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Monthly Current Affairs Magazine

Features:

- > Commonwealth Games
- > National Awards
- > Banking & Financial News
- > Appointments
- > India related news
- > All Current Affairs in Details

Table of Contents

News related to Finance and Banking

News related to India

Appointments - India

Appointments - World

News around the world

Sports News

Indexes, Lists & Reports

Awards & Honors

National Awards 2018

Books

Important Days in April

Obituaries

All about Commonwealth Games

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Govt extends date for linking PAN, Aadhaar with accounts for indefinite period

- Government has extended the dates for indefinite period for linking Aadhaar and Permanent Account number (PAN) with bank accounts of account holders.
- According to a notification issued by the Finance Ministry, this has been done in accordance with the Supreme Court Order.
- The new date will be announced only after the final judgement of the apex court.

KBA becomes first Indian academy to get Hyperledger membership

- The Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA) of the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) has become the first Indian institution to be granted membership by Hyperledger project hosted by Linux Foundation.
- Hyperledger is an open source collaborative effort created to advance cross-industry blockchain technologies.
- With this, the city-based KBA has become an associate member along with Cambridge Centre For Alternative Finance (University of Cambridge) in Hyperledger ecosystem, which was launched in 2016 with a technical and organizational governance structure and 30 founding corporate members.

UP govt to provide loan to set up 20,000 MSME units

- Uttar Pradesh Khadi and Village Industry minister Satyadeo Pachauri has said the state government would provide loan of Rs 378 crore to entrepreneurs for setting up 20,000 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in the state under the prime minister employment creation scheme.
- Addressing a seminar here in April the minister said a study team would soon visit China and Japan to study the MSME sector in those countries and replicate their experience here for making the units in MSME sector viable.

India is now the world's No 1 almond importer

- The health-conscious Indian seems to be gobbling almonds like never before, leading the country to topple China and Spain to emerge as the world's largest consumer of the nut in recent times.
- Almond imports into India rose 7 per cent to worth \$600 million (about Rs. 3,900 crore) last year against \$560 million (Rs. 3,640 crore) in 2016, according to Almond Board of California data.

India is world's second largest mobile phone producer: Cellular association

- India is now the second largest mobile phone producer in the world after China, as per information shared by the Indian Cellular Association with telecom minister Manoj Sinha and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- "ICA and FTTF (Fast Track Task Force), India has now emerged as the second largest producer of mobile handset by volume," ICA national president Pankaj Mohindroo said in a letter to both Union ministers on March 28.
- ICA referred to data available from market research firm IHS, China's National Bureau of Statistics and Vietnam General Statistics Office.

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches new AI powered voice bot Keya

- Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched 'Keya' an AI-powered voice bot integrated with Kotak's phone-banking helpline aimed at augmenting the traditional interactive voice response (IVR) system in both English and Hindi. The platform has been developed by the bank in partnership with Nuance a Nasdaq listed firm based out of Massachusetts, USA.

- Keya uses automatic speech recognition, natural language understanding and text-to-speech technology to help customers navigate smoothly and quickly through the IVR.

E-way Bill System rolled out in India

- As per the deadline fixed by the GST Council, the e-Way Bill system became mandatory from April 1, 2018 for all inter-state movement of goods in India.
- The e-Way Bill system is being implemented under the GST regime by GST Network (GSTN) in association with the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The system is being handled on the <https://ewaybillgst.gov.in.portal>.
- The Central helpdesk of GST has made special arrangements with 100 agents to answer queries of taxpayers and transporters related to e-way Bills.

Uttar Pradesh clocks highest MSME credit growth at Rs 570 billion

- Uttar Pradesh has clocked highest growth in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) credit with total outstanding of Rs 570 billion at the end of December 2017.
- Between December 2016 and December 2017, UP registered MSME credit growth of 21%, which is double compared to the corresponding figures in highly industrialised states of Gujarat and Maharashtra having growth rates of 10.7% and 10% respectively. UP was followed by Andhra Pradesh 18.6%, Rajasthan 18.3% and Haryana 18%.
- However, in value terms, the total MSME credit flow in Maharashtra during Dec 16-Dec 17 at Rs 1.23 trillion was more than double compared to UP at Rs 570 billion. Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh followed next in line with total MSME credit flow of Rs 820 billion, Rs 672 billion and Rs 671 billion respectively. UP ranks 5th in the domestic MSME credit flow chart, according to a Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) report.

Total subscribers under Atal Pension Yojana crosses 97 lakh

- As per the government, 97.05 lakh subscribers have enrolled under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) at the end of Financial Year 2017-18. It just missed the target of 1 crore set by the pension regulator PFRDA.
- The APY witnessed the incremental growth of 48.21 lakh subscribers which was 98% higher than previous Financial Year 2016-17 figure of 48.83 lakhs.
- PFRDA is the pension regulator in India which took multiple initiatives for the expansion of outreach and ease the operations under APY.
- PFRDA also appreciated the hard work put out by the APY Service Providers (Banks/DoP) for their contribution towards making India a Pensioned Society.
- Online facility to view Statement of Account and the ePRAN card was enabled for the easy access of account of APY subscribers.

Reserve Bank of India drops Axis Bank from list of bullion importers

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) late in April dropped Axis Bank from a list of banks it has cleared to import gold and silver in the current financial year that began April 1.
- It was unclear why Axis, one of India's leading importers of bullion, did not feature in the list that was released late in April.
- Axis Bank and the Reserve Bank of India were not immediately reachable for comment.
- Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank and Bank of Nova Scotia were among the 16 banks allowed to import bullion.
- Two other small banks Karur Vyasa and South Indian Bank, were also dropped from the RBI list.

Ola acquires ticketing app Ridlr to enable mass transit integration

- Homegrown ride-hailing major Ola has acquired end-to-end public transport ticketing app Ridlr in an all-stock deal at an undisclosed valuation as it looks at integrating its own services with mass transit infrastructure that exists in cities.

- Through the acquisition, Ola is looking at building a seamless experience for commuters who use its service in conjunction with transit services such as buses, trains, and metro. The motive is to allow a customer to book a cab from their homes and continue their journey effortlessly even if they switch to a public transport service.

IndusInd Bank to pilot WhatsApp enterprise solution

- Private lender IndusInd Bank in April announced a pilot program with WhatsApp enterprise solution in India to communicate with its customers.
- The integration with WhatsApp will allow IndusInd Bank to start appearing as a verified account when it communicates with its customers. The initial test phase will allow the bank to communicate important transaction alerts to the customers on WhatsApp.
- It also allows two-way communication with replies to customer messages and provides basic banking services like checking balance, mini statement, checking reward points as well as updation of Aadhaar through WhatsApp.

CSE & National Stock Exchange of India sign MoU to advance collaboration

- The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) focused on exploring opportunities to work together and co-operate with each other to foster a deeper and more strategic relationship.
- The MoU was signed at the CSE in April by CSE Chairman Mr. Ray Abeywardena and Mr. Vikram Limaye, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, NSE.

MobiKwik, Microsoft team up to enable digital payments services on latter's app

- Digital financial services platform, MobiKwik, in April announced its partnership with Microsoft for powering digital payment services on Microsoft's chat platform - Microsoft Kaizala.
- Through this association, Microsoft Kaizala users would be able to make person to person (P2P) as well as person to merchant (P2M) payments quickly both in one to one and group chat conversation via the MobiKwik wallet, without having to leave the Microsoft Kaizala mobile application.
- This association makes MobiKwik the first mobile wallet partner for Microsoft to enable digital payments services for the users of Kaizala.

AAI signs MoA with CIDC for skill development

- Following the past success of Skill Development initiatives in 2015-16 & 2017-18, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on for Financial Assistance for Employment Oriented Training and Skill Development Programme for SC/ST/OBC/Women, Unemployed Youth & people belonging to EWS.
- This CSR initiative of AAI, to be implemented during 2018-19, will have 2000 beneficiaries.

Government Launches Three Portals For Ease of Agri-exports

- In a digital initiative to promote ease of exports, particularly for Indian agricultural products, the Commerce Ministry in April launched three portals - for Safe Food Export Traceability, Single Laboratory for Accreditation and Approvals, and the third for Monitoring Export Alerts from importing regulators.
- While the Safe Food Export portal offers comprehensive linkages to primary producers, suppliers, establishments, laboratories and export certification, the "One Lab One Assessment" portal simplifies procedures by eliminating multiple assessments by multiple authorities for testing, which is an essential for food exports

Jio Payments Bank begins its operation

- The Reserve Bank said in April that Jio Payments Bank commenced its banking services from Tuesday. Reliance Industries Ltd was one of the 11 applicants which were issued in-principle approval for setting up a payments bank in August 2015.

- Jio Payment Bank Limited is a 70-30 joint venture between Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited and India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI).
- Telecom major Bharti Airtel was the first to begin payment bank services in November 2016.
- Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma promoted Paytm Payments Bank began operations from May 2017 last year while FINO Payments Bank Limited kicked-off in June last year.

India's first blockchain implementation goes live

- Three trade receivable discounting systems (TReDS)—digital invoice discounting platforms—approved so far by the RBI have jointly implemented a blockchain solution, which is expected to help reduce frauds in bills discounting or receivable financing.
- The platforms—RXIL, A.TReDS and M1xchange—had been set up to bring together buyers, sellers and financiers for discounting the MSME invoices and provide them with timely funding.
- This is billed as India's first live blockchain implementation in the enterprise financial segment.
- US-based MonetaGo has designed and implemented the production solution.

ICICI Bank launches social media-based remittance service for NRIs

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

IndusInd Bank launches the Girl Power Programme

- IndusInd Bank in association with the JSW Foundation launched the IndusInd Bank Girl Power Programme to support junior as well as established girl athletes. This power-packed Programme supports girl athletes from various parts of the country and in different individual sports disciplines, so as to enable them to compete on a global stage.
- The Programme has been set-up to not just to groom world-class athletes, but to also provide a holistic development for them. The IndusInd Bank Girl Power Programme will support over 60 female athletes across 6 disciplines of boxing, judo, wrestling among others.

Financial Intelligence Unit slaps Rs 9 crore fine on Bank of Baroda in 2015 forex remittance scam case

- The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has slapped Rs 9 crore penalty on Bank of Baroda for "failing" to adhere to anti-money laundering norms, and not having an effective system to report suspicious transactions linked to the Rs 6,000 crore scam in its Delhi-based branch.
- The FIU has levied the maximum penalty of Rs 1 lakh, as stipulated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), for each instance of "delayed" filing of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) by the state-owned bank in the case.

PayPal introduces online FIRC for ease of Indian sellers, freelancers

- International payments platform PayPal has digitised the Foreign Inward Remittance Certificate (FIRC) application process for the ease of Indian sellers and freelancers.
- With the new process, PayPal sellers receiving payments from across the globe can apply for an FIRC online by filling a form on the PayPal website and paying the FIRC fee via NEFT as opposed to the previous process of a Demand Draft (DD), reducing tedious paper work.

Government sets up IT Grievance Redressal Mechanism to address the grievances of taxpayers on GST Portal

- The GST Council on April 4, 2018 delegated its powers to an IT Grievance Redressal Committee to approve and recommend the steps to be taken to redress the grievance and provide relief to the taxpayer.

- The relief could be in the nature of allowing filing of any Form or Return prescribed in law or amending any Form or Return already filed.

RBI releases First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 5, 2018 released its First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19.
- After assessing the current and evolving macroeconomic situation in the economy, the six member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the Repo Rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0 percent.
- Consequently, the Reverse Repo Rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 5.75 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 percent.

Key takeaways

- The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell to 4.44 percent in February 2018 from 5.07 percent in January 2018. Considering this, the RBI lowered its April-September (H1) inflation projection to 4.7-5.1 percent from February's 5.1-5.6 percent and 4.4 percent in H2.
- The fall in the retail inflation was due to the decline in inflation in food and fuel. Food inflation declined by 120 bps in February due to a sharp decline in vegetable prices.
- The revised formula for minimum support price as announced in the Union Budget 2018-19 for kharif crops may have an impact on inflation.
- The RBI projected economic growth of 7.4 percent for the current fiscal year, beginning on April 1, 2018.
- There are clearer signs of revival in investment activity as reflected in the sustained expansion in capital goods production and rising imports. Moreover, the improving global demand might encourage investment.

FIEO, PayPal sign MoU to empower SMEs to scale operations

- Global technology and digital payments platform, PayPal, and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), an apex international trade promotion organisation, announced a partnership to promote exports while leveraging the technology and experience of each other.
- PayPal will work with FIEO to educate small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on how to leverage global opportunities, help them receive money in a safe and timely manner with PayPal products like invoicing and bring to them global best practices from across 200 markets.

Ola, Acko partner to create in-trip insurance program

- Indian ride aggregator Ola in April launched a comprehensive in-trip insurance program for its customers across India, thereby extending the benefits of the 'Chalo befikar' insurance program to its customers across all categories, namely cabs, auto, and e-rickshaw.
- In this regard, Ola partnered with Acko General Insurance Ltd to launch this program designed to benefit its customers across 110 cities. A user booking an Ola ride can opt for an in-trip insurance cover while booking the ride at a premium of Re. 1 for all intra-city travel; Rs.10 for Ola Rentals; and Rs. 15 for Ola Outstation.
- The first-of-its-kind program is being rolled out for customers in major metros and will be scaled up to all cities, covering the entire base in the coming weeks.

ICICI Bank is the first Indian bank to go live on SWIFT global payments innovation

- Global financial messaging cooperative Swift in April said ICICI Bank has become its first Indian client to go live with an improved cross-border payments service.
- The announcement of the service, which Swift claimed as being more transparent, comes weeks after the discovery of one of the largest banking frauds to be detected in Indian history, the Rs 12,900-crore Nirav Modi scam at the Punjab National Bank (PNB).
- The Swift platform was allegedly used by erring officials of PNB to initiate messages based on which payments were made to Modi's purported overseas suppliers.

Government of India and World Bank sign USD 420 million projects

- The Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and the World Bank signed here in April a USD 420 million projects to help Small and Marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra. The project will help in increasing climate resilient practices in agriculture and ensuring that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity for them.
- The aforesaid project is expected to benefit over 7 million people spread over an area of 3.0 million ha and covers 5,142 villages across 15 most climate vulnerable districts of the region. The USD 420 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.

RBI directs banks to stop services to businesses dealing in virtual currencies

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 5, 2018 directed all the entities regulated by it including banks to stop providing services to businesses dealing in virtual currencies such as bitcoin, in order to protect consumer interest and check money laundering.
- "In view of the associated risks, it has been decided that, with immediate effect, entities regulated by RBI shall not deal with or provide services to any individual or business entities dealing with or settling virtual currencies," RBI said in a notification.
- The central bank stated in its first bi-monthly monetary policy review of 2018-19 that though technological innovations including virtual currencies have the potential to improve the efficiency and inclusiveness of the financial system, they also raise concerns of consumer protection, market integrity and money laundering.

IndusInd Bank partners with Samsung to offer Samsung Pay services to credit card customers

- Private sector lender, IndusInd Bank in April announced collaboration with Samsung Electronics to enable its MasterCard and Visa Credit Card customers to use 'Samsung Pay'.
- IndusInd credit card holders can now 'tap and pay' at merchant outlets having Point of Sale (PoS) terminals using a wide range of Samsung Smartphones.
- Samsung Pay is a revolutionary payments system, which is 'Simple, Secure and accepted Almost Everywhere'.
- Samsung Pay allows customers to simply tap and 'pay on the go' using their registered IndusInd Bank Credit Cards.

Panel set up to examine tax evasion risks posed by super rich

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has set up an internal working group to examine the taxation aspects of high net worth individuals (HNWIs).
- The group has been set up to ensure that individuals who pose a substantial tax risk pay their dues. The CBDT stated in a letter that in recent times, there has been a trend of HNWIs migrating from their country of residence to other jurisdictions, which poses a huge tax risk, as they may treat themselves as non-residents for taxation purposes even though they may have strong personal and economic ties with India.
- The working group of tax officials will comprise five members including a joint secretary-rank official and four revenue officers.

Prasar Bharati inks MoU with I and B Ministry, gets Rs 365 crore

- Prasar Bharati, which runs Doordarshan and All India Radio, will have to use its own funds to pay salaries of employees recruited after October 2007, and also clear pending liabilities amounting to Rs 1,800 crore for the use of radio waves and satellites to broadcast its services, according to an MoU it signed with the I&B Ministry last week.
- The ministry released Rs 365 crore to Prasar Bharati after it signed the MoU following months of standoff between the two sides on various contentious issues.

RBI decides to set up Data Sciences Lab

- Reserve Bank of India decided to set up Data Sciences Lab to improve its forecasting, surveillance and early warning detection abilities.
- The lab will comprise experts and budding analysts, who are trained in Computer Science, Data Analytics, Statistics, Economics, Econometrics and Finance.
- The lab is likely to become operational by December 2018.

Khadi Store Locator App Launched

- Union Minister of State for MSME Giriraj Singh launched a mobile phone application for locating 4000 Khadi stores in the country.
- There are more than 8000 Khadistores in India, the rest of stores will also be available on the store locator by the end of month.

TRAI moots public Wi-Fi access grid

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) promotes the idea of an ambitious model of a public Wi-Fi grid that aims to slash Internet access cost by 90 percent.
- The concept involves Public Data Office Providers (PDOs), similar to the PCOs of yesteryears that galvanised connectivity.
- The PDOs will be companies, or even small merchants which will be interested in providing Wi-Fi hotspots to public using either free or paid model.

NCLAT approves sale of tower and fibre business of RCom

- Reliance Communications Ltd (RCom) received the approval of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to proceed with the sale of its tower and fibre business.
- Earlier, NCLAT prevented RCom from selling any asset without its permission, following a legal challenge from Swedish telecoms gear maker Ericsson.

Union Government launches UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring

- Union Minister of Railways and Coal Piyush Goyal on April 5, 2018 launched the UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring. The word 'UTTAM' here is abbreviated as 'Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal'.
- The app has been jointly developed by the Union Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL) developed.

Indian Overseas Bank launches IoT-based customer service app

- Leading public sector bank, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) as part of their 'Customer First' initiative launched Internet of Things (IoT)-based customer feedback application on a pilot basis at its Cathedral branch here.
- To increase customer satisfaction at the branch, R K Shetty, IOB general manager - customer service department, has introduced three initiatives with IoT.

SBI to invest Rs 80 bn in hydropower project of Nepal

- The State Bank of India (SBI) will be investing a total of Rs 80 billion in the Arun III hydropower project of Nepal, which has 900 megawatts (MW) electricity production capacities.
- The SJVN, which has been awarded with the construction of the mega power project of Nepal, has made an informal agreement with the SBI to acquire the investment as loan and soon will make the formal agreement.
- With the completion of the project, Nepal will get 21.9 percent of the total electricity produced in a year i.e., 197 MW electricity with 86 crore unit for free in a year.
- Along with this, the Punjab National Bank will lend the loan for the construction of the 268 km long 400 KV transmission line via the Everest Bank which is the joint venture bank of the PNB.

Tata Communications selected as principal partner by Confederation of Indian Industry

- Tata Communications, a leading digital infrastructure provider, has been selected as the principal partner by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to help organisations in India unlock the true benefits of digital technologies.
- Across industries, cloud is now the default deployment model for any new enterprise application.
- Tata Communications' IZO-offers a robust, one-stop cloud enablement platform, enabling the scale and speed businesses need in order to transform.

