CURRENT AFFAIRS - MARCH
21ST TO 31ST 2018
NATIONAL NEWS:

- ‘Paramveer Parwane’, book released on Paramveer Chakra Awardees
  - The book is written by Dr Prabhatkiran Jain and is published by Medha Books

- 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress will be held in January 2019 at Barkatullah University Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
  - Theme - “Future India: Science & Technology”

- Austria’s capital city Vienna has been rated the world’s most liveable city for the ninth consecutive year by Mercer in its annual Quality of Living survey.
  - It was followed by Switzerland’s Zurich, while New Zealand’s Auckland and Germany’s Munich tied for third place.
  - Hyderabad and Pune have been rated India’s most liveable cities as they have tied for the 142nd place
  - Iraq’s Baghdad – least liveable

- General Insurance Corporation is going to start operations at the Lloyd’s London office in April 2018

- Approvals by Union Cabinet-
  - Continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) - National Higher Education Mission.
  - Central Sector "Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry" for sericulture sector
  - North-East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017 to provide employment in the states and incentives to MSMEs
  - Union Cabinet gave ‘in-principle’ approval to inclusion of 2 communities – ‘Parivara’ and ‘Talawara’ – in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Karnataka.
German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will arrive in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India.

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has introduced billing through Point of Sale (POS) hand-held machines in trains to check overcharging by vendors.
   - Already introduced POS machines in New Delhi -Karnataka Express on a pilot basis.

Jackfruit has been declared as the official fruit of Kerala.
   - Kerala has been producing around 30 to 60 crore jackfruits every year

Mormugao Port Trust and Drishti Marine’s ambitious inland ferry services inaugurated in Goa.

NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation have inked Statement of Intent (SoI) to work closely with District Collectors and key officers of ‘Aspirational Districts’ to support their transformation in terms of healthcare, education and nutrition.

The Punjab government decided to impose a permanent ban on hookah bars in the state instead of issuing temporary orders against them every two months under the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003.

The country’s biggest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has launched home-delivery of diesel on a pilot basis in Pune (first of its kind) and plans to expand doorstep delivery of the fuel to other parts of the country in near future.

The Singapore Changi Airport has been named the world’s best airport for the sixth consecutive year by consultancy firm Skytrax.
   - While the Mumbai airport (Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Mumbai) has been ranked 63rd, the airports in Bangalore (Kempegowda
International Airport) and Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport) are at 64th and 66th place respectively.

- The two-day **first National Conference** on Drug Law Enforcement was held in Delhi.
  - The conference is being organised by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Chandigarh has become the 1st city** in North India to install **Automatic Speed Gun Cameras** with digital displays for traffic management.
- Meghalaya is home to the longest sandstone cave, **Krem Puri** in the world at 24,583m, with dinosaur fossils from 66-76 million years ago.
- **The First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words** was launched
  - The dictionary has been developed by **Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC)** under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
- **The 7th India-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting** led by Sushma Swaraj and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry was held in New Delhi.
- 5th India **Maize Summit** held in **New Delhi**.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launched M-Kerala, a unified app for all government services at **#FUTURE 2018**.
  - It is a first-of-its-kind digital tech summit in the state.
  - Kerala becomes the **state with the largest public Wi-Fi deployment** in the country.
  - Theme – **Towards a Digital Future**
- Andhra Pradesh launched the **Naipunya Ratham**, a multi-utility vehicle.
  - Also known as **'World on Wheels (WoW)'**
  - Naipunya Ratham is aimed at taking technology and innovation to the remote corners of the State.
- **INS Ganga**, an indigenously built frigate of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned in **Mumbai** after over three decades of service.
- New Initiatives launched on World TB Day

NikshayAushadi Portal' and shorter regimen for Drug Resistant TB

Print Biennale India 2018 held at the Rabindra Bhavan Galleries of the Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry for the next three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with Rs 1,000 crore fund

Through the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) project, World’s oldest city Varanasi goes Wireless. Pune being the first city to go wireless.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), signed the Host Country Agreement.

- The Agreement will give ISA a juridical personality and gives it power to contract, to acquire and dispose off movable and immovable properties, to institute and defend legal proceedings.

India has become the 3rd largest electricity producer in the world as its electricity production grew 34% over seven years to 2017, with production of 1423 Billion Units

- The country now produces more energy than Japan and Russia, which had 27% and 8.77% more electricity generation capacity installed, respectively.

India has overtaken Germany to become the fourth largest automobile market in the world as per latest global data

The government of India has come out with the total number of beggars in the country.

- As per the data, based on 2011 census released by Union ministry of Social Justice, there are around 4 lakh beggars in total.

- The highest number of beggars, 81,000, are in West Bengal.

- Lakshadweep has only two people begging.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden was opened for visitors in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.

- It is recognized as Asia's largest
The Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with Assam government under its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiative for the sustainable development of human settlements at villages in Kamrup district.

- Financial assistance – 4.58 crore rupees

The Ministry of Finance has approved a proposal to provide government guarantee of Rs5,000 crore in the current financial year for Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) bonds to be subscribed by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

- Guarantee fees has also been waived by the Ministry

Gujarat's Surat district has become the first district in the country to have 100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC).

