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NATIONAL NEWS

➢ **The 9th India Japan Energy Dialogue** was held in **New Delhi**
  o Objective – To work together for energy security and energy access
  o Discussions on Electric Vehicles

➢ **India** is ranked **joint-sixth** in the list of **doping violations** with 69 cases, same as that of Russia

➢ According to report for samples collected in 2016 by **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**
  o The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the **International Olympics Committee** based in Canada to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports

➢ **The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** will be held in holy city of **Varanasi** (Uttar Pradesh) from **January 21 to January 23, 2019**.
  o Its theme will be “**Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India**”.
  o The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on **January 9** to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India.

➢ **HARIMAU Shakti** - First ever Bilateral joint military training exercise between **India and Malaysia**.

➢ **The commerce ministry** has asked **FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)** and **customs authorities** to clear **import consignments** of **food products** in about **48 hours at ports** with a view to promote ease of doing business at trade front.
  o It will help India to improve its ranking in **Trading Across Borders** which is one of the 10 parameters of ease of doing business.
  o India ranked **146th in Trading Across Borders** component ranked by World Bank in its latest report.
➢ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 1958 will continue in Nagaland as it is a special case and the peace agreement hasn’t been finalised.
   o Nagaland is the only state in the north east India, apart from eight police stations in Arunachal Pradesh, where the AFSPA continues to be imposed by Union Ministry.

➢ From 2019, State schools in Rajasthan will observe February 14 as Matr-Pitr Pujan Diwas (Mother – father Puja Day)
   o It has been done to counter the growing influence of Western culture among the teenagers.

➢ Village is declared electrified if 10% of its households have connection as per the Power Ministry.
   o Electrified implies that a village has been connected to the grid. It does not imply that all households have access to electricity.

➢ Makkal Needhi Maiam (Political Party based out of Tamil Nadu) leader Kamal Hassan launched ‘Maiam Whistle’ app.
   o Which will be used to flag civic and socio political issues.

➢ The government has decided not to cut any excise duty on fuels.
   o Domestic Cooking Gas (LPG) – The only commodity that is subsidised now
   o India has the highest retail prices of petrol and diesel among the South Asian nations as taxes account for half of the pump rates.

➢ Cabinet approvals
   o Restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme for its continuation during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram.
   o Doubling of Investment Limit for Senior Citizens from Rs. 7.5 lakh to Rs.15 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Vaya VandanaYojana (PMVVY) - Enables upto Rs.
10,000 Pension/month for Senior Citizens. **LIC of India** has been given the sole privilege to operate this scheme

- Subscription period for this scheme has also been extended from 4th May 2018 to 31st March, 2020.
  - Approved restructuring of the **Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)** by upgradation, creation and abolition of certain Joint Secretary-level posts and above

- **Cadre review and formation of Group ‘A’ service of the technical cadre of Petroleum & Safety Organization (PESO)** has been approved
  - The new service has been named **Indian Petroleum & Explosives Safety Service (IPESS)**.
  - **PESO** is a subordinate office under **Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)**

- **Telecom Commission** approved a proposal for **allowing people to make phone calls and use internet services in domestic and international flights in India**, with certain riders. The connection will be made available when the aircraft reaches an altitude of 3000 metres.
  - Also, a **Telecom Ombudsman** will be created to deal with telecom grievances.

- **Draft of the new telecom policy** named **National Digital Communications Policy, 2018** has been released.
  - The policy aims at creating 40 lakh new jobs by 2022, attracting **100 billion US dollars investment** in the sector and ensuring broadband coverage at 50 mbps for every citizen.
  - Constituting a **Spectrum Advisory Team (SAT)** to facilitate the identification of new bands and applications.
- Enhancing the contribution of the digital communications sector to **eight per cent** of India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from around **six per cent** in 2017

- Approval has been given to accede **Protocol under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on tobacco control** to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.
  - It will be **applicable to both smoking and chewing or smokeless tobacco (SLT) forms**
  - India is a **party** to WHO FCTC.

- President Ram Nath Kovind **officiate** the first meeting of the **national committee set up for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**, in 2019
  - 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will be commemorated **from 2nd October, 2019 to 2nd October, 2020**.

- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is conducting a two-day National Workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database in New Delhi
  - NDMA is conducting this workshop in collaboration with **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** and **United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)**.

- **Maharashtra** became the first state of India to provide **digitally-signed land record receipts** (also known as **7/12 receipts**).
  - The document establishes the **ownership of the land**
  - Farmers are required to provide it while applying for loans. Besides, it is also used by the government during crop surveys and to extend various facilities.

- Haryana State Government has decided **to adopt startup ranking framework issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)**.
• The Startup ranking framework covers **seven areas** of interventions with a total of **38 action points** and overall score of **100 marks**.
• Last year, **Haryana State Government** had launched the entrepreneur and start-up policy during the Digital Haryana Summit, **2017**.

➢ **Kisan Kalayan karyashala (workshops)** were held at all block levels all over India
  • The Kisan Kalyan workshops are part of **Gram Swaraj Abhiyan** initiative.
  • The Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is a campaign focussed on rural regions that began on 14th April 2018 to promote **social harmony, spread awareness about pro-poor initiatives of government, reach out to poor households to enrol them as also to obtain their feedback on various welfare programmes**

➢ The Union Cabinet has approved the **continuation** of **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)** beyond 12th Five Year Plan for a period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a **cost of Rs. 14,832 crores**.
  • Plans to set up 20 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country and upgrade 73 medical colleges

➢ **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has given its approval for the **Umbrella Scheme, “Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana”** in agriculture sector beyond 12th Five Year Plan for the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
  • Krishonnati Yojana is geared towards developing the agriculture and allied sector in a holistic and scientific manner to increase the income of farmers by enhancing production, productivity and helping them to get better returns on produce.

➢ **Maharashtra State** will get a **new airport** at Parule Chipi in Sindhudurg district, which is expected to be functional by September 2018.
➢ 20000 troops of Indian Army’s South Western Command are participating in the ongoing ‘Vijay Prahar’ exercise near Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
  - Objective - To fine-tune joint man ship between troops of Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF).

➢ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh flagged off Antyodaya Express (completely Unreserved/General coaches designed by Indian Railways)
  - Weekly train between Durg and Firozpur Cantt.

➢ Gujarat government will start a month-long initiative named ‘Sujalam Sufalam Water Conservation Initiative’ from May 1, 2018
  - Rain water conservation
  - Reviving of 32 riverr
  - A committee led by Gujarat Chief Secretary J N Singh has been formed to oversee the project.

➢ Vibrant North East 2018’ is held in Guwahati, Assam.
  - It acts as a platform to exhibit North East’s potential and for better implementation of Central schemes in Northeast

➢ The Maharashtra government decided to recommend the declaration of an ordinance to rename the Jalgaon-based North Maharashtra University after poetess Bahinabai Chaudhari.
  - The North Maharashtra University is to be renamed as ‘Kaviyatri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University’.

➢ Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) announced that now Pensioners can view their pension passbook on mobile phones using Umang app.

➢ Union Environment Ministry has banned party poppers, stating that the devices pose a serious threat to human health and environment as they contain plastic glittering
material and the other charged chemicals mainly composed of red-phosphorous, potassium chlorate and potassium perchlorate.

➢ A task force constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) presented its report on “Establishing a Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)”.
  o This task force was constituted on August 18, 2017 and is headed by Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs.

➢ Google’s philanthropic arm Google.org has announced $3 million in grants for teacher training and educational content creation in India.
  o The organisation committed $1 million to TheTeacherApp to help them reach 5,00,000 teachers in two years, besides a $2-million grant and technical assistance from YouTube to the Central Square Foundation.

➢ India ranked 11th in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index 2018, released by Global consultant AT Kearney
  o US topped the Index
  o It tracks the impact of political, economic and regulatory changes on the FDI preferences of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of the country.

➢ India is organising a five-day cultural festival in Egypt to commemorate the 157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.
  o An exhibition on the paintings of Tagore titled ‘Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours’ will be held in Giza.

➢ In a bid to enhance ease of getting visas, Union Ministry of Home Affairs launched online “event clearance system” on May 2, 2018, aimed at granting security
clearance to foreigners wanting to visit India to attend conferences, seminars or workshops.
  - Indian missions abroad would issue **conference visa** to foreign nationals or delegates intending to attend such events

- With a view to incentivise promotion of digital payments, **a proposal of a concession of 2% in GST rate on B2C supplies (for which payment is made through cheque or digital mode, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 100 per transaction)** was discussed in 27th GST Council Meeting.
  - It was discussed to impose a sugar cess of maximum Rs 3 on each kg sold by sugar companies, over and above the 5% GST charged on sugar.

- **Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh** launched ‘Go to Village’ mission throughout the state.
  - Aimed at identifying the eligible and deserving beneficiaries in every corner of the state and delivering government services at their doorstep.

- **Pakyong airport in Sikkim**, which is scheduled to be commissioned in June 2018, will be the **100th operational airport in the country**.
  - Currently, **Sikkim is the only state in India that does not have an airport**.

- **4th Regional Conference** on ‘**Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure**’ concluded in Bengaluru on May 4, 2018.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched an initiative of **online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using the MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course) platform SWAYAM**.
  - In the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres have been chosen to prepare online training material.
  - The **training materials** will be uploaded and will be available through SWAYAM to all the teachers from **1st October each year**.
National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) has been recently set up by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation at New Delhi.

- NWIC will be a repository of nation-wide water resources data and will function as a Subordinate Office under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- A “Water Resources Information System” (WRIS) will be developed and updated in public domain for effective integrated water resources management.
- NWIC would offer a ‘Single Window’ source of updated data on water resources and related themes.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has involved Survey of India to strengthen the Ganga rejuvenation task by using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

- The project involves use of Digital Elevation Model (DEM) technology for accurate data collection.
- Two projects worth Rs. 358.43 crore have been approved to develop sewerage infrastructure in Hooghly-Chinsurah and Maheshtala municipalities of West Bengal.

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has signed a MoU for the year 2018-19 with Ministry of Power.

- Capex target for 2018-19 has been fixed at Rs. 25,000 crore.

Cognizant has acquired Hedera Consulting, a firm specializing in business advisory and data analytics services based out of Belgium.

Maharashtra Advance Ruling Authority announced that there will be no input tax credit for Krishi Cess.
Taxpayers will not be able to avail transitional input credit available for Krishi Kalyan Cess (KKC) under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

Input tax credit means that when a manufacturer pays the tax on his output, he can deduct the tax he previously paid on the input he purchased. Here, while paying the tax on his output, he can deduct or take credit for the tax he paid while purchasing inputs.

➢ The first meeting of the Defence Planning Committee headed by National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval came up with the following –
  o Four sub committees will be created under DPC
    ▪ First to look at Policy and Strategy
    ▪ Second to work on plans and capability development
    ▪ Third on Defence Diplomacy
    ▪ Fourth on Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem

➢ Haryana state government would soon set up “Gaushalas” in all the prisons.
  o The foundation stone for the first “Gaushala” has been laid down in the jail of State in Karnal

➢ The SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Amendment Act (2015) – This act protects the SCs and STs against discrimination and atrocities.
  o Popularly known as POA, the SC/ST Act or Atrocities Act
  o It lists 22 offences relating to various patterns or behaviours inflicting criminal offences and breaking the self-respect and esteem of the SC/ST Community (Like denial of economic, democratic and social rights, discrimination or exploitation)
  o Prime objective is to deliver justice to marginalised
  o Recently, Supreme court issued few guidelines that would protect public servants and private individuals from arbitrary and immediate arrest under the Act on March 20.
Earlier there were no provisions for **anticipatory bail**. But the same has been suggested by Supreme Court in the verdict made on March 20.

➢ **CPEC** – The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
   - In April, 2015, China signed a US $46 billion investment deal with Pakistan.
   - It will cover one of the world’s largest overseas projects which will connect **Kashgar’s Xinjiang** in China with **Balochistan’s Gwadar** in Pakistan.
   - It is a flagship project under **Belt and Road Initiative**
   - The **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI) is a development strategy proposed by the Chinese government that focuses on connectivity and cooperation between Eurasian countries, primarily the **People's Republic of China (PRC)**, the **land-based Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB)** and the **ocean-going Maritime Silk Road (MSR)**.
   - India registered its protest with the objective that CPEC passed through **PoK** (Pakistan occupied Kashmir). Also, it violates India’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

➢ The Ministry of Women and Child Development Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi organized a Day long National Conference on **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** (BBBP) held in New Delhi in which **244 Districts** are selected under this scheme.
   - The Scheme is a **Tri-Ministerial Initiative of Ministry of Women & child development, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare & Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
   - Successful Districts in BBBP
     - Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
     - Sikar, Rajasthan
     - Sonepat, Haryana
   - These Districts achieved the target by implementing Several Initiatives, they are:
     - **Celebration of birth of girl child**
     - **Displaying birth statistics through digital Guddi Gudda boards**
     - **Oath taking ceremonies**
linking of birth of girl child with Sukanya Samriddhi accounts
plantation drives through involvement of urban local bodies
sealing of unregistered ultrasonography machines.

➢ An Exhibition called ‘India and the World: A History in Nine Stories’ will be inaugurated at the National Museum auditorium, New Delhi
   o It deeps into two million years of history
   o This exhibition will be a part of memorial of 70 years of India’s independence and a year of major cultural exchange between India and the UK

➢ Indus dolphin is one of the world’s rarest mammals found only in India and Pakistan.
   o The first organized census on Indus dolphins are conducting by the Punjab government along with WWF-India.

➢ NITI Aayog and IBM signed a Statement of Intent to:
   o Introduce technology to provide perspective to farmers to improve the
     ▪ Productivity of Crops
     ▪ Soil Yields
     ▪ Farmer’s Incomes
   o The Project is Implemented using Artificial Intelligence by which Farmers get to know about the Climate Change, Crop Monitoring and Early Warning on Pest & Disease Outbreak.
   o The first phase of the project will focus on developing the model for 10 Aspirational Districts across the States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

➢ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu is on a for a five-day visit to South America’s Guatemala, Peru and Panama
➢ GST Council in its 27th meeting
   o Constituted two Group of Ministers (GoM) to consider issues related to Incentivizing digital payments in GST regime & Imposition of Cess on Sugar under GST
   o Approved proposal of convert GST Network (GSTN) into government entity from current private entity status by taking over stakes held by private entities.
     ▪ The council has agreed to buy out stake of private entities in GSTN. Following the move, central government will own 50% in GSTN and the remaining will be collectively held by state governments
     ▪ GSTN was set up as not for profit, non-Government, private limited company in 2013
   o Simplified tax return Filing System
     ▪ All taxpayers excluding few exceptions like composition dealer will file one monthly return
     ▪ Taxpayer will be given user-friendly IT interface and offline IT tool to upload the invoices
     ▪ There will be no automatic reversal of input tax credit from buyer on non-payment of tax by seller.
     ▪ Recovery of tax or reversal of input tax credit will be through due process of issuing notice and order.
     ▪ The new simplified return filing process will be implemented in three-stage transition.
     ▪ The stage I is the present system of filing of return GSTR 3B and GSTR 1. GSTR 2 and GSTR 3 will be suspended in Stage I which will continue for maximum period of 6 months by which time new return software is ready.
     ▪ In stage 2, new return will have facility for invoice-wise data upload and also facility for claiming input tax credit on self-declaration basis, as in case of GSTR 3B now.
➢ A ‘Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme’ was held at Huda Convention Centre, Sector-12, Faridabad, Haryana.
   o Cochlear Implant is an advanced technology to help children with severe deafness in both ears.
   o Through “Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas”, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment along with Indian Red Cross Society and Sarvodaya Hospital & Research Centre, the facility is being provided to poor people also.

➢ Aajeevika and Kaushal Vikas Melas were held in various parts of India as part of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
   o Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized a Kaushal and Rojgar Mela at New Women’s College in Khordha, Bhubaneswar
   o Gram Swaraj Abhiyan - The campaign is undertaken under the name of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Gaon, Sabka Vikas".
   o The objective of the campaign is to promote social harmony, spread awareness about pro-poor initiatives of government, reach out to poor households to enroll them as also to obtain their feedback on various welfare programmes.

➢ With the help of World Bank’s assist NITI Aayog confirmed that there was no cheating of funds occurred in the Centre’s ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), expertise on fraud detection and prevention.
   o Indu Bhushan is the CEO of AB-NHPM

➢ India dropped down two places from 136 in 2017 to 138 in 2018 as per the World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders.
   o The report measures the level of media freedom in 180 countries.
   o Justice C.K Prasad, Press Council of India Chairman mentioned RWB’s annual report has “lack of clarity” on the inputs that weighed in the rankings which were based on “opinion or perception”.

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RBI CURRENT AFFAIRS - (PHASE I) – MAY 2018
ANUJ JINDAL

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➢ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovitch Alimov arrived in New Delhi to hold talks with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and other Union ministers
  o India became a full member of SCO in June 2017, at an international summit held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

➢ An important peptide that can be used to create a new preventive vaccine against leptospirosis has been found out by researchers from the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, Gandhinagar.
  o Leptospirosis is a tropical infectious disease. At present there is no preventive vaccine for Leptospirosis.
  o Leptospira interrogans is the bacteria responsible for leptospirosis.

➢ Government of India signed a loan deal worth $200 million with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan).
  o This loan will help India to reach its goal of reducing stunting in children of the age 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.
  o POSHAN (PM’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan
  o The Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight

➢ Indian Space Research Organization has developed an atomic clock to be used in navigation satellites to measure clear-cut location data.
  o The desi atomic clock is being developed by the Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad
  o Currently, ISRO imports atomic clocks from European aerospace manufacturer Astrium for navigation satellites.

➢ India is going to host 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi from May 10-12, 2018.
The summit is being organised by Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) in collaboration with its partners and international organisations.

The theme of the annual summit is “Telling our Stories- Asia and More”.

The 'First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities' was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

The Smart Cities Mission (SCM), has been one of the most transformational urban missions since its launch in June 2015

It is organized for offering a platform for cross learning and knowledge sharing among the Smart City CEOs.

The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed MoU with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for the year 2018-19.

The corporation projects to increase its total business by 21.30% from Rs. 22,258 crore in the year 2017-18 to Rs. 27,000 crore in the year 2018-19.

The third edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) was inaugurated in New Delhi.

The course is being conducted by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India (CUNPK) in partnership with the United States.

India’s total export of finished steel increased by 16.7% to 9.6 million tonnes, in 2017-18. The country exported 8.2 million tonnes finished steel during 2016-17 fiscal, according to the Joint Plant Committee report.

Joint Plant Committee is the only institution which collects data on the Indian iron and steel industry.

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) approved its Rs 5137-crore annual budget, focusing on expansion of sewage and water supply networks in the uncovered areas.
- Rs 2350 crore is for plan and Rs 2787.6 crore is for non-plan expenditures for 2018-19

➢ 19th edition of TOONZ Animation Masters Summit was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 4th and 5th May, 2018.
  - V G Samant, pioneer of Indian animation and creator was honoured with the ‘Legend of Animation’ award for his contributions to the animation industry.

➢ Madhya Pradesh State Government launched India’s first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for all seven smart cities of the state in Bhopal.
  - The ICCC will enable State authorities to monitor the status of various smart civic amenities in real-time through the sensors connected to it.
  - ICCC is a cloud-based Universal Internet of Things (UIoT) platform, developed by Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE).
  - Cities of Madhya Pradesh that have been selected under Smart Cities Mission are Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Satna, and Sagar.

➢ Maharashtra State Cabinet decided to provide Rs 3 subsidy for every litre of milk to the co-operative and private producers to manufacture milk powder.
  - This decision is aimed at encouraging production of milk powder from surplus milk.

➢ The first edition of 2018 Bi-annual Naval Commander’s Conference is held in New Delhi.

➢ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the official ‘NCBN’ (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App in the Collector’s conference held at Amaravati.
To implement effective Governance

The app will notify people in real-time with news updates. It will be a direct platform for the common people to interact with the government.

➢ ‘Star Khel Mahakumbh’ in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh
  o The aim of the event is to attract participation from at least 100000 youngsters from Anurag Thakur’s Hamirpur constituency.

➢ India has slipped to the 6th position globally in the business optimism index for the first quarter of 2018, as per Grant Thornton’s quarterly global business survey
  o Biz Optimism Index – Top 5:

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➢ Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) in its Programme Approval Board (PAB) meeting has approved setting up additional 100 One Stop Centres (OSCs) for women affected by violence.
  o Services such as police assistance, medical aid, psycho-social counselling, legal aid and counselling, temporary stay for 5 days etc. under one roof.
  o These OSCs will be set up in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

➢ The NITI Aayog has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with search engine giant Google to work together to foster growth for India’s nascent artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) ecosystem.
➢ The PMI has picked up both in manufacturing and in services.
   ○ The Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) is an indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing sector.
   ○ The PMI is based on five major indicators: new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment.

➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked ninth on Forbes’ 2018 list of ‘the world’s most powerful people’.
   ○ Chinese President Xi Jinping ranked first, followed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump at the second and third rank, respectively.
   ○ The only other Indian to feature on the list is Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani at 32

➢ Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is planning to expand Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in Tribal Districts across India.

➢ President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to Delhi government’s proposed Bill to amend the Minimum Wages Act.
   ○ As per the amended act, employers violating labour rules in Delhi will now face fine ranging from Rs 20,000- Rs 50,000 and jail term between one to three years.
   ○ Minimum wages for an unskilled worker in Delhi is Rs 13350 per month, for semi-skilled, it is Rs 14698 and for skilled persons is Rs 16182.

➢ Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has approved modern, animal-free tests for drug manufacturers.
   ○ The editions of Indian Pharmacopoeia provides guidelines on tests for drugs manufactured and marketed in India
   ○ As per the new guidelines that will come into effect from July 1, 2018, pyrogen test (carried out to check impurity or substance that can cause adverse side-
effects) will be replaced by a bacterial endotoxin test or a monocyte activation test which can be carried out in test tubes.

- **Under pyrogen test**, the drug is injected into a rabbit and the animal is closely observed for feverish symptoms.
- As per the new guidelines, for the abnormal toxicity test, vaccine manufacturers can **apply for waiver** by getting a compliance certificate from the National Control Laboratory.
- Under abnormal toxicity test, **mice or guinea pigs** are injected with the vaccine and then, scientists observe if there is death of any animal.

- **Fifteenth Finance Commission** has constituted an **Advisory Council** to advise and assist the commission.
  - One of the functions of advisory council will be **to advise the Commission on any relevant issue or subject related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission**.
  - It will also assist in the preparation of any paper or research study

- **Investment Board Nepal (IBN)** has granted licence to **Satluj Jala Vodyut Nigam Power Development Company** to generate power from the Arun-3 Hydropower Project that is located in Nepal.
  - **Satluj Jala Vodyut Nigam Power Development Company** is a subsidiary of Indian government-owned **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd**
  - The company has paid **Nepali Rupees 5 million as licence fee** to the board. Indian government has approved investment of Rs 57.24 billion proposed by SJVN in Arun-3 Hydropower Project.

- As per **International Monetary Fund (IMF’s)**, Asia and Pacific Regional and Economic Outlook Report, India will be the fastest growing major economy in 2018, clocking a growth rate of **7.4 per cent**.
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released the draft amendment of telecommunication interconnection regulations.

- Each carrier should provide its forecast of busy hour outgoing traffic for each Point of Interconnection (POI), at the interval of every six months -- April 1 and October 1 -- and two months from the time the rules come into effect.
- Service provider can ask another operator for additional ports or Point of Interconnection (POI), in case projected utilisation of capacity is likely to exceed 85% over 60 day period.

India and Guatemala have signed pact for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes in educational field.

India is the fourth most powerful nation in the Asia-Pacific region and has been pegged as 'giant of the future' according to the inaugural Asia Power Index published by Sydney’s Lowy Institute, among the 25 nations.

- US – First
- China – Second
- Japan – Third
- Russia - Fifth

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) increased the equity allocation in the NPS from 50% to 75%
NPS is a market-linked product that allows you the choice of four funds: government securities fund; fixed income instruments other than government securities fund; equities fund and alternative investment fund.

- There’s a 5% cap on alternative investments and 50% cap on equity investments currently.
- Going forward, the cap on equity allocation will increase to 75% bringing the active choice option.

Recently, government has decided to increase the validity of WHO’s Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certification to 3 years from existing two years.

- It is for companies exporting pharma products to other countries.
The move is expected to boost pharma exports and aims to promote ease of doing business.

- India launched auction for 9th city gas distribution (CGD) licensing round offering permits for selling compressed and piped natural gas (CNG and PNG).
  - A floor tariff of Rs 30 for city gas and Rs 2 per kg for CNG has been set to prevent bidders from quoting unviable low tariffs.
  - Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), which organised a road show to promote the auction, expects that this round will attract investment to the tune of Rs 70000 crore.

- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the website of Digital India Internship Scheme in New Delhi.
  - Under this scheme, 25 interns will be inducted for a period of three months.

- Telecom regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued a draft to amend interconnect regulations, proposing certain changes in terms and conditions for operators to seek fresh call connect ports from other telcos.
  - The ‘draft Telecommunication Interconnection (Amendment) Regulations 2018’ proposed that a service provider can ask another operator for additional ports, in case the projected utilisation of the capacity is likely to exceed 85% over 60 day period.

- Ram Nath Kovind became the second president of India to visit Indian Army’s Siachen base camp.
  - President Ram Nath Kovind is also the Supreme Commander of Indian armed forces.
  - Siachen base camp is also known as the “Third Pole” where temperatures drop to minus 50 degrees Celsius sometimes.
  - The first President to visit was Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
➢ NITI Aayog will announced the top 30 innovations of Atal Tinkering Marathon in Delhi.
   o Atal Tinkering Labs of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, organized an Atal Tinkering Marathon, a six month long national level challenge.
   o It was conducted in six thematic areas: clean energy, water resources, waste management, healthcare, smart mobility and agri-tech.
   o Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students (Class 6th to Class 12th) learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.

➢ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari stated that government has approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles (electronic vehicles).
   o The green licence plates will make it easy to identify electric vehicles for preferential treatment in parking, free entry in congested zones and other proposed benefits like concessional toll.
   o Currently there are four kinds of vehicle number plates in India: white licence plates with numbers in black font for private vehicles, yellow plates with black font for commercial vehicles, black plates with yellow font letters for self-driven rental vehicles and blue plates with white font for Embassies and High Commissions.

➢ Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 6th US-India Aviation Summit was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
   o This three-day Summit is being jointly organised by Union Ministry of Civil Aviation and US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
   o The Summit will serve as a platform for Indian civil aviation agencies and aviation industry representatives, including private sector airlines and airport operators, to identify advanced US technologies and practices, that can support their expansion and modernization efforts.
Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has stated that India’s installed clean energy capacity has already touched 70 GW as per data compiled on March 31, 2018.

- MNRE stated that that renewable energy capacity of 11788 MW was added during last fiscal, which is the highest ever in a single year.

Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated Arunachal Pradesh’s biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park in Itanagar.

- The plant has a capacity of 1 MW. It was commissioned on 1st April 2018.
  - Estimated investment for the park is Rs 8.50 crore.
- The project was implemented by Arunachal Pradesh Energy Development Agency (APEDA).

World’s largest Indian national flag unfurled at Hyderabad, Telangana.

- The flag was 122 feet in length and 183 feet in width. The flag was prepared by an organisation called ‘Vibrants of Kalam’.

Canada’s largest pension fund Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and Allianz Capital Partners (ACP), part of insurance giant Allianz, are acting as anchor investors in the first private infrastructure investment trust in India—IndInfravit Trust.

- IndInfravit Trust, sponsored by L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Ltd (L&T IDPL), will initially acquire five operational toll roads and plans to grow in the future through additional investments in road infrastructure in India.

India has finally merged the two separate bodies handling anti-dumping and import safeguards to form the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), in line with US International Trade Commission (USITC), for providing comprehensive and swift trade defence mechanism under one umbrella.

- Currently, Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) deals with anti-dumping and countervailing duty cases, while Directorate General of
Safeguards (DGS) deals with safeguard measures and DGFT deals with quantitative restriction (QR) safeguards.

➢ The Telangana government introduced *Rythu Bandhu*, a scheme to provide Rs 8,000 per acre each to land-owning farmers for Rabi and Kharif seasons, and issued special passbooks for them
  - The state government has set aside Rs12,000 crore in the 2018-19 budget for Rythu Bandhu

➢ Indian Army’s month-long *Vijay Prahar exercise* concluded in Suratgarh, Rajasthan.
  - It was conducted by South Western Command of Indian Army.
  - The exercise was aimed to manage wide spectrum of threats including Nuclear, Chemical or Biological (NCB) attack which are planned to be tackled through high tempo joint air and land operation.

➢ The inaugural session of the *Indian Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival 2018* was held at Cannes, France. It was hosted by noted actor Sharad Kelkar.

➢ In a bid to help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, Central Government has issued orders to extend financial assistance @ of Rs. 5.50 per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18 to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane.

➢ Venkaiah Naidu has constituted a 2-member committee to review rules of procedure and conduct of business in Rajya Sabha.
  - The two-member committee will be headed by V.K. Agnihotri – Former Rajya Sabha Secretary General, while the other member will be S.R. Dhaleta – Former Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.

➢ Indian Navy is engaged in conducting a joint *Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance* of Maldives.
For this purpose, Indian Navy has deployed Indian Naval (IN) ship Sumedha, a Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV), from 9th to 17th May 2018.

This deployment is a part of Indian Navy’s ‘Mission Based Deployments’.

In context of this news, it is important to note that two officers and eight sailors of the Indian Navy’s Marine Commando (MARCO) cadre are currently conducting the 2nd Asymmetric Warfare Training Exercise ‘Ekatha 2018’ at Maldives.

India’s longest road and railway bridge “Bogibeel bridge”, linking Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh is expected to be inaugurated in 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- The bridge is 4.94 km long
- The bridge is 32 metres above the water level of the Brahmaputra River.

On 10th May 2018, a parliamentary panel headed by BJP leader Murali Manohar Joshi decided to study the recovery of black money and performance of public sector banks etc.

- The Estimates Committee consists of 30 members. It has planned to study various subjects related to several ministries in 2018-19
- The panel will overview the import of uranium for nuclear plants, mining activities and environment, upgrading of India Post offices and the drought situation in India etc.

Kerala Government approved setting up of the Kerala Fibre Optic Network Limited, the Joint Venture, to implement the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) project, as a part of its programme to offer free internet to over 20 lakh poor families.

The IAF (Indian Air Force) successfully conducted its first online selection test for airmen.
The first ever Scheduled Test for Airmen Recruitment (STAR) was held through computer based online tests in association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) Pune.

The United States Stanford University will partner with Uttar Pradesh to fight disease like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

Flipkart co-founder and Executive Chairman Sachin Bansal has announced his exit from Flipkart, following Walmart’s deal to acquire Flipkart.

Bangladesh’s first communication satellite Bangabandhu-1 will be launched by SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A.

NITI Aayog will come out with the Sustainable Development Index next month to rank states based on their performance on this field.

Indian Customs and Department of India Posts held a first-ever Joint Conference in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.

General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army the Staff released the book 'Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System' by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan, former Army Commander and Member ’A’, Armed Forces Tribunal, Lucknow Bench.

Punjab State Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with United Kingdom (UK) for setting up of bio-gas and bio- Compressed natural gas (CNG) plants in the state.
Objective of this MoU is **to find viable and sustainable solutions to paddy straw burning**

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh** launched **Vikas Yatra** from Dantewada district aimed at spreading awareness about the development
  - During the course of this Vikas Yatra, **free pesticides** will be distributed to **5.5 lakh labourers**.
  - Smart Phone will be distributed to **50 Lakh families** under Sanchar Kranti Yojana.

- Maharashtra State Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Centre’s **Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council** to train state’s **Public Works Department (PWD) officials** to rate government buildings.
  - Maharashtra has thus become the first state to sign such MoU with **GRIHA**
  - Objective behind this rating exercise is **to encourage environment friendly/green buildings, that are designed, constructed, maintained and demolished using environmentally responsible processes and materials**.

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, **Radha Mohan Singh** laid foundation stone of the frozen semen station in **Maranga, Purnea, Bihar**.
  - This has been set up under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**.
  - The “Rashtriya Gokul Mission” aims to conserve and develop indigenous breeds in a focused and scientific manner

- A notification of the **non-functional (monetary) scheme (NFS)** and its implementation for members of the general executive cadre of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Service (JKPS) has been approved in **Jammu and Kashmir**
  - This **scheme seeks placement of Jammu and Kashmir Police Service (JKPS) officers in higher scales**.
Supreme Court of India approved “Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other crimes”, a scheme for mandatory grant of compensation to victims of sexual assault and acid attack.
- Under the scheme, a compensation fund will be set up and it would be managed by State Legal Services Authority (SLSA).
- Compensation for gangrape victim will be in the range of Rs 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh, minimum compensation of Rs. 4 lakh is to be paid in case of rape or unnatural sexual assault while for acid attack victims minimum compensation will be Rs 7 lakh for total disfigurement and Rs 5 lakh in case of 50% burns.
- The grant of monetary relief is not linked with the trial of such cases in court.

Rs 16,500 crore has been allotted by 71 ministries and departments of the central government for implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in 2018-19.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated direct bus service between Janakpur (Nepal) and Ayodhya (India).
- Both are sacred cities for Hindus and bus service was launched as part of India’s Ramayan Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to promote religious tourism in Nepal and India.
- The government has identified 15 destinations in India for development under Ramayana Circuit.

Ministry of Tourism has decided to expand Buddhist tourism circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to 21 more states to make it India’s first trans-national tourist circuit.
- Currently, it is envisaged only to seven major Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- Aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalised women by imparting skills training, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has
announced to set up a skill development centre at 'Bharosa,' an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in **Hyderabad**.

- 'Bharosa,' an initiative of **Hyderabad City Police**, is a state-of-the-art centre to support women and children who are victims of violence.

- **Indian Army** has finalised a mega **15,000 crore rupees project** under which a range of ammunition for its critical weapons and tanks will be **produced indigenously**.
  - 11 private firms would be involved in the ambitious project.

- **High Level Committee** approved central assistance of **Rs1,161 crore** to 4 states and a Union Territory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Affected by subtitle</th>
<th>Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Affected by floods during 2017-18</td>
<td>Rs 480.87 crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Affected by floods/ landslides during 2017-18</td>
<td>Rs 84.60 crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Affected by Kharif drought during 2017</td>
<td>Rs 526.14 Crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>Affected by floods/ landslides during 2017-18</td>
<td>Rs 67.40 Crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
<td>Affected by cyclone Ockhi during 2017</td>
<td>2.16 Crore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **India** has become the **largest remittance-receiving country in the world**, with migrant workers from the country sending home **69 billion US dollars in 2017**
  - According to the report **‘RemitSCOPE – Remittance markets and opportunities – Asia and the Pacific’**, remittances to the Asia-Pacific region amounted to **256 billion dollars in 2017**.

- Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan launched **Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)** aimed to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors.
Under this programme **5.5 lakh individuals across India will be provided training in environment and forest sectors through 30 courses by 2021**

- Objective is skilling the youth of India, especially dropouts.
- A related app was also launched **GSDP-ENVIS**.

➢ **First workshop on Ayushman Bharat Program** was held in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on May 14, 2018.

- Under this scheme, **Government has set a target to set up 1.5 lakh wellness centres by 2022 to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare**
- It is Centrally Sponsored health insurance scheme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

➢ According to the ‘**Clampdowns and Courage-South Asia Press Freedom Report 2017-18**’, released recently by the UNESCO, **India alone accounted for 82 out of 97 instances of Internet shutdown among South Asian countries between May 2017 and April 2018**.

- Half of the cases were experienced in **Kashmir Valley**.
- **Internet shutdown** is referred to as any intentional disruption of the broadband or mobile Internet or Internet-based mobile apps, by an order of the authorities or threat of non-state party, to control communication or online content or slowing down the access to the general public.

➢ **As per report, titled ‘Impact of mortality and fertility transitions in Kerala on migration and its implications for state’s economy’** Kerala is currently experiencing an advanced demographic transition.

- As the **mortality and fertility levels have come down**, so migration will play a critical role in shaping the future demographic scenario of the state.

➢ **The first edition of the International Children’s Film Festival of Kerala** is held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

➢ **Two new National Highways have been inaugurated**-

- 4 – lane **NH15 – From Amritsar to Bhatinda – 175 Kms**
- **NH64 – From Zirakpur to Bhatinda – 216 Kms**
Also, foundation stone was laid for 2-lane with paved shoulders of the Munak-Jhakhal-Budhiana section of NH-144B in Punjab.

- A seminar on Humanitarian and Disaster relief (HADR) was conducted at Subroto Park, New Delhi.

- IIM-Ahmedabad’s Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) has launched a Bharat Inclusion Initiative to develop knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship in areas like financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health.
  - CIIE will invest in seed and pre-Series-A start-ups through Bharat Inclusion Seed Fund.

- The government announced the inclusion of 200 more wholesale mandis to the eNAM portal.
  - eNAM – e – National Agricultural Market
    - As of now 585 mandis of 14 states have been linked. These 14 states are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarkhand
    - eNAM - Its an online trading platform of agricultural commodities aimed at bringing all the wholesale mandis (marketplace) at one place electronically to help them engage in trade and transactions virtually without any geographical barriers.
    - It is also a mobile app that can be accessed through 8 different regional languages supported by it.

- Department of Telecom (DoT) approved the merger of Telenor India with Bharti Airtel.

- India’s highest advisory body on drugs, Drug Technical Advisory Board, will soon come up with mechanism that will help consumers to check whether the medicines that they have purchased are genuine by texting a unique code to be printed on the medicine’s package.

- Hinduja National Power Corp., part of the Hinduja Group has acquired Kiran Energy Solar Power for around Rs 1,000 Crores.
- The Hinduja Brothers have been named as the second wealthiest in Britain’s annual rich list.
- Chemical Entrepreneur Jim Ratcliffe secured the first position.

- Four States and a Union Territory agreed to implement the National Health Protection Mission which aims to provide an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family.
  - Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh along with Chandigarh (UT).

- 4th edition of Global Exhibition on services inaugurated in Mumbai
  - 25 Indian states and around 100 countries are expected to participate

- FIH Mobile, the investment subsidiary of Foxconn Technology Group, the world’s largest contract manufacturing giant, has written off an additional $40 million of its $200 million bet on Gurgaon-based online marketplace Snapdeal.

- The Government has approved the merger of Norway’s Telnor with Bharti Airtel
  - Airtel will begin integrating Telenor India’s operations across seven circles - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP (East), UP (West) and Assam.

- President Ram Nath Kovind launched Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyoday Swarojgar Yojana, Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC (economically backward class) Swarojgar Yojana and Rin Maufi Yojna of Rajasthan State Government.
  - Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarojgar Yojana - A loan of Rs 50,000 on 4% interest will be given to economically backward families of the general category.
  - Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyoday Swarojgar Yojana – Loans of up to Rs 50,000 on 4% interest will be given to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Class (OBC) families for self-employment.
  - Rin Maufi Yojna – Loan waiver scheme of up to Rs 50,000 to SC, ST, OBC, sweepers and ‘divyang’.
   o The Policy seeks to promote new hybrid projects as well as hybridisation of existing wind/solar projects.
   o Integration of both the energy sources i.e. wind and solar at AC as well as DC level.
   o Offer a framework for promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient usage of transmission infrastructure and land.

➢ A new Antyodaya train named 22551/22552 Darbhanga-Jalandhar City Antyodaya Express (Weekly) has been flagged off.

➢ A meeting on the Samarth scheme was held in New Delhi.
   o Samarth Scheme - Its broad objective is to skill the youth for gainful and sustainable employment in textile sector covering entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving.
   o Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Textiles.

➢ Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has signed MoU with Union Ministry of Mines, setting highest ever target of Rs 9350 crore revenue for financial year 2018-19.

➢ E-way bill system for intra-state movement of goods valued over Rs 50000 would be rolled out in Assam from May 16, 2018 and in Rajasthan from May 20, 2018.

➢ National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) inked acquisition pact with Bihar
   o Barauni Thermal Power Station and Bihar State Power Generation Co. Ltd. (BSPGCL’s) 27.36 per cent equity in Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Ltd (KBUNL) and 50 per cent equity in Nabinagar Power Generating Company will also be transferred to NTPC.

➢ The first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) that is run by an all-woman team began operations in Phagwara, Punjab.

➢ Two day regional conference on “Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development” was organised in Guwahati, Assam
The Theme of the conference is ‘Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development’.
This is aimed to bridge the regional disparity through investment in physical and soft infrastructure.

Indian Army Women Officers’ Mountaineering Expedition to Mt. Bhagirathi-II (6512 metres) comprising 9 women officers, was flagged off by Director General of Military Training.
Mt. Bhagirathi-II is located in the Garhwal Himalayas in Gangotri National Park.

Income Tax Department launched the ITR-2, the third income return form for assessment year 2018-19, on the official e-filing portal.

ITR-2 is for individuals, Hindu Undivided families (HUFs) and NRIs who have income from any sources except income from profits and gains of business or profession.
With this, a total of three Income Tax Returns (ITRs) have now been activated by Income Tax Department viz. ITR-1 (Sahaj), ITR-4 and ITR-2.