SEBI to auction 24 assets of Pncard Clubs at a reserve price of Rs 2,087 crore

- In order to recover over Rs 7,000 crore of investors money, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is all set to auction 24 properties of Pncard Clubs and its late chairman and MD Sudhir Moravekar, next month at a reserve price of Rs 2,087 crore.
- The market regulator, in a notice issued in April, said SBI Capital Markets will auction ten properties of Pncard Clubs and three properties of its late CMD on May 9.

Sebi to take action against 14,720 entities for 'non-genuine trades'

- SEBI will take action in a phased manner against more than 14,700 entities for non-genuine trades through illiquid stock option segment.
- According to a SEBI order on April 5, adjudication proceedings have been initiated against 567 entities involved in such trades in the first phase.

SBI launches UK retail subsidiary with 225-mn pound capital commitment

- The SBI has announced the launch of its UK subsidiary, SBI (UK) Limited, with an initial capital commitment of 225 million pounds from its parent entity.
- India's largest state-owned bank, which celebrated the new subsidiary with a special event in London yesterday, becomes the first foreign bank in the UK to ringfence its retail division from its wholesale business.
- SBI said that the ringfencing and subsidarisation of the retail franchise SBI UK, the bank's largest overseas operation, offers UK customers "stability and reassurance" amidst continuing uncertainty around the UK's decision to leave the European Union (EU).
- The UK subsidiary of the SBI has been launched with an initial capital commitment of 225 million pounds from its parent entity.

Fitch downgrades scam-hit Punjab National Bank's viability rating to BB-

- Fitch Ratings in April downgraded the Viability Rating of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) to 'bb-' from 'bb' and maintained the rating on Rating Watch Negative (RWN) following a multi-crore fraud involving diamond trader Nirav Modi.
- According to a Fitch statement, PNB's other ratings were unaffected by this downgrade but it expressed doubts whether the bank management would be able to address the fraud quickly.
- Fitch said the PNB's Viability Rating reflected its weakened capitalisation and profitability due to "larger-than-Fitch-expected deficiencies in management oversight and risk controls. This is somewhat offset by its robust funding and liquidity profile stemming from its significant domestic franchise.

Small Industries Development Bank of India plans to promote micro-enterprises in 115 aspirational districts

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has charted a plan to promote micro-enterprises in 115 aspirational districts across the country to contribute to their development.
- The bank has tied up with Common Service Centre (CSC) to meet this objective, Sidbi Chairman and Managing Director Mohammad Mustafa told PTI.

- The 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 5 this year, aims to bring about socio-developmental changes in these backward districts which have been chosen from all states of the country.

India, Bangladesh sign six MoUs including 129.5 km oil pipeline deal

- India and Bangladesh on April 9, 2018 signed an agreement to set up a 129.5 km oil pipeline aimed at pumping oil from India to Bangladesh with a capacity of 1 million metric tons per annum.
- MoU for India-Bangladesh Friendship pipeline between Siliguri & Parbatipur.
- This 129.5-km long oil pipeline will be built from the Siliguri Marketing Terminal of the Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) in India to the Parbatipur depot of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
- The MoU focuses on deepening bilateral cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

Govt. announces creation of dedicated defence, aerospace SME fund

- Department of Defence Production Secretary Ajay Kumar in April announced the creation of a dedicated defence and aerospace small and medium enterprises (SME) fund, registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), where a minority stake could be taken by investors.
- This fund would help channelise investments into the two defence corridors announced by the Government in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

L&T, BEL ink MoU for defence products

- In line with the efforts to indigenise the defence sector under the 'Make in India' initiative, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), India's multinational engineering conglomerate, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a leading public sector enterprise in defence electronics and tactical systems, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April to cater to the needs of evolving domestic and export markets for defence products and systems.
- The MoU seeks to leverage the capabilities of both the firms for meeting the growing requirements of the Indian Armed Forces.

UPS opens integrated logistics facility in Ahmedabad

- UPS in April inaugurated a larger integrated logistics facility in Ahmedabad to support businesses and SMEs (small and medium enterprises) in Gujarat looking to expand trade with the global marketplace.
- UPS is the only logistics company to provide a 48 hour delivery timeline to United States and Europe for SMEs in Gujarat thereby enhancing their speed to market.
- Located at Ahmedabad, the facility is easily accessible for walk-in retail customers.

Cyient, BlueBird Aero Systems to offer UAV systems to Indian defence industry

- Cyient, a provider of engineering design, manufacturing, geo-spatial, networks and operations management services to global industry leaders and Israel-based BlueBird Aero Systems, a leader in design, development, and production of micro, mini, and small tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) announced a joint venture to offer field-proven UAV systems to Indian defence, paramilitary, security, and police forces.
- The joint venture, named Cyient Solutions & Systems Private Limited, has 51 percent and 49 percent shareholding by Cyient and BlueBird respectively.

India signs MoU with World Expo 2020 Dubai

- India and World Expo 2020 signed participants' contract on April 10, 2018 for India's pavilion in the World Expo 2020 which will be held in Dubai.

- The contract agreement was signed by Manoj K Dwivedi, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Commerce and Najeeb Mohammed Al Ali, Executive Director of Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau.
- The contract provides for the setting up of India's pavilion at Expo 2020 on an extra large plot of about one acre in the 'Opportunity' segment.
- Focus will be given to India's advances in Space, Pharma, IT, Renewable Energy and Telecom sectors at the pavilion.

Indian Consortium, Saudi Aramco sign MoU for Maharashtra refinery

- An Indian consortium comprising IOCL, BPCL and HPCL on April 11, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producer.
- Under the agreement, Saudi Aramco has taken 50 per cent stake in a planned USD 44-billion refinery-cum-petrochemical project in Maharashtra. The move will provide the Saudi Arabian company with an assured customer for additional 30 million tonnes of its crude oil.
- The Indian consortium and Saudi Aramco will jointly develop and build an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex, Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd (RRPCL) in Maharashtra.

NITI Aayog's Northeast Forum highlights 'HIRA' for development

- The first meeting of NITI Forum for Northeast outlined five development missions for promoting sectors like horticulture, tourism and food processing.
- These development projects in the region will be based on the concept of 'HIRA' which stands for Highways, Internet ways, Railways and Airways.
- The NITI Forum for Northeast was formed in February 2018 to explore and formulate the framework for sustainable growth of the Northeast.

AIIB to invest USD 140M to improve rural connectivity in Madhya Pradesh

- Approximately 1.5 million rural residents in Madhya Pradesh will directly benefit from improved livelihoods, education and mobility with the USD 140 million loan approved by the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in a meeting held recently in Beijing.
- The project, co-financed with the World Bank, aims to improve the rural road connectivity and management for residents of about 5,640 villages who use the rural roads for daily activities.
- Livelihoods of the rural population will be improved by expanding income earning opportunities through better farm-to-market road connections.

RBI tightens reporting norms of outward remittances to improve monitoring

- The Reserve Bank in April tightened reporting norms for the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) under which an individual can transfer up to USD 2,50,000 abroad in a year.
- The LRS transactions are currently permitted by banks based on the declaration made by the remitter.
- The monitoring of adherence to the limit is confined to obtaining such a declaration without independent verification, in the absence of a reliable source of information.
- Now banks will be required to upload daily transaction-wise information undertaken by them under LRS.
- Under the LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.

RBI slaps Rs.3 crore monetary penalty on IDBI bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty worth Rs. 3 crore on IDBI Bank for not complying with the outlined norms related to reporting of bad loans.

- In an official notice, the RBI said the penalty was imposed on account of non-compliance with the directions issued on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms.
- Furthermore, the central bank stated that this action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance, and not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

IKEA inks MoU with Gujarat to open stores, invest up to Rs 3,000 cr

- Swedish home furnishings chain IKEA in April said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government to set up its stores in the state with an expected investment of up to Rs 3,000 crore in the long term.
- IKEA, which received government approval in 2013 for its Rs 10,500-crore proposal to open retail stores under 100 per cent FDI, has earlier signed MoUs with Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to open retail stores.
- The company plans to open 25 stores by 2025 in nine Indian cities.

India top recipient of Commonwealth FDI: Report

- India has emerged as the top recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) from within the Commonwealth and is the second-most lucrative source of investment within the 53-member organisation after the UK, according to a new trade review.
- The trade review released in the lead up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) next week.
- India remained the top recipient of Greenfield FDI Between the period 2005 and 2016 from the Commonwealth; more than doubling the amount it received over 10 years.
- India is also the leading country for attracting Greenfield FDI from the world.
- India surpassed China in 2015 for the first time as the biggest destination for Greenfield FDI.
- As per the report, intra-Commonwealth exports of goods and services stood at \$560 billion in 2016.

Government appoints panel to review CSR enforcement under Companies Act

- The union government has set up a 12-member panel to review the enforcement of CSR provisions under the Companies law as well as look at having a centralised scrutiny and prosecution mechanism to deal with violations.
- The latest move by the Corporate Affairs Ministry, which is implementing the Companies Act, comes little over four years after the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) norms came into force on April 1, 2014.
- A 12-member committee on CSR would review the functioning of CSR enforcement and recommend a uniform approach for its enforcement.
- The committee would inter-alia re-study the guiding principle for enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions and basis, including the structure of Centralised Scrutiny and Prosecution Mechanism (CSPM).

Yes Bank launches first GST backed over draft facility for MSMEs

- Yes Bank has announced the launch of 'Yes GST', an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- Through this an MSME can avail OD up to Rs 1 crore, based on their annual turnover, backed by GST returns. Any additional assessment of balance sheet or bank statements will not be required.
- This OD facility can be availed by an MSME against mortgage of residential or commercial property. The sanctioned amount can be utilised by the MSME either fully or in tranches.
- The bank is targeting a disbursement of Rs 1,000 crore through Yes GST for financial year 2018-19. The bank's total exposure to MSMEs as on March 31, 2018 has crossed Rs 32,500 crore.

NHAI signs agreement for its First International Project

- The National Highways Authority of India on April 12, 2018 signed an agreement for upgradation of Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lanes with earthen shoulder.
- The project will be funded by the Union Ministry of External Affairs and will be executed on EPC mode at a cost of Rs 1177 crores.
- It will provide seamless vehicular movement for enhancing trade, business, health, education and tourism between Indian, Myanmar and Thailand.
- The project will be completed in three years.

Boeing signs deal with HAL, Mahindra to make fighter jet

- Boeing India on April 12, 2018 signed MoU with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), and Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS) at the Defence Expo 2018 to manufacture Super Hornet fighter aircraft in India.
- The companies will manufacture F/A-18 Super Hornet for India's armed forces.

Cisco blueprint to tap USD 2 billion for Indian digital education market

- Global networking giant Cisco on April 12, 2018 launched the 'Blueprint for Digital Education' to skill students in technologies like Big Data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cyber Security.
- The blueprint was launched during the Cisco 'Digital Education Summit' at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad.
- The blueprint will allow colleges and universities to facilitate students to learn anywhere with Cisco Connected Classroom solutions.

President Ramnath Kovind lays foundation stone of Lusaka traffic Decongestion Project

- President Ram Nath Kovind and his Zambian counterpart Edgar Chagwa Lungu on April 12, 2018 laid the foundation stone of Lusaka traffic Decongestion Project in Zambia.
- The cost of this 93 km road is USD 289 million, of which, India will be contributing USD 250 million.
- This project is aimed at redesigning the major road network for Lusaka city with a view to reducing traffic jam, travel distance and saving fuel.

NBCC ties up with Skill Development Institute to train workers

- NBCC (India) Ltd., the Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in April signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Skill Development Institute (SDI) Bhubaneswar, for the construction of the institute.
- This will facilitate empowering the youth in Odisha with relevant skill sets and train them in various disciplines.
- NBCC has pledged to impart training to 40,000 workers (including both onsite and offsite) in the next five years.

Government raises Nabard's authorised capital by six-times to Rs 30,000 crore

- As part of the drive to double income of farmers by 2022, the government has raised the authorised capital of Nabard by six times to Rs 30,000 crore to help it increase its lending to the rural economy.
- "The Central Government hereby increases the capital of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development from five thousand crores of rupees to thirty thousand crore rupees," said a April 10 notification of the finance ministry.
- A bill in this regard was approved by Parliament earlier this year.
- The increase in authorised capital will enable Nabard to respond to commitments it has undertaken, particularly in respect of the Long Term Irrigation Fund and on-lending to cooperative banks.

National Anti-Profiteering Authority goes online

- In a bid to ensure timely grievance redressal for consumers, the National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) launched the "Anti Profiteering" online community in association with a citizen-engagement platform, LocalCircles.

- The platform, comprising over 60,000 active Indian citizens, was launched in a bid to help users report cases of profiteering at the earliest, thereby ensuring timely redressal of the same.

World Bank to fund USD 48mn community-led landscapes management in Meghalaya

- A loan agreement worth USD 48 million for the "Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)" was signed here in April between India and the World Bank.
- The objective of the project is to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected landscapes in Meghalaya.
- The project consists of three components- strengthening knowledge and capacity for natural resource management; community-led landscape planning and implementation; and project management and governance.
- Meghalaya's natural resources such as land, water sources, and forests are a source of livelihood for a majority of the population in the State. The project will help manage these depleting resources, by strengthening the communities and traditional institutions.

NABARD sanctioned project under Saur Sujala Scheme in Chhattisgarh

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned project to provide solar powered irrigation pump sets under Saur Sujala Scheme in Chhattisgarh's un-electrified villages. These villages are situated mostly in the Naxal-hit zones of Bastar district.
- This will be the first project of NABARD to provide solar pump sets for the minor irrigation project. The move would bring a big relief for the farmers in un-electrified villages enabling to take multi crops.
- The 5 HP solar-powered irrigation set could deliver about 124000 litres of water per day with 70 metres dynamic head. While the farmers would get relief of electricity charges, the project would be a catalyst in doubling of farmer's income, Mohapatra added.

Indian economy has recovered from impact of demonetisation, GST: World Bank Report

- As per the World Bank's South Asia Economic Focus Spring 2018 report, Indian economy has recovered from the impact of demonetisation and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax regime and is projected to grow by 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.5 percent in 2019.
- India's growth is expected to drive South Asia's growth rate to 6.9 percent in 2018 and 7.1 percent in 2019.
- The South Asia Region in this report includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Yet again, South Asia is the fastest growing region in the world and the rebound was led by India, whose growth rate accelerated in the second half of 2017.

PhonePe partners with MMTC-PAMP to create India's first Gold Savings marketplace

- PhonePe, India's fastest growing digital payments company in April announced a partnership with MMTC-PAMP to provide 24K Gold of 99.99% purity on the PhonePe app. With this partnership, PhonePe is now the first digital payments app to offer a sophisticated gold marketplace to its users. PhonePe customers can buy 24K Gold from the provider of their choice at transparent and competitive live prices.
- PhonePe's Gold marketplace is all about giving users more choice. From choosing the purity of Gold they prefer, to selecting a provider of their choice, PhonePe is letting users choose their Gold savings journey. Customers have the option of purchasing Gold of 99.50% purity with SafeGold and 99.99% purity with MMTC-PAMP.

India partners with New South Wales to enhance Indian startup ecosystem

- New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian in April announced a two-year USD 1.58 million partnership with India to enhance the country's startup, technology, and advanced manufacturing sectors.
- Berejiklian made the announcement in Mumbai at accelerator Zone Startups and said it will allow NSW entrepreneurs and technology businesses to access new markets, talent and knowledge.

India to set up natural gas trading hub

- The Union Government plans to set up a Gas Trading Hub / Exchange (GTHE) by October 2018, thus creating an Indian gas benchmark that will spark an increase in the consumption of the cleaner-burning fuel.
- The Indian oil regulatory board, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), has sought bids to hire a consultant to help develop a regulatory framework for operationalising the gas trading and exchange hub.
- The main objective of setting up the gas trading hub is to boost consumption of natural gas in India.

Myntra acquires Bengaluru-based Witworks to strengthen smart wearable segment

- Online fashion retailer Myntra in April said it has acquired Bengaluru-based Witworks, as the Flipkart-owned firm looks to launch smart wearable products for its in-house brands.
- It did not disclose the deal amount.
- As part of the deal, Myntra has inducted the team into its Innovation Labs.
- Witworks Consumer Technologies was founded in 2014 by Somnath Meher, Ankit DP and Chandrashekhar Iyer.

Axis Bank's Power Salute offers special banking services for Defence personnel

- The Indian Army renewed its MOU with Axis Bank, to offer 'Power Salute', a salary account, exclusively designed for the Army personnel.
- To reinforce its commitment towards providing best in class banking services to this customer segment, the bank will continue to offer customised solutions to address the requirements of the Army personnel.
- The benefits of the MoU will cover both serving Defence personnel as well Defence pensioners.
- Axis Bank has also launched an exclusive toll free helpline number 1800 4198 007 to serve the uniformed forces.

Suresh Prabhu launches digital platform for MSME Exporters

- The Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the 'FIEO GlobalLinker', a digital platform for MSME exporters to digitise their businesses and join a global community of growing businesses.
- FIEO GlobalLinker will make the business growth of SMEs simpler, more profitable and enjoyable.
- FIEO is available free of cost and it offers exporters a range of features and benefits like:
- Exporters will be able to find clients, suppliers and advisors using the search and review facilities of the platform.

India to work with China on OPEC's Asian Premium Issue

- Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on April 15, 2018 announced that India will coordinate with China and other Asian countries to raise voice against the "Asian premium" being charged by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- Indian Oil Corporation Chairman Sanjiv Singh will coordinate with Head of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) to formulate a strategy that will result in getting better price from OPEC countries.

US adds India to the currency practices and macroeconomic policies monitoring list

- The US Department of Treasury has added India in the monitoring list of its major trading partners that value close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies.
- The list was part of semi-annual report on Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States.
- India is the sixth addition to the watch list which comprises China, Japan, South Korea, Germany and Switzerland.

Signature of MoU between the GIFAS (France) and the SIDM (India)

- The Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and the Groupement des Industries Françaises Aeronautiques et Spatiales (GIFAS) signed a memorandum of understanding on the sidelines of a major industrial mission in India in the field of aerospace and defence organised by GIFAS with the support of SIDM from the April 16 to 19, 2018.
- This agreement aims to promote a sustainable framework for present and future partnerships and cooperative actions between the French aerospace industry and the Indian defence industry by reaffirming the necessity to expand trade, through stronger economic and industrial cooperation, between France and India, and towards export customers.

India, US set up joint task force on natural gas

- India and the US in April decided to set up a joint task force on natural gas with a view to promote strategic and economic interest of the two nations.
- The two sides, during the ministerial level talks, also reaffirmed their commitment to early and full implementation of their civil nuclear partnership, including the Westinghouse civil nuclear project at Kovvada, said a joint statement here.

India-Sweden Joint Action Plan and List of MoUs signed

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Sweden on April 16-17, 2018 at the invitation of Stefan Lofven, Sweden's Prime Minister.
- PM Modi visited Sweden at such a crucial time when India-Sweden economic ties have strengthened significantly. Since the year 2000, around 170 Swedish companies have invested USD 1.4 billion in India and over 70 Indian companies have established their presence in Sweden. In April, India-Sweden annual bilateral trade stands at USD 1.8 billion, approximately.
- This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Sweden after almost three decades. However, both the sides have met earlier when PM Stefan Lofven visited India in February 2016 with a strong business delegation to attend the 'Make in India' week in Mumbai. PM Lofven also participated in 'Make in India: Sweden 2017' event which was organised in Stockholm in October 2017.

