



Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – April 2018

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IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Important Days	Themes
April 1	Orissa Day	
April 2	International Children's Book Day (ICBD)	The small is big in a book
	World Autism Awareness Day	Empowering Women and Girls with Autism
April 5	National Maritime Day	Indian Shipping – An Ocean of opportunity
April 7	World Health Day	Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere
April 10	World Homoeopathy Day	Innovate: Evolve; Progress: Exploring Science since 40 years.
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	
April 13	Jallianwallah Bagh Massacre Day (1919)	
April 14	Tamil New year	
	B.R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day	
April 17	World Hemophilia Day	Sharing Knowledge
April 18	World Heritage Day	Heritage for Generations emphasizing on inter-generational transfer of knowledge
April 21	National Civil Service Day	
April 22	World Earth Day	End Plastic Pollution
April 23	World Books Day	Reading, it's my right
April 24	Panchayats Raj Day	
April 25	World Malaria Day	Ready to beat malaria
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity
April 29	International Dance Day	



IMPORTANT BANKING NEWS

RBI

RBI decides to set up Data Sciences Lab:

- Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up Data Sciences Lab to improve its forecasting, surveillance and early warning detection abilities which will aid policy formulation.
- In a press release, it said policy making not only benefits from data collected through regulatory returns and surveys but also from large volumes of structured and unstructured real-time information.
- RBI said the lab will comprise experts and budding analysts, who are trained in Computer Science, Data Analytics, Statistics, Economics, Econometrics and Finance.
- The unit is likely to become operational by December this year

RBI switches back to GDP model from GVA model to measure economy:

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to use Gross Domestic Product (GDP) instead of Gross Value Added (GVA) to measure economic activity in India.**
- Viral Acharya, deputy governor of RBI said that, this change has been done to confirm with international practice and for ease of comparison.
- Worldwide, the performance of economies is measured in terms of GDP. Multilateral institutions, international analysts and investors also follow this approach.
- **GVA gives the picture of the state of economic activity from the producers' side or the supply side. GDP provides the picture from the consumers' side or the demand side.**
- The Central Statistical Office has been employing GDP as the main tool to measure economic activity since January 2015.

11 public sector banks placed under RBI's PCA Framework:

- 11 public sector banks have been placed under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework due to non-performing assets.
- These banks have been placed under RBI's PCA framework to keep a check on NPAs. Generally, lending activities of banks under PCA are restricted.

SBI

SBI to invest Rs 80 bn in hydropower project of Nepal

- India's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI) will be investing a total of Rs 80 billion in the 900 megawatt (MW) Arun III hydropower project of Nepal.
- The contract for constructing this project has been awarded to Sutlej Jal Vikas Nigam (SJVN) and SJVN has made an agreement with the SBI to acquire the investment as a loan.
- Indian Government has already granted approval to SJVN to invest Rs. 92 billion in this project.

SBI Launches UK Subsidiary With 225 Mn Pounds Capital:

- The SBI has announced the launch of its UK subsidiary, SBI (UK) Limited, with an initial capital commitment of 225 million pounds from its parent entity.



- India's largest state-owned bank, which celebrated the new subsidiary with a special event in London, becomes the first foreign bank in the UK to ring fence its retail division from its wholesale business.

SBI To Invest Rs 80 Bn In Hydropower Project Of Nepal:

- The State Bank of India will be investing a total of Rs 80 billion in the Arun III hydropower project of Nepal, which has 900 megawatts (MW) electricity production capacities.
- The SJVN, which has been awarded the construction of the mega power project of Nepal, has made an informal agreement with the SBI to acquire the investment as a loan and soon will make the formal agreement. The mega project is targeted to be completed by 2022's September.

SBI India's most trusted bank:

- The TRA Brand Trust Report 2018 said the State Bank of India was the most trusted bank (both public and private sector) in the country.
- ICICI Bank topped the chart among the private ones.

OTHER BANKING NEWS

ICICI loses Rs12,000cr in value amid probe into Videocon loan

- ICICI Bank lost as much as Rs.12,000 crore in market value on Monday after the CBI initiated a preliminary enquiry into the bank's loan to Videocon.
- The bank is currently valued at Rs.1.66 lakh crore after its shares dropped 7% to a 5-month low. A report alleged that the loan benefitted the ICICI CEO Chanda Kochhar's husband Deepak Kochhar.

SIDBI Foundation Day- Launches 'Samridhi- Virtual Assistant' & ' Bankability Kit':

- SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) celebrated its foundation day (2nd April 1990) as the day of Sampark (connect), Sanwad (interaction), Suraksha (security) and Sampreshan (disseminate).
- Chairman Managing Director of SIDBI Mohammad Mustafa launched a series of initiatives from its Lucknow bank headquarters.
- An MoU was signed with The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. and two MSMEs were issued insurance policies.
- Chairman SIDBI also launched 'Samridhi- the virtual assistant' on banks revamped universal loan portal www.udyamimitra.in.
- During the day, a 'Bankability Kit' (brought in partnership with Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank) was also launched.

Softbank Signs \$930 Million Deal To Set Up Solar Venture In India:

- Softbank has signed a \$930-million deal with China's energy conglomerate Golden Concord (GCL) to produce and sell solar equipment in India.
- GCL will invest for a 40% stake in the joint venture, with Softbank taking the rest. The project will have a 4 gigawatt-capacity and will produce solar ingots, silicon wafers, batteries, and components.

Jio Payments Bank Limited Commences Operations

- Jio Payments Bank Limited has commenced operations as a payments bank. The Reserve Bank has issued a licence to the bank under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on the business of payments bank in India.



- Reliance Industries Limited, Mumbai was one of the 11 applicants which were issued in-principle approval for setting up a payments bank.

IndusInd Bank Gets RBI Nod To Acquire IL&FS Arm:

- Private sector lender IndusInd Bank has received RBI's approval to buy the securities services arm of IL&FS.
- In March 2017, the bank entered an agreement with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services, the promoter shareholder of IL&FS Securities Services Ltd (ISSL), to acquire 100% stake in

ICICI Bank 1st to get Swift's new cross-border payment service:

- Global financial messaging cooperative, SWIFT (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System platform) announced that ICICI Bank has become its first Indian client to go live with an improved cross-border payments service.
- The improved cross-border payments service which is being referred to is the GPI (Global Payment Innovation) Tracker, which has been extended to cover all payment instructions sent across the SWIFT network.

Indian Bank launches PFMS & also launched 'Bharat QR', a mobile payment collection:

- Indian Bank has introduced Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and has launched 'Bharat QR' facility.
- Indian Bank, Managing Director and CEO, Kishor Kharat launched these initiatives in Chennai.
- Indian Bank has introduced public financial management system aimed to benefit government agencies for utilizing payment service.

Indian Overseas Bank launches IoT-based customer service app:

- As part of its 'Customer First' initiative, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched three 'Internet of Things' (IoT)-based customer service initiatives on a pilot basis at one of its branch in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Overseas Bank launches IoT-based customer service app IoT-based initiatives launched by Indian Overseas Bank:

India, World Bank sign US\$ 420 million project agreement to benefit farmers in Maharashtra:

- Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and the World Bank signed a US\$ 420 million project to benefit Small and Marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra.
- This project will help to increase climate resilient practices in agriculture and to make farming a profitable activity.
- This project will benefit more than 7 million people over an area of 3.0 million ha. It will cover 5,142 villages in the 15 most climate vulnerable districts of the region.

J&K Bank launches special financing scheme 'Add on Working Capital GST' for industrial units:

- Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Bank has launched 'Add on Working Capital GST', a special financing scheme to help the state industry cope with the delay in reimbursement of Goods and Services Tax (GST) under special tax relief.
- This scheme was launched by J&K Finance Minister Syed Altaf Bukhari in the presence of Minister for Industry and Commerce Chander Parkash Ganga.



NABARD to expand its long-term lending to Rs 80,000 crore in FY19:

- NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) announced that, it has aimed to raise its long-term on-lending or refinance portfolio to nearly Rs 80,000 crore in the current fiscal year in a move to improve rural economy.
- NABARD's on-lending in 2017-18 was Rs 65,000 crore. NABARD earned a surplus of Rs 2,951 crore for the fiscal year that ended in March 2018.

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

- The Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have approved USD \$ 140-Million loan to improve the rural road connectivity and management for residents in Madhya Pradesh, India, at a Meeting held recently in Beijing, China.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh re-appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank:

- Chandra Shekhar Ghosh has been re-appointed as managing director and CEO of Bandhan Bank for a three year term from 10th July 2018.
- Former deputy governor at Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Harun Rasid Khan, has joined Bandhan Bank board.

World Bank approves \$55mn for Bangladesh project:

- World Bank has approved \$55 million to expand the use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh that do not have access to grid electricity.
- \$55 million has been approved as an additional financing to the Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project.
- Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project and additional financing will provide access to electricity and energy efficient cooking stoves to about 10 million people living in villages, shoals and islands in Bangladesh.

SIDBI ties up with CSC to promote MSEs in 115 districts:

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has tied up with Common Service Centre (CSC) to run micro enterprises promotion programme (MEPP) in 115 aspirational districts across India.
- 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018. Aspirational districts refer to selected 115 backward districts that are lagging on specific development parameters.
- Under this programme, Central Government has undertaken a major policy initiative for rapid transformation of these districts and senior government officials have been assigned responsibility to coordinate the efforts of the Centre and states in facilitating development in such districts.

RBI tightens reporting norms for Liberalised Remittance Scheme:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a notification aimed at tightening reporting norms for the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- Under LRS, all resident Indian individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit abroad, up to USD 250000 per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
- LRS scheme was introduced on February 4, 2004. At that time the limit was just USD 25000. However it was revised in a phased manner in line with prevailing macro and micro economic conditions and now stands at USD 250000 per financial year.



ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank repository participants for NERL:

- National E-Repository Limited (NERL), a group company of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), has empanelled ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as repository participants.
- As per the agreement, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank will offer pledge finance against electronic negotiable warehousing receipts (eNWR) created on NERL's repository platform for commodities stored in warehouses registered with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).

Jio, Sodexo join hands to accelerate digital transformation:

- Jio, Sodexo join hands to accelerate digital transformation
- Jio Money, the Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) wallet of Jio Payments Bank Ltd., has enabled integration of Sodexo Meal Cards with the Jio Money account of its users. This will allow mobile-based payments through Sodexo Meal Card.
- Hence Sodexo merchants in India can accept digital payments through Sodexo. Sodexo Meal Pass can be linked to the Jio Money app to perform quick payments.
- Users don't have to carry Sodexo's physical card for shopping. They just have to add the Sodexo Meal Card balance to the Jio Money app and perform.

Government raises NABARD's authorised capital to Rs 300 billion to aid rural economy:

- The government has raised the authorised capital of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) by 6 times to Rs 300 billion, aimed to increase its lending to the rural economy, as a part of the initiative to double farmers' income by 2022.
- A notification regarding this was released by the Finance Ministry on 10th April 2018. A bill in this regard was approved by Parliament at the start of this year.
- The increased authorised capital will enable NABARD to perform the commitments it has undertaken, especially with respect to Long Term Irrigation Fund and on-lending to cooperative banks.

Reliance Jio raises Rs 3250 crore from Japanese banks to fund capital expenditure:

- Reliance Jio has signed an agreement to raise nearly Rs 3,250 crore as samurai term loan from Japan-based banks.
- Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited said that, it had signed approximately JPY 53.5 billion samurai term loan with 7 year bullet maturity.
- The facility is guaranteed by Reliance Industries Limited. It will be used for funding Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited's ongoing capital expenditure.
- With exchange rate of 60 paise per Japanese yen, the loan value amounts to nearly Rs 3,248 crore.
- This deal is said to be the largest samurai loan (low interest loans from Japanese investors) for an Asian corporate company.

UN launches road safety trust fund USD 51000:

- United Nations (UN) has launched a UN Road Safety Trust Fund to spur action that could save lives and prevent the loss of opportunity associated with road accidents.
- The fund has been launched in wake of tragic road accidents in Canada and India.
- As per data provided by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, around 1.3 million drivers, passengers and pedestrians die each year, and up to 50 million are injured on the world's roads.



- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is the secretariat for the trust fund. According to UNECE, every USD 1500 contributed to the fund could save one life, prevent 10 serious injuries, and leverage USD 51000 towards investments in road safety.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Overcomes SBI to become India's 2nd largest bank by market capitalization:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank led by Asia's richest banker Uday Kotak became India's second-largest bank by market capitalisation surpassing India's largest bank by asset State Bank of India to grab the spot.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank is now behind the market capitalisation leader among all the banking scrips HDFC Bank which also features among the exhaustive club of Rs 5 lakh crore market capitalisation.
- Along with achieving the feature as country's second-largest bank by market capitalisation, Kotak Mahindra Bank came in the list of top 10 most valued companies on Bombay Stock Exchange.

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

- The World Bank has projected a growth rate of 7.3 percent for India this year and 7.5 percent for 2019 and 2020.
- The World Bank in its twice-a-year South Asia Economic Focus report in Washington stated that growth is expected to accelerate from 6.7 in 2017 to 7.3 per cent in 2018 and to subsequently stabilise supported by a sustained recovery in private investment and private consumption.