- Total 52 PHCs

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of 3,21,567 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with an investment of Rs18,203 crore with central assistance of Rs4,752 crore.

32nd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) held in New Delhi.

India’s first of its kind Insects Museum opened in Tamil Nadu

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram, launched ‘e-Tribes: Tribes India’

- It is an initiative for digital commerce at Tribes India Outlet in New Delhi.
- It included launch of e-commerce portal of TRIFED, www.tribesindia.com, and M-commerce, the android app ‘Tribes India’.

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

Ministry of Power partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train the manpower in six states (Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh) for speedy implementation of its SAUBHAGYA scheme.
SAUBHAGYA (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) aims to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country in a time-bound manner.

- Ministry of Communications has launched the Cool EMS Service between India and Japan.
  - Cool EMS service is one-way service from Japan to India which allows customers in India to import Japanese food items for personal use which is allowed under Indian regulations.
  - Initially, Cool EMS Service will be available in Delhi only.

- SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018 has been organized in New Delhi under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
  - Provides rural women producers a national platform and an opportunity to showcase their products and seek buyers

- NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission announced the signing of a Statement of Intent (SOI) with SAP to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
  - SAP in 2018 will adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) for five years to nurture the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning among secondary school children across India.

- The eleventh session of the China-India joint-group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science & Technology was held in New Delhi.

- GIFT City has signed an MoU with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTILLP) with an aim of assisting domestic and international clients set up operations at the GIFT-located International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
  - GIFT City is a global business district offering a platform for business opportunities in international and domestic business operations.
  - GIFT City- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed $80 million loan agreement to help modernize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

ISRO successfully launched the GSLV-F08 carrying the GSAT6A communication satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

- The launch marked its 12th flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV-F08 and sixth flight with the indigenous Cryogenic upper stage.

Rajasthan got its first mega food park of the state at Roopangarh village near Ajmer.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the continuation of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Education Loans Scheme and continuation and modification of Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme with a financial outlay of 6,600 crore rupees from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

- The scheme will cover loans for pursuing professional and technical courses to promote quality education.

The Scheme of North East Council - Special Development Project will be changed to be a Central Sector Scheme with 100 percent grant.

- Rs 4500 crores have been approved for the scheme for three years up to March 2020.

The NITI Aayog has launched the baseline ranking for 115 aspirational districts based on 49 indicators across five sectors that include health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure.

EPFO has launched the pensioner’s portal through which all EPFO pensioners may get the details of pension-related information.

- The facility has been made available at EPFO’s website www.epfindia.gov.in.
The enhanced “Track eKYC” facility for the convenience of members have also been launched to check the status of Aadhaar seeded against their UAN.

The government has also allowed export of two million white sugar till September 2018 under the Duty-Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) scheme, under which exporters are allowed to import sugar at zero duty within three years.

The Smart India Hackathon Grand Finale 2018 -Software edition was held in New Delhi.

- It aims to build Digital India.

Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of 55770 fully covered tribal habitations with the safe drinking water in the country followed by Odisha and Jharkhand.

First National Conclave on Psychological Trauma, Child Protection, and Mental Illnesses held in New Delhi

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland regarding cooperation and Exchange of Information for the Purposes of Combating International Criminality and Tackling Serious Organised Crime.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Canada intended to promote innovation, creativity and economic growth in both countries.

India received its first LNG cargo from the US under a long-term supply deal when a ship carrying super-cooled natural gas arrived at Dabhol in Maharashtra.

- GAIL India has contracted 3.5 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from US energy firm Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass liquefaction facility in Louisiana.

The two-day meeting of Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) between India and Pakistan began in New Delhi.

- Agenda – Water Treaty Dispute and other outstanding issues
- PK Saxena- India’s Indus Water Commissioner.
National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) awarded 150 road projects of 7,400 km worth Rs. 1,22,000 crore in the In Financial Year 2017-18.
   - It is an all-time high and a record achievement by NHAI since its inception in 1995.

Madhya Pradesh’s Kadaknath chicken gets Geographical Indication tag.
   - A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun and Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC), New Delhi signed an MoU for providing livelihood opportunities and augment income of the forest based communities.
   - ICFRE is an Autonomous Council under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change while TIFAC is an Autonomous Council under Department of Science and Technology.

India Post paid a tribute to theoretical physicist, cosmologist and author Stephen Hawking by issuing a special cover on him.
   - Special cover on Stephen Hawking will be released at all 22 Circles of India Post.
   - A Brief History of Time’, ‘The Universe in a Nutshell’, ‘On the Shoulders of Giants” are some of the popular books written by Stephen Hawking.

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cabinet gave its in-principle approval for adopting the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for horticulture crops such as apple and saffron in the state.
   - RWBCIS will be in addition to Central Government’s Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to conduct skill development training programmes for agriculture and allied sector.
Skill development training programmes will be conducted on a regular basis at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs).

Contribution to Kaushal Bharat-Kushal Bharat.

Telangana mandated teaching Telugu as a compulsory subject in all the public and private schools of the Telangana for the academic year 2018-2019.

CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) to set up new Direct Tax law for which suggestions and feedbacks are invited from stakeholders and general public.

A Sand Mining Framework was prepared by Ministry of Mines to take action against illegal mining.

