



# Current Affairs May 2018



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### 1. Important Days

Date	Event	Reasons And Theme
May 1	International Labour Day	International Labour Day is also known as the International Worker's Day and May Day which is celebrated on international level to promote and encourage the international labour associations. It is celebrated to finish the struggle as well as to promote the requirement of eight-hour work day. Deaths, injuries were very common at the workplace during the 1860's and working people were very agitated throughout the workday until the 8-hour workday was declared. <b>2018 Theme : Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement</b>
May 2	World Asthma Day	<b>2018 Theme:</b> "Never too early, never too late. It's always the right time to address airways disease"
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	<b>2018 Theme:</b> 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law'
May 7	World Athletics Day	This event was introduced five years ago by the then-President Primo Nebiolo, with the aim of increasing public awareness of the need to educate youngsters in the practice of athletics. On that first occasion in 1996, World Athletics Day was themed around the Centennial edition of the Olympic Games in Atlanta.
May 8	World Red Cross Day	World Red Cross day means 8th of May is celebrated every year as the birthday anniversary of founder of the Red Cross. Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross – <b>2018 Theme: "Memorable smiles from around the world"</b> .
May 8	World Thalassaemia Day	<b>2018 Theme:</b> Thalassaemia past, present and future: Documenting progress and patients' needs worldwide
May 11	National Technology Day	National Technology Day is observed every year on 11th of May in India, acting as a reminder of the anniversary of Shakti. Shakti is the Pokhran nuclear test which was held on 11th of May, 1998. The day highlights the important role of Science in our daily lives and encourages students to embrace Science as a career option. <b>2018 Theme: "Science and Technology for a sustainable future."</b>

May 12	International Nurses Day 2018	International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated every year all around the world on 12th of May to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Florence Nightingale and to mark the nurses contributions towards people's health. <b>2018 Theme : "Nurses a Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right"</b>
May 12	World Migratory Bird Day	World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. <b>2018 Theme – "Unifying our Voices for Birds Conservation"</b>
May 13	Mothers Day	Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It was initiated Ann Reeves Jarvis in the early 20th century. The U.S.-derived modern version of Mother's Day has been criticized for having become too commercialized.
May 15	International Day of Families	To explore the role of families and family policies in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 16 in terms of Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. <b>2018 Theme – "Families and inclusive societies"</b>
May 17	World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (WTISD)	<b>2018 Theme:</b> Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All
May 18	World AIDS Vaccination day	It observed annually on May 18. The concept of World AIDS Vaccine Day is rooted in a May 18, 1997 commencement speech at Morgan State University made by then-President Bill Clinton.
May 21	Anti Terrorism Day	The official announcement of National Anti Terrorism Day was made after the assassination of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on <b>21 May, 1991</b> . He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the terrorist. Then, under V.P. Singh government the centre has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.
May 22	International Day for Biodiversity (IBD) 2018	To raise awareness about the importance of and threats to biodiversity, while highlighting its contribution to sustainable development. National-Level Celebrations held in Hyderabad. <b>2018 Theme – "Celebrating 25 years of action on biodiversity"</b> .

May 24	World Schizophrenia Day	Schizophrenia Awareness Week is being celebrated in May every year since 1986. May 20 to 27 is Observed as Schizophrenia Awareness Week all across the world. Numerous campaigns and awareness programs are held during this time of the year, in order to help schizophrenia patients and increase sensitivity towards them among the rest. <b>2018 Theme : "Do what you can do",</b>
May 25	International Missing Children's Day	Following the 1979 disappearance of 6-year-old Etan Patz in New York City, May 25 was established as Missing Children's Day in the US by President Ronald Reagan in 1983
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	<b>2018 Theme:</b> "Tobacco and heart disease."

### Other Events:

S.No	Day	Event
1	May 2	International Scurvy Awareness Day
2	May 7	World Laughter Day
3	May 18	Plant Conservation Day
4	May 23	World Turtle Day
5	May 24	World Brother Day
6	May 25	World Thyroid Day
7	May 25	Towel Day
8	May 25	World Multiple Sclerosis Day
9	May 25	Menstrual Hygiene Day

## 2. Rankings

### WHO polluted cities list

- Of the 20 most polluted world cities, 14 of them are in India
- At 143 microgram's/cubic meter, Delhi's PM (2.5) levels in 2016 — as reported by the WHO — made it the sixth most polluted city in the world.
- Kanpur and Varanasi led the list of the world's most polluted cities, with Faridabad, Gaya, Patna, Lucknow, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur also figuring in 20 most-polluted cities in the world.

### Forbes 2018 list of 75 of “The World’s Most Powerful People”

- Modi ranks 9th on the Forbes 2018 list of 75 of ‘The World’s Most Powerful People’
- List topped for the first time ever by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

### Clampdowns and Courage-South Asia Press Freedom Report 2017-18

- People in South Asian countries experienced at least 97 instances of Internet shutdown, a barometer on freedom of press and expression, between May 2017 and April 2018, with India alone accounting for 82 such cases, according to a UNESCO report.
- According to the Clampdowns and Courage-South Asia Press Freedom Report 2017-18, released recently by the UNESCO-International Federation of Journalists, Pakistan witnessed 12 instances of Internet shutdown, while Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka reported one such case each.

### 3rd largest solar market in world

- India emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017 behind China and the US, Mercom Communications India said in a report.

### Swachhata Survekshan 2018

- The Swachh Survekshan 2018 assessed 4203 Urban Local Bodies and was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), under the aegis of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

- **Winners – Indore, Bhopal & Chandigarh** Emerge as The Top 3 Cleanest Cities in The Country.

#### **World's largest city UN report**

- Delhi will become the world's largest city in a decade, according to the UN. The Indian capital city will overtake Tokyo as the world's largest urban agglomeration by 2030 and have a population of 43.3 million by 2035, according to a UN report.

#### **India sixth wealthiest country with total wealth of \$8,230 billion**

- India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of \$8,230 billion, while the U.S. is the richest nation globally followed by China in the second place and Japan in third says a report.

#### **Times Higher Education ranking**

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has made it to the top 100 universities, only Indian institution to make it to the prestigious list this year.
- Topped by American universities Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford.

### **3. Summit / Conference**

#### **International**

##### **9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue**

- The **9<sup>th</sup> India Japan Energy Dialogue** was held in **New Delhi** on 01.05.2018.
- Both Japan and India, as the third and the seventh largest economies respectively, recognized that having access to reliable, clean and economical energy is critical for their economic growth.
- In achieving this, both Ministers agreed on further strengthening of bilateral energy cooperation for energy development of both countries, while also contributing to worldwide energy security, energy access and climate change issues.

##### **India- South Africa Business Summit Concludes in Johannesburg**

- Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, attended India- South Africa business summit from April 29-30, 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

##### **Plenary Session of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

- The Plenary Session of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) 05.05.2018 in Manila and welcomed the ADB's Strategy 2030.
- Shri Garg is currently leading an Indian delegation to the 51st Annual Meeting of ADB.

##### **Singapore likely to host Trump-Kim summit in June**

- S. President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong-un are likely to meet in **Singapore** next month the first between a sitting U.S. President and a North Korean leader

##### **15th Asia Media Summit to be hosted by India from May 10-12, 2018 in New Delhi**

- The AMS 2018, an annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur, is a prestigious summit in the Asia Pacific Region and India is hosting the event for the first time.



- Theme ‘**Telling Our Stories – Asia and More**’
- Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad addresses the Plenary Session on ‘Media Regulation Policies: Ethics, Rules and Laws’, at the 15th Asia Media Summit 2018.

### **6th US-India Aviation Summit**

- 6th US-India Aviation Summit was formally inaugurated by Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu in Mumbai.
- The Summit is jointly organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation and US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
- This biennial summit is a technical, policy and commercial forum by the Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation and the US Trade and Development Agency.

### **Nepal to hold BIMSTEC 2018**

- Nepal’s Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli announced to host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Global Exhibition on Services & Champion services sectors**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Exhibition on Services and launched a portal on 12 Champion Sectors in Services in Mumbai.
- The launch of 12 Champion Sectors is a bold new step that will contribute to both India’s economy and the global economy, and will create jobs.
- Maharashtra will create an ecosystem for Services sector – Maharashtra CM which can offer employment in large numbers.

### **SCO Culture Ministers’ meet**

- Mahesh Sharma to take part in the 15th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers at Sanya, China.
- India to attend the SCO Culture Ministers’ meets for the first time.

- India became full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on 9th June, 2017 during the SCO Heads of State Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

#### **4th BRICS Ministerial meeting in Durban, South Africa**

- India has called for a judicious use of resources amidst concerns over resource depletion and scarcity.

#### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers Meeting**

- The Minister of State for Culture, Dr Mahesh Sharma led the Indian delegation to the 15th Meeting of the Cultural Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States held in Sanya, Hainan province, on 16th and 17th May, 2018. India participated for the first time at the Meeting of Cultural Ministers of the SCO.

#### **26th basic Ministerial meeting of Environment Ministers in Durban**

- Making an intervention at **the 26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers in Durban** attended by Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- **Green Good Deeds**, the societal movement launched by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change to protect environment and promote good living in the country, has found acceptance by the global community.

#### **Informal Summit between India and Russia**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin held their first informal Summit in the city of Sochi in the Russian Federation on May 21, 2018.
- The Summit provided an occasion for both leaders to deepen their friendship and to exchange views on international and regional issues, in keeping with the tradition of high level political exchanges between India and Russia.

#### **Oman – India Joint Business Council**

- A group of about 30 young business leaders from Oman, who are part of the Oman India Joint Business Council, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **India to attend SCO meet on counter-terror in Pakistan**

- India is likely to send senior representatives to discuss legal modalities of counter-terrorism for a meeting that Pakistan will host along with the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) that will be meeting in Islamabad from May 23 to 25.

### **5th India CLMV Business Conclave**

- The inaugural session of 5th India CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) Conclave was presided over by Deputy Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia in Phnom Penh on 21-22 May 2018.

### **108th session of UNWTO Executive council**

- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Shri K. J. Alphons attended the 108th session of UNWTO Executive Council from 23rd to 25th May 2018 held in San Sebastian, Spain.
- UNWTO will focus on Innovation and digital transformation in the sector.
- The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

### **2018 Global Wind Summit Hamburg**

- The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held here from September 25-28, 2018.
- India is fourth largest country after China, the US and Germany in terms of wind energy installation capacity at around 33 GW adding the government has set a target of achieving 60 GW by 2022.

### **3rd Meeting of India– U.K. Home Affairs’ Dialogue**

- The Third Home Affairs’ Dialogue between India and U.K. covered a wide range of issues including cyber security, women safety, organized crime, terror financing etc.

### **International Conference on the TRIPS CBD Linkage**

- India has taken the lead in seeking to revive WTO discussions on issues related to preventing theft of traditional knowledge.
- Government of India, along with the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the South Centre (an inter-governmental organization based in Geneva), are organizing an International Conference on TRIPS- CBD Linkage in Geneva on 7-8 June 2018.

### **National:**

#### **National Conference of 244 selected Districts under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) held in New Delhi**

- Training of Women Sarpanches in every district can play significant role in achieving goals of BBBP.
- Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development inaugurated the event and interacted with **244 new districts** with low Child Sex Ratio (CSR), from 25 States/ UTs.

#### **Regional Conference on ‘Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure’**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference on ‘Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure’ organized by the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)** concluded in Bengaluru 04.05.2018.

#### **Naval Commander’s conference to begin on 08 May at New Delhi**

- The first edition of this year’s Bi-annual Naval Commander’s Conference is scheduled from 08 to 11 May 18.

#### **First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities’ in Bhopal**

- The two-day conference is being organized for providing a platform for cross learning and knowledge sharing among the Smart City CEOs on 8-9 May 2018.

- Under “Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karykram” (PMJVK), the Minority Affairs Ministry will construct schools, colleges, ITIs, skill development centers, multi-purpose community centers “Sadbhav Mandap”, “Hunar Hub”, hospitals, business centers etc on waqf properties across the country.
- This will be for the first time after the Independence of the country.

### **1st Sensitization Meeting of Stakeholders to make Delhi a Model Accessible City**

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is having the commitment to uphold the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and to ensure the accessible and inclusive assets are created in the country.

### **International scientists’ meet begins in Tirupati**

- The fourth annual edition of the Congress, conducted jointly by International Science Community Association, Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha
- **Theme** – ‘Integrating traditional knowledge and advanced research for sustainable future’.
- **The next annual meeting of the Congress will be held in Nepal.**

### **Customs and Postal Department hold First ever Joint Conference**

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

### **Conference on National IPR Policy**

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

### **71st World Health Assembly**

- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare addresses at the Plenary Meeting of the 71st World Health Assembly, at Geneva also addressed the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting and spoke about the global fight against Non-Communicable Disease (NCDs).
- **Theme: Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage.**
- India's ambitious plan to end TB by 2025, the Government has started the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for TB and allocated 550 million dollars.
- A pilot project on 'Integration of AYUSH with National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)' has been initiated.

#### **National Conference on “Gender Justice in Criminal Law”**

- Inaugural session of the National Conference on “Gender Justice in Criminal Law” organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)

#### **Regional Conference on “Clean and Renewable Energy”**

- One day Regional Conference on “Clean and Renewable Energy” as a lead up event to 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held in Bhopal.

#### **‘Mission Raftar’**

- Ministry of Railways conducted a one day workshop “Mission Raftar” aimed at raising the average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi.

