhu
16. Which State Government will introduce Choice – Based Credit system (CBCS) for Undergraduate education?
A) Punjab B) Rajasthan
C) Haryana D) Kerala
17. The famous Bisket Jatra festival 2018 has started in which country?
A) Nepal B) Tibet
C) China D) Japan
18. What is the theme of the 2018 world Hemophilia Day (WHD)?
A) Stronger knowledge
B) Sharing knowledge makes us stronger
C) Knowledge makes us stronger
D) Blooming the Knowledge
19. What is the India’ s growth rate for 2020, as per latest World Bank’ s “South Asia Economic Focus report” ?
A) 7.5% B) 7.3%
C) 7.2% D) 7.6%
20. The 2018 Island Tourism Festival has Started in which State / union Territory of India?
A) Puducherry
B) Andaman & Nicobar Island
C) Goa
D) Mumbai
21. Which Country has recently become the signatory member of International Solar Alliance (ISA)?
A) USA **B) U.K**
C) U.S.S.R D) Australia
22. Who has taken charge as new Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC)?
A) P.P Malhotra
B) Hindu Malhotra
C) Aditi Rao Hydari
D) Aruthathi Batta Charehiya
23. Which State Government has launched the digital platform “Pocket Cop Project” for Police force?
A) New Delhi **B) Gujarat**
C) Haryana D) Maharashtra
24. The regional Conference on “Urban Development:- Technological Solutions and Governance Challengers has started in which city?
A) Ahmadabad B) Mumbai
C) New Delhi D) Bengaluru
25. Which Country hosted the 2018 Global Malaria Summit?
A) UK B) Brazil
C) Australia D) Japan
26. What is the India’ s rank in the latest Common wealth Innovation Index (CII – 2018)?
A) 20th **B) 10th**
C) 6th D) 12th
27. Which city is hosting the biannual Army Commanders” Conference?
A) Goa B) Jaipur
C) New Delhi D) Hyderabad
28. The Sasan Ultra Mega Panzer Project is located in which State?

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- A) **Madhya Pradesh**
B) Utter Pradesh
C) Arunachala Pradesh
D) Andhra Pradesh
29. Who has been elected the New President of the Indian Women's press Corps?
A) T. Rajalakshmi **B) T.K. Rajalakshmi**
C) K. Rajalakshmi D) D. Rajalakshmi
30. The Much – awaited River Bridge 'Ib Setu' has recently opened to publish in which State?
A) Odisha B) Bihar
C) Jharkhand D) Kerala
31. Which State is Observing Khongiom Day to pay tributes to the great warriors of their State?
A) Assam B) Meghalaya
C) Manipur D) Tripura
32. Which City hosted the 16th Federation Cup Junior National athletics Championship 2018?
A) Coimbatore B) Madurai
C) Tiruchy D) Chennai
33. The Digambarpur gram Panchayat has recently declared as the India's best Panchayat. It is located in which State?
A) West Bengal B) Bihar
C) Uttar hand D) Assam
34. Who Chaired the first meeting of the think tank on the Framework for National Policy on E-commerce?
A) Suresh kumar B) Suresh Gandhi
C) Suresh Prabhu D) Suresh Prakesh
35. Which of the following Smart cities has become the India's first city to run on 100% Renewable Energy during Day time?
A) Diu B) Diamon
C) Andaman D) Delhi
36. The Coastal Security exercise 'Sagar kavach' has recently held in which State
A) Kerala B) Andhra
C) Tamil Nadu D) Goa
37. Tony Daniel, Who passed away recently, was associated with which Sports?
A) Athletics B) Badmitton
C) Tennis D) Food Ball
38. Which Country to host the World's first ever Female foreign minister' meeting?
A) England B) Australia
C) Nepal **D) Canda**
39. The Sipat Super Thermal Power Station is located in which state?
A) Karnataka B) Gujarath
C) Tamil Nadu **D) Chhatisgarh**
40. The Shirui Lily Festival 2018 was celebrated in which State?
A) Manipur B) Tirupura
C) Assam D) Meghalaya
41. Dudh sagar waterfalls is located in which state?
A) Goa B) Diu
C) Karnataka D) Andhra Pradesh
42. NDMA has conducted its first –ever MOCK exercise on Bio-Disasters at which city?
A) Bengaluru **B) Patna**
C) Kolkata D) Goa
43. The Government of India has celebrated 2018 Civil Services Day on which date?
A) April 24 B) April 28
B) C) April 20 **D) April 21**
44. Which Country has officially changed its name to the kingdom of 'e swathi'?'
A) Swaziland B) Switzerland
C) Swizz D) Sweden
45. Bhimsain, who passed away recently was the veteran personal from which field?
A) Film B) Sports
C) Journalism D) Chief justice
46. The Government of India has Launched which initiative to attract international students to study in India?
A) Swayam **B) Study in India**

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- C) Learning India
D) Through study in India
47. Who will become the first – ever Indian Film maker in Madam Tussauds
A) Karan Johar B) Hrithik Roshan
C) Salman Khan D) Shah Rukh Khan
48. Who will be honored with the 2018 Dadashib phalke Excellence Award?
A) Anushka **B) Anushka Sharma**
C) Katrina Kaif D) Sri Devi
49. Hemchand, who passed away recently was associated with which political party?
A) BJP B) DMK
C) Congress D) Communist
50. Rajinder Sachar Who passed away recently was the former chief justice of thwich High Court?
- A) Delhi** B) Kalkatta
C) Mimbai D) Chennai