MOU between India and Sweden on Joint Declaration

India and Sweden signed the Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future. The MoU was signed between the Union Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation of Sweden.

MOUs signed between India and Denmark

- MOU on Urban Development: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs of Denmark for cooperation in the field of sustainable and smart urban development.
- MOU on Animal Husbandry: India and Denmark signed a MoU for cooperation in the fields of animal husbandry and dairying. The MoU was signed between India's Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.
- MOU on Food Safety: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration signed a MoU on cooperation on Food Safety.
- MOU on Agricultural Research: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark signed a MoU for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education.

MOU signed between India and Iceland

- India and Iceland signed a MoU on the establishment of the ICCR Chair for Hindi Language. The MoU was signed between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the University of Iceland.

India-Sweden Joint Action Plan

- During the visit, India and Sweden signed a 'Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future' and adopted a Joint Action Plan to promote bilateral cooperation.
- The Indo-Swedish Joint Commission on Scientific and Economic Affairs, Foreign Office Consultations and Joint Working Groups will oversee the implementation of this Action Plan.

India, UK agrees on multiple agreements on trade, investment and finance

- Both India and the United Kingdom (UK) in April agreed to forge a dynamic new India-UK Trade Partnership, to develop new trading arrangements.
- The decision comes as the UK assumes responsibility for its independent trade policy, facilitate investment in both directions and intensify collaboration on shared or complementary strengths.

List of MoUs/Agreements

- India and UK have agreed to an overarching cyber-relationship framework that among others enables the development of a common and shared understanding of international cyber activity
- On rejuvenation of River Ganga, a MoU has been signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC), UK.
- The MoU on Skill Development, Vocational education and Training between the two governments seeks to promote greater collaboration in domains such as strengthening skill delivery in high demand sectors
- In the area of regulation of safe nuclear energy use for peaceful purposes, an arrangement has been arrived at between Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India (AERB) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation of Great Britain (ONR).
- A Statement of Intent between NITI Aayog and UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has been signed which will enable the two sides to explore potential for regular engagement on technology co-operation in areas such as electric vehicles, AI, FinTech, and advanced manufacturing, as well as utilizing AI, big data and analytics capability for evidence based policy making.
- The MoU on cooperation in the field of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Sectors seeks to strengthen collaboration in livestock health and husbandry, breeding, dairying and fisheries.
- MoU on Exchange of Information for the Purposes of Combating International Criminality and Tackling Serious Organised Crime has been signed.
- An Addendum covering research in humanities and social sciences has been added to the 2004 Newton-BhabhaMoU.
- The UK has announced setting up a Fast Track Mechanism to identify and resolve specific issues faced by Indian companies who are either in the UK or looking to establish operations in the UK.
- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with the College of Medicine will set up a Centre of Excellence in Ayurveda and traditional Indian medicine.

India-UK Tech initiatives

- UK – India Tech Alliance: NASSCOM and techUK have set up the UK – India Tech Alliance, which will facilitate collaboration on building future skills in new technologies by nurturing a solid skills base in the UK and India, with the support of both the governments. The Alliance will be composed of high-level stakeholders from the technology industry in the United Kingdom and India.
- Technology Summit II: The UK and India announced the Technology Summit II, which will be held in autumn 2018.

- **AI and Digital Healthcare:** The UK and India announced that as partners in the next generation of healthcare, they will collaborate on digital health pilots in India's Aspirational Health Districts by applying UK evidence-based healthcare AI and technology to strengthen healthcare delivery.

UK tech-initiatives in India

- **UK-India Tech Hub:** The UK announced the creation of a UK-India Tech Hub. Based in the British High Commission in New Delhi the Tech Hub will include a network of people and programmes designed to facilitate ideas, investment and prosperity for India and the UK.
- **FinTechRocketship Awards:** The UK announced the launch of the FinTechRocketship Awards, a unique, first-of-its-kind FinTech mentoring programme, led by India and the UK's top FinTech mentors.

Trade, Investment and Finance

- **Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF):** The UK and India launched the fund that will leverage City finance to invest in India's growth, announcing Eversource Capital, a joint venture between Lightsource BP and Everstone Group, as the Green Growth Equity Fund Manager. An initial investment of £240m from both governments will catalyse additional City finance for green projects in India and UK companies will be able to bid for infrastructure projects financed by the Fund. The Fund will invest in renewable energy, clean transportation, water and waste management in India as part of India's flagship National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). UK and India contributions are investments that will generate returns for each country.

Global Force for Good

- **International Solar Alliance:** The UK signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance and became the 62nd signatory member country. The UK also expressed its commitment to the continued advocacy of ISAs aims and objectives.
- **Research and Development:** The UK and India will continue their world-leading research relationship, generating new knowledge and innovations that feed the world's hungry (high yield crops), protect our environment (clean energy), save lives (advanced healthcare) and drive economic inclusion (digital services).

Bandhan Bank enters league of top-50 most valuable company

- Bandhan Bank, the private sector lender, has entered the list of the top-50 most valuable companies in terms of market capitalization (m-cap) following a sharp surge in its stock price post listing.
- Bandhan Bank, with an m-cap of Rs 640 billion, stood at 50th position in overall m-cap ranking on the BSE at 10:37 am, the exchange data shows. The bank climbed 5 positions in the m-cap pecking order since its debut on the bourses on March 27, 2018.
- Bandhan Bank has surpassed fast moving consumer goods companies Dabur India and Britannia Industries, New India Assurance Company, Tech Mahindra and Bharti Infrastructure in past 10 trading sessions. Bandhan Bank, the country's eighth-most valuable lender, is now stood behind YES Bank, which have market-cap of Rs 717 billion.

SBI is India's most trusted bank and ICICI tops in private sector: Report

- The TRA Brand Trust Report 2018, launched on April 18, 2018, stated that the State Bank of India is the most trusted bank in the country and ICICI Bank topped the chart among the private ones.
- State Bank of India topped the chart of Banking and Financial Services Institutions (BFSI) super-category, despite witnessing a drop in its overall brand trust index rankings from 13th in 2017 to 21st this year.
- The leader among the private banks is ICICI Bank with an overall 38th rank in 2018.

- Punjab National Bank, which in February witnessed a multi-crore fraud, ranked 6th among the public sector banks (PSB) and is 297th in the overall ranking.

New NPA resolution norms outcome oriented, flexible: RBI

- RBI Deputy Governor N.S. Vishwanathan on April 18, 2018 announced that the RBI norms on resolution of banks' Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) are outcome-oriented and provide banks the flexibility on deciding the contours of resolution.
- As per the RBI's revised framework on NPAs, banks are required to classify even a day's delay in paying loan instalments as a default.
- The accumulated NPAs in the Indian banking system have crossed the level of Rs 9 lakh crore.

Government launches this fiscal's first tranche of gold bond

- The government in April announced this fiscal's first tranche of sovereign gold bond (SGB) and its subscription will open on April 16.
- The sovereign gold bond 2018-19, Series-I, will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges namely the NSE and BSE, the finance ministry said in a statement in April.
- The maximum limit of subscription would be 4 kg for individual and HUF and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March) notified by the government from time to time, it said.
- The annual ceiling will include bonds subscribed under different tranches during initial issuance by the government and those purchase from the secondary market, it said.
- To promote digital payment, it said, the issue price of the gold bonds will be Rs 50 per gram less for those who subscribe online and pay through digital mode.
- Investors in these bonds have been provided with the option of holding them in physical or dematerialised form.
- As per the statement, the bonds with tenure of 8 years will be tradable on stock exchanges within a fortnight of the issuance on a date as notified by the RBI.
- The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value, it said.
- Payment for the bonds will be through cash payment (up to a maximum of Rs 20,000) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.

190 mn Indian adults don't have bank account, says World Bank report

- India has 190 million adults without a bank account despite the success of the ambitious Jan Dhan Yojana, making it the world's second largest unbanked population after that of China, the World Bank said in April.
- Besides, almost half of the bank accounts remained inactive in the past year, the multilateral financial institution said in a report, even as it lauded the Indian government's financial inclusion scheme, the Jan Dhan Yojana, for bringing in additional 310 million Indians into formal banking system by March 2018.
- It also said the country's adult population with a bank account has more than doubled to 80 per cent since 2011. The Jan Dhan Yojana was launched by the Modi government in 2014.
- According to the latest Global Findex Database released by the World Bank on the sidelines of the annual Spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, 11 per cent of the world's unbanked adults are in India.

India becomes the sixth largest economy in the world: IMF

- India has been declared the sixth largest economy in the world with a GDP of 2.6 trillion in 2017, as per the recently released report by Indian Monetary Fund (IMF). India displaced France to stand firm on this position, while the United States of America, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom are ahead in the race.
- India has made progress on structural reforms in the recent past, including through the implementation of the GST, which will help reduce internal barriers to trade, increase efficiency, and improve tax compliance. "While the medium-term growth outlook for India is strong, an important challenge is to enhance inclusiveness," the report said.

Reliance Jio tops 4G availability, Airtel scores best speed: Report

- As per the London-based OpenSignal, Reliance Jio topped the charts of 4G availability and was able to provide an LTE signal more than 95 per cent of the time to testers in every single region in India.
- Airtel emerged as the clear leader in OpenSignal's speed metrics across 4G providers in the country.
- Vodafone had the fastest mobile data connection response times and it got both 3G and 4G latency awards with the lowest ping scores.

Taipei World Trade Centre opens in Delhi

- Taipei World Trade Centre (TWTC) launched its office at New Delhi with the objective of promoting trade between India and Taiwan.
- Started in 1970 by Taiwan's foremost trade promotion organization, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), also known as Taipei World Trade Centre provides a single, modern venue that combines consulting service on trade-related issues, trading partners, suppliers, and markets for international business.

Punjab National Bank claims expected recovery of Rs 1,800 crore from 'Mission Gandhigiri'

- State-run lender Punjab National Bank is expected to recover around Rs 1,800 crore from its non-performing assets (NPAs) recovery mechanism -- "Mission Gandhigiri" -- which will soon complete one year of operation.
- A senior bank official told IANS the mission, was launched in May 2017, had consistently delivered positive results with an average recovery of Rs 150 crore from the initiative.

IOB inks information utility pact with NeSL

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), one of the leading public sector banks, in April entered into an agreement for information utility services with the National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).
- The NeSL became India's first information utility (IU) for bankruptcy cases under the 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016' in October 2017.

ICICI Bank launches digital form for opening current accounts

- Private sector lender ICICI Bank in April said it has introduced a 'digital form' which will help open current accounts in a few hours.
- Bank officials can now capture information about the customer and the business digitally and verify KYC documents in real-time, at the premise of the customer, it said in a statement.
- Claiming that this is a first of its kind service by any lender in India, its managing director and chief executive Chanda Kochhar said it will help it secure more clients as its helps in 'ease of doing business' and help increase the bank's market share.

RBI revises its KYC guidelines

- The Reserve Bank of India on April 22, 2018 revised its "Know Your Customer" or the KYC guidelines, following the government's decision to update the 'Prevention of Money Laundering' rules in June 2017.
- RBI made linking of national biometric ID Aadhaar to bank accounts mandatory. However, this will be subject to the final decision of the Supreme Court on making of Aadhaar mandatory.

- Till now, an officially valid document of address proof along with PAN card and a recent passport size photograph were the key KYC documents.

TCS becomes first Indian company to achieve USD 100 billion Market Capitalisation

- India's largest IT outsourcing company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on April 23, 2018 created history by becoming the first Indian company to reach the USD 100 billion Market Capitalisation (m-cap) mark.
- TCS' shares were being traded 4 percent above the previous closing mark at Rs 3545 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) at 10.30 am on April 23, hitting an all-time high. The market value of the company at that time stood at Rs 6,79,332.81 crore (USD 102.6 billion).

President promulgates Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance

- President Ram Nath Kovind on April 22, 2018 promulgated the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, which will allow the government to confiscate properties and assets of loan defaulters who flee the nation.
- The President approved the ordinance following its approval by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 12, but it could not be taken up for discussion due to disruptions in the house over various issues.

CCEA approves restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Scheme

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on April 21, 2018 approved the restructured centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
- The scheme will be implemented during the period from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2022 at the total cost of Rs 7255.50 crore. Of the total cost, the Central share will be Rs 4500 crore and the State share will be Rs 2755.50 crore.
- The Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme will be now extended to all the states, union territories (UTs) and in all the institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.

India's First Ecommerce Think Tank Meet To Be Convened By Suresh Prabhu

- Suresh Prabhu, the commerce and industry minister, will be holding the first ecommerce think tank meeting in April. The minister will chair the meeting which will aim at framing a national policy on ecommerce.
- The minister will be taking up many key issues for discussion during the meeting. Some of the issues that will be discussed are: physical and digital infrastructure, regulatory regime, taxation policy, data flows, server localisation, intellectual property rights protection, FDI, technology flows, responding to disruptions in industrial organisation, need for skill development and trade-related aspects.

Asian Development Bank to give Rs 1,700 crore aid to Uttarakhand

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in principle to give an aid of Rs 1,700 crore to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
- This was conveyed to Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat by the country director of ADB's India Region Mission Kenichi Yokoyama at a meeting between the two here in April.
- Thanking the ADB for the aid, Chief Minister Rawat said infrastructure development in the urban areas was one of his government's top priorities and 100 per cent of the aid given by the institution will be utilised for the purpose.

Government, World Bank sign agreement to improve rural road network in MP

- The Union Government along with the state government of Madhya Pradesh on April 24, 2018 signed a \$210 million loan agreement with the World Bank for the Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project.
- The project aims to improve the durability, resilience and safety of the gravel surfaced rural roads and enhance the capacity of the state to manage its rural roads network.

- The project aims to ensure that communities in the most remote areas across the country are connected through a road network.
- The project will cover 10,510 km stretch of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh that fall under the Chief Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (CMGSY) program.
- Among this, 10,000 km will be upgraded from existing gravel to bituminous surface roads, while 510 km of new roads will be built with the same bituminous surface standard.

Foodpanda, PhonePe partner to strengthen digital payment portfolio

- Online marketplace for food delivery Foodpanda in April announced its partnership with PhonePe to enable seamless digital payments for all its users.
- Through the partnership, consumers will be able to choose from several payment options such as PhonePe Wallet, UPI (Unified Payment Interface), Credit and Debit cards to pay for their food orders on Foodpanda.

India-Poland bilateral trade crosses \$3 bn in 2017

- The bilateral trade between India and Poland has crossed \$ 3 billion in 2017 and the European country is exploring various sectors to improve the trade balance.
- Of the total trade, India's export to Poland was \$2.3 billion while Polish export to India stood at \$800 million.
- However, both the countries had drawn up a blueprint for stepping up investments and identified a series of actions to raise trade from the 2014 level of \$2.3 billion to \$5 billion by 2018.

Xiaomi, Jio top India market

- According to a recent report, Xiaomi continued to lead the Indian smartphone market with 31.1 per cent market share while Reliance Jio topped the feature phone market with a massive 35.8 per cent share in the first quarter of 2018.
- Xiaomi was the leader with 25 per cent market share in Q4 of 2017.
- According to Counterpoint's "Market Monitor" service, Samsung with 26.2 per cent share was second, followed by Vivo at 5.8 per cent share in the smartphone segment.

India received highest remittances of USD 69 billion in 2017: World Bank

- As per World Bank's Migration and Development Brief, India received the highest remittances of USD 69 billion from its diaspora in 2017. The report was released on April 23, 2018.
- Indian remittances rose sharply by 9.9 percent in 2017. India had received remittances of USD 68.91 billion in 2015, which fell to USD 62.74 billion in 2016.
- The top remittance recipients were India with USD 69 billion, followed by China at second (USD 64 billion), the Philippines at 3rd (USD 33 billion), Mexico at 4th (USD 31 billion), Nigeria at 5th (USD 22 billion) and Egypt at 6th (USD 20 billion).
- Global remittances, which include flows to high-income countries, grew by 7 percent to USD 613 billion in 2017 from USD 573 billion in 2016.
- As per the report, the global remittances are expected to grow by 4.6 percent to USD 642 billion in 2018.

Government, World Bank sign agreement to develop India's healthcare industry

- The Union Government and World Bank signed a \$125 million agreement on April 24, 2018 for the 'Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project' to support India in developing an innovative biopharmaceutical and medical devices industry, which is globally competitive.
- The project will support Union Government's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Program (BIRAC).
- India is emerging as a global player in many areas including that of bio-generic medicines, vaccinations and medical devices.
- The proposed project aims to leverage India's potential and capability to deliver safe, effective and low-cost vaccines to tackle a host of diseases that affect billions of people around the world.

Reserve Bank of India lifts credit cap on service sector MSMEs

- In a relief to small service providers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April lifted credit caps with immediate effect for all service sector Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) borrowers qualifying under the priority sector lending norms. In February, the Central bank had made a similar relaxation for MSMEs engaged in manufacturing activities.
- To increase the credit flow, the RBI also tweaked loan disbursement targets for banks at 7.5 per cent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, as per the extant guidelines on priority sector lending.
- Until now, though MSME advances were categorised as priority sector loans, it came with certain limits like `25 lakh for micro enterprises in the manufacturing sector, while for small and medium enterprises it was `25 lakh-`5 crore and `5-`10 crore respectively. Similarly, for service sector, the cap was set at `10 lakh for micro, `10 lakh-`2 crore for small and `2 crore-`5 crore for medium enterprises.

India, Mongolia to enhance bilateral trade and investments

- India and Mongolia on April 25, 2018 agreed to explore ways to identify new areas of cooperation in all sectors of mutual interest and to enhance bilateral trade and investments.
- The announcement came during the meeting of Indian-Mongolia Joint Committee between Mongolian Foreign Minister D Tsogbaatar and Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in Ulaanbaatar.

NITI Aayog to open applications for Atal New India Challenge

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the NITI Aayog will be launching the Atal New India Challenge on April 26, 2018.
- Under the Atal New India Challenge, AIM will invite prospective innovators/MSMEs/start-ups to design market-ready products using cutting edge technologies across 17 focus areas such as Climate Smart Agriculture, Smart Mobility, Predictive Maintenance of Rolling Stock, Waste Management etc.

Cabinet approves restructured National Bamboo Mission

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in April has approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Bamboo Mission (NBM) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) during remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20). The Mission would ensure holistic development of the bamboo sector by addressing complete value chain and establishing effective linkage of producers (farmers) with industry.
- CCEA has also approved Empowerment of Executive Committee for formulation of guidelines of the NBM and to make the changes therein, including cost norms for various interventions from time-to-time as per the felt needs and specific recommendations of States, with the approval of Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Expenditure:

An outlay of Rs.1290 crore (with Rs. 950 crore as Central share) is provisioned for implementation of the Mission during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission (2018-19 and 2019-20).

Beneficiaries:

The scheme will benefit directly and indirectly the farmers as well as local artisans and associated personnels engaged in bamboo sector including associated industries. Since it is proposed to bring about one lakh ha area under plantation, it is expected that about one lakh farmers would be directly benefitted in terms of plantation.

States/ districts covered:

The Mission will focus on development of bamboo in limited States where it has social, commercial and economical advantage, particularly in the North Eastern region and States including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The Mission is expected to establish about 4000 treatment/ product development units and bring more than 100000 ha area under plantation.