#### **174th meeting of ESIC**

- To strengthen medical services in all the districts of the country, the decision for opening of one ESIC Dispensary cum Branch Office (DCBO) in every district of the country was taken in the meeting.
- Nursing Internship Program in ESIC Hospitals to begin soon.

#### **Raksha Mantri inaugurates IAF Commanders’ Conference**

- The First biannual IAF Commanders' Conference of 2018 was inaugurated by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan) & the conference is planned for two days.
- Commanders will discuss the operational, maintenance and administrative takeaways identified during the Exercise and the way ahead.

## 4. Appointments

### National:

S.No	Name	Designation	Institution/Organization
1	Sudha Balakrishnan	Chief Financial Officer	Reserve Bank of India (First Chief Financial Officer)
2	Justice R K Agrawal	President	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)
3	Kummanam Rajasekharan	Governor	Mizoram (18th Governor of Mizoram)
4	Sanjay Mitra	Chief of DRDO	Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
5	Subhash Chandra Khuntia	Chairman	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
6	Sitanshu Ranjan Kar	Director General	Press Information Bureau
7	Yudhvir Singh Malik	Chairman	National Highways Authority of India(NHAI)
8	Shri Ramesh Chand Meena	Chairperson	Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)
5	Smt. Pratibha Brahma	Vice Chairperson	
9	Munu Mahawar	Ambassador	Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman
10	Anubrata Biswas	MD & CEO	Airtel Payments Bank
11	Debashis Chatterjee	Director	Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, (IIM-K)
12	Rajinder Singh	President	Hockey India (HI)
13	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Vice-President	Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC)
14	Lokesh Chandra	Vice Chairperson and Managing Director	Cidco
15	Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar	Chief justice	High court of Manipur
16	AR Rahman	Ambassador	Sikkim Tourism



	Mohit Chauhan	Green Ambassador	
17	Nitin Bawankule	Head	Google Cloud business, India
18	Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Brand ambassador	Netmeds
19	Mukul Rohatgi	Eminent jurist	Eminent jurist in the high-profile Lokpal selection committee
20	Amar Devulapalli	President	Indian Journalists Union (IJU)
21	Sabina Inderjit	Secretary general	
22	Pankaj Saran	Deputy National Security Advisor	
23	Shri Amit Khare	Secretary	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
24	Major General Annakutty Babu	Additional Director General	Military Nursing Service (MNS)

### International:

S.No	Name	Designation	Country/Institutions/Organizations
1	Mia Mottley	Prime Minister	Barbados First woman Prime Minister
2	Nasir Ul Mulk	Interim prime minister	Pakistan
3	Nicolas Maduro	President	Venezuela
4	Unai Emery	New manager	Arsenal
5	Gina Haspel	Director	CIA's first female
6	Stacey Cunningham	President	New York Stock Exchange First female leader in the history of the 226-year-old exchange. 67th president
7	Amit Jain	Regional General Manager for Asia Pacific region	US-based cab Uber
8	C Raja Mohan	Director	Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of the National University of Singapore
9	Nikol Pashinian	Prime Minister	Armenia
10	Shashank Manohar	Chairman	International Cricket Council (ICC)
11	Ambika Sharma	Managing Director	U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC)

12	Alicia Pucheta	President	First woman president of Paraguay
13	Deepa Ambekar	Interim judge	Civil court of New York City
			Second Indian-American woman judge in the city.
			Rajeswari first India-born woman to be appointed a judge in the city.

## **5. Science and Technology**

### **Department of Science & Technology (DST) celebrates its foundation day**

- Department of Science & Technology (DST), one of the three departments of Ministry of Science & Technology, was established on 03<sup>rd</sup> May, 1971 with the express objective of exploring and developing new areas of S&T, to strengthen national Science & Technology capacity and capability, cutting across institutions and disciplines.
- DST celebrates Swachhata Pakhwada from 01st May 2018 to 15th May 2018.

### **GIS technology to strengthen Namami Ganga Programme**

- National Mission for Clean Ganga has brought on board Survey of India, the oldest scientific department in the country set up in 1767, to facilitate the Ganga rejuvenation task by using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

### **Google Code Lab at VVIT**

- Google Inc, USA has funded a Google Code Lab at Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology, Nambur.
- VVIT Chairman V. Vidya Sagar said that Google Inc had invested Rs.2 lakh for setting up a lab, in association with A.P. Skill Development Corporation.

### **Limit trans fats to 1% of calorie intake to keep diseases at bay**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended that adults and children should consume a maximum of 10% of their daily calorie intake in the form of saturated fat (found in meat and butter) and 1% in trans fats.

### **First record of invasive aphid in Kashmir Valley**

- The brown peach aphid – an insect that attacks temperate fruit trees – has been recorded in the Kashmir Valley, the fruit bowl of India for the first time.

### **Logitech to unveil AI based home devices**

- The Indian subsidiary of Logitech International S.A, a provider of personal computers and mobile accessories, is all set to introduce voice recognition and Artificial Intelligence based devices in India.
- In Chennai, Logitech recently opened one of its biggest research and development centre to develop products and devices from concept to shelf.

### **CxO Forum on “Standardizing the Digital Space”**

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the National Standards body of India organized a CxO Forum on “Standardizing the Digital Space” on 8 May, 2018 in New Delhi to deliberate on the key issues and challenges in the Digital space.

### **Nature enthusiasts spot rare butterflies unseen for decades**

- The species was being photographed for the first time in history, and being sighted for the first time in India since 1917.
- The black windmill butterfly *Byasa crassipes* in Arunachal Pradesh’s Dibang Valley in the Lower Dihang Valley district.

### **US team invent new device that may increase smart phone battery life 100 times**

- Led by Indian-origin scientist Deepak K. Singh, it develops new magnetic material that employs a unique “honeycomb” lattice with distinctive electronic properties that could increase the battery life of electronic devices, such as smart phones and laptops, by more than a hundred-fold.

### **Status of Conservation of Select Aquatic Species**

- The first-of-its-kind report “Status of Conservation of Select Aquatic Species” have been prepared by Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun as part of the “Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation” project being sponsored by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the aegis of the Namami Ganga programme.

- The project aims to develop a science-based aquatic species restoration plan for Ganga by involving multiple stakeholders.
- Species observed – **Siebold's smooth scaled water snake (*Enhydris sieboldii*)**, were after a gap of 70 years in river Ganga; **Indian Skimmer (*Rhynchops albicollis*)**, a globally threatened bird.

### **Giant Chinese salamander speeding towards extinction**

- The world's largest amphibians, giant Chinese salamanders, were once thought to be widespread but now face imminent extinction due to illegal poaching and hunting as a luxury food.

## **5.1 Inventions / Discover**

### **Newly improved glass slide turns microscopes into thermometers**

- Researchers have developed a new transparent coating that combines thermal imaging and microscopy.
- A newly updated version of the humble glass microscope slide can now enable scientists to see tiny objects while also measuring their temperature.

### **New snake found in Western Ghats**

- The snake, currently observed only in the forests of the Anaikatty hills in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district, has been named *Uropeltis bhupathyi*, after the late herpetologist S. Bhupathy, for his contributions to the field.

### **New preventive vaccine against leptospirosis**

- Leptospirosis is an emerging tropical infectious disease, and currently there is no preventive vaccine for humans that are available in the market.
- A key peptide that can be used to develop a new preventive vaccine against leptospirosis has been successfully identified by researchers from the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre.

### **Rajasthan institute comes up with new sheep insemination technique**

- Scientists at the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI), Avikanagar, have come up with a new laparoscope-assisted insemination technique for sheep.

### Novel drug may help treat hair loss

- Currently only two drugs — minoxidil and finasteride — are available for treatment of male-pattern balding (androgenetic alopecia).
- The approach was to first identify the molecular mechanisms of an old immunosuppressive drug, Cyclosporine A (CsA)

### Tumor removed by robotic surgery

- A team led by **Indian-origin surgeon** Neil Malhotra, an assistant professor decided to remove the tumor by using a trans-oral robotic (TORS)
- (TORS) trans-oral robotic is the world's first group of minimally invasive robotic surgery techniques to remove benign and malignant tumors of the mouth and throat.
- Pernikoff became the first patient in the world to undergo a complex three-part, robotic-assisted surgery.

### First carbon rich asteroid in Kuiper Belt

- Astronomers have discovered an unusual carbon-rich asteroid in the Kuiper Belt — the first of its kind to be confirmed in the cold outer reaches of the solar system.
- This object, designated 2004 EW95, likely formed in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and has been flung billions of kilometers from its origin to its current home in the Kuiper Belt, the study said.

### World's second oldest rock is from Odisha

- Scientists have found in the rock a grain of magmatic zircon (a mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) that is an estimated 4,240 million years old — a discovery of great promise to study the earth's early years.

- The machine used is called Sensitive High Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP) in China. It is not available in India.

### **IISER Bhopal scientists decode peacock genome**

- Researchers from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), **Bhopal**, sequenced the whole genome of the bird. This the first time the complete genome of peacock has been sequenced.
- Recently, genome sequencing has been used for the possible revival of New Zealand's indigenous Moa bird.

### **Newest frog for India from Karnataka**

- The latest addition to India's frog fauna is the Mangaluru narrow-mouthed frog (*Microhyla kodial*), which has been found in a small industrial region in coastal Karnataka.

### **New device to detect and remove arsenic in water**

- ADO Additives and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata, have devised a solution to detect the level of arsenic in water and also to remove it.
- West Bengal has the highest number of arsenic-affected people in the country.

### **TB infection in the eye can lead to autoimmunity**

- Researchers from Bhubaneswar have for the first time found evidence of how TB infection of the eye leads to autoimmunity — wherein the immune cells attack the cells of the body instead of protecting them — causing widespread disease of the eye (uveitis).

### **Australian state government proposes protecting wild horses**

- An independent scientific committee recently found that brumbies were endangering more than 20 plant species and seven animal species, including three endangered frogs, in the park.

- An Australian state government has decided to legally protect rather than kill thousands of wild horses, infuriating scientists who argue the feral species is doing severe environmental damage to the country's iconic Snowy Mountains alpine region.

### **Paper-based biosensor detect ethanol**

- Researchers from IIT Guwahati have developed a paper-based biosensor that can detect ethanol.
- The short response time of about 10 seconds to detect ethanol and the range of concentrations to which the response was proportional make the biosensor particularly attractive.

### **IISc team synthesizes artificial enzyme**

- Nanomaterials that can behave like human enzymes have now been successfully synthesized by a team of researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- They produced the new nanozyme — nanomaterial with enzyme-like activity — by using vanadium pentoxide nanocrystals of just 150-200 nm size.

### **Hidden mountain ranges discovered under Antarctica ice**

- Researchers have discovered mountain ranges and three huge, deep subglacial valleys hidden beneath the Antarctica ice.
- The findings are the first to emerge from extensive ice penetrating radar data collected in Antarctica as part of the European Space Agency PolarGAP project.

## **5.2 Space Science**

### **NASA sending robotic geologist to Mars to dig super deep**

- NASA is sending a robotic geologist to dig deeper than ever before to take the planet's temperature.
- It will be NASA's first interplanetary mission launched from somewhere other than Florida's Cape Canaveral.
- The Mars InSight spacecraft, set to launch this weekend, will also take the planet's pulse by making the first measurements of "marsquakes." And to check its reflexes, scientists will track the wobbly rotation of Mars on its axis to better understand the size and makeup of its core.



- USA is the only country to have successfully landed and operated spacecraft on Mars. The 1976 Vikings were the first landing successes. The most recent was the 2012 Curiosity rover.

### **ISRO's clock to prop up India's own GPS**

- Repeated failures of foreign-made atomic clocks have dogged NavIC project. Seven-satellite Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), also known as NavIC (Navigation in Indian Constellation).
- NavIC, whose seventh satellite was launched in April 2016, was expected to provide India a satellite-based navigation system independent of the U.S.-controlled GPS (Global Positioning System).

### **NASA launches InSight spacecraft to Mars**

- NASA on May 5 blasted off its latest Mars lander, InSight, designed to perch on the surface and listen for “Marsquakes” ahead of eventual human missions to explore the Red Planet.
- The \$993 million project aims to expand human knowledge of interior conditions on Mars

### **Indian teen's satellite soars in Mexico sky**

- Anitha-SAT, a lightweight satellite developed by a 17-year-old Plus Two pass out student Villet Oviya of Tiruchi, to measure the effects of air pollution and global warming, was launched from Aztra Labs in Mexico City on 07.05.2018

### **Trump administration cancels NASA plan to track greenhouse gases**

- A NASA program that cost \$10 million per year to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to **global warming**, has been cancelled.
- The end of the programme — called the Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) — which tracked sources and sinks for carbon and made high-resolution models of the planet's flows of carbon — was first reported by the journal Science.

### **ISRO making green propellant**

- Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have reported progress in the development of an environment-friendly propellant hydroxylammonium nitrate (HAN) to power satellites and spacecraft.
- The effort is to replace the conventional hydrazine rocket fuel, a highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical, with a greener propellant for future missions.

### **NASA's Mars Helicopter**

- NASA said it will send a small helicopter to Mars as part of the U.S. space agency's 2020 mission to place a next-generation rover on the Martian surface, marking the first time such an aircraft will be used on another world.
- The helicopter contains solar cells to charge its lithium-ion batteries and a heating mechanism to keep it warm during frigid nights.

### **SpaceX launches Bangladesh's first communications satellite**

- The Bangladeshi government's first communications satellite, Bangabandhu-1, was placed into Earth orbit by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- SpaceX is one of two private companies hired by NASA to ferry astronaut crews to the space station. The other is Boeing Co.