‘Pashu Dhan Sanjeevani – 1962’ – A first of its kind animal healthcare programme, launched by the Madhya Pradesh Animal Husbandry and Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL)

- Toll free helpline number -1962
- The service delivery process will be monitored through the ‘Bharat Sanjeevani’ software and a mobile app exclusively developed for doctors, veterinary field officers and artificial insemination technicians.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry reconstituted two journalist-related bodies

- Central Press Accreditation Committee
  - Considers the names of correspondents and camerapersons who get Press Information Bureau (PIB) accreditation.
  - Headed by the Principal Director General of PIB as the ex-officio chairperson. It has 8 members. It has a tenure of 2 years.

- Committee to administer the Journalists Welfare Scheme
  - Committee will consist of: I&B Secretary, Principal DG PIB, and a joint secretary from the I&B ministry.

International Yoga Fest held in New Delhi
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched Free Wi-Fi Facility at Udwada Village, in Valsad District, Gujarat.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its 6th Foundation Day in New Delhi.
  - Theme - ‘Sustaining Innovation – A Market Driven Pathway’

India successfully test fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with an indigenous ‘seeker’ at Rajasthan’s Pokhran test range, enhancing the country’s capability to hit enemy targets at a range of up to 400 km.
  - It was for the first time that the missile, capable of travelling at speeds of up to Mach 3.0, or three times the speed of sound, was tested with indigenously developed ‘seeker’ technology.

Parliament passed Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which authorises Central Government to fix tax-free gratuity amount and period of maternity leave with an executive order.
  - After implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations, ceiling of tax-free gratuity amount for central government employees was increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.
  - The amendment bill also contains a provision which authorises Central Government to notify the period of maternity leave eligible for qualifying as ‘continuous service’ under the gratuity law.

Government will now fully fund the education of martyrs’ children.
  - Earlier, it was limited only up to Rs 10000 a month.

Air India flight (AI 139) became the first flight to land at Tel Aviv’s Ben Gurion Airport (Israel) after passing through Saudi Arabia air space.

India’s second lunar mission ‘Chandrayaan-2’, which was to be launched in April 2018, has been postponed to October 2018, as experts have suggested more tests.

Three Minesweeper ships of Indian Navy, INS Konkan, INS Cannanore and INS Cuddalore, were decommissioned in a ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved Indian Air Force (IAF) plan to set up a forward fighter base close to Deesa in Banaskantha district of Gujarat.

- Sanctioned amount Rs1000 Crore

As per data compiled by Institute for Criminal Policy Research, India has imprisonment rate of 33

- Imprisonment rate refers to number of individuals behind the bars out of every one lakh individuals in the population.
- US has the highest imprisonment rate of 666 among major countries

India is among 20 nations that have pledged additional contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) with contribution of USD 5 million.

Telangana announced reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to 1 per cent from 16 per cent.

Delhi government presented a ‘green budget’ aimed at controlling pollution and monitoring its impact on the environment.

- 26 programmes and schemes of transport, power, environment and PWD will be threaded together
- PWD – Rs 846 Crore

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has extended the deadline for linking of insurance policies with Aadhaar numbers indefinitely till the matter is finally heard and the judgement is pronounced.

India has handed over a second advanced offshore patrol vessel (AOPV) to the Sri Lankan Navy.

Delhi Metro, in association with IndusInd Bank, launched a dual purpose Metro Plus’ debit card that will enable customers of IndusInd bank to use it for metro train rides as well as for all other regular debit card transactions.

- The Metro Plus Card, developed by IndusInd bank, has

Assam State Government launched a special programme to build one lakh toilets across the state under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
This special programme is named ‘Mission Sambavh’ (Mission Possible), under which, construction works will be completed within 10 days.

Five districts in Assam have already been declared ODF (Open Defecation Free).

- Seawater desalination plant, with capacity to desalinate 100 million litre water per day will be set up near Jodiya town in Jamnagar district of Gujarat.
- Madhavpur Mela started at Madhavpur Ghed village in Porbandar district of Gujarat.
  - This festival will feature art, dance, music, poetry, story-telling and folk drama from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and other North-Eastern States.
- Microsoft opened the ‘Garage’ at the Microsoft India Development Centre in Hyderabad, Telangana.
  - It is a platform for Microsoft employees that encourages experimentation, working together across organisations and to discover ideas and develop prototypes, adding value to existing products.
- The Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) has approved ‘Study in India’ programme to attract foreign students to study in India.
  - Under this programme, meritorious foreign students will be given free waiver by respective institutes based on pre-defined criteria. **Top 25% students will be given 100% waiver in tuition fees**, next 25% will be given 50% waiver and another 25% below that will get 25% waiver.
- ‘Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar’ launched in Hyderabad, Telangana with an aim to bring the domain of foreign policy closer to the people.
  - MEA will hold direct interaction with the local media and will communicate foreign policy priorities in simple terms and will highlight the benefits accruing to the common people through diplomatic efforts.
Union Defence Ministry has released a draft policy aimed at promoting the domestic defence industry and positioning it to achieve a turnover of Rs 170000 crore in military goods and services by 2025.

- It is to make India self-reliant in terms of Defence Production and also to emerge as one of the top five manufacturers of defence platforms in the world.