PM Modi launches Van Dhan Scheme to help increase tribal income

- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi launched the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED on April 14, 2018, during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh.
- While speaking at the launch, the Prime Minister said that the Van Dhan scheme along with others like Jan Dhan and Gobar-Dhan schemes had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system. Hence, he stated that all the three schemes need to be promoted by the state governments.
- Under Van Dhan, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers would be constituted.
- The groups will then be trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products that they collect from the jungle.
- These groups would then be able to market their products, by working under the leadership of collector, not only within the states but also outside the states.
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) would be providing all the required training and technical support.

Axis Bank board clears higher borrowing limit of Rs 2 lakh crore

- Axis Bank in April said its board has approved a proposal to increase its borrowing limit up to Rs 2 lakh crore.
- The borrowings will be "apart from deposits of money accepted from public in the ordinary course of its business, temporary loans repayable on demand or within six months from the date of the loan, if any, obtained from the bank's bankers", it said in a regulatory filing.
- The board also authorised Axis Bank to borrow/ raise funds in Indian currency/foreign currency by issue of debt instruments up to an amount of Rs 35,000 crore.

HDFC Bank launches IRA 2.0, the advance version of its interactive humanoid

- HDFC Bank launched IRA 2.0, its interactive humanoid at the Koramangala Branch in here in April. The interactive humanoid in its advance version is aimed to enhance user experience for customers visiting in this branch and will interact with them, answer bank-related queries, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and also guide them inside the branch with voice-based navigation.
- HDFC Bank has developed IRA (Interactive Robotic Assistant) 2.0 in collaboration with its technology partners Invento Makerspaces and Senseforth Technologies. It became the first bank in India to introduce a humanoid IRA 1.0 for customer service at the Kamala Mills Branch in Mumbai last January. Currently, IRA 1.0 is stationed at the Palarivattom Branch in Kochi.

Vistara becomes member of IATA

- Vistara has become the third Indian carrier to be a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the trade association of more than 280 airlines.
- The move will help the airlines to provide a seamless travel experience through an extended global network of travelers to and from India.
- The two other Indian carriers that are IATA members include Air India and Jet Airways.

Hyderabad to host international Blockchain congress in August

- The State government has decided to develop the eco-system required for the usage of Blockchain technology in Hyderabad. As a prelude to this, an International Blockchain Congress will be held in Hyderabad.
- Though, the State IT department will confine to Blockchain technology, they are expecting that some persons interested in Bitcoin may also participate in the International Blockchain Congress, sources said.

Government collects Rs 7 lakh 41 thousand crore from GST during 2017-18

- Government has collected Rs 7 lakh 41 thousand crore from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) during 2017-18. The tax system was rolled from July 1, 2017.
- According to an official statement from the Finance Ministry, the total revenue collected under GST in the period between August 2017 and March 2018 has been Rs 7 lakh 19 thousand crore.
- The amount included Rs 1 lakh 19 thousand crore of CGST, Rs 1 lakh 72 thousand crore of SGST, Rs 3 lakh 66 thousand crore of IGST and over Rs 62 thousand crore of cess.

Paytm introduces 'Tap Card' offline payments solution

- One97 Communications Limited, the owner of digital payment major, Paytm, announced the launch of its offline payments solution - the Paytm Tap Card, in line with the company's vision to provide seamless payments solutions for non-internet customers.
- For Paytm Tap Card, the Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led company has collaborated with Chennai-based NFC technology company YELDI Softcom.
- This card uses Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to enable safe and convenient digital payments, completely offline at Paytm-issued, NFC PoS terminals, in under a second. To make payments, users can add money from their Paytm account by scanning the QR code on the Tap Card and by authenticating it at any of the add value machines (AVM).

Reserve Bank of India liberalises External Commercial Borrowings norms; more access to cheaper funds

- In a bid to facilitate cheaper access of overseas funds Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April further liberalised External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Policy by including more sectors in the window.
- "It has been decided to increase the ECB Liability to Equity Ratio for ECB raised from direct foreign equity holder under the automatic route to 7:1. This ratio will not be applicable if total of all ECBs raised by an entity is up to USD 5 million or equivalent," RBI said in a late night notification.
- With a view to harmonising the extant provisions of Foreign Currency and Rupee ECBs and Rupee Denominated Bonds, it has been decided to stipulate a uniform all-in-cost ceiling of 450 basis points over the benchmark rate.
- "The benchmark rate will be 6 month USD LIBOR (or applicable benchmark for respective currency) for Track I and Track II, while it will be prevailing yield of the Government of India securities of corresponding maturity for Track III (Rupee ECBs) and RDBs," it said.

RBI lifts key restriction on foreign investors in bond market

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it is withdrawing a restriction that limited foreign investors to only investing in government and corporate bonds with tenures of three years or more, a move that could bolster the domestic bond market.
- The decision by the RBI, announced late in April, came close on the heels of weak investor interest in two recent auctions that led to a spike in sovereign debt yields.

AAI inks performance MoU with Civil Aviation Ministry

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed its Annual Performance Contract (APC) for the year 2018-19 with Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- The MoU was signed on April 27 between Secretary (Civil Aviation) R.N. Choubey and Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI.

DAC approves Capital Acquisition Proposals of Rs 3687 Crore

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on April 27, 2018 approved Capital Acquisition Proposals of the services valued at over Rs 3687 crore.
- DAC approved procurement of DRDO's designed and developed NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at the cost of Rs 524 crore.

Google ranked as most trusted Internet brand in India: Report

- Online search engine Google is the most trusted Internet brand in India, followed by Facebook, a report said in April.
- "With 1.2 trillion searches per year, it (Google) has become the first port of call for all things on the Internet," the TRA Brand Trust Report 2018 said here.
- It further said: "Facebook, ranked second in the list, has been steadily climbing the trust ladder over the years (ranked seventh in 2015, fourth in 2016 and third in 2017 BTR reports)."

Govt. Launches Pilot Scheme Procurement Of Aggregate Power Of 2500 MW For Three Years

- The Government kicks off a Pilot Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW on competitive basis for 3 (three) years under medium term i.e. from generators with commissioned projects but without Power Purchase Agreement. The Ministry of Power had recently issued the model bid documents, model PAPP and PPSA on 6th April, 2018. The Guidelines for the said scheme were issued on 10th April, 2018.
- PFC Consulting Limited (A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Ltd) has been appointed as Nodal Agency and PTC India Limited as the Aggregator.
- PTC India would sign three-year (mid-term) Agreement for Procurement of Power with successful bidders and Power Supply Agreement with the Discoms.

Odisha inks MoU for milk plant with NDDB

- The Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED) in April signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for setting up a five lakh litre per day capacity modernised dairy plant.
- The dairy plant will be established on 51 acres of land at Arilo village under Baranga tehsil in Cuttack district with an investment of `244.34 crore funded by Odisha Government and NABARD. The project shall be commissioned within 33 months and executed by NDDB on a turnkey basis. Agriculture Minister Pradip Maharathy, MP Prasanna Patsani, MLA Priyadarshi Mishra, Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi and other government officials were present.

India and Nepal agree to review bilateral trade treaty by July 2018

- India and Nepal in last week of April 2018 agreed to review their bilateral trade treaty by July 2018. The decision was taken during a meeting of India-Nepal Inter-Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade in Kathmandu.
- Both countries agreed to initiate a comprehensive review of the treaty by July 2018. The treaty was last revised in 2009.

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works became the Largest Electric Loco Producer in the World

- Chittaranjan Locomotive Works became the largest electric loco producer in the world under single roof.
- Chittaranjan Locomotive Works graduated from being one of the premier loco production units of Indian railways to becoming the largest electric loco producer in the world under single roof.
- Shattering all previous records, CLW created history on 31.03.18 by rolling out 350th electric locomotive of the financial year 2017-18 against the target of 325 locos.

In a first, Mumbai Police to have 8 women officers as police station in-charge

- On the day Muslim women were carrying out a march against Triple Talaq, Mumbai Police announced on Twitter that they are first in the country to have eight women officers as police station in-charge.
- In April, as thousands of women marched on to Mumbai's Azad Maidan, women police force was more than visible. From all the women DCPs and lower rung staff present on ground zero it was a job well done. More so because there were reports that men could be part of the event wearing veil.

Surat becomes first district in history to have 100 per cent solar powered health centres

- Surat becomes the first district in the country to have 100 per cent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC). All 52 PHCs in the district are now powered by a solar system.
- With this, Surat becomes the first to set an example for the nation by developing villages that use sustainable forms of energy. This initiative will not only bring down the electricity bill by 40 per cent but also help fight global warming.
- The solarification of all PHCs in Surat locale will cut down electricity charge by 40 per cent and furthermore help battle an unnatural weather change.

ISRO loses contact with GSAT-6A, efforts are on to re-establish communication

- After the GSAT-6A satellite launch on March 29, ISRO had been a little quiet on further information about its progress. It confirmed in April that it had lost contact with the satellite and were doing their best to fix the communication channels.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation said in a statement that on March 31, the satellites second orbit raising operation was successfully carried out by the Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) Engine firing for about 53 minutes.

Jharkhand starts elephant bulletin 'Hamar Haathi, Hamar Saathi' on radio to check man-animal conflict

- The warning and the information is from a unique three-minute broadcast on an FM radio channel that the Jharkhand forest department started to check growing man-elephant conflicts in the state.
- This special elephant bulletin — called Hamar Haathi, Hamar Saathi or My Elephant, My Friend, was aired at 4.30pm in April.
- The radio jockey informed listeners about the locations where herds of elephants have been spotted and the direction in which they might be headed. The jockey advised the listeners to be vigilant.
- Jharkhand along with Chhattisgarh and Odisha is home to 10% of the country's elephant population, and account for approximately 65% of human casualties in conflicts with wild herds or stray bulls.

Delhi becomes first city to roll-out BS-VI fuel

- In order to combat the rising levels of air pollution, the Delhi-NCR region on April 1, 2018 began supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel, both petrol and diesel.

- With this, Delhi became the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI. BS-VI fuel is equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norms.
- Other cities like Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Faridabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune will also switch over to cleaner BS-VI grade fuel from January 1, 2019.
- However, BS- VI fuel will be rolled out in rest of the country by April 2020.

West Bengal introduces 'Rupashree scheme' for marriage of poor girls

- The state government of West Bengal on March 28, 2018 introduced a new scheme called 'Rupashree' in order to provide marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families with a budgetary allocation of Rs 1500 crore.
- The scheme's announcement was made earlier by the state's Finance Minister Amit Mitra during the presentation of the state budget for 2018-19.
- The scheme proposes to extend one-time financial assistance worth Rs 25,000 to the family of the girl whose annual income is up to Rs 1.5 lakh.
- The monetary assistance will be provided at the time of marriage after the girl has attained the age of 18 years.

114th Permanent Indus Commission meeting held

- The 114th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) between India and Pakistan was held in New Delhi.
- Representatives from both sides discussed Indus Water Treaty (IWT) dispute and resolution of outstanding issues.

Haryana doubles chowkidars' allowance

- The state government of Haryana has decided to double the monthly allowance for chowkidars (watchmen), from Rs 3,500 to Rs 7,000. The decision came into effect on April 1, 2018.
- Following the decision, chowkidars would get uniform allowance of Rs 2,500 instead of Rs 2,000 and Rs 1,000 instead of Rs 750 earlier for stick, battery, whistle and umbrella.
- They would also be provided with bicycles within three months.

IIT-Kharagpur develops self-sustainable bio-toilet

- Scientists at the civil engineering department of IIT-Kharagpur have developed an award-winning bio-toilet that recycles waste water for its reuse and generates electricity.
- The scientists have already built a test case, funded by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) of the Union government.
- The model, with a capacity of 1500 litre, has been installed on the institute's campus. Any five people can use it every day.

Himachal Pradesh CM Thakur launches Bike Ambulance service in Shimla

- Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur launched a free bike ambulance service in Shimla town in April. He flagged-off bike ambulances, thereby making the state the first in the region to launch this service.
- The bike service would be implemented by Hyderabad-based GVK-EMRI (Emergency Management Research Institute) under a PPP (public-private partnership) mode.

Bengaluru's IISc ranked best institution in country: HRD Ministry

- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, has been ranked best institution in country by HRD Ministry's national ranking framework.
- Participation by public institutions in national institutional ranking framework to be mandatory from next year, said the Ministry.
- IIT-Madras has been adjudged best engineering college and IIM-Ahmedabad as best management institution.

Delhi to become the first state to issue licences with the mother's name

- Delhi has taken on the responsibility of changing this age-old practice. In a progressive step towards gender equality, Delhi's transport department will soon allow its citizens to provide your mother's name instead of your father's in the driving licence application as per the TOI report.
- The Delhi RTO has been increasingly updating its provisions. Last year, they developed an automated driving test to bring down corruptive practices in acquiring a permanent driving licence.

India, Azerbaijan agree for global action on terrorism

- India and Azerbaijan in April agreed for a global and concerted action to combat terrorism, stating that both sides had zero tolerance on the issue.
- At a joint press meet with her Azerbaijani counterpart, Elmar Mammadyarov, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj said, "India and Azerbaijan shared the view that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is a global scourge that requires global action in the spirit of zero tolerance, including by rooting out terrorist safe havens, disrupting terrorist networks, and financing channels and halting cross-border movement of terrorists."

India, Russia review military technical cooperation projects

- India and Russia have reviewed ongoing military technical cooperation projects , including measures to promote joint industrial activities under the 'Make in India' programme with respect to defence production.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who is on a three-day visit to Russia to attend VII Moscow Conference on International Security from April 3-5, met Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation Denis Manturov in Moscow in April.

India, Japan and US hold trilateral meeting

- India, Japan and the United States on April 4, 2018 participated in the ninth trilateral meeting in New Delhi.
- The main focus of this 'Trilateral Infrastructure Working Group' was on connectivity, counter-terrorism and other regional and global issues.
- The meeting was held in the backdrop of the ongoing trade war between China and the USA that erupted after both sides imposed tariffs on each other's goods.

IAF to hold war game 'Gagan Shakti' to practice rapid force deployment during Doklam like crisis

- The Indian Air Force is scheduled to hold war game exercise 'Gagan Shakti' from April 8th to better train its fighters for crisis situations. According to reports, the exercise is meant to practise and strategise rapid force deployment from one valley to another in the high mountainous region along the China border.
- The drill is aimed to tackle the situation of sudden invasion or attack along the difficult terrains. The IAF troops will be trained to rapidly provide reinforcement in the areas along the Chinese border. The war games are likely to be carried out in the mountainous regions of Dharasu and Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. According to reports, the Air Force is likely to mobilise almost its entire fleet of combat and transport aircraft along with helicopters and ground-based assets.

Indo-Korean joint exercise SAHYOG-HYEOBLYEOG 2018 held

- The Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy exercise 'SAHYOG- HYEOBLYEOG 2018' was conducted on April 5, 2018 off the Chennai coast.
- The exercise was reviewed by the Director General of Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh and Commissioner of Korean Coast Guard General Park Kyung.
- This joint exercise is a part of a proposed establishment of a MoU between the Coast Guards of India and Korea to improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

Government institutes committee to regulate online news

- The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on April 4, 2018 instituted a committee to regulate online portals including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators.
- The 10-member committee will include secretaries of the departments of Home, Legal Affairs, Electronics and Information and Technology, and Industrial Policy and Promotion, CEO of MyGov and a representative each from the Press Council of India and National Broadcasters' Association.
- The I & B Ministry in its order noted that while both print and electronic media are regulated, the online media does not come under the ambit of any regulatory mechanism.

TN Govt Launches Mobile App Bi-lingual 'Uzhavan' for Farmers

- In a bid to use technology for farmers' benefit, Tamil Nadu government has come out with a mobile application that will allow ryots to have access to nine types of services including details about their crop insurance.
- Chief Minister K Palaniswami launched the bi-lingual 'Uzhavan' (farmer) app here recently, an official release said in April.
- The app, which can be downloaded from Google Playstore, can be used by farmers to get information on farm subsidies, book farm equipment and related infrastructure and get details on their crop insurance, besides receiving weather forecast for the next four days, the release said.

Govt. bans imports of hormone oxytocin

- The Union government in April banned imports of the hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in the livestock industry, where activists say it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals.
- Often called the 'love hormone', oxytocin is released naturally in human bonding activities such as sex, childbirth and breastfeeding.
- The government also asked customs officials to step up vigilance against those likely to try and smuggle oxytocin into India, the Central Board of Excise and Customs said in a notice on its website.

IHHC sets up first ICU simulation lab to train nursing staff

- IHHC, India's premier home healthcare service provider became the first home health care company to set up a dedicated ICU simulation lab at their Bengaluru facility to train nursing staff.
- This state of the art simulation lab will offer hands-on training modules and help nursing staff improve the quality of medical and healthcare services to homes.

Tripura CM launches state component of PMKVY in Agartala

- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb launched the state component of Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) in Agartala on April 7, 2018.
- Under the programme, the state aims to achieve the target to give training to more than 1 lakh 16,000 youths by 2020.
- Under it, those who wish to start, especially the small-scale industries, will be provided land, other assistance and security.

Goa government to launch app-based taxi service

- The state government of Goa has decided to launch its own app-based taxi service to few key tourist destinations of the state.
- The state-run Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) on April 9, 2018 invited taxi operators to register with the new mobile application-based transport service.
- The taxi operators who hold the license to run cabs in Goa would be eligible to register for the new transport service.

Maharashtra to start free chemotherapy units for cancer patients

- The state government of Maharashtra has announced that cancer patients would be provided with free chemotherapy treatment at district hospitals. The first phase of the plan would start in June 2018.

- The plan will start with hospitals in Nagpur, Gadchiroli, Pune, Amravati, Jalgaon, Nashik, Wardha, Satara, Bhandara and Akola districts.
- The move aims to ease the travelling and lodging problems of cancer patients who come to Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital in Parel, which is one of the country's premier cancer treatment facilities, for six-week chemotherapy course as a part of their treatment.

PM Modi launches India's first all-electric superfast train engine in Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 10, 2018 launched India's first 12,000 horsepower electric locomotive from Madhepura locomotive factory of Bihar.
- This superfast railway engine was launched during Modi's visit to Bihar to attend the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha as a part of "Chalo Champaran Campaign".
- The theme of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha is "Satyagraha se Swachhagrah".

India's first all-electric superfast train engine

- This all-electric high-speed locomotive was made with the help of French company Alstom under 'Make In India' Project at Madhepura Rail Loco factory of Bihar.
- Each double section locomotive has a transport capacity of 6000 tonnes. The heavy haulage locomotives will be used to transport coal and iron ore.
- This high-speed all-electric rail engine will reduce the congestion faced by Indian railways with a speed of 120 km/hr.
- Being all-electric, it will bring down operating costs for the Railways and will cut down greenhouse gas emissions as well.
- The engine will also have the ability to endure the tough Indian climate with the installation of IGBT based propulsion technology.

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board creates land bank to boost tourism

- The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB) has reportedly created a land bank with the aim of giving a major boost to tourism in the state.
- The recently created MPTB has procured above 849.077 hectares of land at 144 places in 49 districts of the state. Besides this, at 71 points, an additional 432 hectares of land has been identified for procurement and transfer to the state's Department of Tourism.
- A further 60 hectares of land has been allotted to 16 private investors and this has generated a premium of Rs 23.50 crore.
- Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge) Surendra Patwa has said that Madhya Pradesh has been segregated into five tourism regions and potential of private investment has been identified.

FSSAI launches initiative to address Vitamin D deficiency

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on April 9, 2018 launched 'Project Dhoop', which is an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
- The project was launched at National Bal Bhavan in New Delhi and saw participation of around 600 students from NCERT, NDMC and North MCD Schools.
- Schools across the country have been sent two advisories, which asks them to hold daily assembly between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Haryana Government launches Water ATM policy for urban areas

- The state government of Haryana has launched water ATM policy to provide clean drinking water at public places to the people of the state.

