

First in Banking & Finance

Telangana has become the first state government to take up asset monetisation through toll-operate-transfer (TOT) initiative and has appointed transaction advisors for Hyderabad Outer Ring Road.

IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc. at the 2018 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards to the Indian market in 2018.

Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd (TIHCL), a State government initiative, has got RBI clearance to register and function as a non-banking finance company (NBFC). It will be the first State promoted and co-financing NBFC.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched the country's First Agri-commodity Options Contracts in Guar Seed on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

The BSE's India International Exchange (India INX) in January, 2018 listed the IRFC's green bonds on its debt listing platform -- the global securities market. With this, the Indian Railway Finance Corporation's (IRFC) green bonds have become the first debt security to be listed on an exchange at International Financial Services Centre in Gujarat's GIFT city.

India's first app for real estate brokers - 'Wajood' – launched.

Reliance Industries (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross the Rs. 6-lakh crore mark in market capitalization.

The state-run Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) is all set to launch its proposed Kerala Blockchain Academy, which will be the first of its kind in the country.

India's most-valued lender HDFC Bank Ltd in January, 2018 crossed Rs5 trillion market capitalisation for the first time, making it only Indian bank to achieve this milestone.

Maharashtra becomes first Indian state to allow businesses to run 24x7. The changes in the Act, however, will not apply to liquor shops and bars.

Pluto Exchange in December announced the launch of India's first mobile application for transacting in virtual currencies.

US buyout giant **KKR & Co** has become the first foreign investor to fully own an asset reconstruction company (ARC) in India as it received approval from the Reserve Bank of India.

India's largest mobile-first financial services platform, Paytm in December announced that its app has crossed the 100 million milestone on Google Play Store in the second week of December 2017. This makes **Paytm the country's first payments app to cross the 100 million downloads mark.**

India's gateway to northeast India, **Assam** is all set to hold its first **Global Investors Summit on February 3 and 4, 2018.**

For the first time in the country, **Kerala** has readied a centrally-run, server-based e-ticketing mechanism for movie houses.

Rubique has announced its partnership with CIBIL in December, India's premier Credit Information Company (CIC) to provide credit scores and valuable insights on its platform, thereby increasing the transparency in the conventionally-opaque credit-seeking process for its users. **This is the first ever tie-up for CIBIL with a fintech company like Rubique.**

FundsIndia.com, India's premier investment platform for mutual funds and equities, has partnered with YES BANK to launch Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on their Android app for mutual fund payments. Powered by YES BANK, **FundsIndia becomes the first online mutual fund distributor to support UPI for client payments.**

State Bank of India (SBI) on 24 November 2017 launched **country's first integrated lifestyle and banking digital service application** named **YONO** or '**You Only Need One**'. It is the first platform to offer online purchase and view of insurance policies within the portal, without redirecting customer to respective service providers.

ICICI Bank launched India's first voice-based international remittance service on its **Money2India Application**. This would enable a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customer of ICICI Bank to send money to any bank in India via just a simple voice command to Apple's virtual voice assistant, Siri, on his/her Apple iPhone/iPad. **ICICI Bank is the first bank in the country to leverage on Apple's virtual voice assistant** to enable cross border remittances.

For the first time in India, **SBI in Mumbai** hosted **34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA)**. The theme was '**Asia's turn to transform**'. Asian Bankers Association is headquartered at Taipei, Taiwan.

First in India (Non-financial)

Kerala will be the first state to use Robots to clean sewers and manual scavenging. Bandicoot, the robot developed by the startup firm Genrobotics, will be used for cleaning sewer holes.

The first all-women station in India, Matunga on Central Railway (CR), manned by a staff of 41 women, has entered the Limca Book of Records, an official spokesperson said in January, 2018.

Bhopal became the First Railway Station in India to install sanitary napkin vending machine named “Happy Nari”.

Pratyush, India's first multi-petaflops supercomputer launched at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune. The supercomputer set up at a cost of Rs. 450 crore.

BSES, one of Delhi's two electricity distribution companies (discoms), in January, 2018 launched the **country's first solar rooftop consumer aggregation programme for residential buildings** to provide the installations at a single point for the entire apartment complex.

Haryana has achieved the distinction of becoming the first state in the country to launch High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal.

India's first National Park for differently abled people inaugurated in Hyderabad.

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore in January, 2018 announced the launch of Women Startup Programme (WSP) which will be **India's first customized online and classroom initiative for aspiring female entrepreneurs.**

The Union Health Ministry and Tata Memorial Centre on 4 January 2018 jointly **launched the country's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series.**

For the first time, Republic Day 2018 had 10 chief guests. The chief guests were leaders of ASEAN.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri in January, 2018 announced **the commencement of the country's first-ever 'Livability Index' to rank 116 cities.**

ixigo introduced India's first augmented reality feature for Train Passengers.