Andhra Bank opens sale of sovereign gold bonds:

- Andhra Bank has opened the sale of Sovereign Gold Bonds in line with the Government of India scheme for 2018-19 – Series - I during April 16-20, 2018.
- Issue price for the current week has been fixed at Rs 3,114 per gram with a discount of Rs 50 per gram if subscribed through digital mode.
- The minimum subscription is one gram of gold and the maximum limit of subscription ranges from four kg to 20 kg for different categories of customers.
- The tenor of the bonds is eight years with a provision for premature cancellation after five years on interest payment dates. RBI has notified 2.50 interest per annum payable on a half-yearly basis.

AU Bank bets on 'Kamao' app to ramp up biz:

- Jaipur-headquartered AU Small Finance Bank wants to ramp up its business via crowd-sourcing — involving not only employees but also customers and non-customers — with the help of a mobile-based app called 'Kamao' (earn).
- The one-year-old bank is planning to encourage stakeholders to log leads on prospective customers, who want to open deposit accounts or get loans, on the app and win 'rewards'.
- This app is currently undergoing beta (field) testing.
- Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO, AU SFB, stated that "We have developed an app called 'Kamao'. If you (employee, customer or non-customer) give us leads (prospective customer's name, contact details, and banking requirements) for our business, we will reward you.
- We will also inform you (via the app) about the status of the lead you gave."

Bhuj Mercantile Co operative Bank bags Banco Award:

- Kutch-based Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank has bagged the prestigious Banco Award for best performing cooperative bank.
- The bank was adjudged best among the 1500 cooperative banks from across the country.



- At the recently-held award ceremony in Hyderabad, Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank received the Banco Award from Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao in presence of leaders from over 500 cooperative banks.

CRISIL reaffirms rating on ICICI Bank at 'AAA/Stable':

- Credit rating agency CRISIL has reaffirmed its ratings on ICICI Bank's debt instruments – Upper Tier-II Bonds aggregating ₹8,495 crore, Tier-I Perpetual Bonds aggregating ₹518 crore, and Bonds/Debentures aggregating ₹629 crore – at 'AAA/Stable'.
- Instruments with 'AAA' rating are considered to have the highest degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations. Such instruments carry the lowest credit risk.

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

- Market capitalisation of Kotak Mahindra Bank, for the first time surpassed that of State Bank of India.
- Market value of a company's outstanding shares is referred to as market capitalisation (m-cap). It is calculated by multiplying the current market value of company's share with total outstanding shares.

Yes Bank Launches GST Backed Over Draft Facility For MSMEs:

- Yes Bank has announced the launch of 'Yes GST', an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Through this, an MSME can avail OD up to Rs 1 crore, based on their annual turnover, backed by GST returns.

NABARD Approves Rs 14,690 Cr Funding To Rajasthan:

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

Standard Chartered ties up with Zoho:

- Standard Chartered Bank has announced an alliance with Zoho, a software products company, to offer solutions to enhance corporate banking experience.
- The bank's business account holders can now pay their suppliers and automate reconciliation right from Zoho Books, Zoho's cloud accounting software.

PFRDA makes sharing of bank a/c, mobile number mandatory for NPS subscribers:

- Pension fund regulator PFRDA has made bank account details and mobile number mandatory for subscribers of national pension scheme (NPS).
- Further, in compliance with the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) guidelines, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has also made Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and Central Registry of Securitization Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest (CERSAI) mandatory for new and existing subscribers.

ICICI Bank launches digital form for opening current accounts:

- Private sector lender ICICI Bank has introduced a 'digital form' which will help open current accounts in a few hours.



- Bank officials can now capture information about the customer and the business digitally and verify KYC documents in real-time, at the premise of the customer.

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

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved Yes Bank to open representative offices in London and Singapore
- To expand its services to the non-resident Indian population and Indian entities in international locations.

SEBI disposes of charges against Karur Vysya Bank:

- Markets regulator SEBI disposed of the charges against private player Karur Vysya Bank as it did not find any violation of shareholding disclosure norms.
- It was alleged that the bank's shareholding had aggregated to 5.91 per cent (crossed 5 per cent ceiling) in Arvind Remedies on October 15, 2014.
- Further, it was alleged that the lender had 9.29 per cent stake in the company on January 27, 2015, which is more than 5 per cent and subsequently changed by over 2 per cent.

Axis Bank appoints global leadership advisory firm Egon Zehnder to hunt for MD and CEO:

- Private sector lender Axis Bank said it has appointed global leadership advisory firm Egon Zehnder to appoint a new Managing Director and CEO for the bank.
- The move follows Shikha Sharma, the current Managing Director and CEO of the bank, deciding to step down from the post after December 31 this year.

Paytm Payments Bank claims to have 100M KYC-compliant wallets:

- Paytm set up offline centres and a team of agents to collect documents from customers for the KYC process; the 100M milestone includes full and minimum KYC customers.
- Paytm Payments Bank on Monday announced that it now has over 100 million KYC-compliant wallets of the over 220 million people using its payments service.

India highest recipient of remittances in 2017:

- India retained the top position as recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending about USD 69 billion back home last year, the World Bank said.
- Remittances to India picked up sharply by 9.9 per cent, reversing the previous year's dip, but were still short of USD 70.4 billion received in 2014.

Bank of India ties up with NeSL:

- Bank of India has entered into an agreement with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL) for availing NeSL's Information Utility (IU) service to expedite the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process.
- This is in compliance with the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.

ADB has agreed in principle to give an aid of 1,700 crore rupees to Uttarakhand:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in principle to give an aid of 1,700 crore rupees to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.

PNB to hire detective agencies to locate untraceable borrowers:



- Fraud-hit Punjab National Bank (PNB) has invited applications for empanelment of detective agencies to locate its untraceable borrowers.
- In its efforts to recover NPAs, the PNB has also resorted to 'Gandhigiri' wherein its staff hope to 'name and shame' defaulting borrowers to recover up to Rs 150 crore worth bad loans every month.

Govt to acquire RBI's stake in National Housing Bank

- The government will soon acquire the stake of Reserve Bank of India in housing finance regulator National Housing Bank (NHB).
- The stake transfer would be cash neutral and there would be no cash outgo. RBI currently holds 100 per cent stake in the NHB.
- The Finance Bill 2018 has amended the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, for transferring RBI's stake in the NHB to the government.

World Bank loan for Biopharma Mission:

- The government has secured a loan of about Rs1,600 crore from the World Bank to develop new vaccines, medical devices and medicines.
- The money will be disbursed over five years and is part of the Department of Biotechnology-led National Biopharma Mission.
- The goal is to have 6 to 10 new products in the next five years and in the process create a slew of jobs.

HDFC Bank Launches IRA 2.0:

- HDFC Bank launched IRA 2.0, its interactive humanoid at the Koramangala Branch in Bengaluru.
- The interactive humanoid in its advance version is aimed to enhance user experience for customers visiting in the branch.
- HDFC Bank has developed IRA (Interactive Robotic Assistant) 2.0 in collaboration with its technology partners Invento Makerspaces and Senseforth Technologies. It became the first bank in India to introduce a humanoid IRA 1.0 for customer service at the Kamala Mills Branch in Mumbai. Currently, IRA 1.0 is stationed at the Palarivattom Branch in Kochi.

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL & ECONOMY AFFAIRS

E-Way Bill for Inter-State movement of goods comes into force:

- With the beginning of the financial year 2018-19, the e-way Bill System for Inter-State movement of goods comes into force; An E-way Bill will be required for moving goods worth over 50,000 rupees from one state to another.
- The electronic way Bill system has come into effect across the country. Under this system businesses and transporters have to produce before a GST inspector e-way bill for moving goods worth over Rs 50,000 from one state to another.

IndiaFilings launches online income tax filing services:

- IndiaFilings launches online income tax filing services IndiaFilings launches online income tax filing services
- IndiaFilings' online income tax filing service will help individuals and businesses file their income tax return using their platform.
- All income tax returns like ITR-1, ITR-2, ITR-3, ITR-4, ITR-5, ITR-6 and ITR-7 can be filed online using their platform directly.



Ola unveils in-trip insurance: Cost starts at Re 1, covers up to Rs 500,000:

- Ola has introduced an in-trip insurance programme for all its customers in India starting at just Re 1.
- This in-trip insurance will cover for loss of belongings, missed flights, and medical expenses up to Rs 500,000 in case of an accident.

HCL Technologies acquires C3i Solutions for \$60 million:

- HCL Technologies has acquired C3i Solutions for USD 60 million, in a move to enhance HCL's growth in life sciences and consumer services.
- C3i Solutions is a wholly owned, independently operated subsidiary of Merck & Co, which is known as MSD outside the US and Canada.
- It offers multi-channel customer engagement services for life sciences and consumer packaged goods (CPG) industries.

FPI investment limit in Govt Securities hiked:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the Central Government, hiked the **foreign portfolio investors (FPI) investment limit in Central government securities (G-Sec)**.
- The FPI investment limit in G-Sec has been **hiked from 5 per cent of outstanding stock now to 5.5 per cent in Financial Year 2018-19 and 6 per cent in Financial Year 2020**.

RInfra wins Rs 1,081 crore contract for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project:

- Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra) said that, it has won a Rs 1,081 crore contract from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) for work in two units of the Kudankulam project in Tamil Nadu.

India to grow 7.3% this financial year, 7.6% in Next says ADB:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has said, India's economic growth is set to rise to 7.3 per cent this fiscal and further to 7.6 percent in the next financial year, on back of GST and banking reforms.
- In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO), 2018, ADB said, Indian economy grew 6.6 percent in the last fiscal as it battled the lingering effects of demonetisation in 2016, businesses adjusting to GST in 2017, and a subdued agriculture.

India to grow at 7.4 percent in 2018, says IMF:

- The International Monetary Fund, IMF has stated that India is expected to grow at 7.4 per cent in 2018 and 7.8 per cent in 2019 and would re-emerge as one of the fastest growing major economies in the period.

EPFO reverses decision, to allow offline claims of over Rs10L:

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has decided to accept provident fund withdrawal claims of over ₹10 lakh via physical forms, reversing its earlier decision.
- In February, the retirement fund body made it compulsory to file online claims for provident fund withdrawals of over Rs10 lakh.
- The rule change also applies for withdrawals of over ₹5 lakh under Employees Pension Scheme.

TCS first Indian company with \$100 billion market capitalisation:



- Tata Consultancy Services has touched \$100 billion mark in market capitalisation as its share price surged nearly 7%.
- The IT major is the first listed Indian company to achieve this milestone.
- TCS is the leading the chart as the most valued firm followed by Reliance Industries Ltd, HDFC Bank, ITC and HUL in the top-five list.

Idea Cellular's proposal seeking 100% FDI under consideration of DIPP:

- Idea Cellular Ltd's proposal to allow up to 100 percent foreign direct investment in the company is under consideration of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), an official said.
- The proposal assumes significance against the backdrop of pending merger of Idea Cellular Ltd and Vodafone India to form the country's largest telecom operator.

India to grow at 7.4 percent in 2018, says IMF:

- The International Monetary Fund, IMF has said that India is expected to grow at 7.4 per cent in 2018 and 7.8 per cent in 2019 and would re-emerge as one of the fastest growing major economies in the period.
- The IMF explained this is due to the strong private consumption as well as fading transitory effects of currency exchange initiative and implementation of the national

India Signs Loan Agreement With World Bank For US\$ 125 Million:

- A Loan Agreement for IBRD credit of US\$ 125 (equivalent) for the “Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project” was signed with the World Bank in New Delhi.
- The Objectives of the project is to nurture indigenous innovation, foster local product development and accelerate commercialization process by bridging critical skill and infrastructure gaps to promote affordable and innovative healthcare products generation for inclusive development and increasing competitiveness in India.
- The closing date of Innovate in India for Inclusiveness project is 30 June, 2023.

NSE Launches E-Gsec Platform For Bringing Retail Participation In Government Securities:

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has announced the launch of its "e - Gsec" platform for facilitating the non-competitive bidding in Government of India Dated Securities (G-Sec) and Treasury Bills (T-Bills).
- This will allow retail investors to invest in Government Securities and hold them in existing Demat accounts. The non-competitive bidding facility was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to encourage retail participation in the primary market for Government Securities.

India GDP likely to grow 7.5 pc in FY19: Deutsche Bank

- As per a report by Deutsche Bank, Indian economy is likely to register Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 7.5 per cent in financial year 2018-19.
- Deutsche Bank's 7.5 per cent growth forecast for 2018-19, marks an improvement as compared to the likely 6.7 per cent growth in 2017-18.

IMPORTANT STATE WISE NATIONAL NEWS

Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Amravati; CM – Chandrababu Naidu; Governor - Ekkadu Srinivasan Lakshmi Narasimhan

ITDC bags Rs.550 crore project for developing infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh:



- India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hyderabad based firm M/s Suraas Impex Pvt. Ltd. for developing a Mega Tourism Destination project in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.
- The proposed Mega Tourism Destination project in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 550 crore.