According to recent study of Lancet Global Health, there have been 2,39,000 excess deaths per year of girls under age of five in India due to gender bias.
Excess mortality is difference between observed and expected mortality rates in both genders.
➢ The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has demanded more tests for genetically modified mustard- **Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH -11)** for “commercial cultivation”

➢ The fourth meeting of **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)**, an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement agency was in **Kolkata, West Bengal**

➢ **New Direct Tax Code**
  
  - A new Direct Tax Legislation that will replace the existing Income Tax Act of 1961
  - The new tax code will try to bring more assesses in tax net, making the system more equitable for different classes of tax payers, make business more competitive by lowering corporate taxes.

➢ **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)** has been established at **Bhopal** as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
Objective is to provide rehabilitation services to the persons with mental illness, capacity development in the area of mental health rehabilitation, policy framing and advanced research in mental health rehabilitation.

**NIMHR** will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation.

- The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), a professional body under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, had organized a conference on successful completion of two years of the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy adopted by the Government of India in May 2016 in New Delhi.

- India has released grant of Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 18.07 crore for river training and construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Nepal.
  - The construction is aimed at flood control and water resource management

- **Cabinet Approvals**
  - The Ministry of Railways has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with SNCF Mobilités (a company owned by the French State) on Technical Cooperation in the field of Railways.
  - There is enhancement of budget for the implementation of Network for Spectrum for Defence Services by Rs. 11,330 crore
  - The Network for Spectrum (NFS) project will boost the communication capabilities of the Defence Forces in a major way leading to enhanced national operational preparedness.
  - A new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be set up in Deoghar, Jharkhand
  - Extension of Delhi Metro Corridor from Noida City Centre to Sector-62, Noida Uttar Pradesh.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved setting up of a dedicated “Micro Irrigation Fund” (MIF) with NABARD under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for an initial Corpus of Rs.5,000 crore.
The goal of the scheme is to **minimize usage of water and to enhance per crop water usage.**

The slogan for this scheme is ‘**more crop, per drop**’.

#### National Policy on Biofuels – 2018

- It categorizes the biofuels called Basic Biofuels into 3 categories viz.
  - **First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel**
  - “**Advanced Biofuels**” – **Second Generation (2G) ethanol**, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels
  - **Third Generation (3G) biofuels**, bio-CNG among others to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.

- It provides a funding scheme of **2G ethanol Bio refineries** an amount of **Rs.5,000 crore in 6 years**.

#### The first ever International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) focusing on Rail Coaches and train sets will be held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

#### Uttararakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated state’s **first City Gas Distribution** (CGD) network at Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district.

#### On 16th May 2018, the 3rd Advance Estimates of Production of Major Crops for 2017-18 was released by the **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare**.

- Total food grains production in the India is estimated at **279.51 million tonnes**.
  - Rice – 111.52 million tonnes (record)
  - Wheat – 98.61 million tonnes (record)
  - Nutri/Coarse Cereals – 44.87 million tonnes (record)
  - Maize – 26.88 million tonnes (record)
  - Pulses – 24.51 million tonnes (record)
  - Gram – 11.16 million tonnes (record)
  - Tur – 4.18 million tonnes
  - Urad – 3.28 million tonnes (record)
  - Oilseeds – 30.64 million tonnes
  - Soyabean – 10.93 million tonnes
Groundnut – 8.94 million tonnes
Rapeseed & Mustard – 8.04 million tonnes
Castorseed – 1.49 million tonnes
Cotton – 34.86 million bales (of 170 kg each)
Sugarcane – 355.10 million tonnes

➢ India’s First fully Solar Powered railway station is at Guwahati.
➢ An Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) was formed to perform a comprehensive review of existing coal sources of Independent Power Producers (IPPs)
  - The objective of this exercise is to reduce the landed cost of coal due to reduction in transportation cost.

➢ Meenakshi Lekhi launched the “Swachhata Abhiyan” of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
➢ The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) launched the initiative of a competitive ranking framework system called ‘State Startup Ranking Framework 2018’.
  - Objective is to grow a sense of competition in the field of providing and promoting the start up environment in different states.
  - This exercise included 30 states and Union Territories.

➢ Tata Steel will be acquiring debt-ridden Bhushan Steel as its bid has been approved by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
  - Bhamnipal Steel Ltd. (subsidiary of Tata Steel) will acquire Bhushan Steel.

➢ Integrated Centre for Crisis Management (ICCM) inaugurated at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
  - The ICCM will help nation to respond more effectively to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.

➢ As per the Swachh Survekshan-2018 results, Indore has once again emerged as the cleanliest city in India.
- Bhopal - 2nd and Chandigarh - 3rd
- Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh is India’s cleanest big city with a population of over 10 lakh
- Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - Fastest Mover big City
- Jharkhand has been declared as the best performing state, followed by Maharashtra.
- New Delhi Municipal Council – India’s Cleanest Small City

**Swachh Survekshan 2018 – National Level Winners:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Category (in terms of population)</th>
<th>City Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India’s Cleanest City – No.1</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Indore (Madhya Pradesh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India’s Cleanest City – No.2</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)</td>
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<td>India’s Cleanest City – No.3</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s ‘Cleanest big City’</td>
<td>Greater than 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s ‘Fastest Mover’ big City</td>
<td>Greater than 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s Best City in ‘Citizens Feedback’</td>
<td>Greater than 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Kota (Rajasthan)</td>
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<td>India’s Best City in ‘Innovation &amp; Best Practices’</td>
<td>Greater than 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Nagpur (Maharashtra)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Population Range</td>
<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s Best City in ‘Solid Waste Management’</td>
<td>Greater than 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India’s Cleanest Medium City</td>
<td>3 – 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Mysuru (Karnataka)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India’s ‘Fastest Mover’ Medium City</td>
<td>3 – 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Bhiwandi (Maharashtra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India’s Best City in ‘Citizens Feedback’</td>
<td>3 – 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Parbhani (Maharashtra)</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s Best City in ‘Innovation &amp; Best Practices’</td>
<td>3 – 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s Best City in ‘Solid Waste Management’</td>
<td>3 – 10 Lakh</td>
<td>Mangalore (Karnataka)</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s Cleanest Small City</td>
<td>1 – 3 Lakh</td>
<td>New Delhi Municipal Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s ‘Fastest Mover’ Small City</td>
<td>1 – 3 Lakh</td>
<td>Bhusawal (Maharashtra)</td>
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<td>India’s Best City in ‘Citizens Feedback’</td>
<td>1 – 3 Lakh</td>
<td>Giridih (Jharkhand)</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s Best City in ‘Innovation &amp; Best Practices’</td>
<td>1 – 3 Lakh</td>
<td>Ambikapur (Chhatisgarh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s Best City in ‘Solid Waste Management’</td>
<td>1 – 3 Lakh</td>
<td>Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleanest State Capital/UT</td>
<td>Capital Cities/UTs</td>
<td>Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fastest Mover State Capital/UT</td>
<td>Capital Cities/UTs</td>
<td>Jaipur (Rajasthan)</td>
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<td>Best State Capital/UT in Citizens Feedback</td>
<td>Capital Cities/UTs</td>
<td>Ranchi (Jharkhand)</td>
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<td>Best State Capital/UT in ‘Innovation &amp; Best Practices’</td>
<td>Capital Cities/UTs</td>
<td>Panaji (Goa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best State Capital/UT in ‘Solid Waste Management’</td>
<td>Capital Cities/UTs</td>
<td>Greater Hyderabad (Telangana)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A “Guidebook for Creating a Child Friendly and Protective Environment for Children in Contact with Railways”, was launched.
- The foundation stone of 14.2-km-long tunnel under the Zojila Pass in Jammu & Kashmir will be laid.
  - This tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity from Baltal in Kashmir to Minamarg near Gumri in Ladakh.
  - Zojila Pass connects Srinagar and Ladakh.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao announced setting up of a new Pay Revision Commission (PRC) for government employees.
  - Telangana Government will be giving special allowances to employees working in remote areas.
- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has formed 19 teams to take up cleaning of beaches, lakes and river fronts across India.
The 19 teams will undertake cleaning up of around 24 beaches in 9 coastal states and river fronts in 24 identified polluted stretches in 19 states.

➢ The Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs has announced that it has been able to achieve success in the Smart City Mission
  - 1,333 projects worth Rs.50,626 crores completed or under implementation.
  - 9 Smart Cities viz. Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara, Visakhapatnam, Bhopal, Pune, Kakinada, Surat & Nagpur have already established Integrated City Command and Control Centres (ICCC)

  - Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who helps in combating IP crimes with the help of her grandson “Chhotu” aka Aditya.
  - The IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) among people, especially children, in an interesting manner.
  - The objective of the Policy is “IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion” on IPR for school children.
➢ The Union Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) sanctioned two projects worth **Rs 48 crore** to enhance tourism in Tripura.
   - The funds will be utilised to repair and develop two roads that link two tourism spots – Chabimura and Tirthamuk – at Amarpur sub-division in Gomati district.

➢ **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh** addressed the **National Conference of Fisheries Ministers of Coastal states**, in New Delhi.

➢ **Union Cabinet** has approved strengthening **Commercial Disputes Resolution** mechanism of **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** inter se and also between CPSEs and other Government Departments and Organizations.
   - It replaces existing **Permanent Machinery of Arbitration (PMA) mechanism** and excludes disputes concerning Railways, Income Tax, Custom and Excise Departments from its ambit.
   - **New Two Tier Mechanism**
     - **First level (tier):** Such commercial disputes will be referred to a committee comprising secretaries of the administrative ministries to which the disputing parties belong and Law Secretary. *For the prompt disposal of disputes, 3 months’ time schedule at this level has been prescribed.*
     - **Second level (tier):** In case dispute remains unresolved, even after consideration by above Committee in first tier, it will be referred to Cabinet Secretary, whose decision will be final and binding on all concerned.

➢ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for enhancement of budget by **Rs.11,330 crore** for **Network For Spectrum (NFS) project**.
   - This is over and above **Rs.13,334 crore** already approved by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure in July, 2012.
   - **With this, total budget for the network for Defence services has now gone up to Rs. 24,664 crore.**
According to the April 2018 data, prices of fruits and vegetables have increased the most, while pulses have become cheaper. Clothing and Fuel are also costlier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>CPI inflation Apr 2017</th>
<th>CPI inflation Apr 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and beverages</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
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<td>3.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>-8.59</td>
<td>7.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
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<td>3.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared meals, snacks, sweets etc.</td>
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<td>5.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meat and fish</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>3.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk and products</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>3.21</td>
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<td>Cereals and products</td>
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<td>Oils and fats</td>
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<td>Non-alcoholic beverages</td>
<td>3.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar and Confectionery</td>
<td>-4.05</td>
<td>11.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulses and products</td>
<td>-15.94</td>
<td>-12.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clothing and footwear</td>
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<td>4.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel and light</td>
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<td>6.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.86</td>
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</table>

CPI: consumer price index. All India CPI combined inflation. April 2018 data is provisional.

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

VIPUL SHARMA/MINT

ANUJ JINDAL
Explaining the reason for its March ruling preventing automatic arrests on complaints filed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (SC/ST Act), the Supreme Court observed that no Parliament could allow arrest without a fair procedure.

Union Cabinet approved an ordinance which will replace the existing Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) with a board of governor.

- The members of the board of governor will replace the existing functionaries of the CCH and will comprise seven persons who will be eminent homeopathy practitioners and administrators.

The Himachal Pradesh government will spend 25 crore rupees on renovating and developing the historic British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate' as a major tourist attraction.

- The Bantony Castle, owned by a business family and housing the state police headquarters, was acquired by the government for over 27 crores two years ago.

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an advisory to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and the Lakshadweep archipelago over cyclonic storm ‘SAGAR’.

- The cyclonic storm lay centred over the Gulf of Aden, about 390 km east-northeast of Yemen’s Aden city.

15th Meeting of the Cultural Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States held in Sanya, China.

- India participated for the first time at the Meeting of Cultural Ministers of the SCO.
- Member states

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 April 1996</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
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</table>
With an objective to conserve water, the Bhusawal Division of Indian Railways has fitted specially designed aerators in basin-taps of Tejas Express.

- The aerators have minute pores that break the stream of incoming water into fine water sub-streams.

Supreme Court approved Central Government’s draft Cauvery Management Scheme aimed at ensuring smooth distribution of water among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

Gujarat government will be bearing medical expenses up to Rs 50,000 for each victim of road accident in Gujarat for the first 48 hours, from 18th May 2018.

- It stated that, even people from other states or countries will receive free treatment in Gujarat, irrespective of their income, if they are victim of a road accident and admitted to a government or a private hospital.

The Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Shri. Hardeep Singh Puri has announced the expansion of policies under Deen Antodaya Yojna – National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) in New Delhi.

- It seeks to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor through access to gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, has expanded its ambit to cover some additional sectors in the informal economy.
- These initiatives are likely to reduce vulnerability and improve working conditions.
➢ The Delhi cabinet gave their approval for procuring **1000 CNG run** standard floor buses under **cluster scheme**
   - Each bus will have **three internet protocol (IP) cameras, panic buttons, in-built GPS and anti-skid features**
   - The Delhi government acquired 1000 buses for **Rs. 276 crore**.
   - A total of **11000 buses** will be acquired **5500 buses** each for DTC and **cluster scheme** of the Delhi government.

➢ **India** is one of the places where overuse of water resources has led to a serious decline in freshwater availability as per the Scientists of **NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center** in the United States

➢ **Kolkata** based Institute **Indian Institute of Science and Research (IISER)** has announced a device that would help detect and remove arsenic from water making it safe for human consumption
   - **Arsenic Sensor and Removal Media** – Name of the Device
   - This has been created by IISER in collaboration with a private company called ‘ADO Additive’.

➢ **Indian Railways** proposes to charge a fee of **Rs 5 – Rs 10 on AC and Chair car tickets** that costs more than **Rs 500 per trip**
   - The decision is yet to be finalized.

➢ According to new guideline issued by Department of Telecom (DoT), **e-SIM (Embedded-Subscriber Identity Module)** will be installed in the device and details of service providers can be updated in it at the time customer wants to buy a new connection
   - Thus, mobile users do not have to buy a new sim while buying new connection or changing service provider.

➢ **Madhya Pradesh** based electricity distribution company, DISCOM, has facilitated consumer services through a mobile application “**Smart Bijlee**”, which allows users to make payments, submit complaints, or apply for a new connection sitting at home.
➢ India's Shivangi Pathak has become youngest women of the country to scale Mt Everest from Nepal side.

➢ Green Good Deeds, the societal movement launched by Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to protect the environment and promote good living has found acceptance by the global community.
   o These small deeds to be performed by individuals or organisations to participate in environmental protection has been put up in a mobile application named “Dr Harsh Vardhan App”.

➢ NITI Aayog, in association with Vision India Foundation, is organising the Venture Capital Symposium 2018 to deepen the economic relationships between France and India.

➢ The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has decided to adopt the word ‘AYUSH’ in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.
   o AYUSH is the acronym of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy

➢ India's economy is projected to grow 7.6% in fiscal year 2018-19, remaining the fastest growing economy in the world, according to UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)

➢ BS Yeddyurappa resigned 55 hours after taking oath as the Karnataka CM

➢ Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities of Arbitration in SAARC region was conducted in collaboration with FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), ICA (Indian Council of Arbitration) and SAARC Arbitration Council in New Delhi.

➢ The Northeast Frontier Railway flagged off its first Parcel Cargo Express Train (PCET) that will be connecting the Northeast to the West Coast.

➢ Tripura Horticulture Corporation Limited (THCL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Spicejet Merchandise Pvt Ltd to boost Pineapple export.
The ‘Queen’ variety of pineapples is considered as the pride of Tripura and approximately, more than 1 lakh metric of ‘Queen’ and ‘Kue’ pineapple is produced in Tripura annually.

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launches LED Solar Street Lighting System in 4 Districts.
  - Tirap, Longding, Namsai and Tawang.

- India successfully test-fired the Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a test range along the Odisha coast to validate some new features.
  - The Missile was test fired from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur
  - BrahMos Aerospace was formed as a joint venture between Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and Joint Stock Company “Military Industrial Consortium” “NPO Mashinostroyenia” (earlier known as Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPOM of Russia).
  - The company was established in India through an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed on February 12, 1998, between The Republic of India and The Russian Federation.

- Australian Securities Exchange, the NLC India Limited and NMDC will sign the Master Project Agreement (MPA) with Environmental Clean Technologies Limited (ECT) to establish world’s first Australian-designed Coldry and Matmor plant in Tamil Nadu.
  - NMDC Limited and NLC India Limited (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) has decided to invest over USD 26 million for setting up an R&D facility
  - ECT will hold 49 per cent stake while NLC and NMDC will hold 25.5 per cent stake each.

- The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), which had conceived and designed the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, has set the ball rolling for building the next generation defence aircraft, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
The project to be implemented in Sulur in Coimbatore district which may house the permanent base of the Tejas squadron marks Tamil Nadu’s first major defence aircraft project.

The next gen aircraft is for the first time being built by inviting Private Players.

- Rating agency ICRA Ltd expects gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the fourth quarter of the fiscal 2017-18 at 7.4% on account of good Rabi crop harvest and improved corporate earnings, up from 7.2% in the third quarter.
- ICRA (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited)

- India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of 8,230 billion US dollars, according to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review
  - US is the wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of 62,584 billion dollars.
  - China – Second position - 24,803 billion dollars
  - Japan – Third position - 19,522 billion dollars.

- Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has received environment clearance for the expansion and optimisation of its petrochemical complex at Nagothane in Raigad district of Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs 2,338 crore.
  - The proposal is to expand the gas cracker and downstream plants.
➢ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar flagged off the ‘Krishi Mahabhiyan-cum-Beej Vikas Vahan Rath’ to create awareness among farmers about government schemes for them during Kharif season.
  o ‘Kharif Mahabhiyan-cum-Mahotsav Rath’ would travel to blocks, gram panchayats and villages to tell the farmers about the schemes being run during kharif season.
  o ‘Beej (Seed) Vahan Vikas Rath’ which would have Kharif seeds and pesticides for the treatment of kharif crop.

➢ The Tripura Government announced that 10% of all police force will be reserved for women
  o Encouraging women to participate and deal more efficiently with crimes related to them.
  o Apart from this a PRAYAAS Committee in every police station consisting of former policemen, veterans and politicians has been formed to deal with policing.

➢ Government of India’s e-Visa scheme has fetched Rs. 1400 crore as revenue.
  o Launched in 2014 under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the e-Visa enables the prospective visitor to apply for an Indian Visa from his/her home country online without visiting the Indian Mission and also pay the visa fee online.

➢ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the first phase of a massive tree plantation initiative along Rispensa River, Uttarakhand, by initiating pit-digging work for the campaign.

➢ Three Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri, Shakti and Kamorta shall be making a port call at Tien Sa Port, Danang, Vietnam.
  o Objective of this visit is to enhance maritime cooperation between Indian and Vietnamese Navies.
➢ According to the **Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations, 2018**, notified by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), unique identity number **Aadhaar** and **PAN** is mandatory for persons seeking a **customs broker licence**.
   - Customs broker is a person licensed to act as an agent on behalf of importer/exporter for transaction of business relating to entry or departure of conveyances or goods at any customs station.

➢ **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** announced that an **LPG bottling plant** is being set up in **Balkhani, Balangir district in Odisha**.
   - This is the **second time** BPCL has launched bottling plant in Odisha after the **Khurda plant**.

➢ **Tata Steel** has acquired **Bhushan Steel** for an amount of **Rs.35000 crore** and settling two-thirds of the loan of the company.

➢ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur** has set up India’s first Centre for **Energy Regulation (CER)** with the help of Government of United Kingdom.
   - Aims at providing independent advisory on policy and regulatory matters in the power and energy sector.

➢ The Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Kishanganga Hydroelectric project** in **Jammu & Kashmir**.
   - Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project is located in the **Bandipora District of Jammu & Kashmir**.
   - Foundation for the Pakal Dam was also laid on the Marusadar River
   - Pakal Dam is the largest project and the **first** storage project of Jammu & Kashmir with 1000MW capacity
     - It will give the Govt of Jammu and Kashmir **12% of the free power** after 10 years of commissioning.

➢ **The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** commissioned the Bastariya Battalion in **Bastar district of Chhattisgarh**.
   - The special unit was **numbered as 241** and named as ‘Bastariya Battalion’
➢ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched ‘Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana’, developed for the safety of girl students in Haryana.
   o All the girl students will get free travel facility from their home to their educational institutions.
   o The state govt. will also constitute a special task force namely “Durgashakti Vahini” to minimize the crimes against women.
   o The tagline for this Yojana is “Mhare Haryane Ki Shaan, Ladka-Ladki Ek Saman”

➢ EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) has announced that it has distributed over 30 crore LED bulbs across the country under government’s UJALA scheme (Unnat Jeevan by Affordable LEDs and Appliances for All)
   o The UJALA scheme was launched by the Prime Minister of India in January 2015 with an aim to distribute energy efficient LED lightbulbs and reduce carbon emission by 33 to 35 percent within 2030.