- The information was shared by the state's Urban Local Bodies Minister Kavita Jain on April 9, 2018. The Minister said that with the development, the residents of the cities in Haryana can now look forward to having a water ATM every 400 metres.

8th Theatre Olympics concludes in Mumbai

- The historic event of 8th Theatre Olympics concluded on April 9, 2018 in Mumbai after a glorious run of 51 days across 17 cities of India. Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Chief Minister, was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony.
- Over 400 artists from various parts of the country took part at the closing ceremony.
- Union Minister of State of Ministry of Culture Mahesh Sharma and eminent theatre and film personality Nana Patekar were Guests of Honour at the closing ceremony of the event.
- The 8th Theatre Olympics was inaugurated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on February 17, 2018 at Red Fort in New Delhi.
- This edition of Theatre Olympics brought together around 25000 artists under the theme 'Flag of Friendship'.

Two-day Scientific Convention on World Homeopathy Day inaugurated in Delhi

- A two-day scientific convention was inaugurated in New Delhi on April 10, 2018, on the occasion of the World Homeopathy Day.
- The convention was organised by the Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH), a statutory body under the Department of AYUSH, and inaugurated by Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
- The World Homeopathy day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homeopathy Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann.
- The theme of the convention is "Innovate: Evolve; Progress: Exploring Science since 40 years".

PM Modi addresses National Convention of Swachhagrahis at Motihari

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 10, 2018 addressed the National Convention of Swachhagrahis at Motihari, Bihar. The meeting was organized as a part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha.
- While launching the centenary celebration of the Mahatma's Champaran Satyagraha, the Prime Minister also revived the sanitation drive 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan' and reframed it as 'From Satyagraha to Swachhagraha'. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan was launched in 2014.
- He praised the swachhta heroes who are working hard to make Satyagraha to Swachhagraha truly a public movement or a jan andolan. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand have spread the message of cleanliness to all corners of the nation.

CJI is first among equals, will decide allocation of cases: SC

- The Supreme Court ruled on April 11, 2018 that the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the 'first among equals' and has the constitutional authority to decide allocation of cases and setting up of benches to hear them.
- A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud ruled this while dismissing a PIL seeking framing of guidelines for rational and transparent allocation of cases and constitution of benches to hear them.

DefExpo-2018 begins in Tamil Nadu

- The 10th edition of a DefExpo India- 2018, a biennial exhibition of weapons and military hardware, began at Tiruvadanthal, Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu on April 11, 2018.
- The tag line of DefExpo this year is "India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub" to showcase India's capability in export of defence systems and components.

- More than 670 exhibitors including over 150 international exhibitors will take part in the DefExpo.

India hosts 16th International Energy Forum

- The 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) ministerial meeting began in New Delhi, India on April 10, 2018. It would conclude on April 12.
- The event was formally inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 11. The biennial IEF ministerial meeting is expected to witness the largest gathering of energy ministers, industry leaders and heads of key international organizations, who will debate the future of global energy.
- The theme of the forum is "The Future of Global Energy Security: Transition, Technology, Trade and Investment".

Diu becomes India's first solar-powered island

- Diu has become one of the first states in India to run entirely on solar energy. The island is the tenth least populated district of India with 50 acre of barren land which can be easily used to convert natural resources into energy.
- Earlier, the district was paying Rs 80 lakh a month to get power from Gujarat. Moreover, there was major electricity loss, since it had to be transported through 25-30 km of transmission lines, supply voltage was affected.
- The district was able to fetch around 59-60 KV power supply; however, now, with solar panels, it is generating 66 KV.

India, Morocco sign MoU to promote cooperation in mineral exploration

- India and Morocco on April 11, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation in the field of mining and geology for a period of 5 years.
- The agreement was signed in New Delhi after bilateral discussions between Union Mines Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development of Kingdom of Morocco.
- The main focus of the MoU would be on the development of geological infrastructure for Geoscience Maps and geochemical maps and strengthening geological research.

India, Timor Leste sign MoU to expand cooperation in healthcare

- India and Timor Leste on April 11, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of public health to extend affordable healthcare to the people of the Southeast Asian nation.
- The MoU was signed during Minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar's a four-day visit to Timor Leste.
- Under the MoU, India has offered to share its expertise in matching information technology with healthcare through tele-medicine.

HRD Ministry constitutes Committee to reduce the fear of maths amongst students

- The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development on April 11, 2018 constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama to eliminate the fear of maths among the students.
- The committee will also suggest the ways to make the maths subject easy and will submit its report in July 2018.
- The formation of the committee came after the National Assessment Survey of state-run schools revealed the "fear complex" about the mathematics.

ISRO successfully puts navigation satellite IRNSS-1I into orbit

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on April 12, 2018 launched the navigation satellite IRNSS-1I.
- The satellite was put into orbit on the PSLV-C41 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in coastal Andhra Pradesh.
- Eighth in the series, IRNSS-1I completes the first phase of the Indian regional navigation constellation.
- This 1425 kg satellite is built for a ten-year job in space. IRNSS-1I will be ready for work in about a month after routine orbit manoeuvres and tests.

Dandi March theme for India's first bullet train terminal

- Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March will be the theme of Sabarmati Station in Ahmedabad which will be the terminating station of the proposed high-speed rail corridor between Mumbai-Ahmedabad, a senior official said in April.
- Passengers boarding the bullet train from Sabarmati Station will have to pay Rs 3,000 to reach Mumbai, he told reporters.
- It would be the first bullet train station whose design has been finalised by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd.

Union Home Ministry launches e-FRRO scheme

- Rajnath Singh, the Union Home Minister, on April 13, 2018 launched the e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office (e-FRRO) Scheme, a web-based application.
- The e-FRRO scheme aims to provide fast and efficient services to foreigners visiting India so that they have a pleasant stay.
- e-FRRO scheme is aimed at building a centralized, transparent online platform for the foreigners to avail visa related services.
- It seeks to provide faceless, cashless and paperless services to the foreigners with user friendly experience.
- Through this new application, foreigners will be able to get avail 27 Visa and Immigration related services in India from the comfort of their place of stay.

Haryana Cabinet approves new rehabilitation policy for slum dwellers

- The state cabinet of Haryana on April 12, 2018 approved the Slum-In-Situ Rehabilitation Policy to provide housing facility to the slum dwellers in the state without making them relocate to other areas. The cabinet was chaired by the state's Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- Under the new policy, a total of Rs 1.67 lakh per dwelling unit will be provided to the developer for the construction of the houses.
- The expenditure for building the housing facility for the slum dwellers will be borne by the Centre and the state government.

Union Government to constitute Task Force for fast-tracking Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Technology

- The Union Government on April 12, 2018 announced to constitute a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Jayant Sinha, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.
- The Task Force will build up a strategy to accelerate the development of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Technology with implementable recommendations for Central Government, State Governments, industries and research institutions.
- The Headquarters of the Task Force will be at Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, New Delhi.

PM Modi launches India's first wellness centre under Ayushman Bharat Yojana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April inaugurated the first Health and Wellness Centre in Chhattisgarh's restive Bijapur district to mark the launch of first phase of national Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, the government aims to set up 150000 wellness centres by 2022 that will leverage on comprehensive primary health care for preventive, promotive and curative care. The centre has

been set up in Naxal-infested Jangla village, which is one among the 115 aspiration villages identified by NITI Aayog that lacks specific development parameters.

- In the second phase of the scheme, a health insurance cover of Rs 500,000 would be provided to 500 million people across the country. Modi said the insurance cover would provide strength to the poor and deprived classes in the society.

India to host second edition of IMC in October 2018

- The second edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) is scheduled to be held from October 25-27, 2018 in New Delhi. The decision was taken after the successful debut of the first edition in 2017.
- The information was shared by Union Communications Minister Manoj Sinha on April 13, 2018 during the curtain raiser ceremony of IMC. He said that the 2018 edition of the Congress would be hosted by the Union Department of Telecommunications and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

Ola goes electric, aims to put 10,000 EVs on road by 2019

- Taxi aggregator Ola in April announced its "Mission: Electric", with a commitment to place 10,000 e-rickshaws and electric auto-rickshaws in its service in the next 12 months.
- The company will develop "Mission: Electric" as a platform to bring one million electric vehicles (EVs) on the road by 2021.
- From cycle rickshaws to shuttles and last-mile transport, three-wheelers continue to be a dominant form of daily transit for many people across the nation.
- Building on the pioneering electric vehicle pilot by the company in Nagpur, Ola believes electrification can improve outcomes for drivers, customers, and its business model.
- Ola launched its first electric vehicle project in Nagpur on May 26, 2017.

Biannual Army Commanders' Conference begins in New Delhi

- The biannual Army Commanders' Conference will begin in New Delhi on April 16, 2018.
- The opening address was given by Minister of State for Defence Subhash Ramrao Bhamre.
- Chaired by Army Chief General Bipin Rawat, the senior commanders will deliberate on specific issues to Army formations and Army as a whole at the conference.

ASCI becomes member of Ayush committee

- The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) was on April 16, 2018 inducted to the Ayush Ministry's empowered committee with an objective to control misleading advertisements and exaggerated claims of its drugs.
- The seven-member committee of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) will be empowered to review and monitor the implementation of the provisions of The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954.

Integral Coach Factory manufactures India's first paintless Antyodaya coaches

- Taking a giant leap in coach production, the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has manufactured the first rake of paintless (exterior) Antyodaya coaches. The rake comprising 24 coaches, which was handed over to the Southern Railway recently, is operated as a special train between Tambaram and Tirunelveli.
- The new type of paintless LHB stainless steel general class coaches will be operated as part of an unreserved train for superfast service on dense routes at the 120-km/h speed.

235 districts to be covered under Phase-II of POSHAN Abhiyaan

- The first meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan, which met here in April, confirmed inclusion of 235 additional districts in Phase II of the ambitious programme in financial year 2018-19.

- At Wednesday's meeting, chaired by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, the 235 additional districts were selected on the basis of the level of stunting, ensuring that all 105 Left Wing Extremists and 117 Aspirational districts were included and wherever a gap of one district had been left to achieve saturation in states/UTs.

Delhi CM approves India's first power consumer compensation policy

- In the first of its kind pro-power consumer policy in the country, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in April approved the power department's policy for compensating consumers for unscheduled power cuts by the private power distribution companies in Delhi.
- The Delhi government has sent this policy for final approval to the Delhi Lieutenant Governor, which is set to make the Discoms accountable to the consumers.
- According to the new policy, in the case of an unscheduled power cut, the Discoms will have to restore the electricity within one hour, and failure to do so shall result in a penalty of Rs 50 per hour per consumer for the first two hours followed by Rs 100 per hour per consumer after two hours.

Union Environment Ministry releases the draft of National Clean Air Programme

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on April 17, 2018 released the draft of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The ministry has put up the draft on its website and invited comments from various stakeholders by May 17, 2018.
- The NCAP is a national action plan that proposes multiple strategies to reduce air pollution.
- NCAP aims to enhance and develop an effective and a proficient network to monitor the ambient air quality across the country for a comprehensive and reliable database.

UK extends 24-hour visa service to Pune, Bengaluru

- UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) services in April announced an extension of Super Priority Visa service (SPV) to Pune and Bengaluru.
- The decision will help Indians get a visa decision in 24 hours or less.
- It will act as an optional service for citizens in India who need to travel to UK on urgent basis.
- Other than Pune and Bengaluru this specialized service would also be available in Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai.

Assam government's cashless health scheme launched

- Assam government's new cashless health scheme, 'Atal Amrit Abhiyan' was launched by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on April 19, 2018.
- The scheme has been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- It offers free medical care of up to Rs 2 lakh to every individual belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

UIDAI introduces new QR code for offline verification

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced a new and updated 'QR code' that will have non-sensitive details such as the name, address, photo and date of birth.
- The code can be used for offline user verification without the 12-digit Aadhaar ID number. The main aim behind the development is to provide an extra layer of privacy to Aadhaar.

India forms committee to reform higher defence planning

- The Union Government on April 18, 2018 formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to reform the process of higher defence planning.
- The committee is expected to drive the country's military and national security strategy, draft capability development plans and guide and accelerate defence equipment acquisitions.
- The permanent body would be chaired by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

- It will comprise the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), three service chiefs and the Defence, Expenditure and Foreign Secretaries.

Uber ties up with Hyderabad Metro Rail to provide last mile connectivity

- Cab aggregator Uber in April said it has entered into a partnership with Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited for setting up kiosks at 24 stations across the city.
- HMRL managing director, NVS Reddy said Metro Rail always kept the interest of its commuters at the centre of the functioning.

Study in India Programme launched

- Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for Human Resource Development Satya Pal Singh jointly launched the Study in India programme of HRD Ministry by launching the 'Study in India' portal.
- Study in India Portal will be a single window to cover all aspects relating to studying in India for foreign students.

New app developed to help track diabetes in Rural India

- Researchers have developed an innovative smartphone app 'Smart Health' to enable 'ASHA' community health workers track the growing burden of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes in the rural areas.
- The health workers will be trained to identify people suffering from diabetes or are at high risk of the disease in the rural communities.

Union Government to provide smartphones for promoting 'Poshan Abhiyaan'

- The Union Government on April 18, 2018 announced to provide smartphones, instead of tablets, to Anganwadi workers to promote Poshan Abhiyaan nutrition scheme.
- The decision was taken during the first meeting of National Council on India's nutrition challenges under 'Poshan Abhiyaan' which was chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
- The Council has been set up under 'Poshan Abhiyaan' and serves as the apex body to formulate overall policies, guide and monitor all nutrition based schemes.

Gujarat launches magazine on hemophilia to spread awareness

- On the occasion of World Haemophilia Day on April 17, 2018, Gujarat launched 'Haemophilia Jagruti, a magazine to spread awareness about haemophilia, a hereditary and genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to control blood clotting.
- The magazine aims to share knowledge and the research being done on Hemophilia that affects over 6000 people in the state.

Govt asks states to allow private licence for taxis

- The Union Government has asked states to allow drivers to use private licence for driving taxis and light vehicles for commercial purposes.
- However, commercial driving licences would be required for trucks, buses, heavy commercial vehicles and other medium.

SC terms public statements on impeachment of judges unfortunate

- The Supreme Court on April 20, 2018 termed public statements, including those made by lawmakers, on impeachment of judges, as very unfortunate.
- A bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan said after the counsel appearing for the petitioner raised the issue of politicians making public statements on impeachment of judges.

President promulgates ordinance on death penalty for convicts in child rape cases

- President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated the criminal law amendment ordinance, paving the way for the stringent punishment. The Union Cabinet's approval to the Ordinance followed public outcry over cases of sexual assault and murder of minors in Kathua and Surat.
- The ordinance stipulates stringent punishment for perpetrators of rape, particularly of girls aged below 16 years and 12 years. Death sentence has been provided for rapists of girls under 12 years. The minimum punishment in case of rape of women has been increased from rigorous imprisonment of seven years to 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment.

Nagaland govt launches mobile app for farmers

- Nagaland government in April launched an interactive mobile app through which farmers can seek solutions to their problems and know about diseases of plants.
- Agriculture Minister G. Kaito Aye launched the 'NagaFarmDoctor', an app for android phones.
- The state Department of Agriculture, has developed the app with two features - an interactive part where farmers can submit their queries, and the other part where they can view information about diseases of plants, an official of the department said.

Narendra Modi launches Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan in Madhya Pradesh on Panchayati Raj Day

- On National Panchayati Raj Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Madhya Pradesh to launch Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at Ramnagar and unveiled the road map for development of tribal areas.
- Assuring that the Centre will always help in development of villages, Modi said Indian culture "teaches us to live for the nation".
- The newly-launched scheme is aimed at making rural local bodies self-sustainable, financially stable and more efficient. He said the Centre is committed to fulfilling the wishes of the villagers as people residing there had shown trust in us.

Madras High Court becomes first South India HC to introduce e-court fee payment facility

- The Madras High Court in April became the first court in south India and eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility. Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee jointly launched the facility at the principal seat of the High Court here as well as its Madurai Bench.
- The facility is an advocate/litigant-centric initiative of the Tamilnadu government through its central record keeping agency – Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd.

AFSPA revoked in Meghalaya, some areas of Arunachal Pradesh

- With insurgency-related incidents in the northeast region down by 85% from the levels recorded at the peak of militancy two decades ago, the central government has withdrawn the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) totally from Meghalaya.
- Considered draconian by many, it has also been removed from eight out of 16 police stations in Arunachal Pradesh, with effect from March 31, 2018.
- AFSPA, which gives special powers and immunity to the armed forces deployed in areas declared "disturbed" under the Act, had been in force in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh for almost 27 years.

SAIL, AAI sign MoU to utilise airstrips under Udan scheme

- State-owned Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) in April entered into an MoU to utilise SAILs Rourkela, Bokaro and Burnpur airstrips under the Udan air regional connectivity scheme.
- Under the MoU, AAI as an implementation agency under RCS-UDAN would be executing the required works before commencement of RCS flights at all these three airports.

India plans to gift obsolete weaponry to friendly countries

- In order to boost defence cooperation, the Union Government has asked the armed forces to compile a list of obsolete military equipment that can be refurbished at minimal cost with an aim to gift them to friendly countries.
- With such initiative, the government plans to create a base to expand export of newer defence platforms which have been made in India.

Union Government to tie up with US and Finland to develop new pollution-forecast system

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

Coastal security exercise Sagar Kavach held in Kerala

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

India's first industrial solar microgrid commissioned in Gujarat

- Swedish-Swiss multinational giant ABB in April announced it has commissioned India's first industrial solar microgrid at its Vadodara manufacturing facility in Gujarat.
- Microgrids with integrated battery energy storage allow cutting down of planned and unplanned power outages. When often connected to renewable energy are sources and provide more control to companies on how and when to deploy the stored power. A key benefit is the reduction in overall operational costs and reduced electricity bills.

Bihar government launches scheme for prohibition-affected families

- Bihar government in April rolled out "Graduation Approach to Sustainable Livelihood" scheme which will provide alternative employment opportunities to families who have been affected by the implementation of total alcohol prohibition in the state.
- A decision to this effect was taken at the meeting of state Cabinet ministers chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in April evening.
- The scheme will cover families who were earlier in the business of brewing country-made or spiced liquor or selling toddy but were rendered without any means of livelihood following prohibition in April 2016. Sources said few such families are present in every village of Bihar.

AIIMS sets up India's first Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation system

- In a first in the country, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in April set up Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN), an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of patients with small tumour-like spots in lungs.
- The VBN system was installed in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders at AIIMS, Karan Madan, additional spokesperson of AIIMS, said.

Bureau of Indian Standards grants first license for Liquid Chlorine on All India Basis

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) granted the first licence to M/s Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd for Liquid Chlorine on All India basis.
- Liquid Chlorine is usually used as a gas obtained by evaporating the liquid from the metal container.

Commissioning of Third Ship of Landing Craft Utility Mk-IV

- The third ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV project was inducted into the Indian Navy on April 25, 2018 at Port Blair.
- The ship was commissioned as INLCU L53 by Vice Admiral Bimal Verma.