Assam

Capital – Dispur; CM – Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor - Jagdish Mukhi

Assam Spring Festival organised at Manas National Park:

- The Assam Spring Festival was held at the Manas National Park, in Assam.
- The aim of the festival is to promote the local food and culture. The Manas National park is also a tiger and rhino reserve. It covers five districts of Assam: Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang, Udalguri and Barpeta.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal pledges to serve the farmers on priority under APART project:

- Enveloping Assam's 'agri-business' by focusing on farmers income, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal directed to make farmers' interests a priority.
- He advocated priority outlining and creation of adequate amenities for the farmers under the Assam Agri-business and Rural Transformation Project (APART).

Venkaiah Naidu Launches Assam Govt's Cashless Health Scheme:

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched a health scheme of the Assam government named Atal Amrit Abhiyan that offers free medical care of up to 2 lakh rupees for every individual from Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

Bihar

Capital – Patna; CM – Nitish Kumar; Governor – Satya Pal Malik

Bihar has highest rate of crime against SC/ST:

- According to latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Bihar has the highest rate of crimes against Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe population.
- As per NCRB data, crime against SC/ST is lowest in West Bengal.

Chhattisgarh

- **Capital – Raipur; CM – Raman Singh; Governor – Balram Das Tandon**

Chhattisgarh to Distribute Free Smartphones to Over 50 Lakh People Under Sanchar Kranti Yojana:

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh on Monday announced that his government would distribute over 30 lakh smartphones to college students, farmers, workers in tendu leaf plantations and labourers in the State over the next five months under Sanchar Kranti Yojana.

Gujarat



Capital: Gandhinagar; CM: Vijay Rupani; Governor: Om Prakash Kohli

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

- Gujarat is to set up India's largest 5,000MW solar park in Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR).
- On 10th April 2018, Gujarat state government offered its in-principle approval to the project.
- It will be established on 11,000 hectares of land along the Gulf of Khambhat in the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR).

Gujarat Chief Minister launches Pocket Cop project:

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched the 'Pocket Cop Project in order to ensure that the police force of the state is equipped with modern day technology.
- Under the project, every officer in charge of the police station, Investigating Officer, PCR van and officials handling the passport verification process shall be equipped with a smartphone enabled with internet connectivity.
- The government has made a provision of 4900 such phones. These phones will have the information of as many as 69 lakh criminals and their crimes at fingertips.

Goa

Capital: Panaji; CM: Manohar Parrikar; Governor: Mridula Sinha

Multi Modal Logistic Park inaugurated at Balli, Goa:

- Multi Modal Logistics Park at Balli Station near Madgaon in Goa was recently inaugurated.
- The part is located on Konkan Railway route. It has been set as per MoU entered between Konkan Railway & Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR).
- It will benefit trade and industry from economic transport solutions and state of art facilities.

Goa govt to launch its app-based taxi service:

- Goa State Government has decided to launch its own app-based taxi service at some key tourist destinations across the state.
- Goa govt to launch its app-based taxi service
- Earlier, tourist taxi operators who run their businesses individually in Goa, opposed attempts made by online cab aggregators like Ola to start services in the state, fearing that such a move will affect their business.

Haryana

Capital – Chandigarh; CM Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor - Kaptan Singh Solanki

'Gobardhan Yojana' launched to Support Farmers:

- The Haryana government launched the 'Gobardhan Yojana' to provide for the sale of organic manure and cow urine with an aim to benefit farmers.
- A provision of Rs 11 crore has been made to provide benefits of various projects under this scheme.
- The Gobardhan Yojana would help in doubling the income of farmers and next time, the MSP would be given with additional benefit of 50% over the cost of production.



Haryana Government launches Water ATM policy for urban areas:

- Haryana State Government has come up with Water ATM Policy to provide clean drinking water to people at public places.
- Distance between two water ATMs within a city would be 400 metres, which could be adjusted according to convenience of people.

Himachal Pradesh

Capital – Shimla; CM – Jai Ram Thakur; Governor - Acharya Dev Vrat

Himachal Pradesh Cabinet to create agency for water supply in Shimla:

- The Himachal Pradesh cabinet approved setting up of Shimla Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited (SJPNL) for water supply and waste water management in Greater Shimla Planning Area and other places.
- The estimated cost of the project to be implemented with financial assistance from the World Bank is Rs 770 crore.
- The Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, also approved in principle transportation guidelines for the safe plying of school vehicles.

H.P. to introduce free heli-ambulance services:

- The Himachal Pradesh government today decided to introduce free heli-ambulance services for timely air lifting of patients, particularly in remote and tribal regions of the State, an official statement said.
- In a Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, the setting up of a 'Health care transformation project - TATA Digital Nerves Centre Platform (DiNC)' in Kullu district, was also approved.

Jammu & Kashmir

Capital – Jammu (Winter) Srinagar (Summer); CM - Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed; Governor - Narinder Nath Vohra

Jammu gets its first tulip garden at Sanasar:

- Jammu's first tulip garden has been set up at Sanasar 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.
- This tulip garden has been set up at Sanasar health resort. Minister of State for Tourism, Priya Sethi said that, the tulip garden was opened for public on 29th March 2018.

Karnataka

Capital – Bengaluru; CM – Sidharamaya; Governor - Vajubai Rudubai Vala

Intelligent Traffic Management Solution is testing in Bengaluru:

- Bengaluru Smart City in collaboration with the Electronics City Township Authority (ELCITA) is testing prototype of an intelligent traffic management solution to improve traffic management in the city.
- It aims to provide traffic information that is currently unavailable and help improve management of commuter traffic.

Kerala

Capital – Tiruvananthapuram; CM – Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor – P. Sathasivam



Kerala Govt to launch 'community radio' to update farmers:

- In May-June 2018, Kerala State Government will start a 'community radio' to update farmers about the latest developments in the sector.
- 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 kilometer radius in the region. Kuttanad was once popularly known as the 'rice bowl of Kerala'.

Kerala issues protocol to confirm brain death cases:

- With an aim to make organ transplants more transparent in the state, Kerala State Government has issued guidelines to be followed to confirm brain death cases.
- A medical board comprising four doctors, including one in government service, will be the competent authority to declare a patient brain-dead.
- The guidelines have been divided in to three stages viz. – precautions to be taken before tests to determine brain death, analysis of reflective actions of brain and apnea test (known as sleep test).

Maharashtra

Capital – Mumbai; CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Vidyasagar Rao

Maharashtra to install 2500 plastic bottle crushing machines:

- The Maharashtra government will install 2,500 plastic bottle crushing machines across the state to ensure proper disposal of plastic bottles.
- The machines will be purchased under Corporate Social Responsibility funds and installed at public places including tourist spots, markets, and gardens with high footfall.

Maharashtra Government Signs MoU With British Council:

- The Maharashtra government signed a MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
- The British Council, with this MoU, will expand its existing work in the state, where in recent times; it has trained more than 100,000 teachers benefitting around five million learners.

Madhya Pradesh

Capital – Bhopal; CM - Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor – Om Prakash Kohli

Government inks \$210 million loan agreement with World Bank for Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project:

- The Union Government, Madhya Pradesh Government and World Bank have signed \$210 million loan agreement for Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project.
- The Project aims to improve durability, resilience and safeties of gravel surfaced rural roads and enhance capacity of state to manage its rural roads network.

Central assistance for irrigation projects in drought prone areas of Maharashtra:



- 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.

Manipur

Capital – Imphal; CM – Biren Singh; Governor – Najma A Heptulla

Manipur’s Shirui Lily festival began:

- Shirui Lily Festival 2018 is being held in Ukhrul district of Manipur from 24th to 28th April, 2018.
- The festival commemorates the significance of Manipur’s state flower, the Shirui Lily.
- Liliun Mackliniae Sealy (locally known as Shirui Lily or Kashongwon) was discovered in 1946 by Frank Kingdom Ward, a botanist from United Kingdom. This flower is found only in Manipur’s Shirui Kashong Peak.

New Delhi

Capital – New Delhi; CM - Arvind Kejriwal; Governor – Anil Bijal

Delhi becomes first city to roll-out Euro VI fuel:

- With an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR region, petrol pumps in the capital from Sunday started supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel (both petrol and diesel).
- This move makes New Delhi the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI (equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norms).
- Other cities like Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad along with 13 major cities, including Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune, will also switch over to cleaner BS-VI grade fuel from January 1 next year.

DCW Chief Swati Maliwal Ends 10 Day long Hunger Strike :

- Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal on Sunday ended her 10-day long hunger strike after President Ram Nath Kovind approved an Ordinance to award death penalty to those convicted of raping girls below 12 years.

Orissa

Capital – Bhubaneswar; CM – Naveen Patnaik; Governor – S C Jamir

Odisha’s 2nd Longest River Bridge Opened:

- The much-awaited bridge 'Ib Setu' built over the Ib River in Sambalpur district was thrown open to the public by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The 2.5-km-long bridge, which is the State’s second longest bridge, has been built in three years at a cost of Rs. 117.50 crore.

Sikkim

Capital – Gangtok; CM – Pawan Kumar Chamling; Governor - Shrinivas Patil

Sikkim Chief Minister Becomes India's Longest-Serving Chief Minister:

- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling became the longest-serving Chief Minister in India, surpassing the record of Jyoti Basu, who served as West Bengal CM from 1977 to 2000.
- Chamling became the Chief Minister in December 1994 and belongs to the Sikkim Democratic Front.



Bhutia kicks off his 'Hamro Sikkim' party:

- Former Indian football captain Bhaichung Bhutia, along with some politicians and professionals from Sikkim, on Thursday announced the formation of their regional party Hamro Sikkim.
- Hamro means 'ours' in Nepali language.

Tamilnadu

Capital – Chennai; CM – Edapadi Palanisamy; Governor – Banwarilal Probhit.

TN Government rolls out Amma Free Wi-Fi zones:

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

TN govt launches 'Uzhavan' mobile app for farmers:

- Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister K Palaniswami recently launched 'Uzhavan' (meaning – farmer), a mobile application for farmers.
- This app allows farmers to have access to nine types of services, including details about their crop insurance, information on farm subsidies, book farm equipment and related infrastructure and receiving weather forecast for the next four days.
- 'Uzhavan' app is available in Tamil as well as in English.

Madras High Court introduces e-court fee payment:

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

Telangana

Capital – Hyderabad; CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao; Governor – Ekkadu Srinivasan Lakshmi Narasimhan.

Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana Launched in Telangana:

- On the occasion of 127th birth anniversary BR Ambedkar, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan launched Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana (PMUY) in Telangana.
- PMUY was launched in May 2016. The objective of this scheme is to provide deposit-free LPG connections with monetary assistance to women from below poverty line (BPL) households, thereby preventing health hazards emanating from usage of unclean cooking fuel and fossil fuel for domestic cooking purpose.
- PMUY has so far benefited more than 3.5 crore families.

GI tag for Telangana's Adilabad dokra, Warangal Dhurries:

- 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 whereas Warangal Dhurries is a popular traditional cotton rug.

Uttar Pradesh



Capital – Lucknow; CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Ram Naik.

Ganga Hariteema Yojana launched in 27 districts of Uttar Pradesh:

- Ganga Hariteema Yojana (Ganga Greenery scheme) was launched in 27 districts of Uttar Pradesh, located on the bank of river Ganga.
- The scheme was launched by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Allahabad on the bank of Sangam, the confluence of rivers of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswathi.
- It envisages carrying out plantation drives in one-kilometer areas from the banks of river. The objective is to enhance green cover in the catchment areas of the river Ganga and to control the land erosion.

UP cabinet nod for integrated sugar complex in Pilibhit, Tiger Conservation Foundation in Dudhwa:

- Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved construction of an integrated sugar complex in Pilibhit and setting up a Tiger Conservation Foundation in Dudhwa.
- Uttar Pradesh cabinet presided by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath decided to develop the sugar mill of Kisan Sakhari sugar mill limited located near Pilibhit since 2011 as an integrated complex.
- The cabinet also approved setting up of Dudhwa Tiger Conservation Foundation, as said by central government in 2007.

Smriti Irani launches GNFC's Neem project in Uttar Pradesh:

- Union Cabinet Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC's) Neem Project in Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Under this project, GNFC intends to collect 8,000 to 10,000 MT Neem seeds from Uttar Pradesh, which in turn will provide additional income of Rs 12-15 crore for over one lakh rural woman from 2,500 villages in the State.

UP govt orders govt hospitals and orphanages to establish SHISHU SWAGAT KENDRA- PALNA:

- In Uttar Pradesh, Government has ordered all government hospitals and orphanages to establish SHISHU SWAGAT KENDRA- PALNA and put up cradles in front of their buildings so that parents can give up unwanted babies safely.
- Yesterday an order was issued to all district magistrates and other higher officials of the state to ensure the setup of PALNA centres. This will help in tackling the problem of abandoning the infant at the roadside.

