

Important Days April



April Current Affairs – 2018



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1. Important Days

S. No	Date	Event	Reasons and Theme
1	2nd April	World Autism Awareness Day	World Autism Awareness Day", passed in council on 1 November 2007, and adopted on 18 December 2007. It was proposed by the United Nations representative from Qatar. 2018 - Theme: "Empowering women and girls with autism."
2	4th April	International Day for Mine Awareness	It was first observed on 4 April, 2006. 2018 Theme: Advancing Protection, Peace and Development.
3	5th April	National Maritime Day	On this day in 1919 navigation history was created when SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., journeyed to the United Kingdom, a crucial step for India shipping history when sea routes were controlled by the British. 2018 Theme: "Indian Shipping – An Ocean of opportunity".
4	7th April	World Health Day,	In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950. 2018 Theme: Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere. The slogan is "Health for All".
5	10th April	World Homeopathy Day	On Dr. Hahnemann's 80th Birthday i.e. 10th April 1835, Dr. Hering founded the World's First homeopathic medical college, "The North American Academy of Homeopathic Healing Art", Allentown, USA to commemorate this world homeopathy day is celebrated. Samuel Hahnemann is the Father of Homeopathy, Father of Human Pharmacology, Father of Nano Medicine and the Father of Infinite Dilution concept in Chemistry.
6	11th April	National Safe Motherhood Day	This day marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, wife of MK Gandhi, father of nation. India is first country in the world to celebrate National Safe Motherhood Day. 2018 Theme: 'Respectful Maternity Care.'
7	17th April	World Hemophilia Day	It was started in 1989; April 17 was chosen in honor of Frank Schnabel's birthday. 2018 Theme: "Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger"

8	18th April	World Heritage Day	The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982 announced, 18 April as the World Heritage Day. This was approved by General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983. 2018 Theme: “Heritage for Generations”. As of 2018, India alone has 36 world heritage sites, the sixth most of any country. Italy leads with 53 sites followed by China with 52 sites.
9	21st April	Administrative Professionals day or Secretaries’ Day or Admin Day	This day was established in 1952 through the work of Harry F. Klemfuss
10	22nd April	Earth Day	To mark the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. April 22, falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, was selected as the date. 2018 Theme: End Plastic Pollution.
11	23rd April	World Book & Copyright Day	World Book Day was celebrated for the first time on 23 April 1995. The original idea was of the Valencian writer Vicente Clavel Andrés as a way to honour the author Miguel de Cervantes, first on October 7, his birth date, then on April 23, his death date. In 1995 UNESCO decided that the World Book and Copyright Day would be celebrated on 23 April, as the date is also the anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. 2018 Theme: “READING, it's my right!”

Other Events:

S. No	Date	Events
1.	1st April	Odisha Day (UtkalaDibasa)
2.	1-7 April	Prevention of Blindness Week
3.	2nd April	International Children’s Book Day
4.	3rd April	World Party Day
5.	6th April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
6.	12th April	International Day of Human Space Flight
7.	13th April	99 th anniversary – Jallian wallah bagh massacre
8.	14th April	Ambedkar Jayanti
9.	14th April	National Dolphin Day
10.	15th April	World Art Day
11.	16th April	National Librarian Day
12.	19th April	World liver day
13.	21st April	National civil services day
14.	21st April	Day of Silence
15.	24th April	World Day for Laboratory Animals

16.	24th April	National Panchayat Raj Day
17.	24th April	Pinhole Photography day
18.	25th April	World Penguin Day
19.	25th April	World malaria day
20.	26th April	World Intellectual Property Day
21.	27th April	International Guide Dogs Day
22.	28th April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work
23.	29th April	International Dance Day
24.	29th April	Greenery Day
25.	30th April	National Honesty Day

2. Rankings

India's Rank	Field	Top 3 Countries
138th	World Press Freedom Index	1.Norway 2.Sweden 3.Netherlands
3rd	Internet Security Threat Report	1.Usa 2.China 3.India
37th	Startup Blink Report	1.Usa 2.Uk 3.Canada
130th	Index Of Economic Freedom	1.Hongkong 2.Singapore 3.Newzealand
10th	Commonwealth Innovation Index	1.Uk 2.Singapore 3.Canada
6th	World Economic Outlook	1.Usa 2.China 3.Japan
2nd	Crude Steel Manufacturing	1.China 2.India 3.Japan

3. Summit / Conference

Secure India Conclave underway in New Delhi

- The two-day Secure India Conclave got underway in New Delhi on 24.04.2018.
- The conclave is being organized by Global Counter Terrorism council keeping in view, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of New India: Secure India 2018.

Prime Minister to inaugurate International Energy Forum in New Delhi

- India will host the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting from 10-12th April 2018 in New Delhi. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will formally inaugurate the Meeting on 11th April 2018. Petroleum Ministers from 42 countries would attend the Meeting. The biennial IEF Ministerial Meetings are the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers who engage in a dialogue on global energy issues.

IMC-2018 promises to be one of the biggest TMT & ICT summits in the world

- The India Mobile Congress (IMC) today announced the initial details of the India Mobile Congress 2018, including exhibitors, sponsors, programmes and activities planned for the annual mobile industry event. Under the theme "NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS: Connect. Create. Innovate.",

First Ever International SME Convention-2018 in New Delhi

- The International SME convention held in New Delhi from 22nd to 24th April. The Ministry of MSME has engaged with over 35 International Trade Development organizations to attract and invite able and willing entrepreneurs and encourage people to people contact with select Indian Entrepreneurs from key sectors of the International counterparts.

Summit between India and the Nordic Countries

- The summit was held in Stockholm, The Summit emphasized the Indian Government's strong commitment to innovation and digital initiatives as key to prosperity and sustainable development, with national flagship programmes such as Make in India, Startup India, Digital India and Clean India.

Global Logistics Summit Held In New Delhi

- The Global Logistics Summit (GLS-2018) was held in New Delhi from April 5-6, 2018. It was organized by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, along with **FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry)** and the World Bank Group

VII Moscow Conference on International Security

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, went Russia to attend 'VII Moscow Conference on International Security' from 03 to 05 April 2018, addressed the II Plenary Session of the Conference on the theme

titled 'Global Security in a Polycentric World' covering aspects related to current global defence, security and strategic scenario on April 4 in the Russian capital.

International conference on human rights

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nepal hosted the three-day international conference with the theme 'identifying challenges and assessing progress: addressing impunity and human rights in South Asia'. The conference was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific in Madhya Pradesh

- The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific was held in Indore from 9 to 12 April 2018 with an overall theme of "Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency – A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities".

Happy Cities Summit

- The first 'Happy Cities Summit: Amaravati 2018' a global summit to evolve a framework for thinking about and measuring 'city happiness' as well as a declaration and set of principles for guiding policy and action in the development of 'happy cities', especially relevant for cities in the developing world.
- The summit would have four central themes – citizen-centric governance; livable communities; clean and healthy environment; and vibrant economies.

4. Appointments

National:

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Debjani Ghosh	Nasscom President
2	Putta Sudhakar Yadav	Chairman of TTD board
3	Sanjiv Mehta	Chairman of Hindustan Unilever
4	Lieutenant General PP Malhotra	Director General of National Cadet Corps(NCC)
5	Rahul Bhatia	IndiGo's interim CEO
6	Rajiv Bakshi	Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of Intex Technologies
7	Kavinder Gupta	Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.
8	Indu Malhotra	Supreme Court judge

International:

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Julius Maada Bio	New president of Sierra Leone
2	Angus Campbell	Australian defence chief
3	Diaz-Canel	Cuba's new President
4	Prince Charles	Commonwealth Head
5	Mario Abdo Benitez	New president of Paraguay
6	Lynn Laverty Elsenhans	Saudi Aramco's first woman to board of directors

5. Science and Technology

High Performance Computing (HPC) Systems Pratyush and Mihir

- The Two High Performance Computing (HPC) Systems Pratyush and Mihir installed at IITM, Pune and NCMRWF, Noida respectively have a total computing capacity of 6.8 peta flops. After the current augmentation, the total HPC capacity of the ministry has gone up to 8.0 Peta Flops. The Ministry HPC system with a combined capacity of 8.0 Peta Flops is now placed at the 4th position after Japan, UK and USA for dedicated HPC resources for weather/climate community.

32 Indians to contribute in sixth Assessment report on Climate Change

- The Sixth Assessment Report, or AR6, will be completed in 2021 and is likely to be published in 2022. Six of the Indian scientists have been named coordinating lead authors, who will be the group leaders for the chapters assigned to them.

Rock nitrogen

- Conventional wisdom has always been that nitrogen, a gas essential to plant life on earth, was only available from the atmosphere. However, it emerges that nearly a quarter of it comes from the earth's bedrock. This nitrogen (26%) in natural ecosystems is sourced from rocks and is referred to as 'rock nitrogen'.

Jaw fossil found on U.K. beach belonged to ichthyosaur

- Ichthyosaur lived 205 million years ago, dominating the oceans just as dinosaurs were becoming the undisputed masters on land
- A jawbone fossil found on a rocky English beach belongs to one of the biggest marine animals on record, a type of seagoing reptile called an ichthyosaur that scientist estimated at up to 85 feet long - approaching the size of a blue whale.

IIT-Delhi to establish lab to develop 5G equipment

- To establish India as a key global player in standardization, R&D and manufacturing of 5G equipment, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi is opening a Massive Multiple-Input, Multiple-Output (MIMO) lab on the campus.

Rear guppy or gambusia fish to fight malaria, says Health department

- Guppy is a fish belonging to Trinidad and Tobago and the coastal South America.
- There were native varieties of larvivorous fish species such as *Manathukanni* or *Kannikuriyan*, found in backwaters, which could be used for mosquito eradication.

Largest Mangrove forest in the world Sunderbans

- Sunderbans was made a UNESCO heritage site in 1987 and become a **Ramsar site** 43% of India's mangrove cover is in Sunderbans.
- Sunderbans to be declared a Ramsar Site soon. 26 Ramsar sites in India, including East Kolkatta Wetlands.

Cambodia's critically endangered dolphins population increased

- The population of **critically endangered dolphins** in **Cambodia's Mekong River** has increased for the first time after years of constant decline that pushed the species almost to the brink of extinction.

World's only 'tropical polar bear' dies

- Inuka, a 27-year-old **animal** World's only tropical polar bear in Singapore Zoo.

Olive Ridley Turtles hatchlings at the Gahirmatha beach

- Olive Ridley hatchlings of over 6 lakhs are emerging from eggshells at the **Gahirmatha** nesting ground in **Odisha's Kendrapara** district and started crawling towards the sea.
- The annual visit of the turtles along Odisha coast, billed as the **world's largest nesting ground** of these aquatic animals at the Gahirmatha beach.

World's oldest known spider dies in Australia

- The **world's oldest known spider** has died at the ripe old age of **43** after being monitored for years during a long-term population study in
- The trapdoor spider comfortably outlived the previous record holder, a 28-year-old tarantula found in Mexico.

Inventions / Discover**New plant species in Western Ghats**

- Grass-like plant, discovered in Ponmudi, in western ghats has been named *Fimbristylisagasthyamalaensis*. Researchers from the University College have reported the discovery of a new plant species from the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot. It was classified as sedge; the grass-like plant has been named *Fimbristylisagasthyamalaensis*, after the locality from which it was found.

World's first micro factory to help tackle e-waste hazard

- An Indian-origin scientist in Australia has launched the world's first micro factory that can transform the components from electronic waste items such as smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use. It can turn glass, plastic and timber into commercial materials and other products.