### **Jupiter's moon Europa shows evidence of water plumes**

- NASA will get a close-up look from a new spacecraft during its Europa Clipper mission that could launch as soon as June 2022, providing a possible opportunity to sample plumes for signs of life, perhaps microbial, from its ocean.

### **NASA satellites reveal freshwater decline in India**

- India is among the hotspots where overuse of water resources has caused a serious decline in the availability of freshwater, according to a first-of-its-kind study using an array of NASA satellite observations of Earth.

### **China launches relay satellite to explore far side of moon**

- China launched a relay satellite as part of a groundbreaking programme to be the first to land a spacecraft on the far side of the moon later this year. The satellite, lofted into space aboard a Long March-4C rocket, will facilitate communication between controllers on Earth and the Chang'e 4 mission, the China National Space Administration.
- China hopes to become the first country to soft-land a probe on the moon's far side, also known as the dark side because it faces away from the earth and is comparatively unknown.

### **Tiny lab to search for alien life on Mars**

- Scientists have created a toaster oven-sized lab for a Mars rover that will drill beneath the surface of the red planet and look for signs of past or present life.
- The tiny chemistry lab called the Mars Organic Molecule Analyser (MOMA) is a key instrument on the ExoMars Rover, a joint mission between the European Space Agency and the Russian space agency Roscosmos, with a significant contribution to MOMA from NASA.
- It will be launched toward the Mars in July 2020.

### **Bacteria-coated broccoli sent to space**

- Scientists have sent broccoli seeds coated with a healthy dose of good bacteria to space in a quest to find a viable way for astronauts at the International Space Station (ISS) to grow their own vegetables.
- Six broccoli seeds were aboard the Orbital ATK Cygnus spacecraft that launched this week from Wallops Island, Virginia, as part of a space station cargo resupply mission.

### **China invites all U.N. members to utilize its upcoming space station**

- China has invited all member-states of the United Nations to jointly utilize its future space station expected to be ready by 2022.
- The China Space Station (CSS), which is expected to be launched by 2019 and become operational by 2022, will be the world's first space station open for cooperation with all U.N. member-states.

### **5.3 App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free**

#### **Online Event Clearance System for foreign nationals**

- Union Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba launched the online Event Clearance System (<https://conference.mha.gov.in>) for grant of security clearance to the conference/seminar/workshop organized in India.

#### **Pensioners can view passbook using Umang app**

- A labour ministry statement said ‘View Pension Passbook’ service for pensioners will be available through Umang app.
- The introduction of this facility is part of EPFO’s plan to go paperless by August this year and provide all services online.

#### **Higher Education faculty through SWAYAM**

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM.
- HRD Ministry notifies 75 National Resource Centers (NRCs) for online refresher programmes for Higher Education faculty through SWAYAM.

#### **Portal for MSMEs launched in Tamil Nadu**

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Saturday opened a portal – <https://easybusiness.tn.gov.in/msme> – for single window clearance to the MSME sector.
- The Chief Minister also launched a portal – <http://msmeonline.tn.gov.in/uyegp> – to enable unemployed youth to apply for loans under the Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme (UYEGP) scheme and <http://www.msmeonline.tn.gov.in/needs> to help people apply for loans under the New Entrepreneur Cum Enterprise Development Scheme (Needs).

#### **NCBN App**

- To implement effective governance in the state, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on 08.05.2018 launched the official ‘NCBN’ (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App in the ongoing Collector’s conference being held at Amaravati.

### **Squirrel Yahoo**

- Yahoo has just entered the densely competitive market of messaging apps by releasing its own new group chat app named Squirrel.

### **Live Social Media Session on Startups**

- The objective of the live session is to address concerns and elaborate on the support which they can seek from Startup India.
- The live session will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30 pm on Suresh Prabhu’s social handles – Twitter and Facebook, along with Startup India’s social handles – Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

### **ITR-4 launched on e-filing portal**

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

### **Suresh Prabhu launches Intellectual Property mascot – IP Nani**

- The Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot – IP Nani at the conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.

### **Swachhata Pakhwada’ undertaken by DARPG**

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice launched the “Swachhata Abhiyan” of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- ‘Swachhata Pakhwada’ to renew and reinforce the concept of cleanliness among the officers and staff of the Department.

### **“Guidebook for Creating a Child Friendly and Protective Environment for Children in Contact with Railways’**

- A **“Guidebook for Creating a Child Friendly and Protective Environment for Children in Contact with Railways’**, developed by National Commission for protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with Railway Children India, was launched by Shri Ashwini Lohani at an event held at the Habitat World.

### **Railways to install ‘panic button’ in trains for women safety**

- To strengthen security of women passengers in trains, the North Eastern Railway (NER) plans to deploy women police personnel on trains during night hours as well as install ‘panic buttons’ in coaches.

### **DoT Okays eSIMs**

- The Department of Telecommunications has allowed the use of eSIM or ‘Embedded-Subscriber Identity Module’.
- The eSIM is a virtual equivalent of normal SIM cards and come embedded in the device. These cannot be removed from the device but can be updated over-the-air.

### **Model Code of Conduct Violation Reporting App**

- Made available for the first time in Bengaluru in the run-up to the recently concluded Karnataka Assembly polls.
- To share evidence of malpractice by political parties, their candidates and activists ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, directly with the electoral body.

### **‘Nidaan’ software for disease monitoring**

- New software, ‘Nidaan’, has been launched in Rajasthan for presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as the trends of ailments found in specific areas.

### **My MP Rojgar Portal**

- Madhya Pradesh government has launched ‘My MP Rojgar Portal’ as part of Pahal programme to provide jobs to youths in Bhopal.
- This portal has been prepared by Madhya Pradesh Skill Development and Employment Generation Board under youth empowerment mission.

### **PRAAPTI App and Web portal**

- PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators) App and web portal has been developed to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.

### **Railway’s Online Travel Portal**

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

### **‘Auto Mitra’**

- To ensure the convenience and safety of passengers who commute by auto rickshaws within Shivamogga city, the police have launched a mobile application called ‘**Auto Mitra**’ in Karnataka.

### **Samagra portal**

- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will launch Samagra, an educational resource portal prepared by the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) for schoolteachers on May 31 2018.

## 6. Schemes

### **Doubling of Investment Limit for Senior Citizens from Rs. 7.5 lakhs to Rs.15 lakhs under Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandan Yojana (PMVVY)**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs as well as extension of time limits for subscription from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandan Yojana (PMVVY) as part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.

### **Continuation of Umbrella Scheme 'Green Revolution — Krishonnati Yojana' in Agriculture Sector**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the Umbrella Scheme, "Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana" in agriculture sector beyond 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.
- The Umbrella scheme comprises of 11 Schemes/Missions. These schemes look to develop the agriculture and allied sector in a holistic and scientific manner to increase the income of farmers by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.

### **National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan)**

- The POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan was launched by the Prime Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- The Government of India signed a loan deal worth \$ 200 million with the World Bank on 07.05.2018 for the National Nutrition Mission (**POSHAN Abhiyaan**). The loan would help the Government of India in achieving its goal of reducing stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022.
- The loan approved will support the first phase scale up to 315 districts across all states and union territories (UTs).

### **Prime Minister Modi reviewed the launch of the ambitious Health Assurance programme under Ayushman Bharat.**



- The scheme will provide a cover of upto Rs. 5 lakh per family. It will be targeted to cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families.
- On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, the Prime Minister had inaugurated the first ‘Health and Wellness Centre’ under Ayushman Bharat, in the aspirational district of Bijapur in Chhattisgarh.

### **Amnesty-cum-rehab scheme for Maoists**

- The State Cabinet on 09.05.2018 approved an amnesty-cum-rehabilitation scheme for Maoists in the State aimed at bringing people who have been swayed by the Left extreme ideology back to the mainstream society.

### **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission aims to conserve and develop indigenous breeds to increase milk productivity.
- Frozen Semen Station being set up in Maranga, Purnea under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission with 100% contribution from the Central Government.

### **Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other crimes**

- The scheme has been prepared by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in consultation with Centre.
- The scheme empowers legal services authority to take suo motu cognizance of cases of sexual assault and acid attack to grant interim relief to victims.

### **‘Samarth’- Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector**

- A meeting of stakeholders on Samarth – Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector under the Skill India Mission was held in New Delhi to familiarize the stakeholders about the scheme and its guidelines.
- The broad objective of the new scheme is to skill the youth for gainful and sustainable employment in the textile sector covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving.

### **President launches various welfare schemes for up liftment of weaker sections**

- President Ram Nath Kovind recently launched three welfare schemes for the benefit of weaker sections of the society in a programme organized at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur.

### **Delhi cabinet gives approval for procuring 1000 buses under cluster scheme**

- The Delhi Cabinet today gave its principle nod to a proposal for procurement of 1000 CNG-run standard floor buses for the cluster scheme, subject to approval by the court.

### **Common Service Centers (CSCs)**

- CSC to reach 2.50 lakh gram panchayats and 700 Digital villages to be established by the year end: Union Minister of Electronics & IT.

### **Asita – Yamuna River**

- The Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) inspected the Yamuna River Front Development (RFD) project being implemented by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and asked officials to expedite the work.
- The comprehensive project to restore, rejuvenate and revive Yamuna floodplains was approved by the Principal Committee constituted by the Honorable NGT.
- The project is given the name “Asita” which is another name of river Yamuna.

### **Permanent Residency Status (PRS) scheme**

- The Scheme promises facilities for foreigners who invest at least Rs.10 crore under the FDI route.
- The scheme is open for foreign investors who invest a minimum of Rs.10 crore within 18 months or Rs.25 crore in 36 months.
- The PRS card holders are also eligible to buy residential property in India.

### **Mission Innovation**

- Mission Innovation is a global platform of 23 countries and European Union aimed at accelerating clean energy innovations through enhanced Government funding, greater public-private sector partnership and enhanced global cooperation.

- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be leading an Indian delegation for participation in the Mission Innovation Ministerial being held at Malmo-Sweden during 22-23 May, 2018.

#### **‘Nai Rahen, Nai Manzilen’**

- The state government has inaugurated the ‘Nai Rahen, Nai Manzilen’ scheme to expand the opportunities for tourism in the **Himachal Pradesh**.

#### **Model Contract Farming Act**

- Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh releases Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018.
- To integrate farmers with bulk purchasers including exporters, agro- industries etc. for better price realization through mitigation of market and price risks to the farmers and ensuring smooth agro raw material supply to the agro industries

#### **Indo-Dutch Startup Initiative: #StartUpLink to be launched**

- The official launch will take place on 25th May, 2018 at Taj West End Hotel, Bengaluru.
- The initiatives will fulfill the twin objective of facilitating market expansion for startups in the two countries alongside fostering a joint sense of innovation and entrepreneurship.

#### **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) scheme**

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) scheme, this project will ensure providing 24×7 power availability to the households.

#### **Samagra Shiksha scheme**

- The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched an integrated scheme for school education from pre-school till Class 12 and promised to increase the budget for the entire school education next year by 20 per cent.

- The new scheme, called “Samagra Shiksha”, is integration of three components Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) which took care of the school education at primary and secondary levels and Teacher Training will now be coalesced into one whole.

#### **‘Polythene Hatao Paryavaran Bachao’ campaign**

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the week-long ‘Polythene Hatao Paryavaran Bachao’ campaign started by Environment, Science and Technology Department in Shimla.

#### **‘Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kisaan Yojana’**

- The Himachal Pradesh state government has introduced ‘Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kisaan Yojana’ to enhance agricultural income by adopting low-cost climate-resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming System, the farmers in the state have intended to switch over to organic farming.

#### **“Annapurna Doodh Yojana”**

- The students of the government primary and upper primary schools in Rajasthan will get milk in the midday meals thrice in a week under a new scheme “Annapurna Doodh Yojana” for improving nutritional status of children from July 2.

#### **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of another 1.5 lakh affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with an investment of Rs.7,227cr with central assistance of Rs.2,209 cr.
- The approval was given in the 34th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee in its meeting.

## 7. Economic Affairs

### GST Revenue collection in the month of April 2018 exceeds Rs. 1 Lakh Crore

- The total revenue earned by the Central Government and the State Governments after settlement in the month of April, 2018 is Rs.32,493 crore for CGST and Rs.40,257 crore for the SGST.

### Pharma exports climb to \$17.25 bn

- Pharmaceutical exports from India, a key component of the country's foreign trade basket, are estimated to have **grown** to **\$17.25 billion** in the financial year ended March 31 or almost 2.5% higher than the previous fiscal.

### Foreign Exchange Earnings (in rupee terms) through tourism in India register good growth in March 2018

- The growth rate in FEEs in rupee terms in March 2018 over March 2017 was **9%**, compared to the growth of 13.0% in March 2017 over March 2016.

### Index of Eight Core Industries (Base: 2011-12=100) March, 2018

- The **Eight Core Industries** comprise **27** per cent of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.
- The **combined Index of Eight Core Industries** stands at **0** in March, 2018, which was **4.1 per cent higher** as compared to the index of March, 2017.
- For more details click here [www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1530906](http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1530906).

### CRI Pumps bags Rs.150 cr. pump order from EESL

- CRI Pumps, a fluid management solution provider, has bagged orders worth 150 crore from Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to replace 43,452 agricultural pump sets in Andhra Pradesh with five star-rated energy efficient ones.

### Kotak Securities launches Free Intraday Trading facility

- Domestic brokerage Kotak Securities has launched ‘Free Intraday Trading’, a facility that allows investors to do intra-day trading without paying any brokerage per trade.