Uttarakhand

Capital – Dehradun; CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor – Krishna Kant Paul

Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurates Uttarakhand's second Mega Food Park:

- Union Food Processing Industries Minister, Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Uttarakhand's second Mega Food Park in Udham Singh Nagar district.
- Uttarakhand's Second Mega Food Park, M/s Himalayan Mega Food Park Private Ltd, is being set up over an area of 50.14 acres at a cost of Rs 99.96 crore.

ADB to give Rs 1 700 crore aid to Uttarakhand:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will be giving an aid of Rs 1,700 crore to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
- The Rs 1,700 crore aids will be given for the creation of infrastructural facilities, sewer treatment plants and water supply facilities in urban areas of Uttarakhand.



West Bengal

Capital –Kolkata; CM – Mamata Banerjee; Governor – Keshari nath Tripathi

The government of West Bengal launches ‘Rupashree’ Scheme

- The government of West Bengal has launched ‘Rupashree’ Scheme.
- This Scheme is for Unmarried girls. According to this Scheme total amount of Rs. 25,000/- will be credited to the bank account of the girl before her marriage.
- This Scheme will benefit about six lakh women. The government has allotted Rs. 1500/- Crore for this Scheme. This Scheme will provide one-time financial support to the marriages of poor girls. This Scheme is for the girls who are over 18 years old.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Qatar introduces national service for women:

- Qatar has introduced national service for women for the first time as per a law issued by Qatar’s Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.
- On 4th April 2018, the Law No. 5 of 2018 on national service was issued by Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.
- According to the law, women above the age of 18 can volunteer for national service. Men between the ages of 18 and 35 are required to perform compulsory military service, and now the service period has been increased from three months to one year.

Japan activated its first marine unit since World War Two:

- Japan activated its Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB), its first marine unit since World War Two.
- The activation ceremony was held at a military base near Sasebo on the southwest island of Kyushu, wherein about 1500 ARDB members conducted a 20-minute mock public exercise recapturing a remote island from invaders.

UAE and Malaysia concluded joint military exercise “Desert Tiger 5”:

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia concluded “Desert Tiger 5” joint military exercise aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions.
- This exercise was conducted within the framework of the UAE leadership’s continued desire to support and create unique partnership with Malaysia.

World’s first long-distance electric bus line to begin in Paris

- World’s first long-distance electric bus line began service on April 12, 2018 in Paris, France.
- This bus line has been presented by Flixbus, a brand which offers intercity bus service in Europe.

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) has been developed by the Computer Network Information Centre of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- CSTC obtains data from the academy’s research institutes and major scientific installations, and many Chinese top universities and private innovation centres.

USEFUL INFO



China Capital	Beijing
Currency	Renminbi
President	Xi Jinping

New Zealand bans all new offshore oil exploration:

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a ban on all new offshore oil exploration permits as a part of her Government's plan to transition towards a carbon-neutral future.
- The ban on new offshore oil exploration permits has been applied with immediate effect. However, it will not affect existing permits and onshore drilling.

USEFUL INFO	
New Zealand Capital	Wellington
Currency	Dollar
President	Jacinda Ardern

China launches website to report corruption:

- China has stepped up its campaign against foreign espionage with a website in Mandarin and English encouraging people to report national security threats such as bids to “overthrow the socialist system”.
- The website, www.12339.gov.cn, launched by the ministry of national security, also urges anyone to report attempts by Chinese nationals or foreigners to bribe state or military officials, instigate armed riots or incite ethnic separatism.
- Informants will be rewarded for discovering espionage equipment or for tip-offs on anyone suspected of buying or selling state secrets, according to the website, which allows users to lodge complaints in both Chinese and English.

USEFUL INFO	
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Renminbi
China President	Xi Jinping

Prime Minister Modi to visit United Kingdom in second leg of his two-nation European tour:

- In the second leg of his two-nation European tour, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the United Kingdom.
- He will hold bilateral talks and attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting there.
- He will meet his counterpart, Theresa May and Queen Elizabeth II. He will also meet corporate sector CEOs of both the countries.
- Prime Minister will also address a unique event ‘Bharat Ki Baat, Sabke Saath’. It will be the one-of-its-kind live interactive conversation in which the Prime Minister will answer questions concerning India.

USEFUL INFO	
UK Capital	London
UK Currency	Pound Sterling
UK Prime Minister	Theresa May

France announces 50 million euro humanitarian aid for Syria:

- France will contribute 61.9 million dollars toward urgent humanitarian aid for Syria.
- French President Emmanuel Macron stated at a meeting with a group of non-governmental organisations (NGO) in Paris.
- The funds will be allocated to NGOs and U.N. agencies working on the ground in Syria, including the U.N. office for humanitarian affairs.



- According to United Nations estimates, some 13 million people including six million children are in need of humanitarian aid in Syria, ravaged by a seven-year war that has displaced millions.

USEFUL INFO	
France Capital	Paris
France Currency	Euro, CFP franc
France President	Emmanuel Macron

India wins election to crucial NGO committee in United Nations:

- India has won an election to a crucial non-governmental organisation committee in the United Nations.
- It topped the election by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in the Asia Pacific States category followed by Pakistan, Bahrain and China to serve a four-year term beginning on January 1, 2019.
- India got the highest number of votes at 46, followed by Pakistan 43, Bahrain 40 and China 39.
- India was also elected by acclamation to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term.

India, France to jointly conduct missions to Mars, Venus:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and its French counterpart Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) are set to collaborate on missions to Mars and Venus.
- The agreement was part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), where 14 contracts including defence and nuclear energy worth over ₹1 lakh crore were signed during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India last month.

USEFUL INFO	
France Capital	Paris
France Currency	Euro, CFP franc
France President	Emmanuel Macron

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

- India and the US decided to set up a joint task force on natural gas with a view to promote strategic and economic interest of the two nations.
- The two sides, during the ministerial level talks, also reaffirmed their commitment to early and full implementation of their civil nuclear partnership, including the Westinghouse civil nuclear project at Kovvada.
- As a first step in realising the full potential of the Strategic Energy Partnership, the US and India are pleased to announce the US-India Natural Gas Task Force.
- The task force provides a team of US and Indian industry experts with a mandate to propose, develop, and convey, innovative policy recommendations to the Government of India in support of its vision for natural gas in the economy of India.

USEFUL INFO	
USA Capital	Washington, D.C.
USA Currency	United States Dollar
USA President	Donald Trump

Taiwan to open trade office in India:

- Taiwan will next month open a trade office in New Delhi, part of its efforts to expand business ties with Asia's third largest economy amid China's insistence on One China policy.



- As Taiwan and India do not have a diplomatic relationship, the trade office in New Delhi is expected to provide services to Indian and Taiwanese companies to expand business.
- India's bilateral trade with the island-nation is expanding steadily touching \$6.3 billion in 2017, up a quarter on the previous year.

USEFUL INFO	
Taiwan Capital	Taipei
Taiwan Currency	New Taiwan Dollar
Taiwan President	Tsai Ing-wen

US to restrict movement of Pakistani diplomats from May 1:

- The United States has notified Pakistan that the diplomats at their embassy in Washington and at consulates in other cities would not be able to travel beyond 40 kilometres of their offices without permission from 1st of May.
- According to the notification, diplomats would need to apply for permission at least five days ahead of an intended travel outside the imposed 40-kilometre radii.
- Pakistan had already imposed similar restrictions on American diplomats in the country, who were not allowed to visit the tribal belt or Karachi.

USEFUL INFO	
Pakistan Capital	Islamabad
Pakistan Currency	Pakistani Rupee
Pakistan Prime Minister	Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

Swaziland king Mswati III renames country 'Kingdom of eSwatini':

- Swaziland's King Mswati III has changed the name of the country to the 'Kingdom of eSwatini'.
- The monarch made the announcement at the dual celebration to mark his 50th birthday and the African nation's 50 years of independence.
- The Kingdom of eSwatini, which was a British protectorate for more than 60 years, is Africa's last absolute monarchy.

USEFUL INFO	
Swaziland Capital	Mbabane (executive) Lobamba
Currency	Rand
King	Mswati III

Miguel Diaz-Canel is Named as Cuba's new president

- Miguel Díaz-Canel was officially named as the new leader of Cuba, one day after a secret vote in the country's National Assembly.
- Díaz It's the first time in nearly six decades that Cuba is being led by a man not named Castro.

USEFUL INFO	
Cuba Capital	Havana
Currency	Peso
President	Miguel Díaz-Canel

India offers medical help to Kabul:

- India has condemned the terror attacks in Afghanistan and offered medical assistance.



- An official statement called the attacks barbaric and said the blast at a voter registration centre in Kabul was aimed at hurting the democratic process.

USEFUL INFO	
Afghanistan Capital	Kabul
Currency	Afghani
President	Ashraf Ghani

Kim, Moon to meet at military demarcation line:

- North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un and the South's president Moon Jae-in will meet at the military demarcation line that divides the peninsula before their summit on Friday, Seoul said, in an occasion laden with symbolism.
- Mr. Moon will greet his visitor at the concrete blocks that mark the border between the two Koreas in the demilitarised zone, the chief of the South's presidential secretariat Im Jong-seok said.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS

National Appointments

Person	Designation
Debjani Ghosh	New President Of Nasscom
M L Srivastava	Protem chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi.
Ashok Gehlot	Member of Congress central election panel
Christian Sewing	New CEO of Deutsche Bank
Manu Bhaker	Brand Ambassador of Haryana's Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign
Sripriya Ranganathan	Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea
Bhanu Pratap Sharma	Chairman of Bank Board Bureau
P P Malhotra	New Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).
C Haridas	Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Sitaram Yechury	CPI(M) general secretary
Taniya Sanyal	First woman firefighter of the Airports Authority of India(AAI).
Indu Malhotra	Supreme Court Judge.
Gauri Sheoran	brand ambassador for its two health-related programmes viz
Kavinder Gupta	Deputy Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir.

International Appointments

Person	Designation
Julius Maada Bio	Sierra Leone's President
Lionel Messi	UN Ambassador for tourism



Balram Bhargava	Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
M Sathiyavathy	Member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
Rishad Premji	Nasscom chairman for 2018-19
Ban Ki-moon	Chairman of Boao Forum
Prince Charles	Next head of Commonwealth
Mario Abdo Benitez	Paraguay's president

AWARDS AND HONORS

Awards	Winners
Sportsperson of the Year Female	Mithaliraj
Best senior male athletes	Kidambi Srikanth
Best senior female athletes	P V Sindhu
Best coach of the year	Pullela Gopichand
India's Cleanest Airport	Mangalore Airport
ESPN Multi-Sport Awards 'Sportsperson of the Year - Male	Kidambi Srikanth
ESPN Multi-Sport Awards 'Sportsperson of the Year - Female	P V Sindhu
State of the Year	Chhattisgarh
The Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award	Anushka Sharma
	Ranveer Singh
	Tamanaah Bhatia
	Vinod Khanna
Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University	Siddhartha Varadarajan
Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award	Dharmendra



Raj Kapoor Special Contributions Award	Director Rajkumar Hirani
Banco Award	Bhuj Mercantile Co operative
'India Talent Management Award 2018'	Rana Kapoor
Sixth elections to UN Economic and Social Council bodies	India
First Bollywood Filmmaker To Get Wax Statue At Madame Tussauds	Karan Johar
Most Film Friendly Award	Madhya Pradesh
Fortune magazine as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018.	Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani
	Human rights lawyer Indira Jaising
India's first cashless island	Manipur's Karang
India's best Gram Panchayat	West Bengal's Digambarpur
2018 UNESCO Press Freedom Prize	Mahmoud Abu Zeid
Cannes Film Festival Nomination	Dhanush 'the Fakir'
National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018 in the category "Top R&D Institution / Organization for Patents and Commercialization".	The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
CK Nayadu Lifetime Achievement Award	Diana Edulji
PM Modi's excellence award	Budgam

10 Indian Women Achievers were presented the FLO Icon Awards:

- At the Annual session 10 Indian Women Achievers were presented the FLO ICON AWARDS.
- The award winners are:
 1. Banking & Finance – Ms Chanda Kochhar, MD & CEO, ICICI Bank
 2. Health & Wellness – Dr Aarti Vij, Chief of AIIMS' Organ Retrieval and Banking Organization (ORBO)
 3. Media Entrepreneurship – Ms Ekta Kapoor, Joint Managing Director and Creative Director of Balaji Telefilms
 4. Conscientious Cinema – Ms Twinkle Khanna, Entrepreneur, Author, Film Producer
 5. Digital Entrepreneurship – Ms Falguni Nayar, Founder & CEO, NYKAA
 6. Science & Technology – Dr Tessy Thomas, Director, Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
 7. Promoting Literature – Ms Namita Gokhale, Author and Director of Jaipur Literature Festival
 8. Environmental Protection – Ms Bharati Chaturvedi, Founder of CHINTAN, Environmentalist and writer
 9. Commando Training – Dr Seema Rao, Commando Trainer, certified Doctor and MBA in crisis management
 10. Grassroots Mobilization – Ms Kamal Kumbhar, Social entrepreneur & Founder of Ekta Producer Company



65th National Film Awards:



- The 65th National Film Awards were announced in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The chairpersons of the three juries (Feature, Non-feature and Writing) for the National Film Awards have announced the awards for the different categories.
- This year, the jury is being headed by director Shekhar Kapur. The jury panel has 10 members. National Film Awards will be given by the President Ram Nath Kovind in May 2018.

S. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Best Anthropological film	Name Place Animal Thing, Slave Genesis
2.	Best Critic on Cinema	Girdhar Jha (Swarn Kamal)
3.	Special Mention	Mhorkya (Marathi), Hello Arasi (Oriya), Take Off (Malayalam), Newton (Hindi)
4.	Best Ladakhi Film	Walking With The Wind
5.	Best Jasari Film	Sinjar
6.	Best Tulu Film	Paddayi
7.	Best Odiya Film	Hello Arsi
8.	Best Kannada Film	Hebbet Ramakka
9.	Best Hindi Film	Newton
10.	Best Bengali Film	Mayurakshi
11.	Marathi Film	Kachcha Limbu
12.	Best Malayalam Film	Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
13.	Best Telugu Film	Ghazi
14.	Assamese Film	Ishu
15.	Best Tamil Film	To Let
16.	Best Gujarati Film	Dhh
17.	Best Action Direction	Abbas Ali Moghu for Baahubali 2
18.	Choreography	Ganesh Acharya for 'Gori Tu Latth Maar' for Toilet - Ek Premkatha
19.	Best Special Effects	Baahubali 2
20.	Best Music Director	Kaattru Veliyidai
21.	Best Background Score	Mom
22.	Special Jury Award	Nagarkirtan
23.	Best Lyrics	JM Prahalad for Muthuratna song
24.	Best Make Up Artist	Ram Rajjak (Nagarkirtan)
25.	Best Production Design	Santhosh Raman (Malayalam movie Take Off)
26.	Best Screenplay (Original)	Sajeev Pazhoor (Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum)
27.	Screenplay Writer (Adapted)	JAYARAJ (Bhayanakam)



28.	Best Dialogues	Sambit Mohanty (Hello Arsi)
29.	Best Cinematography	Bhayanakam
30.	Best Cameraman	Nikhil S Praveen
31.	Best Playback Singer	Shashaa Tirupati for Kaatru Veliyidai.

Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards (2018):

Popular celebrities participated in the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards which was held at Andrews Auditorium, Mumbai. Individuals who put their immense contribution in Indian films and Television are honored with this great award.

S. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Best actor (male)	Shahid Kapoor
2.	Best actor people's choice award	Ranveer Singh
3.	Entertainer of the year	Kartik Aryan
4.	Best actress (critics)	Aditi Rao Hydari
5.	Lifetime achievement award	Simi Garewal
6.	Pride of Indian cinema	Sanjay Dutt
7.	Path breaking producer of the year	Anushka Sharma, Karnesh Sharma
8.	Best director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari
9.	Outstanding performance (male)	Raj Kumar Rao, Rana Daggubati
10.	Outstanding performance (female)	Tamannah Bhatia, Kriti Sanon
11.	Promising face of the year	Aahana Kumra
12.	Best actor (male) Marathi	Vaibhav Tatwawaadi
13.	Best actor (female) Marathi	Pooja Sawant
14.	Socially conscious performance of the year	Rani Mukherjee
15.	Best comic role	Tusshar Kapoor
16.	Best lyricist	Manoj Muntashir
17.	Best performance in a short film	Divya Khosla Kumar
18.	Iconic contribution towards music	Hans Raj Hans
19.	Versatile Singer	Rani Hazarika
20.	Entertaining performance in reality show Bigg Boss	Hina Khan
21.	Best actress drama	Jennifer Winget
22.	Best actor(male) Television	Karan Patel
23.	Best reality show judge	Shilpa Shetty
24.	Best talk show host	Karan Johar
25.	Social and business entrepreneur of the year	Jaya Misra
26.	Best fashion designer of the year	Sanjukta Dutta
27.	Comic performer of the year	Sumona Chakraborty

Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards (2018):

Bollywood actors Akshay Kumar, Sonam Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar bagged the best actor and actress awards in the same way at the Dadasaheb Phalke awards, presented by Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation, held in Mumbai.

Rakesh Roshan, who is a legendary Film Director, won an award of Lifetime Achievement for his contribution to the Film Industry.

S. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Best Actor	Akshay Kumar
2.	Best Actress	Bhumi Pednekar



3.	Most Versatile Actress	Manisha Koirala
4.	Lifetime Achievement	Rakesh Roshan
5.	Best Actress in a Leading Role(Padman)	Sonam Kapoor
6.	Best Actor in a Character Role	Rajesh Sharma
7.	Best Playback Singer(Female)	Neeti Mohan
8.	Best Playback Singer(Male)	Armaan Malik
9.	Best TV Anchor	Aditya Narayan Jha
10.	Best Entertainer(TV)	Manish Paul
11.	Best Playback Singer(Jury)	Bhumi Trivedi
12.	Best Stage Anchor	Siddharth Kannan
13.	Best Producer(Short Films)	Sandip Marwah
14.	Most Entertaining Film (Sonu ki Titu ki Sweety)	Luv Ranjan
15.	Saraswatibai Dadasaheb Phalke Best Actress (Lifetime)	Farida Jalal
16.	Best Debut Director	Konkona Sensharma

IMPORTANT MOU AND AGREEMENTS

Meeting Of PIC Between India And Pakistan Held In New Delhi:

- The two-day meeting of Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) between India and Pakistan began in New Delhi.
- Representatives from both the sides had discussed Water Treaty dispute and resolution of outstanding issues.
- The PIC is mandated to establish and maintain cooperative arrangements for the implementation of the treaty and to promote cooperation between the two sides in developing the Indus water systems.

India and the United Arab Emirates signed MOU on technical cooperation in rail sector:

- The Indian Railways today apprised the Cabinet of an MoU signed between India and the United Arab Emirates on technical cooperation in rail sector.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Federal Transport Authority-Land and Maritime of the UAE on technical cooperation in rail sector.

India and Canada signed MOU on foster cross-border partnerships:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Canada.
- The MoU was signed on 21st February, 2018 in New Delhi.
- The MoU aims at fostering cross-border partnerships focused on research excellence and industry-academic collaboration between India and Canada that brings robust innovation gains to both countries.

India and Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of food safety and related areas:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Cooperation Arrangement between Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH & FW) and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (MAIL), Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of Food Safety and related areas, an official release said.

FIEO, PayPal ink MoU to empower Indian SMEs to sell globally:



- Digital payments company PayPal and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for promotion of outbound shipments among small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- As per the terms of the MoU, PayPal will work with FIEO to educate SMEs on how to leverage global opportunities, help them receive money in a safe and timely manner with PayPal products and inform them of global best practices.
- The programmes and seminars undertaken for this purpose will not only create awareness but will also address some commonly faced challenges by SMEs.

Prime Minister of Nepal KP Oli signed different MOUs in India Visit:

- Prime Minister of Nepal, KP Oli was on a three-day official visit to India from 6th – 8th April 2018.
- India will build a strategic railway link between Raxaul in Bihar and Kathmandu in Nepal to enhance people-to-people linkages and promote economic growth and development.
- India and Nepal reiterated their commitment to promote bilateral cooperation in agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing.

President Ram Nath Kovind concludes visit to Equatorial Guinea with 3 MOUs:

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind concluded his visit to Equatorial Guinea, the first leg of his visit to three African nations – Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia.
- Mr. Ram Nath Kovind is the first President of India to visit Equatorial Guinea.
- President Ram Nath Kovind was conferred with the ‘Condecoracion’, the highest honour accorded to a non-citizen by the government of Equatorial Guinea. So far, ‘Condecoracion’ has been awarded only to select heads of state.

President Ram Nath Kovind signed two agreements signed with Swaziland:

- President Ram Nath Kovind, on a three-nation Africa visit, held delegation-level talks with Swaziland King Mswati III in Mbabane. Both sides agreed on expanding the India- Swaziland partnership to accelerate growth and development.
- India and Swaziland signed two agreements on health and visa waiver. One of the agreement deals with granting of the visa waiver for the diplomats and officials holding relevant passports while the other is to ensure cooperation in the field of health and medicine.

India and Vietnam MOU on security and counter-terrorism cooperation:

- Vice Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Dang Dinh Quy met Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi and held discussions on India-Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership and on ways to further boost ties.
- India, Vietnam discuss ways to boost ties. It is to be noted that in 2016, India and Vietnam formally upgraded their relationship status (from Strategic Partnership) to “comprehensive strategic partnership.

India, Bangladesh sign six MoUs including 129.5 km oil pipeline deal:

- India and Bangladesh signed six pacts including the construction of a 129.5 km-long oil pipeline between Siliguri and Parbatipur.
- India-Bangladesh Friendship pipeline between Siliguri (on Indian side) & Parbatipur (on Bangladesh’s side) is aimed at transporting 1 million tonnes diesel per annum from India to Bangladesh.

India, Peru to hold next round of FTA talks this week



- Officials of Union Commerce Ministry are in Peru for the second round of negotiations for proposed free trade agreement (FTA) to boost two-way commerce between both the countries.
- Under FTA, the partner countries reduce or eliminate duties on most of the goods traded between them.
- Besides, related norms and rules are also eased to promote trade in services and increase bilateral investments.

India Signs MOU with World EXPO 2020 Dubai:

- India and World Expo 2020 signed participants contract for India's pavilion in the prestigious World Expo 2020 held once in 5 years.
- The contract provides for the setting up of India pavilion at Expo 2020 on an extra large plot (about one acre) in the 'Opportunity' segment. This is tune with the great opportunity for economic activity that India provides today on the way to becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

Indian Consortium and Saudi Aramco Sign MoU for Ratnagiri Mega Refinery in Maharashtra:

- Indian Consortium consisting of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to jointly develop and build Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL), an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex, in the State of Maharashtra.
- This MoU was signed on the sidelines of 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi.

India and Zambia sign four agreements to strengthen the ties between two countries:

- India and Zambia signed four agreements as a part of Indian President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to three African countries.
- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Zambia on 10th April 2018. He held delegation-level talks with Zambian President Edgar Chagwa Lungu.
- India and Zambia signed four agreements on:
 1. double taxation avoidance
 2. judicial cooperation
 3. mutual visa waivers for officials and diplomats
 4. the Entrepreneurship Development Institute that India will build in Zambia

NHAI signs agreement for its First International Project:

- To provide seamless vehicular movement for enhancing trade, business, health, education and tourism between Indian, Myanmar and Thailand, the National Highways Authority of India has signed an agreement for upgradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway (Milepost 40/0 to Milepost 115/5) in Myanmar to two lane with earthen shoulder.
- The agreement was signed by NHAI with M/s Punj Lloyd Ltd. – Varaha Infra Ltd. (JV).
- The project has been funded by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and would be executed on EPC mode at a cost of Rs.1177 crores.

AAI to develop Myanmar's Kalay Airport:

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed an agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the first phase for development of the Kalay Airport as a green airport in Myanmar.



- AAI had developed more than 60 airports in metro and non-metro cities in India and now AAI wants to leverage its expertise to other countries on bigger scale.

Jayant Sinha to head Task Force for UAV technology:

- The Government has decided to constitute a Task Force under the chairmanship of Shri Jayant Sinha, Minister of State for Civil Aviation for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.
- The Task Force will develop a roadmap with implementable recommendations for Central as well as State Governments, Industry and Research Institutions.
- The Task Force will consist of representatives from the Government, PSUs, industry and sectoral experts and submit report within 6 months of its constitution.
- The Headquarters of the Task Force will be at Ministry of Civil Aviation, New Delhi.

India, Mongolia to enhance bilateral trade, investments:

- India and Mongolia today discussed economic cooperation in areas such as infrastructure development, energy, services and IT.
- In a joint media briefing with Mongolian Foreign Minister D Tsogtbaatar, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said in Ulaanbaatar that the two countries agreed to explore ways to identify new areas of cooperation in all sectors of mutual interest and to enhance bilateral trade and investments.

Indus Towers to merge with Bharti Infratel:

- Sunil Bharti Mittal-led Bharti Airtel has decided to merge Indus Towers with its tower arm Bharti Infratel, making the combined company to be the world's largest tower company outside China.
- In India, the merger will create a pan-India tower company, with over 1,63,000 towers.

NHAI inks pact with Macquarie:

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an agreement with Macquarie for road projects under the highway monetisation initiative.
- The agreement has been signed with Macquarie for the first set of highway projects worth USD 1.5 billion. This is one of the highest FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in highways.
- Macquarie had won the first set of 9 highway projects under toll-operate-transfer (TOT) model last month. This will bring Rs 10,500 crore cash to NHAI's account under the first tranche of monetisation initiative.

Dalmia Bharat Adopts Red Fort and Gandikota Fort:

- Dalmia Bharat Limited has signed a MoU with the Tourism Ministry to take up Red Fort and Gandikota Fort (Andhra Pradesh) under the 'Adopt a Heritage' project.
- Dalmia Bharat Limited has become the first corporate to be part of the 'Adopt a Heritage' project.
- Dalmia Bharat will look after the operations and the maintenance of Red Fort and Gandikota Fort for the next five years.

