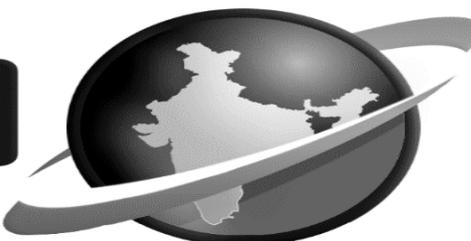


APPLO



STUDY CENTRE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL 2018

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Other Info
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	“Empowering women and girls with autism”
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	“Mine Action: Advancing Protection, Peace, and Development”
5 April	National Maritime Day	“Indian Shipping - An Ocean of opportunity”
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	
7 April	World Health Day	Theme: “Universal health coverage: Everyone, Everywhere” Slogan: “Health for All”

10 April	World Homeopathy Day	Innovate: Evolve, Progress: Exploring Science since 40 years
11 April	National Safe Motherhood day	'Respectful Maternity Care'
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight	
14 April	Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti	
17 April	World Hemophilia Day	"Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger"
18 April	World Heritage Day (International Day For Monuments and Sites)	"Heritage for Generations"
19 April	World Liver Day	Theme is 'Riding New Waves in Liver Diagnosis, Staging & Treatment'.
21 April	National Civil Services Day	This year observance of the day was focussed on 'Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts'
22 April	International Earth Day	"End Plastic Pollution"
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	"Reading, it's my right"
24 April	National Panchayati Raj (PR) Diwas	

25 April	World Malaria Day	“Ready to beat malaria”
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day (WIP)	“Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity.”
26 April	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	“Occupational safety health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers”
29 April	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	
24 April 2017 - 30 April 2018	World Immunization Week for 2018	“Protected Together, #VaccinesWork”

NATION

National Bamboo Mission (NBM)

- NBM, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was started in 2006-07.
- It was subsumed under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during 2014-15 and continued till 2015-16.

- It aims to promote growth of bamboo sector through area based regionally differentiated strategy.

Accessible Tourism

- As a part of three-day international conference on “Accessible Tourism”, Nepal has launched its first accessible trekking trail for differently abled and elders in Pokhara city.
- Accessible tourism or inclusive tourism refers to an emerging concept referring to travel that is accessible to all people, with disabilities or not, including those with mobility, hearing, sight, cognitive, or intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, older persons and those with temporary disabilities.

Adopt a Heritage Project

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

09-3x Dynamic Tamping Express

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

- This advanced technology simulator is presently only available in five countries including India.
- These machines have been manufactured in India under Make in India initiative with imported components.
- Indian Railways is planning to induct 42 more such machines in its maintenance fleet over next 3 years.

Project Dhoop

- Launched by The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) along with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- To address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD), particularly amongst the young people.
- The project aims to encourage schools to shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, mainly between 11 am to 1 pm to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
- The initiative has been conceptualised by McCannHealth and supported by Kwaliti (Ltd).

FAME-India scheme

- The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) India was launched in 2015 under National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMM).
- It aims at promoting eco-friendly vehicles in the country. The scheme is being administered by the Heavy Industries Ministry.

e-FRRO Scheme

- Launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- It is a web-based application.
- e-FRRO (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office) to allow foreign tourists and travellers to avail of paperless and cashless visa-related services.
- e-FRRO eliminates need for any human interface and using it foreigners touring India will be no longer need to physically visit office of Foreigners Registration Office or Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRO/FRRO) for visa-related services including registration and visa extension.
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the web-based application 'e-FRRO' (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office).

Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- The Union Government launched "Gram Swaraj Abhiyan-Special Interventions", an high-intensity outreach programme to deliver welfare schemes to select villages which need particular attention.
- It was launched on the occasion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti (14th April).

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- Launched by PM Narendra Modi at Ramnagar, tribal-dominated district of Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of National Panchayat Raj Day (24 April).

- It is a central government scheme that aims at making rural local bodies self-sustainable, financially stable and more efficient.
- It seeks to address critical gaps that hinder success of Panchayats by enhancing their capacities and effectiveness, and promote devolution of powers and responsibilities.
- Its intended objective is to train and build capacity of elected representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA)

- Launched by The Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It is a convergent framework across School Education and Higher Education aiming to encourage children towards learning Science and Mathematics.
- One of the interventions under RAA is strengthening of school Science and Mathematics laboratories, through the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

UTTAM App

- App for Coal Quality Monitoring.
- Launched by The Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal.
- Aims to provide an App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries.
- UTTAM App ensures accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in coal ecosystem.
- UTTAM is an example of leveraging technology to facilitate a bidirectional channel between Coal India Limited and a common citizen.

Van Dhan Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti (April 14) at Bijapur, Chattisgarh.
- PM also inaugurated first model Van Dhan Vikas Kendra under the scheme in Bijapur.
- The scheme aims at economic development of tribals involved in collection of Minor Food Produces (MFPs) by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources and provide them sustainable livelihood.
- Under it, 10 Self Help Groups (SHGs) of 30 Tribal gatherers will be constituted.
- It has been setup for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility.
- The SHGs will then be trained and provided with working capital to add value to products they collect from forest.
- They will be able to market their products, by working under leadership of collector, not only within states but also outside states.
- Emphasizing the important role of value addition in increasing tribal incomes, PM stated that Van Dhan, Jan Dhan and Gobar-Dhan Schemes had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system.
- All these three schemes in tandem need to be promoted for this purpose by the State Governments.
- The establishment of “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” is for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training.

Gobardhan Yojna

- Gobardhan Yojna, a central government scheme for managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste into manure and biogas, was launched nationally from Haryana's Karnal on April 30.
- Gobar is an acronym for Galvanising Organic Bio Agro Resources.
- Through the scheme, the government aims to ensure cleanliness in villages and generate energy by converting cattle dung and solid agricultural waste into compost and biogas.
- The central and state governments would provide funds in the ratio of 60:40.

Meghalaya Landscapes Management Project

- The Union Government (Finance Ministry) has signed Loan Agreement with World Bank for IBRD loan of US \$48 million for Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP).
- The project aims to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected landscapes in Meghalaya by 2023.
- Project consists of three components:
 - Strengthening knowledge and capacity for natural resource management.
 - Community-led landscape planning and implementation.
 - Project management and governance.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

- Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan in March 2018.
- POSHAN stands for Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition.
- It aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.
- It targets to reduce level of under-nutrition and other related problems by ensuring convergence of various nutrition related schemes.
- It also targets stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and low birth rate.
- It will monitor and review implementation of all such schemes.

Study in India programme

- The Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs has approved 'Study in India' programme to attract foreign students to pursue higher education in India.
- The programme is similar to initiative launched by Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Canada.
- It aims at boosting country's share of international students and subsequently, improve global reputation and rankings of Indian educational institutions.
- The 'Study in India' portal (www.studyinindia.gov.in) of HRD Ministry was launched by the Minister of External

Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj in the presence of Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

- The portal will enable students from 30 countries across South Asia, Africa, CIS and Middle East to select and apply for different courses from 150 select Indian institutions which are high on NAAC and NIRF ranking.
- The Study in India is aimed at making India a preferred destination for the foreign students to pursue their education.

Seed import-export portal

- Launched by The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- To facilitate export-import of seeds and planting material.
- It has been developed for making trade process easy.
- The ministry has removed all prohibitions imposed on export of seeds of different varieties to encourage export of seeds.
- The import export of seeds and planting material is controlled under Import Export Policy 2002-2007.