The 11th Rashtriya Rifles Biennial Conference 2018 was held in Nagrota, Jammu and Kashmir.

Sri Lankan Navy sunk a ship used by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) A522 named ‘We Ling” in the western seas.

NASA and SpaceX have tied up to search for exoplanets using NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).

- It has been planned to launch Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on 16th April 2018.

As per findings of National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18, about 77% homes in rural areas of India have got toilets and over 93 per cent households in villages who have access to toilets are using them as per the survey conducted between mid-November 2017 to mid-March 2018 and covered 92040 households in 6136 villages of India.

China’s Trade Minister Zhong Shan met Suresh Prabhu in the meeting held in New Delhi.

- India’s goods trade deficit with China for the first ten months of 2017-18 stands at $52 billion as against $0.6 billion in 2000-01.

The CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) has extended the deadline for the PAN-Aadhaar linking from the current last date of 31 March 2018 to 30 June 2018.

The 15th meeting of the India-US Counterterrorism Joint Working Group was held in New Delhi.

- The next meeting of the Joint Working Group will be hosted by the United States in 2019
All India Football Federation (AIFF) launched “Scout-Me”, a mobile based scouting application to discover future players

- Scout-Me app has been developed by Kush Pandey who is 17 years old

Union Cabinet has approved the restructuring of National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

- National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill is expected to replace the much criticised Medical Council of India and Punishment for any unauthorised practice of medicine has been made severe by including a provision for imprisonment of up to one year along with a fine extending up to Rs 5 lakh.

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave approval for enhancing the scope of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) - will now contribute Employer’s full admissible contribution for first 3 years from date of registration of new employee for all sectors including existing beneficiaries for their remaining period of 3 years

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved new Integrated Scheme on School Education for period 2018 to 2020

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers to fix Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers for 2018-19.

- Approved for removal of prohibition on export of all varieties of edible oils except mustard oil

The government announced that, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has tied up with Airports Authority of India (AAI) under “Adopt a Green highway programme” to develop a green corridor covering 16.55 km of NH56 and NH29 in Varanasi.

Scientists have discovered a hot, metallic, Earth-sized planet named “K2-229b” that orbits a dwarf star located 260 million light years away.

- K2-229b is nearly 20% larger in size than Earth and has a mass which is nearly two-and-a-half times greater
Doppler spectroscopy technique was used.

- Assam launched ‘181-Sakhi’, a toll-free helpline number for women.
  - Initially, the toll free helpline will work from 9 am to 5.30 pm, but will soon be a 24×7 service.

- In a bid to engage college students in Government’s cleanliness drive, Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has introduced a Swachh Bharat Summer Internship (SBSI) to undertake 100 hours of activities including creation of sanitation infrastructure, building necessary systems and carry out behaviour change campaigns in and around nearby villages.

- US state of New Jersey’s State Assembly has declared April as ‘Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month’.

- Among all Indian states, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number tribal habitations (55770) fully covered with the safe drinking water supply.

- Madhya Pradesh increased the retirement age of Madhya Pradesh government employees from 60 to 62 years.

- Uttar Pradesh inaugurated Hindon Elevated Road – India’s longest elevated road, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
  - The Hindon Elevated Road is a six-lane road.
  - It is 10.3 km long. It has been built on 227 single pillars.
  - It connects Raj Nagar Extension in Ghaziabad to UP Gate. It reduces the one hour journey to 18 minutes.

- The government has announced that, it has planned to sell 76 per cent stake in Air India.

- Andhra Pradesh, inaugurated the International Yachting Festival in Visakhapatnam.

- India and Pakistan have agreed to resolve all issues regarding treatment of their diplomats placed in the other country through talks.

- “Huddle Kerala”, Asia’s largest startup ecosystem congregation, will be held at Kovalam, Kerala, on 6th and 7th April 2018.
- Huddle Kerala is aimed to create a platform for start-ups to display their products and interact with technology and industry leaders from various parts of the world.
- Main focus of the event will be on blockchain, cryptocurrency, internet of things (IoT), gaming and e-sports, cyber security, digital entertainment, augmented reality, virtual reality, e-governance, mobile governance, etc.

- Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy and Uttarakhand Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of the 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) in Uttarkashi.
  - Located on the river Tons – a tributary of the Yamuna in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.

- The recent census carried out in Kaziranga National Park, Assam has revealed that there was a marginal increase in the population of the one-horned rhinoceros.
  - Currently, there are 2413 rhinos with a marginal increase of 12 rhinos.

- The Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal has processed record Rs 71,633 crore transactions on a single day.
  - PFMS - It is end-to-end solution for processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting, reconciliation and reporting. It is implemented by Controller General of Accounts and administered by the Department of Expenditure, both in Ministry of Finance.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved for continuation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme and City Compost Scheme beyond 12th Five Year plan till 2019-20

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is planning to relax the protected area permit (PAP) regime to enable foreign tourists to access border areas. The move is being initiated to
promote tourism, create job opportunities for the locals and generate revenue for the states

➢ Renowned Indian painter Raja Ravi Varma’s untitled painting of Tilottama was sold for $795,000 (around Rs 5 crore) at Sotheby’s Modern and Contemporary South Asian art auction in New York. The winning bid was made by anonymous private collector

➢ The Union Cabinet has approved second and final extension of term of Commission constituted to examine issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in Central List for period of twelve weeks upto June, 2018. The Commission was constituted with approval of President under article 340 of Constitution in October, 2017

➢ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for closure of India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI)
   o The purpose of closure is to synergies in channelizing contributions of Indian diaspora to Government’s flagship programmes such as National Mission for clean Ganga and Swachh Bharat Mission.

