NATIONAL NEWS:

➢ **Global Logistics Summit 2018 (GLS – 2018)**
  o The Global Logistics Summit was held in **New Delhi** on for two days on April 5, 2018 and April 6, 2018. It was organized to improve logistics and connectivity which are vital for increasing intra state and international trade flows.
  o The summit was organized by **Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** and World Bank Group

➢ **Uttarakhand’s second Mega Food Park Inaugurated**
  o **Himalayan Mega Food Park Private Ltd.** inaugurated at Mahuakhera Ganj in Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district.
  o The first mega food park of Uttarakhand “**Patanjali Food and Herbal Park**” is operational in Haridwar.
  o **Mega Food Park Scheme** is aimed at boosting the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain with particular focus on perishables.
  o The first Mega Food Park ‘**Srini Mega Food Park**’ is located in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.

➢ **Government inks an agreement for $420 million with World Bank for Climate Resilient Agriculture**
  o Central Government and Maharashtra Government have signed $420 million loan agreement with World Bank for Project ‘Climate Resilient Agriculture’.
  o The project is aimed at helping small and marginal farmers in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra.
  o The loan will be provided by **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**.
- It will have maturity of 24 years and grace period of 6 years.

- **Maharashtra Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture** – The project has 4 components-
  - Promote Climate resilient agriculture system
  - Post-harvest Management and Value Chain Promotion
  - Institutional Development, Knowledge and Policies for a Climate resilient Agriculture

- **Exercise Gagan Shakti 2018**
  - Indian Air Force is going to conduct Exercise Gagan Shakti 2018, biggest air combat exercise along Pakistan, China borders.
  - This will also be the first exercise that the recently-inducted HAL Tejas single-engine supersonic multi-role fighter will take part in.

- **4th Mark IV LCU Vessel L54 handed over to Indian Navy by GRSE**
  - The fourth of eight Mark IV LCU vessels – L54, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was formally handed over to Indian Navy at GRSE, Kolkata.
  - These ships will play significant role in transportation of main battle tanks, armored vehicles and troops of the Indian Army during amphibious operations

- **Sahyog-Hyeoblyeog 2018: India, South Korea joint anti-piracy, search and rescue exercise**
  - The Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy exercise 'SAHYOG- HYEOBLYEOG 2018' was conducted on April 5, 2018 off the Chennai coast.

- **Indian Government banned imports of Oxytocin**
The Union government has banned imports of hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in livestock industry, where it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals.

**What is oxytocin**

- Oxytocin is a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland
- It plays a role in reproduction, child birth and lactation, apart from social interaction
- Oxytocin is used both for humans and animals, to accelerate normal labour
- It is supposed to act directly on the uterus to induce rhythmic contractions
- In certain animals, especially farm animals, it is used to achieve ‘milk let down’
- Oxytocin is believed to stimulate the mammary gland and induce milk production in farm animals, provided the udder is prepared to do so

➢ RH300 sounding rocket launched for atmospheric studies

- The RH-300 MKII sounding rocket developed by IRSO’s Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) was successfully launched from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launch Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Sounding rockets are one or two stage solid propellant rockets used for probing the upper atmospheric regions and for space research.
- Currently, three versions are offered as operational sounding rockets,

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➢ Government to launch GobardhanYojana nationally from Haryana
  o The Union Government will launch GOBARdhanYojana, a central government scheme nationally from Karnal District of Haryana by the end of April 2018.
  o Scheme for managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste into manure and biogas
  o GOBAR- Galvanizing Organic Bio Agro Resources
  o The government aims to cover 700 districts under this scheme

➢ NITI Aayog plans National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP)
  o The government is planning to build an advanced technology platform to host and interpret huge amount of data that will integrate and help better understand of citizens’ data, spend patterns of the government, consumption trends and the success of various government policies.
  o NITI Aayog - National Institution for Transforming India

➢ Patna tops in 4G connectivity among 20 largest cities – Report by OpenSignal
  o As per a report by OpenSignal, Patna has ranked No.1 among 20 largest cities in India in terms of 4G availability, followed by Kanpur.

➢ Tamil Nadu government has launched ‘Uzhavan’, mobile applications for farmers
  o Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami recently launched ‘Uzhavan’ (meaning – farmer), a mobile application for farmers.
  o 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.
  o ‘Uzhavan’ app is available in Tamil as well as in English.

➢ Chhattisgarh awarded ‘State of the Year’
On 6th April 2018, Chhattisgarh won the ‘State of the Year’ Award under the ‘business leader’ category at the India Business Leader Awards (IBLA) in New Delhi.

Chhattisgarh was awarded for remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors.

- **India** is now the second-largest mobile phone producer in the world after **China**.
  - Annual production of mobile phones in India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to 11 million units in 2017.
  - India replaced Vietnam.

With an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in **Delhi-NCR region**, petrol pumps in the capital started supplying ultra-clean **Bharat Stage VI grade fuel** (both petrol and diesel).

- **New Delhi** is the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI
- The Euro-VI or BS-VI grade fuel contains 10 parts per million (ppm) of sulphur whereas Euro-IV or BS-IV grade fuel contains 50 ppm of sulphur.

**Nirmala Sitharaman** is in **Russia** to attend the 7th Moscow Conference on International Security

The state government of **West Bengal** introduced a new scheme called ‘Rupashree’ in order to provide marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families with a budgetary allocation of **Rs 1500 crore**.

A world-class interpretation centre and other tourist facilities for visitors were inaugurated at the Konark Sun Temple, Odisha.

- It coincided with **Utkal Diwas**, Odisha's foundation day.

According to a report released by **global startup ecosystem map Startup blink**, India was ranked **37th out of 125 countries** in global startup ecosystem in 2017

- The list was topped by **United States** followed by **United Kingdom**

**Mukesh Ambani** has been ranked **19th on Bloomberg Billionaires Top 100 Index** as he becomes the **third richest Asian on the list**.

- Amazon CEO – Jeff Bezos – 1st
- Microsoft Founder – Bill Gates – 2nd
➢ **Ride-hailer Ola** has acquired **Mumbai-based Ridlr**, an end-to-end public transport ticketing and commuting app

➢ **Union Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu** launched digital initiatives by **Export Inspection Council (EIC)** for ease of export at New Delhi.
   - EIC is the **official export certification body of Government of India** and has launched this flagship project of Digital India Initiative to keep pace with changing dynamics of the world.
   - Three portals have been developed to reduce transaction time and cost in a transparent manner

➢ The **Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Mr Prakash Javadekar**, released the **NIRF (National Institute of Ranking Framework) India Rankings 2018** in various categories on the basis of performance of Higher Educational Institutions in a **programme** held in New Delhi.
   - **The top 3 Overall Institutes in India are**
     - Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bengaluru),
     - Indian Institute of Technology Madras,
     - Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.
   - **The top 3 Universities in India are**
     - Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru,
     - Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi,
     - Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi.

➢ **The trial run of the first container train between India and Bangladesh** was flagged off from Kolkata city.

➢ **Cabinet Approvals** -
   - On closure of loss-making Burn Standard Company Limited - **a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**
   - On demerger and transfer of surplus land from **Tata Communications Limited** (TCL) to **Hemisphere Properties India Ltd. (HPIL)**
- It proposes to include “National Commission for Protection of Child Rights” as deemed Member of the Commission
- Add women member in the composition of the commission
- Proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories
- Amend the term of Chairperson and Members

Sushma Swaraj on three day visit to Azerbaijan
- President of Azerbaijan- Ilham Aliyev, Capital- Baku, Currency- Azerbaijani manat.

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

As a part of three-day international conference on “Accessible Tourism”, Nepal has launched its first accessible trekking trail for differently abled and elders in Pokhara City.

Central Government has notified inclusion of 120 castes/communities, their synonyms and sub-castes in the Central List of Other Backward Classes OBCs) for different States/Union Territories in the last three years.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into 14 Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPA) and 2 Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (BAPA) in March 2018.
- The APA scheme launched by Government endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in domain of transfer pricing by specifying methods of pricing and setting prices of international transactions in advance.

According to monthly survey Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), India’s manufacturing sector activity fell to five-month low in March 2018.
• It fell from 52.1 in February 2018 to five-month low of 51.0 in March 2018 indicating slowest improvement in operating conditions recorded by survey since October 2017.

• PMI is an indicator of business activity-both in the manufacturing and services sectors. It is a survey-based measure that asks respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from month before.

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

• This decision was taken in view of continuous poor physical and financial performance of company for more than decade despite financial assistance and other support from government and low probability of its revival in future.

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

➢ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) in scheme of Updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC), 1951 in Assam.

• The NRC scheme is specific to Assam only and covers about 3.29 crore applicants.

➢ The Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring.

• UTTAM stands for – Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal.

• It aims to provide an App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries.
➢ India emerged as the third most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats, such as malware, spam and ransomware, in 2017, according to a report by security solutions provider Symantec.

➢ India and Nepal have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in key areas of border security, connectivity, trade and agriculture
  o Aiming to expand cross-border rail linkages, the two sides have also decided to construct a new electrified rail line, with India’s financial support.
  o The rail line will connect the border city of Raxaul in India to Kathmandu in Nepal.

➢ Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb launched the state component of Pradhanmantri Kaushal VikasYojna (PMKVY) in Agartala.
  o He assured that the target to give training to more than 1 lakh 16,000 youths by 2020.
  o Tripura is the first state in the North East to implement the state component of PMKVY through Directorate of Skill Development (DSD).

➢ Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme launched in Delhi and Telangana to distribute new LPG connections and cylinders to beneficiaries
  o Target under this scheme has been increased from the existing 5 crore connections to 8 crore connections by 2020.
  o In Telangana, it was launched on the occasion of 127th birth Anniversary of BR Ambedkar.

➢ The two-day Assam Spring Festival began at the Manas National Park where visitors will get to experience the state's local food, music, handloom and handicrafts.

➢ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia concluded joint military exercise “Desert Tiger 5” aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions in Dubai, UAE.

➢ India's first all-electric high-speed locomotive flagged off in Bihar.
The first big Make-in-India project completed by France's Alstom, the train has the country's most powerful engine with 12,000 horsepower and a maximum speed of 120 km/hr.

The average cost of one high-speed locomotive is around Rs25 crore.

Tripura hosted the first meeting of the NITI Forum- a unit of NITI Aayog in Agartala.

5 development missions: They were outlined for promoting sectors like horticulture, tourism and food processing in the region. Other missions will cover bamboo-based handicrafts and medium scale industries with focus on ‘Make in North-East’.

HIRA Development Concept: The focus of development projects in region will be based on the concept of “HIRA” which stands for Highways, Internet ways, Railways and Airways.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has amended Income Tax rules that will now allow transgenders to be recognised as an independent category of applicants for obtaining a Permanent Account Number (PAN) for their tax-related transactions.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has unveiled the beta version of Virtual ID which will soon be accepted by service providers in lieu of Aadhar Number

It is to address privacy concerns related to quoting Aadhars.