Khadi Store Locator App

- The Minister of State for MSME, Giriraj Singh launched a mobile phone application for locating 4,000 Khadi stores in the country.
- There are more than 8,000 Khadistores in India, the rest of stores will also be available on the store locator by the end of this month.

FIEO Global Linker

- A digital platform for MSME exporters to digitise their businesses and join a global community of growing businesses in New Delhi.
- Launched by The Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu.
- FIEO GlobalLinker is setup with a view to make the business growth of SMEs simpler, more profitable and enjoyable.
- FIEO is available free of cost and it offers exporters a range of features and benefits.
- FIEO stands for Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

DARPAN-PLI App

- Launched by Hon'ble Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha.
- DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India) Project to achieve total digitization of postal operations in the country, under IT modernization plan.
- DARPAN-PLI App, will help in collection of premium for PLI and RPLI policies at Branch Post Offices anywhere in India, with online updation of the policies.

Atal New India Challenges

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of the NITI Aayog today announced to launch the Atal New India Challenges, which came into being following Prime Minister's clarion call to bring innovations and technologies relevant to the people.
- Applicants showing capability, intent, and potential to productize technologies will be awarded grants up to Rs. One crore.

- This grant support will be supplemented by mentoring, handholding, incubating and other support as needed at various stages of commercialization. while generating wider deployment.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0

- Launched by Human Resource Development Ministry in New Delhi.
- Addressing the launching ceremony, Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar said that the students are the real agents of change who can develop, empower and brighten the future of the country.
- Shri Javadekar said that Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 is in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to transform India, in which students from colleges and universities will go to nearby villages to get acquainted with the life of the village people and the problems faced by them in day to day life.

National Clean Air Programme

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released draft of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) proposing multiple strategies to reduce air pollution.
- The Modi government has finalised a Rs 637-crore National Clean Air Programme to improve the air quality in India.
- The 20-point programme shifts the onus of fighting air pollution to the state governments.
- The programme, India's first attempt at working out a coordinated system to curb air pollution, requires all the states to frame their own Clean Air Programmes.

National Biopharma Mission

- It was launched by Ministry of Science & Technology in 2017 at total cost of US \$250 million for five years with 50% funding through World Bank Loan.
- It aims to make India hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products such as vaccines, biologics and medical devices for combating public health concerns.

Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project - The projects seeks to achieve its objective by bridging critical skill and infrastructure gaps to promote affordable and innovative healthcare products generation for inclusive development and increasing competitiveness in India.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) - AIM is a flagship initiative to promote culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in country. Its mandated is to create umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of country and revolutionize innovation eco-system.

INDICES

India becomes World's second largest mobile phone producer. The top three mobile producing countries are China, India and Vietnam.

India was ranked 37th out of 125 countries in global startup ecosystem in 2017, according to a report released by global startup ecosystem map Startupblink.

India ranked 130th out of 186 countries in Index of Economic Freedom 2018 that measures the degree of economic freedom in the countries of the world. Hong Kong topped the index followed by Singapore and New Zealand.

India ranks 138th in World Press Freedom Index 2018. Norway (1st), Sweden (2nd), Netherlands (3rd).

India third-most vulnerable to cyber threats behind US, China - according to a report.

According to International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) for April 2018, India is now the world's sixth largest economy, displacing France. The five economies ahead are United States, China, Japan, Germany and United Kingdom.

India retained the top (first) position as recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending about USD 69 billion back home last year, the World Bank said. India was followed by China and Philippines.

India has ranked 10th on a new Commonwealth Innovation Index, topped by the UK, Singapore and Canada.

India is now the world's No 1 almond importer.

NATION - CONTINUED

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has decided to celebrate April 20, 2018 as the Ujjwala Diwas, as a part of the as a part of the 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan'

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to provide skill training to 500 youth and women at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) is the single largest nuclear power station in India, situated in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

Samta Diwas: 5 April - A homage function on the occasion of the 111th birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram was organised by the Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment at Samta Sthal, opposite Rajghat, New Delhi.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in New Delhi. PMUY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2016 with tagline of Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan. The scheme's motive is to provide free of cost LPG (cooking gas) connections to women from BPL Households. Through it, cash assistance is given to beneficiaries to get a deposit-free new connection.

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Indian Yoga Association (IYA) have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate interaction and cooperation between two organisations to promote wellness, spiritual and cultural tourism in Krishna Circuit. Government is trying to promote Krishna circuit as major tourist attraction under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. It is named after Lord Krishna and is centered on him.

The National Stock Exchange's (NSEs) arm India Index Services & Products Ltd (IISL) has launched Nifty equity savings index that will serve as benchmark for equity saving funds offered by various mutual funds.

The Union government has banned imports of hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in livestock industry, where it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals. The Government has decided to rely on domestic production to satisfy requirements of hormone. (Oxytocin is a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland. Often called the 'love hormone', oxytocin is released naturally in human bonding activities such as, childbirth and breastfeeding).

National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on technical knowledge sharing for establishing nationwide Time Stamping and Time Synchronization network (TSTSN).

Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to two more craft forms from Telangana viz. Adilabad dokra and Warangal Dhurries. Adilabad Dokra is an ancient bell metal craft and Warangal Dhurries is a popular traditional cotton rug.

Adilabad Dokra - It is a form of ancient bell metal craft practiced by Woj community native to Adilabad district of Telangana.

Warangal Dhurries - They are popular traditional thick cotton rug in which weavers create beautiful patterns and

dye them using vegetable colours, which are washed in flowing water after the printing process.

Geographical Indication (GI) - GI tag is a name or sign used on certain products, which correspond to specific geographical location or origin. It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods having special quality and established reputation.

The Justice Rajesh Bindal committee has submitted its report to Ministry of Women and Child Development on legal issues related to inter country removal & retention of children. (There are over three crore Indians living abroad having cross-border marriages. When such diverse marriage breaks down, their children suffer as they are dragged into international legal battle between their parents over their custody. In this battle children are abducted by one parent and taken to country with different culture. Currently, there is no specific legislation in India addressing issues related to abduction of children from and into India).

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has relaxed six-decade-old protected area permit (PAP) regime to allow foreign tourists to access border areas of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur for five years with effect from April 1, 2018 with protected area permit (PAP). The move is being initiated to promote tourism, create job opportunities for the locals and generate revenue for the states. However, citizens from Pakistan, China and Afghanistan, will remain to be banned from all PAP areas, including Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has unveiled beta version of portal (www.tariff.trai.gov.in) to enable consumers see tariffs of different TSPs (telecom service providers) and different Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) at single place. The first of its kind platform to be backed by the government aims to bring on one platform telecom tariffs offered by different operators and in different service areas.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry have launched digital initiatives of Export Inspection Council (EIC) for ease of export to boost to India's potential for agricultural and food export. EIC is the official export certification body of Central Government. These initiatives were launched under flagship Digital India Initiative to keep in pace with changing dynamics of the world.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to roll out 'Integrated initiative for prevention & control of viral hepatitis' under National Health Mission (NHM) for prevention and control of viral hepatitis. The initiative will have budgetary support of more than Rs. 517 crore for three years. India is committed to eliminating the viral hepatitis by 2030.

The Law Commission of India (LCI) has recommended to declare Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as a public body. It also recommended BCCI and its all member cricket associations to be brought under Right to Information (RTI) law regime.

The Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched new website and mobile application of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK). It was launched by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment

Thaawarchand Gehlot in New Delhi. (The NCSK was established in 1994 to deal with the grievances of persons engaged in manual scavenging. It is statutory body established under National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993. It aims to promote and safeguard the interests and rights of Safai Karamcharis).