Fossil finger points of early humans provide some clues

- An ancient human finger bone found in Saudi Arabia provides a new clue about when and how our species migrated out of Africa. It shows hunter-gatherers had reached that area by 85,000 years ago. Previously discovered human fossils show an earlier human presence in Israel and possibly China. Scientists believe early people left Africa more than once after evolving there at least 300,000 years ago. The bone, from an adult and most likely a middle finger, was found in 2016 about 340 miles southeast of the Sinai Peninsula.

Japanese engineer create giant robot

- Japanese engineer Masaaki Nagumo created a giant humanoid inspired by the science fiction franchise. Developed at Sakakibara Kikai, a maker of farming machinery, LW-Mononofu is an 8.5-metre tall, two-legged robot weighing in at more than 7 tones. It contains a cockpit with monitors and levers for the pilot to control the robot's arms and legs.

IASST researchers use smart bandage for faster wound healing

- A smart bandage material that can heal wounds better and faster and has antimicrobial properties has been fabricated by a team of researchers from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati. The bandage is made of cotton patch coated with chitosan-based hydrogel that is loaded with curcumin and graphene oxide. The researchers used curcumin as a model drug and the same can be replaced with other antimicrobials.

China develops 3D conic device to increase solar-thermal conversion

- Chinese scientists have developed a new device of 3D hollow-cone structure that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency. The device, named 'Artificial Transpiration' by Zhu Jia and his team from the Nanjing University.

Researchers engineered a plastic-eating enzyme

- Scientists in Britain and the United States say they have engineered a plastic-eating enzyme that could in future help in the fight against pollution. The enzyme, which is biodegradable, is able to digest polyethylene terephthalate, or PET — a form of plastic patented in the 1940s and now used in millions of tons of plastic bottles. PET plastics can persist for hundreds of years in the environment and currently pollute large areas of land and sea worldwide.

IIT Roorkee develops a potent molecule to treat chikungunya

- Currently, there are no drugs to treat chikungunya or any vaccine to prevent it.

IACS team designs logic devices for DNA-based computation

- Scientists at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata, have been successful in designing DNA-based logic devices that would find application in DNA-based computation.

Palm-sized sensor

- Scientists from **Austria** developed an inexpensive light and portable sensor that can detect a specific chemical emitted by breath or skin: acetone, ammonia or isoprene and could be used **to rescue people** trapped in rubble after an earthquake or bombing.

New Structure in the cell

- A new twisted and knotted structure called **i-motif** has been for the first time studied inside a living cell.
- Researchers say that it looks like a four-stranded knot of DNA.

World's smallest land fern discovered in Western Ghats:-

- Indian researchers have discovered the **world's smallest land fern** hiding in the Ahwa forests of the Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district.
- The size of the new Malvi's adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum malviae*, named after their resemblance to a snake's tongue.

BARC offers first indigenous bulletproof vest

- The **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** has developed a next-generation **cheaper and lighter bulletproof jacket** for the Indian armed forces.
- Bhabha Kavach can shield from AK-47 (hard steel bullets), SLR and INSUS weaponry; undergoing tests by armed forces

Giant mosquito discovered in China

- Scientists have discovered a **giant mosquito** with a wingspan of **15 centimeters** in **China**.

- The giant mosquito was discovered by scientists in Mount Qingcheng in Chengdu, capital of south-west China's Sichuan province.
- The mosquito was **first** found in **Japan**.
- **Europe's Gaia satellite** has produced a **3-D map** of more than a billion stars in the **Milky Way galaxy** — complete with their distance from Earth, colour, and motion through space.
- The eagerly-anticipated catalogue, published on Wednesday, was compiled from data Gaia gathered on some 1.7 billion stars from its unique vantage point in space, about 1.5 million kilometres from the earth.

New frog species takes historical name of Goa

- In the highland plateaus of the **Western Ghats parts of Goa**, scientists have identified a new species of frog called *Fejervarya goemchi*.

New plants from Western Ghats

- Apart from the discoveries of the **world's smallest land fern** and **two shrubs** of the **rattlepod** family reported, **six species** including **two balsams**, **two shrubs** belonging to the **mint** family (Lamiaceae), a **herb of the coffee family** (Rubiaceae) and 10-cm-tall **Sonerila** (a rock-loving wild herb), a flowering plant commonly found in the tropics, have been discovered.

Novel technique to detect paraffin oil contamination in coconut oil

- Using a novel approach, researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have for the first time been able to use **laser-assisted paper spray ionization mass spectrometry** to analyse various saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons directly from solutions.

Space Science

GSAT-6A lost communication: ISRO

- India's latest communication satellite with military applications GSAT-6A was launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on March 29. After 8 hours it had lost contact with ISRO and the organization was making efforts to establish link.

China's Tiangong-1 space station burns up over South Pacific

- China's Tiangong-1 space station re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and burnt up over the middle of the South Pacific. The space station was launched in 2011 to carry out docking and orbit experiments as part of China's ambitious space programme, which aims to place a permanent station in orbit by 2023.

NASA completes successfully the test launch of Mars landing parachute

- A supersonic parachute, which will help NASA missions to land on Mars, was successfully launched into the sky during a key test designed to mimic the conditions of entering the red planet.

Icarus, the farthest star

- Scientists have detected the most distant star ever viewed, located more than halfway across the universe and named it after the ancient Greek mythological figure Icarus. The star was formally named MACS J1149+2223 Lensed Star-1, but its discoverers dubbed it Icarus, who flew so close to the sun that his wings fashioned from wax and feathers melted, sending him plunging fatally into the sea.

Satellite launched by ISRO

- Satellites launched by ISRO in the last four years and the current year are as follows:

Communication Satellite	8
Navigational Satellite	7
Remote Sensing Satellite	5
Meteorological satellite	2
Science Satellite	1
Technology Demonstration/ Student Satellite	9

NASA to build quieter supersonic planes with Lockheed Martin

- NASA has inked a deal with Lockheed Martin to develop a supersonic “X-plane” that could break the sound barrier without a sonic boom. It is an ‘experimental plane’ designed to fly faster than the speed of sound without producing the noise typical of supersonic flights. The X-plane’s mission is to provide crucial data that could enable commercial supersonic passenger air travel over land

NASA’s Hubble: Precisely measures distance to ancient star cluster

- Scientists using NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope have for the first time precisely measured the distance to one of the oldest objects in the universe, a 13.4 billion-year-old cluster of stars born shortly after the Big Bang. The refined distance yardstick provides an independent estimate for the age of the universe. It will also help astronomers improve models of stellar evolution.

The center of the Milky Way is swarming with black holes

- The center of our galaxy is swarming with black holes, sort of like a Times Square for strange super gravity objects, astronomers discovered. Astronomers poring over old x-ray observations have found signs of a dozen black holes in the inner circle of the Milky Way. And since most black holes can’t even be spotted that way, they calculate that there are likely thousands of them there. They estimate it could be about 10,000, maybe more, according to a study in the journal Nature.

Virgin Galactic’s tests spaceship

- Richard Branson’s company Virgin Galactic conducted a supersonic test flight over the Sierra Nevada Mountains of its Spaceship Two passenger rocket Ship. The Company said, three years after a fatal accident on an earlier version of the ship.

NASA: Humanity’s first flight to Sun set to launch in July

- Parker Solar Probe will explore the Sun’s outer atmosphere and make critical observations about the physics of stars. NASA’s Parker Solar Probe — humanity’s first mission to the Sun — is undergoing final preparations for its launch scheduled for July 31.

Navigation satellite IRNSS-1I to be launched

- The Indian Space Research Organization will on April 12 launch a navigation satellite, the eighth such satellite to be a part of a constellation. IRNSS-1I is expected to replace IRNSS-1A, the first of the seven navigation satellites that was rendered ineffective after its three rubidium atomic clocks failed. The seven satellites are part of the NavIC navigation satellite constellation.

PSLV-C41 successfully launches IRNSS-1I navigation satellite

- In its forty third flights, ISRO’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C41 successfully launched the 1,425 kg IRNSS-1I Navigation Satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. Eighth in the series, the satellite completes the first phase of the Indian regional navigation constellation.

NASA to study how tiny sea creatures affect Earth's climate

- In a first, NASA is conducting a study of the world's largest phytoplankton bloom in the North Atlantic to see how the tiny sea critters influence the climate in every season.
- The North Atlantic Aerosols and Marine Ecosystems Study (NAAMES) mission began its fourth and final deployment, which will study how phytoplanktons give rise to small organic particles that leave the ocean and end up in the atmosphere, ultimately influencing clouds and climate. It is the first research mission to conduct an integrated study of all four distinct phases of the world's largest phytoplankton bloom.

Delay in launching of NASA's planet-hunting satellite

- An 11th- hour technical glitch prompted SpaceX to postpone its planned launch of a new NASA space telescope designed to detect worlds beyond our solar system. TESS will help catalog at least 100 more rocky exoplanets for further study.

Giant asteroid 2018 GE3 makes surprise fly

- A giant asteroid gave Earth a surprise close shave this week, flying by at a distance of 1,92,000 kilometer's, just a day after astronomers discovered the object.
- The asteroid measures 3.6 times the size of the one that leveled 2,000 square kilometers of Siberian forest when it exploded over Tunguska in 1908.

NASA's new planet-hunting mission

- NASA's latest planet hunting satellite was successfully launched on the first-of-its-kind mission to find new worlds beyond our solar system and identify the ones that could support alien life.
- The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), which is expected to find thousands of new exoplanets orbiting nearby stars, lifted off at 4:21 am IST on April 19 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The twin solar arrays that will power the spacecraft were successfully deployed soon after. TESS will use four unique wide-field cameras to map almost 85 % of the sky

App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free**National portal to share research facilities**

- The portal — Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) — will soon become operational. The center is in the process of collating information about scientific and research equipment and facilities available at academic institutions and research organizations across the country.

Goa to launch its own app based taxi service

- The Goa government has decided to launch its own app-based taxi service to some key tourist destinations in the coastal state. The state-run Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) invited the taxi operators to register with the new mobile application-based transport service.

Free Amma Wi-Fi hotspots launched by Tamil Nadu CM

- The Tamil Nadu government launched its ambitious free Amma Wi-Fi hotspots in five places in the state that includes Labour Statue on Marina front in Chennai, Gandhipuram bus stand in Coimbatore, Central Bus Terminus in Salem and Coimbatore, Mattuthavani MGR bus stand in Madurai.

E-Court fee payment facility

- The Madras High Court became the first court in south India and eighth in the country to introduce **e-court fee** payment facility.
- So far only the Supreme Court and the High Courts in Delhi, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh had introduced the e-court fee payment facility.

Shri Piyush Goyal Launches UTTAM APP for Coal Quality Monitoring

- The Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri Piyush Goyal today launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring. UTTAM stands for – Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal (uttam.coalindia.in). The Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL) developed UTTAM, aims to provide an App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries.

New Website & Mobile APP of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Launched

- The new website is very user-friendly and as per Government of India Guidelines for official websites. It is a comprehensive website giving complete details about the Commission viz. its composition, mandate, manner of filing complaints, details of visits undertaken by its Chairman and Members, etc.

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries launches Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh website

- Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) Shri Tarun Shridhar inaugurated the website of Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh namely www.pashuchikitsakmahasangh.in and dedicated it to Veterinarians of the country in New Delhi.

Dr Jitendra Singh launches online dashboard to monitor public grievances on real time basis

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched an online dashboard developed by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

Commerce and Industry Minister, launches digital platform for MSME Exporters

- The Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu launched the FIEO Global Linker- a digital platform for MSME exporters to digitize their businesses and join a global community of growing businesses in New Delhi.

DARPAN-PLI App launched

- The DARPAN-PLI App, launched by Honorable Minister of State (I/C) for Communications and Minister of State for Railways, will help in collection of premium for PLI(Postal life Insurance) and RPLI(Rural Postal Life Insurance) policies at Branch Post Offices anywhere in India, with online updation of the policies.