The state government of **Madhya Pradesh** has claimed that the state has become the first one in the country to fully achieve the target of door-to-door garbage collection in areas under urban bodies.

Kerala's Ernakulam Station Becomes The first Disabled-Friendly Railway Station.

Sri Lanka has become the first nation to be connected to India's National Knowledge Network.

Maharashtra became the first state to come out with a public cloud policy virtually mandating its departments to shift their data storage onto the cloud, creating a USD 2- billion opportunity for the industry.

India's first 'Robocop', capable of performing police duties, has been launched in Hyderabad. The Robocop will be able to recognise objects stationed at a location for long hours and inform the Police Control Room. The life-sized robot has been named after 26/11 martyr **Hemant Karkare** and all Smart Police Robots to be produced by H-Bot Robotics in future will be named after police martyrs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian PM in 20 years to visit the World Economic Forum in Davos 2018. It was in 1997 when the then Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda had attended the event.

To give the city its own identity and highlight its global image, **Bengaluru in December became the first Indian city to get its own logo.** With a tagline 'Bengaluru Be U', the unique red-black logo is in part English and Kannada.

The Indian Railways in December flagged off the country's first air-conditioned suburban local train for Mumbai commuters, 150 years after the first suburban local was hauled by a steam engine in 1867, officials said.

India's first and only design university, World University of Design opens its campus at Sonapat, Haryana.

The Cabinet in December approved a project to set up **India's National Rail and Transport University (NRTU) in Vadodara in Gujarat.**

Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to offer its residents email ids in Hindi. The move will help encourage the population who is not comfortable reading or writing in English to go digital. The facility, name@rajasthan.bharat (in Devanagari script) can be used by the residents of the state to create their email ids in Hindi, according to media reports.

Kacheguda has become India's first energy efficient 'A1 Category' railway station on Indian Railways. Kacheguda railway station comes under the South Central Railway (SCR).

Meghalaya in December became the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.

Google X is preparing to set up its Development Centre in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, to bring in highspeed internet and broadband connections to about 12 million households and 1,30,000 enterprises (government and private) in the state by March 2019. The centre will become Google X's first development center outside the United State of America.

INS Kalvari, the first of the Scorpene-class submarines, was commissioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 14 December 2017.

The first NIC-CERT, a setup of National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology was inaugurated by Law and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on 11 December 2017.

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to endorse the Centre's draft bill that makes instant triple talaq a cognisable and non-bailable offence.

The first International Exhibition and Conference on AYUSH and Wellness sector- AROGYA 2017 was inaugurated by Ayush Minister Shripad Yesso Naik in New Delhi on 4 December 2017

"Bhavantar Bharpai": Haryana became the first state in the country to provide "secured price" of vegetable crops to its farmers.

Telangana becomes first Indian state to give farmers 24-hour free electricity from December 31, 2017.

The 21st World Congress of Mental Health held in New Delhi for the first time in India.

India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit was held in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on 14 November 2017. The event was organized by NITI Aayog in partnership with the government of United States of America.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28 November 2017 inaugurated the first phase of the 72-km elevated Hyderabad Metro Rail project. PM Modi also took a ride on the train on its inaugural run from Miyapur station to Kukatpally station. The 30-km stretch between Miyapur and Nagole in the first phase is the longest for any metro in the country at the time of inauguration. Moreover, PM Modi also launched the mobile app named 'T Savari' for Metro passengers.

Google, the information technology giant, opened **its first data centre in Mumbai, India** in November, offering customers the ability to host applications and store data locally.

The Union Government announced on 3 November 2017 that an **India's first indigenously developed lightweight 'Glide' bomb was successfully tested in Chandipur in Odisha.**

The Indian Army on 4 November 2017 launched an independent and fully-integrated Joint Training Node (JTN) at Umroi cantonment in Shillong, Meghalaya. The Joint Training Node is the first of its kind in eastern command and is different from other joint training centres located in Belgaum, Varangte and Bakloh.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on 7 November 2017 conducted the successful test flight of **'NIRBHAY', India's first indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile.**

International Arogya 2017, the first ever International Ayush Conference and Exhibition in Dubai.

India's first-ever 'Air Dispensary' based in a helicopter is set to come up in the northeast. The Union Ministry of Development of Northeast (DoNER) has already contributed Rs 25 crore as part of the initial funding for the initiative.

The Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba on 14 November 2017 released **'Joint Training Doctrine Indian Armed Forces 2017'.** It is for the first time in the history of the Armed Forces that Joint Training Doctrine has been publicized.

The India-Myanmar Bilateral Army Exercise (IMBAX) began on 20 November 2017 at the Joint Warfare Centre at Umroi Cantonment, about 25 km from Shillong, capital of Meghalaya. **The week-long army warfare exercise is the first-ever one to be held in India.**

The 42nd World Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) held for the first time in India. The theme of 42nd World Congress is 'Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead'.