➢ The National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA) project of Ministry of Culture was certified as world’s first Trusted Digital Repository as per ISO 16363:2012 standard.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

- **Myanmar’s President** and Aung San Suu Kyi’s right-hand man **Htin Kyaw** stepped down after two years in the position.

- The world’s biggest cruise-liner, **Symphony of the Seas**, has left the shipyard of **Saint-Nazaire in France** to embark on its maiden voyage in the Meditteranean.

- India handed over the **18th AC-DC 1350 HP diesel-electric locomotive** to Myanmar and thereby completed the first project under the current Indian line of credit (LoC) to Myanmar.
  - Built by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi.

- US has decided to impose **anti-dumping duty** on the stainless steel flanges imported from **China and India**.
  - The anti-dumping duty has been imposed based on a probe by US Department of Commerce, through which, it was found that exporters from India and China received subsidies on these products and were thereby able to sell it in US market much below the fair value.
  - US Commerce Department will now instruct the **US Customs and Border Protection (USCBP)** to collect difference between sales value and fair value from importers of the stainless steel flanges from China and India.

- **Htin Kyaw**, Myanmar’s **first democratically elected President**, announced his retirement.

- China is all set to build world’s fastest **265 meter-long hypersonic wind tunnel**
  - It would be used to help in the development of spacecraft.

- **Hellenic Space Agency**, Greece’s first space agency was officially launched
  - Dr. Tom Krimigis, who is regarded as ‘Space Exploration Pioneer’ has been appointed Chairperson of the Board of Hellenic Space Agency.

- **International Energy Agency (IEA)** has stated that Global energy-related carbon emissions rose to a historic high of **32.5 gigatons in 2017**.
Largely attributed to higher energy demand and the slowing of energy efficiency improvements.

- **Australia** has abolished its employer-sponsored **457 visa programme** which was mainly used by Indians.
  - The 457 visa programme has been replaced with a new programme that requires higher English-language proficiency and job skills.

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- United States (US) challenged China at World Trade Organisation (WTO) over intellectual property breaches.

- **Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro** decided to remove three zeros of the Venezuelan currency Bolivar fuerte with effect from June 4, 2018.
  - This decision is aimed at controlling the prevailing hyperinflationary situation across Venezuela which witnessed **6147 percent price rise in last 12 months**.

- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo and Indonesia** have signed Brazzaville Declaration that promotes better management and conservation of Cuvette Centrale region in the Congo Basin, the world’s largest tropical peatlands.
  - Peatlands are wetlands that contain a mixture of partially decomposed organic material.

- **Malaysia’s government** proposed new legislation to counter fake news, under which, offender will be penalised with **10-year jail term**.
  - The bill defines fake news as any news, information, data and reports presented in the form of print, visuals or audio, which contains wholly or partly false content.

- **Indian Navy’s Talwar class frigate INS Tarkash** carried out a greeting and training exercise with the U.S. Navy’s Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group (TRCSG).

- The United Arab Emirates, with the help of Korea Electric Power Corp., has finished construction of its **first commercial nuclear reactor**.

- Seychelles’ opposition coalition (which holds a majority in Seychelles Parliament) stated that it would not ratify a **deal signed with India to build military infrastructure on its Assumption Island**.
- Russia has successfully test fired its latest nuclear Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) RS-28 Sarmat. This missile can carry an array of warheads capable of dodging missile defences.
- Pakistan successfully test fired indigenously developed Submarine launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) BABUR III.
  - SLCM BABUR III has a strike range of 450 KMs and is capable of delivering various types of payloads.
- China successfully launched a Long March 3B rocket carrying two Beidou-3MEO satellites: Beidou-30 and Beidou-31 from the LC2 Launch Complex of the Xichang Satellite Launch Center, Sichuan province, China.
- The 44 African countries from total 55 members of African Union (AU) have signed agreement to create African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), one of the world’s largest free trade blocs. The agreement was signed at a summit held in Kigali, Rwanda.
BANKING AND ECONOMY:

- **Online Food ordering and delivery platform Swiggy** has partnered with the **country's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank** to roll out two digital solutions to facilitate the transfer of funds for its delivery partners.
  - Swiggy’s delivery partners will have **their own UPI handle**, to which they can link their savings bank account and start transacting by using any UPI-enabled app like ICICI Bank ‘Pockets’, ‘Google Tez’, ‘BHIM’, etc.

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** has allowed the **amalgamation of Allahabad Bank** with its wholly own subsidiary - **All Bank Finance Ltd (ABFL)**

- **BHEL** has entered into a **technology collaboration agreement (TCA)** with **HLB Power, Republic of Korea**.

- **ISRO** has entered into a **Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA)** with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)**, to transfer the technology for the manufacture of space grade Li-Ion cells.
  - The TTA was signed at ISRO Headquarters, Bengaluru.