6. Schemes

Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan-launched to encourage Science & Mathematics learning in children

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA), a convergent framework across School Education and Higher Education aiming to encourage children towards learning Science and Mathematics and to develop their interest through activities related to Science and Mathematics. One of the interventions under RAA is strengthening of school Science and Mathematics laboratories, through the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

Andhra Pradesh: Chandranna Pelli kanuka scheme launch

- The State Cabinet decided to launch the new scheme Chandranna Pelli kanuka. The gift for the BCs, the SCs and the STs and the Dulhan scheme would be brought under one umbrella with a centralized IT-enabled citizen centric interface for marriage-related incentive schemes of various departments.

Mission Buniyaad: Government mission to skill kids launched

- Mission Buniyaad, a campaign by Delhi government to group children from classes III to IX on their maths and reading abilities, was launched by deputy CM and education minister Manish Sisodia .The campaign aimed at 76,000 students in classes III to V in Sarvodaya schools and classes VI to IX in DoE schools expects to achieve results by July.

Heat Action Plan launched in Ahmedabad

- Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) launched 6th edition of Heat Action Plan (HAP) to protect city dwellers from climate fueled scorching temperatures. Ahmedabad was the first city to prepare and implement heat action plan.

Alappuzha second in LIFE Mission

- Alappuzha district had achieved the second position in the State in the implementation of the LIFE Mission. The scheme is being implemented simultaneously by local self-government institutions, Fisheries, Minority Welfare, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development departments.

Tribal Plus to attract tribal families to the MGNREGS

- The Kerala State government is gearing up to launch an innovative programme titled ‘Tribal Plus’ to attract tribal families to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) in the State. The Tribal Plus project envisages to attract more tribal families to the scheme by providing more working days and ensuring wages by the end of every week.

Mission to make tribes literate

- 5,283 neo-literates, including 3634 women, from select tribal hamlets in the district will appear for a preliminary literacy examination, organized by the Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority

(KSLMA).The mission had conducted a survey prior to identifying the hamlets and preference was given to most backward hamlets of **Paniya, Kattunayakka and Adiya** sects of tribespersons in the first phase of the project.

Gram Sadak Yojana

- The Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the **World Bank** today signed a **\$210 million** loan agreement for the Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project.
- The Project will cover 10,510 km stretch of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh that fall under the Chief Minister's **Gram Sadak Yojana** (CMGSY) program.

Tamilnadu tops in Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana(PMMY) loan disbursement

- According to data Tamil Nadu is the biggest recipient of loans to small and micro enterprises under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY). As on March 16, 2018, in the last three financial years, a total of Rs. 52,499.82 crore has been disbursed in the State. Tamil Nadu is home to large number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).

Tamil Nadu: Self-governance campaign launched

- 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan', a village self-governance campaign, was launched in Vellore and Tiruvannamalai districts. The campaign, which will go on till May 5, will cover 74 village panchayats in Vellore and 61 village panchayats in Tiruvannamalai.

Telangana: Green day campaign Launched

- To save the saplings planted in the district from harsh sun in the season 'Green Day' campaign was launched` Haritha Haram, the flagship green mission of the State, saw nearly 1.78 crore saplings planted last year.

Telangana: Rythu Bandhu Scheme

- **Rythu Bandhu** (investment support scheme for agriculture) will benefit more than 58 lakh farmers in the State covering about 1.42 crore acres.

Uttar Pradesh: Special sanitation drive in Bhojpur to make open defecation free

- The Bhojpur district has launched a special sanitation drive under the 'Satyagrah Se Swachhagrah' programme with a view to making the district open defecation free. Altogether 436 'swachhagrahis' or sanitation volunteers, out of which 206 have come from Uttar Pradesh will assist and work with 230 local volunteers under a massive awareness drive and motivational programme in all the 228 panchayats of the district.

Uttar Pradesh: Scheme launched to help women at state, district level

- Union minister for women and child development Maneka Gandhi said that the Union government had launched a new scheme called the "Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra" to empower rural women through community participation. The scheme, which will work at the national, state and district levels to create an environment in which women achieve their full potential, will run from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

West Bengal: Mamata started Rupashree scheme in Kolkata

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has started the project 'Rupashree' which provides one-time financial support for the marriage of poor women. For the 'Rupashree' scheme, a woman has to fill out the application form before her marriage and submit it to the Block Development Officer or the Municipality Office. An amount of Rs. 25,000 will be credited to her bank account before her marriage, the official said.

Swadhar Greh Scheme

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme which targets the women victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity. The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for these women.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs to launch "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" at Bijapur

- The Ministry of Tribal affairs has approved establishment of the first multipurpose "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" on pilot basis for establishment in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh State for providing skill up gradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility. This first model Van Dhan Vikas Kendra is being implemented for training of 300 beneficiaries with a total outlay of Rs 43.38 lakhs for training, providing equipment's & tools for primary level processing and infrastructure & building for housing the Kendra.

Union Home Minister launches e-FRRO scheme

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the web-based application 'e-FRRO' (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office). He said the e-FRRO scheme is aimed at building a centralized, transparent online platform for the foreigners to avail visa related services and to provide Faceless, Cashless and Paperless services to the foreigners with user friendly experience.

Central Project Monitoring Unit for e-Vidhan project launched

- Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Shri Vijay Goel inaugurated the new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for the e-Vidhan project. e-Vidhan is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless.

Van Dhan Scheme launched to help increase tribal income

- PM Modi launched the **Van Dhan Scheme** of **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and TRIFED on 14th April, 2018 during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at **Bijapur, Chattisgarh**.
- Emphasizing the important **role of value addition in increasing tribal incomes**, he stated that Van Dhan, Jan Dhan and Gobar-Dhan Schemes had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system.

Swachh Bharat Mission launches GOBAR-DHAN

- The GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources – DHAN) scheme aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste. The scheme also aims at creating new rural livelihood opportunities and enhancing income for farmers and other rural people.

Govt. launches Pilot scheme Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW for three years.

- The Government has already moved out of this dichotomy and launched '**Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana**'- **Saubhagya** to achieve universal household electrification in the country by 31st December 2018.

7. Economic Affairs

NHAI awarded projects worth Rs 1.22 lakh crore in 2018

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has awarded projects worth Rs 1,22,000 crore for constructing about 7,400 km of highways in the fiscal 2017-18. In last 5 years, the average length of road projects awarded by NHAI was 2,860 Km with 4,335 Km awarded in the last financial year.

E-way bill rollout successful

- The re-introduction of the e-way bill system under GST had been very successful with no technical glitches. The GST provision, requiring transporters to carry an electronic waybill when moving goods between States, was implemented to check tax evasion and boost revenues.

Suresh Prabhu Launches Digital Initiative for Ease of Export

- Union Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu today launched digital initiatives by Export Inspection Council (EIC) for ease of export at New Delhi. India's potential for agricultural and food export will get a great boost due to these digital initiatives.

RBI eases provisioning norms for bond losses

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to ease the provisioning norms for bond losses for third and fourth quarters of 2017-18. It has now allowed banks to spread bond losses, incurred in these two quarters, over four quarters.

US proposes tariffs on 1,300 Chinese products

- The US Trade Representative (USTR) sectors subject to the proposed tariffs include industries such as aerospace, information and communication technology, robotics, and machinery. The United States announced a proposed list of products imported from China that could be subject to additional tariffs of 25 per cent amounting to \$50 billion.

Pension from earlier jobs taxable: CBDT

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes has clarified that the pension received by a taxpayer from his former employer is taxable under the head 'Salaries'. "The Finance Act 2018 has amended Section 16 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to provide that a taxpayer having income chargeable under the head 'Salaries' shall be allowed a deduction of ₹40,000 or the amount of salary, whichever is less, for computing his taxable income," the government said in a statement.

RBI bars banks from dealing with crypto currencies

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to stop providing service to any entity dealing with virtual currencies, with immediate effect. In view of the associated risks, it has been decided

that, with immediate effect, entities regulated by RBI shall not deal with or provide services to any individual or business entities dealing with or settling crypto currencies.

New logistics index for states

- Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu said that the government is working on creating a logistics index that would score States on their performance in the sector. He added that the sector was one of the key thrust areas for the government. “A logistics index is being developed for every State so that they can compete in this area,” Mr. Prabhu said at the Global Logistics Summit organized by industry body FICCI.

5% GST in Railway catering services

- The Finance Ministry said that food and drinks supplied by the Indian Railways or the IRCTC in trains, platforms and stations, will attract 5% GST. This would bring about uniformity in the rate of GST applicable to the supply of food and drinks made available in trains, platforms or stations.

Reserve bank revises limits for investment in debt instruments by FPI

- The Reserve Bank of India has revised the limits on investment in debt instruments by foreign portfolio investors (FPI). The revision comes into effect immediately. And, the revision is done in consultation with the Government of India. The move comes in the wake of an earlier announcement to have a detailed review of current regulations on debt investment by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) to facilitate the process of investment and hedging by FPIs.

TRAI to review of number portability

- Telecom regulator TRAI on Friday initiated a consultation process to review the current system of mobile number portability in order to make it more subscriber-friendly. The regulator said due to recent closure or discontinuation of services by some of the operators, a substantial number of subscribers had been forced to port their mobile number to other service providers.

CBDT for 2017-2018 notifies new I-T return forms

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified income tax return (ITR) forms for assessment year 2018-19 (financial year 2017-18). For Assessment Year 2018-19, a one-page simplified ITR Form-1 (Sahaj) has been notified,” the CBDT said in a statement. “This ITR Form-1 (Sahaj) can be filed by an individual who is resident other than not ordinarily resident, having income up to ₹50 lakh and who is receiving income from salary, one house property/other income (interest etc.).

Cyprus not a tax haven: diplomat

- Cyprus gives tax incentives and Cyprus has a corporate tax rate of 12.5% and there is a provision for 100% repatriation of profit. Dividends, profits from permanent establishments and profits from sale of securities are exempt from taxes.

CBDT to recognize transgender as independent gender, new category amended in PAN form

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued notifications to recognize transgender as Independent gender. The application form for PAN now has a new tick box for transgender. The notification, issued under sections 139A and 295 of the Income Tax Act, specifies the new application process for obtaining a PAN number by an individual for easier tax-related transactions.

Intra-state e-way bills for five states

- The government announced that it would be rolling out the e-waybill system for the intra-state transport of goods in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh on April 15, 2018.

Digital transformation will add \$154 billion to India's GDP

- Digital transformation will add an estimated \$154 billion to India's GDP by 2021 and increase the growth rate by 1% every year, according to a joint study by Microsoft and IDC Asia Pacific. In 2017, about 4% of India's GDP was derived from digital products and services created through digital technologies, the report titled 'Unlocking the Economic Impact of Digital Transformation in Asia Pacific', stated.

DIPP comes out with fresh notification on definition of start-ups

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), under the Union Ministry for Commerce and Industry, has come out with a new notification on definition of start-ups
- According to the notification, an entity shall be considered as a start-up up to a period of seven years from the date of incorporation/registration, if it is incorporated as a private limited company (as defined in the Companies Act, 2013) or registered as a partnership firm (registered under Section 59 of the Partnership Act, 1932) or a limited liability partnership (under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008) in India.

SEBI hikes FPI investment

- To increase inflows of foreign funds into Indian capital markets, regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to raise the investment limit for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in central government securities and corporate bonds in two tranches.

Government to launch this fiscal's first tranche of gold bond

- The government announced this fiscal's first tranche of sovereign gold bond (SGB) and its subscription will open on April 16. The sovereign gold bond 2018-19, Series-I, will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices and recognized stock exchanges namely the NSE and BSE.