Virtual ID which an Aadhar card holder can generate is a random 16 digit number mapped to a person Aadhaar number and biometrics

All authorized agency providers will have to compulsorily accept VID for undertaking authentication from June 12, 2018.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister launched the transformation campaign to improve the standard of education in the government schools of Uttarakhand

The main purpose of this campaign is to start smart classes in Government schools and provide them with all basic facilities.
➢ **Ola** has introduced an **in-insurance program for all its customers in India starting at just Re 1.**
   - This in trip insurance will cover for the loss of belongings, flights, medical expenses uptoRs 5 lakh in case of an accident
   - **Ola has partnered with ACKO General Insurance and ICICI Lombard General Insurance for this in-trip insurance program**
   - Customers can make Insurance claim through the Ola app itself

➢ **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 (SUFI).
   - **China** is the current largest producer of crude steel in world.

➢ **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has constituted a 5 member working groups to examine the taxation aspects related to **High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs)** who are migrating abroad to other jurisdictions.
   - This working group will be headed by Pragya Sahay Saksena
   - As per media reports, 23000 Indian millionaires have left India since 2004, in 2017 alone,7000 millionaires left India.

➢ **Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a 10 member committee** to regulate online portal, including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators.
   - In India, print and electronic media, both are regulated but **online media does not come under the ambit of any regulatory mechanism.**

➢ **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** put forth a concept of open architecture based public Wi-Fi to bring down the cost of the internet by 90%
   - **Proposed architecture by TRAI entails various providers coming together to address aspects like services, access, payment and authentication.**

➢ **Minister of state for micro small and medium enterprises launched a mobile phone application** for locating Khadi stores in the country
   - It was launched during ninth meeting of National Board of Khadi and Village Industries Commission in **New Delhi**
➢ **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has approved the establishment of the first multipurpose "Van DhanVikas Kendra" in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh for value addition of forest produce
  - **Van DhanVikas Kendra** will be an important part of Central Government scheme of the Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and Development of value chain for MFP.

➢ **The Tamil Nadu Government launched Amma free Wi-Fi zone in 5 cities of Tamilnadu**
  - Users will be offered **20 minutes** of free internet service per day. After that the users will be charged rupees **10 per hour**.
  - This scheme will be implemented in 50 spots by Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation. The cost is rupees **8.5 crore**

➢ **India** has become the **9th** most affected country in the world and **second** most affected country in Asia-Pacific Japan region in cryptojacking activities, as per the Internet Security threat report presented by Symantec, a security solutions provider.

➢ **Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khatter** will also hold the additional portfolio of information Public Relations and languages.

➢ **HCL Technologies has acquired C3i solutions for USD 16 million** in a move to enhance HCL's growth in life sciences and consumer services
  - C3i solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of Merck & Co.

➢ **Ganga Hariteema Yojana** was launched in 27 districts of Uttar Pradesh located on the banks of river Ganga.
  - It envisages carrying out plantations in **1 km areas** from the banks of river

➢ **Kerala government** will start a **community radio** to update farmers about the latest developments about the sector including climate change and environment issues.
  - This will be the **first such community** radio in India under government initiative to get connected with the farming community.
Radio will start broadcast from Kuttanad in Alappuzha district of Kerala and will serve farmers in a 20 square kilometre radius in the region.

Madhubani railway station in Bihar, which was considered as a dirty railway station has got a makeover with the traditional Mithila paintings.

- Total wall area of more than 14000 sqft has been fully painted with various theme under traditional Mithila Painting Style.

India Home Health Care (IHHC) has become the first home health care company to create a dedicated ICU simulation lab to train nursing staff, at its Bengaluru Facility.

Prof Panchanan Mohanty, former dean of the School of Humanities at University of Hyderabad (UoH) has discovered two new languages: Walmiki and Malhar.

- Walmiki is spoken in Koraput of Odisha and in the bordering districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- Malhar is spoken in an isolated region 165 km away from Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

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.

India and Korea will sign a pact to provide Indian seafarers employment on over 500 Korean ships.

- Korea is a large ship-owning nation and India is a large seafaring nation with over 1.5 lakh seafarers.

Goafest 2018 was held at Grand Hyatt Hotel, in Bambolim, Goa.

Highlights of Meeting between Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister, KP Oli-
Both the Prime Ministers jointly pushed a button to virtually lay the foundation stone of the 900 MW Arun III hydroelectric project, for which Indian Government will provide USD 1.5 billion. This project will be built by Sutlej Jal Vikas Nigam.

The integrated checkpost at Birgunj-Raxaul, the main entry-exit point on the open India-Nepal border, was also remotely inaugurated by both the Prime Ministers.

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.

To work out modalities for including inland waterways as an additional means of transport in the Protocol to the Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal.

Launched the ground-breaking ceremony of Rs 3.24 billion India-Nepal petroleum products pipeline from Motihari to Amlekhgunj.

Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) has decided to launch its own app-based taxi service at some key tourist destinations across the state.

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.

Maharashtra State Government has announced that, starting from June 2018, cancer patients in the state would be provided free chemotherapy treatment at district hospitals.

This facility will be rolled out in phased manner, starting with hospitals in Nagpur, Pune, Gadchiroli, Amravati, Jalgaon, Nashik, Satara, Wardha, Bhandara and Akola.

According to the National Cancer Registry Programme, 11 lakh people are diagnosed with cancer every year across India.

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.

State of permanent destruction of brain cells caused by excessive bleeding in brain has been defined as ‘Brain Death’
➢ 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.
   o Theme – **Flag of Friendship**

➢ **Veena Sahaj walla**, an Indian-origin scientist in Australia, has launched the world’s first **micro factory** that can transform the components from electronic waste like smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use.

➢ The Health Ministry has banned over the counter sale of **14 skin creams and ointments containing steroids under** Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945
   o They are dangerous and cause fungal epidemic in India.

➢ The antibiotic called **odilorhabdins, or ODLs**, are developed by symbiotic bacteria present in soil-dwelling nematode worms which can help in fighting drug-resistant or hard-to-treat bacterial infections.

➢ The four kingfisher species were documented and photographed by a team of Wildlife Management Division, Eluru, under the control of wetland expert AllaparthiAppa Rao.
   o The species have been identified as **White-throated kingfisher (Halcyon smyrnensis)**, **Pied kingfisher (Cerylerudis)**, **Black-capped kingfisher (Halcyon pileate)** and the **Common kingfisher**.

➢ Eighth ‘**Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific**’ was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh
   o 3R stands for – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
   o 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**’.

➢ **Education Minister of Muaritius, Leela Devi Dookhun Luchoomun** released the logo and website of 11th World Hindi Conference in New Delhi.
➢ **Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra)** has won a **Rs 1,081 crore** contract from **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** for **common Services System, Structure & Components (SSC) package and allied civil works of Unit -3 and 4** of the Kudankulam project in Tamil Nadu.

➢ 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**.

➢ India and Bangladesh signed six pacts including one for 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.

➢ **Tech Mahindra** has partnered with **Balbix**, a breach avoidance platform provider, to launch the security industry’s first **AI (Artificial intelligence)-powered continuous threat assessment and prioritised actionable risk intelligence platform**.
   - It will provide **intelligent security operations center (iSOC)**.
   - Using this, cyber-breaches can be predicted and proactively avoided by continuously monitoring IT inventories.

➢ **16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting** inaugurated in New Delhi.
   - Hosted by India and co-hosted by China and Korea
   - Aims to focus on how global shifts, transition policies and new technologies influence market stability and future investment in the energy sector.

➢ The tenth edition of a biennial exhibition of weapons and military hardware - **DefExpo India- 2018** has begun at **Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu**.
Indigenously developed military helicopters, aircraft, missiles and rockets, capabilities to manufacture submarines, frigates and corvettes would be showcased at the event.

Boeing India subsidiary of US aerospace manufacturer Boeing, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Mahindra Defence Systems entered into agreement to manufacture fighter aircraft F/A-18 Super Hornet in India during the DefExpo 2018.

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.

The Indian Space Research Organisation launched the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System-1I (IRNSS-1I), the eighth such satellite to be a part of a constellation.

It was launched from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

IRNSS-1I is expected to replace IRNSS-1A, the first of the seven navigation satellites that was rendered ineffective after its three rubidium atomic clocks failed.

The seven satellites are part of the NavIC navigation satellite constellation.

India has inked a pact with Morocco under which focus would be laid on the evaluation of potential mineral resources and promoting exploration and mining through the participation of both public and private sector.

Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has climbed six positions to reach on 16th Position to enter the club of the top 20 airports across the world, the Airport Council International’s preliminary report on airport traffic for 2017.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport in the United States – Secured the first position
➢ An Indian consortium consisting of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL signed an MoU with Saudi Aramco on the sidelines of the 16 International Energy Forum Ministerial.
   o The refinery will be capable of processing 1.2 million barrels of crude oil per day (60 million tonnes per annum). The plan is to finish the project by 2025.

➢ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched 'Project Dhoop', in New Delhi, an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
   o This initiative has been conceptualised by McCann Health. It is supported by Kwality (Ltd).

➢ A 5,000 MW capacity solar park will be set up at the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) of Gujarat, which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion.
   o The proposed solar power generation project would be set up in 11,000 hectares of land with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore.

➢ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected that India’s economic growth is set to rise to 7.3% this fiscal and further to 7.6% in the next financial year, on back of GST and banking reforms.
   o Indian economy grew 6.6% in the last fiscal and it would remain the fastest-growing country across Asia.

➢ Dr Ambedkar National Memorial inaugurated in New Delhi
   o The memorial is dedicated to the life and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Constitution.
➢ The National Highways Authority of India has signed an agreement for the upgradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lanes with an earthen shoulder.
   o To enhance tourism among India, Myanmar and Thailand.

➢ President Ram Nath Kovind has returned to New Delhi after three African nations tour of Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia.

➢ India has jumped 13 places in the last one year to 130th spot in the latest annual Index of Economic Freedom released by a top American think-tank the Heritage Foundation.
   o China – 110th, Pakistan – 131
   o The top 3 countries are – Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand respectively.
   o The index is used to measure the economic freedom i.e. to prosper in a country without intervention from government or economic authority.

➢ Nation remembers Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 127th birth anniversary.
   o He was the Chief Architect of Constitution of India and also the first law minister in India.
   o On the same occasion, the Phase one of the Ayushman Bharat schemes which will see 1.5 Lakh centres being set up across India.

➢ Indian Private Defence sector manufacturing companies and Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) signed MoUs during third India- Russia Military Industrial Conference held on the side-lines of DefExpo 2018.

➢ Minister of Home Affairs launched the web-based application e-FRRO (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office) scheme under which foreigners can avail, various visa and immigration-related services online.
   o The e-FRRO scheme is aimed at building a centralised, transparent online platform for foreigners to avail of visa-related services.
➢ In line with the efforts to indigenize the defence sector under the 'Make in India' initiative, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU to cater to the needs of evolving domestic and export markets for defence products and systems.