The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has banned over-the-counter sale of 14 steroid creams to prevent indiscriminate sale of ointments containing steroids and antibiotics without prescription. These 14 preparations were included under Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to impose the ban.

Schedule H is a class of prescription drugs listed under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 which governs manufacture and sale of all drugs in India. These are drugs that cannot be purchased over counter without prescription of qualified doctor. It is revised time to time.

Law Commission of India, the government's highest law advisory body has released draft White Paper recommending holding of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies. The commission, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice **B.S. Chauhan** has decided to seek opinion of all stakeholders, including political parties.

The Union Government has constituted 13-member task force to prepare road map and fast-track implementation of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology or drones in the country. It will be headed by Minister of State (MoS) for Civil Aviation **Jayant Sinha**.

Human Resource Development Ministry has constituted the committee under the Chairmanship of Gujarat Education Minister **Shri Bhupendra Sinhji Chudasama** to suggest the ways to make the Maths subject easy.

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

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced updated 'QR code' for offline Aadhaar verification to strengthen its privacy measures during usage. QR code (Quick Response code) is a two-dimensional (matrix) machine-readable bar code made up of black and white square.

India has received first liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo comprising 1.2 Lakh tones of the Gas from United States. The cargo has landed at the Dabhol regasification terminal in Maharashtra.

E-way Bill comes into effect on Inter-state movement of goods over Rs 50,000 from April 1, 2018. E-way bill is an electric document generated on the GST Portal, which is a common and shared information technology (IT) infrastructure between the Centre and States; and acts as evidence for movement of goods. A company or an entity can upload relevant information prior to movement of a goods consignment from one state to another.

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

The Centre has revoked The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from Meghalaya since April 1.

In a bid to save its heritage structures, the Railways has decided against dismantling the 113-year old Lord Curzon Bridge in Allahabad and will hand it over the Uttar Pradesh government for its preservation.

Dalmia Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ministry of tourism to adopt the iconic Mughal-era monument Red Fort for the next five years at a cost of Rs 25 crore.

Payment and transaction processing solutions provider, Euronet India, said it has partnered with Yes Bank to modernise the bank's core payment infrastructure.

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) celebrated its foundation day this year on April 2, 2018. The day was celebrated as day of Sampark (connect), Sanwad (interaction), Suraksha (security) and Sampreshan (disseminate).

India's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank became first Indian bank to go live on SWIFT's (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System) Global Payment Innovation (GPI), an improved cross-border payments service.

On the eve of the birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at 26, Alipur Road in Delhi on April 13th.

Indian Army has signed Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with HDFC Bank and Axis Bank on the Defence Salary Package.

Qatar-based Doha Bank has set up the first branch in the Chennai taking the total number of branches in the country to three, a top official said. Doha Bank currently has a branch in Mumbai, Kochi and Chennai, respectively.

IndusInd Bank has become the first lender to start using WhatsApp enterprise solution to provide basic banking services to customers.

The Union Government (Finance Ministry) in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched first tranche of sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) for current fiscal (FY 2018-19). It will be sold through banks, designated post offices and recognized stock exchanges namely NSE and BSE and Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL).

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme SGB Scheme is aimed at providing alternative to buying physical gold. Under it, bonds are denominated in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof. These gold denominated bonds are restricted for sale to resident Indian entities, including individuals, Hindu undivided families (HUF), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

The Union Cabinet has approved promulgation of Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance to provide death penalty for rapists of girls below 12 years. The ordinance amends Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Indian Evidence Act.

Key provisions in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance

Rape of a girl under 12 years: 20 years in jail or life imprisonment or death

Gang-rape of a girl under 12 years: Imprisonment for life or death

Rape of a girl under 16 years: Minimum punishment increased from 10 to 20 years, extendable to imprisonment for life

Gang-rape of a girl under 16 years: Imprisonment for life



Rape of women: Minimum punishment raised from imprisonment of 7 years to 10 years, extendable to life

- Dedicated manpower for investigation of rape cases

- Probe and trial each to be completed in two months

- No anticipatory bail for accused in rape or gang-rape of a girl under 16 years

ICICI Bank announced the launch of a service that enables Non Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to a beneficiary in India using social media platforms like WhatsApp and e-mail. Christened 'Social Pay', this first-of-its-kind service is available on Money2India (M2I), the bank's app for remittances. This new facility will enable NRIs to send money conveniently to their friends and family.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its release said that it has decided to set up Data Sciences Lab to improve its forecasting,

surveillance and early warning detection abilities which will aid policy formulation.

RBI switches back to GDP scale to measure economy.

India expected to grow at 7.4% in 2018: IMF.

India will grow at 7.3% in 2018: World Bank Report.

First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2018-19

- Growth rate: 7.4 percent
- Inflation target for the first half of current fiscal: 4.7-5.1 percent
- Bank Rate: 6.25%
- Repo rate: 6 percent
- Reverse repo rate: 5.75 percent
- MSF: 6.25%
- CRR: 4%
- SLR: 19.5%

STATES

'Uzhavan' (farmer) app

- Launched by Tamil Nadu Government in a bid to use technology for farmers' benefit.
- This mobile application will allow farmers to have access to nine types of services, including details about their crop insurance.
- Chief Minister K Palaniswami launched the bi-lingual 'Uzhavan' (farmer) app.
- The app can be used by farmers to get information on farm subsidies, book farm equipment and related infrastructure

and get details on their crop insurance, besides receiving weather forecast for the next four days.

Pravasi Pension Scheme

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan formally launched the Pravasi Pension Scheme of the Kerala Pravasi Welfare Board at a programme.
- The scheme gives those hailing from Kerala but living outside the state or country, a pension of Rs. 2,000 a month.
- People over the age of 60 years are eligible for the pension.

Ganga Hariteema Yojana

- Uttar Pradesh Government has launched Ganga Hariteema Yojana (also known as Ganga Greenery scheme) in 27 districts of the state located on the bank of river Ganga.
- It was launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a function organised on the bank of Sangam, the confluence of rivers of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati.
- The scheme aims at enhancing green cover in catchment areas of river Ganga and control land erosion.
- Under it tree plantation will be carried out in 1 Km areas from banks of river.
- Generally people will also be encouraged for tree plantation on their private lands under 'One Person One Tree' slogan.

Rupashree

- To ensure safe future for young women, West Bengal government has launched a scheme called "Rupashree".
- Under this scheme government provides one-time financial support for marriage of poor girls.

- Before marriage an amount of Rs 25,000 will be credited to girl's bank account.
- While previous Kanyashree scheme promotes education among women, Rupashree scheme complements it with marriage assistance.

Walmiki and Malhar

- Linguist from University of Hyderabad have discovered two endangered languages Walmiki and Malhar predominantly spoken in remote regions of Odisha. They were discovered by Prof Panchanan Mohanty as part of activity of Centre for Endangered Languages and Mother Tongue Studies.
- Walmiki: It is spoken in district of Koraput of Odisha and on bordering districts of Andhra Pradesh. It is an isolate language and does not belong to particular family of languages. Its name is interesting and indicative as speech of the community claims to be descent from great Indian saint-poet Valmiki, who is credited to have written one version of epic Ramayana.
- Malhar: It is spoken in a remote and isolated hamlet about 165 km away from Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Madhubani railway station in Bihar got complete makeover with Mithila paintings. The makeover project was unique initiative of Indian Railways to experiment with local artists voluntarily painting works in short span of two months.