➢ IIT-Kanpur has set up India’s first advisory Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) with the help of government of United Kingdom.

➢ The Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design (UPID) will launch a mobile app, UPID App.
   o To help weavers in the state to market their products and come up with new design ideas.

➢ The all-women crew of the Indian Navy on board INSV Tarini returned from expedition “Navika Sagar Parikrama” and landed at Mandovi in Goa
   o This is the first ever Indian female crew to navigate the world.
   o The circumnavigation was done in 254 days.

➢ UltraTech Cement Ltd., part of the Aditya Birla group will acquire the cement business of BK Birla group’s Century Textiles and Industries Ltd.
   o The enterprise value of Century’s Cement business is pegged at Rs 8,561 Crore.

➢ Consumption growth in rural India has outpaced urban spending by the widest margin in five years.
Rural consumption rose by 9.7% in the year ended 31 March, faster than the 8.6% growth in urban spending, according to market researcher Nielsen.

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) had set up the Bajpai committee in August 2010 to resurrect the NPS.

- Recommended an increase of equity allocation from 15% to 50% in government NPS.

Madhya Pradesh has launched My MP Rojgar Portal'

- To provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills and interest and ensure availability of able candidates to employers as per the need of their business.
The portal was launched as a part of the ‘Ham Chhu Lenge asman’ Mukhyamantri Career Counselling programme ‘Pahal’ in Model School of Bhopal.

The 71st World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Theme - "Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage"
- Walk the Talk Event was also inaugurated by the Union Health Minister JP Nadda with a call ‘Health for all, Yoga for all’.
- Health for all is the programming goal or Slogan of WHO.

A day-long workshop on the theme “Ganga and its Biodiversity: Developing a Road Map for Habitat and Species Conservation” was organized on river Ganga in New Delhi.
- To approach the challenges of cleaning river Ganga through an integrated approach and with synergy between development and ecology.
- The first-of-its-kind reports: “Status of Conservation of Select Aquatic Species” which presents the status of select species of river Ganga and gives information from available literature and data collected and “Ganga Biodiversity-At a Glance” which gives species with details, along with their depiction and maps were released.
- Siebold’s smooth scaled water snake (Enhydris sieboldii), were observed after a gap of 70 years in river Ganga.
- The Ganga Praharis’, a self-motivated volunteer cadre from local communities have been trained and taken on board by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

A 42 seater aircraft of Alliance Air lands at Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh from Guwahati in Assam.
- This flight is a part of the UDAN (Ude Desh ke Aam Nagarik) scheme.

The South-Western command Chetak Corps are engaged in intense training exercise called ‘Gandiv Vijay’ in Rajasthan.

Chhattisgarh will get a specialised anti-Naxal combat force named the “Black Panther” in line with the Greyhounds unit.
Greyhounds is a special force in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh that is specialised in anti-insurgency operations against Naxals and Maoists.

- The Telangana government has completed rejuvenation of 18,000 tanks in Telangana under its Mission Kakatiya programme.
  - **Kakatiya Programme** is a program for restoring all the minor irrigation tanks and lakes in Telangana.

- Foundation stone of the Southern Campus of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was laid at Kondapavuluru Village, Gannavaram Mandal, Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

- India received the 1st cargo of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) crude oil for its Mangalore Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
  - In February 2018, **ISPRL and ADNOC** signed an Agreement for storing 5.68 million barrels of crude oil.
  - **ISPRL** - Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve
  - **ADNOC** - Abu Dhabi National Oil Company

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will begin its operations in Nagayalanka block in Krishna District.

- **Bat Virus – Nipah triggers panic in Kerala taking the death toll at 6**
  - Nipah virus causes respiratory and encephalitic diseases with high fatality rates.
  - It spreads through direct contact with infected people, bats and pigs, or even from contaminated fruits eaten by bats.
  - So far, no therapeutics or vaccines have been approved for use in humans against the virus.
➢ Fuelling new highs

![Mint Graphiti: Fuelling New Highs](image)

Petrol and diesel prices were increased by 33 paise/litre and 25 paise/litre, respectively, on Monday, sending them to new all-time highs. State-run oil marketing companies have been raising fuel prices every day since 14 May, after a 20-day gap while the Karnataka election campaign was going on. The price of petrol has risen by ₹1.94/litre and diesel by ₹1.89/litre in Delhi since then.

- Cabinet has approved Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme for the provision of mobile services in Meghalaya under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for North Eastern Region.
- The Union Finance Ministry has tied up with 40 entities including Flipkart, Swiggy, Patanjali and Amul for extending loans to small entrepreneurs under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).
  - In order to identify people who can be given funds under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the ministry has organised an event in Mumbai to extend loan under the scheme.
- The family of a paramilitary Jawan who dies in action will be given a minimum compensation of one crore rupees.
  - The Home Minister presented gallantry awards to BSF jawans and officers.
- The 4th Smart Cities India 2018 expo began at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
➢ Ministry of Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd (MRVC).
  o According to targets under the MoU, MRVC will spend Rs. 1464 crore on completion of several suburban projects of capacity enhancement, safety upgradation and passenger amenities.

➢ Union Cabinet has approved waiving of Penal Interest on Government Loans to Paradip Port Trust (PPT).

➢ Maharashtra Government has launched a new scheme to help the landless labourers from the Scheduled Castes to acquire agricultural land.
  o Now the landless labourers from the Scheduled Castes can purchase acres of rain fed agricultural land or two acres of irrigated land by paying only 5% of the cost.
  o The rest up to 8 lakh rupees will be borne by the Maharashtra government.

➢ Western Railway (WR) has launched E-catering facility on 23 major stations.
  o Vendors at stations such as Mumbai Central, Bandra Terminus, Andheri, Ahmedabad, Gandhidham, Surat, Nandurbar, Vasai Road, Maninagar, Mahesana, Palanpur, Anand, Bharuch, Vadodara, Rajkot, Dwarka, Vapi, Chittorgarh, Indore, Nimach, Ratlam, Ujjain and Nagda can easily deliver food to the passengers.
  o The e-catering initiative was launched by the IRCTC.

➢ The Election Commission will launch a multi-lingual mobile application to enable people all over India to share evidence of malpractice by political parties, their candidates and activists, directly with the electoral body, prior to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
  o A similar application, named Model Code of Conduct Violation Reporting App, was launched for the first time in Bengaluru ahead of the recent Karnataka Assembly elections.

➢ The government of Rajasthan launched ‘Nidaan’ software for disease monitoring
This will monitor **seasonal and non-communicable 46 diseases** and the trends of ailments found in specific areas.

This will strengthen **tele-medicine services** in **govt. hospitals** and help formulate **action plans** for **control of diseases**.

- According to a **Lancet** study called “The Global Burden of Disease” India ranked **145** among **195** countries in terms of **health care access**.
  - India performed poorly in tackling cases of tuberculosis, rheumatic heart diseases, Ischaemic heart diseases, stroke, testicular cancer, colon cancer and chronic kidney disease among others.
  - India lags behind China (48), Sri Lanka (71), Bangladesh (133) and Bhutan (134).
  - While its health index was **better** than those of Nepal (149), Pakistan (154) and Afghanistan (191).

- The **Union Ministry of Civil Aviation** has notified **Draft Passenger Charter** defining rights for air passengers.
  - It aims to improve hassle-free air travel experience of air passengers in the country.
  - In case the passenger is not informed about the **flight cancellation up to 24 hours** of the scheduled departure time, the airlines must **refund the full value of the air ticket**.
  - When delay is **more than 24 hrs from scheduled** time of departure and involves flight to fly on the next day, passenger will then be entitled for a **free-of-charge hotel accommodation including transfers**.
  - If the flight is expected to be delayed for more than 4 hrs from the scheduled time of departure or revised departure time that is communicated 24 hours prior to scheduled departure time, then the airlines will offer an option of full refund of ticket to the passenger.
  - **AirSewa app** seeks to bring together all the stakeholders on a common platform to ensure timely and effective handling of customer grievances and to propagate real-time data.
  - The app named as ‘**AirSewa v1.5**’, will be launched by July 2018.
➢ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has unveiled Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018 to ensure better price to farmers.

➢ According recent research, worsening air quality in last two decades has emerged as one of major reasons for high numbers of premature deaths in India
  o The research was conducted by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi in collaboration with environmental NGO Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED).
  o The study was conducted 11 north Indian cities i.e. seven in Uttar Pradesh (Allahabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Varanasi and Gorakhpur), three in Bihar (Patna, Muzaffarpur and Gaya) and one in Jharkhand (Ranchi).

➢ NIPAH virus
  o National Centre for Disease Control has issued high alert across the country
  o The infection causes severe diseases in both animals and humans. The natural hosts of the virus and fruit bats
  o Bats shed the virus in their excrement and secretions, but they are symptomless carriers.

➢ The government is considering a move to set up a regulator to oversee the $500 billion start-up funding market for Indian enterprises.
  o The proposed Alternate Markets Commission (AMC) would be responsible for drafting regulations to inspire confidence and make it easier for unlisted firms to raise money from investors.
  o The institution would be independent of the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

➢ India Index Services and Products Ltd (IISP), a subsidiary of NSE The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd has sued Singapore Exchange Ltd (SGX) in the Bombay high court seeking to prevent the launch of Nifty-based products by the Singapore bourse in June
  o On 11 April, SGX announced a new product which works just like the Nifty index, bypassing the Indian exchanges.
The new products are called *India futures and India options*, and SGX will use the closing *Nifty price to settle its new contracts*.

According to the petitioner (NSE) these new derivatives contracts are identical to certain products (SGX Nifty 50 Index Futures, SGX Nifty 50 Index Options and SGX Nifty Bank Index Futures), which were licensed under the licence agreement and proposed to be launched on the respondent’s platform despite issuance of the termination notice.

➢ According to the Union budget 2018, it was promised a new deal to farmers—*minimum support prices (MSP)* that would be *150% of the cost of production*.

- However, the new MSP policy could pull India into a confrontation at the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Higher MSPs will likely make Indian farm subsidies breach the limit that the WTO finds acceptable.
- According to the US, the MPS for wheat and rice, respectively, appears to be over 60% and 70% of the total value of production, against the permissible cut-off of 10%.

➢ Government score on Welfare Schemes
Chart 3: Growth in LPG consumers accelerated under the Modi government
- Growth in no. of domestic LPG consumers
- Consumption (In tonnes)
  Year-on-year (in %)
  1998  2014  2017
  12.0  15.1  16.3  16.3  12.2
  9.8  10.2  12.0  12.0  9.8
  5.0  9.8  12.0  12.0  5.0
  0.0  0.0  0.0  0.0  0.0

Chart 4: Intensive electrification of villages has quickened in recent years, as per REC annual reports
- Number of villages
- Intensive electrification of villages (during the year)
- Electrification of un-electrified villages (during the year)

Rural electrification scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) was launched in 2006 and subsequently revamped as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGY) in 2018.

Chart 1: Jan Dhan Yojana had visible effects on financial inclusion
- Respondents who said they had an account at a bank/financial institution (or had mobile money account)
  - % of all respondents
  - % of poorest 40% respondents

- Year
  - 2011
  - 2014
  - 2017

- Values
  - 35.23
  - 26.97
  - 43.61
  - 79.88
  - 77.08
➢ Cabinet Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII between India and Nepal will be conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
  - Exercise SURYA KIRAN is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India
➢ NITI Aayog and Sushant Singh Rajput have decided to collaborate towards promoting two major initiatives of NITI Aayog-
  - Promotion of BHIM - BHIM is a mobile app developed by National Payments Corporation of India, based on the Unified Payment Interface
  - The Women Entrepreneurship Platform – The initiative is aimed at building an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.
➢ Leading digital financial services platform, **MobiKwik**, announced the launch of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** on its platform via its own **Virtual payment address (VPA)** handle **@ikwik**.

- **MobiKwik is the first in the industry** to offer UPI access through its own Virtual Payment address @ikwik.
- It is also the **first** to offer **Bharat QR, UPI QR and intent functionality** for merchant payments.

➢ **India** rose one place to **44th** this year in the global competitive rankings **out of 63** countries that were ranked by the **IMD World Competitiveness Center**.

- **China bagged the 13th rank** in 2018 as compared to the 18th rank in 2016
- The top **3 most competitive economies** in the world are:
  - The USA,
  - Hong Kong,
  - Singapore

➢ The **5th Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam (CLMV) countries conclave** held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

➢ **The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) meeting** was held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

- This is the **first time Pakistan is hosting the (SCO-RATS) meeting**.
- The main agenda of the meeting is issues related to terrorist threats in the region and how to manage them.

➢ The **Union Cabinet approved an ordinance to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016**.

- **Recommended by 14-member high-level committee chaired by Ministry Of Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.**
- Homebuyers are given the status of creditors in the insolvency process, until now they were treated as unsecured creditors.
- The panel also suggested easing voting rules at committee of creditors meetings.
The government amended Section 29A clause of the IBC. It lists entities barred from bidding for companies under insolvency.

- The ordinance of setting India’s first National Sports University in Imphal, Manipur has been approved.
- Governments of India and Nepal has joined hands to plan on running a joint operation to control wildlife poaching.
  - The operation is to be conducted in Shuklaphanta National Park in Kanchanpur district on Nepal’s side and Krishnapur Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh.
- Governments of India, Netherlands and Sweden launched first-of-its-kind collaborative research programme on HIV/AIDS.
  - It is aimed at harnessing complementary research strengths and diverse expertise across three nations to catalyse development of better tools to understand and address burgeoning global epidemic of HIV.
- Union Cabinet has approved Ministry of Home Affairs’ (MHA’s) proposal of setting up 4,072 mobile towers to improve telecom connectivity network in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Areas.
- NITI Aayog and ABB India have signed Statement of Intent (SoI) to help India leverage power of advanced technologies, including robotics and artificial intelligence.
- Implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) Project has been approved for North Eastern Region (NER) in Meghalaya to improve mobile services.
- The two fold effect of rising crude oil prices-
  - India’s crude oil import dependency is increasing - import dependency of crude oil has increased to 83.7% for April 2018 from 77.3% in fiscal year 2014.
  - Brent crude prices are hovering around $80 a barrel - Higher oil prices will also mean higher inflation, as retail prices of petrol and diesel should follow suit.

- The scheme aims at improving quality of education, enhancing learning outcomes and using technology to empower children and teachers.
- The scheme subsumes three existing schemes: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shikskha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) to treat school education holistically, from pre-school to Class XII.
- It focuses on two Ts – Teacher and Technology
- It is first integrated scheme extending unified support to states from pre-school to senior secondary levels
- The amount granted will be: Rs. 5000 for primary, Rs. 10000 for upper primary & Rs. 25000 for SSC and HSC schools.
- Another scheme called “Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya Scheme” has been extended from class 6-8 to class 6-12 for providing educational and hostel facilities to the girl child from disadvantageous sections of society.
- An annual grant of Rs. 5000 to Rs. 20000 would be given for strengthening libraries of the schools.
➢ **Visit of PM of Netherlands, Mark Rutte** to India
  o **Indo – Dutch Ganga Forum** was inaugurated
  o ‘**Clean Air India’** initiative launched to curb air pollution
    ▪ It is a joint collaboration of India’s ‘Startup India’ and Netherlands ‘**Get In the Ring’** platforms and INDUS forum
  o **The Netherlands** has become the **64th signatory member of the International Solar Alliance**.
  o India also welcomed the Netherlands as the **Partner Country for the Tech Summit in 2019**
  o Mumbai Headquartered e-logistics company **Cogoport** to establish world’s **first digital freight passage** to enable Indian traders connect to European markets using Netherlands as the gateway.
  o An Indo-Dutch Start-up Initiative has been launched called- **#StartUpLink**
    ▪ Invest India and Dutch Govt. launched the start-up in **Bengaluru**
  o Netherlands have **second-largest Indian diaspora in Europe**.

➢ **Cloud enabled Data Centre is inaugurated** at **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
  o All the districts of Odisha have been taken under the **Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service (SwaaS) website**.
  o **Launch of E-Saubhagya** Mobile Application
  o This would make sure the gap between the administration and the citizens are bridged and the information related to the betterment of the districts could be accessed by the general public.

➢ **The 13th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council (ISC)** headed by Rajnath Singh was held in New Delhi.
  o Discussions were conducted on all **273 recommendations** of the **Punchhi Commission**.
  o The meeting focused on **volume VI (environment, natural resources) & VII (Socio-economic development, Public Policy, governance)** of the Punchhi Commission’s Report.
The Government of India constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under the chairmanship of Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi, former Chief Justice of India on 27th April 2007 keeping in view the changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission had last looked at the issue of Centre-State relations over two decades ago.

Ministry of Culture organized the 9th edition of *Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav* 2018 in Tehri, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand’s *Tehri Lake Festival* will be a part of the event
- It consists of water sports organized by the Uttarakhand tourism each year.
- This initiative is under the ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’
- This year the partner state for the festival is Karnataka.

The e-Way Bill system for intra-State movement of goods was implemented for Maharashtra, Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep (without legislature).

IN LCU L54 – the fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class inducted into the Indian Navy

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted high level group to explore and give recommendations for a balanced expansion of the health sector.
- It will be headed by Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi and shall consist of eminent experts in health sector from across the country.

The Union Government has reconstituted Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) to include secretaries from revenue department as well as Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY).
- It will include Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- FSDC is super regulatory body for regulating financial sector which is vital for bringing healthy and efficient financial system in economy of the country.
➢ India, where **38.4% of children under five are stunted**, accounts for **about a third of the world’s total population** of stunted pre-schoolers as per ‘Understanding the geographical burden of stunting in India’ published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

![Map of India showing prevalence of stunting](image)

- The government has raised the customs duty on wheat **from 20% to 30%** in order to curb cheaper imports and protect domestic growers.
  - The import duty on walnut shell has also been increased **from 30% to 100%**

➢ **India** has been listed as one of the **top three target countries** for Phishing and malware-based attacks as per the RSA Quarterly Fraud Report.
  - As per the report for the period from **January 1 to March 31, 2018** phishing contributed for 48 per cent of total cyber-attacks.
  - The report stated that **Canada, the United States, India** and Brazil were the countries highly targeted by phishing.
  - Top hosting countries list for such attacks –
    - United States
    - Russia
India will be the host country for celebrations of World Environment Day 2018 which is celebrated on June 5 every year.

- The theme for this year is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

PM Narendra Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Bangladesh Bhawan at Shanti Niketan in West Bengal.

- This is the first time in Indian history, that two prime ministers attended a convocation ceremony.

Six-days ASEAN India Film Festival launched in New Delhi.

- It was organised by Ministry of External Affairs (ASEAN Multilateral Division) as part of the series of events to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN and India relations.
o Tagline – **Friendship through Films**

o ASEAN is regional organisation that aims to promote intergovernmental cooperation and economic integration amongst its members. **It consists of 10 member countries- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.**

➢ **‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav’,** cultural festival was inaugurated in Uttarakhand.
  o Organised by Ministry of Culture.
  o It is the **ninth edition** of this festival.

➢ **Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has asked its field offices to credit **8.55% rate of interest for 2017-18** into the Provident Fund accounts of around 5 crore subscribers
  o According to an order issued by the EPFO, the Labour Ministry has conveyed approval to credit 8.55% rate of interest for last fiscal.

➢ **PM Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for the **2400 MW first phase** of NTPC’s Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand.
  o This project is a 74: 26 Joint Venture between Government of Jharkhand and Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (PVUN).

➢ **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** sanctioned Rs. **5000 crore** for the Rajasthan government farm loan waiver.
  o The Rajasthan government on its budgetary speech had announced a **one-time loan waiver for upto Rs. 50000** for small and marginal farmers provided by cooperative banks.

➢ **Telangana** announced a unique **life insurance scheme** for farmers.
  o As per the scheme, the government will offer life insurance facility of **5 lakh rupees** to the nominee, after the death of the insured farmer.
  o The total premium will be paid by the government to the insurance agency. The nominee will receive the amount within 10 days of placing the claim after the farmer’s death.
Farmers aged between 18 and 60 are eligible to register for this scheme.

- **Manipur** has become the first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets.
  - Earlier, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have had solar toilets installed.
  - The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has created Women Safety Division to address issues related to security of women comprehensively amid rising concerns over women safety.

- **First** smart and green highway, the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (National Expressway II) is inaugurated which passes through Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.
  - It is 135-kilometres six lane access-controlled expressway.
  - It envisages signal-free connectivity between Delhi and UP (Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Palwal).
  - It is India’s first highway to be lit by solar power besides provisions for rainwater harvesting.

- A survey has been launched on the NaMo App, asking people to rate the performance of the government at the Centre and MPs and MLAs in their constituencies.
  - NaMo App - The Android application is a one-stop destination for knowing about all the latest day-to-day activities of the Prime Minister.