### **27th GST council meeting**

- 27th GST council meeting discusses change in GST rate for digital transactions and imposition of Sugar Cess
- Imposition of Sugar Cess over and above 5% GST and reduction in GST rate on ethanol

### **ONGC floats first tender to sell Brazil Ostra crude**

- India’s top explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp. on 04.05.2018 floated a mini tender to sell Brazil’s heavy oil Ostra in June-November, a tender document showed.
- ONGC Videsh, the overseas investment arm of ONGC, owns a 27% stake in BC-10 block in Brazil.

### **New telecom policy’s \$100 billion investment estimate conservative**

- The government’s plan to attract \$100 billion (about Rs.6.5 lakh crore) investment in the telecom sector by 2022 is conservative.
- ‘National Digital Communications Policy 2018’ — aims to create 40 lakh jobs by 2022, attract \$100 billion investment in the sector and ensure broadband coverage at 50 mbps for every citizen.

### **Infibeam to buy arm of Snapdeal**

- Ahmadabad-based Infibeam said it will acquire Snapdeal’s subsidiary Unicommerce, which offers e-commerce enablement software, in a deal worth up to Rs.120 crore.

### **Tea exports up by 12.7 % in 2017-18**

- Egypt, Pakistan and China were among the countries which bought more Indian teas last fiscal.

### **Major ports in India have recorded a growth of 1.78%**

- The Nine Ports Kolkata (including Haldia), Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar, Chennai, Cochin, New Mangalore, JNPT and Deendayal have registered positive growth in traffic.

### **eBay to sell \$1.1 billion Flipkart stake in exit after Walmart buy**

- S.-based e-commerce firm eBay on 09.05.2018 said that it had notified Flipkart and Walmart that it intended to sell its holdings in Flipkart, which will represent gross proceeds of approximately \$1.1 billion.

### **Govt approves green license plates for e-vehicles**

- To promote electric vehicles in India, the government has approved green license plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and yellow for taxis.

### **China's Alibaba buys Pakistan e-commerce firm Daraz**

- Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba said it had purchased leading Pakistani online retailer Daraz, continuing its overseas expansion by gaining a foothold in the growing South Asian consumer market.

### **Iran sanctions may have impacts on oil imports to India**

- S. President Donald Trump announced that his country would pull out from the Iran nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions on Tehran. India is the second largest buyer of Iranian oil, after China. It is expected to be hit by the comprehensive sanctions regime, which also affects countries that deal with Iran.

### **Chinese medical device maker Lepu in India**

- Chinese medical device maker Lepu Medical Technology (Beijing) Co. has entered the Indian market through a subsidiary and is keen to explore opportunities for local manufacturing as well as collaborations.

### **India Inc Invests over \$4 bn in South Africa**

- As many as 140 Indian companies with operations in South Africa have invested more than USD 4 billion and created 18,000 direct jobs, according to a report released.
- The CII-PwC report showcased the contribution of Indian companies beyond foreign direct investment (FDI) in South Africa, including key CSR and skill development initiatives.

### **DoT gives nod to Airtel-Telenor merger**

- The Department of Telecom approved merger of Telenor India with Bharti Airtel, a move that will make the subscriber base of Sunil Mittal-led firm almost twice the size of new entrant Reliance Jio.

### **WPI inflation jumps to 3.18% in April**

- The Centre on Monday notified that Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation stood at 3.18 percent in the month of April 2018.

### **BSE, first Indian exchange to get US SEC recognition**

- BSE, Asia's oldest stock exchange, has become the first Indian exchange to be recognized as a designated offshore securities market (DOSM) by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

### **India to grow at 7.6% in 2018-19: U.N. report**

- India's economic growth is expected to climb to 7.5% in 2017-18 and 7.6% in 2018-19 United Nations report.

### **CAG Rajiv Mehrishi calls for a market regulator in event of market failure**

- Competition Commission of India celebrated its 9th Annual Day on 20th May 2018 with a lecture delivered by Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, on **Competition Law in India: Reflection and Rethinking**.

### **Major conservation, Up gradation at Purana Qila complex**



- **Central Antiquity Collection (CAC)** section at Purana Qila being upgraded to setup museum gallery of invaluable collection of artifacts for wider Public viewing.
- Major conservation, Up gradation and development works by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) underway at the Purana Qila complex in New Delhi.

#### **Government earns Rs.1,400 crore from e-Visa**

- The government earned Rs.1,400 crore as revenue from the highly successful e-Visa scheme, offered to citizens of 163 countries visiting India as tourists, since its launch in 2014.

#### **Strategic Petroleum Reserve**

- India receives the 1st cargo of ADNOC crude oil for its Mangalore Strategic Petroleum Reserve from Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE

#### **China launches relay satellite to explore far side of moon**

- China launched a relay satellite as part of a groundbreaking programme to be the first to land a spacecraft on the far side of the moon later this year. The satellite, lofted into space aboard a Long March-4C rocket, will facilitate communication between controllers on Earth and the Chang'e 4 mission, the China National Space Administration.
- China hopes to become the first country to soft-land a probe on the moon's far side, also known as the dark side because it faces away from the earth and is comparatively unknown.

#### **Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs)**

- 2% growth rate in Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) in Rupee terms in April 2018 over April 2017.

#### **'Share of diesel vehicles to fall below 25% post BS VI'**

- The share of diesel vehicles in the domestic automobile market is likely to fall below 25% post implementation of BS VI norms, according to research agency ICRA.

#### **Government hikes customs duty on wheat to 30% to curb cheaper imports**

- The government has raised the customs duty on wheat from 20% to 30% in order to curb cheaper imports and protect domestic growers.
- The import duty on walnut shell has also been increased from 30% to 100%, according to a late night notification issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

### **15th Finance Commission visits Kerala**

- Kerala, the first state in southern India, to be visited by 15th Finance Commission from 28th to 31st May 2018.
- Kerala is the 10th largest economy in India and contributes around 4.2% of India's GDP.

### **Busking goes cashless with 'a world first' for London**

- London has introduced 'a world first' contactless payment scheme for buskers in partnership with Swedish tech firm iZettle, bought this month by US payments giant PayPal.

### **Google's Toronto city built 'from the internet up'**

- Toronto's Eastern waterfront, a new digital city is being built by Sidewalk Labs – a firm owned by Google's parent Alphabet.

### **IL&FS unit, Soft Bank arm partner to set up 20 GW of solar units by 2025**

- IL&FS Energy, a subsidiary of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) has partnered with SB Energy of the Soft Bank Group, to jointly develop grid-connected solar parks across various locations in India.

### **Moody's trims GDP growth forecast for 2018 to 7.3%**

- International agency Moody's Investor Services cut India's growth forecast to 7.3 per cent for calendar year 2018.
- However, it has maintained the estimate for 2019 at 7.5 per cent.

### **India leading country in coconut production and productivity**

- India makes unprecedented progress in coconut cultivation from mid 2014 to 2018 & becomes the leading country in coconut production and productivity.
- India begins coconut oil exports to Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka and for the first time exports dry coconut in large quantities to U.S. and European countries.

## **7.1 Banking Affairs**

### **YES Bank launches Agenda 25×25**

- YES Bank and YES Global Institute have launched Agenda 25×25, which pledges to create a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India.
- YES Bank said the effort would ensure that by 2025 at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women.

### **Infosys sets up block chain-based trade finance network with seven banks**

- Infosys Ltd. has formed a block chain-based trade finance network with seven private-sector banks, to increase security and efficiency in the banking sector while also broadening its product offering.

### **Corpus for Micro Irrigation Fund with NABARD**

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an initial Corpus of Rs.5,000 crore for setting up of a dedicated “Micro Irrigation Fund” (MIF) with NABARD under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

### **Reserve Bank bars Dena Bank from lending, hiring**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred State-run lender Dena Bank from extending fresh credit in view of deteriorating financial health due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs). In addition, the lender has also been barred from recruiting staff.

### **Andhra Pradesh: NABARD plans 1,200 dairy units for Srikakulam farmers**

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has decided to develop 1,200 dairy units in this district, enabling farmers to generate assured income. It is expected to release Rs.62 crore to fund those projects.

**Yes Bank empanelled as Settlement Bank for NSE**

- Yes Bank has received approval from National Stock Exchange to be empanelled as 'Settlement Bank' for National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NSE.

**Agreement with World Bank for the Strengthening of Public Financial Management**

- Project to contribute to improved Budget Execution, enhanced Accountability and greater efficiency in Revenue Administration in Rajasthan.
- An Agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 21.7 Million from World Bank for the Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project was signed in New Delhi.

## 8. Mou/Agreement

### International

#### Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait

- **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** notifies the Protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait.

<b>Crown prince</b>	<b>Nawaf Ahmad al-Sabah</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Jaber Mubarak al-Sabah</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Kuwait City</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Kuwaiti dinar</b>

#### Futuristic telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) programme.

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Rs 945-crore deal with the Harris Corporation of the US for development of its futuristic telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) programme.
- The 15-year contract was signed at the sixth edition of the US-India aviation summit.

<b>President</b>	<b>Donald Trump</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mike Pence</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Washington, D.C.</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>US Dollar</b>

#### Gujarat-Poland MoU

- Gujarat-Poland sign MoU on organising independence centenary events Ahmedabad.
- The department of youth and cultural affairs of the Gujarat government will be co-organisers for the centenary celebrations to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other parts of the world.

<b>President</b>	<b>Warsaw</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Mateusz Morawiecki</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Warsaw</b>

<b>Currency</b>	<b>Andrzej Duda</b>
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### **India signs 7 MoUs with Myanmar**

- Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi witnessed signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Myanmar's Nay Pyi Taw on Friday. India and Myanmar signed seven Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs)
- India and Myanmar also concluded the Agreement on Land Border Crossing, which will allow people from both sides to cross the border with passport and visa for health and educational needs and tourism.

<b>President</b>	<b>Win Myint</b>
<b>State Counsellor</b>	<b>Aung San Suu Kyi</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Naypyidaw</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Kyat</b>

### **Peru and India sign MoU for cooperation in Renewable Energy Sector**

- Top leadership of Peru has acknowledged that their country has a lot to learn and benefit from the success story of India and resolved with India to significantly enhance trade relations as the two countries celebrated 55 years of diplomatic ties in Lima on May 11, 2018.
- India and Peru signed an Agreement on Cooperation in New and Renewable Energy.
- Peru is a founder member of the International Solar Alliance, established with India taking the initiative.

<b>President</b>	<b>Pedro Pablo Kuczynski</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Mercedes Aráoz</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Lima</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Sol (PEN)</b>

### **Punjab signs MoU with UK firm for biogas plants to tackle paddy straw**

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed for setting up of biogas and bio-CNG plants in the state to tackle the problem of paddy straw burning. The daily capacity of each plant will be around 100 MT of paddy straw intake.

<b>Monarch</b>	<b>Elizabeth II</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Theresa May</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>London</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Pound sterling</b>

### **MoU between India and France**

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Railways and SNCF Mobilites (a company owned by the French State) on Technical Cooperation in the field of Railways.
- The MoUs provide a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the railway sector.
- To identify research/ demonstration/ pilot project between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in the field of Renewable Energy.

<b>President</b>	<b>Emmanuel Macron</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Edouard Philippe</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Paris</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Euro, CFP franc</b>

### **India and Indonesia to promote bilateral cooperation in maritime & infrastructure sector**

- Developing collaboration in Maritime Training & Education between India & Indonesia, both the ministers were keen to draw up an MOU between Indian Maritime University & Indonesian institutes for maritime studies.

<b>President</b>	<b>Joko Widodo</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Jusuf Kalla</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Jakarta</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Indonesian rupiah</b>

### **BCCI goes 'green' by joining hands with United Nations**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and UN Environment signed an agreement to promote 'green' cricket in India.
- The partnership will also focus on phasing out single-use plastic across stadiums in the country.

Organization	Headquarters	President/Head
Board of Control for Cricket in India	Mumbai	C K Khanna
United Nations	New York City	Antonio Guterres

### Government of India and World Bank signs for PMGSY

- The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$500 million loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project, implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, which will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.

Organization	Headquarters	President/Head
World Bank	Washington, D.C. United States	Jim Yong Kim

### Other MoUs:

S. No	MoU Between	Fields	Country Details
1	India and Morocco	Law and Legislation, Mining and Geology, New and renewable energy	<b>President</b> - Mohammed VI
			<b>Prime Minister</b> - Saadeddine Othmani
			<b>Capital</b> - Rabat
			<b>Currency</b> - Moroccan dirham
2	India and Swaziland	Health and Medicine	<b>King</b> - Mswati III
			<b>Prime Minister</b> - Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini
			<b>Capital</b> - Mbabane
			<b>Currency</b> - South African rand
3	India and Suriname	Organizational and technical development of electoral process, electoral management and administration	<b>President</b> - Desi Bouterse
			<b>Vice President</b> - Ashwin Adhin
			<b>Capital</b> - Paramaribo
			<b>Currency</b> - Surinamese dollar



4	<b>India and Equatorial Guinea</b>	Traditional Systems of Medicine, Medicinal Plants between India and Equatorial Guinea	<b>President</b> - Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
			<b>Prime Minister</b> - Francisco Pascual Obama Asue
			<b>Capital</b> - Malabo
			<b>Currency</b> -Central African CFA franc
5	<b>India and Colombia</b>	Traditional Systems of Medicine of India	<b>President</b> - Juan Manuel Santos
			<b>Vice President</b> - Oscar Naranjo
			<b>Capital</b> - Bogota
			<b>Currency</b> -Peso
6	<b>India and Brunei Darussalam</b>	Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes	<b>Sultan and Yang di-Pertuan</b> - Hassanal Bolkiah
			<b>Crown Prince</b> - Al-Muhtadee Billah
			<b>Capital</b> - Bandar Seri Begawan
			<b>Currency</b> -Brunei dollar
7	<b>India and Angola</b>	Electronics and Information Technology in the areas of e-Governance, HRD for IT education, Information Security, Electronics Hardware manufacturing, IT embedded Software industry, Telemedicine etc.	<b>President</b> - Joao Manuel Gonalves Loureno
			<b>Vice President</b> - Bornito de Sousa
			<b>Capital</b> - Luanda
			<b>Currency</b> -Kwanza
8	<b>India and Denmark</b>	areas of food safety	<b>Prime Minister</b> -Lars Lokke Rasmussen
			<b>Monarch</b> - Margrethe II
			<b>Capital</b> - Copenhagen
			<b>Currency</b> -Danish krone
9	<b>India and Singapore</b>	Personnel Management and Public Administration	<b>Prime Minister</b> -Halimah Yacob
			<b>President</b> - Lee Hsien Loong
			<b>Capital</b> - Singapore (city-state)
			<b>Currency</b> -Singapore dollar
10	<b>India and Turkey</b>	Trade in poppy seeds to ensure quick and transparent processing for import of poppy seeds from Turkey	<b>Prime Minister</b> -Binali Yıldırım
			<b>President</b> - Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
			<b>Capital</b> - Ankara
			<b>Currency</b> -Turkish lira

## National

### **CBDT achieves another milestone**

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into one Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (UAPA) during the month of April, 2018. With the signing of this Agreement, the **CBDT** has achieved **another milestone** of having **signed its 200<sup>th</sup>UAPA**.