Assam's Spring Festival – It is a two-day festival, held at Manas National Park. The aim of the festival was to promote local food and culture of fringe villagers. It also attempted to create model

of alternative livelihood through food, handloom and culture. Manas National Park (or Manas wildlife sanctuary) is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve, a rhino reserve and a biosphere reserve in Assam. The National park covers five districts of Assam -- Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang, Udalguri and Barpeta.

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

West Bengal government has given its approval to State Forest Department to apply for coveted Ramsar Site recognition under Ramsar Convention to Sunderban Reserve Forest. Once it is conferred Ramsar site status, Sundarbans Reserve Forest will be largest protected wetland in the country. There are currently 26 sites in India recognised as Ramsar wetland sites of international importance, including East Kolkata Wetlands in West Bengal.

Uttarakhand's second Mega Food Park- Himalayan Mega Food Park Private Ltd inaugurated at Mahuakhera Ganj in Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district. It was inaugurated by Union Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal. The first Mega Food Park in the state is located at Haridwar.

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

Faridabad as well as other 13 major cities, including Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune will roll-out cleaner BS-VI grade fuel from January 1 2019. However, BS-VI fuel will be rolled out in rest of the country by April 2020. By switching to BS-VI, India will join league of US, Japan and European Union, which follow Euro Stage VI emission norms.

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

FMCG major ITC has joined hands with NITI Aayog to train 2 lakh farmers to increase their income and raise productivity of major crops in 25 “aspirational districts” across seven states in the country by 2022. These 25 aspirational districts are in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has granted first license to Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd for Liquid Chlorine on all India basis as per Indian Standard (IS) 646:1986. This is the First Licence granted on All India basis. The licence has been made operative with effect from April 2018 for a period of one year.

The Union Cabinet has given approval inclusion of certain areas in Rajasthan under Fifth Schedule to Constitution so that tribals living there can avail benefit of protective measures under its provisions.

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

facility. It was jointly launched by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee at the principal seat of the High Court in Chennai as well as at its Madurai Bench.

e-court fee payment facility - The new system will enable litigants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to government through e-stamps, which can be purchased both online and offline. It will pave way for easier and secured way of paying stamp duty. It will also help to tackle sale of counterfeit judicial stamps.

Hydro power major Sutej Jal Vidut Nigam (SJVN) Limited has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Power for generating 9200 million units for the year 2018-19.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Health and Wellness Centre in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh to mark the launch of Ayushman Bharat Yojana-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM).

Six monuments in North Eastern States identified for listing under World Heritage Site

- Details of monuments/sites identified/placed under tentative list for listing under world heritage in the north eastern states are given below:
 1. Apatani Cultural Landscape, Arunachal Pradesh
 2. Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India
 3. Moidams - the Mound - Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty, Assam
 4. Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh
 5. River Island of Majuli in midstream of Brahmaputra River in Assam

6. Thembang Fortified Village, Arunachal Pradesh

World's largest solar park to come up in Gujarat - Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has approved setting up a 5,000 MW capacity solar park at the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion. The project will contribute significantly in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's target of producing 175 gigawatt of electricity through renewable energy sources by 2022.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in world's top 20 busiest airports.

Mission Buniyaad - The Delhi government has launched the "Mission Buniyaad" scheme to improve learning levels of children from classes 3 to 9.

Maharashtra govt launches centre for tribal development. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the institution – **QUEST** – in Mumbai. Known as **Quality Evaluation for Sustainable Transformation centre**, the state has taken the first initiative in the country to ensure development in lives of tribal people.

East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh is all set to become the country's first 'LED street light district'.

Atal Amrit Abhiyan - Launched by The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. Atal Amrit Abhiyan by Assam Government, seeks to provide access to quality medical care to 3.2 crore people, in Guwahati, Assam.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) – Latest Data

- Bihar has the highest rate of crimes against Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe population.
- Crime against SC/ST is lowest in West Bengal.

- Madhya Pradesh reported the highest rate of crime (43.4%) against SCs specifically, while West Bengal had the lowest at 6%.
- Rajasthan reported the highest rate of crime (12.9%) against STs specifically, while West Bengal had the lowest at 1.6%.

The BJP government in Chhattisgarh will start distributing smartphones to over 50 lakh people for free from May under the Sanchar Kranti Yojana (SKY), months ahead of assembly polls in the state.

Diu Smart City has become the first city in India, that runs on 100% renewable energy during daytime setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green.

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan - Launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mandla in Madhya Pradesh.

Sikkim Chief Minister and Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) founder Pawan Kumar Chamling has surpassed the record of former West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu by becoming the longest serving Chief Minister of any Indian state. He founded SDF in 1993 and formed the state government next year.

The Mangalore International Airport has been adjudged the cleanest airport in the country.

Kaziranga National Park: Rhino population rises marginally.

WORLD

Bisket Jatra - In Nepal the famous Bisket Jatra is being celebrated in Bhaktapur and other parts of Kathmandu valley. The nine day annual festival marks beginning of Nepali New Year. The Jatra begins four days before the start of New Year. It is believed that the festival started during Malla dynasty.

The Commonwealth countries at the end of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London have adopted **Commonwealth Cyber Declaration** to take action on cyber security by 2020. The declaration is considered as world's largest and most geographically diverse inter-governmental commitment on cyber security cooperation.

Commonwealth leaders have formally announced that Prince Charles will become the next head of the organisation after the Queen. (The Commonwealth is an intergovernmental organisation of 53 member states that are mostly former territories of the British Empire. Patricia Scotland is the Secretary General of the Commonwealth).

United Nations has launched UN Road Safety Trust Fund to improve road safety worldwide to save lives and prevent the loss of opportunity associated with road accidents. UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is secretariat for the trust fund.

The Soft Drinks Industry Levy also known as soft drinks sugar tax or sin tax or sugar tax came into force in United Kingdom as part of government's plan to combat obesity and sugar related disease. With introduction of sugar levy, UK joins few countries,

including Mexico, France and Norway that have introduced similar fat taxes.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she has decided to scrap the quota system in government services after thousands of students marched across the country in protest. The premier, however, said the government could make special arrangements for jobs for the people with disabilities and the backward ethnic minority ones.

Saudi Arabia opens 1st movie theater in 35 years. The first film screening is to be in the capital Riyadh, where a mixed Saudi and foreign audience watched the Marvel superhero film "Black Panther".

The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting on the suspected use of chemical weapons in Syria, at the request of the United States and 8 other countries.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

The Office of United States (US) Trade Representative (USTR) has once again placed India on 'Priority Watch List' in its annual Special 301 Report on the state of intellectual property protection.

The Union Government has entered into agreement with World Bank for flexible financing arrangement to accelerate research towards early development for biopharmaceuticals under National Biopharma Mission.

The Union Government (Ministry of Finance) has signed a Loan Agreement with the World Bank for IBRD credit of US\$ 125 (equivalent) for Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project.

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

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is tying up with US and Finland to develop new pollution-forecast system that will help anticipate particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance and at greater resolution.

The Union Government is planning to gift obsolete weaponry that can be refurbished at minimal cost to friendly countries in a bid to boost defence cooperation with them. Specific military platforms being looked under this proposal are artillery guns, armoured vehicles, helicopters, naval patrol vehicles and radar systems that are obsolete or nearing obsolescence.

Google Arts & Culture in partnership with Ministry of Tourism has unveiled 360-degree virtual reality (VR) video for global 'Incredible India' tourism campaign. As part of it, Google Arts & Culture will provide users with immersive 360-degree view of India's heritage, festivity, spirituality and adventure.