The India Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its first solar mission **Aditya-L1** in 2019. **It will be ISRO's and India's first dedicated mission to study the Sun.**

Andhra Pradesh is planning to develop a 160 MW solar-wind hybrid project with battery back-up facility. Significantly, **this is the first such project to be developed in the country.**

First people

Usha Ananthasubramanian became the First Woman Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Indu Malhotra, first woman lawyer to be directly promoted as Supreme Court judge.

Clare Lombardelli became the first woman Chief Economist of Bank of England.

Indian entrepreneur Chetna Sinha created history by becoming a part of 'all-women' co-chairs for the first time in 48 years. Chetna Sinha joined world women leaders and entrepreneurs, including IMF Director Christine Lagarde and former Norwegian PM Erna Solberg.

Debjani Ghosh became first Woman President of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).

Shubhangi Swaroop became first woman to be inducted as Pilot in Indian Navy.

Sikh American Gurbir Grewal on 12 December 2017 became first Sikh public prosecutor to be nominated for the post of Attorney General of New Jersey.

Firsts in Sports

Aanchal Thakur, a 21-year-old from Himachal Pradesh, created history in January, 2018 when **she became the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing.** Aanchal clinched bronze at the Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup in Turkey.

Wriddhiman Saha Breaks MS Dhoni's Record, Becomes First Indian Wicket-Keeper to Affect 10 Dismissals in a Test Match.

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu became the first Indian in last two decades to win a gold medal at the World Weightlifting Championship in Anaheim, USA.

Virat Kohli scaled yet another milestone, becoming the first captain to hit six double centuries in Test cricket.

India won the **first-ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship in a title clash against Nepal in Guwahati, Assam** on 5 December 2017.

Indian batsman Rohit Sharma created history on 13 December 2017 by becoming the first batsman in the history of cricket to score three double centuries in one-day internationals (ODI).

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in December inaugurated the **Tribal Sports Meet 2017, a first-of-its kind event in the country to promote sports among tribals in Odisha.**

Indian cricket captain **Rohit Sharma** in December equalled David Miller's record for the fastest century in the shortest format of the game. He scored a 35-ball century against Sri Lanka in the second T20 international in Indore. David Miller had scored a century in 35 balls against Bangladesh in October this year.

First in the World

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) introduced the Value Added Tax (VAT) for the very first time on 1 January 2018. **The move is a first for the Gulf region, which has long boasted of a tax-free system.**

Britain has announced the world's first public register that requires overseas companies that own or buy property in the country to provide details of their ultimate owners.

China has constructed an experimental air purifying tower called the Xian smog tower, which is touted to be the **'world's biggest air purifier'** with a height of over 100 meters, to combat smog and air pollution.

Scientists in China have created **the first monkeys cloned by the same process that produced Dolly the sheep more than 20 years ago**, a breakthrough that could boost medical research into human diseases.

Brisbane to become world's 'first' digital currency airport.

Iceland, on January 1, enforced a law ensuring that companies operating within the nordic country pay their male and female employees equally. The new rules make **Iceland the first country in the world to introduce such a legislation.**

After scaling Mt Vinson in Antarctica, **Indian Air Force (IAF) has become the first organisation in the world to accomplish the "Seven Summit"**, climbing the highest mountains of each of the seven continents.

'**PadMan**' has become **the first Indian film to be showcased at the Oxford Union.**

SpaceX becomes the first private company to launch recycled spaceship and rocket.

China's domestically developed AG600, the world's largest amphibious aircraft, performed its maiden flight in December from an airport on the shores of the South China Sea, the latest step in a military modernisation program.

Belgium has become the first country in the world to appoint a woman as its ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Dominique Mineur, who is currently posted in the United Arab Emirates, will move to the Saudi capital Riyadh.

The world's first fully electric solar train launched in Australia.

Scientists have developed the world's first artificial intelligence politician that can answer a person's queries regarding local issues such as policies around housing, education and immigration. The virtual politician, called **SAM**, was created by Nick Gerritsen, a 49-year-old entrepreneur in **New Zealand**.

Forbes list of Asia's Richest Families 2017 released: **Ambani family tops the list for the first time from India.**

China on 14 November 2017 launched world's first fully electric cargo ship in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province. This 2000-metric-ton ship is the first in the world to use lithium battery.

China on 3 November 2017 launched a massive ship, which is being referred as Asia's largest dredging vessel, at a port in eastern Jiangsu province. The vessel described as a 'magic island maker' is capable of building artificial islands.

The state government of Telangana on 2 December 2017 signed an agreement with Vindhya E-Infomedia Private Limited to set up the world's first Information and Technology (IT) campus for differently-abled persons in Hyderabad.

The Andhra Pradesh Government in association with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) is planning to establish a centre of excellence for children with learning differences as well as a "gaming for e-learning hub". **It will be the first of its kind in India and in Asia-Pacific region.**