➢ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed an MoU with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to provide skill training to 500 youth and women at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.
   - The skill development project will be executed by NSDC through its approved training partners near Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP), the single largest nuclear power station in India, situated in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

➢ The seventh edition of Home Expo India 2018, organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), was inaugurated at India Expo Centre & Mart in Greater Noida.

➢ Himachal Pradesh celebrated its 71st foundation day on April 16th, 2018.
   - Several cultural events were organized across the state. It may be recalled that the hill state came into existence after the merger of 30 odd princely states in 1948.

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

➢ PM Modi on a five day visit to Sweden and the UK
   - Sweden – To attend first-ever India-Nordic Summit at Stockholm
India-Nordic Summit: Shared Values, Mutual Prosperity

- UK (London) - Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
  - The theme of the summit is 'Towards a Common Future'
  - Promote trade and investment in both directions, like Sweden’s investment in India through ‘Invest India’ and Indian investment in Sweden through ‘Business Sweden’.
  - Modi became the first Indian PM to attend the event in a decade.

- A Loan Agreement for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan of USD 48 million for the “Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)” was signed with the World Bank by India
  - The Objective of the Project is to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected landscapes in the State of Meghalaya.

- The Union Government has stated that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana or PMGSY is well on its way to achieving the target by March 2019 from Year 2020.
  - The scheme, since its inception in 2000, has been able to provide connectivity to more than One lakh 50 thousand habitations.

- 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.
  - Pune stands second at around Rs 10 lakh, followed by Delhi NCR with little under Rs 10 Lakh.

- Growth Rate Projection by different Organizations (as on April 2018)

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
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successrbi@anujjindal.in Current Affairs
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<tr>
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<th>2018-19</th>
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<tr>
<td>RBI</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.4% - 7.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)</td>
<td>7.3% - 7.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<td>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
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<td>Fitch</td>
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<td>Moody</td>
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<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>Morgan Stanley</td>
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<td>India’s Rating and Research</td>
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➢ **The United Kingdom** joined the **India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA)** ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s four-day visit to Britain during the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 (CHOGM)**.
  o This alliance aims to raise $1 trillion of private and public finance to provide affordable and sustainable energy for all by 2030.

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

➢ **Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha** launched here the **DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India)-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, with online updation of the Policies.
Indexing of maturity claims in respect of PLI and RPLI policies can be done at Branch Post Office itself, upon which the insurant will immediately be provided with the request number for further references.

➢ *IbSetu* built over the *Ibriver in Sambalpur district* of Odisha, was thrown open to the public.
  - The *2.5-km-long bridge*, which is the State’s second longest bridge, has been built in three years at a *cost of Rs. 117.50 crore*.
  - The bridge has helped establish direct road connectivity between *Sambalpur and Brajarajnagar* and the *distance has now been reduced by 50 km*.

➢ *The Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SiDM) and the Groupement des Industries Françaises Aeronautique set Spatiales (GIFAS) signed an MoU on the sidelines of a major industrial mission in India in the field of aerospace and defence organised by GIFAS with the support of SiDM.*

  - Title - *Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540’.*

➢ *The Jatra festival is celebrated Nepal.*
  - It is believed that the festival started during Malla dynasty.
  - In Nepal, the famous *Bisket Jatra* is being celebrated in *Bhaktapur and other parts of Kathmandu valley.*

➢ *India has won six election with 46 Votes, to a crucial non-governmental organisation committee in the United Nations. It topped the election held by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in the Asia Pacific States category.*
By winning these elections, **India won places on the executive boards of four UN bodies, three commissions and a committee.**

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is a standing committee of **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).**

Consideration of applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification submitted by NGO is one of the tasks of Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Through another elections, India made its way to the executive boards of the **UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)** for a three-year terms from January 2019.

The Indian Government has launched the ‘**Study in India**’ initiative to attract international students to study in India. The website of Study in India can be accessed at [www.studyinindia.gov.in](http://www.studyinindia.gov.in).

The portal will enable students from 30 countries across South Asia, Africa and West Asia to select and apply for different courses from 150 select Indian institutions which are high on **NAAC and NIRF ranking.**

- **NAAC** stands for National Assessment and Accreditation Council.
- **NIRF** stands for National Institutional Ranking Framework.

**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.

The cashless scheme Atal Amrit Abhiyan will cover **92 percent of the state’s population** with annual income below 5 lakh rupees.

**The first meeting of National Council on India’s Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan** was held today in **New Delhi.**
It is an apex body to formulate overall policies, guide and monitor all nutrition based schemes.

Important decisions taken in this meeting-

- **235 Additional Districts** have been confirmed as part of Phase II of POSHAN Abhiyaan in the financial year 2018-19.
- **Provision of Smartphones** instead of Tablets to Lady Supervisors.
- **Direct transfer of Funds to States/UTs** for Cash Award to Frontline Functionaries, instead of Creation of Corpus Fund.

**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 sixth largest economy displacing France.
- Top three economies –
  - The United States
  - China
  - Japan

**As per the 2018 Commonwealth Innovation Index,** India fetched **10th position** in the index topped by the United Kingdom, Singapore and Canada.

- The Commonwealth innovation index was launched as part of a new **Commonwealth Innovation Hub** on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The Index is created in partnership with the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its annual Global Innovation Index (GII).
- The initiative aims at providing a tool that would allow the member states, citizens and the organizations in the member states to benchmark themselves against 53 member countries of the Commonwealth.
➢ State-run Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) started its socio-economic **Neem Project.**
   o Neem Project is social transformation by providing a platform to many rural women to exhibit their leadership and entrepreneurship skills through the manufacturing of Neem Oil and to make organic Neem cake Fertilizers.

➢ The Gujarat police unveiled the **Pocket Cop project,** which will enable quicker verification of passport applicants, and search of accused persons, among others.
   o Under the project, smartphones with data connectivity will be given to 4,900 police personnel, including every police station in-charge, investigating officer, PCR van, and those involved in passport verification.

➢ In India, Bangalore has emerged as the most preferred city for office expansion, according to a survey **CBRE Asia Pacific Occupier Survey 2018,** by real estate consulting firm, CBRE South Asia.

➢ Cabinet approvals -
   o MoU between **India and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the return of Illegal Migrants**
     ▪ This MoU will streamline the procedure of return of nationals (to their Home country) who are caught to be staying illegally, in the other country (either in India or United Kingdom) in a specified time-frame.

   o **Revision of Pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territory**-
     ▪ Pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories too has been revised from Rs. 80,000/- to Rs. 2,25,000/- per month with effect from January 1, 2016.

   o Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved to amend PNG Rules, 1959 in order to grant relaxation to Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries for not
applying for grant of license/lease for extraction of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) under their Coal Bearing Areas.

➢ National Convention of Swachha grahis (cleanliness ambassadors) at Motihari, in East Champaran district of Bihar
  o Theme of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha is “Satyagraha se Swachhagrah”.

  o The new website and Mobile App will help the Commission in addressing the grievances/complaints of petitioners in an efficient manner.

➢ Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved construction of an integrated sugar complex in Pilibhit and setting up a Tiger Conservation Foundation in Dudhwa.
  o Committee has been set up to monitor the foundation. It is headed by the forest minister and has 12 members.

➢ A website of Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh was launched which is the topmost body for state veterinary associations.
  o Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh works for the welfare of the veterinarian’s working in government service sector.

➢ ‘Commonwealth Trade Review 2018: Strengthening the Commonwealth Advantage’ has been released, that states that, India is the top recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) from within the Commonwealth.
  o It has become the second-most lucrative source of investment within Commonwealth after the UK

➢ Uber announced the launch of its new partner (driver) app in India.
• Inputs collected by interacting with drivers via groups sessions, ride along and in person meetings have been incorporated in the new Driver app along with the Real time Earning Tracker.

➢ Mahindra Defence Systems signed an agreement with Shin Maywa Industries, Japan, to manufacture and assemble amphibious aircraft Shin Maywa US-2 in India.
   • It is the only ‘in-service’ open sea-capable amphibian aircraft with advanced equipment suitable for rough sea operations.

➢ The 63rd Railway Week Function of Railway Board was organized in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

➢ Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs has set up a 12-member panel to review the enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions under the Companies law and to recommend a uniform approach for its enforcement.
   • Under the Companies Act, 2013, profitable entities falling under specified categories are required to spend at least two per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities. This norm came into force on April 1, 2014

➢ Massive Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (MIMO) technology lab, India’s first-of-its-kind 5G radio laboratory was set up at the Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.
   • Most important feature of Massive MIMO is several antennas which improves system power efficiency, as the mobile terminals would be required to radiate ten times lesser power than in 3G/4G systems.

➢ Union government announced the formation of a 13-member task force, to develop a roadmap for the implementation of unmanned aerial vehicle technology.
➢ Haryana State Government has approved the slum-in-situ rehabilitation policy in line with Housing for All-2018, under which, **urban slum dwellers on Government land will be provided housing facility without relocating them to other areas.**
  o **Rs 1.67 lakh per dwelling unit** will be provided to developer for construction of houses for these urban slum dwellers.

➢ As per data released by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** on April 12, 2018, industrial production grew at **7.1 per cent** in February 2018.
  o Manufacturing sector grew at 8.7 per cent, capital goods output rose by 20 per cent, Consumer durables grew at 7.9 per cent

➢ **Smart Imprest Cards & e-Measurement Book (e-MB) was launched on** PFMS portal for **CPWD (Central Public Works Department).**
  o Smart Imprest Cards is the first integrated web based module in Civil Ministries to monitor and track both the financial progress – utilization of funds and related physical progress captured through e-MB of various works in CPWD projects.
    ▪ **Axis bank for main Ministry, SBI for CPWD and IDBI bank for Printing have tied up with MoHUA for this launch on all India basis.**
  o e-MB will enable online real time monitoring of physical progress of any project undertaken by any CPWD division in India.

➢ The e-way bill is mandated for intra-state movement of goods **will come into effect on 20th April 2018 in Haryana**

➢ Tripura State Government approved Rs 50.67 crore to set up an **Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bodhjungnagar**, located 15 km away from Agartala. (total cost – Rs 128 Crore)

➢ Maharashtra launched ‘**QUEST**’, a centre to evaluate and quantify special development budget allocations and their impact on tribal development.
‘QUEST’ stands for Quality Evaluation for Sustainable Transformation.

- State of Andhra Pradesh is constructing a world-class city in its de facto capital **Amaravati**.
  - Nearly 3840 apartments in 61 towers are under construction in the Amaravati capital region.

  - The plan has been designed and will be implemented in partnership with Gandhinagar-based Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) and US based Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) along with other groups and NGOs.
  - Ahmedabad is the first city to prepare and implement heat action plan.