India has pressed the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations to set up an independent credit rating agency of the five-member group. It was on sidelines of the first meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors held along with IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, US.

India is coordinating with China and other Asian countries to raise voice against Asian premium charged by Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed agreement for upgradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lane with earthen shoulder. This project is part of India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway and will be NHAI's first international project.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved \$140 million loan for project aimed at improving rural roads (connectivity) in Madhya Pradesh. It was approved at meeting of Board of Directors of AIIB recently held in Beijing, China.

India and South Korea signed mutual recognition of certificate of competency of seafarers to provide Indian seafarers employment on over 500 Korean ships. It was signed during four-day visit of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari to South Korea.

Foreign tourists, except those from Pakistan, China and Afghanistan, would now be allowed to visit some of the most pristine locations of the country. The home ministry has decided to relax the six-decade-old Protected Area Permit regime from Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur for five years with effect from April 1.

India and Nepal have agreed to boost cooperation in connectivity sector as they decided to develop inland waterways for cargo movement within Protocol to Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal. It was decided during delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli.

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

India and Morocco have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Mining and Geology for a period of 5 years to promote mineral exploration.

President Ram Nath Kovind embarked on three-nation official state visit to African countries of Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia from April 7 to 12, 2018. It will be first-ever visit by any head of state of India to Equatorial Guinea and Swaziland. Indian President's visit to Zambia is taking place after 29 years.

India donated US \$1 million to support Swaziland's National Disaster Management Agency as well as food grains. India invited Swaziland to join International Solar Alliance (ISA) as partner country. India is ready to help Swaziland on issues of public health.

President Ramnath Kovind holds delegation-level talks with Swaziland King Mswati III in Mbabane. India and Swaziland signed two agreements on health and visa waiver in the presence of President Kovind and King Mswati. President Kovind was conferred with Order of the Lion, the highest award of Swaziland.

On 19 April 2018, the King of Swaziland Mswati III announced that the Kingdom of Swaziland had renamed itself the Kingdom of eSwatini to mark the 50th anniversary of Swazi independence. The new name, eSwatini, means "land of the Swazis" in Swazi, and was partially intended to prevent confusion with the similarly named Switzerland.

The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide loans worth about US \$4.5 billion (Rs 29,200 crore) to Bangladesh for financing of various social and infrastructure projects.

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

The Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and the World Bank signed a US\$ 420 million project to help Small and Marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra.

India and World Expo 2020 Dubai have signed participants contract for India's pavilion in prestigious World Expo 2020 held once in 5 years.

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Electricite de France (EDF) of France have signed an Industrial Way Forward Agreement for implementation of six nuclear power reactor units at Jaitapur, Maharashtra with a total capacity of about 10,000 MW.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) decides to invest \$140M to improve Rural Connectivity in India.

NHAI signs agreement for its First International Project - To provide seamless vehicular movement for enhancing trade, business, health, education and tourism between Indian, Myanmar and Thailand, the National Highways Authority of India has signed an agreement for upgradation of Yagyi - Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lane with earthen shoulder.

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

Leading private lender ICICI Bank announced the launch of a service that enables Non Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to a beneficiary in India using social media platforms like WhatsApp and e-mail. Christened '**Social Pay**', this first-of-its-kind service is available on Money2India (M2I), the bank's app for remittances. This new facility will enable NRIs to send money conveniently to their friends and family.

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

The NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Services Companies) and TechUK launched new UK-India Tech Alliance. The leading technology trade bodies of India and UK inked memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UK.

India and Equatorial Guinea signed four agreements including in the field of health. (Equatorial Guinea President : Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Capital: Malabo, Currency: Franc)

DEFENCE

Bhabha Kavach

- The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed Bhabha Kavach, a next-generation bulletproof jacket that is cheaper, lightweight.
- It has been named after Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, father of Indian nuclear programme.

- The jacket was developed at BARC's Trombay centre in Mumbai in response to request from Ministry of Home Affairs and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- Bhabha Kavach is made of boron carbide and carbon nanotube polymer composite and weighs just 6.6 kg.
- The materials used in it reduce weight by nearly 50% as compared to presently used heavy steel-armoured jackets that weigh between 10kg to 17kg.

Sagar Kavach

- Two-day coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' to strengthen and assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism was held along Kerala coast.
- The exercise saw participation of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Indian Navy, Coastal Police and Marine Enforcement wing and various other security stakeholders.

Peace Mission

- A multi-nation counter-terror military exercise will be held in the Ural Mountains of Russia and almost all SCO member countries are taking part in it, to be held in September 2018.
- Its main aim is to enhance counter-terror cooperation among the eight SCO member countries.
- It will be for the first time since Independence that India and Pakistan will both be part of military exercise, though armies of two arch rival neighboring countries have worked together in UN peacekeeping missions.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) - It is a political and security grouping headquartered in Beijing. It was founded in 2001. The full members of organization are China, Russia, Kazakhstan,

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan. They represent over 40% of humanity and nearly 20% of the global GDP. Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia have observer status at present.

HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018

- India-Malaysia joint military training exercise.
- Held in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia from 30 April 18 to 13 May 2018 as part of ongoing defence cooperation between both countries.

Chakravat HADR Exercise

- Indian Navy conducted multi-agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named 'Chakravat' meaning 'cyclone' with coordination of Kerala Government off Kochi Coast.
- The mandate of exercise was to review response mechanism in the event of a cyclonic storm.

Babur III

- Pakistan's indigenously designed and built nuclear-capable, submarine-launched cruise missile (SLCM).
- It is the naval variant of the land-based Babur-II.
- The missile is capable of delivering various types of payloads including nuclear. It was successfully test-fired recently.

Sahyog-Hyeoblyeog 2018

- India, South Korea joint anti-piracy, search and rescue exercise was conducted in Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast in Tamil Nadu.
- The exercise was conducted between Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Korean Coast Guard (KCG) as part of proposed establishment of MoU between them to improve maritime security in Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- The Korean Coast Guard ship 'Bodaro' took part in the exercise.
- Indian Coast Guard deployed a Dornier aircraft to carry out sea-air coordinated search along with ICG Shaurya, Rani Abbakka, C-423, C-431 in the exercise.

Khanjar-V

- The fifth Indo-Kyrgyzstan Joint Training Exercise.
- Held at Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School in Mizoram.

Exercise Gaganshakti-2018

- The Indian Air Force conducted biggest combat exercise along Pakistan, China borders from 08-22 Apr 2018.
- The aim of the exercise was real time coordination, deployment and employment of air power in a short and intense battle scenario.
- During Gagan Shakti-2018, IAF exercised its entire war fighting machinery to validate its concept of operations and war waging capability.

Derby BVR missile

- Derby is a short to medium range BVR Air-to-Air missile.
- It is a dual-use missile (air-to-air and surface-to-air).
- It is developed jointly by Israeli armament development agency Rafael and Israel Aircraft Industries MBT.
- It has maximum effective range of about 50 km.

Indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas successfully fired Derby air-to-air beyond visual range missile (BVRM) off the Goa coast.

The Indian Navy has inducted Landing Craft Utility (LCU) **INLCU L53** at Port Blair. LCU L53 is the third ship in series of eight Mark IV LCU vessels built and designed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata for Navy. The first ship of the series was commissioned in 2016.

The fourth of eight Mark IV LCU vessels - L54, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was formally handed over to Indian Navy at GRSE, Kolkata. The first ship of Mark IV LCU vessels INS LCU 51 was commissioned into Indian Navy in 2016.