- **Reliance Industries Ltd** announced an integration with leading music app **Saavn** for its digital music service **JioMusic**.

- **HDFC Bank** signed an agreement with the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** under which the bank will facilitate a host of services to the public procurement portal for Central and state government organisations.

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has launched a new ‘**Yellow Army Savings Account**’ to increase its customer base through its association with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK), a franchise of the Indian Premium League (IPL).
  - Interest of 6% p.a. – for balance below Rs 10 Lakhs
  - Of 6.5% p.a.- above Rs10 Lakhs

- **SWIFT** announces the extension of its GPI Tracker to cover all payment instructions sent across the network, enabling **GPI banks to track all their SWIFT payment instructions** at all times, and giving them full visibility over all their payments activity.
  - **SWIFT**: Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication Code.
A SWIFT code is an international bank code that identifies particular banks worldwide. It's also known as a Bank Identifier Code (BIC).

- Google has acquired US-based Tenor, a GIF platform for Android, iOS, and desktop.
- The Export-Import Bank, Exim Bank has announced that it will provide a USD 500 million credit facility to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to fund various development projects in western-south Africa.
- The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 58.9 crore on ICICI Bank Limited for non-compliance with the directions issued by the RBI on direct sale of securities from its Held To Maturity (HTM) portfolio and specified disclosure in this regard.

- Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to allow Physical Settlement in derivatives.
  - Currently, equity derivatives are cash settled, which means the difference between the entry price and exit price is either debited or credited in cash.
  - In physical settlement, traders will have to take delivery of shares on the settlement day against the derivatives positions.
  - The move is expected to revive the stock lending and borrowing market but it could impact activity in futures and options.
  - Physical settlement in derivatives is nothing but settling of a trade by give and take of shares rather than cash.

- Reintroduction of the tax on long-term capital gains (LTCG) exceeding Rs 1 lakh from the sale of shares, will kick in from 01st April 2018, the beginning of the 2018-19 financial year.
  - Tax proposals like the reduced corporate tax of 25 percent on businesses on a turnover of up to Rs 250 crore and a standard deduction of Rs 40,000 in lieu of transport allowance and medical reimbursement, will come into effect from 01st April 2018.

- Rivigo, a homegrown logistics start-up that owns as well as acts as an aggregator of trucks, is tying up with YES Bank, IDFC, and 10 other financial institutions to make cheaper funds available to truck owners and operators on its platform.
The funds will be available at an interest rate of 1-2 percent per month, lower than the usual industry standard of 2-3 percent.

- **Amazon.com Inc. surpassed Alphabet Inc.** in terms of market value for the first time.
  - Amazon - market capitalization of $768 billion.
  - Alphabet Inc. – Market Capitalization of $762.6 billion.

- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** has announced that it will commence futures trading in **brass**
  - It will be for the **first time** that a Brass Futures contract will be traded on an organised exchange **anywhere in the world**.

- **Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg** stated that India is on track to double the size of its economy to **$5 trillion by 2025**
  - India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in value terms currently stands at USD 2.5 trillion, making it the sixth largest economy in the world.
  - Inflation will be contained within the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI’s) target of **4 per cent, plus/minus 2 per cent**

- SBI Cards announced that it has partnered with **Indian Medical Association (IMA)** to launch ‘**Doctor’s SBI Card**’, which has been designed to complement the distinct lifestyles and needs of doctors.
  - Unique proposition of ‘Doctor’s SBI Card’ is the **professional indemnity insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh** to protect doctors against professional risks and liabilities.

- **Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) in India** will facilitate to set up ‘**WomenInTech (WIT) Forum** that will work towards encouraging women to take up careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
  - **Deloitte** is the knowledge partner for this initiative.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon roll out limited edition **coins of Rs 350 denomination** to mark the **350th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji**.
  - It will be made up of Quaternary Alloy – Silver (50 per cent), Copper (40 per cent), Nickel (5 per cent) and Zinc (5 per cent).
o The reverse face of the coin shall bear the picture of “Takht Shri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib”. Inscription “350TH PRAKASH UTSAV OF SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI” in Devanagari shall be written on the upper periphery and the same would be written in English language on the lower periphery of the coin.

➢ SEBI accepted 40 recommendations out of the 80 recommendations of Uday Kotak Committee on Corporate Governance.

➢ Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (formerly Janalakshmi Financial Services) commenced operations as a small finance bank.

➢ With an objective to encourage early-stage start-ups, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to double the investment limit by angel funds in venture capital undertakings to Rs. 10 crore.

  o Angel funds/investors, encourage entrepreneurship by financing small start-ups at a stage when they find it difficult to obtain capital from conventional sources of finance such as banks and financial institutions.
  o SEBI board has approved amendments to Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) regulations with respect to ‘Angel Funds.’

➢ Fino Payments Bank is planning to deploy multi-utility Android-based mPOS devices across 10000 banking points across India in a phased manner.

  o mPOS stands for mobile Point Of Sale.

➢ Nepal Rastra Bank (Nepal’s Central Bank) has permitted domestic commercial banks to borrow funds from foreign banks and financial institutions.

  o The permission has been granted in order to resolve liquidity crunch prevailing in Nepal’s banking system since past few months.
  o However, loans borrowed from abroad are to be utilised for financing only productive sectors such as agriculture, tourism, hydropower and outer infrastructure projects. It cannot be used to lend to the real estate sector in Nepal.