- The 15th Finance Commission will be visiting Kerala.
  - Kerala is the first state in Southern India to be visited by Commission.
  - Objective is to assess the state of finance of Kerala and progress of the state in the socio-economic sector.
  - Commission is led by Chairman N.K Singh.
  - Kerala is the 10th largest state that contributes to 4.2% of GDP of the nation.

- The DRDO made the Rustom – II unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) which will be delivered by the armed forces by 2020.
• It has been made of the use of all the three wings Armed forces viz. Air Force, Indian Army an Indian Navy.
• The Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) decided to cut its administrative charges by 0.5% from 0.65% to 0.50%.

➢ Sangeeta Bahl, a 53-year-old former model, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.
➢ The BCCI and UN Environment signed an agreement to promote ‘green’ Cricket in India
  • The partnership aims to spread greater awareness about key environmental challenges facing the country, and highlight alternate and more sustainable solutions.

➢ Film actor Akshay Kumar launched the twin pit toilet technology campaign in New Delhi.
  • The twin pit toilet technology is an Indian invention that collects defecation for a period of five years and then it turns into a valuable organic compost.

➢ India launched its second IT corridor in China to cash in on the burgeoning Chinese software market.
  • The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has established one more Sino-Indian Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform in China.
  • In December 2017, the NASSCOM established its first SIDCOP platform in the Chinese port city of Dalian, which is India’s first IT hub in China.

➢ The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany in September 2018.
  • The four-day event will see speakers from about 100 countries, including India, China, the US, Spain and Denmark.
  • The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.
The event combines two conferences, WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope.

- **United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)** gave recognition to the Cochin International Airport as world’s first fully solar energy-powered airport.
  - It produces 15MWp solar power.
  - This airport consumes 50000 units of electricity daily and is completely dependent on solar power.
  - It was the first airport to be built in public private partnership (PPP).

- The state Government of Himachal Pradesh will promote Zero Budget Natural Farming System - Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana
  - To promote organic farming and zero budget natural farming in the state.

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched a week long ‘Polythene Hatao, Paryavaran Bachao Campaign’
  - To reduce the Pollution by prohibiting the use of Polythene & Plastic.

- **India, US and Japan** will take part in 22nd Malabar exercise in Guam, US.
  - From India’s side, INS Sahyadri, missile INS Kamorta and fleet tanker INS Shakti and a P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft will take part in the exercise.
  - From the US side, a nuclear powered super carrier USS Ronald Reagan of 10000 tonne and F/A 18 fighters and a nuclear attack submarine and P-8A patrol aircraft.
  - From Japan’s side, one of 27000 tonne helicopter carriers, a Soryu class submarine and Kawasaki P-1 maritime aircraft will participate.

- Baba Ramdev, Co-founder of Patanjali, launched Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM cards, in alliance with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
  - At the beginning, only the employees and office bearers of Patanjali can avail the benefits of the Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM card.
After the full-fledged launch, people can avail a 10% discount on Patanjali products using this card.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is joining hands with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for sending extreme weather warnings.

8 Naxal hit districts of Chattisgarh are to be developed by the government with the help of TATA Trust.
- It is to provide technical and human resource assistance to the special development programme launched by the NITI Aayog.
- The 8 worst hit districts are: Bijapur, Kanker, Bastar, Rajnandgaon, Dantewada, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Sukma.

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) was named as the Nodal Agency to set up 2.5 GW Wind-Solar hybrid Project by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The objective is to build the Hybrid Projects with the Transparent Bidding Process.

Indian Crude steel production seems to be on course to finally cross the 100 million tonnes mark this fiscal year.

The survey, State of Aadhaar Report 2017-18 done by international research firm IDinsight covering 13,669 household members in 21 districts of the three states between November 2017 and February 2018, noted that only 45-67% of account holders in these states continue to use Aadhaar.
- Despite growing access to bank accounts among Indian adults, the survey found only a subset of accounts were actively in use—66.6% in Andhra Pradesh, 58.1% in West Bengal, and 44.9% in Rajasthan.
➢ Air India Express and IndiGo have been placed second and fifth respectively, in the ranking of the cheapest airlines in the world in providing international connectivity.

➢ Bhubaneswar (capital city of Odisha) becomes the fourth National data centre of National Informatics Centre (NIC) after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.
  o The new cloud-enabled National Data Centre aims to offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for various e-governance applications of Central and State Governments and has the ability to support 35,000 virtual servers.

➢ The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations will be held at Dehradun in Uttarakhand on 21st of June.
Dehradun has been selected as the venue for **Mass Yoga Demonstration of International Yoga Day**.

- **An Agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 21.7 Million** from the World Bank for the Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project was signed in New Delhi.
  - The Project size is approximately **USD 31 million**, of which **USD 21.7 million will be financed by the World Bank**, and the remaining amount will be funded out of the State Budget.
  - The Project duration is **5 years** to contribute to improved Budget execution, enhanced accountability and greater efficiency in Revenue Administration in Rajasthan.

- The Government has approved to set up **“Brahmaputra Study Centre”** at Gauhati University, Guwahati.

- **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** will inaugurate the Samagra Resource Portal and mobile app.
  - The Samagra Resource Portal and mobile app are developed by the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education.

- The Gujrat government released policy to reuse treated waste water in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
  - The policy is called: **‘Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy’**.
  - Setting up of **161 Sewage treatment Plants (STP)** in all major towns in Gujarat for non-drinking purposes.
  - This policy will double the water capacity to around **5000** million litres per day (MLD) in two years.

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) launched the **‘Gaj Yatra’** from Tura, a town in Garo Hills of Meghalaya.
➢ IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative) and Indian Potash Ltd (IPL) have acquired 37% stake in JPMC (Jordan Phosphate Mines Company), Jordan’s largest mining and chemical firm, for Rs 900 crore.

➢ Rangarajan committee - recommendations to decontrol the sugar sector
   - The main recommendation of the report was to free the sugar cane price and link it to the price of sugar and by-products
   - That never happened. The central government fixed a minimum price and some state governments fixed their own price at a higher level. Sugar prices rose and fell but cane prices either stayed fixed or increased.
   - The situation this year has turned so bad that the government is considering a minimum price at which mills will sell sugar.
   - If it goes through, it will control both the input cost and the output price in this season

➢ Railway’s Online Travel Portal, www.irctc.co.in has now launched beta version of its new User Interface.
By creating Next Generation e-Ticketing (NGeT) system the new online ticket booking system of Railways provides an easy and fast way of booking rail tickets by automating the journey planning and purchase of tickets.

- A user can now enquire/search trains and check the availability of seats without login also.
- More features such as new filters on ‘My Transactions’, Waitlist Prediction.
- E-ticketing today constitutes about two third of total reserved tickets on Indian Railways.

➢ RK Singh, Minister of State for Power, launched the web portal and an app namely ‘PRAAPTI’ that stands for ‘Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators’.
  - The portal ‘www.praapti.in’ has been developed to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and DISCOMs.

  - The MoU shall be in force for a period of 2 years.
  - The Ministry of Women and Child Development has constructed this shelter home for widows with a capacity of 1000 inmates.

➢ Moody’s Investors Service report has cut India’s GDP growth forecast to 7.3% in 2018, from the previous forecast of 7.5% due to higher oil prices and tighter financial conditions.
  - Forecast for 2019 remains unchanged at 7.5%

➢ Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Jual Oram launched ‘the PANKHA’ (Hand-fans), an exhibition cum sale event, at Tribes India, New Delhi.
  - The Pankha has been created by TRIFED through its artisans from various parts of India.
➢ **India** is organizing an International Conference on **Trade – Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)** convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) linkage in Geneva.

  o The objective is to talk with the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** on issues related to prevention of theft of traditional knowledge of Ayurveda and Naturopathy.

➢ India has released **Rs 33.10 Crore to Nepal** for 2 road packages of **Birgunj – Thori Road** implemented under **Postal Highway Projects** in Nepal.

➢ **National Mineral Development Corporation and NLC Ltd.** (formerly known as Neyveli Lignite Corporation) signed a pact with **Environment Clean Technologies Ltd. Of Australia** in **Canberra**.

  o To set up a research and Development facility in **Tamil Nadu**.

➢ **Aditya Puri**, Managing Director of **HDFC** has appeared in the **top 30 global CEOs list** in the category ‘Growth Leaders’ released by **Barron’s**.

➢ **Infosys** has acquired US-based **Wongdoody** for up to **$75 million**.

➢ The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** in its draft Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation, 2018 has proposed use of blockchain technology to check menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) or spam calls and messages.

  o This will be for **first time**, any country will deploy blockchain technology to check unwanted calls.

➢ **Importance of Monsoon for Indian Economy**

  o The **south-west monsoon** accounts for over **70%** of the country’s annual rainfall

  o Its arrival marks the beginning of the cultivation of rain-fed kharif crops which are heavily dependent on the monsoon

  o India is primarily an agrarian economy — **agriculture contributes 15% of India’s gross domestic product (GDP)**.

  o It will not only boost agricultural production but increase consumer demand, which will help keep inflation in check.
In IMD’s first long range forecast, rainfall will be 97% of the 50-year average with a 54% probability that rains will be normal to above-normal.

There was rain deficit in the last two months of last year’s monsoon. Rainfall between 96% and 104% of the long-term average is considered normal.

➢ Jio, plans to enter the wired segment by providing fibre-to-the-home services by the end of this year.

➢ The government has decided to form a national task force comprising medical, veterinary and environmental experts and plans to make veterinary public health a part of the national health mission

The same has been done after outbreak of NIPAH Virus in Kerala

➢ The unexpected nature of the occurrence of such diseases—termed zoonotic because they normally occur in animals but can infect humans

➢ There is little information about their origin

➢ Major public health zoonotic diseases in India include rabies, Nipah, Japanese encephalitis, plague and leptospirosis.

➢ The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange Ltd (SGX) agreed before the Bombay High Court to take their dispute over SGX’s India-focused derivative products to arbitration.

➢ The two exchanges agreed to appoint retired judge S.J. Vazifdar as arbitrator.

➢ Five types of Tax Notices
➢ Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's Patanjali launched a new swadeshi messaging application called 'Kimbho' to compete with WhatsApp
  o The tagline of Kimbho is "Ab Bharat Bolega"

➢ The Government of India and the World Bank signed a $500 million loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project.
  o Under the project, 7,000 km of climate resilient roads will be built, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.
  o The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 3-year grace period, and a maturity of 10 years.

➢ The Ministry of Railways organized a one day workshop called ‘Mission Raftar’ in New Delhi.
  o Objective is to double the average speed of freight trains and increase the speed of coaching trains by 25kmph.

➢ After 4 years of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana, the state of Andhra Pradesh gets its own symbol.
  o Neem and Black Buck have been declared as the state tree and the state animal respectively.
  o Rose-ringed Parakeet will be the State Bird.
  o Jasmine will be the state flower
➢ **e-PDS app** for ration card holders launched by Food, Civil supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCC) department of Himachal Pradesh.
   - **e-PDS** – Electronic Public Distribution System
   - The beneficiaries will get the ration card in the digital form in the app and can use them for transactions in the ration shops.

➢ The Cabinet of Haryana approved the ordinance to grant salary and allowance to the **Chief whip** by Haryana Legislative Assembly (Salary, Allowances and Pension Members) Act, 1975.
   - These amendments were done in many other state legislatures like: Delhi, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan.

➢ A financial assistance of Rs. **5 Lakh** was granted to Manipuri Fencer **Ms. Kh. Kalambia Chanu**.

➢ The **34th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring** took place in New Delhi.
   - In this meeting the approval for construction of new 1.5 lakh affordable houses took place
   - Announced under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban)**.
➢ Asian Development Bank approved $375 million loan in Madhya Pradesh.
   o To expand irrigation network

➢ The ministry of Statistics reported that India’s GDP grew at robust 7.7% in Q4 of financial year 2017-18.
   o The full year growth is at 6.7%

➢ Mahindra & Mahindra has signed two MoUs with Maharashtra Government to advance its next phase of expansion in electric vehicles (EVs) and to achieve its goal to become completely electric ready.

➢ The Tata Motors and Maharashtra Government have signed a MoU to deploy 1,000 Electric Vehicles across a range of passenger and commercial vehicles in Maharashtra.

➢ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired upgraded guided version of Pinaka Rocket from Proof & Experiment Establishment (PXE) at Chandipur, Odisha.

➢ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has launched a tax refund drive and issued instructions to swiftly settle refund claims of exporters that are held up because of mismatches in the returns filed by them.
   o The move is meant to streamline the new indirect tax regime and improve the cash flow of exporters who have been complaining that refund delays make them less competitive.

➢ In four years’ time, NDA government has provided 100 million additional LPG connections.
   o Out of 270 million households in India, only 130 million had LPG connections four years ago.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

➢ NASA will launch its first-ever mission InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) to study the deep interior of Mars
  o It is a terrestrial planet explorer which will help in understanding the processes that shaped rocky planets of the solar system
  o Launch date - May 5, 2018.
  o It will be launched from Space Launch Complex-3 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California
  o Launching rocket United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket.
  o The rocket will also launch two mini-spacecraft called Mars Cube One (MarCO) which is NASA’s technology experiment

➢ In a new start, the Dominican Republic and China had established diplomatic relations as the Caribbean country becomes the latest nation to dump Taiwan in the face of Beijing’s growing influence.
  o With this, Dominican Republic has broken a 77-year alliance with Taiwan.

➢ Through the Nathu La Border, India and China have resumed their bilateral trade
  o Nathu La Border connects India’s state of Sikkim with China.

➢ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released a report, according to which India joined the United States and China as one of the world’s 5 biggest military spenders.
  o New Delhi’s defence spending increased by 5.5 percent to $63.9 billion in 2017. It has surpassed France now.
  o Top 5 Military spenders-
    o USA, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and India respectively.

➢ India-South Africa Summit 2018 concludes in Johannesburg
The tag line was “United by Legacy, Unified for Prosperity,”

- The controversial UK marketing analytics firm Cambridge Analytica, which has been at the heart of the Facebook data scandal, has announced to cease all its operations immediately and filing for insolvency in Britain and the United States.
  - Its British Parent – SCL Elections Ltd will also be shut down immediately

- China has exempted import tariffs for 28 drugs including all cancer drugs from May 1

- The annual meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) held at Manila, Philippines.
  - The 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers also held at Manila, Philippines.

- With GDP of $2.7 trillion, US state California’s economy has surpassed that of the UK to become the world’s fifth largest, according to new federal data released.
  - California’s economy is now only behind the economy of the United States, China, Japan and Germany.

- India and Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in India and Sri Lanka.

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified the protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait.

- Vladimir Putin was sworn in as the President of Russia for the fourth time, renewing another six-year term in office.

- Israel announced its withdrawal from the contest for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the 2019-2020 term.
  - Israel was competing against Germany and Belgium.

- Nokia has acquired SpaceTime Insight, a California-based startup, to expand its Internet of Things (IoT) portfolio and IoT analytics capabilities.
  - Rob Schilling, who had been CEO of SpaceTime, will become the head of Nokia’s IoT unit.

- New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman Resigns
➢ The 71st Cannes Festival is held in Cannes, France.

➢ Alphabet Inc’s Google launched Android Things (codenamed Brillo), a variant (or spinoff) of Android operating system for Internet of Things (IoT) devices such as smart home appliances and other smart machines.
  o Its goal is to enable IoT machines developers to be built faster, cheaper and more secure.

➢ Microsoft has launched a $25 million initiative to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to build better technology for people with disabilities.

➢ US-based retail giant Walmart has confirmed that it will buy 77% stake in India’s largest e-commerce startup Flipkart for $16 billion.
  o Walmart bought the stake in Flipkart for 16 billion dollars.
  o The acquisition, which is the largest e-commerce deal in the world, will value the home-grown start-up at a reported amount of $20.8 billion.

➢ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) signed a space act agreement with Uber Technologies to explore concepts and technologies related to Urban Air Mobility (UAM) for future air transportation such as flying cars in populated areas.

➢ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced to hold a climate summit in September 2019 in New York to review the commitments of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
  o In March 2018, Guterres appointed former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy for Climate Action who was tasked to support the United Nations (UN) in its climate strategy and in organising the 2019 summit.
➢ Donald Trump announced US withdrawal from the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran.
   - The historic nuclear deal was reached in Vienna in July 2015 between Iran and the P5 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) along with Germany and the European Union.
   - P5 Members – China, France, Russia, UK and US.

➢ The 2018 World Robot Conference will be held in Beijing from 15th to 19th August 2018.

➢ China successfully launched Gaofen-5, a hyper-spectral imaging satellite, as part of the country’s high-resolution Earth observation project.
   - Developed and produced by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

➢ Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. has reached an agreement to buy Shire Plc for $62 billion
   - It will transform Takeda into a top drug-maker in the business of rare diseases.

➢ Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) conducts CFO Optimism Index
   - The survey reveals how optimistic the CFOs are with respect to the overall financial health of their respective firms, the business risk environment and the macro-economic scenario of the country.

➢ The leaders of China, Japan and South Korea met in Tokyo against the backdrop of historic diplomatic moves by North Korea and a push for the isolated country to give up its nuclear weapons.
   - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Moon Jae-in held talks in the first three-way summit.

➢ A MoU was signed between Gujarat government and the Poland government regarding the centenary celebrations to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other regions of the world.

➢ Indian Government has sent 2nd relief consignment for Rohingyas (who fled Myanmar) residing in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

➢ On 8th May 2018, Alibaba announced that, it has bought Pakistani e-commerce firm Daraz.
Yahoo has launched its own new group chat app named Squirrel.

Japanese casual clothing retailer Uniqlo will open its first Indian store in Delhi in fall 2019, through its Indian subsidiary Uniqlo India Pvt. Ltd.

In collaboration with the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program and the Government of India, US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is hosted the 6th U.S.-India Aviation Summit in Mumbai, India.

- The American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) is organizing this visit on behalf of USTDA

The California-based aerospace company, SpaceX has blasted off its most powerful Falcon 9 rocket, which is certified to carry humans to space later this year.

- The Block 5 Falcon 9 rocket’s main goal for its maiden mission is to propel the first high-orbit communications satellite for Bangladesh, called Bangabandhu Satellite-1.

As per Credit rating agency Fitch, Indian economy is projected to grow at 7.3 percent in current fiscal i.e. 2018-19 and 7.5 percent in next fiscal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBI</td>
<td>7.4%</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rating in March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fitch</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moody</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Stanley</td>
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<tr>
<td>India’s Rating and Research</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRISIL (Last Update – March)</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>7% - 7.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ **Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC)** will supply the first oil cargo for India’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) of **2 million barrels**, becoming the first foreign company to lease storage in the country.

➢ **US President Donald Trump’s administration has cancelled NASA’s Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) programme** citing reasons of budget constraints and higher priorities within science budget
  - NASA’s CMS Programme costing $10 million per year was meant to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming

➢ **Nepal** will be the host for the upcoming **2018 BIMSTEC Summit**.
  - **Bay of Bengal Initiative of Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Summit**
  - It is a sub-regional group of **seven** countries namely **Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka** and **Thailand** in the South-Asia region.

➢ China’s **SHAREit** acquired South Indian movie app **Fastfilmz**
  - Karam Malhotra will be the CEO of SHAREit India.
➢ **China’s** first domestically manufactured aircraft carrier known only as “**Type 001A**” started sea trials from Dalian port in Liaoning province.

➢ **World Health Organization** (WHO) calls on governments to use the ‘REPLACE’ action package to eliminate industrially-produced artificial trans-fats from the global food supply by **2023**.
   - REPLACE is abbreviated in six strategic actions as **Review, Promote, Legislate, Assess, Create awareness and Enforce**.
   - The global health body estimates that every year, trans fat intake leads to over **5,00,000 deaths worldwide from cardiovascular diseases**.

➢ As per a report by **Mercom Communications India, India** emerged as the **third largest solar market** in the world in **2017** behind China and the US.
   - In **2017**, India set a new record with **9.6 GW of solar installations**, which was more than double the **4.3 GW installed in 2016**.

➢ **International Labour Organization’s** (ILO’s) **World Employment and Social Outlook Report** has that projected increase in surface temperature due to global warming will lead to around **2,59,000 job losses in India by 2030**, especially in carbon-and resource-intensive industries.

➢ The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has published its first ‘**Essential Diagnostics List**’
   - A catalogue of tests needed to diagnose the most common conditions as well as a number of global priority diseases.
   - An estimated **46% of adults with Type 2 diabetes worldwide were undiagnosed**, risking serious health complications and higher health costs.

➢ **Microsoft Corp.** is planning to release a line of lower cost **Surface Tablets** in second half of 2018 seeking a hit in market for cheaper devices.

➢ **Saudi British Bank (SABB) and Alawwal Bank** have agreed a merger.
It would create Saudi Arabia’s third biggest lender.