### **NITI Aayog to Collaborate with IBM to develop Precision Agriculture using Artificial Intelligence**

- NITI Aayog and IBM signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) today to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide real time advisory to farmers in Aspirational Districts.

### **NMDC, NLC to ink R&D pact**

- NMDC Limited and NLC India Limited (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) may invest over USD 26 million for setting up an R&D facility with **Australian Environmental Clean Technologies (ECT) Limited** for developing innovative technologies in iron and steel making.
- The project is aimed at diversifying the use of lignite (brown coal) in the generation of electricity and production of steel at lower cost with significantly lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### **Reliance Power quits Talaiya project**

- Reliance Power Limited has pulled out of the special purpose vehicle set up to develop an ultra mega power project at Talaiya in Jharkhand.

### **NTPC inks pact with Bihar**

- NTPC inked a pact with Bihar and its power utilities to acquire their entire stake in two joint ventures at Nabinagar and Kanti, and to buy Barauni thermal plant.

### **Kerala and NTPC sign MoU for increasing solar power generation**

- The Kerala State Electricity Board has signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Thermal Power Corporation for increasing solar power generation in the state.
- The MoU also includes an agreement to set up a 15 MW solar power unit at the NTPC complex in Kayamkulam.

### **Maharashtra signs MoU with GRIHA council for green buildings**

- Maharashtra government the first state to sign an MoU with the Centers Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state PWD officials to rate government buildings.
- To construct government complexes as green buildings this would minimize the use of electricity while optimizing the use of natural light and non-conventional energy.

### **NITI Aayog and Google sign SoI to help grow AI ecosystem in India**

- Aiming to foster growth for India's nascent artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) ecosystem, NITI Aayog and Google have come together to work on a range of initiatives to help build the AI ecosystem across the country.

### **SIDBI to extend direct funding facility to Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in CSCs**

- CSC SPV (Special purpose vehicle) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed an MoU for providing financial support to Common Services Centers (CSCs) across the country, with minimum one year of operation, under the Direct Financing Window of SIDBI.

### **Haryana signs 2 MoUs for revival of Sarasvati**

- Memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for investigation into the palaeochannel and the study of hydrological aspects relating to the Sarasvati rejuvenation and heritage development projects.

### **IIT-M inks pact with AAI for research in air navigation systems**

- The Indian Institute of Technology – Madras has signed an MoU with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for research on air navigation systems & will address aviation infrastructure and air traffic management challenges across 125 airports in the country.

**MOU to develop prototypes for self-piloted vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft**

- IIT-Kanpur to develop vertical take-off and landing aircraft prototypes
- The VTOL technology equips the aircraft to perform manoeuvres that are impossible with traditional aircraft, and also comes across as a big advantage for air combat and rescue.

**Tata Trusts signs MoU with govt to provide development support in Naxal-hit districts**

- The Tata Trusts has joined hands with the government to help it in development initiatives in eight worst Naxal-affected districts in Chhattisgarh, which were covered under the “transformation of aspirational” districts programme.

**Ministry of Women and Child Development signs an MoU with Government of Uttar Pradesh**

- The Ministry of Women and Child and Development, Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in New Delhi for management of Home of Widows at Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has constructed this shelter home for widows with a capacity of 1000 inmates.

## **9. Indian Forces (Defence)**

### **First ever online selection of Airmen by the IAF**

- IAF successfully conducted its first online selection test for airmen from 03 to 06 May 18.
- First ever Scheduled Test for Airmen Recruitment (STAR) was conducted successfully through computer based online tests.

### **Exercise Harimau Shakti 2018 Closing Ceremony**

- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2018 between Indian and Malaysian Armies concluded with a Closing Ceremony at the tropical rainforests of Hulu Langat on 11 May 2018.

### **Joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Surveillance of Maldives**

- Indian Naval (IN) ship Sumedha, a Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV), has been deployed to undertake joint EEZ surveillance of Maldives from 09 to 17 May 18, as part of Indian Navy's 'Mission Based Deployments'.

### **Army finalizes ammunition project**

- After years of deliberations, the Army has finalized a mega Rs.15,000-crore project under which a range of ammunition for its critical weapons and tanks will be produced indigenously to overcome long delays in imports and address the problem of a dwindling stockpile.

### **Indian Army Women Officers' Mountaineering Expedition**

- Indian Army Women Officers' Mountaineering Expedition to Mt. Bhagirathi-II (6512 meters) consisting of nine women officers, was flagged off by Director General of Military Training on 14 May 2018.
- The expedition will be conducted from 14 May to 11 Jun 18. The team also plans to set a new world record of practicing Yoga at 21000 ft on the occasion of Yoga Day 2018.

### **India gears up for AI-driven wars**

- In an ambitious defence project, the government has started work on incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance the operational preparedness of the armed forces in a significant way, which would include equipping them with unmanned tanks, vessels, aerial vehicles and robotic weaponry.

### **Joint Naval Exercise**

- Indian Navy and Vietnam People’s Navy would be undertaking a joint exercise at Tien Sa Port in Danang.
- India and Vietnam share robust defence cooperation, especially in the area of maritime security.

### **Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in National Security and Defence**

- The Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the ‘Stakeholders’ Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in National Security and Defence, Listing of Use Cases’.

### **INSV Tarini completes historic Circumnavigation (Navika Sagar Parikrama)**

- Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini) entered Goa harbor and came alongside the INS Mandovi jetty on completion of a historic global circumnavigation voyage on 21 May 18.
- This is the first-ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. The vessel was skippered by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi, and the crew comprised Lieutenant Commanders Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, and Lieutenants S Vijaya Devi, B Aishwarya and Payal Gupta.
- The indigenously-built INSV Tarini is a 56-foot sailing vessel, which was inducted in the Indian Navy in February 2017, and has showcased the ‘Make in India’ initiative on the International forum.

### **CAS visit to Israel**

- Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force, is embarking on a four day visit to the State of Israel from 21st to 24th May 18. The CAS would attend a conference themed ‘Air Superiority as a Bridge to Regional Stability’, as part of 70th anniversary celebrations of the Israel Air Force.

### **Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos tested successfully**

- Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully fired from a test range along the Odisha coast to validate some new features.
- The trial was conducted to validate its “life extension” technologies developed for the first time by DRDO and team BrahMos.

### **Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII**

- Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII between India and Nepal will be conducted at Pithoragarh from 30 May to 12 June 2018.
- Exercise SURYA KIRAN with Nepal is the largest in terms of troop participation.

### **LCU MK-IV ships**

- IN LCU L54 is the fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class to be inducted into the Indian Navy.
- The ship has been indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.

### **India, Russia conclude negotiations for S-400 Triumph deal**

- India has concluded price negotiations with Russia for a nearly Rs 40,000 crore deal to procure S-400 Triumph air defence missile systems for the Indian Air Force.

### **Mount Deotibba Expedition-2018**

- All women high altitude expedition to Mount Deotibba (6001 Meters) which is located in Himachal Pradesh has been organized by the Indian Navy from 28 May to 15 Jun 2018.

### **Joint indo-Bangladesh Army Trekking Expedition to Nanda Devi**

- A Joint Indo-Bangladesh Army Trekking Expedition to Nanda Devi East Base Camp (4300m) was flagged off by Director General of Military Training on 28 May 18 at New Delhi.
- It consists of 16-member team of Indian Army and 10-member team from Bangladesh Army.

**Successful Flight Test of SFDR**

- The technology demonstrator flight test of ‘Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)’ propulsion based missile has been carried out successfully from the Launch Center-III of ITR, Chandipur, Odisha.
- The technology of nozzle less booster has been successfully demonstrated in the mission for the first time in the country.



## **10. Awards and Achievement**

### **International**

#### **Award for messiah of the poor**

- Syed Usman Azhar Maqsusi, a city-based activist, was awarded the **27th Yudhvir Foundation Award** which carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh for his contribution towards **feeding and educating the underprivileged sections in the city.**

#### **India-born girl's heart disease project wins award in Singapore**

- An 18-year-old Chennai-born girl has won this year's A\*Star Talent Search award in **Singapore** for her study of genetic heart disease "hypertrophic cardiomyopathy".

#### **KISS Humanitarian Award 2018**

- Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus who is the founder of Grameen Bank and known as the Father of Microfinance was honored with the 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018

#### **British Council awards for three Indian alumni of UK universities**

- Professional Achievement Award – Saumya Saxena
- Social Impact Award – Ruchi Shah
- Entrepreneurial Award – Sushant Desai

#### **Nikkei Asia Prize**

- The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, has been honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development.
- Nikkei Inc., one of the largest media corporations in Japan, has been presenting the awards since 1996 to honour people in Asia who have made significant contributions in one of the three areas: Economic and Business Innovation, Science, Technology and Environment and Culture and Community.

**Brazil honour for State industrialist**

- Mullapudi Narendranath, Joint Managing Director of Andhra Sugars Limited, was honoured by two Brazilian States for his contribution in the conservation and improvement of the Ongole cattle in India.

**S&P PLATTS Global Metals Award**

- NMDC Limited has bagged the prestigious S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category held on 17.05.2018 at London.
- NMDC is the largest iron ore mining company in India.
- This is the first time since inception of this award that an Indian Company bagged an award in this category.

**India's Jagriti Yatra wins charity award in UK**

- An Indian Jagriti charity that organizes 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won an **Asian Voice charity awards in London.**

**Man Booker International Prize – Olga Tokarczuk**

- Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for fiction for *Flights*, a novel that charts multiple journeys in time, space and human anatomy.

**First Indian to receive Linnean Medal**

- Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa, president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), received the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany from the Linnean Society of London.
- Dr. Bawa is the first Indian to win the award ever since it was first constituted in 1888.

**13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards**

- Kerala cartoonist **Thomas Antony- Best caricature category**

## **National**

### **President of India to present visitor’s award for Research and for Technology Development**

- The President of India, Shri. Ram Nath Kovind, will present **Visitor’s Award for Research in the field of Basic and Applied Science and in the field of Humanities, Arts, Social Science and Technology Development** at Rashtrapati Bhavan on May 2, 2018.

### **Ministry of Railways announces Awards for beautification of Station premises**

- Out of 62 entries, Balharshah and Chandrapur (Central Railway) bag First prize; Madhubani (East Central Railway) and Madurai (Southern Railway) adjudged second; Gandhidham (Western Railway) Kota (West Central Railway) share Third Prize with Secunderabad (South Central Railway)

### **Florence Nightingale Award**

- Byagari Vijaya Lakshmi, an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) at the primary health centre (PHC) in Kandi, has been selected for the Florence Nightingale Award for 2018.

### **“Railway Minister’s Medal” for Bravery**

- Shri Shivaji, Railway Protection Force Constable will be decorated with “Railway Minister’s Medal” for Bravery along with a cash award of Rs. 1 Lac.
- This award is given to member of the force who has either shown exceptional courage, skill or bravery exhibited conspicuous devotion to duty as a member of the Force.

### **South Western Railway bags Safety Shield pertaining to Train Operations for 2017-18**

- During the year 2017-18, South Western Railway (SWR) has registered best figures & tremendous improvements in key areas of Safety pertaining to train operations among all Zonal Railways.

### **Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Puraskar award**

- US-based Kathak dancer Anindita Anaam was honoured with the prestigious ‘Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018’ for outstanding contribution to the field of art.

### **National Geo science Awards, 2017**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the National Geo science Awards on May 16, 2018 in New Delhi.
- India will host the 36th International Geological Congress in 2020.

### **Kerala Tourism gets an FB laurel**

- Kerala Tourism’s Facebook page has notched up 1.5 million ‘likes’ to emerge on top among the State tourism boards in the country in 2017.
- Kerala has piped the Facebook pages of Jammu and Kashmir and Gujarat Tourism to second and third places.

### **Police Medals for Gallantry and Meritorious Services to the BSF**

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh presented the Police Medals for Gallantry and Meritorious Services to the BSF personnel at an Investiture Ceremony. Out of the 14 Police Medals for Gallantry, four were awarded posthumously.