➢ Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched voicebot ‘Keya’, the first artificial intelligence-powered voicebot in Indian banking sector.

  o Can understand both Hindi and English.
  o Keya’ is powered by Nuance (the technology behind Apple’s Siri).
In order to prevent the possibility of manipulation in the prices of securities, especially government securities (G-Secs), on the last trading day of a quarter, Reserve Bank of India has changed the methodology used for their valuation by debt market players, including banks and primary dealers.

- Security/bond valuation will be based on the weighted average price of the last half-an-hour of trading on the last trading day of every quarter. Earlier the valuation was based on last traded price.
- The methodology as to how the bonds are valued is crucial for mark-to-market (MTM) purposes. MTM entails recording the price or value of a security to reflect the current market value rather than the book value.
APPOINTMENTS:

- **John Bolton Replaces** McMaster as US National Security Adviser
- **Vodafone Group Plc’s Indian unit and Idea Cellular**, which are in the process of merging their operations to create the country’s biggest telecoms carrier, named **Vodafone** veteran Balesh Sharma as the new chief executive for the combined venture.
  - **Kumar Mangalam Birla** will be the non-executive chairman of the merged telecoms company.
- **Martin Vizcarra** has been sworn in as the country's new president of Peru
- **The Government of India** has decided to nominate Prof. J S Rajput, former Director NCERT, as India’s representative to the Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO
- **Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan** was appointed the principal scientific adviser to the government of India.
- **Indu Bhushan** was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Union Government’s ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM).
- **Win Myint** has been elected as the new President of Myanmar.
- Supreme Court appointed **Justice Jawad Rahim** as acting chairman of the National Green Tribunal
- Veteran director **Shekhar Kapur** has been appointed the chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards.
- **Sherry Rehman** became the first woman Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, the upper house of parliament, in Pakistan.
- **Pradosh Kumar Rath** to be new chairman cum managing director of RINL
- Cricketer **Rahul Dravid** will be the state election icon for Karnataka Assembly polls.
- **Lt Gen Harpal Singh** was appointed as Director General Border Roads (DGBR).
- **Abiye Ahmed** was elected as the new prime minister of Ethiopia.
- **Rosemary DiCarlo** was named UN Political Chief, becoming the first female UN Political Chief.
- Egyptian President **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** got re-elected for a second term.
- Andhra Pradesh government appointed shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** as a Deputy Collector.
R Dinesh, Joint Managing Director of T V Sundram Iyengar and Sons, has been elected Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Southern Region for the 2018-19 period.

Anoop Kumar Mittal was given one year extension as the chairman and MD (CMD) of NBCC with effect from 1st April 2018.

Government has appointed former chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Vineet Joshi, as the first Director-General (DG) of the National Testing Agency.

Chandra Bhushan Kumar elected as the Deputy Election Commissioner.
AWARDS:

- **Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands** won the prestigious **6.0-million-kroner Abel Prize** for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory.

- **The NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) pavilion at 105th Indian Science Congress** has been adjudged as **Best Design Pavilion**.

- **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** has received the ‘**Most Informative Pavilion’ Award** in Pride of India Expo organized as part of the **105th Indian Science Congress** at Manipur University, Imphal.

- **G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award for journalism** to senior journalist and television presenter **Karan Thapar**.

- **South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF)**, a London based organisation has received the **Frederick Pincott Award for 2017** from the **Indian High Commissioner, Y K Sinha** for promoting Hindi cinema in Britain for the last 18 years.

- ‘**We Are Sikhs’** campaign that was launched in April 2017 in America, has received the 2018 PRWeek US award, nicknamed the ‘**Oscars of the Public Relations Industry**’, in the category of Public Cause.
  - **Was launched by National Sikh Campaign**

- **The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru**, was presented the **Skytrax award** for being voted as the best regional airport in India and Central Asia by air travelers, at the World Airport Awards at Stockholm in Sweden.

- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad, Gujarat** has received the ‘**Most Improved Airport’ award** in the Asia Pacific region, in **Airport Service Quality awards 2017 organised by the Airport Council International (ACI)**.

- **Chhattisgarh** has won the National ‘**Water Digest Award**’ for Water Conservation- Diversion and increasing the irrigation capacity in Chhattisgarh.

- President Kovind presented three **Kirti Chakra**, 17 **Shaurya Chakra**, 14 **Param Vishisht Seva Medals (PVSM)**, one **Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM)** and 22 **Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (AVSM)**.
○ Kirti Chakra is the second highest peacetime gallantry award (After Ashok Chakra)

➢ Two Indian activists Miralini Dayal and Yogesh Kumar have been selected among 20 finalists for the Commonwealth Youth Awards 2018 for their contribution towards achieving gender equality.

➢ India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi has retained the top spot on ‘IE 100 2018’, The List of Most Powerful Indians

➢ Lyricist and director Sreekumaran Thampi has been selected for the J.C. Daniel Award, the Kerala government’s highest honour for lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema
IMPORTANT DAYS:

- **World Water Day** - March 22
  - The theme this year is, ‘Nature for Water’

- **World Tuberculosis Day** - 24 March
  - The theme of World TB Day 2018 - “Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world”.