IMPORTANT SUMMIT & CONFERENCE

Kerala To Host Asia's Largest Startup Conclave:



- Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregation, Huddle Kerala, will be held at Kovalam. The initiative is envisaged to provide a platform for start-ups to pitch their products and interact with a wide array of technology and industry leaders from around the world.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the conclave, being organised by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) in association with Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and IAMAI Startup Foundation.

Nirmala Sitharaman To Attend Moscow Conference In Russia:

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is in Russia to attend the 7th Moscow Conference on International Security. This is her first visit to Russia in her capacity as the Defence Minister.
- During her three-day tour, she will meet her Russian counterpart Army General Sergei Shoigu and other senior leaders.

Global Logistics Summit held in New Delhi:

- On 5th and 6th April 2018, Global Logistics Summit was held in New Delhi.
- The Global Logistics Summit was organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, along with FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) and the World Bank Group.
- The Summit acts as a platform to hold discussions for global experts, academics, government officials and private sector and industry representatives.

Sushma Swaraj attended NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Conference in Baku:

- Union External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj embarked on a three-day official visit to Azerbaijan's capital city Baku to participate in Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Conference.
- NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Conference was held in Baku on 5th and 6th April 2018.
- Theme of this conference was "Promoting international peace and security for sustainable."

Conference On Water Environment And Climate Change Begins In Nepal

- An international conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' started in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The three-day event is being organized by the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage and Govt of Nepal.
- The basic objective of the conference is to bring together professionals, government and non-government institutions to discuss and deliberate on challenges related to water and environmental issues.
- More than 100 international participants from 20 different countries, including India, will attend the conference.

1st NITI Forum Meet At Agartala:

- Tripura is all set to host the first meeting of the NITI Forum- a unit of NITI Aayog in Agartala. In this meeting, Chief Ministers of all Northeastern States, Minister of Development of North Eastern Region and senior officials of NITI Aayog and Union Government will join the conclave.
- The 'NITI Forum for North East' was constituted in February 2018 with an aim to ensure the sustainable economic growth of the North Eastern Region of the country.
- The meeting was chaired by the vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog, Rajeev Kumar.

Nepal President Inaugurates International Conference On Human Rights In Kathmandu:



- President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari inaugurated an International Conference on Human Rights in South Asia in Kathmandu. The conference is organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.
- The representatives of Human Rights Commissions and institutions, human rights activists from 20 countries including India are participating in the 3-day event.

Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh:

- Eighth 'Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific' was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh from 10th – 12th April, 2018.
- 3R stands for – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- During the course of this event, participants engaged in high-level discussions on policies, shared useful information and committed to support implementation of 3R projects in member countries.
- Theme of this event was 'Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency – A 21st-Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities'.

Logo, Website of 11th World Hindi Conference was released:

- Education Minister of Mauritius, Leela Devi Dookhun Luchoomun released the logo and website of 11th World Hindi Conference in New Delhi.
- 11th World Hindi Conference is scheduled to be held in Mauritius from 18th to 20th August 2018.
- Education Minister of Mauritius stated that a sub-committee has been formed which will keep collecting information and will update the newly released website.
- World Hindi Conference is a world conference on Hindi language, which brings together Hindi scholars, writers and laureates from different parts of the world.
- 1st World Hindi Conference was held in January 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Andhra CM Naidu inaugurates 'Happy Cities Summit 2018' in Amravati:

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Founder of Isha Foundation Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev has inaugurated a three-day long 'Happy Cities Summit 2018' in Amravati.
- Around 1,000 delegates from India and abroad will take part in the Summit.
- This is first of its kind program in India.

Conference of Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of UTs to be held at Megapode Resort, Port Blair:

- A conference of Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of Union Territories will be held at Megapode Resort, Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, VP Singh, Lt. Governor of Puducherry, Dr Kiran Bedi, Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Admiral (Retd.) DK Joshi and representatives from Delhi, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu are attending the conference.

India hosts 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting:

- 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial (IEF16) Meeting was held on 10th -12th April 2018 in New Delhi.
- This meeting was hosted by India and co-hosted by China and South Korea.

IEF16 was the largest gathering of Energy Ministers from across the globe. From the Indian side, the ministerial was attended by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. **India, Russia sign seven MoU at Defence expo:**



- India and Russia signed 7 MoUs at Defence Expo at Thiruvadanthai, near Chennai today.
- These MoUs were signed between the Indian Private Defence sector manufacturing companies and Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for manufacture, development of spares, sub-assemblies and assemblies of identified Russian origin platforms in use by the Indian Armed Forces. The MoUs were signed during third India-Russia Military-Industrial Conference held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2018.

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

- India Mobile Congress will be held from 25th to 27th of October this year at Aerocity in New Delhi. It is one of the biggest marquee Mobile, Internet and Technology events in Asia, organized by Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India.
- Addressing the curtain raiser ceremony of India Mobile Congress in New Delhi today, Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha said, the event is an excellent platform for policymakers, industry and regulators to engage in meaningful deliberations to drive the future direction of this important sector.

US, Britain and France launch military operation against Syria:

- In a combined operation, the United States, Britain and France have launched a military operation against Syria early today in response to an alleged poison gas attack in Douma last week.
- Huge blasts were reported around Damascus early today, moments after the US, France, and Britain announced they were striking Syria's chemical weapons capabilities.
- Announcing the military action from the White House, U.S. President Donald Trump said the joint action was meant to establish a strong deterrent against the production, spread, and use of chemical weapons.

SAARC regional summit held in Hyderabad:

- Agricultural experts from SAARC nations will present a position paper on ways to address impact of climate change on agriculture at the SAARC regional summit, begins in Hyderabad.
- More than 80 senior officers and agricultural experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the inaugural session of the three-day conference in Hyderabad.
- The experts will also discuss adaptation measures for climate resilient agrarian systems.

First meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan held in New Delhi:

- The first meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan held in New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, CEO Amitabh Kant and representatives of various ministries of the Central and State Governments will participate in the meeting.

India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 Held In New Delhi:

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

IIDEM organizes 2-Day Consultative Workshop for the Delegation from the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan:



- The India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) organized a 2-day Consultative Workshop for the Delegation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Kazakhstan from April 16-17, 2018 at Nirvachan Sadan, Election Commission of India, New Delhi.
- The six-member delegation comprised of the Vice-Chairman of CEC, Kazakhstan and other Senior Officials. The workshop aimed to hold interactive discussions on the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) & Role of IT and Conduct of Training Programme.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has underlined the importance of looking at the concerns of the small and island states in the crucial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM, during its first day which is underway in London.
- India announced a number of initiatives in the direction through doubling of contribution for Common Fund for Sustainable Development Goals, taking up small projects in the small and island countries, capacity building and training programmes in areas including trade, cricket and skill development.

First Ever International SME Convention-2018 in New Delhi:

- One hundred and fifty participants from 31 countries and 400 entrepreneurs from India will participate in the four day International SME convention being held in New Delhi from 22nd to 24th April.
- The Ministry of MSME has engaged with over 35 International Trade Development organisations to attract and invite able and willing entrepreneurs.

Suresh Prabhu to Chair First Meeting of Think Tank on Framework for National Policy on E-Commerce:

- Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, will chair the first meeting of the think tank on the Framework for National Policy on E-commerce to be held on April 24th, 2018.

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) – 2018:

- The 6th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) and Conclave of Chiefs is being hosted by Iran at Tehran from 23 to 25 April 2018.
- The Chief of the Naval Staff is leading a four member Indian delegation for the event.

SCO Defence Ministers meeting Started in China:

- India is participating in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers Meeting for the first time.
- The 15th SCO Defence Ministers Meeting was held at Beijing in China on 24 April 2018.
- Speaking at the meeting, Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted India's keen interest in developing an expanded partnership with the broader Eurasian region.

India's GDP expected to reach \$5 trillion by 2025: annual Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund

- In the annual Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said that India is poised to remain the fastest growing large economy in the world and its GDP is expected to reach \$5 trillion by 2025.

2018 Secure India Conclave held in New Delhi:



- The 2018 Secure India Conclave organised by Global Counter Terrorism keeping in view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of New India: Secure India 2018, held in New Delhi.
- The event presents a unique encapsulation of prevalent issues in India's internal security and would serve as a current and exhaustive update for those attending the conclave.

Canada to host the world's female foreign ministers:

- Canada will be hosting the world's small but growing band of female foreign ministers for talks ahead of this year's UN General Assembly.
- It has been announced by Canada's Chrystia Freeland.
- Freeland opened a meeting in Toronto of G7 foreign ministers with a session, co-hosted by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini, dedicated to her women counterparts.

HRD Ministry Launches 2nd Edition Of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan:

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development, HRD launched the second edition of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan under which students from 750 higher educational institutions from across the country will adopt villages and visit them to get acquainted with lifestyle of people there and the problems faced by them.

Health Minister J P Nadda chairs high level review meeting on control of vector borne diseases:

- J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, conducted a high level meeting to review the preparedness of the Ministry for prevention and control of vector borne diseases like kalaazar, dengue, malaria and chickungunya in India.
- He directed the officials and Nodal officers to visit kalaazar endemic States of Jharkhand and Bihar immediately and report to him by 2ndMay 2018.

First edition of Cancer Screening Mela organized in Mizoram

- A Cancer Screening Mela was organized in Mizoram by the Health Department of Mizoram jointly with Public Foundation of India and National Health Mission under the initiative of Swasth Uttar Purv.
- The Cancer Screening Mela was funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) at Kolasib District, Diakkawn YMA Hall in Mizoram.

USEFUL INFO	
Theme	'Come on Mizoram, together let's beat Cancer'.

IMPORTANT MOBILE APP AND WEB PORTAL

Alibaba buys delivery startup Ele.me at \$9.5 bn valuation:

- Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba has announced the company will buy China-based food delivery startup Ele.me for an undisclosed amount in an all-cash deal.
- The latest deal will value the startup at \$9.5 billion, Alibaba said in a statement.



- Alibaba and its affiliate Ant Small and Micro Financial Services Group already owned about 43% of the startup.

Google most likely to launch mid-range Pixel, Pixelbook in India:

- Google plans to release a midrange Pixel smartphone, specifically for Indian users. The device is rumoured to launch in July-August this year.
- Google may also launch a premium laptop Pixelbook along with intelligent home automation products such as doorbell, camera, alarm system and a smoke detector, sold under the Nest brand along with its Wi-Fi system - Google WiFi.
- The report also pointed out that Google will expand distribution into general trade and spend big on marketing like Apple and Samsung have been doing in India.

Ola Acquires Ticketing App Firm Ridlr:

- Ride-hailer Ola has acquired Mumbai-based Ridlr, an end-to-end public transport ticketing and commuting app.
- The acquisition will complement Ola's efforts to integrate its mobility platform with public transportation infrastructure.
- Founded in 2012, Ridlr enables users to search and book public transport options on their mobile phones.

Union Government constitutes committee to regulate news portals:

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) constituted a 10-member committee to regulate online portals, including news websites, entertainment.
- The committee will include secretaries of departments of Home, Electronics and Information and Technology, Legal Affairs and Industrial Policy.
- The committee will look to bring online information dissemination under regulation. It will propose a policy for foreign direct investment (FDI).

Flipkart Partners With MakeMyTrip To Offer Travel Services:

- Homegrown e-commerce giant Flipkart has forged a strategic partnership with online travel company MakeMyTrip to offer travel services on its platform.
- Additionally, the services of MakeMyTrip are other brands, Goibibo and redBus, will be available to Flipkart consumers as part of the deal.

Union Government launches UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring:

- Union Minister for Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring.
- Abbreviation UTTAM stands for 'Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal'.
- UTTAM App has been developed by Union Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL) for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries.
- It has been designed with an aim to make the citizens, a stakeholder in coal governance and ensure accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in coal ecosystem.

Khadi Store Locator App launched By Giriraj Singh:

- Minister of State for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (Independent Charge), Giriraj Singh launched a mobile phone application for locating Khadi stores in the country.



- The app was launched during 9th meeting of National Board of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in New Delhi. The app will help in locating 4000 Khadi stores across India.
- Currently, there are more than 8000 Khadi stores in India. Location for the remaining 4000 stores will also be available on the Khadi store locator app by the end of April 2018.

TN govt launches 'Uzhavan' mobile app for farmers:

- Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister K Palaniswami recently launched 'Uzhavan' (meaning – farmer), a mobile application for farmers.
- This app allows farmers to have access to nine types of services, including details about their crop insurance, information on farm subsidies, book farm equipment and related infrastructure and receiving weather forecast for the next four days.
- 'Uzhavan' app is available in Tamil as well as in English.

Goa govt to launch its app-based taxi service:

- Goa State Government has decided to launch its own app-based taxi service at some key tourist destinations across the state.
- Goa govt to launch its app-based taxi service
- Earlier, tourist taxi operators who run their businesses individually in Goa, opposed attempts made by online cab aggregators like Ola to start services in the state, fearing that such a move will affect their business.

TRAI unveils beta site for comparison of telcos' tariffs:

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) unveiled the beta version of a portal that aims to bring on one platform, the tariffs offered by telecom operators in different service areas.
- The move is expected to provide more transparency and information on multiple tariff offerings by telcos, helping consumers at large.