The National Disaster Response Authority (NDMA) conducted its first ever mock exercise aimed at enhancing preparedness of Airport Emergency Handlers to respond to CBRN emergencies at airports. CBRN emergencies pertain to threats emanating due to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear material. The training programme was conducted at Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Airport in Patna, Bihar in collaboration with Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS). During the training, NDMA jointly with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted its first-ever full-scale Biological Management Emergency Exercise.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) - It is a statutory body under aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Its provisions are envisaged in Disaster Management Act, 2005. It was established in 2009. Its mandate is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and capacity-building in case of disaster resiliency and crisis response.

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

RS-28 Sarmat - Russia's latest nuclear Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) that has been successfully test fired in April 2018

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IRNSS-1I

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched IRNSS-1I navigation satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on April 12, 2018.
- IRNSS-1I was launched by PSLV-C41.
- The IRNSS-1I is overall eighth satellite to join ISRO's NavIC navigation satellite constellation.
- It replaced IRNSS-1A, the first of seven navigation satellites of IRNSS series that was rendered ineffective after its three rubidium atomic clocks failed.

RH-300 MKII

- The RH-300 MKII sounding rocket developed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) was successfully launched from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The rocket was launched by VSSC under Sounding Rocket Experiment (SOUREX) programme for atmospheric studies.
- The study will enrich available atmospheric data and refine models used for tropical weather prediction.

ASPIRE

- NASA's supersonic Mars landing parachute.
- NASA has successfully conducted Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) to test supersonic parachute that will help its space exploration missions to land on Mars.

The Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) has postponed launch of India's second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2' from April 2018 to October- November 2018.

Chandrayaan 2 - It is India's second mission to Moon and is advanced version of previous Chandrayaan-1 mission (launched in 2008). In this mission, ISRO will for first time attempt to land a rover on moon's south-pole. It will be launched on board of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10). The soft-landing on the lunar surface of the moon will be most complex part of Chandrayaan 2 mission. Only US, Russia and China have been able to soft-land spacecraft on lunar surface.

Bangladesh is all set to become a member of the exclusive club of satellite-owning countries as its first commercial satellite "Bangabandhu-1" was launched to space on May 7 from the US. The satellite will be launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a new planet-hunting spacecraft onboard of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Carnival, Florida, US. TESS mission is designed to carry out first spaceborne all-sky transiting exoplanet survey.

Scientists have identified a new species of frog called *Fejervarya goemchi* in the highland plateaus of the Western Ghats parts of Goa. It has been named after state of Goa where the species is discovered.

Researchers have discovered the world's smallest land fern named Malvi's adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum malviae*) in Ahwa forests of Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district. Ferns are seasonal and mostly grow with first monsoon rains. They are not very common even in the locality they are found in.

Scientists have discovered a giant mosquito with a wingspan of 11.15 centimetres in China's Sichuan province. The mosquito belongs to the world's largest mosquito species *Holorusia mikado*.

Scientists from CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) have found four bacterial strains that remove sulphur from fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal. Sulphur is one of the major pollutants emitted during the combustion of fossil fuels. The four bacterial strains are *Rhodococcus rhodochrous*, *Arthrobacter sulfureou*, *Gordonia rubropertinita* and *Rhodococcus erythropolis*.

Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee have identified two small potent molecules Pep-I and Pep-II, for their inhibitory activity to treat Chikungunya disease. The antiviral activity of these molecules was so high that their small amount was able to achieve almost 99% reduction in virus. Currently, there are no drugs to treat chikungunya or any vaccine to prevent it.

Recent National Institute of Virology (NIV) study has found that Indian *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that transmits dengue and chikungunya viruses is easily susceptible to zika virus. During the study it was found that Indian *Aedes aegypti* mosquito infected with African strain MR-766 of zika virus (ZIKV) can easily transmit infection.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved use of Acuvue Oasys Contact Lenses with Transitions Light Intelligent Technology, world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to bright light. It is first of its kind contact lens to incorporate same technology that is used in eyeglasses that automatically darken in the sun.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi has installed Massive Multiple-Input, Multiple-Output (MIMO) lab on campus for standardisation, R&D and manufacturing of 5G equipment. It will be the first of its kind 5G lab in the country and has been set-up at Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management.

Australian scientist of Indian origin Veena Sahajwalla has launched world's first microfactory that can transform components from electronic waste items into valuable materials for re-use.

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

Researchers have discovered new class of antibiotics called odilorhabdins or ODLs that fights drug resistance. It was produced by symbiotic bacteria found in soil-dwelling nematode worms that colonise insects for food. The bacterium helps to kill insect and secrete antibiotic to keep competing bacteria away.

Four kingfisher bird species thriving in Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh were recently sighted. The species have been identified are Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileate*) and Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

China's out-of-control **Tiangong-1** space lab has re-entered Earth's atmosphere, landing in middle of the South Pacific Ocean near world's 'spacecraft cemetery or graveyard'. Most of its parts were burned up during gravity-propelled re-entry process. The spacecraft cemetery also known as Point Nemo – considered the most remote place on Earth (at about 2400 km from any spot of land).

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has lost contact with India's most powerful communication GSAT-6A satellite in less than 48 hours after it was launched. The loss in contact is believed to have been caused by power system failure or short circuit on the satellite. The GSAT-6A satellite was to be placed in orbit in three phases after its successful textbook launch on March 29, 2018 onboard of GSLV-F08.

India's first high-speed electric locomotive with 12000 horsepower (HP) engine has been flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Madhepura Electric Locomotive Factory in Bihar. It is first big Make-in-India project developed and completed by Indian Railways in collaboration with French firm Alstome.

According to recently published study, over quarter of nitrogen on Earth comes from weathering of planet's bedrock. For centuries, prevailing science indicated that all of nitrogen on Earth available to plants comes from atmosphere. This study could greatly improve climate change projections.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

'Bhavdiye' - based on Compilation of Letters written by Shri Kedar Nath Sahani. He was a writer, freedom fighter, social reformer and an icon who inspired others all over his life.

Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism's Greatest Thinker - Authored by Shri Pavan Varma.

VP Released Books 'Sarvapriya Atalji', 'Jannayak Atalji' and 'Atal Jeevan Gatha'. The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that democracy is the ideal system of governance and Shri Atal ji has succeeded in preserving it.

'Think India' - Journal devoted to the late philosopher-politician Deen Dayal Upadhyay

India's heritage of Gharana Music: Pandits of Gwalior - Authored by Meeta Pandit.

Matamgi Manipur: The First Manipuri Feature Film - Authored by Bobby Wahengbam.

My journey from Marxism - Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism - Authored by CH Hanumantha Rao.

Trishanku Nation - Memory, Self and Society in Contemporary India - Authored by Deepak Kumar

'Smart Cities Unbundled' - Authored by Dr. Sameer Sharma.

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp - Edited by Shri Kishor Makwana.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released three books based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917.

- 'Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary' written by Arvind Mohan.
- 'Champaran Andolan 1917' edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar.
- 'Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi' collected and edited by Srikant.
- The Champaran movement is acknowledged as the first Satyagraha movement inspired by Mahatma Gandhi.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Jailed Egyptian photojournalist **Mahmoud Abu Zeid**, popularly known as Shawkan, will be awarded **UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize** for the year 2018.

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** was awarded **National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018** in category "Top R&D Institution/Organization for Patents and Commercialization". (The National IP Award is awarded annually by Indian Intellectual Property Office (under Ministry of Commerce and Industry) in various categories on outstanding innovators, organizations and companies in fields of patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications on the occasion of World IP Day (26 April).