- **World Theatre Day** – March 27

- **On 21st March 2018, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** was observed all over the world.
  - It commemorates the Sharpeville massacre in which 69 people were inhumanly killed for peacefully demonstrating against apartheid in South Africa on 21st March 1960.
  - Theme - Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination.

- **World Poetry Day** – March 21

- **International Day of Forests** – March 21
  - Theme - Forests and Sustainable Cities.

- **World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD)** – March 21
  - The focus for World Down syndrome Day 2018 is: #WhatIBringToMyCommunity – how people with Down syndrome can contribute in schools, workplaces, community, public and political life, culture, media, recreation, leisure and sport.
  - “Twilights Children” was released during the National Conference on Down Syndrome 2018 held in New Delhi.

- **The Punjab Government observed 23 March, the martyrdom day of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Sukhdev and Shaheed Rajguru as ‘Youth Empowerment Day’**

- **23rd March 2018- World Meteorological Day**
  - The theme for World Meteorological Day 2018 is: “Weather-Ready, Climate-Smart.”
➢ The birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar (14th April) will be celebrated as ‘Social Justice Day’.  
➢ On 24th March 2018, Earth Hour 2018 was observed all over the world  
   o India pledged “Give Up To Give Back” on Earth Hour 2018. People all over the world observed the Earth Hour 2018 by switching off non-essential lights for an hour between 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
   o It is organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). 
➢ On 25th March 2018, International Day of Solidarity with detained and missing staff members was observed all over the world.
➢ On 25th March 2018, International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was observed all over the world.
   o Theme - Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality
SPORTS:

- Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan won gold in 10-meter women’s air rifle event and become the season’s first junior at ISSF World Cup in Sydney, Australia.
- Mercedes Driver, Lewis Hamilton takes record 7th Pole at Australian Grand Prix.
- Shooter Manu Bhaker secured India's second individual gold after prevailing over Thailand's Kanyakorn Hirunphoem in a thrilling final of the women's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney, Australia.
- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chooses PV Sindhu as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.
- India’s 15-year-old shooter Anish Bhanwala won a gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup in the 25 meter rapid fire pistol event in Sydney, Australia.
- Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) won a dramatic Australian Grand Prix after leapfrogging Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) during a safety car period.
- Pankaj Advani wins Asian Billiards Championships Title.
- The India U-16 team emerged champions in the Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament with a victory over Hong Kong U-17 in the final in Hong Kong.
- The duo of Manu Bhaker and Anmol secured India’s seventh gold medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney, Australia.
- Indian shooter Muskan Bhanwala clinched the gold medal in women’s 25m pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney, Australia.
- Indian women’s cricket team captain Mithali Raj was adjudged ‘Sportsperson of the Year’ at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017 in Hyderabad.
- Ace shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and P V Sindhu bagged the best senior male and female athletes at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017 in Hyderabad.
The National Boxing Academy in Rohtak, Haryana, is to host the World Series of Boxing (WSB) clash between Indian Tigers and the Astana Arlans from Kazakhstan on 31st March 2018.

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli’s wax figure will soon be unveiled at Madame Tussauds, Delhi.

Steve Smith and David Warner were banned from playing for Australia by Cricket Australia after the ball-tampering scandal during the Cape Town Test against South Africa.

17th Sub-junior National Wushu Championship started in Jammu.

Zimbabwe Cricket sacked its entire coaching staff and removed Graeme Cremer as captain after their failure to qualify for the 2019 World Cup.

Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) appointed Irfan Pathan as the coach-cum-mentor of its senior stateside for the 2018-19 season.
MISCELLANEOUS:

- **Les Payne**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and columnist for Newsday who fiercely championed racial equality has passed away.
  - He won Pulitzer Prize for Heroin Trail series
  - The [Pulitzer Prize](https://www.pulitzer.org/) is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States.

- Bollywood actress-producer **Anushka Sharma** and Badminton Ace **P V Sindhu** have featured in the [forbes 30 under 30 in asia 2018 list](https://www.forbes.com/30under30/

- NASA is all set to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars.
  - **InSight**—a stationary lander—will also be the first Nasa mission since the Apollo moon landings to place a seismometer, a device that measures quakes, on the soil of another planet.

- **Sudan**, the last surviving northern white male rhinoceros of the world, died at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia national park, Kenya.

- Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has developed “**Fluorimeter**”, an instrument that measures traces of uranium in water.
  - Fluorimeter has been developed by the **Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT)**, unit of DAE based in Indore.

- Journalist **Ghulam Muhammad Mustafa** died.

- **Linda Brown**, who helped to end US school segregation, passed away.

- US space agency, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced that during 2018, it will launch two new satellite missions to enhance the view of Earth’s frozen regions.
  - **Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On (GRACE-FO)** - which will track fluctuations in Earth’s gravity field in order to detect changes in mass, including the mass of ice sheets and aquifers.
Ice, Cloud, and Land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2) - will be launched to measure the changing elevation of ice around the world.

Scientists have discovered new organ in human body and have named it as ‘interstitium’. It will be the 80th organ in the human body. It might be also the biggest organ in Human Body.