Certificate of incorporation would be sufficient proof of PAN or TAN for corporate

- The Income Tax department said the certificate of incorporation issued by the Corporate Affairs Ministry would be considered sufficient proof of PAN or TAN for corporates. The Finance Act, 2018 amended section 139A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and removed the requirement of issuing PAN in the form of a laminated card.
- PAN and TAN mentioned in the COI issued by MCA shall also be treated as sufficient proof of PAN and TAN for the said company assesses. The Certificate of Incorporation (COI) issued by the MCA contains a mention of both PAN and TAN.

Government to unveil draft air cargo policy

- A policy to provide thrust to air cargo would be drafted soon as it will fuel the growth of the aviation sector and boost the country's economy. The success of the aviation sector in the country was completely propelled by the participation of private players, adding that infrastructure for the movement of air cargo could be created in the same way.

China to allow full foreign ownership in auto industry

- China has announced plans to allow full foreign ownership of automakers in five years, ending restrictions that have strained relations with Washington and other trading partners.
- The Cabinet's planning commission said that it will lift limits on foreign ownership of electric vehicle producers this year, followed by similar action for makers of commercial vehicles in 2020 and passenger vehicles in 2022.

Bharat-22 ETF offer may worth Rs 10,000 crore

- The Finance Ministry may come out with a ₹10,000-crore follow-on fund offer of the Bharat-22 exchange traded fund (ETF) as it looks to dilute stake in Coal India to meet the minimum public holding norm. The government, in November, introduced Bharat-22 ETF comprising shares of 22 firms, including PSUs, public sector banks, ITC, Axis Bank and L&T.

DGCA: Domestic air traffic grows 28%

- Domestic aviation traffic in March saw the fastest growth in recent years at 28.03% with domestic airlines flying a total of 11.5 million passengers last month as compared with 9.04 million a year earlier, according to DGCA

ICRA: Wind energy capacity addition to increase to 3 GW in FY 2019

- The capacity addition in the wind power sector is expected to improve to about 3 gigawatts in FY 2019, after witnessing a weak performance in FY2018. Transition to bid-based power purchase agreement regime is cited as the reason for low capacity addition in FY2018.

IMF: India using right policies to lower high debt level

- India has quite a high debt to GDP ratio, but New Delhi is trying to lower it using the right policies, said by the International Monetary Fund. India is planning to continue with the consolidation in the current fiscal year and over the medium term.

False information of income leads to punishment: Income Tax Department

- The Income Tax Department cautioned salaried taxpayers against falling prey to incorrect advice by tax planners who urge them to use illegal means to try to minimize their declared taxable income.

Sebi strengthens procedures for transfer of securities, dividend payment

- Markets regulator Sebi placed detailed guidelines to streamline and strengthen procedures with regard to handling and maintenance of records, transfer of securities, and payment of dividend by registrar and share transfer agents.
- The guidelines will broadly deal with areas like payment of dividend, interest and redemption; correction of errors; and compulsory internal audit of RTAs (registrar and share transfer agents).

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

- 1.5 Million Rural residents in State of Madhya Pradesh are going to directly benefit from improved livelihoods, education and mobility with the USD \$ 140-Million loan approved by the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The Project, co-financed with the World Bank, aims to improve the rural road connectivity and management for residents of about 5,640 villages who use the rural roads for daily activities.

India seeks China's help for Bengaluru-Chennai rail corridor

- India has sought China's assistance to speed up the Bengaluru-Chennai railway corridor besides redevelopment of Agra and Jhansi railway stations. The request was made at the Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) held here between the two countries.

India to supply soya for china

- India walked with China in its trade row with Washington, and offered to export soya beans, which Beijing may no longer be able to source from the U.S.
- In his opening remarks at the fifth China-India Strategic Economic Dialogue, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said India was ready to step in and supply soya beans to China. Earlier this month, China had announced fresh tariffs on soya bean imports from the U.S, as part of an unresolved trade spat between Beijing and Washington, on items worth over \$100 billion.

Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project

- A Loan Agreement for IBRD loan of USD 48 million for the "Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)" was signed with the World Bank
- The Objective of the Project is to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected landscapes in the State of Meghalaya. The Project consists of three components: (i) Strengthening

Knowledge and Capacity for Natural Resource Management; (ii) Community-led landscape planning and implementation and (iii) Project Management and Governance.

ICRA: Solar capacity addition to be down 40% in FY2019

- The solar capacity addition is estimated to decline by 40% to 4-4.5 giga watts in FY2019 from last year, according to ratings firm ICRA.
- The estimated fall in capacity addition in FY2019 is mainly on account of subdued trend in tendering of solar projects since June 2017 in the midst of several factors such as GST roll-out in July 2017, an upward pressure on PV module price levels internationally and continued uncertainty on safeguard duty and anti-dumping duty post the petitions filed by solar module manufacturer associations between June and Dec 2017.

Taiwan to open trade office in India

- Taiwan will next month open a trade office in New Delhi, part of its efforts to expand business ties with Asia's third largest economy amid China's insistence on One China policy. Taiwan and Indian business cooperation had become particularly active in the past 2-3 years.

Framework for National Policy on E-commerce

- **First meeting** of the think tank on the Framework for National Policy on E-commerce in **New Delhi** on April 24th, 2018 chaired by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation.
- **Department of Commerce** established the think tank on the Framework for National Policy on E-commerce.

India, Mongolia to enhance bilateral trade and investments

- **India and Mongolia** on April 25, 2018 agreed to explore ways to identify new areas of cooperation in all sectors of mutual interest and to enhance **bilateral trade and investments**.

Increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the **increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute** for 2018-19 seasons.

8. Mou/Agreement

CABINET APPROVALS

India-Nepal Joint Statement during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India

- Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, is on a State visit to India from April 6-8, 2018. On April 7, 2018; the two Prime Ministers comprehensively reviewed the entire spectrum of multifaceted ties between the two countries. They welcomed the growing partnership between the two governments, private sector and at the people's level. The two Prime Ministers resolved to work together to take bilateral relations to newer heights on the basis of equality, mutual trust, respect and benefit.

Nepal:

President	Ms. Bidhya Devi Bhandari
Prime Minister	Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli
Capital	Kathmandu
Currency	Nepalese Rupee

India Signs MOU with World EXPO 2020 Dubai

- India and World Expo 2020 signed participant's contract today for India's pavilion in the prestigious World Expo 2020 held once in 5 years. The contract provides for the setting up of India pavilion at Expo 2020 on an extra-large plot (about one acre) in the 'Opportunity' segment.

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

- An Indian Consortium consisting of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL and Saudi Aramco signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop and build an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex, Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL) in the State of Maharashtra. Saudi Aramco may also seek to include a strategic partner to co-invest in the project.

Saudi Arabia:

King	Salman
Crown Prince	Mohamma
Capital	Riyadh
Currency	Saudi riyal

Indo-Vietnam pact on transfer of convicted prisoners gets enforced

- An Indo-Vietnam pact for transfer of each other's sentenced prisoners to serve their remaining terms in their own countries has come into effect with its ratification by the two nations. The agreement on

transfer of the sentenced persons was signed by India and Vietnam on November 1, 2013 and was ratified by India on January 1, 2014. Vietnam, however, ratified it only on March 10, 2017.

Vietnam:

President	Tran Dai Quang
Prime Minister	Nguyen Xuan Phuc
Capital	Hanoi
Currency	Dong

Cabinet approves MoU between India and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the return of Illegal Migrants

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the MoU between India and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the return of Illegal Migrants. The MoU will facilitate that the Visa Free Agreement for holders of Diplomatic passports as well as liberalization of UK Visa Regime for those who are travelling to the UK legally, after conclusion of the MoU.

United Kingdom (England):

Monarch	Elizabeth II
Prime Minister	Theresa May
Capital	London
Currency	Pound sterling

Cabinet approves a Cooperation Arrangement between India and Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of food safety and related areas

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Cooperation Arrangement between Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (MAIL), Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of Food Safety and related areas. The areas of cooperation include the following:
 - a. Establishment of a mechanism of information exchange and communication;
 - b. Facilitating technical exchange on identified topics of interest especially about import procedures, quality control operations, sampling, testing, packaging and labeling;
 - c. Facilitating/organization of joint seminars, workshops, visits, lectures, training programme, etc.;
 - d. Other areas of interest to the participants within their responsibilities as they may mutually determine.

Afghanistan:

President	Ashraf Ghani
Capital	Kabul
Currency	Afghani

Cabinet approves the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi has given its approval to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 for better protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

Salient Features:

1. It proposes to include “National Commission for Protection of Child Rights” as deemed Member of the Commission;
2. It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission;
3. It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility and scope of selection of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission; and
4. It proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories.
5. It proposes to amend the term of office of Chairperson and Members of National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission to make it in consonance with the terms of Chairperson and Members of other Commissions.

Cabinet approves agreement to formalize ISA HQ in India

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave its ex post facto approval to an agreement that would formalize the headquarters of the International Solar Alliance in India (ISA). The headquarters agreement will institutionalize the functional arrangements between India and ISA.

Seven MoUs signed with Russian original equipment manufacturers

- Seven MoUs were signed at the Defence Expo 2018 by Indian private companies and Russian original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to manufacture and develop spares and sub-assemblies of identified Russian-origin platforms in use by the Indian armed forces. The MoUs were signed after the third India-Russia Military Industrial Conference at the Defence Expo 2018.

Russia:

President	Vladimir Putin
Prime Minister	Dmitry Medvedev
Capital	Moscow
Currency	Russian Ruble

India-US Strategy Energy Partnership Joint Statement

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan and U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership.
- Under the Partnership, the United States and India will pursue four primary pillars of cooperation: (1) Oil and Gas; (2) Power and Energy Efficiency; (3) Renewable Energy and Sustainable Growth; and (4) Coal. Both parties may consider establishing additional pillars of cooperation based on mutual agreement.

Joint Press Statement from the Summit between India and the Nordic Countries

- The summit was held in Stockholm, The Summit emphasized the Indian Government's strong commitment to innovation and digital initiatives as key to prosperity and sustainable development, with national flagship programmes such as Make in India, Startup India, Digital India and Clean India.
- Nordic solutions in clean technologies, maritime solutions, port modernization, food processing, health, life-sciences and agriculture were mentioned. The Summit welcomed the Nordic Sustainable Cities Project aimed at supporting the Smart Cities Program of the Government of India.

To note: The Nordic countries are **Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden**, including their associated territories (Greenland, the Faroe Islands and the Åland Islands).

CCEA approves restructured National Bamboo Mission

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on April 25, 2018 approved the centrally sponsored scheme '**National Bamboo Mission**' (NBM) under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for the remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20).

MoU between India and Sao Tome and Principe

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **SaoTome and Principe** for Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of **Medicine and Homoeopathy**. The MoU was signed in March, 2018.

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 up gradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway (Milepost 40/0 to Milepost 115/5) in Myanmar to two lane with earthen shoulder. The project will have 3 new major bridges and 2 new minor bridges.

New pollution-forecast system India to tie up with US and Finland

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be tying up with the **United States** and **Finland** to develop new **pollution-forecast** system to anticipate **particulate matter** (PM) levels at least two days in advance and at greater resolution.
- The new system will be jointly developed with expertise from Finnish Meteorological Institute and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

9. Indian Forces (Defence)

BrahMos will breach mach 7 barrier in next decade

- **BrahMos**, the **fastest missile in the world** co-developed by **India and Russia**, will be breaching the mach 7 barrier to be a ‘**hypersonic**’ system in the next decade.
- The missile currently travels at mach 2.8 or 2.8 times the speed of sound, will touch mach 3.5 soon and mach 5 in three years.