- A power plant **worth Rs 502 crore** will be set up in Bandhwari village of Gurugram district, Haryana, to produce electricity from waste under the Integrated Solid Waste Management Scheme.

- Ms. Sushma Swaraj and Afghan Defence Minister, Lieutenant-General Tariq Shah Bahramee pushed for efforts to combat the menace of opium cultivation and drugs trafficking which is the main source of funding terrorism against the people of Afghanistan.

- **Second edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC)** hosted by the Department of Telecommunications and the Cellular Operators Association of India will be held in New Delhi from 25th – 27th October.
  - The event will serve as a platform for policy makers, regulators and other industry stakeholders to engage in meaningful deliberations on contemporary issues and futuristic aspects of the sector.
➢ On **April 13, 2018**, 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.

   o **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles – FAME India Scheme** is a part of National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020.

   o **Under Phase 1**, incentives were offered for mass adoption of electric and strong hybrid vehicles

   o **Under Phase 2 of FAME India**, spanning over five years, incentives will be restricted to new energy vehicles used for public transport, commercial purposes and high-speed two-wheelers.

➢ **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hyderabad based firm M/s SuraasImpexPvt. Ltd. for **developing a Mega Tourism Destination project in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.** (Estimated Cost of Rs550 Crore)

➢ In a bid to further boost the consumption of natural gas in the country, Indian Government is planning to set up a **Gas Trading Hub/Exchange (GTHE)** by October 2018.

   o The **GTHE will enable trading in natural gas and supply through a market-based mechanism instead of multiple formula driven prices.**

➢ **Suzlon, a renewable solution provider**, said that it has commissioned **626 MW** of wind power projects in 2017-18 (FY18), the **highest installations by any firm in this fiscal year.**

➢ Fashion retailer **Myntra** announced that it has acquired **Witworks, a Bengaluru based technology startup, involved in developing smart wearable devices and their underlying software.**
➢ Scientists at the National Institute of Virology, Pune, have discovered that the Indian Aedes aegypti mosquito, when infected with the African strain of the Zikavirus (ZIKV), can transmit the infection to suckling mice.

➢ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) unveiled the beta version of a website that contains information about mobile tariffs of all operators for all service areas.
   - To allow users to compare tariffs of different telecom operators and thereby enhance transparency in the industry.

➢ Central government along with state government and private partners is working to promote Goa as a tourism destination and a cargo hub.
   - Mopa airport will start operations by September 2020. Dabolim Airport will continue to operate along with Mopa Airport.

➢ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018.
   - The amendment states that, phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP) is now applicable to MLP that are non-recyclable, or non-energy recoverable, or with no alternate use.
   - Rule 15 of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018 on “explicit pricing of carry bags” has been omitted.
   - Committee has been formed to study the issues faced in implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

➢ According to latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Bihar has the highest rate of crimes against Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe population.
➢ 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.
   – PSUs that are part of the new Bharat ETF-22 are ONGC, IOC, SBI, BPCL, Coal India and Nalco.
   – Other central public sector enterprises on the list are Bharat Electronics, Engineers India, NBCC, NTPC, NHPC, SJVNL, GAIL, PGCIL and NLC India.
   – Three public sector banks: SBI, Indian Bank and Bank of Baroda are in the Bharat-22 index.
   – Through the ETF route, the government might dilute about 3.55% stake held in Coal India to comply with the minimum 25% public float requirement as mandated by SEBI.

➢ The Environment Ministry released the draft of National Clean Air Programme aimed to reduce air pollution.

➢ In a bid to reduce the digital divide, from May 2018, Chhattisgarh State Government will start distributing free smartphones to over 50 lakh people across the state benefiting around 13,900 villages under the Sanchar Kranti Yojana (SKY).
   – Distribution of smartphones would be taken up in two phases – 30 lakh in first phase and remaining in the second phase.
   – Women heads of households will be the priority recipients of the smartphones as out of 50 lakh smartphones, 40 lakh will be given to women heads of households in villages having population of more than 1000, 5 lakh phones will be given to women heads belonging to poor families living in urban areas and 5 lakh phones will be given to college students.
➢ **Uttar Pradesh State Government** ordered all government hospitals and orphanages to establish **SHISHU SWAGAT KENDRA – PALNA** and put up cradles in front of their buildings so that any person, lady or couple can leave their unwanted child without disclosing their identity to tackle the problem of abandoning the infants at the roadside.
   - As per the order, the cradles will be set up at **medical colleges, district, satellite and sub-district hospitals**.

➢ **Udyam Samvad Workshop** organised by **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** in New Delhi.
   - Four technology centres are being established in North Eastern India for supporting Micro industries in the region
   - **Technology centres are being established in Imphal (Manipur), Dimapur (Nagaland), Tinsukia (Assam) and Agartala (Tripura).**
   - Discussions at this workshop focused on various issues faced by entrepreneurs and Startups in North East States of India.

➢ **India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)** organized a Consultative Workshop in New Delhi for the Delegation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Kazakhstan.
   - Interactive discussions on the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) & Role of Information Technology (IT) and a Training Programme were conducted during the course of this workshop.

➢ **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** introduced an updated digitally signed ‘**QR code**’ on e-Aadhaar that will now contain the photograph of the Aadhaar user with other non-sensitive details like name, address and birth date.
A QR code is a form of barcode label which contains machine-readable information. Aadhaar holders can download and print their biometric ID with the QR code from the website of **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** or its mobile app.

Aadhaar users can manually darken the Aadhaar number and use the printout with the new QR code for establishing their identity, offline also.

- From April 28 to 30, Kerala will host the **India Skills Kerala 2018** in Kochi, as part of the World Skills India 2018. It will help youngsters in the State to show their vocational skills.
  - It might help training students to get medals at the **World Skills Competition Kazan 2019**.

- According to a Reuters poll of economists, **India** will reach the top position among the world’s fastest-growing major economies in 2018, but **increasing trade tensions between the United States and China** might hinder that growth.
  - It has predicted that **India’s economy will expand 7.4 % in the fiscal year that began in April 2018**.
  - Inflation is forecast to average **4.7 % in the fiscal year ending in March 2019**, and **4.9 % the following year**.

- As per **UK India Business Council (UKIBC’s) report ‘The UK and India: The Bilateral Trade Relationship’**, a free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the UK will help boost two-way commerce and investments between both the countries

- On 18th April 2018, **‘Chandrayaan-2’**, India’s second moon mission, which was planned to be launched in April 2018 has been postponed to October-November 2018.
  - Total cost of the mission is **Rs 8 billion**.
➢ On 18th April 2018, the integration of e-SANAD portal and NAD – National Academic Depository (of HRD Ministry) was launched at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi in a bid to make education system in India more transparent.
   o e-Sanad is project aimed at online submission and verification of documents with ultimate object to extend contact less, cashless, faceless and paperless document attestation service
   o NAD is 24X7 online store house of all academic awards viz. diplomas certificates,, degrees, mark-sheets etc. duly digitised and lodged by academic boards, institutions, eligibility assessment bodies

➢ The 2-day Regional Conference on “Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges” began in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

➢ On World Haemophilia Day (17th April 2018), Gujarat assembly Speaker Rajendra Trivedi launched ‘Haemophilia Jagruti, a magazine to create awareness on haemophilia, an inherited bleeding disorder.

➢ Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS), Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have come together to make Uttar Pradesh Open Defecation Free (ODF).
   o To accomplish this feat, the ministries recently organised a training camp for nearly 1000 masons in Jhansi city for the construction of twin pit toilets.

➢ In a bid to promote trade between India and Taiwan, Taipei World Trade Centre (TWTC) launched its office at New Delhi on April 19, 2018.

➢ Indian IT body National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has partnered with techUK to launch the UK-India Tech Alliance aimed at strengthening the technology sectors in both the countries.
➢ India is among four countries to pool into the USD 5 million ‘Commonwealth Small States Trade Finance Facility’ which will enable small states to obtain easier access to international trade finance to diversify their economies and achieve the sustainable development goals.

   o Along with India, other three countries that will inject capital in this facility are Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Malta.

   o Standard Chartered Bank and the Bank of Baroda, are the facility managers for this fund.

➢ India and Afghanistan held bi-lateral talks to discuss issues related to illicit drug trafficking and narcotics abuse, in New Delhi.

   o The Indian side was led by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Director General Abhay. The Afghan side was led by Director (International Affairs) of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics Abdul Qayyom Same

➢ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully launched Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph or CHESS 4 on a NASA Black Brant IX sounding rocket, from the Kwajalein Atoll in The Republic of the Marshall Islands.

   o The CHESS 4 instrument was developed by the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

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

   o The HSRP to be fitted in all classes of motor vehicles will have tamper-proof plates with host of in-built security features and is expected to offer increased protection against theft.

   o HSRP was made mandatory in some States 2005 but failed to take off.
The Law Commission of India (LCI) has recommended to declare Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as a public body.

- It also recommended BCCI and its all member cricket associations to be brought under Right to Information (RTI) law regime.

Law Commission of India, the government’s highest law advisory body has released draft White Paper recommending holding of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

- A white paper is an authoritative report or guide that informs readers concisely about a complex issue and presents the issuing body's philosophy on the matter.
The first regional conference of eastern states on **Water Resources was held in Kolkata, West Bengal** in bid to address outstanding water resources issues.

The Supreme Court has reiterated that Chief Justice of India (CJI) is first among equals and has exclusive prerogative to allocate cases and constitute benches. The ruling was given by SC bench led by the CJI Dipak Misra dismissing PIL that sought directions to regulate CJI’s power to form benches and allocate cases.

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

- The global EoI is for prospective offshore wind energy developers for developing 1000 MW (1 GW) offshore wind energy project in **Gulf of Khambat, off the coast of Gujarat**.

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** (CCEA) has delegated powers to Finance and Petroleum Ministers to award oil and gas exploration blocks to successful bidders under **Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP)**.

- Under HELP, exploration blocks are to be awarded twice in a year and currently awarding of blocks requires the CCEA’s approval.
- Delegation of these powers will accelerate the decision making process on awarding blocks and further enhance ease of doing business in petroleum and natural gas sector.

**11th World Hindi Conference to be held in Mauritius**

- The theme of the Conference is “**Vaishvik Hindi AurBharatiy Sanskriti**“.
- The venue of Conference is Swami Vivekanand International Convention Centre, Pailles Mauritius.
➢ 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.
   o The loss in contact is believed to have been caused by power system failure or short circuit on the satellite.

➢ **Multi Modal Logistics Park at Balli Station near Madgaon in Goa** was recently inaugurated.
   o The part is located on Konkan Railway route.
   o It has been set as per MoU entered between Konkan Railway & Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR).

➢ Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had launched **Adopt a Heritage Project**.
   o Under it, selected public sector companies, private sector companies and individuals will **develop tourist amenities at heritage sites**. They will be called as ‘**Monument Mitra**’ and adopt the sites essentially under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity.