- The President of Guatemala Jimmy Morales inaugurated Guatemalan embassy in Jerusalem.
  - It is the second country after US to do so.
- Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte, will be on a two-day official visit to India with an aim to boost the economic and political cooperation between the two countries.
- Russia unveiled the world’s first floating nuclear power station at a ceremony in the port of the city of Murmansk where it will be loaded with nuclear fuel before heading to eastern Siberia.
  - This is called Akademik Lomonosov and was built by Rosatom in Saint Petersburg.
  - It is a 144 by 30 metre (472 by 98 foot) ship holds two reactors with two 35 megawatt nuclear reactors.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) held an emergency meeting to discuss on the outbreak of Ebola in Congo.
  - WHO has declared the risk to the public in Congo “very high” and the regional risk “high.”
- A Chinese based space start-up named OneSpace launched its OS-X rocket.
  - This was a 30 feet long satellite named “Chongqing Liangjiang star”
  - It is the first private Chinese firm to launch a commercial rocket.
- On 19th May, National Aeronautics Space Association (NASA) spotted a Pac-Man shaped crater on Mars.
  - Pac-Man is a video game character from the 80s.
- According to World Health Statistics 2018 released by World Health Organisation (WHO), India saw estimated 211 cases of tuberculosis (TB) per 1,00,000 people in 2016.
  - India has pledged to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of global target set by WHO.
- The 26th BASIC Ministerial meeting of Environment Ministers was held in Durban, South Africa.
Brazil, South Africa, India and China are termed as BASIC Countries

- An emergency summit of *Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)* was held in Istanbul, Turkey.
  - To discuss the recent *Israeli violence against Palestinian protesters* in Gaza Strip
  - It is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the UN with a membership of 57 states.

China has launched *Queqiao Satellite from Xichang Launch Center* to explore the dark side of moon.

- *Queqiao* is also known as *Magpie Bridge*

The United Kingdom’s National Crime Agency (NCA) has placed Pakistan among the top three sources for money laundering in the United Kingdom.

- *Nigeria and Russia* are the other two countries in the top 3 sources of money laundering in UK.
- NCA had produced a report named “National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organized Crime 2018”.

The California based giant software company *Adobe* announced its acquisition of *Magento* for USD 1.68 billion.

The US merchandise trade deficit with the world’s largest exporter hit a record $375 billion last year.

China is planning to scrap all limits on the number of children a family can have.
➢ SpaceX has successfully launched twin NASA satellites GRACE-FO (Follow-On) that will track Earth’s water Cycle i.e. Water movement and Icemelt from 2002 to 2017
  o It was launched on board of SpaceX’s preflo...nd Air Force Base in California, US.

➢ Scientists have discovered an asteroid named Oumuamua (or (514107) 2015 BZ509) nestling in Jupiter’s orbit that had migrated from another star system.
  o It makes it first known permanent immigrant to our solar system

➢ Punggye-ri nuclear testing site inside a mountain in the northeast of North Korea will be demolished.

➢ UNICEF released a Data Visualisation app that offers user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of the education scenario in the country.
  o It can be used as a visual tool by policy makers, senior government officials, academia, and researchers to monitor programs in the education sector.

➢ Pentagon, the headquarters of the United States Department of Defense disinvited China from participating in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.
  o RIMPAC, the Rim of the Pacific Exercise, is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. RIMPAC is held biennially during June and July

➢ Palestine has submitted its instrument of accession to Chemical Weapons Convention to European Union (EU).
  o The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is an arms control treaty that outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.
  o The full name of the treaty is the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and it is administered by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

➢ The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Nepal the first country in the WHO’s South-East Asian countries to eliminate Trachoma.
  o The WHO South East Asia Region has 11 Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste.
Also, the Kingdom of Cambodia and Lao People’s Democratic Republic (South East Asian countries) have already eliminated Trachoma in September 2017. But they do not form part of the WHO's South East Asian countries.

Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in the Himalayan nation in the 1980s.

India launches international incubator for clean energy innovators in MI3 at Malmo, Sweden.

India announces its plan for hosting MI clean energy materials Workshop in October-November, 2018 at New Delhi.

The European Union’s (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - will take effect from May 25 - envisages strict rules for handling personal data of users and specifies new protocols for handling and storing private data, and sharing it with third parties.

- GDPR will replace the 1995 Data Protection Directive and is aimed at protecting the personal data of EU citizens.
- The new rights include:
  - The right to be forgotten
  - The right to data portability
  - The right to object to profiling
  - Consumer consent to process data must be freely given.
  - Consumer must be informed of their right to withdraw their consent
  - A personal data breach must be reported to the Data Protection Authority within 72 hours.
- Flouting the rules can attract a maximum fine equivalent to 4% of an organization’s global annual revenue or €20 million, whichever is higher.

Mytrah Energy Ltd, renewable energy producer, has delisted from London’s Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

- Was listed in 2010.

Nima Jangmu Sherpa of Nepal made a world record by scaling three highest mountains — Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse and Mt. Kanchenjunga in a single climbing season.

- She has become the only woman in the world to climb three highest peaks in Nepal above 8,000 meters in one season within 25 days.
➢ Netflix Inc. soared past Walt Disney Co. in market value, taking title of most valuable media company.

➢ The president of Columbia Juan Manuuel Santos announced that Columbia has formally joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
   
   ○ Columbia is the only country of Latin America to be a part of NATO.
   ○ NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance

➢ 108th session of UNWTO Executive Council held in San Sebastian, Spain.

➢ Qatar announced that it was banning products from United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt
   
   ○ It is to protect safety of consumers in the state of Quata and to stop trafficking of goods

➢ The 2nd meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting was held in Beijing.

➢ Azerbaijan inaugurated a pipeline at Sangachal Terminal, in Azerbaijan.
   
   ○ This pipeline will eventually create the first direct route to transport gas from one of the world’s largest fields to Europe bypassing Russia

➢ A group of 26 countries including India will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) military exercise in and around the Hawaiian islands and Southern California.
   
   ○ It is known as the world’s largest international maritime exercise
   ○ For the first time 4 new countries are participating in RIMPAC. They are: Brazil, Israel, Sri Lanka, Vietnam.
   ○ The Theme of 2018 RIMPAC is ‘Capable, Adaptive, Partners’.

➢ United States has renamed its oldest and largest strategically important military command US Pacific Command (PACOM) to Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM).
   
   ○ The decision was taken in recognition of growing importance of Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking

➢ The world’s longest flight of 18 hours 45 minutes will restart its operations from Newark Liberty International Airport to Singapore.
   
   ○ Covering about 10,000 miles as announced by Singapore Airlines Ltd
BANKING AND ECONOMY

➢ As per the data released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), 14 Indian cities figure in a list of world’s 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016.
  o Kanpur has been ranked as the most polluted city among the 4300 world cities per the WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database

➢ In a bid to curtail money laundering, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has unveiled with a detailed framework for risk based Know Your Client (KYC) documentation of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).
  o Non-resident Indians (NRIs), overseas citizens of India (OCI) and resident Indians cannot be beneficial owners of FPIs.
  o NRIs and OCIs can limit their roles to investment advisors and do not invest money.
  o The term Beneficial Owner was redefined
  o A person owning 25 per cent stake would be considered the beneficial owner (BO). However, if it originates from a high-risk jurisdiction, any person owning 10 per cent stake or more in such FPI would be considered a BO.
  o All investors from such jurisdictions would have to comply with the KYC requirement for category-III FPIs (considered to be High Risk entity).

➢ The total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of April 2018 surpassed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark and stood at Rs 103,458 crore

➢ Kotak Securities Limited, the stock broking and distribution arm of the Kotak Mahindra Group has launched ‘Free Intraday Trading’,
  o That allows financial market traders to do intra-day trading without paying any brokerage per trade.
  o Intraday trading refers to the activity of buying and selling a security (equity, currency, commodity) on the same day
➢ To develop an innovative biopharmaceutical and medical devices industry in India, Government of India and the World Bank signed an agreement.
   - The aim is to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products.
   - The agreement has signed at a cost of USD 250 million for five years with 50 per cent funding through the World Bank Loan.

➢ India Topped the list with the Projection of 7.9 Per cent as per the report of the Centre for International Development (Harvard University) which predicted the fastest growing economies in the world for the Upcoming Decade.
   - The projection is far high than China (4.9 Per cent), U.S. (3 Per cent), France (3.5 Per cent)
   - Uganda is in Second Position with predicted growth of 7.5 percent.
   - The Report also Stated that India ranks the best in Complexity Opportunity Index (COI), which measures the redeployment of the related products that depends on the Capabilities.
   - The Countries which has Low growth Prospects:
     - Bangladesh
     - Venezuela
     - Angola
   - The Countries which has fast growth Prospects are:
     - Philippines
     - Vietnam
     - Indonesia
     - Thailand

➢ ADB projected India’s growth is Projected to be 7.3 Percent in Fiscal Year 2018
   - 7.6 Per cent in the next Fiscal 2019
   - The growth Projection of India is high from the Previous year is because of the Implementation of GST, Foreign Direct Investment also helps in India’s growth &
the Most Important Factor which boost the growth is the Governments Initiative of Ease of Doing Business.

➢ Reserve Bank of India has directed banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange (Authorised Dealer-I Banks) to share data with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

   - This requires a banking company to furnish, electronically, information relating to foreign exchange transactions made or received by any person to the receiving authority (DRI).
   - DRI is the top intelligence and investigating agency for issues related to violation of the Customs Act.
   - As per new rules, in case of inward remittances, the agency can seek information relating to a remitter’s name, address, permanent account number (PAN), Goods and Service Tax Identification Number (GSTIN), Aadhaar number, bank account number and Indian Financial System Code (IFSC), remitter’s details like name, address, and SWIFT-BIC (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication – Bank Identifier Code).
   - In the case of outward remittances, the agency can seek information relating to a remitter’s name, address, PAN, GSTIN, Aadhaar number, bank account number and IFSC and the remitter’s details like name, address, and SWIFT-BIC.

➢ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that, it will buy Rs 10,000 crore of government bonds through open market operation (OMO), after failing to sell all the debt it had offered to bidders.

   - Open market operations are conducted by the RBI by way of sale or purchase of government securities (g-secs) to adjust money supply conditions.
   - The central bank sells g-secs to suck out liquidity from the system and buys back g-secs to infuse liquidity into the system.
   - These operations are often conducted on a day-to-day basis in a manner that balances inflation while helping banks continue to lend.

➢ US has added India to its currency watch list

   - Why – India meets two out of three criteria for inclusion in the watch list
Trade surplus should be below $20 billion – India has $23 billion trade surplus with US in the year 2017.

Net Purchase of Foreign currency should be 2% of GDP – India’s net purchase of foreign currency was 2.2% of GDP

Current Account surplus of at least 3% of GDP – India’s current account is in deficit at 2.4% of GDP

The Report prepared by US highlights the currency practices adopted by major trading partners of US. Once a country is added to the monitoring list, it will remain on it for at least two consecutive reports.

China, Germany, Japan, Korea and Switzerland are also on the watch list.

Impact on India – Though India has made it to the watch list, but as the current account deficit is high, the possibility of being termed as manipulator is low.

Impact on Rupee – Currently there would not be any impact on the rupee as RBI may become more cautious about intervening in the market. Also, rupee is in depreciating mode, thus there is no requirement for intervening. So far in 2018, the rupee has weakened 2.47%

Why US Treasury Department prepares such list? –

In 2017, rupee gained 6.3% due to FDI and portfolio investment and forex reserves rose to all time high of nearly $425 billion. This led to intervention by the RBI to sterilise dollar flows to curb undue volatility.

Learning from the Taper Tantrums, RBI needs to be mindful of the increased forex reserves.

Taper Tantrums – The pumping of money in the economy by the RBI will lead to inflation in the long run. But this process of quantitative easing could not be stopped immediately as it will increase the interest rate. Thus, curtailing the quantitative easing gradually is known as Tapering.

This is artificially managing the value of currency which can lead to trade advantage i.e. keeping the exchange rate low and thus increasing the exports.

Thus to avoid the countries to take undue advantage, US has decided to normalize the monetary policy.
➢ **12** Accounts referred by RBI for resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Claims (Rs Crore)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SBI</td>
<td>Monnet Ispat &amp; Energy Ltd</td>
<td>10,412</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alok Industries Ltd</td>
<td>29,912</td>
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<td>Jyoti Structures Ltd</td>
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<td>Bhushan Steel Ltd</td>
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<td>ElectroSteels Ltd</td>
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<td>SBI/ Standard Chartered Bank</td>
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<td>Corporation Bank</td>
<td>Amtek Auto Ltd</td>
<td>12,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDBI</td>
<td>Lanco Infratech Ltd</td>
<td>51,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jaypee Infratech Ltd</td>
<td>13,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNB</td>
<td>Bhushan Power &amp; Steel Ltd</td>
<td>48,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICICI Bank</td>
<td>ABG Shipyard Ltd</td>
<td>18,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Bank of India</td>
<td>ERA Infra Engineering Ltd</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ **BlackRock Inc.**, the world’s largest asset manager will sell its **40% stake in DSP**

**BlackRock Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd.** to joint venture partner **DSP Group**.
- BlackRock is the latest in a long list of international players who have exited the Indian MF market over the last decade; the other names on the list include
  - **Nomura**, which sold its stake to LIC;
  - **Standard Chartered**, which sold its stake to IDFC;
  - **Fidelity**, which sold its stake to L&T;
  - **JP Morgan** which sold its stake to Edelweiss.

➢ **On 10th May 2018, Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Rs 945-crore deal with the Harris Corporation of the US for development of its futuristic telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) programme.**
- The contract is for 15 years. It was signed at the sixth edition of the US-India aviation summit that started on 10th May 2018 in Mumbai.
o According to the deal, Harris Corporation will be the prime contractor and systems integrator for the programme. The programme will be executed in two years.

➢ The Indian tea industry reached the highest ever production of 1,325.05 million kg and export of 256.57 million kg during the financial year 2017-18.

➢ Canadian Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) became the first global equity ETF run by robots when it launched in November.

➢ YES Bank is all set to roll out a capacity building project with farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan under its ‘Livelihood and Water Security’ CSR initiative.
   o The overall focus of the programme would be on sustainable agricultural practices and digital literacy.

➢ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put state-run lender Dena Bank under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.
   o It has barred Dena Bank from extending fresh credit in view of deteriorating financial health due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs) and mounting losses.
   o It makes Dena Bank first lender to face curbs on lending under PCA framework.

➢ A state-run Chinese bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) has launched the country’s first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund
   o The fund, named the ICBC Credit Suisse India Market Fund, will invest in exchange-traded funds listed on more than 20 exchanges in Europe and the US that are based on the Indian market.
   o It is China’s first publicly offered fund for investing in India.

➢ Fino Payments Bank launched a suite of digital products that can be accessed online and through mobile phones with the focus to build the transaction platform
   o The latest initiatives include Unified Payments Interface (UPI), BHIM app - using which customers can access UPI and make P2P payments, net banking, digi savings account

➢ Paytm introduced automatic recurring payments, a new feature that lets users configure the payments app to pay for periodic recurring expenses automatically.
Similar to standing instructions for bank accounts, the ‘My Payments’ feature can be used for high-value payments for a variety of cases.

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will set up a dedicated web portal for spreading information on filming locations and production facilities available in India.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has placed additional restrictions on Allahabad Bank, which is under prompt corrective action (PCA) since January 2018.

- World Bank (WB) has finally agreed to provide a grant to Bangladesh for meeting the basic needs of around one million Rohingyas who fled their homeland Myanmar.

- Private sector bank, Yes Bank and its think tank YES Global Institute have launched ‘Agenda 25×25’, aimed at creating a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India.

  - Agenda 25X25’ is geared towards ensuring that by 2025, at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women.

- Karnataka Bank will sell 8.26% stake in Universal Sompo General Insurance to Dabur Investment Corporation and Sompo Japan.

  - Following the transaction, Karnataka Bank will hold 6% stake in Universal Sompo General Insurance.

- As per a report by HSBC, inflation is set to rise further during Oct 2018 to March 2019 and could average 5.1 per cent for financial year 2018-19.

- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has become the first Indian exchange to be recognised as a Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM) by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

  - DOSM status will allow sale of securities to US investors through trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with US SEC.

- Smaller towns are driving growth for SBI Cards (a subsidiary of State Bank of India) which has been increasing its card numbers at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40%.
➢ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has modified the norms for setting up **International Financial Services Centres (IFSC)** Banking Units (IBUs) by banks.

  o As per the new norm, **parent bank will be required to provide and maintain at a minimum capital of USD 20 million in its IBU on an ongoing basis.**
  o The modification has been brought in to accommodate suggestions from stakeholders to consider minimum prescribed regulatory capital at the parent level rather than at the IBU level.
  o However, parent bank will be required to provide a Letter of Comfort for extending financial assistance, as and when required, in the form of capital/liquidity support to IBU.
  o The move is expected to expedite entry of more foreign multinational banks at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), the only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India**

➢ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released final guidelines prescribing **100 percent Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) for banks** aimed at maintaining adequate liquidity for more resilience.

  o The NSFR is defined as the amount of available stable funding (ASF) relative to the amount of required stable funding (RSF)
  
  \[
  \text{NSFR} = \frac{\text{ASF (Available Stable Funding)}}{\text{RSF (Required Stable Funding)}} \geq 100
  \]

  o The above ratio should be equal to at least 100% on an ongoing basis
  o **Available stable funding**” (ASF) is defined as the portion of capital and liabilities expected to be reliable over the time horizon considered by the NSFR, which extends to one year.
  o The amount of stable funding required ”**Required stable funding**“ (RSF) of a specific institution is a function of the liquidity characteristics and residual maturities of the various assets held by that institution
  o The NSFR is generally calibrated such that longer-term liabilities are assumed to be more stable than short-term liabilities.
As per UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) as of mid-2018, India’s economy is projected to grow **7.6 per cent** in fiscal year 2018-19.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs5 crore** on South Indian Bank (SIB) for non-compliance with its directions on **Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC)** norms, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and treasury function.

The **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** an arm of **World Bank** has extended **$300 million** loan to **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** to scale up energy efficiency program.

- Combination of two loans - $220 million and $80 million
- The Aim of EESL program is to avoid lifetime greenhouse emissions of **170 million tonnes** of CO2 and **10GW** of additional generation capacity

The government’s Bank Note Paper Mill India (BNPM) received Environment Clearance (EC) from Environment Ministry to increase production of bank note paper from **12,000 tonnes per annum (TPA)** to **16,000 TPA** at its Mysuru unit in Karnataka.

- This company is a Joint Venture between **Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Limited** (SPMCIL - A wholly owned Public Sector Undertaking of Government of India under Ministry of Finance) and **Bharatiya Reserve Bank**

**State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country’s biggest lender, reported a loss of **Rs. 7,718 crore** in the January-March quarter

**NITI Aayog** vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar exuded confidence that Indian economy will achieve **9% growth rate** on sustained basis by **2022**

- On the back of reforms like GST, demonetisation and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- Indian economy grew by **6.6% in 2017-18** and expected to grow at **7.5% this fiscal** as per NITI Aayog

**BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)** plans to launch Americas Regional Office in Brazil.

- It is done to increase the operational capabilities of NDB in Brazil
➢ Bank of Baroda locates major operations at GIFT city.
   o The bank will now offer its services including retail loan processing, deposit
     account opening in this Shared Service Centre (SSC).

➢ Bank of Baroda has signed agreement with CDSL Commodity Repository (CCRL).
   o This agreement is for pledge finance under the repository ecosystem for
     registered / accredited warehouses.
   o This will also provide various features to its stakeholders such as seamless
     transfer of ownership of commodity by the depositors, splitting of warehouse
     receipt by the depositors, real time and ease of access of information by the
     banks
   o BOB becomes the first public sector bank to become the repository participant.

➢ Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) launches India’s first copper options.
   o The contract has clocked a traded volume of 461 lots with value of Rs. 21.89
     crore
   o The contracts are available for trading with one MCX copper futures contract
     (1MT) as the bottom-line.

➢ HDFC bank launched Digital Loans against Mutual Funds (LAMF)
   o This is launched in partnership with transfer agent CAMS.

➢ Reserve Bank of India announced that banks’ credit grew at 12.64% and deposits at
  7.61% as on May 11, 2018 data.
   o Credit grew by 12.64 percent year-on-year to Rs 85,51,099 crore in the fortnight
     ending in May 11, 2018 compared to the fortnight ending in May 12, 2017,
     banks’ advances stood at Rs 75,90,941 crore

➢ Common Service Centre (CSC) SPV and Small Industries Development Bank of India
  (SIDBI) signed an MoU for providing financial support to CSCs across the country
   o Through the MoU, the SIDBI seeks to extend financial support to the Village
     Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) of CSCs, with minimum one year of operation, under
     the Direct Financing Window of SIDBI.
   o To avail the loan, the VLEs need to submit their CSC project with maximum
     project outlay of Rs 3.50 lakh and term loan requirement of up to Rs 2 lakh per
     project.
➢ India’s largest stock exchange National Stock Exchange (NSE) has given approval to Yes Bank to be empanelled as ‘Settlement Bank’ for National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCC).
   o Yes Bank is already empanelled as a ‘Clearing Bank’ for BSE, NCDEX, MCX
   o It will provide different services to the member viz. Settlement and clearing, electronic fund transfer and ‘anywhere’ banking and free of cost fund transfer across all centres of NSE’s members.