Gujarati poet, playwright and academic **Sitanshu Yashaschandra** was selected for **2017 Saraswati Samman** for his collection of

verses (poetry) titled “**Vakhar**” published in 2009. It was 27th edition of the award.

Madhya Pradesh was selected for the Most Film Friendly State award 2017 for its efforts towards easing filming in state. Uttarakhand was given Special Mention certificate in recognition of its efforts made towards creating film friendly environment. The awards will be presented by President Ram Nath Kovind in May 2018 during presentation of the 65th National Film Awards in New Delhi.

Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan, veteran playback singer Asha Bhosle and veteran actor Anupam Kher were among the prominent personalities who were conferred the 'Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan Awards' on the occasion of his 76th death anniversary.

Veteran filmmaker Rakesh Roshan will be felicitated with a Lifetime Achievement honour at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards for his contribution as a producer, director, screenwriter, editor and actor in Hindi films.

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

Vinod Khanna posthumously honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2017.

Aditi Rao Hydari to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award for her memorable performance in Bhoomi.

Online search engine Google is the most trusted Internet brand in India, followed by Facebook, a report said.

Kotak Mahindra Bank has pipped SBI to become India's second-most-valued lender after HDFC Bank in terms of market capitalisation.

TCS first Indian company with \$100 billion market cap. TCS is the leading the chart as the most valued firm followed by Reliance Industries Ltd, HDFC Bank, ITC and HUL in the top-five list.

Kutch-based Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank has bagged the prestigious Banco Award for best performing cooperative bank. Banco Award are given annually to the top performing cooperative banks to recognize and encourage best practices in the cooperative banking sector.

A three-man BCCI panel has recommended former India women's team captain, **Diana Edulji**, for the prestigious **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award**.

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

Prof. Bhante Anand Kirti from Colombo, Sri Lanka will get Dr. Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar International Award.

65th National Film Awards for 2017

- Veteran Hindi film actor Shri Vinod Khanna was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contribution to Indian Cinema.
- Best Feature Film: Village Rockstars (Assamese)
- Best Actress: Sridevi for 'Mom'

- Best Actor: Riddhi Sen for 'Nagar Kirtan'
- Best Director: Jayaraj for 'Bhayanakam' (Malayalam)
- Best Music Direction: AR Rahman for 'Katru Veliyidayi'
- Best Feature Film on National Integration: Dhappa (Marathi)
- Best Debut Film of Director: 'Sinjar'
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion'.
- Best Regional Film in Tamil: To Let
- The best Children's film was given to the Marathi Movie Mhorkya, directed by Amar Bharat Deokar.

NIRF Rankings 2018

- The Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru was adjudged as overall best Indian university in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2018.
- AIIMS Best Medical College.
- IIT - Madras, best in engineering category.
- National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, best in law category
- Released by Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- This year it is third edition NIRF survey and was released as part of India Rankings 2018 for the Educational Institutions.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

International Buddhist Conference

- Held at Lumbini, Nepal on 29 and 30 April 2018 to commemorate 2562nd Buddha Jayanti.
- The theme of the conference was 'Lumbini Nepal: The birthplace of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace'.

India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018

- Held at New Delhi.
- The title of conference was 'Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540'
- The Wiesbaden Process was initiated by Government of Germany in 2012 to strengthen implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 through Government-Industry partnerships.
- Wiesbaden is a city in western Germany.

International Conference on Human Rights in South Asia

- Inaugurated by Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari.
- The conference is organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.
- The theme of conference is "Identifying Challenges, Assessing Progress, Moving Forward: Addressing Impunity and Realizing Human Rights in South Asia".

Happy Cities Summit 2018

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

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018

- Held in London.
- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018, also known as CHOGM 2018, was the 25th meeting of the heads of government of the Commonwealth of Nations.
- Prime Minister attended the meeting for India.
- The meeting had been planned to have been held by Vanuatu at the end of 2017, but was moved to the United Kingdom after the impact of Cyclone Pam on the infrastructure of Vanuatu.
- Rwanda has been selected as host of the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), to be held in 2020.
- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 (CHOGM 2018) was held in London, United Kingdom. It was overall 25th meeting of the heads of government of the Commonwealth of Nations. It was also first CHOGM held following United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from European Union. The theme CHOGM 2018 was "Towards a Common Future".

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) - 2018

- Hosted by Iran at Tehran in April 2018.
- The Chief of the Naval Staff is leading a four member Indian delegation for the event.
- The IONS was conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008.
- The forum seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion on regionally relevant maritime issues that would lead to common understanding on the way ahead.

- The inaugural edition of IONS was held in February 2008 at New Delhi, with Indian Navy as the Chair for two years.

15th World Rural Health Conference

- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 15th World Rural Health Conference held in New Delhi.
- Its Theme is “Healing the Heart of Healthcare: Leaving No One Behind”.

India-China Informal Summit

- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and President of People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping held their first Informal Summit in Wuhan on April 27-28, 2018.
- The aim of the summit is to exchange views on overarching issues of bilateral and global importance, and to elaborate their respective visions and priorities for national development in the context of the current and future international situation.
- They shared the view that peaceful, stable and balanced relations between India and China will be a positive factor for stability amidst current global uncertainties.

Permanent Indus Commission meet - Delhi

- The Indus Water Treaty covers the water distribution and sharing rights of six rivers – Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. The treaty specifies that waters from the three western rivers – Indus, Jhelum and Chenab – are reserved for Pakistan, while waters from eastern rivers – Ravi, Sutlej and Beas – are reserved for India.
- The 114th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) between India and Pakistan was held at New Delhi.

DefExpo 2018 - 10th Edition

- Venue - Near Chennai at Tiruvidanthai, in Kancheepuram district.
- Inaugurated by The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The tag line of DefExpo this year is “India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub” to showcase India’s capability in export of defence systems and components.
- Indian participation include majors like Tata, L&T, Kalyani, Bharat Forge, Mahindra, MKU, DRDO, HAL, BEL, BDL, BEML, MDL, GRSE, GSL, HSL, MIDHANI, Ordnance Factories, and many others.
- The DefExpo 2018 was organised by Ministry of Defence.
- The third India-Russia Military Industrial Conference was held on the side-lines of DefExpo 2018 at Thiruvidanthai, Kancheepuram district on the East Coast Road near Chennai.

First India-Nordic summit

- Indian Prime Minister Modi was in Sweden, where he met with the five Nordic prime ministers for the first India-Nordic Summit.
- The Nordic countries are generally considered to refer to Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Malaria Summit 2018

- Held at London, United Kingdom.
- Leaders from 15 Commonwealth countries, along with The Prince of Wales and Bill Gates, gathered in London to re-focus and reignite global efforts to beat malaria for good.
- While significant progress has been made in recent years, a child under five still dies from malaria every two minutes

and in 2016, for the first time in years, the number of malaria cases in the world went up.

International Energy Forum

- India hosted the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting at New Delhi.
- Inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The theme of 2018 IEF Ministerial Meeting was “The Future of Global Energy Security: Transition, Technology, Trade and Investment”.
- The biennial IEF Ministerial Meetings are the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers who engage in a dialogue on global energy issues.
- IEF is an inter-governmental arrangement set up in 1991, based in Riyadh.

8th Theatre Olympics

- Inaugurated in New Delhi.
- Concluded in Mumbai.
- The theme “Flag of Friendship”.