➢ According to **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority** (PFRDA), the subscriber base of **Atal Pension Yojana** (APY) stood at **97.05 lakh of 2017-18 fiscal**.
   o It was lower than target of 1 crore set by pension regulator PFRDA.

➢ According to recently published global study, **India** is among countries which are at greatest risk of food insecurity due to weather extremes caused by climate change.
   o The study had examined how climate change could affect vulnerability of different countries mainly **122** developing and least-developed countries (mostly in Asia, Africa and South America)
   o Climate change caused 2 degrees Celsius global warming.
➢ The Central Bureau of Excise and Customs (CBEC) under Finance Ministry has imposed a 10% duty on imports of key smartphone components such as populated printed circuit boards (PCBs), camera modules and connectors. At present there is zero import duty imposed on the three components.

➢ Himachal Pradesh launched Mothers Absolute Affection (MAA) program with an aim to promote breastfeeding

➢ With the beginning of the financial year 2018-19, the e-way Bill System for Inter-State movement of goods comes into force.
   o 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.
   o Five states in which Intra-State E-way bill will be rolled out from April 15, 2018 are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.
   o Six states in which Intra-State E-way bill will be rolled out from April 20, 2018 are Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Uttarakhand.
   o Karnataka is the only state which had rolled out Intra-State E-way bill system from April 1, 2018.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

➢ **Foal Eagle** – Joint military Exercise Between USA and South Korea

➢ **India, Japan and US** had their trilateral talks in New Delhi.

➢ **The Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEK)** was awarded a construction licence for **Akkuyu NPP, Turkey’s first nuclear power plant**, which is being built in Mersin province, in southern Turkey
  - **JSC Akkuyu Nuklear** is the Russian-owned company which is responsible for the project.
  - The USD20 billion project to build the four-unit, 4800 MWe plant is part of Erdogan's '2023 Vision' marking 100 years since the founding of modern Turkey and is intended to reduce the country's dependence on energy imports.

➢ 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**’.  
  - The spacecraft cemetery also known as **Point Nemo** — considered the most remote place on Earth (at about 2400 km from any spot of land)
  - **Tiangong-1 (Heavenly Palace or Celestial Palace-1)** was China’s first prototype space station or space laboratory. It was placed in orbit in September 2011.

➢ NASA has successfully conducted Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (**ASPIRE**) to test supersonic parachute that will help space exploration missions to land on Mars.
  - The parachute was launched aboard of sounding rocket from **NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in US**.

➢ **Singapore and China** signed an MoU in Beijing, China to promote greater collaboration between Singapore and Chinese companies in third-party markets along the **Belt and Road**.
  - The project aims to connect China with Eurasia through land-based “**Silk Road Economic Belt**” (SREB) and ocean going “**Maritime Silk Road**” (MSR).
President of Nepal Bidya 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 theme of the conference is "Identifying Challenges, Assessing Progress, Moving Forward: Addressing Impunity and Realizing Human Rights in South Asia".


- 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.

China will unveil the world's longest cross-sea bridge connecting Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China.

- This cross-sea bridge will be 55 km long and 6 lanes wide comprising of 4 tunnels and 4 artificial Islands
- It will reduce the commute time between mainland China, Macau and Hong Kong to half

The President of Iran, Turkey and Russia made for their tripartite Summit aimed at speeding up the peace process for Syria and establishing their influence in Syria.

Qatar has introduced national service for women for the first time as per a law issued by Qatar 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 has been increased from 3 months to one year.

Japan activated its Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB), its first marine unit since World War Two.
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.

The Soft Drinks Industry Levy also known as soft drinks sugar tax or sin tax or sugar tax came into force in United Kingdom as part of government’s plan to combat obesity and sugar related disease.

- With introduction of sugar levy, UK joins few countries, including Mexico, France and Norway that have introduced similar fat taxes.

NASA will launch humanity’s first mission Parker Solar Probe (PSP) to the Sun in July 31, 2018.

- It is undergoing final preparations for its scheduled launch on board of NASA’s Delta IV Heavy launch vehicle from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.
- After its launch, the probe will orbit directly through solar atmosphere — the corona — closer to surface than any human-made object has ever gone.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has decided to scrap the quota system in government services after thousands of students marched across the country in protest against a controversial policy of setting aside jobs for special groups.

The World Bank has approved $55mn to expand the use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh where grid electricity cannot reach easily.

- The additional financing to the Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project will install 1,000 solar irrigation pumps, 30 solar mini-grids and about 4mn improved cooking stoves in rural areas.
➢ United Nations’ Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed announced the launch of the ‘UN Road Safety Trust Fund’ to stimulate action that can save lives and prevent injuries and sufferings associated with road accidents.
   o The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the development arm of the UN in Europe, is designated as the Secretariat for the Trust Fund.
   o A contribution of **USD 1500** to the fund could help save one life and prevent 10 serious injuries.

➢ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has added 14 new sites under the list of **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)**
   o Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems” (GIAHS) are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
   o India has 3 sites listed –
     ▪ Saffron Heritage of Kashmir, 2011
     ▪ Koraput Traditional Agriculture, 2012
     ▪ Kuttanad Below Sea level Farming System, 2013

➢ Swaziland’s King Mswati III, Africa’s last absolute monarch, officially changed the name of his country to the ‘**Kingdom of eSwatini**’.

➢ The 2018 edition of the **Boao Forum for Asia (BFA)**, also known as Asia’s Davos was held in Hainan, China.
   o Theme - An Open and Innovative Asia for a World of Greater Prosperity

➢ With a vision to bring more females into its workforce, United Arab Emirates’ cabinet approved a bill guaranteeing equal pay for men and women.

➢ **World’s first long-distance electric bus** line began service in Paris, France.
   o This bus line has been presented by Flixbus, a brand which offers intercity bus service in Europe.
It will link Paris to France’s northern city of Amiens, undertaking a 160 kilometres journey within two hours.

China has introduced China Science and Technology Cloud (CSTC) to provide scientists with accessible, accurate and secure data services to promote research and innovation.

- It has been developed by the Computer Network Information Centre of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

- 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.

- Pakistan’s Supreme Court disqualified former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from holding office for life.

- The state of cooperation between Kazakhstan and India in the energy sector was discussed and analysed at the 16th International Energy Forum held in New Delhi.

- US, Britain and France have targeted Damascus (capital of Syria) and surrounding areas in response to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s chemical attack that killed over 60 people last week.

- India, China and other Asian countries will work together to voice against the “Asian Premium” being charged by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

  - OPEC sells oil to Asian countries, including India, at a higher price as compared to America and European countries. The price differential is referred to as ‘Asian Premium’.
➢ United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced that it is reviewing the eligibility of India, Indonesia, and Kazakhstan under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) in response to concerns that these countries are not complying with the programme criterion.
   o Under GSP, US Government gives preferential treatment (duty free entry of certain goods like chemicals, gems, textiles among others to the US market) to exporters from developing and developed countries.
   o U.S. dairy industry and the U.S. medical device industry exporters are at the forefront in seeking a review of India’s GSP benefits as trade barriers imposed by Indian Government are affecting their exports to India.

➢ The first African Land Forces Summit (ALFS) began on April 16, 2018 in Nigerian capital, Abuja.
   o ALFS 2018 is hosted by U.S. Army Africa and Armed Forces Nigeria.
   o This weeklong Summit brings together land force chiefs from across Africa for candid dialog aimed at improving security and stability across the continent.

➢ New South Wales (NSW), a south eastern Australian state, announced a two-year USD 1.58 million partnership with India to enhance Indian startup ecosystem, technology, and advanced manufacturing sectors.
   o Funds allotted under this partnership funds will be used to send NSW young entrepreneurs and startups to India to support commercial connections between startups in NSW and India and for fostering collaboration on advanced technology projects.

➢ On 16th April 2018, China authorities said that, China will launch Fengyun-II 09 satellite, a new meteorological satellite, in 2018 to enhance its weather forecasting capabilities.
   o The Fengyun-II 09 satellite is the last in the Fengyun-II series

➢ Pakistan successfully test fired ‘Babur Weapon System-1 (B)’, an enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile.
This enhanced version on Babur, has a **strike range of 700 km and can deliver conventional and non-conventional weapons.**

**US space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch** **Transit Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS),** a satellite designed to detect more exoplanets (Earth-like worlds around stars beyond our solar system).

- **TESS will be launched aboard a SpaceX's Flacon 9 rocket from Florida, US.** **TESS will use a detection method called Transit Photometry.**

**Chinese scientists have developed ‘Artificial Transpiration’, a new device of 3D hollow-cone structure that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency.**

**China proposed a India-Nepal-China economic corridor with multi-dimensional connectivity through the Himalayas.**

- **China has proposed this trilateral economic corridor on basis MoU signed by Nepal to join its multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).**

**Saudi Arabia unveiled its first cinema in more than 35 years with** **a private screening of the mega hit Hollywood movie ‘Black Panther’,** **as a trial run before movie theatres are opened to the public.**

- **This has been done after Saudi Arabia lifted the ban on cinemas in 2017 as part of a liberalization initiative.**

**The first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C., United States.**

**The Malaria Summit was held in London, United Kingdom organisations to make game-changing commitments towards beating malaria.**
It was organized by non-profit organisation Malaria No More in conjunction with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and supported by British Prime Minister Theresa May.

34 leading global technology firms including Facebook, Microsoft, HP, ARM, Cisco, and Oracle have signed Cybersecurity Tech Accord to work together on cybersecurity issues.

Under it, signatory companies have agreed to collaborate on stronger defence systems, no offensive cyberattacks, and protect against tampering of their products, capacity building and collective action.

The participant companies view Tech Accord as Digital Geneva Convention.

Four Principles of Cybersecurity Tech Accord

- Protect users and customers everywhere
- Oppose cyberattacks on innocent citizens and enterprises
- Empower users, customers and developers to strengthen cybersecurity
- Partner with each other and like-minded groups to enhance cybersecurity

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

It is first of its kind contact lens to incorporate same technology that is used in eyeglasses that automatically darken in the sun.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully launched Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph or CHESS 4 on a NASA Black Brant IX sounding rocket, from the Kwajalein Atoll in The Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The CHESS 4 instrument was developed by the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder.
BANKING AND ECONOMY NEWS

➢ ICICI Bank becomes first Indian bank to go live on SWIFT’s GPI service
  o India’s largest private sector bank ICICI bank is the first bank in India to go live with its Global Payments Innovation Service.
  o SWIFT GPI was launched in May 2017. It has been developed as a new standard for cross-border payments and significantly improves transparency and efficiency for all category of remitters
  o The service involves real time payments tracking across banks. It accounts for 10% of cross border payment traffic on SWIFT network.

➢ Indian Overseas Bank launches IoT-based customer service app
  o 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.

➢ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched the following on its foundation day-
  o Samridhhi- the virtual assistant’ on banks revamped universal loan portal www.udyamimitra.in.
  o ‘Bankability Kit’ (brought in partnership with Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank) was also launched.