Indo-Malaysian Armies to conduct defence exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018

- Indian and Malaysian armies will be conducting the joint training exercise 'HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018' in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia from April 30, 2018 to May 13, 2018.
- The exercise will be a part of ongoing Indo-Malaysian defence cooperation and will be aimed at boosting cooperation and coordination between the armed forces of both the nations.
- As a part of the exercise, both the nations will be sharing the expertise of each other's contingents to conduct counter insurgency operations in the jungle terrain of Malaysia.

HRD Ministry launches second edition of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- The Union Human Resource Development Ministry on April 25, 2018 launched the second edition of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in New Delhi.
- Under the program, students from 750 higher educational institutions from across the country will adopt nearby villages and visit them to get acquainted with the regular lifestyle of village people and the problems faced by them in their day to day life.

Maharashtra signs MoU with British Council

- The Maharashtra government in April signed an MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
- The agreement was signed by Sumit Mullick, Chief Secretary, state government, and Alan Gemmell OBE, Director British Council India.
- The areas of potential collaboration include developing further initiatives to improve English teaching and enhance employability skills in schools and training institutes, building capacity in higher education and research and further co-operation on inspiring hundreds of thousands of people in the state through arts and culture, it said.

23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council held in Gandhinagar

- The 23rd meeting of the Western Zonal Council was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on April 26, 2018 under the chairmanship of the Union home minister Rajnath Singh.
- The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Gujarat, Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Administrator of the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and senior officers from Central and State Governments.

Meghalaya govt installs e-prison system in Shillong jail

- The state government of Meghalaya on April 26, 2018 installed a software at Shillong district jail to integrate information about its inmates, as a part of its initiative to modernise correctional homes in the state.
- The e-prisons software, developed by the Union government, aims to keep a tab on prisoners of all states. It is a significant step towards digitization and modernization of prisons.

PM Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping highlight importance of maintaining peace along India-China border

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 28, 2018 highlighted the importance of maintaining peace along the India-China border during the first-ever two-day informal summit between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping that began on April 27, 2018 at Hubei Provincial Museum in Wuhan, China.

- Keeping the Doklam Standoff in mind, both the leaders also decided to issue guidance to their militaries to implement various confidence-building measures to strengthen the existing institutional mechanisms, thus, preventing and managing the situations in the border areas.
- Both the leaders stressed the importance of maintaining peace and harmony in all areas of the India-China border region for the overall development of bilateral relations.

Environment Ministry, UNCCD conclude capacity building workshop

- The four-day Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), jointly hosted by the Union Ministry of Environment and UNCCD Secretariat concluded on April 27, 2018.
- The four-day Workshop trained the participants in the use of an innovative land degradation monitoring tool by Conservation International, for the reporting process of UNCCD.

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Scholarship announced for people who did exemplary work for development of journalism

- Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Smriti Zubin Irani addressed the 69th Valedictory session of Development Journalism Course at Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi.
- During the occasion, the Minister announced a scholarship for Rs 25000 in commemoration of Deen Dayal Upadhyay for people of Indian Origin who did exemplary work in development of journalism.
- On this occasion she also inaugurated National Media Faculty Development Center in IIMC Campus.

Environment Ministry declares all protected areas plastic free zones

- The Environment Ministry has banned plastics in all protected areas around the country and declared them plastic free zones.
- It has directed states and Union territories to organise awareness campaigns to sensitise people about the issue.

Uttarakhand High Court declares practice of solitary confinement as unconstitutional

- Uttarakhand High Court declared the practice of solitary confinement as unconstitutional as per the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
- The practice of solitary confinement not only amounts to additional punishment but also amounts to torture and is violative of basic human rights.

Google ties up with CBSE for results, exam-related info

- Tech giant Google said in April it has collaborated with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to allow students check their results on its platform.
- The statement said Google had worked closely with CBSE to "ensure that the data is handled securely and used solely for the purpose of showing the results on Google, and only for the duration that this feature is live".
- Besides, Google has also introduced additional features making it easier for students to see information like test dates, registration dates, important links, and other key information right within Google Search when they search for exams like GATE, SSC CGL, CAT and others.

Tejas carries out successful test firing of BVR missile

- In a major milestone, indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has successfully fired an air-to-air beyond visual (BVR) range missile, demonstrating its overall capability as an effective combat jet, and inched closer to receive final operational clearance.
- Defence Ministry officials said the test firing of the missile from a Tejas jet was carried out yesterday off the Goa coast and it met all operational requirements.
- Earlier, Tejas was given clearance for deployment of armaments and other missiles.

Dalmia Bharat Group adopts Red Fort under Adopt a Heritage Scheme

- Dalmia Bharat Group has become the first corporate house to adopt a historical monument in India.
- The private entity has adopted the Red Fort under the central government's Adopt a Heritage Scheme.
- The Adopt a Heritage Scheme was launched in September 2017 to allow public and private sector corporations to adopt most of India's top heritage sites.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas being celebrated as part of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- As part of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat Diwas was celebrated across the country on April 30, 2018.
- During the event, information regarding Ayushman Bharat Scheme is being provided to people during health camps organised in rural areas.

Delhi's Lt Governor inaugurates Centre for Sight Institute at Dwarka

- Delhi's Lt Governor Anil Baijal in April inaugurated the Centre for Sight Institute at Dwarka here which is said to be the country's largest state-of-the-art single specialty private eye hospital designed to cater to North India.
- Set up by noted ophthalmologist Mahipal Sachdeva, the six-floor hospital is spread over an area of 90,000 square feet, and has 20 consultation chambers, 17 examination centres and nine state-of-the-art and technologically advanced modular operation theatres.

In a first, India and Pakistan will jointly take part in SCO war games

- In a first, India and Pakistan will jointly take part in 'Peace Mission-2018', a multi-nation counter-terror war game, under the aegis of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia in August 2018.
- Peace Mission-2018 will also see the participation of China, Russia and other SCO countries. The exercise will be held in the Chelyabinsk region of Russia from August 22 to August 29, 2018.
- Though, troops from India and Pakistan have worked together in UN missions and operations, Indian soldiers have never actively participated in a multilateral exercise that included Pakistan in the past.

All villages in India are now electrified: PM Narendra Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 29, 2018 announced that April 28 will be remembered as a historic day in the development journey of India as on this day, every single village of India was electrified.
- The achievement came several days before the deadline set by PM Modi, which was May 10, 2018, for achieving the electrification of all un-electrified villages.
- Leisang, a village in central Manipur's Senapati district, was the last one to receive electricity on April 29, 2018 under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).
- Out of 18,452 villages that were without electricity in 2015, 17,181 have been electrified. The others are either uninhabited or classified as grazing reserves.

PHDCCI, Indian Yoga Association sign MoU to promote cultural tourism in Krishna Circuit

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

Appointments

India

Name	Appointed As	Organisation/Country
Deepika Padukone	Brand Ambassador	Tetley Green Tea
Debjani Ghosh	First Woman President	NASSCOM
Gurpratap Boparai	Managing Director	Skoda India
Arun Jaitley	Leader	Rajya Sabha
Raj Ahuja	Chief Financial Officer	Yes Bank
Herjit S Bhalla	Managing Director	Hershey India
Ajay Desai	Chief Operating Officer	Rubique
Sanjeev Nautiyal	MD & CEO	SBI Life Insurance
Mithun Sundar	Chief Revenue Officer	Myntra
Nitin Rao	Chief Executive Officer	Reliance Wealth Management
Samba Moorthy	President	Epson India
Santosh Kumar Mohanty	Whole Time Member	SEBI
Rakesh Kumar Vats	Chairman	National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
Rishad Premji	Chairman	NASSCOM
M Mahender Reddy	Director-General of Police	Telangana
Sachin Gupte	Human Resource Head	Standard Chartered Bank India
Vijay Chafekar	Flag Officer	Indian Coast Guard (West Region)
Chandra Shekhar Ghosh	MD & CEO	Bandhan Bank
Ashok Chawla	Independent Director	Jet Airways
Bhanu Pratap Sharm	Chairman	Banks' Board Bureau
Sanjiv Mehra	Chairman & MD	Hindustan Unilever Limited
Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan	Chief Executive Officer	Vedanta Resources
Mudit Shekhawat	Chief Marketing Officer	Yatra.com
Takashi Ishikawa	Managing Director	Toshiba Software India
Dilip Chenoy	Secretary General	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
Sanjay Kumar Moitra	Onshore Director	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
Kriti Sanon	Brand Ambassador	Bata India
S Jaishankar	President, Global Corporate Affairs	Tata Group
Anushka Sharma	Brand Ambassador	Retail Digital Banking – Standard Chartered Bank
Akhil Kumar Gupta	Executive Chairman	Bharti Infratel
Indu Malhotra	First Woman Judge	Supreme Court of India
Rahul Bhatia	Interim CEO	IndiGo Airlines
Aashish Kapoor	Chairman	BCCI junior selection committee
Prakash Apte	Part-time Chairman	Kotak Mahindra Bank
Rajiv Bakshi	Chief Marketing Officer (CMO)	Intex Technologies

World

Name	Appointed as	Organisation/Country
Carlos Alvarado Quesada	President	Costa Rica
Rosemary DiCarlo	First female head	UN Political Affairs
Julius Maada Bio	President	Sierra Leone

Viktor Orban	Prime Minister	Hungary
Prince Harry	Youth Ambassador	Commonwealth
Prince Charles	Head	Commonwealth
Miguel Diaz-Canel	President	Cuba
Jim Bridenstine	Administrator	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Mario Abdo Benitez	President	Paraguay
Christine Schraner Burgener	Special Envoy	Myanmar Refugee Crisis
Mike Pompeo	Secretary of State	USA
Sajid Javid	Home Secretary	Britain

World

UAE suspends 'good conduct certificate' for foreign job seekers

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on April 1, 2018 suspended the implementation of the new "good conduct certificate" for foreign job seekers.
- The "good conduct certificate" initiative by the UAE cabinet was raised on February 4, 2018 which stated that an immigrant moving to the UAE for work should present a police document from his country as a proof of non-criminal history or convictions.

Nasa test launches supersonic parachute for future Mars missions

- A supersonic parachute that will help NASA missions to land on Mars, was successfully launched into the sky during a key test designed to mimic the conditions of entering the red planet.
- The Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) was launched aboard a sounding rocket on March 31 from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in the US.
- The successful launch came after several days of delays due to rough seas at the parachute's recovery zone in the Atlantic Ocean.

India, Bangladesh launch first container service

- In an unprecedented move, India and Bangladesh have started a container train service between Kolkata and Dhaka, reports HCI Dhaka.
- The trial run of the train was flagged off at a Concor terminus near the Majerhat railway station in New Alipore in Kolkata around 9.30 am Tuesday.
- The Container Corporation of India Ltd (Concor) under the Indian railway ministry will handle the logistics of the container service, according to the report.

China increases tariffs on 128 US goods by up to 25%

- China has increased tariffs by up to 25 percent on 128 US products, ranging from frozen pork and wine to certain fruits and nuts in response to US duties on imports of Aluminium and Steel.
- The tariffs affecting some 3 billion US Dollars worth of imports has been reportedly to put into effect to safeguard China's interests and balance the losses caused by new US tariffs.

Egypt approves law to create anti-terror supreme council

- The Egyptian parliament has preliminarily approved a new law to establish a supreme council for combating terrorism.

- The final vote on the 20-article law was postponed until a later meeting due to the lack of two-thirds of parliament members as required by the Egyptian constitution.

Nasa's Hubble telescope captures image of Icarus, farthest star ever seen

- Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered the farthest individual star ever seen - an enormous blue stellar body nicknamed Icarus located over halfway across the universe.
- The star, harboured in a very distant spiral galaxy, is so far away that its light has taken nine billion years to reach Earth. It appears to us as it did when the universe was about 30 per cent of its current age.

US proposes USD 50 billion tariffs on 1300 Chinese products

- The United States on April 3, 2018 announced additional tariffs of 25 percent on 1300 products imported from China that could amount to USD 50 billion.
- Sectors subject to the proposed tariffs include industries such as aerospace, information and communication technology, robotics, and machinery.
- The list will undergo further review in a public notice and comment process, including a hearing.

Turkey launches construction of first-ever nuclear plant

- The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan along with Russian President Vladimir Putin on April 3, 2018 launched the construction of Turkey's first-ever nuclear power plant in Mersin region, a large port city on the Mediterranean coast of southern Turkey.
- The launch of the project was conducted by the two Presidents through video conferencing. The total estimated cost of the power plant would be around 20 billion dollars.

United Nations terror list has 139 Pakistan entries

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on April 4, 2018 identified 139 Pakistani terrorist individuals and entities who have lived in Pakistan or operated from there.
- The list included the names of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its chief Hafiz Saeed, Osama bin Laden's heir apparent and Al Qaeda's Ayman al-Zawahiri, Harkatul Mujahideen, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and others.

Indonesia declares emergency after port city oil spill

- Indonesia on April 3, 2018 declared a state of emergency around a port on Borneo island after a large oil spill and fire killed four people.
- Disaster mitigation officials were able to control the blaze in the port city of Balikpapan but were still working to contain the spill.

Trump signs proclamation sending National Guard to US-Mexico border

- US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation to send the National Guard to the country's border with Mexico.
- The information was shared by US Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen at the White House press briefing.
- Nielsen stated that the signing would be done in conjunction with governors and that the administration hoped the deployment would begin immediately.

China bans exports of dual-use items to North Korea

- China has banned the export to North Korea of some items with potential dual-use in weapons of mass destruction.
- The Chinese Ministry of Commerce gave details of 32 materials, technologies and forms of equipment with potential use related to weapons of mass destruction, including particle accelerators and centrifuges.

China launches remote sensing satellites

- The first group of China's Yaogan-31 remote sensing satellites was launched into space on April 10, 2018.
- The satellites were carried by a Long March-4C rocket, the 271st mission for the Long March rocket family.
- The mission also sent a micro nanotechnology experiment satellite into orbit.

1,200-year-old Buddhist carvings found in Tibet

- Around 1200 year-old Buddhist cliff carvings have been found in Tibet that may offer a glimpse into Buddhist art and local history.
- According to the regional cultural relics protection research institute, the discoveries dating back to the Tibetan Tubo Kingdom were found in Acur township of Qamdo city.
- The relics of the Buddha figure carvings were first found by construction workers who were mining for stones.

US Oregon governor signs Net Neutrality law

- The Governor of Oregon state, Kate Brown said on April 9, 2018 that she has signed the Net Neutrality bill, which bans Internet operators from offering paid prioritisation services to customers, into law.
- The new law makes it illegal for the state's public agencies to work with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) that take part in discriminatory activities such as paid prioritisation and blocking legal content online.

First International conference on Water, Environment held in Kathmandu

- The first international conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' was inaugurated in Kathmandu, Nepal on April 10, 2018.
- The conference was inaugurated by Nepal's Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun. Speaking on the occasion, Nanda Bahadur Pun stressed upon the need of water security and said that it should be given the top priority.

UAE approves law on equal wages for men, women

- The Cabinet of United Arab Emirates (UAE) has approved the issuance of law on Equal Wages and Salaries for men and women.
- The new law will ensure equal pay for men and women working in the country. It will provide women with equal opportunities as partners in the UAE's development
- The approval of the law comes in line with the government's objective to ensure the protection of women's rights and support their role in the national development process.

New Zealand bans all new offshore oil exploration

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on April 12, 2018 announced a ban on all new offshore oil exploration, as a transition towards a zero-carbon economy.
- The ban is applied with immediate effect to only new offshore oil exploration permits and will not affect existing permits and onshore drilling.
- The transition must start somewhere, said Ardern who vowed to push for more environmental measures adding that the government was taking an important step to address climate change and create a clean, green and sustainable future for New Zealand.

World Bank approves \$55mn for Bangladesh project

- The World Bank has approved \$55 million to expand the use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh where grid electricity cannot reach easily.
- The additional financing to the Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development (RERED II) Project will install 1,000 solar irrigation pumps, 30 solar mini-grids and about 4 million improved cooking stoves in rural areas.
- The project, including the additional financing, will enable about 10 million people living in villages, shoals and islands to access electricity and use energy efficient cooking stoves.

FDA approves marketing of first AI device to detect diabetic eye disease

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on April 11, 2018 permitted the marketing of the first medical device to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect greater than a mild level of the eye disease diabetic retinopathy in diabetic adults.
- Diabetic retinopathy, the most common cause of vision loss for people living with diabetes, occurs when high levels of blood sugar lead to damage in the blood vessels of the retina, the light-sensitive tissue in the back of the eye.

UN launches road safety trust fund

- A new United Nations trust fund on road safety launched Thursday, in a bid to address the growing number of road traffic injuries and deaths in developing countries.
- About 1.3 million people die from road traffic injuries each year, in addition to 50 million more who are injured. Road traffic deaths have increased by 13 percent globally since 2000, according to U.N. figures. An estimated 90 percent of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, with most of them taking place in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The road safety fund — which received a kickstarter donation of \$10 million from the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, a foundation that contributes to road safety efforts — will work to refocus national road safety budgets and unlock additional country and city investment.

World's first microfactory to help tackle e-waste hazard

- Veena Sahajwalla, an Indian-origin scientist in Australia, launched the world's first microfactory that can transform electronic waste items such as smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use.
- The e-waste microfactory can help in reducing the rapidly growing problem of vast amounts of electronic waste causing environmental harm.

US, Britain and France launch air strikes against Syria

- The United States along with Britain and France launched a combined military operation against Syria on April 14, 2018. The military operation is in response to an alleged chemical attack in Douma, a Syrian town near Damascus.
- The announcement was made by US President Donald Trump through a television address to the nation. Trump stated that he had ordered the United States armed forces to launch precision strikes on targets associated with the chemical weapons capabilities of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

NASA set to launch Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite to search exoplanets

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is set to launch its Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) to detect planets outside the solar system.
- The satellite will be launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida on April 16, 2018. TESS will settle into a 13.7-day orbit around Earth with the help of a gravitational assist from the Moon.
- Once put in orbit, Tess will spend around two years, surveying some 200000 of the brightest stars near the Sun in search of planets.

China launches website to report foreign spies

- China has stepped up its campaign against foreign espionage with a website in Mandarin and English encouraging people to report national security threats such as bids to overthrow the socialist system.
- The website, 12339.gov.cn, launched by the Ministry of National Security on April 15, also urges anyone to report attempts by Chinese nationals or foreigners to bribe state or military officials, instigate armed riots or incite ethnic separatism.

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

- A team of Chinese scientists led by Zhu Jia have developed a new 3D conic device that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency.
- The study was published in April 2018 in the National Science Review, a English journal affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- Named as 'Artificial Transpiration', the device is inspired by the transpiration process of trees.

FAO designates 14 new sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

- The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has designated 14 sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). These sites will be officially unveiled by the FAO on April 19, 2018.
- These new heritage sites belong to Asia, the Middle East and Central America regions and are located in China, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and Sri Lanka.
- With this, there are now a total of 50 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, located in 20 countries.