India-Korea Coast Guards joint exercise on April 5

- The Indian Coast Guard and the Korea Coast Guard will hold a joint exercise in Chennai on April 5. The joint exercise, named Sahyog - Hyeoblyeog 2018 is part of a proposed establishment of a MoU between the two Coast Guards to improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

IAF to procure 114 fighter jets

- The Indian Air Force on Friday started the process to acquire a fleet of 114 fighter jets which are expected to significantly enhance its overall strike capability. The Request for Information or initial tender is for joint production of the aircraft by a foreign aircraft maker along with an Indian company under the recently-launched strategic partnership model which aims to bring in high-end Defence technology to India.

Exercise Gaganshakti-2018

- An all-encompassing coordinated and composite exercise named Gaganshakti is being conducted by the IAF from 08-22 Apr 18. The aim of this exercise is real time coordination, deployment and employment of Air Power in a short & intense battle scenario. During Gaganshakti IAF will exercise the entire machinery to validate its concept of operations and war waging capability.

Coastal security exercise Sagar Kavach held in Kerala

- **Sagar Kavach**’ two-day **coastal security exercise** was held in **Kerala** to strengthen and evaluate the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Indian Navy, Coastal Police and Marine Enforcement wing and various other security stakeholders participated in the exercise.

Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI

- **Indo-Malaysian** defence cooperation, a joint training exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI will be conducted in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia from 30 April 18 to 13 May 18.

Multi-State disaster mock exercise

- A multi-State mock exercise on earthquake was conducted by **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** in three North Eastern States of **Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram** today for assessing the preparedness and response mechanism of the State Governments in a disaster situation.

Vistara 3rd Indian carrier to be a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

- **Vistara**, the full-service carrier promoted by Tata Sons Limited and Singapore Airlines Limited (SIA), recently became **eligible to start international operations**.
- Air India and Jet Airways are the two other airlines in India that are IATA members.

DAC Approves Capital Acquisition Proposals worth Rs 3,687 Crore

- In a boost to indigenization and in realization of India's growing technological prowess Defence Research and Development Organization's (DRDO's) designed and developed **NAG Missile System (NAMIS)**
- The system includes a **third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG**, along with the Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA).

10. Awards and Achievement

Padma Awards

- The President of India, Shri. Ramnath Govind presented five Padma Bhushan and thirty-eight Padma Shri Awards on April 2, 2018 at a Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

To know the list of awardees please [Click Here](#)

Basavaraju award: Bengaluru-based writer

- Bengaluru-based writer Bilumane Ramadas has been selected for the L. Basavaraju Award for the year 2018. This award is presented by Kolar's Dr. L. Basavaraju Pratishthana, founded in memory of scholar L. Basavaraju, since 17 years.

Awards for marine debris images

- The Marine Biological Association of India (MBAI) will give away awards for the best photographs and short videos featuring marine and estuarine debris in a conference being hosted by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, which is aimed at drawing an action plan to control marine debris, which is one of the biggest threats to the aquatic ecosystem.

Basavashri award 2017

- Basavashri award for 2017 will be presented to shepherd and nature lover Kamegouda of Dasandoddi village in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district. The award honours people for services to society in their fields by following the principles of Lord Basaveshwar

65th National Film Awards for 2017

- The 65th National Film Awards 2017 were announced today by the Chairpersons of the juries on Feature Films, Best Writing on Cinema and members of Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Non-Feature films.

To know the list of awardees – [Click Here](#)

Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017

- Siddharth Varadarajan, the founding editor of The Wire, will receive the Shorenstein Journalism Award for 2017 at Stanford University. The award is given annually by Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center and alternates between recipients from the West and Asia.

Kerala Film critics' awards announced

- Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum directed by Dileesh Pothan has bagged all the top awards in the 41st Kerala Film Critics Association awards. The awards were announced by Association president George Onakkur and general secretary Thekkinkad Joseph.

President of India Presents Gallantry Awards

- The President of India, Shri. Ramnath Govind, presented Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations at the Defence Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 23, 2018.

To View the list of awardees – [Click Here](#)

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

- Jailed Egyptian photo journalist **Mahmoud Abu Zeid**, popularly known as Shawkan, will be awarded United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) **World Press Freedom Prize** for year 2018.

CSIR bags National Intellectual Property (IP) Award

- **The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** is awarded the National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018 in the category "Top R&D Institution / Organization for Patents and Commercialization".
- The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is a contemporary R&D organization.

Asan World Prize for Chilean poet

- The **146th** birth anniversary of **Kumaran Asan** will be celebrated in his native village Kayikkara from April 29 to May 1.
- The Asan World Prize, given by the Asan Memorial Association once in three years, will be presented to **Chilean poet Raul Zurita** in connection with the **Asan World Prize Literary Festival**.

Santosh Gangwar gives away NSCI Safety Awards – 2017

- The Government of India is following the approach of '**Reform to Transform**' through far-reaching structural reforms.

- Altogether 70 organizations have been pronounced as winners of the awards in four awards categories – **Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Suraksha Puraskar and Prashansa Patra.**

11. National Affairs

Google doodle celebrates Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, feminist freedom fighter and culture queen

- Google Doodle today paid a tribute to Indian freedom fighter and feminist social reformer Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay on her 115th birth anniversary. The colourful doodle celebrates Kamaladevi's multi-faceted accomplishments and her immense contribution in enriching India's cultural and social fabric.

BS-VI fuel will bring down sulphur level by 80 percent: Petroleum Minister

- The Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that we decided to proactively advance the roll-out of BS-VI fuel in Delhi from April 2018, instead of April 2020 after taking stock of the alarming pollution situation in Delhi in winters. BS-VI fuel will bring down sulphur by 5 times from the current BS-IV levels; this is an 80 percent reduction which makes it extremely clean.

Project Swarn in Railways

- Project Swarn has been started to upgrade the condition of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains. This initiative is likely to give improved look to the coaches.
- The objective of Project Swarn is to significantly improve the passenger experience across 9 dimensions which include coach interiors, toilets, onboard cleanliness, staff behavior, catering, linen, punctuality, security, on-board entertainment. Real time feedback is also a part of Project Swarn.

India's sex ratio reducing

- The average sex ratio in India declined from 906 female births per 1,000 male births in 2012-14 to 898 in 2014-16. The data, sourced from the Sample Registration System (SRS), was given in answer to a question raised in Parliament. Compared to the previous survey, only five States registered a positive change in sex ratio.

Investments in research infrastructure in premier educational institutions to be stepped up considerably through RISE

- The Government has announced to step up investments in general and research infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions, by launching a major initiative named "Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022" with a planned total investment of Rs. 1, 00,000 crore in next four years.

56 new airports will become functional in the next few years: Suresh Prabhu at Global Logistics Summit

- Efficient logistics is critical for countries like India to harness trade and facilitate greater & faster integration with both the domestic as well as world economy. Keeping this in mind 56 new airports

will become functional in the next few years, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu said at the two days Global Logistics Summit being held in New Delhi.

Prime Minister to inaugurate International Energy Forum in New Delhi

- India will host the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting from 10-12th April 2018 in New Delhi. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will formally inaugurate the Meeting on 11th April 2018. Petroleum Ministers from 42 countries would attend the Meeting. The biennial IEF Ministerial Meetings are the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers who engage in a dialogue on global energy issues.

Central government bans imports of hormone oxytocin

- The Union government banned imports of the hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in the livestock industry, where activists say it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals. Often called the 'love hormone', oxytocin is released naturally in human bonding activities such as sex, childbirth and breastfeeding.

Indian Railways inducts New Machine 09-3x Dynamic Tamping Express for improved Mechanized Track Maintenance

- Indian Railway has inducted three numbers of 09-3X Dynamic Tamping Express machines, the state of the art integrated track maintenance. The New 09-3X- Dynamic Tamping Express costing about ₹ 27Cr each is a latest high output integrated tamping machine having multiple functions, so far being carried out by different machines. It can measure pre & post track geometry, correct the track to required geometry, can tamp three sleepers simultaneously, stabilize and measure post tamping track parameters under load to ensure quality of work done.

India's first high-speed electric locomotive to be launched

- As part of the Make in India project, Indian Railways is all set to induct the first high-speed electric locomotive to its list of transport vehicles. The 12,000 horsepower high-speed electric locomotive will be flagged off from Bihar's Madhepura loco factory by PM.

New norms for global funded projects

- The Central Vigilance Commission has drawn up a new set of guidelines for projects funded by international agencies such as the World Bank, IMF and Asian Development Bank.

PM to open first wellness center under Ayushman Bharat plan in Bijapur

- Prime Minister will visit one of the top performing aspirational districts Bijapur in Chhattisgarh and open the first health center under Ayushman Bharat Scheme on April 14, the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar.

More than one lakh bio-toilets installed in railways: Railway Ministry

- Indian Railways has installed more than one lakh bio-toilets in trains till March 2018, seven years since 57 were installed in the Gwalior Varanasi Bundelkhand Express in January 2011.

IMC-2018 promises to be one of the biggest TMT & ICT summits in the world

- The India Mobile Congress (IMC) today announced the initial details of the India Mobile Congress 2018, including exhibitors, sponsors, programmes and activities planned for the annual mobile industry event. Under the theme “NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS: Connect. Create. Innovate.”,

Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train to be fully operational by 2023

- The proposed bullet train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai will be made fully operational by 2023. Some sections of the high speed, 500-km route will, however, become operational in 2022. The Railways will be using the latest technology for the project.

Inauguration of Solar Lamp Assembly & Distribution Center; distributes Solar Study Lamp to students

- Shri R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, on the occasion of 127th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar launched, Shri Singh inaugurated Assembly & Distribution Centre for Solar Study Lamps at Mahuli village in Arrah. In this center, local women Self Help Group (SHG) will assemble Solar Study Lamps and distribute them to underprivileged students who do not have access to electricity. Thus the Centre will not only provide kerosene-free affordable illumination to students, but also empower rural women with the skills to assemble, distribute and repair solar lamps.

President of India Receives first copy of book ‘Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp’

- The President of India, Shri Ramnath Govind, received the first copy of the book ‘Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp’ from the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, who formally released it at Rashtrapati Bhavan, to mark Dr B.R. Ambedkar’s birth anniversary.

Goa to be developed as Cargo Hub- Suresh Prabhu

- Central government in the collaboration with state government and private partners is working on to promote Goa as a tourism destination as well as a cargo hub, stated Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Suresh Prabhu.

Power Ministry: Electric vehicles charging stations need no license

- The Power Ministry has categorized charging batteries of electric vehicles as a service, a move which will help such stations operate without license and encourage the use of e-vehicles.
- The Ministry said in a clarification that during the charging of e-vehicles, a station does not perform any activity related to the transmission, distribution or trading of electricity. Hence charging of

batteries of electric vehicles through charging station does not any require license under the provision of the Electricity Act 2003.

Government to distribute millets like bajra in ration shops

- The government has decided to distribute millets like jowar and bajra through public distribution system (PDS) in an effort to achieve nutrition security of the poor.
- These millets include Sorghum (Jowar), Pearl Millet (Bajra), Finger Millet (Ragi/Mandua), Minor Millets such as Foxtail Millet (Kangani/Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), Barnyard Millet (Sawa/Sanwa/ Jhangora), Little Millet (Kutki) and two Pseudo Millets (Black-wheat (Kuttu) and Ameranthus (Chaulai).

Major Ports at Paradip, Ennore and Tuticorin to Pioneer recycling & Desalination of sea water

- Paradip Port, Kamarajar Port & VO Chidambarnar Port under the Ministry of Shipping are all set to pioneer water recycling and desalination of sea water in the port premises. The idea was mooted for use of new technology based containerized RO (Reverse Osmosis) based plants which can reduce the cost of producing desalinated water and would be cheaper than current water procurement cost at certain ports.