Amazon launches web browser in India which uses less data:

- Amazon has launched an Android web browser app called Internet which is designed to use minimal storage and data.
- The app supports private tabs that don't save browser history and shows cricket news and general headlines on its homepage.
- It's only available to users in India for now and is supported on devices running Android 5.0 or higher.

DARPAN-PLI App launched by Manoj Sinha:

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications, Manoj Sinha launched DARPAN-PLI App, which will help in collection of premium for Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) policies at Branch Post Offices anywhere in India.

'Study in India' portal of HRD Ministry launched by Ms. Sushma Swaraj:

- Union Minister of External Affairs, Ms. Sushma Swaraj launched 'Study in India' portal of Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry in presence of Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar and Minister of State for HRD, Dr. Satya Pal Singh.



- 'Study in India' portal is aimed at making India a preferred destination for the foreign students to pursue their education.

Commerce Ministry Launches Digital Platform For MSME Exporters:

- Commerce and Industry Minister launched the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Global Linker platform for MSME exporters in New Delhi.
- This move is aimed at assisting the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in exports.

Vijay Goel launches Central Project Monitoring Unit for e-Vidhan project at Parliament House Annexe:

- Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel inaugurated the new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for the e-Vidhan project of the Government at the Parliament House Annexe.
- This was done as a part of Swachhata Pakhwada being observed by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from 16th to 30th of this month.

Government launches Seed import-export portal

- Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched a portal to facilitate import-export of seeds and planting material.
- This portal will help organisations involved in import-export of seeds to do away with the requirement to submit their applications in 20 copies.

IMPORTANT DEFENCE NEWS

ISRO loses contact with communication satellite GSAT-6A:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has lost contact with India's most powerful communication GSAT-6A satellite in less than 48 hours after it was launched.
- The loss in contact is believed to have been caused by power system failure or short circuit on the satellite.

Tiangong-1: China's space lab plummets to earth, burns up over Pacific Ocean:

- China's out-of-control Tiangong-1 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.

India Gets First US LNG Shipment At Dabhol, Maharashtra:

- India received its first LNG cargo from the US under a long-term supply deal when a ship carrying super-cooled natural gas arrived at Dabhol in Maharashtra.
- GAIL India has contracted 3.5 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from US energy firm Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass liquefaction facility in Louisiana.
- The first cargo from the project arrived at Dabhol, the cite of India's biggest gas-fired power plant.

BABUR III: Pakistan tests nuclear-capable, submarine-launched missile:

- Pakistan has successfully test-fired its indigenously designed and built nuclear-capable, submarine-launched cruise missile (SLCM) Babur III.



- The missile was fired from underwater dynamic platform and successfully engaged its target with precise accuracy, meeting all the flight parameters.

Indo-Kyrgyzstan joint training exercise KHANJAR-V concludes:

- The fifth Indo-Kyrgyzstan Joint Training Exercise KHANJAR-V culminated on 29 March, after a joint tactical validation exercise and a closing ceremony held at Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School.
- Two week of joint training that commenced on 16 March included understanding tactics of platoon level, developing inter operability and sharing of best practices.

SAHYOG- HYEOLYEOG 2018: Indian, Korean coast guards hold joint exercise off Chennai coast:

- Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy, search and rescue exercise 'SAHYOG- HYEOLYEOG 2018' was conducted off the Chennai coast today. The Korean Coast Guard ship 'BADARO' took part in the exercise. Indian Coast Guard ships and an aircraft also took part in it.

IAF to conduct Exercise Gaganshakti 2018 along Pakistan, China borders:

- From 10th to 23rd April, 2018, Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct exercise 'Gagan Shakti, 2018', its biggest ever combat exercise along Pakistan and China borders.
- The exercise will be conducted in day and night mode, with the enemy encompassing China border in the Northern areas and along Pakistan border in the Western areas.

10th DefExpo India Begins In Tamil Nadu:

- The tenth edition of a biennial exhibition of weapons and military hardware - DefExpo India- 2018 has begun at Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu.
- The four-day long defence expo was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Indigenously developed military helicopters, aircraft, missiles and rockets, capabilities to manufacture submarines, frigates and corvettes would be showcased at the event.
- Over 700 exhibitors from over 50 countries are participating in the Defence Expo.

Mahindra group ties up with Japanese firm for amphibious aircraft ShinMaywa US-2:

- Mahindra Defence Systems signed an agreement with ShinMaywa Industries, Japan, to manufacture and assemble amphibious aircraft ShinMaywa US-2 in India.
- Mahindra Group (aerospace and defence) President S P Shukla exchanged documents with director of ShinMaywa Industries, Yasuo Kawanishi at the DefExpo at Thiruvadanthai near Chennai.

The Indian Air Force conducted pan India Exercise Gagan Shakti-2018 from 08-22 Apr 2018:

- The Indian Air Force conducted pan India Exercise Gagan Shakti-2018 from 08-22 Apr 2018.
- The aim of the exercise was real time coordination, deployment and employment of air power in a short and intense battle scenario.

Sagar Kavach: Coastal security exercise held in Kerala:

- Two-day coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' to strengthen and assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism was held along Kerala coast.



- The exercise saw participation of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Indian Navy, Coastal Police and Marine Enforcement wing and various other security stakeholders.

Indo-Malaysian Joint Military Exercise 'Harimau Shakti' Held:

- As part of ongoing Indo-Malaysian defence cooperation, a joint training exercise Harimau Shakti will be conducted in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia.

NDMA conducts mock exercise in North East on earthquake:

- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted a mock exercise on earthquake preparedness in three North Eastern States – Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram.

LCA Tejas Successfully Fired Air-To-Air BVR Missile:

- Indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas successfully fired an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile.
- With this, Tejas has demonstrated its overall capability as an effective combat jet and inched closer to receive final operational clearance. The test firing of the missile from a Tejas jet was carried off the Goa coast and it met all operational requirements.

IMPORTANT SCHEMES AND PROGRAMS

Government launches Swachh Bharat Summer Internship:

- Government is going to launch Swachh Bharat Summer Internship (SBSI) 2018 aimed at engaging college youth with Swachhata work in villages in coming Summer vacation.
- The initiative will be launched by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the convening and coordinating Ministry of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in association with Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Tibetans to host 'Thank You India' campaign in Delhi:

- Former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dixit will preside over the opening ceremony of the Cultural Festival of Tibet event, a part of the year-long 'Thank You India' campaign organised by the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), in New Delhi.
- CTA President Lobsang Sangai will also attend the inaugural ceremony that will continue till April 4.
- Apart from the exhibitions, film screening and performances by the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, the festival would also see panel discussion on "India and Tibet: Ancient Ties, Current Bonds".

Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA):

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA), a convergent framework across School Education and Higher Education aiming to encourage children towards learning Science and Mathematics.
- One of the interventions under RAA is strengthening of school Science and Mathematics laboratories, through the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).
- Under RMSA, an amount of Rs. 179.73 crore has been approved in 2017-18, for in-service training of Science and Maths teachers.

CBDT forms Working Group to assess tax risks of HNWIs migrating abroad:



- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has constituted a five-member working group to examine the taxation aspects related to High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) who are migrating abroad to other jurisdictions.
- This Working Group will be headed by Pragma Sahay Saksena, a joint secretary with Foreign Tax & Tax Research Division of CBDT.
- As per media reports, 23000 Indian millionaires (in dollar terms) have left India since 2004, which is alarmingly the highest in percentage terms among all countries.
- According to Ruchir Sharma, head of emerging markets and chief global strategist at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, in 2017 alone, 7000 millionaires left India.

TRAI proposes Wi-Fi grid to bring down cost of internet by 90%:

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) put forth a concept of open architecture-based public Wi-Fi grid to bring down the cost of the internet by 90%.
- Public Wi-Fi grid proposed by TRAI entails various providers coming together to address aspects like services, access, payment, and authentication.
- TRAI has already tested this concept on pilot basis and findings from the same have been presented to Union Telecom Ministry to demonstrate the proof of concept of such architecture.

Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb launches state component of PMKVY in Agartala:

- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb launched state component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in Agartala.
- PMKVY is a skill development initiative of Government of India aimed at encouraging aptitude towards employable skills and increasing working efficiency of probable and existing daily wage earners, by providing quality training to them.

8th Theatre Olympics concludes in Mumbai:

- 51-day long 8th Theatre Olympics, concluded in Mumbai on April 8, 2018. Theatre Olympics is the largest international theatre festival and was held in India for the first time.
- 8th edition of Theatre Olympics was inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at the Red Fort, Delhi, on February 17, 2018

'Gobardhan Yojana' launched to Support Farmers:

- The Haryana government launched the 'Gobardhan Yojana' to provide for the sale of organic manure and cow urine with an aim to benefit farmers.
- A provision of Rs 11 crore has been made to provide benefits of various projects under this scheme.
- The Gobardhan Yojana would help in doubling the income of farmers and next time, the MSP would be given with additional benefit of 50% over the cost of production.

FSSAI launches Project Dhoop to address vitamin D deficiency amongst youngsters:

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched 'Project Dhoop', an initiative to shift the school assembly time to noon to make sure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
- Project Dhoop was launched at National Bal Bhavan in New Delhi. FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal said that, all schools in India have been asked to conduct daily assembly between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

PM Modi Launches Largest Health Care Scheme On Ambedkar Jayanti:



- On the occasion of Birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the phase one of the Ayushman Bharat schemes that aim at creating a healthy, prosperous and strong India. The first phase of Ayushman Bharat will see 1.5 Lakh such Centers being set up across the country.
- The Prime Minister also launched Health and Wellness Centre under Ayushman Bharat scheme in Jangala village of Karnataka. This health and wellness centre will have the facility of teleconsultation.

Government extends Phase-1 of FAME-India scheme by 6 months:

- Central Government announced extension of phase 1 of the FAME-India scheme by six months till end of September 2018 or till its second phase is approved, whichever is earlier.
- Announcement in this regard was made through a notification issued by Department of Heavy Industry under Union Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, which is the administrative authority for this scheme.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles – FAME India Scheme was announced in Union Budget 2015-16 and is a part of National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020.

Government revises target to complete Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana from year 2022 to 2019:

- The Government has stated that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is well on its way to achieving the target by March 2019.
- The scheme, since its inception in 2000, has been able to provide connectivity to more than One lakh 50 thousand habitations.
- Sensing the importance and urgency of rural roads for national development, the target date for completion of PMGSY-I has been proposed from 2022 to 2019.
- This centrally sponsored programme implemented in partnership with the state governments has seen the greater focus and consistent improvement in pace and quality in the last three years.

Bharat-22 ETF follow-on offer may be worth Rs. 10,000 crore:

- The Finance Ministry might bring up a Rs 10,000-crore follow-on fund offer of the Bharat-22 exchange traded fund (ETF) as it plans to dilute stake in Coal India to meet the minimum public holding norm.
- The finance ministry is also focused on using the ETF route to sell off government shares held through SUUTI (Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India) in private companies – ITC, Axis Bank and L&T.

Van Dhan Scheme launched by PM to help increase tribal income:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh.

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

- 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.
- As per the Bhu Seva project, each land parcel will be given a Bhudhar Number. The Bhudhar Number is an 11 digit unique number.

Naveen Patnaik launches Odisha Skills, Dharmendra Pradhan opens 3 facilities:



- 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.

IMPORTANT RANKING AND INDEXES

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

- India is now the second-largest mobile phone producer in the world after China.
- According to the data shared by Indian Cellular Association with the government, annual production of mobile phones in India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to 11 million units in 2017.
- With this, India replaced Vietnam to become the second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017.

India is now the world’s No 1 almond importer:

- India has toppled China and Spain to emerge as the world’s largest Importer of Almond in recent times.
- Almond imports into India rose 7 per cent to worth about Rs 3,900 crore last year against Rs 3,640 crore in 2016.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has topped in Bloomberg Billionaires Top 100 Index:

- Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has added \$21.8 billion to his fortunes this year and takes the top spot, Microsoft founder Bill Gates was ranked 2nd in Bloomberg Billionaires Top 100 Index.
- From Asia, Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma (ranked 13th) is the richest with a net worth of \$47.2 billion and Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani have been ranked 19th.

India ranks 37th in global startup ecosystem in 2017: Startup blink Report:

- According to report released by global startup ecosystem map Startup blink, India was ranked 37th out of 125 countries in global startup ecosystem in 2017.
- Startup blink is a global startup ecosystem map with tens of thousands of registered startups, coworking spaces, and accelerators. Its report prepared in association with ANSYS Startup Program measures startup ecosystem strength and activity.

India is the third most vulnerable country to cyber threats:

- India has been ranked the third most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats in 2017, as per the ‘Internet Security Threat Report’ presented by Symantec, a security solutions provider.
- In 2017, 5.09% of global threats detected were in India. India has moved one position up compared to 2016.
- U.S. has been ranked as the top most vulnerable country to such attacks with 26.61% attacks.