➢ The market valuation of Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) has risen to Rs. 7,03,309 crore.
   o It becomes the first company so far to have achieved this goal.
   o Reliance Industries at Rs. 5,83,908.87 crore, HDFC bank at Rs. 5,19,654.83 crore

➢ ICICI bank launched its innovation lab for digital business.
   o This team is headed by former Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Mr. Rohan Angrish
   o Objective is to create technology from scratch and help better digital business.
   o The lab will function on a 3 point strategy: ‘Run, Evolve & Imagine’.

➢ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has released all the 7 e-filling forms for the taxpayers.
   o ITR-1 is called ‘Sahaj’ and is for the salaried person earning up to Rs. 50 lakh only
   o ITR-2 is for the individuals and ‘HUF’ having income from profits and gains in business including NRIs.
   o ITR-3 and ITR-4 can be filled by HUFs having the income under the head business and profession.

➢ Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCIRC) has launched a 40 day long cancer screening program and awareness initiative on harmful effects of tobacco consumption
   o World No Tobacco Day 2018 – 31 May 2018

➢ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed the Rupee Co-op Bank of Pune to continue its banking services keeping the limitations in mind for three months till August 2018.

➢ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed foreign investors in Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City to have the so-called ‘omnibus trade structure’ to ease compliance and access
This will help foreign investors escape direct registration and go through authorized brokers.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) such as Citibank and JPMorgan can now trade on GIFT situated exchanges—namely INX and NSE IFSC—through authorized brokers.

The broker will not have to upfront declare the identity of these foreign investors but will need to provide the beneficiary information to the regulator in case of suspicious transactions.

Omnibus account structures are present in all major offshore exchanges such as Singapore and Dubai. India was an outlier which insisted on direct registration. Lack of structure was preventing foreign investors from trading at GIFT City.

It may end up boosting volumes and flows at GIFT City, which is seeing a modest average daily turnover of $360 million.

It may help bring liquidity onshore which used to be fragmented or divided with offshore exchanges such as SGX, which has lenient structures.

Implications – The broker will buy the securities on behalf of his clients and purchases will be under the broker’s name. The details of actual investors will remain anonymous till such time regulators suspect irregularities and thus can be prone to misuse.

Breakthrough Management Group International (BMGI), a global management consulting firm, has entered into a strategic partnership with SmartConnect Technologies, which provides Social / Digital Process Transformation through its IP-suite UNFYD®COMPASS across Marketing, Sales, Customer Service, mobility and field service operations.

Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City has suffered a setback with the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) reaching a dead end in its talks with the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX).

State Bank of India hiked its fixed deposit rates for selected tenures.

- SBI will offer 6.65% for 1 to 2 year term deposits from 6.4%.
- Term deposits with 2-3 years with fetch 6.65% from 6.60% form earlier.
- For Senior citizens the term deposits of 1-2 years will be fetching 7.15% from 6.9%.
- FDs of 2-3 years will be getting interest rate of 7.15%.

- Facebook will be launching WhatsApp Pay, a payment service for its WhatsApp platform.
  - It will be partnering with HDFC, AXIS, ICICI and SBI banks.

- Indian Oil Corporation has emerged as India's most profitable state-owned company for the second consecutive year.
  - Indian Oil posted a record profit of Rs. 21,346 crore in 2017-18, followed by ONGC, whose profit stood at Rs. 19,945 crore.

- Reliance Industries is the most profitable company for the third year with highest ever profit of Rs. 36,075 Crore.
APPOINTMENTS

- **Harendra Singh** has been appointed as the coach of the **Indian Hockey Men’s team** by Hockey India
- **Sjoerd Marijne** has been appointed as the chief coach of Women’s Hockey Team
- **HDFC Bank** has reappointed **Keki Mistry** as the Managing Director of the firm. He was earlier the Vice-Chairman and CEO.
- **Prakash Apte** has been appointed as the Part Time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank
- **Sajid Javid** has been appointed as the Home Secretary of Britain. He is the **first South Asian** to head the Britain’s Home office.
- **Mr Sitanshu Ranjan Kar** took over as the **27th Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau** in New Delhi.
- **ICICI Bank**’s board appointed **Radhakrishnan Nair** as an additional (independent) director of ICICI bank for five years
- **GroupM**, part of WPP group, which is a global advertising group, announced that it has appointed **Sameer Singh** as the CEO of its South Asia operations.

- **BJP leader Shanti Jiban Chakma** will be sworn-in as chief executive member (CEM) of the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) in Mizoram.
- **Jagdish Mukhi** was sworn in as the acting governor of Manipur.
- **Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal** has been appointed as the acting chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- **Indian-American Deepa Ambekar** has been appointed as interim judge to the civil court of New York City, United States.
- The Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) has appointed **Ajith Kumar** as its **Helicopter Test Pilot** and **UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) System Advise**
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** has nominated **Dmitry Medvedev** again to be Russian prime minister in his new term.
- **Nikol Pashinyan** was elected as new prime minister of Armenia
- **Google** has appointed **Nitin Bawankule** as the **Country head** for Google Cloud India.
- **Tim Paine and Aaron Finch** have been appointed as Australia’s new ODI and T20 captains respectively.
➢ Facebook has announced that the company's Vice President of Product Chris Daniels will be taking over WhatsApp after Co-founder Jan Koum announced his departure, recently.

➢ Carlos Alvarado was sworn in as the new President of Costa Rica

➢ Government gave one year extension to Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha till June 2019

➢ 92-year-old Mahathir Mohamad will become world’s oldest elected leader after he will be sworn in as Malaysia’s Prime Minister following a fiercely contested 14th General election.
   o Earlier, Mahathir governed Malaysia for 22 years from 1981 to 2003 as strongman leader of the Barisan Nasional coalition.

➢ Munu Mahawar, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.

➢ Manu Ahuja has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Jubliant Industries Ltd.

➢ Pawan Kumar Agarwal was given three months extension as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

➢ Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan has been nominated as the Green Ambassador of the Sikkim by Sikkim government.

➢ Rajvardhan Rathore has been given the charge of Information and Broadcasting Ministry
   o Smriti Irani will handle the Ministry of Textiles only.
   o Piyush Goyal, Minister of Coal, Railways, has been given the additional charge of Finance Ministry until Arun Jaitley resumes.

➢ Netmeds has appointed Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.
   o Netmeds is online Pharmacy

➢ Indian American Congress woman Pramila Jayapal’s Sister Susheela Jayapal became the first South Asian to be elected in Oregon in the western US State.

➢ Uttam Pacharne has been appointed as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi

➢ Ambika Sharma will join U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) as Managing Director of India operations.
➢ Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP’s) legislative leader in Karnataka, B S Yeddyurappa was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on May 17, 2018.

➢ Lachlan Murdoch would be the CEO and Chairman of New Fox
  o New Fox is the company named after part of the 21st Century Fox Inc.’s share has been sold to Walt Disney Co.

➢ Varun Berry has been re-appointed as the Managing Director of Britannia Industries Ltd.

➢ K. Govindarajan has been appointed as the Director of United India Insurance Company

➢ The President of United States Mr. Donald Trump nominated 61 year old Gina Haspel as the first female CIA director

➢ The Zimbabwe Cricket council appointed former Indian Cricketer Mr Lalchand Rajput as the interim head coach of Zimbabwe.

➢ Yudhvir Singh Malik, the Secretary of Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, has been allotted additional charge of the post of NHAI Chairman

➢ Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur.

➢ Himanta Biswa Sarma, the President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) was unanimously elected as the Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC) at the Annual General Meeting of BAC at Bangkok, Thailand.

➢ Indian academic and foreign policy analyst C Raja Mohan has been appointed as director of the Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of National University of Singapore.

➢ Dilip Tirkey has been appointed as Chairman of the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation.

➢ John Visentin has been appointed as the CEO of Xerox Corp.

➢ Sameer Maheshwary has been appointed as the CFO of Zomato

➢ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Anil Kumar Jha as full time Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India Limited (CIL).

➢ Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro was re-elected for a second six-year term in presidential elections, according to the National Electoral Council (CNE)
➢ Deepti Umashankar, the Principal Secretary of Sainik and Ardh Sainik Welfare Department, has been allotted the additional charge of Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) Chairperson.

➢ The New York Police Department (NYPD) has inducted Gursoach Kaur, its first female turbaned Sikh auxiliary police officer.

➢ The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) has promoted Stacey Cunningham to President, making her the first sole woman head of the 226-year-old exchange.

➢ Pravin L Agrawal has been appointed as Part time official Director of Bhel

➢ Gobind Singh Deo, an Indian-origin lawyer and politician in Malaysia has become the first Sikh in Malaysia to be appointed as a Cabinet minister.

➢ HD Kumaraswamy was sworn-in as the New Chief Minister of Karnataka.

➢ S. D. Moorthy was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan.

➢ Charan Singh has been appointed as the Chairperson of Punjab and Sindh Bank.

➢ Anjali Bansal has been appointed as the Chairperson of Dena Bank

➢ Tapan Ray has been appointed as the Chairperson of Central Bank of India.

➢ Pradeep Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of Mauritiana.

➢ Mahendra Singh Kanyal has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname.

➢ Airtel Payments Bank appointed Anubrata Biswas as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

➢ Government has appointed former Supreme Court Judge CK Prasad as Chairman of Press Council of India (PCI) for second term.

➢ Sushil Chandra was given one-year extension as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) till May 2019.

➢ Ganeshi Lal has been appointed as the Governor of Odisha.

➢ Kummanam Rajasekharan has been appointed as the governor of Mizoram.

➢ The Caribbean island of Barbados has elected Mia Mottley as its first female Prime Minister since gaining independence from the UK in 1966.

➢ Lebanese President Michel Aoun announced that Saad Hariri won the rank of the Prime Minister for the third term.
➢ The boards of Max Financial Services and Max Life Insurance appointed Mr. Sachil Vachani as the Director.
➢ Ramesh Chand Meena has been appointed as the Chairperson of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)
  o Pratibha Brahma was elected as the Vice Chairperson of TRIFED.
➢ Former Pakistan Chief Justice Nasirul Mulk was appointed as the interim Prime Minister of the country
➢ Uber promoted its India head Amit Jain as regional general manager for Asia Pacific region (APAC).
➢ Sudha Balakrishnan has been named the first Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
  o She will be the 12th executive director of RBI.
➢ Ali Jahangir Siddiqui will take charge as the Pakistan’s Ambassador to US.
➢ Ibrahima Kassory Fofana took Charge as the Prime Minister of Guinea
➢ Justice R K Agrawal was appointed as the president of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
➢ Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra has been given Additional charge of DRDO.
➢ Alicia Pucheta has been named as the first woman President of Paraguay.
➢ Senior Journalists Amar Devulapalli has been appointed as the President of the Indian Journalists Union (IJU)
➢ The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed senior diplomat Pankaj Saran as Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA).
IMPORTANT DAYS

➢ May 1st – **International Labour Day**
  o Also known as **International Worker’s Day, Labour day, May Day**
  o The theme of International Labour Day 2018 is “**Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement**”.

➢ **World Asthma Day** is observed every year on the **first Tuesday** of May. It is organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)**.
  o Theme - ‘Never too early, never too late. It’s always the right time to address airways disease.’

➢ **Maharashtra and Gujarat** came into existence as states on 1st May 1960.
  o May 1 – Maharashtra and Gujarat Diwas

➢ **On 2nd May 2018, World Tuna Day** was celebrated throughout the world.
  o Theme - **Smart Tuna – Smart Ocean**.
  o The tuna fish is majorly found in Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans and in the Mediterranean Sea. It forms a major form of sea food in many countries.

➢ **World Press Freedom Day** – May 3
  o Theme - **Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law’**.

➢ **International Fire Fighter’s Day** – May 4

➢ **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** celebrated its foundation day on **May 3, 2018**

➢ **On 6th May 2018, International No Diet Day (INDD)** was observed all over the world
  o International No Diet Day (INDD) is a celebration of body acceptance, fat acceptance and body shape diversity.
  o Its symbol is a light blue ribbon

➢ **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** will celebrate its **Raising Day on May 7** every year

➢ BRO’s ideology ‘**Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam**’ has been implemented in friendly neighbouring countries through different project.
May 8 is celebrated globally as the World Red Cross Day.
  - It marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
  - Also known as Red Crescent Day

On 5th May 2018, World Cartoonist’s Day was observed all over the world.
  - On 5th May 1895, the first colour cartoon “The Yellow Kid” that was created by Richard F Outcault was published.

On 8th and 9th May 2018, Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War is observed.

March 8 – International Women’s Day
  - Campaign Theme - #Press for Progress
  - UN Theme - “Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives”.

Every year, ‘National Technology Day’ is celebrated across India on May 11 to memorize the anniversary of Shakti, the Pokhran nuclear test held on 11 May 1998.
  - The National Technology Day 2018 theme is “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”.
  - The first nuclear test Pokhran with a code named as ‘Smiling Buddha’ was carried out in May, 1974.
  - Twenty years ago, on May 11, 1998, India conducted the landmark Pokhran-II nuclear test at the Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan’s Jaisalmer district. A series of five nuclear explosions were conducted between May 11 and May 13, 1998.
➢ **International Nurses Day (IND)** is celebrated every year all around the world on **12th of May** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the **Florence Nightingale** and to mark the nurse's contributions towards people's health.

   o The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** has chosen the theme “**Nurses A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right**”

➢ **On 12th May 2018, the World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated throughout the world.**

   o Theme - “**Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation**”.
   o To be held on second weekend of May every year.
   o Also 2018 is the “**Year of the Bird**”.

➢ **May 15 – International Day of Families**

   o Theme – “**Families and inclusive societies**”

➢ **The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - May 17**

   o The theme for WTISD was “**Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All**”.

➢ **World Hypertension Day – May 17**

   o This is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL).
   o The theme for 2018 is: “**Know Your Numbers**”, with a goal of increasing high blood pressure (BP) awareness in all populations around the world.

➢ **International day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia – May 17**

   o Theme – **Alliances for Solidarity**
   o This day is observed to draw the attention of policymakers, opinion leaders, social movements, public and media to the violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTI (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) people all over the world.

➢ **On 18th May 2018, International Museum Day** was celebrated all over the world.

   o Theme: “**Hyperconnected museums: New approaches, new publics**”.

➢ **Worlds AIDS Vaccination Day – May 18**
➢ May 21 – Anti-Terrorism Day
   o To make the people aware of the anti-social act of terrorism and its impact on human suffering and lives.

➢ 20th of May 2018 is the first World Bee day.
   o The first World Bee Day celebrating ceremony was held in Slovenia
   o Every year on this day, the attention of the global public will be drawn to the importance of preserving bees and other pollinators.

➢ On 21st May 2018, World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was celebrated all over the world.

➢ The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed across the world on May 22
   o Theme - ‘Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity’ as the year 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
   o India is a treasure trove of biodiversity, hosting 7-8% of all recorded species globally, including over 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals

➢ On 24th May 2018, Commonwealth Day 2018 was observed in India.
   o Commonwealth Day was earlier known as Empire Day
It is celebrated on the second Monday in March in many countries. In India it is celebrated on 24th May.

- The theme for Commonwealth Day 2018 is: ‘Towards a Common Future’.

- **On 25th May 2018, International Missing Children’s Day** was observed all over the world.

- **25th May 2018 – World Thyroid Awareness Day**
  - Theme - ‘Environment and the Thyroid’

- **The International Day of UN Peacekeepers** is observed across the world on **May 29**
  - Theme - ‘UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice’

- **Goa celebrates its Statehood Day** as people’s demand for full statehood was attained on **30th May 1987**, when Goa became **India’s 25th state**
  - Daman and Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory.
  - Earlier Goa was a UT named as Goa, Daman and Diu.

- **Every year, on 31 May, World Health Organization and partners mark World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).**
  - The theme of World No Tobacco Day 2018 is *“Tobacco and heart disease.”*
AWARDS

➢ Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for her contribution in the field of Indian music.

➢ Visitor’s Awards were presented by the President Ram Nath Kovind
  o Prof. Sanjay K. Jain’s – for development of a drug delivery system having the potential to make cancer treatment more effective and affordable
  o Prof. Ashis Kumar Mukherjee – for research on the molecular complexity of the snake venom
  o Prof. Ashwani Pareek – for development of a rice variety with potential to increase farm productivity and income of farmers
  o Prof. Pramod K. Nayar – for his work in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

➢ Adarsh Credit bagged “Best Co-operative Society on digital platform” award in the BFSI leadership Awards 2018
  o Adarsh Credit is the first credit co-operative society in India to perform financial services digitally.

➢ Swedish Academy said that, the Nobel Prize in literature will not be awarded this year due to sex-abuse allegations and other issues.

➢ Jnanpith laureate M T Vasudevan Nair has bagged this year’s annual ONV Literary Prize, for his contributions to Malayalam literature.
  o The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh, citation and a plaque.

➢ Anuja Akathoot’s poetry collection, ‘Amma Urangunnilla’ has been selected for the young writer award in the ONV Literary Prize.

➢ Ministry of Railways has announced Awards for beautification of Station premises across the country
  o First Prize - Balharshah and Chandrapur stations (Nagpur Division) of Central Railway. Both the stations have been awarded with Rs 10 Lakhs prize money.

➢ Fiji’s Indian-origin former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry has been selected for the V K Krishna Menon Award for his contribution to the Indian diaspora.
- He became Fiji’s first Indo-Fijian Prime Minister on 19 May 1999

- Nisha Bhalla, a holistic coach and consultant from Mumbai was felicitated with Excellent Woman of Excellence Award at the recently concluded Annual Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2018 Awards.

- Prof Muhammad Yunus was awarded the 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 at an event, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
  - KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences)
  - He is the founder of Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. He is known as the Father of Microfinance.
  - He is the second Nobel laureate to receive this award.
  - KISS Humanitarian Award is an international award given to someone who has made exceptional contribution to the society in various fields relating to social issues and who has distinguished himself or herself as a true humanitarian

- Three Indian alumni of UK universities have been awarded by the British Council for their outstanding achievements and contribution to the country.
  - Saumya Saxena – Professional Achievement Award
  - Ruchi Shah – Social Impact Award
  - Sushant Desai – Entrepreneurial Award

- Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar was honoured with the Swara Mauli title

- DRDO Awards 2016 – 2017
  - Dr V K Saraswat - DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2017
  - Dr Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre - DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2016

- Anindita Anaam, a US-based Kathak dancer, was presented the ‘Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018’, at the ‘Jayadev International Dance Festival’ in Bhubaneswar.
➢ British journalist and former BBC India correspondent Sir William Mark Tully has been selected for this year’s RedInk Award for lifetime achievement in journalism.
  o Faye D’Souze, executive editor of Mirror Now channel, has been chosen for the RedInk award for ‘journalist of the year’.
➢ Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, the founder of Sulabh International, has been chosen for the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan 2018 for his contribution to the Development of Asia.
➢ Former BCCI President Shashank Manohar will serve a second two-year term as the Independent Chairman of the International Cricket Council
  o Mr Manohar became the first independent ICC Chairman in 2016
➢ Gujarat Governor Om Prakash Kohli take an additional charge of Madhya Pradesh
➢ Mukul Rohatgi was appointed as an eminent Jurist in the Selection Committee for appointment of the Lokpal.

➢ Chennaiyin FC’s head coach John Gregory was presented with a Special Achievement Award by England’s League Managers Association (LMA) at LMA’s 26th Annual Awards function in London.
➢ Sridevi was honoured with the TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival.
➢ Two case studies published by the IIM Calcutta Case Research Centre have received awards in the 2017 edition of the European Foundation of Management Development case competition.
  o ‘SIMSePAY at YES BANK: Creating Value Through an UnSmart Innovation.’
  o ‘Switchon O’nergy: Social innovation challenges at the bottom of the pyramid’.
➢ State owned NMDC won the S&P Platts award in Corporate Social Responsibility.
➢ The Yatra, an Indian charity that organises 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won charity award in London.
➢ NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul was presented a lifetime achievement award for his contributions in promoting brand India in the UK, at a UK & Asia Business awards ceremony in London.
➢ Bengaluru FC (Football Club)’s Awards night was held in Bengaluru.
Top scorer: **Sunil Chhetri**

Players’ Player of the year: **Sunil Chhetri**

Fans’ Player of the Year: **Gurpreet Singh Sandhu**

Goal of the Season: **Miku**

- The Minister of IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development of Andhra Pradesh **Shri Nara Lokesh** has received an award for ‘Digital Leader of the Year’.
  - For development of the rural sector and water supply departments.