900 years of drought ended Indus civilization

- An IIT Kharagpur study claims that a drought-like phase that lasted for over 900 years ended the Indus Valley Civilization. Researchers from the Department of Geology and Geophysics reported a new finding on the disappearance of the civilization, as per a statement from the institute. A team led by Professor Anil K Gupta observed a drought-like phase for a period of 900 years, which led to water scarcity and mass migration to other regions.

India wins election to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

- India has won an election to a crucial non-governmental organization committee in the United Nations after garnering the highest number of votes besides getting elected by acclamation to other subsidiary bodies in five separate polls.

MSME Ministry Sets UP four Technology Centers for North East

- Ministry said that there is urgent need for setting up MSMEs in farming and non-farming sectors in the north East region and the Ministry will play the role of facilitator in order to provide R&D, market access and better designs for MSME products. The Micro industries will be given more support in this region. For this technology centers are being established in Imphal, Dimapur, Tinsukia and Agartala.

Committee for higher Defence management headed by NSA

- To improve higher Defence management, the government constituted a new committee headed by the National Security Advisor. The Defence Planning Committee (DPC) headed by NSA Ajit Doval, will prepare a draft national security strategy, develop a capability development plan, work on defence diplomacy issues and improving defence manufacturing in India.

First Ever International SME Convention-2018 in New Delhi

- The International SME convention held in New Delhi from 22nd to 24th April. The Ministry of MSME has engaged with over 35 International Trade Development organizations to attract and invite able and willing entrepreneurs and encourage people to people contact with select Indian Entrepreneurs from key sectors of the International counterparts. The convention has specific focus on inclusion of MSMEs in the Make in India program & empowering women entrepreneurs.

Process to amend POCSO Act to ensure death penalty for child rapists

- The Centre has submitted a letter to the Supreme Court stating that they have initiated a process to amend the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to ensure the maximum punishment of death penalty for rapists of children below the age of 12.

Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)

- Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)'s first industrial city **Aurangabad** will be operational by December 2018.
- AURIC (Aurangabad Industrial City) is a Greenfield smart industrial city being developed as a part of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).

Minorities' panel to seek Constitutional status

- In its present form, NCM has powers to summon officials, including chief secretaries and director generals of police, but has to rely on departments concerned for action against officials.

100% renewable energy

- **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.

Road Safety Week

- Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari Inaugurating the 29th National Road Safety Week in New Delhi's Vigyan Bhavan on 23rd April
Road Safety Week is being organized from 23rd to 29th of April.

India's Best Panchayat

- **Digambarpur gram panchayat** in West Bengal is declared as the best panchayat in the country by Central Government.

First license for Liquid Chlorine on All India Basis with Standard Mark under BIS Certification Marks scheme

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) granted **First License** to M/s Gujarat Alkalis and Chemicals Ltd for **Liquid Chlorine on All India basis**.
- It is used mainly in paper, pulp, textile bleaching, water sterilization and manufacture of chemicals.

Tourism Ministry launches 360° Virtual Reality (VR) video on Incredible India

- **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India in collaboration with Google India today launched a **360° Virtual Reality (VR)** experience video on Incredible India <https://t.co/H1VdcNXBUR>.

Monthly Payroll Data released for the first time

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and the Pension fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) have released payroll data.
- **India** has, for the **first time**, introduced **monthly payroll** reporting for the formal sector to facilitate analysis of new and continuing employment.

Comprehensive strategy to implement BharatNet in NE

- "Under this strategy all the uncovered gram panchayats in the region especially in **Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura** will be linked through broadband connectivity on satellite media by December 2018 at an estimated cost of Rs 733 crore,"

First "Indian Culinary Museum" opened at ICI campus

- The **Indian Culinary Institute (ICI)**, **Noida campus** was inaugurated today by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism.
- This is in line with the commitment of creating specialized skilled manpower in the field of hospitality and posturing the research and development in Culinary Arts.

A first of its kind Israeli Modern Art Exhibition to be inaugurated in the Capital

- 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 is organizing 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.

Asangathit Shramik Sammelan'

- President of India addresses 'Asangathit Shramik Sammelan' in Guna, Madhya Pradesh.
- The government of India is creating a 'Social Security Code' for workers in the unorganized sector.

Mega Celebrations on Buddha Jayanti by Ministry of Culture

- The 2562nd birth anniversary of Gautama Buddha will be celebrated with a grand event in the august presence of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in New Delhi, on 30th April 2018.
- The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) will celebrate the auspicious Buddha Jayanti-2018 by showcasing various facets of Buddhist traditions.

12. State Wise Affairs

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ANDHRA PRADESH

Kalamkari art museum at Andhra Pradesh

- Former Union Minister for Textiles inaugurated the ‘Kalamkari art museum’ here. The museum has three galleries — wooden blocks, natural colours and history. The art have been flourishing in Pedana since the 1970s.

Hackathon 2018 Launched in Andhra: gives instant results

- Hackathon - 2018, a mass awareness programme by the police to tackle crime against women is reaching every nook and corner of Chittoor district. Launched on March 8, the programme 30 campaign vehicles (prachararathams) could visit as many as 2,200 villages in 500 panchayats by April 2.

‘Operation Seshachalam’ gets under way

- In a bid to keep a strict vigil on smuggling of the precious red sanders logs, a joint force of the Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) and Police Department have been deployed in the Seshachalam forests in Tirupati.

ConsenSys will launch block chain training course in Vizag in June

- ConsenSys India, the Indian cohort of the global block chain specialist firm ConsenSys, in collaboration with the State Government, will launch a unique end-to-end training programme in Visakhapatnam in June.

Photographic evidence of wild dogs, mouse deer in Kamabalkonda wildlife sanctuary

- The Visakhapatnam Forest Division recorded presence of the endangered species of Indian wild dogs or dhole and country’s smallest descendent of ungulate species known as Indian mouse deer, both listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary “with photographic evidence”. Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary in Visakhapatnam is home to several endangered species of fauna.

Four Kingfisher species sighted in Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary

- The species have been identified as White-throated kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), Pied kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), Black-capped kingfisher (*Halcyon pileate*) and the Common kingfisher.

Transgenders get first pension

- East Godavari Collector, Karthikeya Mishra distributed Rs.1, 500 pensions per head to 23 transgenders.

To note: odisha has become the first state in the country to provide food grains, pension, health, education and housing benefits to the transgender community, thus including them in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. Kerala and Andhra became second and third.

Megalithic burial site in a state of neglect

- Venkatapuram village tucked between Chengareddypalle and Karakambadi, it is a megalithic burial site believed to date back to 500-300 B.C. The region is full of history and is an indicator to the likely presence of prehistoric human civilization. The burial of corpses by megalithic people bears a distinct signature. One of the six finds in Karakambadi region already lost to a mobile tower.

Oil majors to invest in Andhra Pradesh

- The GAIL, HPCL and ONGC are investing more than 1.10 lakh crore in Andhra Pradesh. CM urged the companies to expedite the projects by sorting out the issues, if any, with the State government. He was particular about the Greenfield petrochemical complex proposed at Kakinada. The CMDs of the three PSU oil companies gave presentations to the Vice-President, explaining the details about the ongoing projects in different parts of the country, with a special focus on A.P. Projects with the investment of more than 1.10 lakh crore.

Pre-historic rock art site unearthed in Guntur

- A pre-historic rock art site discovered in the vast expanse of limestone blocks on the eastern banks of Naguleru near Dachepalli has thrown light on the Neolithic civilization that flourished in Guntur during 1500-2000 BC.
- The rock art site on natural lime stone is the first of its kind in the country. The motifs in the form of engraving, pecking and brushing throw fascinating insights into the social and cultural practices of ancient civilizations.

Allagadda stone carvings get GI tag

- Allagadda, one of the important stone carving centers in Andhra Pradesh, has been issued Geographical Indication (GI) registration certificate by the GI Registry, Chennai.
- Allagadda is famous for sculptures. Mythological figures and the stone carvings of gods and goddesses in the temples in this region are typical illustrations of the stone work.

Sesharai waterfalls to be made a major tourist attraction in East Godavari

- Sesharai waterfalls in Y. Ramavaram mandal of East Godavari agency area is going to be made as major tourist attraction. The main connecting road between Y. Ramavaram and Gurthedu via Matam Bheemavaram would be developed with the funds allocated to tackle left wing extremism.

Delhi

Ultra-clean petrol, diesel in Delhi from April 1

- Ultra-clean Euro-VI petrol and diesel, at no additional price, will be supplied in Delhi from April 1 with a view to combat alarming levels of air pollution. Delhi will be the first city in the country to upgrade from Euro-IV to Euro-VI.

13th META festival begins

- The opening reception for 13th Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) and Festival was attended by many celebrities at New Delhi. A short opening act 'The Cycle' and a panel discussion on the topic 'New Writing in Theatre - What is it reflective of?' was done by Jury members.

Secure India Conclave underway in New Delhi

- The two-day Secure India Conclave got underway in New Delhi on 24.04.2018.
- The conclave is being organized by **Global Counter Terrorism council** keeping in view, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **New India: Secure India 2018**.

GOA

Goa new accreditation guidelines for journalists

- The Goa Union of Journalists (GUJ) expressed shock at a new set of Guidelines for accreditation of media organization and their representatives issued by the Goa Legislature Secretariat which proposes to govern passes to media persons covering the Assembly proceedings. The guidelines strike at the very root of the freedom of speech and the right to be informed both of which are at the core of our fundamental rights as citizens.

GUJARAT

World's largest solar park to come up

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani approved setting up a 5000 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 proposed solar power generation project would be set up in 11,000 hectares of land with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore.

Surat railway station to be 3rd in country to have ‘airport like’ facilities

- The Surat railway station will be the third in the country and the second in Gujarat after Gandhinagar to be developed as a world-class facility under a Railway Ministry station redevelopment programme.
- The country’s first two world-class stations — Habibganj and Gandhinagar — will be ready by the beginning of next year 2019.

KARNATAKA

International Theatre Festival-2018 in Shivamogga

- Rangayana is gearing up to host the Vishwamanava International Theatre Festival-2018, a seven-day theatre festival, at Suvarna Samskruti Bhavan here from April 14 to 20.

Jayciana cultural festival

- Jayciana, the annual cultural festival of JSS Science and Technology University (formerly SJCE).A cyclothon on April 14 to raise awareness about breast cancer, and a marathon on April 15 to support women’s empowerment will be held as part of the festival

885th Basava Jayanti

- The Basava Jayanti Utsav Samiti, with the district administration, will organize a four-day programme to mark the 885th birth anniversary of 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara in Kalaburagi from April 15.

KERALA

Incubator’ at IIITM-K

- Cisco a multinational technology conglomerate is collaborating with the Nasscom Foundation to set up an
- Incubator at the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITM-K) for startups to develop IoT-based products.

World Bank to review KSTP

- A Full Mission of the World Bank is arriving on April 12 to review the ongoing World Bank-aided Kerala State Transport Project (KSTP) even as the Union Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) is yet to take a call on extending Phase II till April 2020. The mission, comprising specialists dealing with environment, social development, highway, bridge, road safety, procurement, etc.,

Kerala: Social auditing of tribal schemes

- A social audit of over 50 multi-crore tribal welfare projects initiated in recent years in Attappady by the Central and State governments will be conducted by the Palakkad District Legal Services Authority as ordered by the Kerala High Court.
- The projects being audited include the 12-crore Kurumba tribal development project from which 11 crore was diverted for the construction of a road between Chindakki and Anawai.

Hamari Malayalam' book now has a digital version

- 'Hamari Malayalam', the textbook for the Changathi project of the Kerala State Literacy Mission to teach Malayalam to guest workers, has been published as a digital book. The digital format is expected to help the scheme reach out to more guest workers.

MADHYA PRADESH**Madhya Pradesh conferred Most Film Friendly Award**

- **State of Madhya Pradesh** was conferred the award for the **Most Film Friendly State** for its efforts towards easing filming in the State by creating a well-structured web site, film friendly infrastructure, offering incentives, maintaining databases, undertaking marketing and promotional initiatives, unanimously by the Jury from among the 16 States that participated.