### **Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 – CSIR**

- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category.

### **Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 – INSV Tarini Team**

- The Six-member all-women team comprising of Lt Commander Vartika Joshi, Lt Commander Pratibha Jamwal, Lt Commander Swathi Patarpalli, Lt Aishwarya Bodapatti, Lt SH Vijaya Devi and Lt Payal Gupta have received the Puraskar from Hon’ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi in New Delhi.

**Award 2017**

- Sivakumar, Director, Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) – ‘Technology Leadership Award 2017’ for transmission system for armoured vehicles.
- S.T. Raju – ‘Scientist of the year 2016’ award for his role in developing Integrated Fire Control System for Arjun MBT Mk-II prototype.
- Pazhanikumar – ‘Scientist of the Year 2017’ award for his role in developing Arjun armoured vehicle.

### 11. Books and Authors

S. No	Book	Author and Released by
1	Across the Bench – Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System	Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan
		<b>Released By</b> - Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army the Staff
2	'A Treatise on Cleanliness' & 'Waste Management, an Introduction'	Shri Rajat Bhargava
		<b>Released By</b> -Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu
3	"Hidden India"	Latika Nath
4	'Straight Talk'	Shri Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Member of Rajya Sabha
5	"Entrepreneurship and Management for Farmer Producer Companies"	Grant Thornton
6	Biography of India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru	Tamil Nadu Congress leader A. Gopanna

## 12. National Affairs

### **NDMA to conduct workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction database**

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

### **Durg- Ferozpur New Antyodaya Express**

- A new weekly train no 22895/22896 Durg-Ferozpur-DurgAntyodaya Express was inaugurated by Shri RajenGohain, Minister of State for Railways & Dr. Raman Singh, Chief Minister, Chattisgarh.

### **National Committee for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, chaired the first meeting of the National Committee for the Commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at Rashtrapati Bhavan May 2, 2018.

### **Indian Railways marks 26 years of Ladies Special Suburban Trains**

- The first ever Ladies Special train in the world ran between Churchgate and Borivali on 5th May, 1992 Mumbai.
- **Talk-back System** is a new security measure introduced by Western Railway last year, on the occasion of International Women’s Day.

### **India and the world: a history in nine stories – Exhibition**

- ‘India and the World: A History in Nine Stories’ offers insights into two million years of history. It was planned as part of commemoration of 70 years of India’s independence and a year of major cultural exchange between India and the UK (UK/India 2017).

**Border Roads Organization to celebrate Raising Day**

- Border Roads Organization (BRO), is celebrating its Raising Day on 07 May 2018. BRO, a leader in the arena of infrastructural development in the border areas of the country is celebrating its 58 years of glorious service to the nation.

**Versova-Bandra Sea Link Project in Mumbai**

- Anil Ambani led Reliance Infrastructure along with world's third largest construction player in building bridges, Astaldi S.p.A (Italy) have bagged the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract for the 17.17 kilometers (km) Versova-Bandra Sea Link Project in Mumbai for Rs.6993.99 crore.

**100 additional One Stop Centers (OSCs) approved**

- 100 additional One Stop Centers have been approved by Ministry of Women and Child Development in the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The purpose of these OSCs is to facilitate integrated services for women affected with violence such as police assistance, medical aid, psycho-social counseling, legal aid/counseling, temporary stay for 5 days etc.
- Women's Helpline – 181 has now become operational in 30 States/UTs.

**Students from Ten ASEAN Countries Interact With Chief Election Commissioner of India**

- The Chief Election Commissioner of India Shri Om Prakash Rawat interacted with 250 students from ten ASEAN Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) visiting India as part of the Indo-ASEAN students exchange programme under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs.

**Exhibition to commemorate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**



- Exhibition titled ‘**Gurudev: The Journey of the Maestro**’, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was inaugurated at The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, Government of India 7th May 2018.

### **Nathu La pass reopened for the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.**

- The four-month travel period to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra starts from June 8.
- **Nathu La – Sikkim**
- **Lipulekh Pass – Uttarakhand**

### **New norms for labeling packaged GM food ready**

- This is the first time that the Central government has laid down guidelines for labeling genetically modified food.
- Current laws prohibit any GM food—unless cleared by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, a Environment Ministry body— from being sold in the country.

### **President of India visited Siachen base camp**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, visited Siachen Base Camp on May 10, 2018 and interacts with soldiers posted there.
- He is the first President to visit this Camp since the visit of the former President, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in 2004.

### **Indian Guidelines for Diabetes Management**

- Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a nationally renowned Dialectologist, released here a compilation of “Indian Guidelines for Management of Diabetes Mellitus”, prepared by “Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India” (RSSDI).

### **Ministry of Railways introduces new Humsafar Train**

- Indian Railways has introduced a new Humsafar train viz. 22437/22438 Allahabad-Anand Vihar (T) Humsafar Express (Tri-weekly).

### **Atal Tinkering Marathon**

- In an effort to identify India's best student innovators, Atal Tinkering Labs of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, organized an Atal Tinkering Marathon, a six month long nationwide challenge across six different thematic areas, namely, clean energy, water resources, waste management, healthcare, smart mobility and agri-tech.

### **New guidelines for pharma makers will come into effect from July 1**

- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has approved modern, animal-free tests for drug manufacturers.
- IPC has replaced the pyrogen test carried out on rabbits and the abnormal toxicity test carried out on guinea pigs and mice with tests that can be done in test tubes.
- The pyrogen test is carried out to check impurity or substance that can cause adverse side-effects.
- The abnormal toxicity test is carried out to check potential hazardous biological contamination in vaccine formulations.

### **India's relief consignment for Rohingyas in Bangladesh**

- India has sent to Bangladesh its second relief consignment to help tens of thousands of displaced Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar following a military crackdown, triggering one of the world's worst refugee crises.
- Indian Navy Ship INS Airavat sailed from Vishakhapatnam and reached Chattogram port (formerly Chittagong) Port handed over the relief consignment.

### **Janakpur -Ayodhya Direct Bus Service**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated a direct bus service between Janakpur and Ayodhya, the two sacred cities for Hindus.

### **Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Bhopal**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) at Bhopal as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

### **Bajaj become first father-daughter duo to scale the Mount Everest**

- 24-year-old Deeya Suzannah, who along with her father Ajeet Bajaj became the first Indian father-daughter duo to climb the Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak.

### **Chhattisgarh's red zone to get commercial air connectivity from June 15**

- The UDAN services will link Bastar aerially with Raipur and Visakhapatnam that are well connected with major cities in the country by air.

### **ASEAN India Film Festival**

- **Tagline of the Festival – 'Friendship through Films'.**
- The Directorate of Film Festivals is organizing ASEAN India Film Festival from 25th to 30th May, 2018 in Delhi in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (ASEAN Multilateral Division) as part of the series of events to commemorate the 25 years of ASEAN and India relations.

### **Meghalaya: 'Gaj Yatra'**

- 'Gaj Yatra', a "journey celebrating India's national heritage animal", aims at securing 100 elephant corridors across India.
- Four of these are in Meghalaya, including the Siju-Rewak corridor that some 1,000 elephants use to travel between the Balpakram and Nokrek National Parks in the State.

### **Biggest Airport, after Mumbai, to be developed in Mopa, Goa**

- A joint team of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Commerce Logistics Department will visit Goa on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to facilitate the development of cargo hubs at the new airport to be constructed at Mopa, Goa.

### 13. State Wise Affairs

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#### ANDHRA PRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Dispur	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi

#### Andhra Pradesh gets new state bird, state flower

- Four years after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the government of the residual state has announced its state symbols.
- **State bird – Rama Chiluka (psittacula krameri) or rose ringed parakeet**
- **State tree – Neem (azadirachta indica) or Vepa Chettu**
- **State animal – Jinka or spotted deer**
- **State flower – Jasmine**

#### Rythu Bandhu launch in Warangal

- Everything is set for the launch of Rythu Bandhu scheme in the five districts of erstwhile undivided
- The launching envisages distribution of new passbooks and issuance of cheques (Rs. 4,000 per acre) towards input assistance to all the farmers.

#### New sports authority governing council takes charge

- The new governing council of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) was sworn-in with P. Ankamma Chowdary as its chairman amidst a galaxy of personalities that included politicians, sports

administrators, coaches, players, teachers and students of physical education, at the DRRMC indoor stadium.

### **Sir Arthur Cotton's birth anniversary celebrated**

- The 215th birth anniversary of Sir Arthur Cotton, the legendary British irrigation engineer who was instrumental in the construction of anicuts across rivers Godavari and Krishna, was celebrated by the members of Krishna Delta Parirakshana Samiti, Institution of Engineers and farmers' unions.

### **Setting up of a Central University in Andhra Pradesh**

- The Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for establishing a Central University by the name of "Central University of Andhra Pradesh" in Jantalur Village of Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh.

### **'Save Ongole dairy' campaign launched**

- Farmers and civil society organizations under the aegis of the Prakasam District Development Forum have launched a campaign for the revival of the Ongole dairy.

### **A high-tech tiger census in Andhra Pradesh**

- The authorities have for the first time used a new app Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-StrIPES) to avoid human error in the traditional recording of the pugmarks and other signs during the carnivore sign survey.

### **ONGC operations in Nagayalanka**

- ONGC Chairman and Managing Director Sashi Shanker will inaugurate the Early Production System (EPS) in the site near the Bhavadevarapalli village flagging off the Rs.6,804-project in the Krishna-Godavari basin.
- The crude oil drilling operation by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will begin in the Nagayalanka block in Krishna district.

### Chinese window opens to Central India

- The Container Corporation of India (Concor) and the Krishnapatnam port launched a direct container rail service to boost containerised exports and imports between Central India and China, Korea, Japan and South East Asia.

### ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Itanagar	Pema Khand	Brigadier Dr BD Mishra

### Arunachal Pradesh cabinet approves recommendation for new airport

- The Arunachal Pradesh cabinet has approved the recommendation of the Nabam Rebia committee that was studying the feasibility of constructing a green field airport at Hollongi.

### LED Solar Street lighting system

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned LED Solar Street Lighting system for Arunachal Pradesh under its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund.
- Chief Minister – **Pema Khandu**
- NABARD Chairman – **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala**.

### ASSAM

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Dispur	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi

### Assam government urge for withdrawal of AFSPA

- The Assam government has decided to urge the Centre for withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from parts of the state in phases and not at one go. The Act has been in force in the state for 28 years now.
- Assam will become the fourth state after Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya to lift the controversial legislation if the Centre gives its nod to the state government's proposal. The Act is also currently enforced in parts of Arunachal and Manipur and the whole of Nagaland.

#### **India's first railway station runs by solar power.**

- Guwahati now has India's first solar powered railway station.

#### **'Brahmaputra Study Centre' at Gauhati University**

- "Brahmaputra Study Centre" being set up within the Gauhati University will offer an opportunity for research in different aspects of river Brahmaputra in physics, hydrology, waterways, environment, disaster/flood management, hydro-power production etc.
- Fund of about Rs. 28 crore will be provided by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

## **BIHAR**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Patna	Nitish Kumar	Satya Pal Malik

#### **Rs.1 lakh incentive to SC, ST students in Bihar**

- The Bihar Cabinet on Tuesday announced a Rs.1 lakh encouragement incentive for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students who clear the UPSC preliminary test.

#### **Beej Vahan Vikas Vahan Rath**

- 'Krishi Mahabhiyan-cum-Beej Vikas Vahan Rath' to create alertness among farmers about government schemes for them during Kharif season.

**Fisheries College at Kishanganj**

- Bihar Cabinet gave its nod to set up a Fisheries College at Kishanganj at a cost of Rs 40.31 crore.

**DELHI**

<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>
Arvind Kejriwal	Anil Baijal

**‘Vibrant North East 2018’ from May 3**

- The ‘Vibrant North East 2018’, an event organized by Delhi-based NGO, Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) in which people would be made aware of central government’s schemes and programmes.
- This will be the fourth edition of the ‘Vibrant North East’ expo in Guwahati.

**Children’s Theatre and Personality Development workshop**

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) will organize a children’s theatre and personality development workshop from 21st May to 21st June, 2018 in partnership with Udaan – the Centre of Theatre Art and Child Development. In this workshop, children will be trained to enhance their fundamental skills and theatrical skills.

**Annual Summer Fiesta for Vacationing Children of Delhi NCR region**

- The Summer Fiesta is an annual event for children in the age group of 5-16 years to provide them learning opportunities in the world of Innovation, Curiosity and Happiness and to utilize their summer vacation through various creative activities.
- The Festival will run from 23rd May-22nd June, 2018.

**Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum**

- Prime Minister of Netherlands Mr. Mark Rutte Inaugurates Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum at a Function in New Delhi.
- Use of Innovative Dutch Triple-Helix Model Contemplated for Barapullah Drain Project in Delhi.

**Narendra Modi opens Eastern Peripheral Expressway**



- Prime Minister Modi on 27.05.2018 inaugurated the 135 km-long Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) connecting Kundli with Palwal in Haryana via Ghaziabad and Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh which will reduce vehicular pollution in the national capital.
- The PM also unveiled the first phase of the 82 km-long Delhi-Meerut Expressway.

### The PANKHA

- Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram launches exhibition cum sale event ‘the Pankha’ (Hand-Fans) through TRIFED and TRIBES India.
- The Pankhas, a range of exotic hand fans draws inspiration from the eminent Artist, Shri Jatin Das and from his collection of 10000 handmade Pankhas.