GITC 2018

- “Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC), 2018” was held at New Delhi.
- GITC is being held every year in Asia- Pacific region and such events were held in the past in countries like Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam etc.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES - SNIPPETS

- VII Moscow Conference on International Security - Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman attended and addressed the II Plenary Session of the Conference on the theme titled 'Global Security in a Polycentric World'. Event was held at Moscow.
- First international conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' - Kathmandu.
- Meeting of Inter-Governmental Committee between India and Nepal - Kathmandu.
- The first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held in the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings on 19th April, 2018 in Washington D.C.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held at the capital of (Baku) Azerbaijan.
- India will be the partner country for International Frankfurt Trade Fair, Ambiente 2019 to be held during February 8-12, 2019 in Germany.
- Morocco has been designated to host the 2021 annual meetings of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- 15th SCO Defence Ministers meeting - China.
- The first Informal Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping - Wuhan, China.
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) - London.
- The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed One Nation One Tax policy for seamless movement of

commercial vehicles across the country. The two day meeting of GoM held in Guwahati, Assam.

- 2 Day Secure India Conclave - New Delhi. The conclave is being organised by Global Counter Terrorism keeping in view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of New India : Secure India 2018.
- The first regional conference of eastern states on Water Resources was held in Kolkata, West Bengal in bid to address outstanding water resources issues.
- The Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), jointly hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and UNCCD was held in New Delhi.
- The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific - Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The nations participated reaffirmed their commitment to promoting the principles of 3R - Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. Next 3R forum will be held at Bangkok, Thailand.
- The National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi in collaboration with the Embassy of Israel in India and the Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Israel organized an exhibition titled 'To the End of Land'-contemporary art from Israel on the occasion of 25 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The exhibition was held in New Delhi.
- Scientific Convention on World Homoeopathy Day - Inaugurated by The Vice President of India Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu, organized by the Ministry of AYUSH.
- First International SME Convention 2018 - Held at New Delhi. During the 2 days' Convention a Khadi fashion show called "Transcending Boundaries" will be held.
- First meeting of the newly constituted 'NITI Forum for North East' - Agartala, Tripura.

- The first regional conference of eastern states on Water Resources - Kolkata.
- Regional Conference on “Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges” - Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The 23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat under the chairmanship of Union home minister Rajnath Singh.
- Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Summit - Visakhapatnam.
- Home Expo India 2018 - Greater Noida.
- 4th National Workshop for Training on Autism - New Delhi
- India is going to host its second India Mobile Congress (IMC) between 25-27 October at New Delhi.
- The Global Logistics Summit (GLS-2018) - New Delhi.
- The 9th India-Japan-US trilateral meeting - New Delhi.
- Tibetans' 'Thank You India' campaign - Delhi.

PERSONS IN NEWS

Debjeni Ghosh - NASSCOM President

Rishad Premji - Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2018-19.

M L Srivastava - Protem chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi

Himanta Biswa Sarma - President of Badminton Association of India (BAI).

Sanjeev Nautiyal - Managing Director and CEO SBI Life Insurance.

Bhanu Pratap Sharma - Chairman of Bank Board Bureau

Egon Zehnder - Managing Director and CEO of Axis Bank.

Rajesh Ranjan - Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Gauri Sheoran (international shooter) - Brand ambassador for Haryana's health programmes.

Kavinder Gupta - Jammu and Kashmir deputy CM

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

M Sathiyavathy - Member of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Indu Malhotra - First woman lawyer sworn in as Supreme Court judge.

Lieutenant General PP Malhotra - Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organization in the world.

Vinay Sheel Oberoi High Powered Committee - To examine the system of conducting Class X and Class XII exam.

Jayant Sinha - Head of Task Force for UAV technology

Ban Ki-moon - Elected as Chairman of Boao Forum for Asia replacing Japan's Yasuo Fukuda.

Miguel Diaz-Canel - Cuba's new president (Havana is the capital of Cuba. Peso is the currency of Cuba).

Lionel Messi - Ambassador to promote responsible tourism.
World Tourism Organization chief: Zurab Pololikashvili.

Pakistan's Supreme Court bars former **PM Nawaz Sharif** from holding office for life.

OBITUARY:

Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar passes away.

World's oldest person Nabi Tajima passes away at 117.

Indian animation pioneer and multiple National Award winner Bhimsain Khurana is dead.

SPORTS AND GAMES

21st Commonwealth Games

- The 2018 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXI Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Gold Coast 2018, is an international multi-sport event for members of the Commonwealth that will be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, between 4 and 15 April 2018.
- It will be the fifth time Australia has hosted the Commonwealth Games.
- A total of 275 events will be held in 19 sports.
- Opening ceremony will be held in Carrara Stadium.
- The official motto for the 2018 Commonwealth Games is "Share the Dream".
- Borobi was named as the mascot of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

- Borobi was a male koala with blue fur and unusual markings on its paws.
- India's flag bearer for the opening ceremony - P.V. Sindhu.
- India's flag bearer for the closing ceremony - Mary Kom.
- India ranked 3rd in the medal tally with 26 gold, 20 silver and 20 bronze medals. Total 66 medals.
- It was India's 18th appearance at the Commonwealth Games. It was India's best position since the 2010 Commonwealth Games.
- Indian Competitors - 216 in 15 sports.
- World champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (48kg) secured India's first gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- Weightlifter Gururaja bagged India's first medal (silver) in the 2018 Commonwealth Games with a total lift of 249 kg in the men's 56 kg event
- 15 years old Anish Bhanwala (Karnal, Haryana) created history by becoming the youngest ever gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) for India, in 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event.
- India's women's Table Tennis team clinched maiden Gold. The concluding ceremony of the Commonwealth Games held in Gold Coast Australia, on 15 April 2018.
- Deepak Lather (Haryana) became India's youngest weightlifter to win a Commonwealth Games medal after he won the bronze medal in men's 69kg weight category.
- Saina Nehwal became first Indian shuttler to win two singles gold in Commonwealth Games. Saina Nehwal defeated compatriot PV Sindhu in women's singles final to clinch a gold medal in women's badminton singles.
- Saina had previously won a gold medal in 2010 Commonwealth Games which were hosted by India.
- More than 4500 athletes from 71 nations competed for 275 Commonwealth gold medals over the course of the Games.

- Australia remained on the top of Medal table with 198 medals followed by England with 136 and India got third position with 66 medals.

SPORTS SNIPPETS

- Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj was adjudged 'Sportsperson of the Year' while ace shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and PV Sindhu bagged the best senior male and female athletes at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017.
- ISSF Junior World Cup: Venue – Sydney. Muskan Bhanwala secured the gold medal in the 25m Pistol Women Junior event. She hails from Karnal, Haryana.
- Kerala have lifted their sixth Santosh Trophy Football title.
- Miami Open: John Isner beats Alexander Zverev to win first Masters 1,000 title.
- India defeated Bangladesh to win the fifth South East Asian Women Handball Championship in Lucknow.
- India's Leander Paes created a new world record by becoming the most successful doubles player in Davis Cup history, winning his 43rd such match.
- Rafael Nadal (Spain) wins 11th Barcelona Open title by defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece.
- Rafael Nadal beats Kei Nishikori to win Monte Carlo Masters.
- India have clinched the title of team champion in the 8th series of South Asian Judo Championship in Kathmandu.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided to convert the 2021 Champions Trophy into a World T20 event scheduled in India. Earlier it was an eight-team ODI tournament.

- Kidambi Srikanth has scaled the peak of the men's BWF men's singles rankings for the first time. Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian to reach top spot in men's badminton. He replaced Denmark's Viktor Axelsen to achieve the numero-uno spot in the latest BWF World Rankings.
- Lewis Hamilton wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