MAHARASHTRA**'Entire Bullet Train' operational only by 2023**

- A year after the deadline for Bullet Train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai was advanced by a year to 2022, railway board chairman Ashwani Lohani said that the route will be fully operational only by 2023. Only some sections of the corridor will become operational in 2022.

Private coaching class bill of Maharashtra

- Committee has submitted the final draft of the Maharashtra Private Coaching Classes Regulatory Bill to the state government. In the draft are provisions to limit the number of students in a single batch, registration of coaching classes, restriction of fee charged to students, among others. Once the draft is approved, the state government would immediately implement the rules and regulations across the state.

MANIPUR**Shirui Lily Festival 2018**

- The 2nd edition of **Shirui Lily Festival 2018** has recently concluded at Ukhrul district in **Manipur** on April 28, 2018.

- The festival is sponsored by the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur to spread awareness about conservation of the **endangered** Shirui Lily and promote the district of Ukhrul as a tourist destination in Manipur.

ODISHA

Starting direct trade in Tendu leaves

- 17 gram sabhas in Odisha's Kalahandi district have now started negotiating directly with companies for the sale of tendu leaves, which was before controlled by government.
- This year, six village panchayats have exercised their right of ownership on tendu leaves and not allowed the forest department to do the routine bush cutting of plants.

Petroleum Minister Inaugurates World-Class Interpretation Centre and Tourist Amenities at Konark Sun Temple

- Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the world-class Interpretation Centre and tourist facilities at Konark Sun Temple at Konark. The Konark Sun Temple is Odisha's pride and it is important that the world is made aware of this architectural marvel, for which the Interpretation Centre is a step in that direction. The modern amenities that have been developed at the temple complex would attract more tourists in future.

RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan to get its first mega food park

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Genentech Mega Food Park Private Ltd- the first mega food park in Rajasthan at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer. The park would also have facilities for primary processing and storage near the farms and would not only benefit farmers of Ajmer but also those of nearby districts of Jaipur, Nagaur, Tonk and Churu as well.

SIKKIM

Longest serving chief minister

- On April 29, **Pawan Chamling** has created history by becoming **the longest serving chief minister** in India.
- He surpassed the record of former communist ruler of West Bengal, Late Jyoti Basu.
- Chamling became the **chief minister of Sikkim** on 12th December 1994.

TAMILNADU

IIT-M tops in NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) Ranking 2018

- The Indian Institute of Technology - Madras maintains its lead as the second best institution overall, next only to the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. Tamil Nadu continues to boast of some of the best institutions in engineering, management, pharmacy, medicine and arts and science, as per the NIRF ratings which encourage institutions to volunteer their applications for the process.

TVS Emerald to launch new residential project in Chennai

- TVS Emerald, the Chennai-based real estate vertical of TVS Group, is gearing up to launch residential project. Light House is the third project of TVS Emerald after Green Hills in Perungalathur and GreenAcres at Kolapakkam.

TELANGANA

Metal-to-metal bonding facility inaugurated

- A metal-to-metal bonding facility of Tata Lockheed Martin Aero structures Limited, a joint venture between Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Lockheed Martin, was inaugurated at Adibatla.
- The 4,700 square meter facility adds a new cutting edge capability to the Indian aerospace industry and enables TASL to use the technology across manufacturing programmes for complex aero structures.

GI tag for Adilabad Dokra

- GI tag for **Adilabad Dokra** an ancient bell metal craft and **Warangal Dhurries** a popular traditional cotton rug from Telangana.
- One of the newest innovations by the weavers here is an adaptation of tie-dyed ikat techniques and hand-painted or block-printed kalamkari designs for the dhurries to save time and energy.

Hyderabad police to go paperless

- The **Hyderabad City Police** is all set to go **paperless** from May 1, 2018.
- E-Office initiative would help in faster movement of files and quicker public grievance redress.
- The Hyderabad City Police could perhaps be the **first in the country** to implement the paperless police station concept.

UTTAR PRADESH

Setting up of Tiger conservation foundation at Dudhwa reserve.

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a proposal for setting up the Tiger Conservation Foundation at the Dudhwa wildlife reserve to boost eco-tourism in the state. It was for the first time in the state that a Tiger Foundation was being raised.

Smriti Irani launches GNFC Neem Project

- Smriti Irani, Union Cabinet Minister for Textile, Information & Broadcasting, and Government of India launched the Uttar Pradesh Neem Project at Kathaura –Jagdishpur, District Amethi Uttar Pradesh initiated by the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC). Considering large population of Neem trees in Uttar Pradesh, this project will generate significant additional income to rural women.

PM releases commemorative postage stamp on Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today released a **commemorative postage stamp** on former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, **Late Shri Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna**.

West Bengal

Proto-historic settlement of artisans unearthed

- Minute bone and crystal drills of less than 2 cm size used for making beads, different varieties of beads of semi-precious stone, bone points as well as a large number of micro lithic tools have been unearthed by archaeologists of the University of Calcutta during a recent excavation at Asuralay village in West Bengal's Birbhum district.

12. International

Malaysia passes anti-fake bill

- Malaysia's government passed a law in Parliament that makes "fake news" punishable with a maximum six-year jail term. The legislation also carries a fine of RM500,000 (S\$170,000), was voted through in Parliament's Lower House with 123 votes for and 64 votes against after the Bill's second reading.

China fires riposte by imposing fresh levies on US agro-products

- China has fired its riposte against Washington's decision to impose fresh tariffs on steel and aluminum products, by levying up to 25 per cent duties, mostly on agricultural products sourced from the United States.

China double amputee to climb Everest

- A Chinese climber who lost both legs on Everest four decades ago is hoping to finally reach the summit after Nepal's top court overruled a controversial government ban on blind and double amputee climbers. Xia Boyu is the first double amputee to be given a permit to climb the world's highest mountain after the ban was revoked.

China launches first ship to bury people at sea

- With shortage of cemeteries in the country, China has launched its first dedicated sea burial ship, which undertook its maiden mission in the northern port city of Tianjin earlier this week. The ship, named Guobin 9, made two trips on the first mission, with a total crew of 380 to scatter the cremated remains of 62 people into the sea.

Saudi Arabia's first new cinema in decades: on April 18

- Saudi Arabia's first cinema in more than 35 years will open on April 18 in the capital Riyadh. Holdings to open up to 40 theatres over the next five years. Movie theatres will not be segregated by gender like most other public places in the deeply conservative Muslim kingdom, and the first screening will be Marvel's superhero movie "Black Panther", a source familiar with the matter told Reuters.

CPEC being extended to Afghanistan

- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is being extended to Afghanistan according to the Asian Competitiveness Annual Report. The project has not only improved local infrastructure but also is extending toward Afghanistan, bringing better prospects for local people's lives.

Armenia becomes parliamentary republic

- Armenia's new President Armen Sarkisian was sworn in as president but power is expected to remain with his predecessor, who will likely become premier as the ex-Soviet republic shifts to a parliamentary form of government.

Sikh group in US ties 9,000 turbans to set Guinness World Record

- A Sikh organization created a world record by tying thousands of turbans within a few hours as members of the community commemorated the annual Turban Day at the iconic Times Square, spreading awareness about the faith amid incidents of hate crimes against the community. The Sikhs of New York organized the Turban Day as part of the annual mid-April celebration of Vaisakhi, which is commemorated by millions of Sikhs annually.

U.S.: North Korea is prepared to discuss denuclearization

- North Korea has told the U.S. for the first time that it is prepared to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula when North Korean leader Kim Jong-un meets President Donald Trump. U.S. and North Korean officials have held secret contacts recently in which Pyongyang directly confirmed its willingness to hold the unprecedented summit.

Tropical cyclone Keni approaches Fiji

- Tropical cyclone Keni, which has upgraded to a category 3 storm, was approached the island nation of Fiji on Tuesday and authorities have warned the public to make preparations for it.

Bangladesh PM announces abolishing quotas for government jobs

- Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced she will be abolishing the quota system for government jobs.

China continues its provocations in south, East China seas

- China continues its provocations in the South and East China Seas and is using a coordinated effort to compete with the US in diplomatic, military and economic terms. China claims almost all of South China Sea and also laid claims on the Senkaku islands under the control of Japan in East China Sea and resorted to aggressive patrols in the last two years.

China's multi role fighter jets J-10C begin combat duty

- China's new indigenously developed multi-role stealth fighter jet J-10C, capable of striking precisely both land and maritime targets, were put into active combat duty.

China launches website to report about foreign spies

- China launched a unique website inviting the public to report people, including spies harming national security, and attempts to "overthrow the socialist system", offering rewards on information.

The website, launched by the Ministry of National Security yesterday, also encourages people to report attempts to incite ethnic separatism and bribing military officials to defect.

Panama considers building train to Costa Rica

- Panama is considering building a passenger train to Costa Rica with China, a project that would require an initial investment of \$5 billion, a sign of the Asian country's growing interest in Latin America.

Britain's famed Queen Elizabeth 2 ship now a hotel in Dubai

- Britain's famed Queen Elizabeth 2 cruise ship will finally open as a floating luxury hotel moored off Dubai nearly a decade after her last ocean voyage.

China stresses on ties with Nepal, India

- China on Wednesday proposed an understanding with India on Nepal, to help develop a trilateral partnership, which would include setting up a trans-Himalayan economic corridor.

Swaziland changes its name to Kingdom of eSwatini

- Swaziland's King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch, said about the renaming the country as the Kingdom of eSwatini. He announced the change to eSwatini, meaning "land of the Swazis", in the local Swati language at Golden Jubilee celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Swazi independence and of his 50th birthday.

World's oldest person died at 117

- The world's oldest person Nabi Tajima has died in southern **Japan** at the age of 117.
- She became the world's oldest person seven months ago after the death of Violet Brown in Jamaica, also at the age of 117.

164-year-old Singapore Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple deconsecrated

- This was the first time Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited a Hindu consecration ceremony since he assumed office in 2004.

Britain's new prince is named Louis Arthur Charles

- Britain's royal palace says the infant son of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge has been named **Louis Arthur Charles**.

INDIA & NEPAL

- An India-Nepal **Inter Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation** to Control Unauthorized Trade, led by Commerce Secretaries of the two Governments, is functioning under the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade and India-Nepal Treaty of Transit.

Multi-nation counter-terrorism exercise Peace Mission

- The multi-nation counter-terrorism exercise “Peace Mission” will be held at the **Ural Mountains of Russia** in September 2018, which will take place under the framework of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.

Study to probe risks of giant Antarctic glacier melting

- **Britain** and the **United States** launched a \$25 million project on April 30 to **study the risks of a collapse of a giant glacier in Antarctica** that is already shrinking and nudging up global sea levels.
- Scientists will study the Thwaites Glacier, which is roughly the size of Florida or Britain.

13. Sports

North Korea will take part in Tokyo Olympics

- The International Olympic Committee president said that North Korea will participate in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

Tri nation T20 series: Australian women team champion

- Australian women team won t20 series championship after three years. Tri nation India, England and Australia t20 series final match was held in Mumbai, in that match Australia won by 57 runs.

Miami Open title: Sloane Stephens beats Ostapenko

- Sloane Stephens won her hometown tournament Miami open title by beating Jelena Ostapenko 7-6 (5), 6-1.

Title to remember for Isner

- John Isner delved deep into his energy tank to outlast Germany's Alexander Zverev 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4 and claim the biggest title of his career at the Miami Open on April 2.

Santosh Trophy: Kerala emerges champion

- Kerala beat Bengal via the tie-breaker and won its sixth Santosh Trophy title at the Salt Lake Stadium. In final, Kerala missed umpteen chances to let the match remain undecided at 2-2 after extra time.