## GUJARAT

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Gandhinagar	Vijay Rupani	Om Prakash Kohli

### Vibrant 2019 to focus on trade along with investment

- The Gujarat government had its first meeting with some 18 government of India (GoI) secretaries on 10.05.2018, to discuss preparations for the 8th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investor Summit (VGGIS), which the government of India has been participating in since 2015.

### Gujarat government is promoting Dholera as investment destination for defence manufacturing

- The Government of Gujarat is promoting the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) as an ideal destination for investments in the defence manufacturing sector. Authorities plan to host a summit at Dholera ahead of the Vibrant Summit. Dholera is 110km from Ahmadabad.

### ‘Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy’

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani released the ‘Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy’ to create water-grid, on the lines of power-grid, for reuse of the treated waste water from urban areas.
- The plan is to set up set up sewage treatment plant in each and every municipal corporation and over 150 municipalities.

**HARYANA**

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Kaptan Singh Solanki

**Ateli – Phulera Section of Dedicated Freight Corridor**

- Ateli – Phulera Section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor to be Open from 15th August, 2018 which it falls in Haryana (Mahendragarh district) and Rajasthan (Jaipur district).
- The Western Corridors is being funded by Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), while the Eastern Corridor from Mughalsarai to Ludhiana is being funded by the World Bank.

**JAMMU and KASHMIR**

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Srinagar(Summer) Jammu(Winter)	Mehbooba Mufti	Narinder Nath Vohra

**Jammu & Kashmir government abolishes stamp duty for property in women's names**

- Jammu and Kashmir, the state Cabinet sanctioned abolition of stamp duty in case of property registered in both urban and rural areas, in the name of women.

**Zojila Tunnel**

- The Prime Minister will unveil a plaque to mark the commencement of work on the Zojila Tunnel.
- The 14 km long Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. The construction of this tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.

**Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project**

- Prime Minister inaugurates 330 MW Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project; lays Foundation Stone of the Pakal Dul Power Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

- Pakal Dul, with 1000 MW capacity, will be the largest Hydro Power Project in Jammu & Kashmir on completion.
- It is also the first storage Project in Jammu & Kashmir.
- He also laid the foundation stone of the Srinagar Ring Road.

### Construction of bunkers along the IB/LoC to protect border residents in J&K

- The Home Minister called for expediting construction of bunkers along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) to protect the border residents.
- The MHA has approved Rs.415 crores for construction of more than 14,000 bunkers in Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch districts.

## JHARKHAND

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Ranchi	Raghubar Das	Draupadi Murmu

### Setting up of a new AIIMS in Deoghar, Jharkhand

- The Union Cabinet approved setting up of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Deoghar, Jharkhand under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

### Patratu Super Thermal Power Project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the 2400MW first phase of NTPC's Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand.
- The project is a 74: 26 Joint Venture between Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) and Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (PVUN), a subsidiary company of NTPC establishing a total capacity expansion of 4,000MW.

## KARNATAKA

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Bengaluru	H. D. Kumaraswamy	Vajubhai Vala

**24 booths turn ‘pink’ across Mysuru**

- ‘Sakhi’ booths (fully managed by women officers) set up for the first time in an election in Karnataka.
- The arrangement has been made for the first time in an election in the State.
- All-woman polling booths have been established across the 224 constituencies.
- In Mysuru district, 24 pink booths have been established with each constituency having two to three of them.

**Second bird census conducted at Ranganathittu**

- The second bird census of the season at Ranganathittu, Karnataka was conducted on 13.05.2018 to gather data of the bird species harboured in the bird sanctuary.
- There are 26 Ramsar sites in India, but none in Karnataka.
- Ranganathittu supports more than 3% of the world population of spot-billed pelicans and painted storks.

**Lake Revival project goes to the outskirts in Mysuru**

- ‘Mysuru Water Positive by 2021’, an initiative of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mysuru and the district administration, aims to bring industry bodies together to drive rejuvenation and conservation of lakes in and around Mysuru.
- The rejuvenation of the one-acre of Kempegowdana Katte lake is being funded by the State Bank of India, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.

**Common minimum programme**

- A monthly assistance of Rs 6000 for pregnant women, three months before and after the delivery, and a public pension of Rs 6000 per month for senior citizens.

**KERALA**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	P. Sathasivam

**International Children’s Film Festival of Kerala**

- The first edition of the International Children’s Film Festival of Kerala will get underway here from 14.05.2018, with over 140 films, documentaries and short films set to be screened.

**KIIFB approval for projects in Wayanad**

- The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) has given approval to projects valued at Rs.192.06 crore in Wayanad district during the current fiscal.

**Kitco bags defence, aviation projects**

- Kitco, the Kochi-headquartered engineering, management and project consultancy organization, has bagged major defence and aviation consultancy projects of public sector Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

**Tokkuttu station chugs into history**

- Tokkuttu, serving as a satellite railway station south of Mangaluru Central, has become part of history with the railway authorities deciding to wind up the station with effect from 16.05.2018.

**Govt to promote Neera as global brand**

- A high-level meeting convened by Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar decided to promote Neera, a non- alcoholic beverage extracted from coconut tree, as a health drink in the international market.

**Rural Innovators’ Meet**

- The Rural Innovators’ Meet (RIM) – 2018, a three-day event organized jointly by the Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) and the Community Agro biodiversity Centre (CABC) of the M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), concluded here.

### Ceremony of ancient Dance Drama “Ashtapadiyattam”

- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurating the revival ceremony of ancient Dance Drama “Ashtapadiyattam” which is “Gita Govindam” written by 12th century poet Jayadeva, in Guruvayur, Kerala.

### Kitchen scheme at Attappady, Kerala

- The government has given administrative sanction for Rs.6 crore for the conduct of the Annapradayini community kitchen scheme at Attappady under the Integrated Child Development Scheme.
- Pregnant women, lactating mothers, girls, and the elderly will benefit. Under Annapradayini, Kudumbasree units near Anganwadis will cook and supply food to tribe people.

### World’s first fully solar powered airport

- The Cochin International Airport in Kerala is the first ever fully solar powered airport with an inauguration dedicated solar plant by generating electricity with eight small hydroelectric power projects and organic vegetation in the vicinity of the airport.

## MAHARASHTRA

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao

### Sindhudurg Airport will be a boost for Aviation Sector in Maharashtra

- Maharashtra will get a new airport at Parule Chipi in Sindhudurg district in September 2018.

### North Maharashtra University to be renamed after poetess Bahinabai Chaudhari

- The cabinet has decided to make a recommendation to the governor to promulgate an ordinance to rename the North Maharashtra University as Kaviyatri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University’.

### H-Energy brings India’s first FSRU at Jaigarh port

- Hiranandani Group's energy arm H-Energy Gateway Private Ltd. launched India's first floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU)-based LNG (liquefied **natural gas**) terminal at Jaigarh port in the State.

### **Maharashtra sends modernization plan for smaller airports to AAI**

- Maharashtra government has forwarded the final proposal for modernization of the state's smaller airports to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) under Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) – Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)

### **Maharashtra Day celebrated with an array of cultural programs**

- In an event held for Maharashtra Day, Aurangabad kars got to witness various cultural performances from all over the state. On the occasion of Maharashtra Day, the early morning program was inaugurated by chief guest Vasudev Aala.

### **Exhibition on Department of Atomic Energy Technologies at the BARC**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, visited an exhibition on Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) technologies at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Trombay, Mumbai on May 15, 2018. He also inaugurated DAE facilities there.

### **130 years of Indian Railways iconic station: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus building**

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (earlier Victoria Terminus) has completed 130 years of its construction on 20th May 2018. The present day Headquarters building of Central Railway popularly known as Victoria Terminus (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) is an architectural marvel.

### **Mumbai-Pune e-way: motorists will have to pay toll till 2045**

- Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) said the toll period is being increased by 15 years to fund the 'missing link' project.
- According to the government's toll policy, the toll is revised every three years at 6% per annum. The earlier deadline for toll collection was 2030.

- By 2045, the one-way toll for cars between the two cities would be a little over Rs.1,000.

### **Pune school founded by Bal Gangadhar Tilak 138 years ago, goes co-ed**

- After 82 years, New English School in Pune has opened its doors to girls.
- Founded in 1880 by educationists and revolutionaries Vishnu Krushna Chiplunkar, Bal Gangadhar 'Lokmanya' Tilak and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar .

## **ODISHA**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal

### **Slum dwellers get land rights in Odisha**

- Odisha Livable Habitat Mission distribution of pattas (land ownership certificates) to urban slum dwellers at a function in Ganjam district.

### **'One Bar, One Vote' rule in Odisha**

- 'One Bar, One Vote' rule is part of a guideline set by the Supreme Court in 2015 to identify the number of genuine advocates practicing in different courts of the country. "The rule allows multitude of memberships of different Bars, yet it gives only one voting right to an advocate".

### **Cloud enabled Data Centre at Bhubaneswar**

- National Informatics Centre has set up a new state-of-the-art cloud enabled National Data Centre at Bhubaneswar.
- The data center will offer 24\*7 operations with secure hosting for e-Governance applications of the Government and its departments.



**PUNJAB**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V. P. Singh Badnore

**Darbhanga-Jalandhar Antyodaya Express**

- A new weekly train service between Darbhanga in Bihar and Jalandhar in Punjab Antyodaya Express will be flagged off by the minister of state for Railways Manoj Sinha from May 15.

**First all-woman Post Office Passport Seva Kendra**

- First Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team has started operations here Phagwara POPSK.
- The seva kendra was inaugurated by Union Minister Vijay Sampla in the local head Post Office.
- It was 192nd POPSK in the country, but first one to be operated by an all-woman team.

**Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards**

- Patanjali ties up with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to launch 'Swadeshi Samridhhi' SIM cards.

**TAMILNADU**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit

**Christian Medical College (CMC) Centenary celebrations**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore May 4, 2018.

**160th Convocation of University of Madras**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, graced and addressed the 160<sup>th</sup> convocation of the University of Madras today (May 5, 2018) in Chennai.

### **Tamil Nadu government declares Sirumalai West Forest as reserved forest**

- The Tamil Nadu government has declared more than 173 hectares of Sirumalai West Forest in Dindigul district as reserved forest in a bid to protect its flora and fauna. A notification dated February 26, 2018, which was published on May 9, said that in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 (Tamil Nadu Act V of 1882), the specified area has been declared as reserve forest.

### **12,000 artifacts from Azhagankulam to be sent for carbon dating**

- The State Archaeology Department is in the process of classifying more than 12,000 artifacts found at Azhagankulam in Ramanathapuram district and will send them for carbon dating.
- The artifacts found at the site include ivory objects, copper coins, quartz, crystals, iron smelters, furnace, potsherds and terracotta plates, among others.

### **International Rail Coach Expo to be hosted by Integral Coach Factory Chennai**

- For the first time International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) to focus on Rail Coaches and train sets, is being held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, from 17th to 19th May, 2018, in the ICF RPF Parade Grounds, Chennai.
- It will be a unique platform to bring different suppliers under one roof and create synergy for “Make in India”.

### **Tamil Nadu to Build India’s Next Generation Defence Aircraft**

- The Aeronautical Development Agency which had designed the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, has set for building the next generation defence aircraft, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), by extending an invitation to private players in Coimbatore to build a technology demonstrator.

### **Pushkaram in Tamirabharani after 144 years**

- The State government on Monday reviewed the arrangements to be made for conducting Pushkaram on the banks of the Tamirabharani in Tirunelveli district in October this year “after a gap of 144 years”.

### **Heritage special train in Chennai**

- The Chennai division will be operating the heritage special train in the city on three successive Sundays from May 27 to be pulled by Heritage Steam Loco EIR21 between Egmore and Kodambakkam.

### **Elite unit for Forest Department**

- The Tamil Nadu government is planning to set up an elite force in the Forest department and provide it with high-tech training to tackle situations like kidnappings, land encroachments, forest fires and man-animal conflicts.
- The Forest Department is also planning to implement a ‘beehive’ concept to prevent man-elephant conflicts in the Coimbatore region.

### **Restoration of Pallikaranai marsh to continue till 2023**

- Restoration activities at the Pallikaranai marshland will continue till 2023 at a cost of Rs.165.68 crore under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change.
- The government also plans to continue its Massive Tree Planting programme by planting 70 lakh seedlings at 7,000 acres of degraded forests with an outlay of Rs.22.46 crore.

## **TELANGANA**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Hyderabad	K Chandrasekhar Rao	E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan

### **Four NH projects in Hyderabad launched**

- Union Minister for Highways Nitin Gadkari on Saturday laid foundation stones for six-laning of 10 km stretch from Aaramghar to Shamshabad, a double lane from Hyderabad Outer Ring Road to Medak over 63 km, a flyover from No. 6 Junction to Amberpet over 1.5 km and a six lane elevated corridor from Uppal to Narapally over 6.5 km.
- The total cost of the four projects was estimated at Rs.1,523 crore.

### **No to new bore wells in 230 villages**

- Drilling of new bore wells has been prohibited in 230 villages in erstwhile Warangal district indicating the alarming rate of depletion of ground water levels.

### **Pawan Kalyan unfurls 'largest' Indian flag**

- The largest Indian flag measuring 183 feet in length and 122 feet in breadth was unfurled on 10.05.2018 at NTR Stadium here coinciding with the anniversary of India's First War of Independence of 1857.

### **Government launches safety plan at Kuntala waterfall**

- The State government has launched efforts to make **Kuntala waterfall in Adilabad district** a safer place for visitors.
- The largest waterfall in Telangana is at present unsafe owing to some dangerous spots in the water pools at the foot of the fall.
- The government is planning to plug the dangerous crevices and fissures in the rock to eliminate the probability of drowning.