India pips Japan, becomes second largest manufacturer of crude steel:

- India has surpassed Japan and has become the world’s second largest producer of crude steel in February 2018, according to Steel Users Federation of India (SUFU).
- China is the current largest producer of crude steel in the world. It contributes to more than 50% of steel production in the world.

Patna tops in 4G connectivity among 20 largest cities:

- As per a report by OpenSignal, Patna has ranked No.1 among 20 largest cities in India in terms of 4G availability.



- OpenSignal is London-based Company that specializes in wireless coverage mapping. It monitored 4G user experience (availability) in India's 20 largest cities for 90 days from December 1, 2017.
- The findings have revealed that Patna has topped the list and is placed ahead of cities like Delhi, Mumbai and even Bengaluru, which is considered a tech hub of India.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport ranked among World's Top 20 Busiest Airports:

- As per Airport Council International's preliminary report on airport traffic for 2017, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has ranked as 16th busiest airport in the world.
- With traffic increasing at the rate of 14.1%, IGI Airport climbed six spots to 16th from 22nd for previous year.
- The 14.1% increase has also made IGI Airport, the fastest-growing airport among the Top 20 busiest airports.
- The tag of World's Busiest Airport went to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport in the United States, which served 10.4 crore passengers during 2017.
- ACI has forecasted that by 2020, India will become the third-largest aviation market in terms of passenger throughput, after the US and China.

Commonwealth Trade Review 2018: India top recipient of Commonwealth FDI

- India has become the top recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) from within the Commonwealth. It has become the second-most lucrative source of investment within Commonwealth after the UK.
- India has entered into the top five providers of intra-Commonwealth services trade, surpassing Canada, Australia, Singapore and the UK.
- Intra-Commonwealth trade is expected to reach USD 700 billion by 2020, contributed majorly by India's economic growth.

India, World's 6th Largest Economy At \$2.6 Trillion: IMF

- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the worth of the economy, clocked in at \$2.6 trillion for 2017, according to the database of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO) for April 2018.
- India is now the world's sixth largest economy and US tops the table.

Bengaluru Highest Paying City For Talent:

- The garden city of Bengaluru is found to be the highest paying city in the country, with an average annual cost to company (CTC) for talent across all levels and functions standing at about Rs 11 lakh, according to Randstad Insights, the research and analysis division of Randstad India.

Airtel tops 4G download speed, Jio in coverage area:

- Bharti Airtel has topped the chart of 4G service providers with 9.31 mbps download speed on its network, a report by broadband parameters research firm OpenSignal said.

India has world's 2nd largest unbanked population: World Bank

- India has 19 crore adults without a bank account, making it the world's second-largest unbanked population after China, a World Bank report has said.
- Almost half of Indian account owners had an inactive account in past year, it added. The report added that the share of Indian adults with an account has more than doubled since 2011 to 80%.

The World's 50 Greatest Leaders 2018: Mukesh Ambani Ranks 24th:



- Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani (24th Rank) and human rights lawyer Indira Jaising (20th Rank) have been named by Fortune magazine as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018. The Fortune's 2018 ranking of the 50 Greatest Leaders has architect Balkrishna Doshi.

World Press Freedom Index Report India Ranks 138th, Norway Tops:

- According to the 2018 World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), India has ranked 138th (falling 2 positions down from 136th in 2017). The list has been topped by Norway. North Korea was at the bottom-most position (180th) in the list.

Google Ranked As Most Trusted Internet Brand In India: Report

- Online search engine Google is the most trusted Internet brand in India, followed by Facebook, as per the TRA Brand Trust Report 2018. With 1.2 trillion searches per year, Google has become the first port of call for all things on the Internet.
- Google was followed by Facebook, Amazon and eBay. The biggest falls in trust were seen by Snapdeal, who fell by 142 ranks over last year.

IMPORTANT BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Books	Author
Think India journal on Deendayal Upadhyay	NCP leader DP Tripathi
Sarvapriya Atalji	Suresh Chand
Jannayak Atalji	Kingshuk nag
Atal Jeevan Gatha	Vijai Trivedi
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp'	Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu
'Bhavdiye'	Venkaiah Naidu
Trishanku Nation – Memory, Self and Society in Contemporary India	Deepak Kumar
'Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary'	Arvind Mohan
'Champaran Andolan 1917'	Ashutosh Partheshwar
'Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi'	Srikant.
Have a Safe Journey	Nitin Gadkari
Economist Rao's Book	Former PM Manmohan Singh Launches

IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

CRICKET

South Africa pacer Morne Morkel to retire from International cricket:

- South African fast bowler Morne Morkel bid adieu to international cricket at the conclusion of South Africa-Australia test series.
- 33-year-old Morne Morkel had announced his retirement from International Cricket in February 2018 itself, after South Africa-Australia test series, stating that the demanding schedule has put a lot of strain on his family life.
- Morne Morkel made his international Test debut against India back in 2006.

Mithali Raj Becomes Most Capped Player In Women's ODIs:

- Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has become the most capped player in women's ODI cricket after turning out for the 192nd time against England.



- Raj, who is also the highest run-getter in WODIs, overtook former England captain Charlotte Edwards, who had appeared in 191 WODIs. Indian fast bowler Jhulan Goswami is the third-most capped WODI player.

Chennai Super Kings Matches to be Shifted From Chepauk Because of Cauvery Water Dispute:

- The Indian Premier League (IPL) matches scheduled to be held in Chennai have been shifted to another venue.
- The decision by the IPL governing body was taken after protests by Tamil outfits who are protesting against Centre's delay in constituting the Cauvery Management Board.
- It is learnt that the CSK matches for this season have been shifted to Vizag, Pune, Cuttack and Trivandrum.

Presence of Pakistan prompts Asia Cup shift from India to UAE:

- The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) today shifted the 50-over Asia Cup from India to United Arab Emirates as the BCCI could not procure permission from the central government to host Pakistan.
- The tournament will now be held from September 13 to 28 in Dubai and Abu Dhabi after all the member nations of ACC agreed unanimously for the change during a meeting at its Kuala Lumpur headquarters.

Finch becomes first player to represent seven teams in IPL

- Australian batsman Aaron Finch has become the first-ever player to represent seven teams in the IPL, after taking the field for Kings XI Punjab against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Friday.
- Before Kings XI Punjab, Finch had played for Rajasthan Royals (2010), Delhi Daredevils (2011-2012), Pune Warriors India (2013), SunRisers Hyderabad (2014), Mumbai Indians (2015) and Gujarat Lions (2016-2017).

Bangladesh Female Cricketer Nazreen Khan Mukta Gets Arrested With Drugs:

- A female cricketer Nazreen Khan Mukta in Bangladesh could be jailed for life after she was caught in possession of 14,000 methamphetamine pills.
- She plays in the Dhaka Premier League, was returning from a match in the southeastern city of Cox's Bazar when police stopped and searched the team bus at Chittagong.

Gautam Gambhir steps down as captain of Delhi Daredevils:

- In IPL Cricket, Gautam Gambhir stepped down as captain of Delhi Daredevils today.
- Shreyas Iyer has replaced him in the position. Gambhir will, however, continue to be part of the team.

2021 Champions Trophy to be held in India

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided to convert the 2021 Champions Trophy into a World T20 event scheduled in India.
- Earlier it was an eight-team ODI tournament.
- ICC Chief Executive Dave Richardson said the global body had "unanimously agreed" that the 2021 meet in India would now be a 16-team event in the shortest format.

Gavaskar gets Dhyan Chand award nomination:

- Legendary opener Sunil Gavaskar name has been recommended for Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The BCCI has recommended former India captain Rahul Dravid for the prestigious Dronacharya award.
- Virat Kohli for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna honour.



In ICC World Cup 2019 schedule India start against South Africa on June 5, play Pakistan on June 16:

- India will open their 2019 World Cup campaign against South Africa on June 5 instead of June 2. The reason behind the change is that the BCCI will have to maintain a mandatory 15-day gap between IPL final and international assignment as per the Lotha Committee recommendation.
- The 2019 World Cup will be held in the UK from May 30 to July 14. The matter was discussed during the ICC Chief Executives Meeting in Kolkata.

Football

Kerala Lifts Their 6th Santhosh Trophy:

- Kerala has lifted their sixth Santhosh Trophy Football title. In a thrilling final at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
- Kerala held their nerves to beat defending champions and 32-time winners Bengal via penalty shootout. Locked 2-2 after extra time, Kerala goalkeeper V Mithun put up a stellar show in the tie-breaker to help his side win 4-2.

TENNIS

Nadal to become world no. 1 again:

- Spain's 16-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal displaced Swiss rival Roger Federer at the top of the ATP men's singles rankings.
- Nadal, who held the number one spot up until February 18, is now beginning his fifth stint and 168th week at the top of the men's singles rankings.
- The 31-year-old has been inside the top 10 since April 2005.

Indian tennis ace Leander Paes won Davis Cup:

- **Leander Paes won Davis Cup and secured his 43rd doubles win of his career in the competition, in Tianjin, China.**
- India's Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna pair defeated China's Gong Mao Xin and Zhang Ze 5-7, 7-6, 7-6 in the second round of the zonal Davis Cup tie.

Rafael Nadal Won 11th Monte Carlo Masters title:

- Rafael Nadal cruised to a record-extending 11th Monte Carlo Masters title, brushing aside Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-2 in Sunday's final to retain the World No. 1 ranking. The 31-year-old became the first player to win a tournament 11 times in the Open era. This was also Nadal's 76th ATP Tour title.
- Nadal's 31st Masters crown helped him overtake Novak Djokovic.

OTHERS

Sebastian Vettel won Bahrain Grand Prix:

- Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel won his second Grand Prix in as many races, at the Bahrain Grand Prix, while Mercedes' finished second by just 0.699 seconds.
- Meanwhile, reigning world champion Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton finished third.



India Win Badminton Team Gold For first time In CWG History:

- India clinched their first-ever badminton mixed team event gold in Commonwealth Games history after defeating defending champions Malaysia 3-1 in the final at Gold Coast.
- India's previous best performance in the mixed team event at CWG was a silver-medal finish in the 2010 edition.
- Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth represented India in singles' matches of the five-member team event.
- Kidambi Srikanth lead the team.

17-year-old Pune swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar double crosses Bangla Channel, sets world record:

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

Daniel Ricciardo wins Chinese Grand Prix:

- Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull won Chinese Grand Prix to claim the sixth victory of his Formula One career.
- Bottas finished second and Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari was third. Sebastian Vettel, who won the first two races of the season, fell back to eighth after starting on pole.

8th South Asian Judo Championship begins in Lalitpur, Nepal:

- In Nepal, the 8th South Asian Judo Championship began in Lalitpur near Kathmandu. Besides host Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are participating in the three-day championship.
- A total of 102 players, including 13 from India, will compete for 7 gold, as many silver and 14 bronze medals each in men's and women's individual categories.

IOC presents memento to Abhinav Bindra, Vijender Singh:

- International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach presented a memento to Indian Olympic medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra and boxer Vijender Singh.
- 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.

India wins 8th South Asian Judo Championship:

- India has won 8th South Asian Judo Championship. On the concluding day of the championship, Indian women and men won team events in Lalitpur, Nepal this evening.
- Keeping the unbeaten streak, Indian women whitewashed the championship by beating host Nepal by 5-0 in the final of team events.

Bengaluru FC wins Super Cup Football tournament:

- Bengaluru FC have won the inaugural edition of Super Cup Football tournament.
- In the final at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar today, they defeated Kolkata football giants East Bengal by a convincing margin of 4-1.

India to host Asian weightlifting championship for the first time in 2019:



- India will host the Asian weightlifting championship for the first time in history next year, the national federation announced.
- The championship will also double up as one of the qualifying events for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

Shahzar Rizvi's silver opens India's account at ISSF World Cup:

- World record holder Shahzar Rizvi claimed India's first medal at the ongoing World Cup organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) at Changwon, South Korea.
- He won the silver in the 10 meter air pistol event on day three of the year's second World Cup. Rizvi missed the gold by 0.2 points to Russia's Artem Chernousov. Samuil Donkov of Bulgaria won the Bronze.

Fifty Sixth Belgrade International Boxing Tournament In Serbia:

- The 56th edition of Belgrade International Boxing Championship was held at Belgrade in Serbia. Indian boxers won three gold, five silver and five bronze medals at this championship.
- Among Gold medal winners, Sumit Sangwan won the final bout by defeating Ecuador's Castillo Torres in 91 kg category.

Lewis Hamilton wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton was handed victory in Azerbaijan Grand Prix during which both Red Bulls sensationally collided with each other.
- A puncture denied Valtteri Bottas his first win of the season. Raikkonen finished second while Perez finished third in the race.

IMPORTANT OBITUARIES

PERSON	FIELD
C.V. Rajendran	Tamil film director
Ray Wilkins	England Football Players
Munin Barua	Assam film director
E N Rammohan	Former BSF (Border Security Force) director general
S Nihal Singh	Journalist
Barbara Bush	US first lady President
T V R Shenoy	Journalist and Columnist of Karnataka
Nerses Krikorian	Scientist
Rajinder Sachar	Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice
Balantrapu Rajanikantha Rao	Musicologist and broadcaster