- The founder, promoter and director of Continental Hospitals **Dr. Guru N Reddy** was presented with the UK & Asia Inspirational Business Leaders Award in London, UK.
  - He will be featured in **WCRC Leaders Magazine** in **June 2018** issue.

- Justice **C K Prasad** is likely to become the chief of Press Council of India for the second time.

- Non-executive Chairman of TATA Sons **Mr. Harish Manwani** has been appointed as an **Independent Director** to the firm.

- **Rajinder Singh** has been named **Hockey India’s President**.

- **Prajnesh Gunneswaran** won the prestigious **T.K. Ramanathan award** for the year 2017-18 at the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) annual day function at the SDAT tennis stadium.
  - Cash Prize of **Rs 30,000**
  - Prajnesh Gunneswaran is an Indian tennis player who represented **India Davis Cup team in 2017 Davis Cup**

- Japanese director **Hirokazu Kore-eda** won the top prize -- the Palme d'Or (Golden Palm) at Cannes Film festival for the movie **Shoplifters**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best Actress</th>
<th>Samal Yeslyamova</th>
<th>Ayka (Kazakhstan)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor</td>
<td>Marcello Fonte</td>
<td>Dogman (Italy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Singer Asha Bhosle** has been awarded with the Highest Civilian award of West Bengal, **Banga Bibhushan**
Footballer Subrata Bhattacharya was presented the Banga Bhushan

- The Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) annual awards were presented in Mumbai.
  - Asian junior Champion - Mihika Yadav
  - India’s No 5 Men’s player - Arjun Kadhe
  - India’s No 4 women’s player - Rutuja Bhosale
  - National Sub junior Champion - Rutuja Chaphalkar
  - India’s No 1 junior - Siddhant Banthia

- Polish author Olga Tokarczuk has won the Man Booker International Prize for her novel ‘Flights’
  - She became the first Polish writer to win the prize.
  - Flights was translated by Jennifer Croft. It was published by Fitzcarraldo Editions

- BRICS Forum awarded “BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award” for Lifetime Achievement to Late actress Sridevi.

- Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi presented the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 to the members of the INSV Tarini team in New Delhi.

- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has received the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category.

- Actress and Comedian Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be awarded annual Mark Twain award for American Humor from John F. Kennedy Centre of Performing Arts.

- United States President Donald Trump awarded a Medal of Honor to retired Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Britt K. Slabinski, at the White House, United States
  - Britt K. Slabinski is a former member of the Navy’s SEAL Team Six. He was awarded for leading a rescue mission on a mountaintop in Afghanistan in 2002.

- Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve received the first prize for conserving the rare wildlife resources from the National Bio-diversity Authority.
  - Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve is West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh.
➢ Indian Botanist Mr. **Kamaljit Bawa** was awarded the **Linnean Medal** in **Botany** from Linnean Society of **London**.

   o He is the **first** Indian to receive this award.

➢ **Thomas Antony**, a cartoonist from Kerala, has won an international award, in the **best caricature category**, at the **13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards** held in Portugal.

   o Indian cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** has been awarded the “**most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare**” award by the **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF)**.

➢ **HDFC bank** has been recognized with the Champion Security Award at the 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia/New Zealand</td>
<td>National Australia Bank Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater China</td>
<td>National Credit Card Centre, Taiwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India &amp; South Asia</td>
<td>HDFC Bank Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Mitsubishi UFJ NICOS CO., Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Lotte Card Company, Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best in Asia Pacific</td>
<td>United Overseas Bank (Singapore)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ **Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi** was awarded with ‘**Santokbaa Humanitarian Award**’ for his contribution to the betterment of society.

➢ **American rapper Kendrick Lamar** was presented the **Pulitzer Prize** in music for his 2017 album DAMN, at an event held in Columbia University, New York City, in United States.

   o First Jazz musician to win Pulitzer Prize.
SPORTS

➢ **Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi** became the **world number one shooter in the 10-metre air pistol category** after having won a **silver** medal at the recently concluded **shooting World Cup in South Korea**

➢ **Barcelona** clinched the 25th La Liga Title for the third time in four seasons.

➢ **Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes** has won the **Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018 in Baku**, Capital of Azerbaijan
  
  o **Azerbaijan Grand Prix** is the Formula One Motor race that was held for the first time in 2017.

➢ The **Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF)** conducted the third edition of All India Invitational Blind Football Tournament in Kochi, **Kerala**.

➢ **Mohamed Salah of Liverpool** football team has been named the **Football Writers’ Association Footballer** of the Year for 2017/18.

➢ **Fran Kirby of Chelsea team** won the inaugural **FWA Women’s Footballer of the Year** award.

➢ **Indian pugilist Neeraj Goyat** has been awarded the **WBC Asia Boxer** of the Year Award.

➢ **Neerav Tomar** was awarded the **‘WBC Asia honorary Promoter of the year 2017 Award’** by the Asian Boxing Council.

➢ **ICC ODI team Rankings** released on **May 2, 2018**
  
  o 1st - England
  o 2nd - India
  o 3rd - South Africa

➢ **T20I Rankings**
  
  o Pakistan – 1st
  o Australia – 2nd
  o India – 3rd

➢ According to the Wimbledon officials, **the 2018 men’s and women’s singles champions will receive £2.25 million**, an **increase of £50,000** on last year

➢ **Justin Langer** has been appointed as the coach of **Australian Cricket Team**
➢ India’s javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished fourth in the season-opening IAAF Diamond League, at the Qatar Sport Club, in Doha, Qatar.
  o Germany’s Thomas Rohler won gold medal

➢ Saina Nehwal has entered into the top 10 in women’s ranking, according to the latest rankings released by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) in New Delhi on 3rd May 2018.
  o Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth has reached the third spot
  o PV Sindhu remains at World No 3

➢ India finished on top in the 7-nation 3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the final day.
  o India ended with 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals (Total 50 Medals).

➢ Olympic medalist Gagan Narang and Pooja Ghatkar bagged the silver medal in the mixed event at Grand Prix of Liberation international shooting competition held in Pilsen, Czech Republic.

➢ P. Shri Nivetha and Amanpreet Singh claimed the mixed air pistol silver.

➢ Delhi Daredevils’ Rishabh Pant scored 128* (63) against SunRisers Hyderabad.
  o He became the first Indian to reach the highest-ever score in the history of Indian Premier League.

➢ Rafael Nadal broke a 34-year-old record by winning his 50th straight set on clay, the most consecutive sets won by a player on a surface

➢ Roger Federer has replaced Rafael Nadal as world no. 1 in the men’s singles tennis ATP rankings published on May 14, 2018.

➢ The Indian U-16 national football team emerged as champions of the Four-Nation Tournament in Serbia.
Four Nations – India, Serbia, Jordan and Tajikistan

Women’s Tennis Ranking (WTA)

1. Simona Halep
2. Caroline Wozniacki
3. Garbine Muguruza

Mercedes and British driver Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix thus crowning himself with the Formula One’s season title.

India’s Heena Sidhu won a gold medal in the 10m air pistol category at the International Shooting Competitions of Hannover (ISCH), Germany.

The Paris Saint-Germain’s Brazilian forward footballer Neymar was named France’s Player of the Year as part of 27th UNFP (French National Professional Football Players Union) trophy Ceremony in Paris.

Football Delhi has planned to launch a Pro League in October 2018 and a Community League in January 2019.

Mohamed Salah of Liverpool football team has been named the Football Writers’ Association Footballer of the Year for 2017/18.

The first National Para Games as part of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be conducted under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Atlético Madrid emerged as champions in the UEFA Europa League in Lyon, France.

Tennis Star Simona Halep of Romania retains her Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) ranking at the number one spot.

Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has won the European Golden Shoe for the fifth time

- The Argentina international claimed the prize after scoring 34 goals in La Liga this season, helping his club to a 25th league triumph.

South Korea won the Asian Champions Trophy 2018 after defeating Indian’s Women Hockey team.
- South Korea has lifted the title for the third time after having won it in 2010 and 2011.
- Indian striker Vandana Katariya was declared Player of the Tournament
- Rafael Nadal won the Italian Open in Rome, Italy reclaiming the No. 1 ranking.
- Commonwealth medal winner and Table Tennis Star Manika Batra and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu signed multi-year agreement with IOS Sports & Entertainment.
  - IOS will now manage their endorsements, appearances, brand profiling, patents, licensing and digital rights, images
- Bala Prasath won the Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore
- New Zealand’s Mike Hesson, Australia’s Belinda Clark, and Scotland’s Kyle Coetzer have been appointed to the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee.
- Tejaswini Sawant won gold medal in the 50m rifle prone event in the Grand Prix in Munich ahead of the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol stage.
- A new video campaign has been launched targeting football fans on the occasion of the World Cup 2018 to promote healthier and more active lives
  - The 2018 FIFA World Cup will be the 21st FIFA World Cup scheduled to take place in Russia
  - It is the First World Cup to be held in Eastern Europe.
- Steve Smith, the former Australia captain, who was banned due to ball tampering issue, will make a comeback through the inaugural Global T20 Canada event.
- The second stage of Archery World Cup 2018 has been started in Antalya, Turkey.
  - Mixed pair of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam – Bronze
  - Women’s compound team: Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Muskan Kirar, Divya Dhayal – Silver
- Delhi based Sudeva Football Club to expand its operations in Europe through Spanish league’s third division club C.D Olimpic Xativa.
  - Sudeva becomes the First football club to do so
- Japan’s women clinched the Uber Cup for the first time since 1981
  - The Uber Cup, also known as World Team Championships for Women, is a major international badminton competition contested by women’s national badminton teams
Real Madrid has won the UEFA (The Union of European Football Associations) Champions League defeating Liverpool in Kiev, Ukraine.

Australian Formula One racer Daniel Ricciardo handed Red Bull a victory in their 250th race in the Formula One at Monaco Grand Prix.

Chennai Super Kings defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad to lift the trophy of 11th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2018 to clinch their third IPL Title.

Virat Kohli named the International Cricketer of the year at CEAT Cricket Ratings.
- Shikhar Dhawan has been awarded International Batsman of the Year.
- New Zealand player Trent Boult named International Bowler of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Farokh Engineer.

Top Indian discus thrower Vikas Gowda retired after competing at the highest level for more than 15 years, during which he became the first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medal in the discipline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner (Team)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Man of the Match (Final)</td>
<td>Shane Watson (CSK)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Orange Cap (Most Runs)</td>
<td>Kane Williamson (SRH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Purple Cap (Most Wickets)</td>
<td>Andrew Tye (KXIP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Emerging Player</td>
<td>Rishabh Pant (DD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Stylish Player</td>
<td>Rishabh Pant (DD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Perfect Catch</td>
<td>Trent Boult (DD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Super Striker</td>
<td>Sunil Narine (KKR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Valuable Player</td>
<td>Sunil Narine (KKR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Fairplay Award</td>
<td>Mumbai Indians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MISCELLANEOUS

➢ Sri Lankan filmmaker **Lester James Peiris** died
➢ Also regarded as “Father of Sinhala Cinema”
➢ Former All India Football Federation (AIFF) secretary, **P. P. Lakshmanan** passed away.
➢ **Ashok Mitra**, the first finance minister in the Left Front Government in West Bengal, passed away.
  o He also worked as the Chief Economic Advisor (1970-1972)

➢ **Blue Origin**, a US aerospace company, launched the **suborbital New Shepard rocket and space capsule** from the **Blue Origin’s West Texas launch site**.
  o This is the second flight of the New Shepard 2.0 spacecraft
  o Blue Origin’s dummy astronaut is named “Mannequin Skywalker”

➢ **Guruji Ravinder Sharma**, the renowned artist-philosopher has passed away
  o He had been awarded **Kala Ratna by the Andhra Pradesh State government** in 2014.
➢ **On 3rd May 2018**, China launched a new communication satellite named “**APSTAR-6C**” at the **Xichang Satellite Launch Center, China**.
  o APSTAR-6C was sent into orbit by the Long March-3B carrier rocket
➢ **Freedom fighter and writer Keyur Bhushan** died
➢ A new snake **Bhupathy’s shieldtail** has been observed in the Anaikatty Hills of Tamil Nadu
  o It has been named **Uropeltis bhupathyi**

➢ **Dakota DC-3 VP 905** aircraft joined the **Indian Air Force again**, in an induction ceremony at Hindan air force station, Uttar Pradesh, over four decades after the aircraft fleet was phased out.
  o The restored Dakota has been **renamed as ‘Parashuram’**.
  o It will join the ‘Vintage Fly’ of one each of Tiger Moth and Howard developed at Hindan air force station
➢ **Tapanuli Orangutan**, the rarest ape species on Earth, is on the verge of extinction.

➢ **Dave Michener**, popular animator, who had worked for many Walt Disney films, died.

➢ Veteran Marathi singer **Arun Date**, known for his popular song “**Shukratara**”, has died.
  - He was the **first recipient** of the state government’s ‘**Gajananrav Vatave Puraskar**’.
  - He was very famous for non-film 'bhavgeet' (lyrical poetry) songs

➢ Scientists have discovered a mineral named **Moganite**, in a lunar meteorite that points to abundant hidden reserves of water ice under the surface of the Moon, which can be used for future human exploration.
  - Researchers from **Tohoku University in Japan** discovered the mineral
  - Moganite is a crystal of silicon dioxide

➢ Researchers have said that, the **dense vegetation in the Western Ghats** determines the amount of **rainfall** that **Tamil Nadu** gets during the **summer monsoon**.
  - It contributes to **40% of moisture** to the southwest monsoon rainfall in **Tamil Nadu in the normal monsoon years**

➢ Scientists at **Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI)**, Avikanagar, **Rajasthan** have come up with new **laparoscope-assisted insemination technique** for **sheep breeding**.
  - It is minor invasive laparoscopic technique involves passing rigid fibre-optic laparoscope into abdomen through small incision.
Using it, reproductive tract of sheep is located through camera and frozen semen is deposited into uterus.

- Astronomers have discovered an unusual, first of its kind, carbon-rich asteroid in the Kuiper Belt. This object has been designated 2004 EW95.
  - Kuiper belt is a circum-stellar disc in the outer Solar System, extending from the orbit of Neptune to approximately 50 astronomical unit (AU) from the Sun.
  - As per the study, 2004 EW95 seems to have formed in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and then would have been flung billions of kms to its current locations.
- Former Madhya Pradesh minister and senior Congress leader Dr Nirmal Hirawat died.
- Former Test cricketer Rajinder Pal, who represented India in one Test match, passed away.
- Film editor Anne V. Coates, died in California, United States.
  - She had received an honorary Oscar, for her lifetime of work, at the 2016 Governors Awards ceremony.
- Australia’s oldest scientist David Goodall ended his own life at a clinic in Switzerland.
- A rock sample found eight years ago in Champua, in Kendujhar district of Odisha has been declared the world’s second oldest rock.
  - Zircon is the oldest rock on Earth in an arid region north of Perth, Australia.
- Ankit Chadha, a renowned storyteller died in an accident.
  - He was popular for his unique style of storytelling in Urdu.
- Noted Hindi film lyricist, Nandram Das Bairagi, popularly known as Balkavi Bairagi, passed away.
  - "Jhar gaye paat, bisar gayi tehni" written by him, is considered a gem.
- A 30 – Member Estimates Committee has been set up to study the recovery of Black Money and performance of public sector banks.
• It is a Parliamentary Panel headed by Murli Manohar Joshi to look into the import of uranium for nuclear plants, mining activities and environment, upgrading of India Post offices and the drought situation in the country among other matters.
  
• The committee is also known as Continuous Economy committee

➢ Scientists of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have progressed in the development of an environment-friendly propellant to power satellites and spacecraft.
  
• It is to replace the conventional hydrazine rocket fuel with a greener propellant.

➢ Renowned wildlife photographer Latika Nath unveiled her book ‘Hidden India’ in New Delhi.
  
• The book is to promote protection of Indian Elephants.
  
• She is India’s first female biologist with a doctorate on tigers and was named “The Tiger Princess” by National Geographic.

➢ The actor Margot Kidder, best known for playing Lois Lane in the Superman films in the 1970s and 1980s, has died.

➢ Scientists have discovered the fastest-growing black hole known in the universe, describing it as a monster that eats a mass equivalent to our Sun every two days.
  
• The energy emitted from this newly discovered supermassive black hole, also known as a Quasar

➢ “IceCube”, a tiny NASA satellite which is about the size of a loaf of bread has developed the first global map of Ice Clouds.
  
• Small frozen particles inside clouds are called Ice Clouds

➢ Tom Wolfe, a journalist and novelist, passed away
  
• He published the novel “The Right Stuff,” in 1979

➢ Lavani singer Yamunabai Waikar died
  
• She received Padma Shri award in 2012
➢ A team of Indian scientists found a new frog species in a small industrial region in coastal Karnataka.
   ○ Named it as Microhyla kodial after the city of Mangaluru (called kodial in the Konkani language)

➢ Eminent Tamil writer Balakumaran passed away
   ○ Some of his works include Vazhimayakkam, Mercury Pookkal, Irumbu Kuthiraigal

➢ A Treatise on Cleanliness’ and ‘Waste Management, an Introduction’ are released by M. Venkaiah Naidu
   ○ Written by Shri Rajat Bhargava

➢ The lone freedom fighter of Muzaffarnagar district Mr. Raghubir Singh passed away
   ○ He was a part of Subhas Chandra Bose’ Azad Hind Fauj

➢ Veteran writer, novelist Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani passed away
   ○ She heralded a new era in Telugu fictional literature
   ○ Some of Sulochana’s famous novels include Murali Krishna, Radha Krishna, Jeevana Tarangalu, Premalekhalu
➢ Scientists have created the world’s smallest house that has been built on an area of 300 square micrometres, using a robotic system.
  o Created by researchers from Femto-ST Institute in France

➢ Zhao Kangmin, the Chinese archaeologist who worked in discoveries of ancient Terracotta Warriors died.

➢ Scientists of Chinese Academy of Sciences have discovered a fossilised body piece of an extinct class of marine animal named Cystoidea or Cystoids at Guizhou province, China.
  o The fossil dates back to 400 million years back. It was found out in Tongzi County.

➢ The Australian National University’s Scientists have discovered a 4,000 year old human cremation site along with pottery from the 12th or 13th century.

➢ Scientists have discovered the first interstellar immigrant
  o An Asteroid named (514107) 2015 BZ509 has a different origin other than our solar system because the object moves in a direction opposite to that of all the objects in our solar system.
  o This is the second asteroid that is causing stir after the ‘Oumuamua’ asteroid.

➢ Scientists have found out a drug named “PLX5622” that could prevent the brain damage caused by exposure to cosmic radiation.

➢ Bansidhar Panda, industrialist and founder of Indian Metal and Ferro Alloys (IMFA) Ltd died.

➢ General, Lt Gen Zorawar Chand Bakshi, also known as Zoru Bakshi passed away.
  o He had played a major role in the capture of the Haji Pir pass from Pakistan army.

➢ Former US astronaut Alan Bean, who was the fourth man to walk on the Moon, has died.

➢ A discovery led by researchers at University of Minnesota, US said that a new element has been found with magnetic properties, Ruthenium(Ru)
  o It is the fourth element to have magnetic properties
  o Iron (Fe), cobalt (Co) and Nickel (Ni) has these similar properties

➢ Veteran Actor, Producer of Telugu film Madala Ranga Rao Passes away.
  o He was popularly known as “Red Star”.
  o His famous works are ‘Yuvatharam Kadilindhi’, ‘Yerra Mallelu’, ‘Praja Shakthi’
He received the prestigious **Golden Nandi award** from the then Andhra Pradesh government for his film ‘Yuvatharam Kadilindhi’

- Former Bihar minister **Kameshwar Paswan** died.
- Scientists from **NASA** have discovered a special kind of neutron star outside the Milky Way galaxy for the first time.
  - The neutron star is located within the remains of a supernova named **1E 0102.2-7219 (E0102)** – in the Small Magellanic Cloud, which is 200,000 light years away from Earth.
- Researchers have found out mountain ranges and three vast, deep sub-glacial valleys hidden under the Antarctica ice.
  - The largest valley is named the **Foundation Trough**
- **Urmila Singh, former Himachal Pradesh governor**, died.
- Scientists from **Newcastle University**, UK have created world’s **first 3D printed human corneas** (3D printed thin protective film over eye) that could solve problem of shortage of available eye donors and help millions of blind people gain sight again.
- Scientists have discovered world’s oldest lizard fossil, the fossil of a lizard-like creature named **Megachirella wachtleri**.
- Maharashtra Agriculture minister **Pandurang Fundkar** died.