14 new Agricultural Heritage Sites

1. Siwa Oasis, Egypt (2016)
2. Chinampa Agriculture in the World Natural and Cultural Heritage Zone in Xochimilco, Tlahuac and Milpa Alta, Mexico (2017)
3. Zhagana Agriculture - Forest-Animal Husbandry Composite System, China (2017)
4. Huzhou Mulberry-dyke & Fish Pond System, China (2017)
5. Osaki Kodo's Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture, Japan (2017)
6. Nishi-Awa Steep Slope Land Agriculture System, Japan (2017)
7. Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem in Hwagae-myeon, Republic of Korea (2017)
8. The Agricultural System of Valle Salado de Añana, Spain (2017)
9. Malaga Raisin Production System in La Axarquía, Spain (2017)
10. The Cascaded Tank-Village System, Sri Lanka (2017)
11. Rice Terraces in Southern Mountainous and Hilly Areas, China (2018)
12. Xiajin Yellow River Old Course Ancient Mulberry Grove System, China (2018)
13. Traditional Wasabi Cultivation in Shizuoka, Japan (2018)
14. Barroso Agro-sylvo-pastoral System, Portugal (2018)

India wins crucial election to UN's NGO committee

- India on April 16, 2018 won the elections conducted by UN's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in the Asia Pacific States category.
- India amassed the highest number of votes -46, followed by Pakistan 43, Bahrain 40 and China 39. India would now be required to serve a four-year term in the committee along with few other nations beginning on January 1, 2019.

USFDA approves world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to light

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

Pakistan successfully test-fires Babur cruise missile

- Pakistan successfully test fired Babur Weapon System-1 (B), an enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile.
- It is an unmanned self-propelled guided missile.
- It flies within the earth's atmosphere and uses jet engine technology to propel itself.
- It is designed to deliver a large warhead over long distances with high precision.

US to restrict movement of Pakistani diplomats from May 1

- The United States has notified Pakistan that the diplomats at their embassy in Washington and at consulates in other cities would not be able to travel beyond 40 kilometres of their offices without permission from May 1, 2018.
- According to the notification, diplomats would need to apply for permission at least five days ahead of an intended travel outside the imposed 40-kilometre radius.
- Pakistan had already imposed similar restrictions on American diplomats in the country, who were not allowed to visit the tribal belt or Karachi.

US embassy advises Indian travelers to apply early for visa

- US embassy in New Delhi has asked travelers in India to apply early for US visa to avoid potential delays due to high demand for it in the summer season.
- The embassy said in a statement, that applicants across India may have to wait 30 days or more for a visa interview appointment to become available and that it expects this wait time to continue for at least the next few months.

NASA launches CHESS mission to study matter between stars

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on April 17, 2018 successfully launched Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph (CHESS 4) from the Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- The mission launched on a NASA Black Brant IX sounding rocket will study the interstellar medium, the matter between stars.
- The CHESS mission would mainly focus on these floating interstellar reservoirs or translucent clouds of gas, which provide the fundamental building blocks for the stars and planets.

NASA launches planet-hunting mission 'TESS'

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on April 19, 2018 launched the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), the first-of-its-kind mission to discover planets outside the solar system, including some that could support life.
- TESS was launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.
- TESS will settle into a 13.7-day orbit around Earth with the help of a gravitational assist from the Moon.

China proposes construction of India-Nepal-China Economic Corridor through Himalayas

- China on April 18, 2018 proposed the construction of the India-Nepal-China Economic Corridor with multi-dimensional connectivity through the Himalayas.
- The proposal came after Nepalese foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in China.
- With this move, China seeks to expand its authority over the new Nepalese government headed by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, which is widely regarded as pro-Beijing.

IFAD, Ant Financial sign agreement to develop rural economies

- The United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and leading technology company Ant Financial Services Group have signed an agreement to propel rural economic development and reduce poverty in China and elsewhere.
- Areas of proposed collaboration include improving market access for rural producers through e-commerce platforms and value-chain financing for promising rural agribusinesses.

Swaziland King changes his country's name to 'Kingdom of eSwatini'

- Swaziland's King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch, on April 19, 2018 officially changed the name of his country to the 'Kingdom of eSwatini'.
- Accordingly, the country, a member of the Commonwealth, will now be known by its historic name of eSwatini, a Swazi language name that stands for 'place of the Swazi'.
- The announcement was made during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the King's 50th birthday as well as the 50th anniversary of Swazi's independence from British colonial rule.

Syria returns to France the prestigious Legion d'honneur

- Syria has returned to France the prestigious Legion d'honneur presented to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.
- The award was returned to France through the Romanian embassy in Damascus.
- President Assad was decorated with the highest class of the award, the Grand Croix, in 2001 after he took power following the death of his father.

Nepal honours first conquest of Everest without bottled oxygen

- Nepal's government on April 19, 2018 honoured two climbers who were the first to scale Mount Everest without supplementary oxygen 40 years ago.
- Italian Reinhold Messner and Austrian Peter Habeler had reached the summit without the use of supplementary oxygen, while others on their team used bottled oxygen.
- Until then, all climbers carried oxygen cylinders to aid them at high altitudes where oxygen levels were low.

Commonwealth Heads of Government summit concludes

- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) concluded in London, United Kingdom on April 20, 2018.
- The two-day summit, formally inaugurated by Queen Elizabeth II, saw in attendance 53 heads of Government including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event will be held in London and Windsor.
- This is the first time in a decade that an Indian Prime Minister is attending the event, which is held every two years, having skipped the Group summits in Perth, Colombo and Malta since 2009.
- The theme of the summit was 'Towards a Common Future'.
- This is the first CHOGM meeting following UK's decision to withdraw from the European Union.

Canada, European Union to host world's first female foreign ministers meeting in September 2018

- Canada and the European Union will together host the world's first female foreign ministers' meeting on September 21, 2018 in Canada. The meeting will be held for 2 days.
- The announcement was made by the Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland on April 22, 2018 in Toronto.
- The female foreign ministers from about 30 countries will be invited to the gathering, which is aimed at deepening global discussion on women's empowerment.

NASA's lunar orbital platform 'Gateway' to begin construction

- NASA will start work on its Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway by early 2019 when it will award the first contract for the program.
- The lunar platform will be NASA's planned 'staging' area for studies of the moon and the deep-space environment. It will eventually also function as a gateway space station for Astronauts travelling to and from Mars.

Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in agree on Korean Peninsula's complete denuclearisation

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on April 27, 2018 signed a landmark peace agreement namely, 'Panmunjeom Declaration' for the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula".

- The Panmunjeom Declaration was signed during the Inter-Korean Summit that took place on April 27, 2018 at the 'Peace House' at Panmunjom between leaders of North Korea and South Korea. The two leaders pledged a 'new era of peace' through the joint declaration.

US House approves 5-year reauthorization of Federal Aviation Administration

- The US House of Representatives approved 5-year reauthorization of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) after two recent short-term funding patches.
- The legislation provides the FAA with funding through the 2023 fiscal year. Under the bill, about USD 3.35 billion per year till 2023 will go to infrastructure.

Special 301 Report released: USTR again places India on Priority Watch List

- The Office of United States (US) Trade Representative (USTR) placed India on 'Priority Watch List' in its annual Special 301 Report on the state of intellectual property protection.
- In 2018 Special 301 Report, the USTR has placed 12 countries on its Priority Watch List.
- Other countries on list are Algeria, Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Russia, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini, Nepal

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

Sports

Kerala beat defending Champions Bengal to win Hero Santosh Trophy

- Kerala defeated defending Champions Bengal 4-2 on penalties after the full-time scoreline read 2-2 to win the 72nd Hero Santosh Trophy at the Vivekananda Yuvabharati Krirangan in the city in April.
- Jithin MS scored in the 19th minute for Kerala while Jiten Murmu drew level in the 68th minute.
- In extra time, Vibin Thomas first found the net in the 117th minute after Rajon Burman was sent off. Tirthankar scored late into injury time for Bengal to take the game to penalties where Kerala emerged eventual victors.

Indian Army men win Snow world Championship

- Organised for the first time in the 14000 ft high Chansal Pass of Shimla district, Indian Army men won the three-day International Snow world championship ended here in April.
- Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Suresh Bharadwaj handed over the first prize Rs 80,000 and trophy to Bahadur Chhetri.
- Second prize Rs 40,000 and Trophy was given to Kulvinder Sharma and third prize of Rs 20, 000 received by Thakur Bhadur.

Mithali Raj wins 'Sportsperson of the Year' award

- Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj was named 'Sportsperson of the Year' at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017 in Hyderabad on March 31, 2018.
- The award was conferred by B V Papa Rao, Advisor to the Telangana government. It was received by Mithali Raj's parents on her behalf, as she was not present on the occasion.
- Best Senior Male athlete: The award was conferred to ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth by former BCCI president N Shivlal Yadav.
- Best Senior Female athlete: The award was conferred to ace Indian shuttler P V Sindhu by tennis star Sania Mirza.

Isner beats Zverev to win first Miami Open

- American John Isner triumphed over Germany's Alexander Zverev in the Miami Open title showdown to finally put an end to his ATP Masters final agony.
- Isner came back from a set down to beat world No. 5 Zverev 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4 in a clash which lasted for two hours and 29 minutes.

MS Dhoni, Pankaj Advani conferred with Padma Bhushan

- Former Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and star cueist Pankaj Advani in April received the coveted Padma Bhushan award from President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the national capital.
- Dhoni, who was seen dressed smartly in his official uniform of the Territorial Army for the ceremony, marched to receive the honour while his wife Sakshi proudly cheered for him.

Star India bags India's home series rights for nearly one billion dollar

- Broadcasting giants Star India in April bagged the media rights of Indian cricket team's bilateral home series as well as domestic cricket for a record Global Consolidated Rights (GCR) bid of Rs 6138.1 crore (USD 944 million approx) for a period of next five years, till 2023.
- With the India home cricket rights, Star now has a virtual monopoly in the cricket broadcasting world having bagged the IPL rights for a record Rs 16,347 crore (USD 2.55 billion) bid.
- They also own the rights for all ICC Tournaments (men's and women's 50-over World Cup, World T20).

Leander Paes becomes most successful doubles player in Davis Cup

- Indian tennis' ageless wonder Leander Paes in April became the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup as he combined with Rohan Bopanna to not only grab a record 43rd win but also bring the country back in the tie against China here.
- Forced to play together by AITA, 44-year-old Paes and Bopanna downed a fighting Chinese pair of Mo Xin Gong and Ze Zhang 5-7 7-6(5) 7-6(3) in the do-or-die doubles rubber of the Asia/Oceania Group I tie.

Priyam Tated wins Gold medal in Cambodia Open National Figure Skating Championship 2018

- Young and talented skating champion Priyam Tated has made India proud yet again.
- India's skating champion Priyam Tated has won Gold medal in the Basic Novice B Category (13-15 years) in Cambodia Open National Figure Skating Championship which was held in Phnom Penh from 4 to 7 April 2018.
- 16 countries had participated in Cambodia Open National Figure Skating Championship from all across the globe.

India to bid for 2026 Youth Olympics

- The Indian Olympic Association has decided to bid for the 2026 Youth Olympics as well as the 2030 Asian Games and the 2032 Summer Olympics.
- The bidding process for the 2026 Youth Olympics is likely to start in early 2020.
- Besides India, Thailand has also expressed interest to host the 2026 Youth Olympics.
- A decision on the 2032 Summer Olympics host city will only be taken in 2025 and the bidding process is expected to start sometime before that.

Mumbai Football Arena to host Intercontinental Cup

- The Mumbai Football Arena, the new hub of Indian football, will play host to the inaugural edition of the four-nation Intercontinental Cup, which is slated to be held from June 1 to June 10, 2018.
- The tournament will see the Indian national team competing with the likes of South Africa, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei.
- The Intercontinental Cup has been planned to be an annual event and will thus have representation from the CAF region in the form of South Africa, New Zealand from the Oceania, and Chinese Taipei from the AFC.

India wins 10 gold medals at 8th South Asian Judo Championship

- India won 10 gold medals at 8th South Asian Judo Championship in Lalitpur, Nepal.
- Indian women grabbed 7 gold while men won 3 out of total 7 gold medals in the individual category.
- Indian women such as Garima Chaudhary, C. Jina Devi and Tulika Maan showed their golden performance at the championship.

Index

India ranks 3rd among nations facing most cyber threats: Symantec Report

- India ranked third in the list of countries where the highest number of cyber threats were detected, and second in terms of targeted attacks in 2017, according to security software firm Symantec.
- "India is ranked third among list of countries globally where most of the threats were detected and it is second in terms of targeted attacks," Tarun Kaura, Director, Enterprise Security Product Management, Asia Pacific and Japan, Symantec said.
- The United States led the pack, followed by China at the second spot, according to the company's Internet security threat report (ISTR).
- India was ranked second globally when it comes to spam and phishing (misleading emails, weblink etc). However, complex cyber attacks -- ransomware and network attacks in India increased in terms of global percentage.

Patna tops in 4G connectivity among 20 largest cities: Report

- Patna tops in 4G connectivity among 20 of India's largest cities. It has emerged ahead of the likes of Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi, said a report from OpenSignal, a wireless coverage mapping company.
- 4G user experience in the 20 cities was monitored for 90 days from 1 December 2017.
- Four cities from India's central and eastern regions—Patna, Kanpur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Bhopal and Lucknow—made it to the top 10 while popular tech hubs like Bengaluru are at 10, followed by Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi.

Delhi's IGI Airport jumps ahead among top 20 busiest airports, Atlanta International Airport busiest in the world

- In terms of traffic volume, New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has jumped six notches to break into the league of the top 20 busiest airports in the world for 2017.
- The Delhi airport jumped from the 22nd rank in 2016 to the 16th rank, as passenger traffic grew by 14.1 per cent to 63.45 million solidifying its status as one of the fastest growing airports in the world for passenger traffic, as per the Airports Council International (ACI).
- The ranking is based on the preliminary passenger traffic results for the most-travelled airports in 2017, released by the ACI in April.
- The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) was ranked the busiest airport in the world with 103 million passengers (both departing and arriving) despite a 0.3 per cent decline in traffic volumes over 2016.

India ranked 130 in Economic Freedom Index

- India was ranked at 130th spot in the latest annual Index of Economic Freedom, which was released by a top American think-tank the Heritage Foundation.
- India has jumped up 13 places in this year's ranking. In 2017, India with a score of 52.6 points was ranked at 143 among 180 countries.

- As per the latest Index of Economic Freedom, China has jumped one spot and Pakistan is now at the 131st position. China with 57.4 points was ranked 111 in the 2017.
- The report said Economic liberalisation measures, including industrial deregulation, privatisation of state-owned enterprises and reduced controls on foreign trade and investment, that began in the early 1990s, accelerated growth.

Commonwealth Innovation Index 2018 released: India ranked 10th

- As per the 2018 Commonwealth Innovation Index, India fetched 10th position in the index topped by the United Kingdom, Singapore and Canada.
- The index was launched on the sidelines of the ongoing Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) as part of a new Commonwealth Innovation Hub. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will conclude on April 20, 2018.
- The Commonwealth Innovation Index has been created in partnership with the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its annual Global Innovation Index (GII).

World's Greatest Leaders in 2018: Mukesh Ambani ranks 24

- Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani and human rights lawyer Indira Jaising have been named by Fortune magazine as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018.
- The Fortune's 2018 ranking of the 50 Greatest Leaders released in April also has architect Balkrishna Doshi in the list which includes Apple CEO Tim Cook, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and football coach Nick Saban.
- Ambani, who turned 61 in April, has "in less than two years, brought mobile data to the masses and completely upended the country's telecom market", Fortune said ranking him No.24 behind likes of South Korean President Mon Jae-in, Chinese vice premier Liu He and French President Emmanuel Macron.
- Ranked No.20, she has fought on behalf of victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, helped Syrian Christian women in India win property rights equal to their male counterparts', and helped draft India's first domestic violence law, it said.
- This year's list is topped by 'The Students' of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and other schools of US that witnessed gun violence.
- Ranking Doshi at No.43, Fortune said he is the winner of this year's Pritzker Prize, architecture's highest honour.

19 crore Indian adults do not have bank account: Global Findex Report 2017

- The World Bank on April 19, 2018 released the Global Findex Report 2017 stating that though Financial Inclusion is on the rise globally, gaps still remain there across the countries. Men still are ahead of women to have an account in a bank.
- Globally, 69 percent of adults now have an account at a bank or have enrolled themselves on a mobile money provider. There were 62 percent banked adults in 2014 and just 51 percent in 2011.
- The Global Findex Report analyses data of 144 economies to demonstrate that how people use financial services. The report was produced by the World Bank with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with Gallup Inc.

Key Highlights of the 2017 Global Findex Report

- From 2014 to 2017, 51.4 crore accounts have been opened globally.
- Between 2014 and 2017, there was a substantial increase in use of mobile phones and internet to carry out financial transaction. Over 75 percent account owners sent or received payments digitally across the world.
- Despite a significant rise in the numbers of account holders, there are still 1.7 billion adults who do not have any bank account. Two-thirds of these 1.7 billion adults do own a mobile phone that could help them access financial services.

India stands second for largest unbanked population

- Despite having a relatively high account ownership, India claims a large share of the global unbanked population, after China. Over 190 million Indian adults still do not have a bank account.
- Out of the total unbanked population of India and China, 60 percent of the unbanked adults are women.
- In India, around 4 in 10 unbanked adults are in the age group of 15 to 24 years.
- China tops the list of unbanked population with 225 million adults who do not have a bank account, followed by India at 2nd (190 million), Pakistan at 3rd (100 million) and Indonesia at 4th (95 million).

Deepika Padukone, Virat Kohli among TIME's 100 Most Influential People

- The TIME Magazine on April 19, 2018 released the 100 Most Influential People List of 2018 designating individuals whose time is now.
- The 2018 list features the names of four self-made Indians- Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone, Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal and Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella.
- Flipkart's Executive Chairman Sachin Bansal wrote the profile for Bhavish Aggarwal, while Sachin Tendulkar wrote for Virat Kohli, Hollywood actor Vin Diesel wrote for Deepika and Walter Isaacson, a former Managing Editor of TIME, wrote for Satya Nadella.
- The list of 100 Most Influential People of 2018 includes the names of actress Nicole Kidman, 'Wonder Women' starrer Gal Gadot, Prince Harry and his fiancée Meghan Markle and singers Rihanna and Jennifer Lopez.

2018 World Press Freedom Index released: India falls to 138th rank

- The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on April 25, 2018 released the World Press Freedom Index 2018, reflecting growing animosity towards journalists.
- Published annually by Reporters Without Borders since 2002, the World Press Freedom Index measures the level of media freedom in 180 countries.
- India's rank dropped down to 138th this year from 136th in 2017, two points below the previous year.
- The report blames PM Narendra Modi's "troll army" for sharing and intensifying hate speeches targeting journalists on social networks. Moreover, India also saw 'physical violence' against journalists this year including the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh in 2017.
- India's radical nationalists encouraged the self-censorship in the mainstream media and belittled the journalists as the targets of online hate campaigns.
- This year, the index has been topped by Norway again for the second year, followed by Sweden at second and the Netherlands at third. Although Nordic countries dominate the index, they too were affected by the overall decline.

Awards

Chhattisgarh awarded 'State of the Year'

- Chhattisgarh in April bagged the 'State of the Year' Award under the business leader' category as part of the India Business Leadership for the remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors.
- The plunge witnessed is said to be the result of various decisions taken on the policy in the field of business by the Chhattisgarh Government in the past few years and its effective implementation.
- Union Information Technology and Electronics Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad gave the award at India Business Leader Awards (IBLA) organised by a leading business channel.
- The award was received by Chhattisgarh Minister Prem Prakash Pandey.

Dharmendra to be conferred Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award

- Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra will be conferred with the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be conferred with the Raj Kapoor Special Contribution award.
- The information was shared by Maharashtra culture minister Vinod Tawde on April 15, 2018. The awards, instituted by the Maharashtra state government, will be given away at the 55th Maharashtra state Marathi Film Festival.
- Dharmendra has more than 250 films to his name. His 6-decade old career boasts of over 100 box-office hits including Bandini, Mamta, Anupama, Satyakam, Seeta Aur Geeta, Sholay, Chupke Chupke and Yaadon Ki Baarat.