### **UNDP to set up skill development centre in Hyderabad**

- Aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalized women by imparting skills training, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will soon set up a skill development centre at 'Bharosa,' an integrated support centre for distressed women and children here.

### **ICRISAT, KeyGene ink research partnership**

- Netherlands-based agricultural biotech company KeyGene and not-for-profit scientific research organization, International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for research and co-development on legumes and cereals.

## UTTARAKHAND

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Dehradun	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Krishan Kant Paul

### First City Gas Distribution (CGD) network

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the state's first City Gas Distribution (CGD) network at Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district.
- It is the country's eighth City Gas Distribution (CGD) system. The 500 kilometer long pipeline will be completed by 2020 and provide employment to 2,000 people.

### Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

- Ministry of Culture is organizing the 9th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, in Tehri, Uttarakhand from 25th May to 27th May, 2018.
- Uttarakhand Government's Tehri Lake Festival to be a part of the RSM.

### 4th International Yoga Day

- The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations (IDY-2018) will be held on 21st June 2018 at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.

## UTTARPRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Ram Naik

### State's 4th tiger reserve proposed in Chitrakoot

- The forest department has sent a proposal to the state government to develop Ranipur wildlife sanctuary as the fourth tiger reserve in UP.
- The reserve may become a habitat for tiger's crossing over from Panna tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh.

### Eastern Peripheral Expressway

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal (KGP) expressway, also known as Eastern Peripheral Expressway, on May 27.

### WEST BENGAL

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Kolkata	Mamta Benerjee	Keshari Nath Tripathi

### Bangladesh Bhavan

- Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the Bangladesh Bhavan, a symbol of the cultural ties between India and Bangladesh at Santi Niketan.
- The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Ms. Sheikh Hasina, will be present at this event.

### Braille-enabled signboards to be used during Maheshtala bypoll

- For the first time in West Bengal, the Election Commission (EC) will use Braille-enabled signboards carrying instructions for visually challenged voters.

## 14. International

### **Wipro Consumer to set up plant in China**

- Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting, a unit of India's third largest software exporter, plans to set up manufacturing plants in Telangana and another one in Guangzhou, China, to be operational by the financial year 2020.

### **North Korea resets clocks to match South Korea's time zone**

- North Korea readjusted its time zone to match South Korea's on May 5 and described the change as an early step toward making the longtime rivals "become one" following a landmark summit.

### **Japan bullfighting lifts 'men-only' rule**

- "Togyu" is a bloodless match between two bulls locking horns in Japan.
- Japanese bullfighting organizers said on 05.05.2018 they had lifted a long-standing ban on women entering the sport's "sacred" ring

### **Putin becomes President for 4th time, says improving economy will be priority in new six-year term**

- Vladimir Putin took the oath of office for his fourth term as Russian President on 07.05.2018

### **Trump pulls U.S. out of Iran deal**

- The United States has pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal, President Donald Trump announced.
- President says Washington will re-impose sanctions targeting sectors crucial to Tehran's economy like energy, petrochemicals and finance.

### **World's oldest elected leader**

- Ninety-two-year-old Mahathir Mohamad sworn in as the world's oldest elected leader after a stunning election win that swept **Malaysia's** uninterrupted since its birth as an independent country in 1957.

**India Pavilion Inaugurated at Cannes Film Festival 2018**

- The inaugural session of the Indian Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival 2018 was held at Cannes, France.

**After winning war against IS, Iraq votes in first parliamentary election**

- Iraq holds its first parliamentary election since declaring victory over the Islamic State (IS) group, with the country hoping to shore up a fragile peace as it looks to rebuild.

**Singapore committed to keeping Tamil as an official language, says cabinet minister**

- Tamil is one of Singapore's four official languages used in parliament, in schools as mother's tongue subject and supported by print and broadcast media as well as in all other official events.
- It is also printed on currency notes along with English, Chinese and Malay.

**China's first home-built aircraft carrier begins sea trials**

- China's first entirely home-built aircraft carrier began sea trials on 13.05.2018 in a sign of the growing sophistication of the country's domestic arms industry.
- China has the world's largest navy in terms of numbers of ships, although it lags behind the U.S. in technology and combat capabilities.

**Australian sets fastest summit record**

- Australian climber Steve Plain scaled 8,850-metre (29,035-foot) Everest 117 days after beginning his mission in Antarctica completing his quest to climb the highest peaks on all seven continents.
- Polish climber Janusz Kochanski held the previous record for climbing the seven peaks, doing it in 126 days last year.

**Rohingya Crisis – World Bank agrees to a grant for Bangladesh**

- The World Bank has agreed to provide Bangladesh the full fund as grant money at its spring meeting held in April in the US.



- The World Bank (WB) is going to provide Bangladesh a grant to meet the basic needs of around one million Rohingyas who fled their homeland Myanmar.

### **Malaysia to introduce sales and service tax after effectively scrapping GST**

- Mahathir Mohamad-led Malaysia government said it will introduce a sales and service tax (SST) to partly offset the shortfall in revenue from effectively scrapping a goods and service tax (GST) from June.

### **Pakistan to renovate Rawalpindi Krishna temple**

- Pakistan's Punjab province government has released Pakistan Rs.20 million to renovate a Krishna temple in Rawalpindi city.

### **China lands strategic bombers in SCS for the first time**

- China has for the first time landed strategic bombers on an island in the disputed South China Sea (SCS), drawing sharp reaction from the United States.

### **Russia unveils world's first floating nuclear power station**

- Russia unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station at a ceremony in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk, where it will be loaded with nuclear fuel before heading to eastern Siberia.

### **A page from Karl Marx's manuscript sold for \$5,23,000**

- A single page from one of Karl Marx's manuscript, which is said to be a part of the first draft of his famous book Das Kapital, has been sold for a whopping \$5,23,000 at an auction.
- The manuscript is one of the 1,250 pages of notes Marx made in London from September 1850 to August 1853, based on which he wrote the first draft of Das Kapital.

### **Cyclone Mekunu**

- Cyclone Mekunu is expected to make landfall in Oman on 26.05.2018 morning. The cyclone, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), is also likely to affect the weather along India's western coast.
- The cyclone had earlier thrashed the Yemeni island of Socotra causing severe flooding and damage.

### **Ireland overturns abortion ban in landslide vote**

- Ireland voted by an overwhelming majority to overturn a constitutional ban on abortion in a historic referendum with 66% of the 2.1 million votes cast in this traditionally Catholic country.

### **NATO's first Latin American global partner**

- Colombia will next week formally become the NATO's first Latin American "global partner,"
- **President – Juan Manuel Santos**
- NATO lists Afghanistan, Australia, Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Pakistan.

### **Astronaut and moonwalker Alan Bean dies**

- Astronaut Alan Bean, who was the fourth person to walk on the moon, passed away on 27.05.2018.
- He was the lunar module pilot on Apollo 12, which made the second moon landing in 1969.

### **Storm Alberto: Florida, Alabama, Mississippi declare states of emergency**

- Florida, Alabama and Mississippi declared states of emergency on Saturday as Subtropical Storm Alberto drove north toward the U.S. Gulf Coast, threatening to bring heavy rainfall and flooding to the coastal states

### **Kabul's first library on wheels**

- **Charmaghz**, the library-on-wheels offers pupils and street kids free access to children's books, which are in short supply at public schools and libraries.
- The library bus was launched in February by Oxford University graduate Freshta Karim.

**New Zealand to cull 1,26,000 cows to end disease outbreak**

- New Zealand, the world's biggest dairy exporter, will spend more than NZ\$880 million (\$610 million) in a bid to eradicate the mycoplasma bovis cattle disease.
- Mycoplasma bovis can lead to conditions such as udder infection, pneumonia and arthritis in affected cattle, but does not pose a food safety risk or any risk to humans.
- Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern.

**U.S. Pacific Command renamed U.S. Indo-Pacific Command**

- The United States renamed its strategically important Pacific Command (PACOM) the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, in a move widely seen as a public expression of Washington's keenness to count India as a key partner in its strategic planning.

## 15. Sports

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- [Cricket](#)
- [Tennis](#)
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### FOOT BALL

#### **Indian U-16 football team wins title in Serbia, beats Tajikistan in final**

- The Indian U-16 football team was crowned champions at the Four-Nation Tournament held in Serbia after they defeated Tajikistan 4-2 in the summit clash on 13.05.2018.

#### **French player of the year prize**

- Neymar was named as France's player of the year at an awards ceremony in Paris.

#### **FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia**

- 2018 FIFA World Cup will be held in Russia from June 14 to July 15, 2018. A total of 64 matches will be played in 12 venues located in 11 cities. The final will be held at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

#### **FA Cup final**

- Soccer Football – FA Cup Final Chelsea beat Manchester United 1-0

#### **European Golden Shoe**

- Lionel Messi has won the award for the record five times.

### CRICKET

#### **Justin Langer confirmed as new Australia head cricket coach**

- Looking to move on from one of the darkest periods in its 140-year history, Cricket **Australia** has chosen **Justin Langer** as its **new head coach**, hoping the 105-test veteran will lead the national team out of the fallout from the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

### **Indian Wheelchair Cricket**

- The Indian Wheelchair Cricket team beat Bangladesh in three-matches **Wheelchair Cricket Series 2018 by 2-0** held at University of Dhaka stadium, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### **11th men's Test nation Ireland set for Test debut**

- William Porterfield will captain Ireland in its inaugural Test match against Pakistan here at Dublin, Ireland.

### **IPL final: Chennai Super Kings beat Sunrisers Hyderabad**

- Shane Watson struck an unbeaten 117 off 57 balls as Chennai Super Kings beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets in the Indian Premier League final.
- This Victory gave Super Kings a record third IPL title.

## **TENNIS**

### **Nadal breaks record in Madrid Open**

- Rafael Nadal broke John McEnroe's record of 49 straight sets won on the same surface by beating Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-4 in the third round of the Madrid Open.

### **WTA rankings**

- Roger Federer replaced Rafa Nadal at the top in the latest ATP rankings released on 14.05.2018.
- Simona Halep will remain World No 1.

### **Italian Open final Tennis**

- Seven-time champion Rafael Nadal defeated Novak Djokovic 7- 6(4), 6-3 to reach the Italian Open final, Rome.

### **Rafael Nadal won the Italian Open Final Tennis**

- Rafael Nadal beat defending champion Alexander Zverev in the Italian Open final.
- The win gave the Spaniard his 56th title on clay and he will reclaim the world number one ranking from Roger Federer.

## **HOCKEY**

### **FIH comes up with Hockey Series**

- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has launched what it calls the Hockey Series, as one of the ways to qualify for Olympics 2020 and future World Cups starting 2022.

### **Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial All India Hockey Tournament**

- The first 'Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial' All India Hockey Tournament is being conducted by Air Force Sports Control Board, New Delhi to honour the great soldier.

### **Asian Champions Trophy**

- Defending champion India breezed into the summit clash of the women's Asian Champions Trophy after edging past Malaysia 3-2, for its third consecutive win.

### **Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey**

- Defending Champions Indian Women's Hockey Team lost to hosts South Korea 0-1 in the Final match of the 5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy played here at the Sunrise Stadium.

## **SHOOTING**

### **Shahzar Rizvi ranked World No. 1 in ISSF World rankings**

- **India's 10m air pistol** shooter **Shahzar Rizvi** grabbed the **1 spot** in ISSF World rankings, riding on his silver medal-winning performance in the World Cup in Changwon, Korea.

### **Grand Prix of Liberation international shooting**

- Olympic medallist Gagan Narang made a fine comeback to the 10m air rifle event as he combined with young Pooja Ghatkar to win the mixed team silver medal in the Grand Prix of Liberation international shooting competition in Pilsen, Czech Republic.

### **International Shooting Championship**

- Gagan Narang bagged the gold in men's air rifle in the International Shooting Championship on 13.05.2018.

### **International shooting championship**

- Heena takes gold in Women 10m air pistol; P. Shri Nivetha settled for bronze.

### **Tejaswini strikes gold**

- Former World Champion Tejaswini Sawant bagged the 50m rifle prone gold in the Grand Prix.
- Anjum bagged the silver ahead of Olivia Hofmann of Austria who bagged bronze.

## **Other Sports**

### **South Asian junior athletics championships, Colombo**

- Haryana's 400m hurdler Aman and Tamil Nadu triple jumper Priyadharshini Suresh came up with personal bests as they struck gold in the South Asian junior athletics championships on 06.05.2018.
- India topped the medal table with 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals.

### **World snooker**

- Mark Williams of Wales beat Scotland's John Higgins 18-16 in a dramatic final on 07.05.2018 to win his third World snooker title at the age of 43 and become the tournament's oldest winner for 40 years.

### **Motorsport**

- Defending, four-time World champion Lewis Hamilton extended his lead in the drivers' World championship at the Spanish Grand Prix.
- It was the 64th victory of his career — only Michael Schumacher on 91 has more.

#### **City skater Riya Saboo in Asian roller skating championship**

- City skater Riya Saboo is all set to take part in the Asian roller skating championship to be held in South Korea from September 4 to 14.

#### **Lyles matches year's best in 200m**

- American Noah Lyles matched the fastest time in the world this year in winning the 200m in 19.69 seconds at the Prefontaine Classic IAAF Diamond League athletics meet.

#### **Japan end 37-year drought with Uber Cup win**

- Japan's women clinched the Uber Cup (Badminton) beating Thailand 3-0 in Bangkok to regain the title.

#### **Vikas Gowda announces retirement**

- India's "greatest" discus thrower Vikas Gowda, only Indian athlete to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2014 in Glasgow announces retirement.
- He had set the current national record of 66.28 metre in 2012.