➢ SoftBank has signed a $930-million deal with China’s energy conglomerate Golden Concord (GCL) to produce and sell solar equipment in India.
  o GCL – 40% investment and remaining with SoftBank
  o The project will have a 4 gigawatt-capacity and will produce solar ingots, silicon wafers, batteries, and components.
➢ An MoU was signed between the Indian Army and HDFC Bank on the Defence Salary Package.

- Under the current MoU apart from other benefits the Army personnel will get free personal accident death cover and free permanent disability cover of Rs 30 lakhs, free educational cover of up to Rs 1 Lakh per year for four years for education of dependent child in case of accidental death of defence personnel and 100% processing fees waived for Car Loans and Personal Loans.

➢ Jio Payments Bank Limited has commenced operations as a payments bank.

➢ IndusInd Bank has received RBI's approval to acquire 100% stake in IL&FS Securities Services Ltd (ISSL), the securities services arm of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS).

➢ First Bi Monthly Monetary Policy Statement released by RBI

- Keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0 per cent.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 per cent.
- GDP growth in 2017-18 at 6.6 per cent was lower than 7.1 per cent in 2016-17

➢ According to index of eight core industries released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry,
➢ The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has relaxed algorithm trading norms at commodity derivatives exchanges.
   o The market regulator has raised limit of trading using algorithm trading process up to 100 orders per second by user from the existing limit of 20 orders per second.
   o Algo trading are orders executed on the exchange platform by computers through a programme designed by the user

➢ Digital payments company PayPal and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed an agreement for the promotion of outbound shipments among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) leveraging the partners' expertise and technology products.
   o FIEO contributes to more than 70% of India's exports.

➢ In a move that could temporarily soften bond yields, the Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government, hiked the foreign portfolio investors (FPI) investment
limit in Central government securities (G-Sec) from 5% of outstanding stock now to 5.5% in FY2019 and 6% in FY2020.
  o The FPI investment in state development loans (SDLs) has been left unchanged at 2% of outstanding stock of securities.

➢ The Reserve Bank of India switched back to the gross domestic product (GDP)-based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology, citing global best practices.
  o The government had started analysing growth estimates using GVA methodology from January 2015 and had also changed the base year to 2018 from January.
  o GVA gives a picture of the state of economic activity from the producers’ side or supply side, the GDP gives the picture from the consumers’ side or demand perspective.

➢ India’s foreign exchange reserves hit a life-time high of 424.361 billion US dollar after rising by 1.828 billion dollar in the week to March 30, according to the Reserve Bank of India data.

➢ 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.

➢ 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.

➢ Allahabad Bank announced that it has reduced the base rate and Benchmark Prime lending rate by 45 Basis points.
  o It has reduced base rate to 9.1 present from 9.6 percent.
- BPLR has been reduced to 13.40 percent from 13.85

- **Indian bank has launched public financial management system and has launched Bharat QR facility**
  - **PFMS** aims to benefit government utilising payment service like processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting and reconciliation.
  - **Bharat QR** is a mobile payment collection scheme to accept digital payments. Using this scheme a merchant will receive Bharat QR sticker enabling customers to make payments through the QR facility.

- **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.
  - Allahabad Bank
  - United Bank of India
  - Corporation Bank
  - IDBI Bank
  - UCO Bank
  - Bank of India
  - Central Bank of India
  - Indian Overseas Bank
  - Oriental Bank of Commerce
  - Dena Bank
  - Bank of Maharashtra

- **Five more banks are expected to be brought under RBI’s PCA framework. They are:**
  - Andhra Bank
  - Punjab National Bank
  - Canara Bank
  - Union Bank
  - Punjab & Sind Bank.
➢ 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.
   o This scheme will provide relief to industrial units in J&K that are facing stressed liquidity position due to Goods and Services Tax regime.

➢ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by commercial banks for one year (till April 2019) due to unpreparedness of banks to migrate to the new accounting system.
   o RBI has requested Government to amend Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as format of financial statements as prescribed under Schedule 3 of Act not amenable to reporting financial statements under Ind-AS.
   o RBI will continue to have proforma of financial statements from banks to monitor progress banks are making towards migration to Ind-AS.

➢ Jammu and Kashmir Bank has launched a special financing scheme named 'Add-on Working Capital GST' to help the state industry cope with the delay in reimbursement of GST under special tax relief.

➢ National E-Repository Limited (NERL), a group company of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), has brought in ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank on board as the repository participants for pledge finance.
   o Banks will offer pledge finance against eNWRs created on NERL’s repository platform commodities stored in warehouses registered with Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).
   o eNWRs - Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt- are transferrable electronic documents issued by warehouses to depositors against the commodities deposited in the warehouses, for which the warehouse is the bailee.
➢ **The Reserve Bank of India** tightened reporting norms for the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** under which an individual can transfer up to **USD 2,50,000 abroad in a year** to improve monitoring and also to ensure compliance with LRS Limits.

- Earlier, the LRS transactions were permitted by banks based on the declaration made by the remitter. Now, RBI has directed Authorised Dealers (ADs)/Banks to put in place a **daily reporting system listing out all transactions undertaken by individuals under LRS**. These reports will be accessible to all the other ADs.

- Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme, Authorised Dealers may freely allow remittances by resident individuals up to USD 2,50,000 per Financial Year (April-March) for any permitted current or capital account transaction or a combination of both. The Scheme is not available to corporates, partnership firms, HUF, Trusts, etc.

➢ **Small Industries and Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has tied up with **Common Service Centre (CSC)** to promote micro-enterprises in 115 aspirational districts across the country.

- The ‘**Transformation of Aspirational Districts**’ program, which was launched by the prime minister in January 2018, aims to bring about socio-developmental changes in these backward districts which have been chosen from all states of the country.

➢ **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched new products such as **pre-approved credit card and UPI solution** to mark its 124th foundation day.

- The bank also announced its UPI partnership with the **expense management app WALNUT** that comes embedded with features such as bill reminders, bill-split and instant paperless loans.

➢ **The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has announced that it expects **India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 7.3-7.7% during the 2018-19 financial year**.

- This is based on strengthening demand in the rural economy, including agriculture and non-farm activities, as well as better global growth climate.
➢ As part of the drive to double the income of farmers by 2022, the government has raised the authorised capital of NABARD by six times from 50 billion to Rs 300 billion to help it increase its lending to the rural economy.
   - The increase in authorised capital will enable NABARD to respond to commitments it has undertaken, particularly in respect of the Long Term Irrigation Fund and on-lending to cooperative banks.

➢ Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank Ltd became one of the top 50 most valuable publicly traded firms in India. The market capitalization of Bandhan Bank was at Rs64,000 crore, claiming 50th rank, according to BSE data.

➢ Tata Consultancy Services Ltd is the most valuable company in India, followed by Reliance Industries Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.

➢ 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.

➢ The country’s biggest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has come up with an alternate and convenient method of cash withdrawal for its customers ‘Cash@POS’ initiative.
   - A customer can withdraw Rs 1000 in Tier I and Tier II cities whereas Rs 2000 can be withdrawn in Tier 3 to Tier 6 cities per day per card from the PoS machines installed across various locations.

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

- State Bank of India tops the chart of BFSI (Banking and Financial Services Institutions)
- PNB – 6th

Private sector lender Yes Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) approval to open two representative offices in London and Singapore.

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.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs. 3 crore on IDBI Bank for non-compliance with the outlined norms related to reporting of bad loans.

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.

- The Project is co-financed by World Bank.

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.

According to the weekly data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India’s foreign exchange reserves touched a life-time high of $424.864 billion in the week to April 6, 2018.

- The latest surge in forex reserves came solely on the back of increase in foreign currency assets.
➢ Indian Government will be setting up a dedicated defence and aerospace small and medium enterprises (SME) fund, registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
   - Objective - to channelize investments into the two defence corridors announced by Government of India in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

➢ Reliance Jio has signed an agreement to raise nearly Rs 3,250 crore as samurai term loan from Japan-based banks.
   - This deal is said to be the largest samurai loan (low interest loans from Japanese investors) for an Asian corporate company.

➢ As per World Bank’s bi-annual South Asia Economic Focus report released on April 15, 2018, Indian economy has recovered from the adverse impacts of demonetisation (in November 2016) and roll out of Goods and Services Tax (in July 2017).

➢ Bandhan Bank has found a place at 50th position in the list of the top-50 most valuable companies in terms of market capitalization (m-cap) of Rs 640 billion in India.

➢ Government of India has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19 – Series-I. These bonds will be issued by Reserve Bank India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India.
   - Subscription Date: April 16, 2018 to April 20, 2018. Bond Certificate will be issued on May 4, 2018
   - Denomination: 1 gm multiples
   - Issue Price – Rs 3114 per gram
   - Tenure: 8 years
   - Interest Rate: 2.50% per annum, payable every 6 months.
Exit Option: From 5th year onwards, to be exercised on interest payment dates

Minimum Size: 1 gm

Maximum Limit: 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March) notified by the Government from time to time.

Sold By: Banks, Post Offices, Stock Holding Corporation of India (SHCIL), National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

➢ The government aims to empower 1.55 lakh post offices after integration with 650 Payments Banks to offer digital services including financial inclusion.

1.5 lakh postal offices will operate as Post Payments Bank.

➢ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has placed Mumbai-based City Co-operative Bank under directions, owing to which, its customers will not be allowed to withdraw more than Rs. 1000 per deposit account.

City Co-operative Bank would not be able to accept fresh deposits, disburse loans, make any investment, or borrow funds without RBI approval.

Its net non-performing assets stood at 8.84 per cent of advances.

➢ AU Small Finance Bank has decided to improve its business through crowd-sourcing, involving not only employees but also customers and non-customers using the mobile app named ‘Kamao’ (earn).

The app is currently undergoing beta (field) testing. If an employee, customer or non-customer give leads (prospective customer’s name, contact details, and banking requirements) they will be rewarded.

Crowdsourcing is a sourcing model in which individuals or organizations obtain goods and services, including ideas and finances, from a large, relatively open and often rapidly-evolving group of internet users.
➢ As per a report of OpenSignal (a London-based company that specialises in wireless coverage mapping), Bharti Airtel has the highest 4G download speed of 9.31 mbps among all Indian telecom operators.
   o Airtel is followed by Idea Cellular (7.27 mbps), Vodafone (6.98 mbps) and Jio (5.13 mbps)
   o Jio topped the list in terms of 4G network coverage.
   o OpenSignals’s 4G network coverage refers to how often users can access a 4G network during the test period.

➢ Global Findex Report, 2017 released by the World Bank has acknowledged that rapid increase in financial inclusion has taken place in India in recent years.
   o As per the report, number of account holders in India rose from 35 percent of the adults in 2011 to 53 percent in 2014 and 80 percent in 2017
   o The report states that 36 percent of account owners in India are already using their accounts to make or receive digital payments.