2018 Pulitzer Prize winners announced

- The winners of the 2018 Pulitzer Prizes were announced on April 16, 2018 at Columbia University in New York City.
- This year, the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in the Public Service was shared by 'The New York Times' for reporting led by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey; and 'The New Yorker' for reporting by Ronan Farrow.
- Both the newspapers exposed the powerful and wealthy sexual predators including one of the Hollywood's most influential producers Harvey Weinstein. Their revelations inspired the global #MeToo movement that led to talks about gender and power dynamics in the workplace.

Jailed Egyptian photographer Mahmoud Abu Zeid wins UNESCO Press Freedom Prize

- Jailed Egyptian photographer Mahmoud Abu Zeid, popularly known as Shawkan, on April 23, 2018 won the 2018 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO).
- Egypt's Foreign Ministry strongly warned UNESCO against recognising Abu Zeid, claiming that he faced terror-related charges. While, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions has called Abu Zeid's arrest as arbitrary.

CSIR wins National Intellectual Property Award 2018

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was on April 26, 2018 awarded the National Intellectual Property Award, 2018 for being the top research and development organisation for patents and commercialisation.
- The award was conferred by Union Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu, at a function organised by the Indian Intellectual Property Office and Confederation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (CII) in New Delhi, to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day. The Director-General of CSIR, Girish Sahni, received the award on behalf of CSIR.

Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra chosen for 2017 Saraswati Samman

- Renowned Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra was on April 28, 2018 chosen for the 2017 Saraswati Samman for his collection of verses (poetry) titled 'Vakhar', published in 2009. The collection 'Vakhar' engages with larger and more immediate human conditions.
- Yashaschandra was selected for this 27th edition of the award by a high level Chayan Parishad Selection Committee, presided over by former secretary general of Lok Sabha Subhash C Kashyap.
- He has also authored 10 books of plays and three books of criticism.
- Yashaschandra has also been the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Kabir Samman and Padma Shri award among others.

Full List of Winners - 65th National Film Awards 2018

1. **Dada Saheb Phalke Award:** Vinod Khanna
2. **Best Director:** Jayaraj for Bhayanakam (Malayalam)
3. **Best Feature Film:** Village Rockstars (Assamese)
4. **Best Film Critic:** Giridhar Jha

5. Special Mention for Film Criticism: Sunil Mishra of Madhya Pradesh
6. Special Mention Award: Marathi Film - Murakhiya; Odia film: Hello RC; Take Off- Malayalam; Pankaj Tripathi bags a Special Mention award for Newton; Malayalam actor Parvathy too gets a special mention
7. Best Regional Film: Ladhakh
8. Best Marathi Film: Kaccha Limbu
9. **Best Malayam Film:** Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
10. **Best Hindi Film:** Newton
11. Best Bengali Film: Mayurakshi
12. Best Assamese Film: Ishu
13. Best Tamil Film: To Let
14. Best Telugu film: Gazi
15. BEST Gujarati film: DHH
16. Best Kannada film: Hebbettu Ramakka
17. Best Action Direction: Baahubali 2
18. Best choreography: Toilet Ek Prem Katha (Ganesh Acharya is the choreographer)
19. Best Special Effects: Baahubali 2
20. Special Jury Award: Nagar Kirtan(Bengali)
21. Best lyrics for song Muthu Ratna, for Kannada film March 22
22. Best Music Direction: A R Rahman for Kaatru Veliyidai
23. Background score: A R Rahman for Mom
24. Best Make Up artist- Ram Razak for Nagar Kirtan
25. Best Production Design: Santosh Rajan (Malayalam)
26. Best editing: Reema Das (for an Assamese film)
27. Best Screenplay Original: Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
28. Best Adapted Screenplay: Bhayankam, to Jairaj
29. Best Film playback Singer- Shasha Tirupati (Vaan Varuvaan song)
30. Best Male Playback Singer: Yesudas
31. Best supporting actress - Divya Dutta, Irada (Hindi Film)
32. Best Supporting Actor - Fahad Faazil
33. **Best Actress:** Sridevi for Mom
34. **Best Actor:** Ridhhi Sen, Nagar Kirtan
35. Best Film for National Integration - Dhappa (Marathi)
36. Best Popular Film: Baahubali 2
37. Best film on Social Issues: Aalorukkam

Books

Book devoted friendship with Dev Anand released

- 'Dev Saab- A journey with the legend Dev Anand', devoted to friendship with the legendary actor Dev Anand, was launched here on Saturday.
- The book launch by Suneil Anand, son of Dev Anand, and author Vijay Kumar saw a pouring in of crowds coming to pay tribute to the legend.

Important Days

Day	Observed on	Important Info /Theme
Odisha Day/Utkal Diwas	1 April	Odisha state came to existence
World Autism Awareness Day	2 April	'Empowering Women and Girls with Autism'
International Children's Book Day	2 April	The small is big in a Book
International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	4 April	Advancing Protection, Peace and Development
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	6 April	
International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda	7 April	
World Health Day	7 April	Health for All
World Parkinson's Day	11 April	
International Day of Human Space Flight	12 April	Celebrating the beginning of the space era for mankind
Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti	14 April	
World Art Day	15 April	
World Haemophilia Day	17 April	'Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger'
International Day for Monuments and Sites or World Heritage Day	18 April	Heritage for Generations
United Nations Chinese Language Day	20 April	
Civil Services Day	21 April	New India Shaping the Future
World Creativity and Innovation Day	21 April	Observed for the first time
International Mother Earth Day	22 April	End Plastic Pollution
World Book and Copyright Day	23 April	Athens, Greece was Book Capital 2018
UN English Language Day	23 April	
UN Spanish Language Day	23 April	
World Day for Laboratory Animals	24 April	
National Panchayati Raj Day	24 April	Narendra Modi visited Madhya Pradesh to launch Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at Ramnagar
World Malaria Day	25 April	Ready to beat Malaria
International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	26 April	
World Intellectual Property Day	26 April	Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity
World Day for Safety and Health at Work	28 April	Occupational safety health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers
International Dance Day	29 April	
International Jazz Day	30 April	
Vesak Day (UN)	30 April	Buddha Purnima
World Immunization Week	24-30 April	"Protected Together, #VaccinesWork"

Nelson Mandela's ex-wife Winnie Mandela dies at 81

- Winnie Mandela, the ex-wife of South African anti-apartheid fighter and former president Nelson Mandela, died today at the age of 81, her spokesman said.
- She died in a Johannesburg hospital after a long illness, spokesman Victor Dlamini said in a statement.

Steven Bochco, creator of 'Hill Street Blues', dies

- Steven Bochco, a writer and producer known for creating the groundbreaking police drama Hill Street Blues, died on April 1, 2018. He was 74.
- Hill Street Blues won 26 Emmys and launched Bochco on a course that led to dozens of series and earned him four Peabody awards in addition to the 10 Emmys.

Former Guatemala dictator Efraín Ríos Montt passes away

- Former military dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, who ruled Guatemala between 1982 and 1983 and was accused of genocide, passed away on April 1, 2018. He was 91.
- Ríos Montt was held responsible for the murders of 1771 indigenous Ixil-Maya people during his short reign in Guatemala. The incident took place in the wake of the 36-year civil war.

Japanese animation director Isao Takahata dies

- Oscar-nominated Japanese animation director Isao passed away on April 5, 2018. He was 82.
- Takahata co-founded the Studio Ghibli and was best known for his work "Grave of the Fireflies".
- Takahata's latest film 'The Tale of the Princess Kaguya' earned him an Academy nomination in 2014 for best animated feature.

Supreme Court lawyer Niranjan Thomas Alva passes away

- Niranjan Thomas Alva, a Supreme Court lawyer and husband of Congress leader Margaret Alva, passed away here today after brief illness, a family member said. Alva, 78, died this morning around 10.30 at the Ramaiah Hospital where he was admitted for 20 days following chest congestion, the family member told PTI.
- A reputed orator, he practised law at the Supreme Court. One of the landmark litigations he lead resulted in women flight attendants in the Air India getting the same rights and privileges as their male counterparts including full retirement benefits and the right to bear children.

Noted Assamese film-maker Munin Barua passes away

- National award winning Assamese film-maker Munin Barua passed away today following a prolonged illness, family sources said.
- He was 72 and is survived by wife Manjula Barua and two children.
- Barua, popularly called Bhaimon da, was suffering from cancer and breathed his last at his residence here in the wee hours today, his family sources said.

Filmmaker & Animation Pioneer Bhimsain passes away at 81

- Veteran filmmaker and animation pioneer Bhimsain, best known for his film 'Gharaonda' and animation short films like 'Ek Anek Ekta', has died at the age of 81.
- A versatile artiste who enriched the medium of both television and films with his contribution, Bhimsain was primarily known for his work in the world of animation during the golden period of Doordarshan.

- Born in 1936 in Multan (modern-day Pakistan), Bhimsain obtained his diploma in Fine Arts and Classical Music from Lucknow University. In 1970, he made his directorial debut with his first animation short 'The Climb', which earned him the Silver Hugo Award in the Chicago Film Festival.
- 'Ek chidiya, anek chidiyaan' is one of the most popular songs from animation film 'Ek Anek Ekta', which he made with Vijaya Mulay in 1974.

Former US First Lady Barbara Bush passes away at 92

- Former US first lady Barbara Bush died Tuesday at the age of 92, triggering an outpouring of praise for the matriarch of a Republican family once at the apex of American politics.
- Barbara Bush has long been considered the rock at the center of one of America's most prominent political families, as the wife of a president and the mother to another -- George W. Bush -- and to Jeb Bush, a former Florida governor and onetime presidential aspirant.

Veteran journalist T.V.R. Shenoy passes away at 77

- Veteran journalist T.V.R. Shenoy passed away at a private hospital here on Tuesday night, family sources said. He was 77.
- Conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2003, he had been working as a journalist in Delhi for a long time.
- Hailing from Cherai in Kerala's Ernakulam district, Shenoy began his career with Indian Express and in 1965, joined the Delhi bureau of Malayala Manorama and served with them for well over a quarter of a century.

Swedish musician Avicii dies at 28

- Swedish musician Tim Bergling, popularly known as Avicii, has passed away at the age of 28.
- A statement from his publicist Diana Baron read, "It is with profound sorrow that we announce the loss of Tim Bergling, also known as Avicii," Billboard reported.
- The artist, known for songs such as 'Wake Me Up', 'Lonely Together', and 'Levels,' had retired from tours in 2016 due to health issues.

World's oldest person, born in the 19th century, dies at 117 years

- Japan is known for the longevity of its people and has been home to several citizens recognised as the world's oldest persons. Rightly so -- it has 68,000 people aged 100 or older. One such woman who was 117 years old and was widely known to be the oldest living woman -- along with being the last born one of the 19th century -- was Nabi Tajima.
- Tajima passed away on April 21, 2018, in the hospital she was in since January. Although weak, the only reason she died was due to her advanced age.

All about Commonwealth Games!

The 2018 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the **XXI Commonwealth Games** and commonly known as **Gold Coast 2018** were held on the **Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, between 4 and 15 April 2018.**

There were **71 nations** competing at 2018 Commonwealth Games. **PV Sindhu** was India's flag bearer.

The official motto for the 2018 Commonwealth Games was "**Share the Dream**". It was chosen to highlight the dreams and experience at the games that were shared by participants of the games, ranging from athletes to volunteers and the host country Australia to the world including the Commonwealth nations.



The emblem of the 2018 Commonwealth Games was a **silhouette of the skyline and landscape of Gold Coast, the host city of the games.**

Borobi was named as the mascot of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in 2016. **Borobi is a blue koala**, with indigenous markings on its body. The term "borobi" means koala in the Yugambeh language.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXII Commonwealth Games and commonly known as **Birmingham 2022 is scheduled to be held in Birmingham, England.**

Overall Medal Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia (AUS)	80	59	59	198
2	England (ENG)	45	45	46	136
3	India (IND)	26	20	20	66
4	Canada (CAN)	15	40	27	82
5	New Zealand (NZL)	15	16	15	46



India’s Medal Tally

Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Gold	Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Women's 48 kg
Gold	Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu	Weightlifting	Women's 53 kg
Gold	Sathish Sivalingam	Weightlifting	Men's 77 kg
Gold	Ragala Venkat Rahul	Weightlifting	Men's 85 kg
Gold	Punam Yadav	Weightlifting	Women's 69 kg
Gold	Manu Bhaker	Shooting	Women's 10 metre air pistol
Gold	Manika Batra Mouma Das	Table tennis	Women's team

	Sutirtha Mukherjee Madhurika Patkar Pooja Sahasrabudhe		
Gold	Jitu Rai	Shooting	Men's 10 metre air pistol
Gold	Sharath Achanta Anthony Amalraj Harmeet Desai Sanil Shetty Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Table tennis	Men's team
Gold	Pranav ChopraPrannoy KumarSaina NehwalAshwini PonnappaSatwiksairaj RankireddySikki ReddyChirag ShettyGadde Ruthvika ShivaniP V SindhuKidambi Srikanth	Badminton	Mixed team
Gold	Heena Sidhu	Shooting	Women's 25 metre pistol
Gold	Shreyasi Singh	Shooting	Women's double trap
Gold	Rahul Aware	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 57 kg
Gold	Sushil Kumar	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 74 kg
Gold	Tejaswini Sawant	Shooting	Women's 50m rifle 3 positions
Gold	Anish Bhanwala	Shooting	Men's 25 metre rapid fire pistol
Gold	Bajrang Punia	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 65 kg
Gold	Mary Kom	Boxing	Women's light flyweight 48 kg
Gold	Sanjeev Rajput	Shooting	Men's 50m rifle 3 positions
Gold	Gaurav Solanki	Boxing	Men's flyweight 52 kg
Gold	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	Men's javelin throw
Gold	Sumit Malik	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 125 kg
Gold	Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling	Women's freestyle 50 kg
Gold	Manika Batra	Table tennis	Women's singles
Gold	Vikas Krishan Yadav	Boxing	Men's middleweight 75 kg
Gold	Saina Nehwal	Badminton	Women's singles
Silver	Gururaja Poojary	Weightlifting	Men's 56 kg.
Silver	Heena Sidhu	Shooting	Women's 10 metre air pistol
Silver	Pardeep Singh	Weightlifting	Men's 105 kg
Silver	Mehuli Ghosh	Shooting	Women's 10 metre air rifle
Silver	Tejaswini Sawant	Shooting	Women's 50 metre rifle prone
Silver	Babita Kumari	Wrestling	Women's freestyle 53 kg
Silver	Seema Antil	Athletics	Women's discus throw
Silver	Anjum Moudgil	Shooting	Women's 50m rifle 3 positions
Silver	Pooja Dhanda	Wrestling	Women's freestyle 57 kg
Silver	Mausam Khatri	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 97 kg
Silver	Manika BatraMouma Das	Table tennis	Women's doubles
Silver	Amit Panghal	Boxing	Men's light flyweight 49 kg
Silver	Manish Kaushik	Boxing	Men's lightweight 60 kg
Silver	Dipika Pallikal KarthikSaurav Ghosal	Squash	Mixed doubles
Silver	Sharath AchantaSathiyam Gnanasekaran	Table tennis	Men's doubles
Silver	Satish Kumar	Boxing	Men's super heavyweight (+91 kg)
Silver	P. V. Sindhu	Badminton	Women's singles
Silver	Dipika Pallikal Karthik Joshna Chinappa	Squash	Women's doubles
Silver	Kidambi Srikanth	Badminton	Men's singles
Silver	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy	Badminton	Men's doubles

	Chirag Shetty		
Bronze	Deepak Lather	Weightlifting	Men's 69 kg
Bronze	Ravi Kumar	Shooting	Men's 10 metre air rifle
Bronze	Vikas Thakur	Weightlifting	Men's 94 kg
Bronze	Om Prakash Mitharwal	Shooting	Men's 10 metre air pistol
Bronze	Apurvi Chandela	Shooting	Women's 10 metre air rifle
Bronze	Sachin Chaudhary	Powerlifting	Men's heavyweight
Bronze	Om Prakash Mitharwal	Shooting	Men's 50 metre pistol
Bronze	Ankur Mittal	Shooting	Men's double trap
Bronze	Kiran Bishnoi	Wrestling	Women's freestyle 76 kg
Bronze	Navjeet Dhillon	Athletics	Women's discus throw
Bronze	Naman Tanwar	Boxing	Men's heavyweight 91 kg
Bronze	Divya Kakran	Wrestling	Women's freestyle 68 kg
Bronze	Hussamuddin Mohammed	Boxing	Men's bantamweight 56 kg
Bronze	Manoj Kumar	Boxing	Men's welterweight 69 kg
Bronze	Sakshi Malik	Wrestling	Women's freestyle 62 kg
Bronze	Somveer Kadian	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 86 kg
Bronze	Ashwini PonnappaSikki Reddy	Badminton	Women's doubles
Bronze	Harmeet DesaiSanil Shetty	Table tennis	Men's doubles
Bronze	Manika BatraSathiyam Gnanasekaran	Table tennis	Mixed doubles
Bronze	Sharath Achanta	Table tennis	Men's singles

India's Records & Highlights

India finished third in the medals tally at the Commonwealth Games 2018 with 66 medals (26 Gold, 20 Silver and 20 Bronze). Only Australia with 198 medals and England with 136 were ahead.

India's 26 Golds was also third, behind Australia (80) and England (45).

India's combined 66 medals is its third best showing in the history of the Games. India's best remains 101 in New Delhi (2010), followed by 69 in Manchester (2002).

In table tennis, it was a memorable Games for Manika Batra as she picked up medals in all events she competed in - Singles Gold, Women's Doubles Gold, Women's Team Gold and rounding off the Games with Mixed Doubles Bronze. Batra made history by becoming the first Indian woman to win an individual table tennis Gold at the Games.

India's maximum medals came from shooting (16), followed by wrestling (12) and weightlifting (9).

The 10-member Indian table tennis team secured 8 (3 Gold, 2 Silver and 3 Bronze) medals, which turned out to be their best-ever medal haul in the history of the Games. In the women's table tennis event, the Indian team won its first ever Commonwealth Gold.

Teenager **Deepak Lather** from Haryana became **the youngest Indian weightlifter to claim a Commonwealth Games medal**, clinching a Bronze in the men's 69kg category.

Indian shooter **Anish Bhanwala**, aged 15, **created history by becoming the country's youngest ever Gold medal winner in the Commonwealth Games**, in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol.

Neeraj Chopra from Haryana became the first Indian javelin thrower to claim a Gold medal at the Games. His medal is only the fifth track-and-field Gold for India at the Commonwealth Games — the other four being Milkha Singh (1958), discus thrower Krishna Poonia (2010), the women's 4x400m relay quartet of Manjeet Kaur, Sini Jose, Ashwini Akkunji and Mandeep Kaur (2010) and shot-putter Vikas Gowda (2014).

The Gold medal won by **India's mixed badminton team is the country's first in that category at the Games.**

Saina Nehwal became the first Indian to win two singles Golds at the Games after defeating PV Sindhu. Saina had also won the title in 2010 in New Delhi. The Indian badminton contingent's total of seven medals (2 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze) turned out to be the best performance by any Indian badminton team at the Games.

Weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu, who claimed India's first Gold**, in the Women's 48 kg, broke three Games records in **the 'snatch' section, the 'clean and jerk' and the overall Games record.**

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