Pakistan wins series

- Pakistan defeated West Indies by 82 runs in the second Twenty20 International here on April 2, winning the three-match series.

South African Morne Morkel retires

- South African fast bowler Morne morkel announced his retirement from international cricket.

Commonwealth Games: starts with colorful opening ceremony at Gold coast, Australia

- The 21st Commonwealth Games are officially under way after a spectacular opening ceremony on the Gold Coast. More than 4,500 athletes from 71 nations and territories will be competing for 275 gold medals over the 11 days of competition. Crowd of 35,000 packed into the Carrara Stadium, normally the home of Australian Rules football side Gold Coast Suns.

Srikanth on the place No.1

- He has reached the level of no.1 in men's BWF men's singles rankings for the first time. The 25-year-old shuttler's prolific form in 2017, during which he won a record four Super Series titles, has helped him reach 76895 rating points.

Tennis rankings: Nadal, Halep stay on top

- Spain's Rafael Nadal remained in the number one spot in the men's Association of Tennis Professionals world singles rankings released with 8,770 points.
- Romania's Simona Halep continues to lead the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) singles rankings released with 8,140 points, followed by Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki (6,790 points).

Commonwealth Games closing ceremony

- Commonwealth Games 2018 concluded on April 15. The ceremony also paid tribute to the 15,000 volunteers, called the Games Shapers, for their dedication in making the event a success. India got third place with total 66 medals.

Haryana won one-third of India's CWG medals

- Haryana is known as India's medal factory as its sportspersons won 22 of the 66 medals that India won at the CWG. Haryana sportspersons bagged 10 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals in Gold Coast.

Daniel Ricciardo wins Chinese Grand Prix

- Daniel Ricciardo made a surprise Chinese Grand Prix victory after a safety car strategy gamble by his Red Bull team paid off handsomely. Valtteri Bottas was second for Mercedes with fellow-Finn Kimi Raikkonen third for Ferrari

Yuki Bhambri Reaches career-best ranking of 83

- Yuki Bhambri reached his career-best ATP ranking of 83. He had done all the hard work through two Masters Tournaments in Indian Wells and Miami in the USA.

Manchester City dominate PFA Team of the Year

- Manchester City dominated the Professional Footballers' Association's (PFA) Team of the Year by occupying five out of 11 spots.

Contribution of Army Sportspersons in 21st Commonwealth Games 2018

- The following persons are Army Sports persons. They participated in Commonwealth Games 2018 and got medals.
- **Subedar Jitu Rai (SM) - Gold Medal** (Shooting),
- **Havildar Om Prakash Mitharval - Two Bronze Medals** (Shooting),
- **Subedar Satish Kumar - Silver Medal** (Boxing),
- **Naib Subedar Amit Kumar - Silver Medal** (Boxing),

- **Naib Subedar Mohd Hassumuddin - Bronze Medal** (Boxing),
- **Naib Subedar Manish Kaushik - Silver Medal** (Boxing),
- **Havildar Gaurav Solanki - Gold Medal** (Boxing),
- **Naib Subedar Neeraj Chopra - Gold Medal** (Javelin) and
- **Naib Subedar Deepak Lather - Bronze Medal** (Weightlifting)

England Cricket Board to introduce 100-ball cricket tournament

- The English Cricket Board (ECB) has unveiled and proposed a new eight-team domestic tournament in 2020 which will be played over a 100 ball format. Each innings will feature 100 balls including a 10-ball final over, thus being 20 balls lesser than the widely popular Twenty20 cricket.

AIFF Super Cup final: Bengaluru won the Title

- Bengaluru FC win the first ever Hero Super Cup title in style defeating East Bengal.

Commonwealth Games star Manika Batra recommended for Arjuna

- The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) recommended Manika Batra, the country's only quadruple medal list at the Commonwealth Games, for the prestigious Arjuna Award.

Nadal's Masters Crown helped him overtake Novak Djokovic.

- Rafael Nadal cruised to a record-extending 11th Monte Carlo Masters title. This was also Nadal's 76th ATP Tour title.

English PFA Player of the Year award

- Liverpool forward **Mohamed Salah** was named Player of the Year by England's Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) becoming the first Egyptian to receive the award.

First medal for the Indian camp in the Shooting World Cup

- **Shahzar Rizvi** wins air pistol **silver** in men's air pistol in the shooting World Cup here on April 24. Changwon (Korea)

Bhaker, Om Prakash finish fourth after setting World Record

- **Manu Bhaker and Om Prakash Mitharval** combined strongly to strike a World record 778 in qualification but missed a medal in the mixed air pistol team competition in the **shooting** World Cup here on 26.04.2018.

India join 6th in list of doping violations: WADA report

- India maintained their dubious record of being among top 10 nations with regards to doping violations being joint sixth as World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) published its report as per samples collected in 2016.

World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship

- On 28th April 2018, India's CA Bhavani Devi won a silver medal in the sabre event of the Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Belgrade International Boxing

- **Sumit Sangwan** (91kg), **Himanshu Sharma** (49kg) and **Nikhat Zareen** (51kg) were among the three gold-medal lists in India's stupendous campaign at the 56th Belgrade International **Boxing** Tournament in Serbia.
- India ended the tournament with three gold, five silver and five bronze medals in all.

Prajesh wins maiden singles title on Challenger circuit

- **Prajesh Gunneswaran** on Sunday clinched his **first ever singles title** on the ATP(The Association of Tennis Professionals) Challenger circuit when he downed Egypt's Mohammed Safwat in the final of the **Kunming Open in Anning**.

World record for a Brazilian surfer

- A monster wave off **Portugal** has produced a world record for a **Brazilian surfer** that overtook the previous record of 78 feet (23.77 meters) set by American Garrett McNamara in 2011.
- The World Surf League says **Rodrigo Koxa** has ridden the biggest wave ever surfed.

Sharath helps India beat Poland in table tennis

- Inspired by **Sharath Kamal's** performance, India put it across Poland 3-2 in the men's Group-D Championship Division match of the **World team table tennis championships** here on 30.04.2018

To see Common Wealth Games Medal List – [Click Here](#)

COMMON WEALTH GAMES MEDAL LIST

S.No	Player Name	State	Category	Medal
Weight Lifting				
1	Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Manipur	Women's 48kg	GOLD
2	Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu	Manipur	Women's 53kg	GOLD
3	Venkat Rahul Ragala	Andhra Pradesh	Men's 85kg	GOLD
4	Sathish Kumar Sivalingam	Tamilnadu	Men's 77kg	GOLD
5	Punam Yadav	Uttar Pradesh	Women's 69kg	GOLD
6	Gururaja	Karnataka	Men's 56kg	SILVER
7	Pardeep Singh	Punjab	Men's 105kg	SILVER
8	Deepak Lather	Haryana	Men's 69kg	BRONZE
9	Vikas Thakur	Punjab	Men's 94kg	BRONZE
Shooting				
10	Heena Sindhu	Punjab	Women's 25m Pistol	GOLD
11	Manu Bhaker	Haryana	Women's 10m Air Pistol	GOLD
12	Sanjeev Rajput	Haryana	Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions	GOLD
13	Jitu Rai	Uttar Pradesh	Men's 10m Air Pistol	GOLD
14	AnishBhanwala	Haryana	Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol	GOLD
15	Shreyasi Singh	New Delhi	Women's Double Trap	GOLD
16	Tejaswini Sawant	Maharashtra	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions	GOLD
17	Anjum Moudgil	Chandigarh	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions	SILVER
18	Heena Sindhu	Punjab	Women's 10m Air Pistol	SILVER
19	Mehuli Ghosh	West Bengal	Women's 10m Air Rifle	SILVER
20	Tejaswini Sawant	Maharashtra	Women's 50m Rifle Prone	SILVER

21	Apurvi Chandela	Rajasthan	Women's 10m Air Rifle	BRONZE
22	Om Mitharval	Rajasthan	Men's 10m Air Pistol	BRONZE
23	Ravi Kumar	Uttar Pradesh	Men's 10m Air Rifle	BRONZE
24	Om Mitharval	Rajasthan	Men's 50m Pistol	BRONZE
25	Ankur Mittal	New Delhi	Men's Double Trap	BRONZE
Wrestling				
26	Sushil Kumar	Delhi	Men's Freestyle 74kg	GOLD
27	Vinesh Phogat	Haryana	Women's Freestyle 50kg	GOLD
28	Rahul Aware	Maharashtra	Men's Freestyle 57kg	GOLD
29	Bajrang Punia	Haryana	Men's Freestyle 65kg	GOLD
30	Sumit Malik	Haryana	Men's Freestyle 125kg	GOLD
31	Pooja Dhanda	Haryana	Women's Freestyle 57kg	SILVER
32	Mausam Khatri	Haryana	Men's Freestyle 97kg	SILVER
33	Babita Kumari Phogat	Haryana	Women's Freestyle 53kg	SILVER
34	Kiran Bishnoi	Haryana	Women's Freestyle 76kg	BRONZE
35	Sakshi Malik	Haryana	Women's Freestyle 62kg	BRONZE
36	Somveer Kadian	Haryana	Men's Freestyle 86kg	BRONZE
37	Divya Kakran	Uttar Pradesh	Women's Freestyle 68kg	BRONZE
Boxing				
38	MC Mary Kom	Manipur	Women's 45-48kg	GOLD
39	Vikas Krishan	Haryana	Men's 75kg	GOLD
40	Gaurav Solanki	Haryana	Men's 52kg	GOLD
41	Amit Panghal	Haryana	Men's 46-49kg	SILVER
42	Satish Kumar	Uttar Pradesh	Men's +91kg	SILVER
43	Manish Kaushik	Haryana	Men's 60kg	SILVER
44	Manoj Kumar	Haryana	Men's 69kg	BRONZE
45	Naman Tanwar	Punjab	Men's 91kg	BRONZE
46	Mohammed	Telangana	Men's 56kg	BRONZE
Badminton				

47	Indian team			GOLD
48	Saina Nehwal	Haryana	Women's Singles	GOLD
49	Kidambi Srikanth	Andhra Pradesh	Men's Singles	SILVER
50	PV Sindhu	Telangana	Women's Singles	SILVER
51	Satwik Rankireddy /Chirag Shetty	Andhra Pradesh/Maharashtra	Men's Doubles	SILVER
52	Sikki reddy /Ashwini Ponnappa	Telangana/Karnataka	Women's Doubles	BRONZE
Table Tennis				
53	Indian team		Men's Team	GOLD
54	Indian team		Women's Team	GOLD
55	Manika Batra	Delhi	Women's Singles	GOLD
56	Manika Batra/Mouma Das	Delhi/West Bengal	Women's Doubles	SILVER
57	Achanta Sharath/Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Tamilnadu	Men's Doubles	SILVER
58	Sathiyam Gnanasekaran/Manika Batra	Tamilnadu/Delhi	Mixed Doubles	BRONZE
59	Harmeet Desai/Sanil Shetty	Gujarat/Maharashtra	Men's Doubles	BRONZE
60	Achanta Sharath	Tamilnadu	Men's Singles	BRONZE
Squash				
61	Dipika Pallikal/Saurav Ghosal	Tamilnadu/West Bengal	Mixed Doubles	SILVER
62	Joshna Chinappa/ Dipika Pallikal	Tamilnadu	Women's Doubles	SILVER
Athletics				
63	Neeraj Chopra	Haryana	Men's Javelin Throw	GOLD
64	Seema Punia	Haryana	Women's Discus Throw	SILVER
65	Navjeet Dhillon	Punjab	Women's Discus Throw	BRONZE
Para Powerlifting				
66	Sachin Chaudhary	Maharashtra	Men's Heavyweight	BRONZE
Total 66 Medals				