➢ IndusInd Bank announced that it has launched the pilot WhatsApp enterprise solution to communicate with its customers.
   o The customers of Indusland bank will now be able to check balance, obtain mini statement, check reward points as well as update of Aadhar through WhatsApp

➢ India’s largest private sector bank, ICICI Bank announced that it has on-boarded over 250 corporates on its blockchain platform for domestic and international trade finance.
   o ICICI Bank’s blockchain platform digitises the paper-intensive international trade finance process as an electronic, distributed and unalterable ledger, which is accessible to all the participating entities including banks.
APPOINTMENTS

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

➢ **Debjani Ghosh** has been appointed as the new President of Nasscom.
  
o  Ms Ghosh was the first woman to lead Intel India and MAIT (Manufacturers’ Association for Information Technology).

➢ **Rosemary DiCarlo** was appointed to become the first woman to head UN political affairs, one of the most high-profile positions at the world body.

➢ **Subrata Bhattacharjee** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia.

➢ **SBI Life Insurance** has appointed **Sanjeev Nautiyal** as its new Managing Director and CEO

➢ **Assam Health and Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** was unanimously elected as the President of Badminton Association of India (BAI).

➢ **Christian Sewing** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Bank AG

➢ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Rajasthan DGP, **Ajit Singh** as the head office of the anti-corruption unit.

➢ Central government appointed the former chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), **Vineet Joshi** as the Director General (D-G) of the National Testing Agency which will conduct various entrance examinations across India

➢ **Aman Srivastava** has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the Lalit Kala Akademi

➢ **Rubique**, an online marketplace for a loan, credit card and insurance announce the appointment of **Ajay Desai** (Former Yes Bank) as its **Chief Operating Officer**.

➢ **Actor Rituparna Sen Gupta** was appointed chairperson of Shilpi sunset replacing Supriya Devi
➢ Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) in India announced that Aashish Kapoor has replaced Venkatesh Prasad in the three-member All India Junior Selection Committee.

➢ Pinky Reddy took charge as new President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) at the annual session.

➢ Fashion retailer Myntra has appointed Mithun Sundar as Chief Revenue Officer.

➢ Jullius Maada Bio was elected the new President of Sierra Leone.

➢ KP Oli took charge as Prime Minister of Nepal for the second time in February 2018.

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

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

➢ Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was elected chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia.

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

➢ Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban won a third consecutive term as Prime Minister.

➢ Balram Bhargava has been appointed the new Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of the Department of Health Research.

➢ Rishad Premji, Board member of Wipro Ltd. has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2018-19.

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

➢ PP Malhotra assumed charge as Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organization in the world.

➢ Dilip Chenoy was appointed as the Secretary-General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
➢ **Jim Bridenstine**, a congressman from **Oklahoma, US Navy veteran**, and former pilot, will become the **13th administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**.

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

➢ Inspector General **Vijay Chafekar** took charge as the new FlagOfficer, Indian Coast Guard (West Region).

➢ **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.

➢ **Sripriya Ranganathan** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea.

➢ Former DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) Secretary **Bhanu Pratap Sharma** was appointed the Chairman of **Banks Board Bureau (BBB)** by the government.

➢ Senior journalist **T K Rajalakshmi** was elected the new president of the **Indian Women’s Press Corps (IWPC)**.

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

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

➢ World Health Day – April 7
  o The theme for World Health Day 2018 is: **Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere.** The slogan is “**Health for All**”.
  o World Health Day 2018 is the 70th anniversary of formation of World Health Organization (WHO).

➢ The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day
  o The theme for WAAD 2018 is "**Empowering Women and Girls with Autism**"

➢ The 55th edition of National Maritime Day was celebrated all over India. NMD is celebrated on 5th April every year since 1964.
  o Theme: ‘**Indian Shipping – An Ocean of opportunity**’.

➢ World Homeopathy Day – April 10, 2018
  o The theme of the two-day convention is **Innovate: Evolve, Progress: Exploring Science since 40 years.**
  o The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Homoeopathy founder Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann (10 April 1755).

➢ International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in mine action - April 4th 2018
  o Theme: Advancing protection, Peace and Development

➢ The 254th raising day of the Army Medical Corps was celebrated by all the Army medical units of India on 3rd April

➢ International Day of sport for development and peace was celebrated on April 6th all over the world.

➢ The International Romani Day also known as International Roma Day celebrates Romani culture and creates awareness on issues faced by Romani people. – April 8, 2018

➢ April 17- World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
  o The theme of WHD 2018 is '**Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger**'.

successrbi@anujjindal.in
➢ 18th April is celebrated Worldwide as World Heritage Day
  o Theme is 'Heritage for Generations'.

➢ On 12th April 2018 - International Day of Human Space Flight & World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day

➢ April 13, 2018 was the 99th anniversary JallianwallahBagh Massacre (also known as the Amritsar massacre).

➢ 11th April 2018 - The National Safe Motherhood Day
➢ On 19th April 2018 - World Liver Day
AWARDS

➢ The Mangalore International Airport has been adjudged the cleanest airport in the country in the survey conducted across 53 airports.
  o Airport director VV Rao received the award during the 23rd annual day celebrations of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in New Delhi.

➢ Anushka Sharma will be awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award for her successful movies as a producer

➢ President Kovind was conferred with 'Order of the Lion', the highest award of Swaziland

➢ Mahendra Singh Dhoni was honored with the Padma Bhushan Award by President Ram NathKovind at an event in RashtrapatiBhavan, New Delhi.

➢ Study Khazana, an e-portal, was awarded for Best Imaging Online Education Portal in North India at the World Education Summit and Awards 2018 at New Delhi.
  o Sana Baqai is the founder of Study Khazana

➢ President addressed the 34th annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in New Delhi
  o 10 Indian women achievers were presented the FLO icon awards
  o Banking and Finance- Chanda Kochhar, MD and CEO, ICICI Bank
  o Health and Wellness- Dr Aarti Vij, AIIMS' Organ Retrieval and Banking Organisation
  o Media entrepreneurship- Ms Ekta Kapoor, Managing Director and Creative Director of Balaji telefilms
  o Conscientious cinema - Ms Twinkle Khanna, Author, Film Producer.

➢ 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.

➢ 65th National Film Awards were announced in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Hindi Film</td>
<td>Newton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Action Direction</td>
<td>Abbas Ali Moghu for Baahubali 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Special Effects</td>
<td>Baahubali 2</td>
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### Current Affairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Award Detail</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Actress</td>
<td>Sridevi for ‘Mom’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor</td>
<td>Riddhi Sen for ‘Nagar Kirtan’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Director</td>
<td>Jayaraj for ‘Bhayanakam’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Film</td>
<td>Village Rockstars (Assamese)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Veteran Hindi film actor **Shri Vinod Khanna** was awarded the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** for his contribution to Indian Cinema.

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

- The **Pulitzer Prizes for 2018** has been announced in the USA.
  - **Fiction** - Andrew Sean Greer’s “Less”
  - **Drama** - Cost of Living by Martyna Majok.
  - **History** - The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea by Jack E. Davis
  - **Biography** - Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Fraser
  - **Poetry** - Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016, by Frank Bidart

- **Aditi Rao Hydari** will receive **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award 2018** for the **Best Leading Lady (Critics Award)** for her memorable performance in Bhoomi.

- State of **Madhya Pradesh** was conferred the award for the **Most Film Friendly State** for its efforts towards easing filming in the State by creating a well-structured website and film-friendly infrastructure.
  - The **State of Uttarakhand** is given a Special Mention Certificate to recognize the efforts made by the Uttarakhand towards creating a film-friendly environment.

- **Indu Jain**, chairman of Bennett, Coleman & Co, India’s largest media house, has received the **All India Management Association’s (AIMA’s) annual award for lifetime contribution to media**.
➢ SiddharthVaradarajan, the founding editor of The Wire, will be awarded the Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University on 16th April 2018.

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

➢ Mr. Rana Kapoor, MD & CEO of Yes Bank, was recognized as an Outstanding Contributor to the Media and Communication Industry and Indian Brand Builder by Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) at the 13th edition of Goafest 2018.

➢ Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank has won the Banco Award for best performing cooperative bank.

   o Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank ranked in the top in Gujarat for hi-tech technology upgradation. It ranks third in the category at National level.

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

   o Kayakalp scheme awards public health facilities for their work in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene.

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

➢ Manu Bhaker Claims 10m Pistol Gold
  o India’s 16-year-old Manu Bhaker won the gold in women’s 10 air pistol while
    Heena Sidhu staged a remarkable recovery to secure silver at the 21st
    Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.

➢ Leander Paes becomes most successful double player in Davis Cup
➢ Weightlifter SathishSivalingam bags third gold for country in the ongoing 21st
  Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia
➢ The Miami Open, sometimes known as the Miami Masters, is an annual tennis tournament
  for men and women currently held in Florida, the USA
  o American John Isner won his first ever Masters 1,000 title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Singles</td>
<td>John Isner (USA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Singles</td>
<td>Sloane Stephens (USA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Doubles</td>
<td>Mike Bryan (USA)</td>
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<td>Bob Bryan (USA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Doubles</td>
<td>CoCoVandeweghe (USA)</td>
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<td>Ashleigh Barty (Australia)</td>
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➢ The 21st edition of the Commonwealth Games begun in Gold Coast, Australia at Carrara
  Stadium.
  o India was represented at the opening ceremony by a contingent of over 200 athletes
    who were led by flag-bearer P V Sindhu.
➢ Weightlifter and current world champion Mirabai Chanu has clinched India’s first gold
  medal in the 48Kg category of the 2018 Commonwealth Games
➢ P. Gururaja won silver medal in the 56 Kg category of weightlifting in 2018 Commonwealth
  games.
➢ **Weightlifter Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu** has delivered India its second gold medal of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in **Gold Coast City, Australia** by dominating the women’s 53kg event.

➢ **Deepak Lather** became the **youngest Indian (18 Yrs old) weightlifter to claim a Commonwealth Games medal**, clinching a bronze in the men’s 69kg category.

➢ **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**.

➢ **Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel** won his second Grand Prix in as many races, at the **Bahrain Grand Prix**, while **Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas** finished **second by just 0.699 seconds**.

➢ **India's 17-year-old shooter Mehuli Ghosh** set a Commonwealth Games joint record to **win silver in the women's 10m Air Rifle event**.

➢ **India's Jitu Rai** broke the games record to **claim the gold medal** in men's 10m air pistol at **21st common wealth games**.

➢ **Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth** clinched their first-ever badminton mixed team event gold in Commonwealth Games history

➢ **India defeated Nigeria to clinch gold in the men's table tennis team event** at the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 2006

➢ **India’s weightlifter Punam Yadav** won gold in the **Women’s 69kg weightlifting category** taking this as her second medal at commonwealth.

➢ Indian women’s **Table Tennis team** led by **Manik Batra** won their first ever Gold Medal defeating Singapore.
➢ Indian shooter Heena Sidhu set Commonwealth Games record to win gold in women's 25m pistol shooting event.
   o This is Sidhu's second medal at CWG 2018, after winning silver in women's 10m air pistol.

➢ Kerala beat West Bengal in the finals of the 72nd Santosh Trophy

➢ Indian table tennis player Sathiyan Gnansekaran has reached his career-best ranking of 46 in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) ranking.

➢ Virat Kohli has retained the second position in the latest ICC test player ranking that was released on 4th April 2018 after securing 912 points.
   o Steve Smith has secured the top spot with 929 points
   o New Zealand has surpassed Australia and secured third place in the ICC test team rankings

➢ South African fast bowler Morne Morkel bid adieu to international cricket at the conclusion of South Africa Australia test series

➢ FC Goa in collaboration with the Forca Goa Foundation, is introducing “FC Goa Soccer Schools”, a soccer programme for kids to develop football in Goa.

➢ Indian shooter Shreyasi Singh won the women's double trap gold in a shoot-off at the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018.

➢ Indian shooter Om Prakash Mitharval settled for the bronze medal in the men's 50m pistol event at the 21st Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, Australia.

➢ Kidambi Srikanth has become the first Indian male badminton player to attain the world number one ranking since Prakash Padukone in the 1980s.

➢ Indian wrestler and Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar bagged his third straight Commonwealth Games gold medal after winning the men's Freestyle 74 kg event.

➢ Rahul Aware bagged India's first wrestling gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018 in the final of men's Freestyle 57 kg event.

➢ Tejaswini Sawant won India its fifth shooting gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, winning the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Finals in Gold Coast, Australia.
➢ Fifteen-year-old shooter Anish Bhanwala became India's youngest gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games, winning the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Finals with a record score at Gold Coast, Australia.

➢ Nineteen-year-old Naman Tanwar won India its first boxing medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, winning a bronze in the men's 91 kg category.

➢ Wrestler Bajrang Punia won his first Commonwealth Games gold medal in the men's freestyle 65 kg final in Gold Coast, Australia.

➢ Shooter Sanjeev Rajput won the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions at the 2018 Commonwealth Games

➢ 20-yr Old, Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin thrower to claim a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, with a season’s best effort of 86.47m in the final.

➢ Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom has become the first Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.

➢ World number one Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth won his career's first Commonwealth Games singles Silver medal.

➢ Shuttler Saina Nehwal defeated world number three PV Sindhu in the first-ever all-Indian women's singles final at the Commonwealth Games.
  ○ Nehwal is the only Indian female badminton player to win singles gold in Commonwealth Games history.

➢ India finished third in the medals tally at the Commonwealth Games 2018 with 66 medals (26 Gold, 20 Silver and 20 Bronze)
  ○ Australia – 198 Medals and England – 136 medals were ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Sports</th>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>Mixed Team</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saina Nehwal</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>Women's singles</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jitu Rai</td>
<td>Shooting</td>
<td>Men's 10m Air Pistol</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manu Bhaker</td>
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<td>Heena Sidhu</td>
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<td>Women's 25m Pistol</td>
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<td>Anish</td>
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<td>Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol</td>
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<td>Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanjeev Rajput</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
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<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td>Men's 85kg</td>
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<td>Wrestling</td>
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<td>Gold</td>
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<td>Bajrang</td>
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<td>Men's Freestyle 74kg</td>
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<td>Squash</td>
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<td>Babita Kumari</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
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<td>Apurvi Chandela</td>
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<td>Women's 10m Air Rifle</td>
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Harmeet Desai/Sanjil Shetty Table Tennis Men's doubles Bronze
A Sharath Kamal Table Tennis Men's Singles Bronze
Manika Batra/G Sathiyan Table Tennis Mixed Doubles Bronze
Deepak Lather Weightlifting Men's 69kg Bronze
Vikas Thakur Weightlifting Men's 94kg Bronze
Sachin Chaudhary Para Powerlifting Men's Heavyweight Bronze
Navjeet Dhillon Athletics Women's Discus Throw Bronze
Hussamuddin Mohammed Boxing Men's 56kg Bronze
Manoj Kumar Boxing Men's 69kg Bronze
Naman Tanwar Boxing Men's 91kg Bronze
Divya Kakran Wrestling Women's Freestyle 68kg Bronze
Kiran Wrestling Women's Freestyle 76kg Bronze
Sakshi Malik Wrestling Women's 62 kg Nordic Bronze
Somveer Wrestling Men's 86 kg freestyle Bronze

➢ Pune-based 17-year-old swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has set a world record to double cross the Bangla Channel (from Saint Martin's Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh)
  ○ He has completed the journey of 32.2 kilometres in 9 hours and 10 minutes.

➢ Daniel Ricciardo won the 2018 Chinese Grand Prix, Formula One motor race that took place at the Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai, China.
➢ Chines Dragon ‘Son of Dreams’ was unveiled as official Mascot of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 in China.

➢ The latest FIFA rankings were released in which Germany has secured the top position followed by Brazil in the second position.

➢ Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj were named the leading men’s and women’s cricketers in the world respectively as per Wisden’s leading cricketers of the year.

➢ Yuki Bhambri entered into the top-100 ATP men’s singles ranking with a rank of rank 83, for the first time since February 2016.

➢ Indian Badminton player Kidambi Srikanth has lost his World No. 1 rank and has dropped four places to fifth in latest men’s singles rankings released by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) on April 19, 2018.
  
  o Drop in Srikanth’s rank was due to Singapore Open Superseries (April 2017) points being removed from his total in accordance with the 52 week rule.
In women’s singles ranking, India’s PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal retained their positions at third and the 12th rank respectively.
MISCELLANEOUS

➢ Assamese film-maker Munin Barua passes away
  o On 7th April 2018, Assamese film-maker Munin Barua died after fighting cancer, at his home, in Guwahati, Assam.

➢ Efrain Rios Montt, former Guatemala military Dictator died in Guatemala

➢ Rare dinosaur footprints that are 170 million years old have been discovered in the northeast coast of Isle of Skye in Scotland.
  o The study has been published in the Scottish Journal of Geology.
  o Majority of the footprints were made by sauropods and theropods.

➢ National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Hubble Space Telescope has discovered 'Icarus', the farthest individual star ever seen.
  o Official name of Icarus is MACS space J1149 + 2223 Lensed star 1.
  o It is a huge pain blue stellar body. Its light has taken 9 billion years to reach Earth
  o Astronomers found it through a phenomenon called gravitational lensing.
  o Gravitational lensing occurs when gravitational forces from cluster of galaxies at as Natural lens in space, which bends and amplifies light.

➢ Ray Wilkins, ex-England midfielder, passed away

➢ Former BSF (Border Security Force) director general (DG) E N Rammohan died

➢ Google Home and Home Mini Bluetooth speakers have been launched in India.
  o Google Home is priced at Rs 9,999 and Home Mini at Rs 4,499 in India. They were launched at Google’s I/O 2016 conference. This is the first time Google has launched its speakers in India.

➢ A study by National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded researchers at the University of California (UC), Davis, states that more than a quarter of total available nitrogen is derived from the weathering of Earth’s bedrock.
  o The study says that, up to 26 % of the nitrogen in ecosystems is obtained from rocks, and remaining is obtained from atmosphere.
➢ **Cliff carvings of Buddha that are 1,200 years** old have been discovered in Acurtownship in Chagyab County of the Qamdo City, eastern Tibet.

➢ **Veteran journalist Surendra Nihal Singh** passed.
  - Nihal Singh had worked with several leading newspapers including The Indian Express, The Statesman and Khaleej Times.

➢ **Former US first lady Barbara Bush** passed away. She was the first lady of the USA from 1989 to 1993.

➢ **Karan Johar** has become the **first-ever Bollywood filmmaker** to get a place at the famous Madame Tussauds.

➢ **Veteran journalist and columnist TVR Shenoy** passed away.
  - Shenoy was awarded the prestigious **Padma Bhushan award in 2003**

➢ **Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar** passed away.

➢ Scientists have successfully completed the first test drive of a DNA ‘**unicycle’** – a **tiny machine made of genetic material powered by chemical energy that could perform directed movements**.
  - The tiny vehicle is only **30 nanometers in size**. Fuel is given by the protein **“T7 RNA polymerase”**

➢ Scientists said that, a jawbone fossil found at a beach in southwestern England, belongs to **“Ichthyosaur”, one of the biggest marine animals (reptiles) on record**.

➢ **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has approved marketing of **IDx-DR**, first **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based device to detect certain diabetes-related eye problems**
  - IDx-DR, is a software programme that uses an artificial intelligence algorithm to analyse images of eye taken with a retinal camera.
FDA has permitted marketing of IDx-DR to IDx LLC, a medical device company.

President Ram Nath Kovind received the first copy of the book ‘Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp’ from Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Scientists at Northwestern University, USA, headed by an Indian, have developed “Memtransistor”, an electronic device that can mimic the human brain.
- Memtransistor combines the functions of a memristor and a transistor. The memtransistor has great potential in Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- It has been designed by Dr Vinod Kumar Sangwan.

Scientists in Britain and the United States have discovered “PETase” an enzyme that can digest some commonly polluting plastics.
- PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is a strong plastic that is commonly used in bottles. It takes hundreds of years to break down in the environment.

Indian scientists have formulated world’s first ayurvedic drug to cure dengue, which is likely to be available in the market by 2019.
- First Ayurvedic drug to cure Dengue has been made with seven herbal ingredients which are in use in Ayurveda system of medicine.

Scientists in the University of Southampton have discovered that, stimulating a specific location on the surface of immune cells can be targeted with antibodies to help in fighting cancer.
- This discovery is related to a receptor called CD40.
- CD40 is found on the surface of certain immune cells which regulates their activity.

Former principal information officer (PIO) Shakuntala Mahawal, passed away.

Zoom, part of the Times Network has announced a partnership with India’s leading online fashion e-tailer, Myntra.
o As per the terms of this partnership, Zoom will transition from being just a TV channel to the best entertainment and style destination across every medium viz. TV, Social, On-Ground and Digital.

➢ Indian animation expert Bhimsain Khurana passed away
   o He had won National Award for his animation short film “Ek Anek Aur Ekta”.

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COMMITTEES
➢ The Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a High Powered Committee to examine the entire system of conducting Class X and Class XII examination conducted by the CBSE with a view to prevent leakages.
   o Mr Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Retd. Secretary (Higher Education), MHRD will be the Chairperson of the 7 member High Power Committee.

➢ The Union Government formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to reform the process of higher defence planning and to enable the forces to meet challenges in the emerging complex international security environment.
   o The permanent body would be chaired by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
   o The committee will operate through 4 sub-committees on:
     ▪ Policy and Strategy
     ▪ Plans and Capability Development
     ▪ Defence Diplomacy
     ▪ Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem