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# The Most Important Current Affairs APRIL 2018

## CWG 2018 Concludes: Australia Tops Medal Tally, India Third

The 21st edition of the Commonwealth Games will begin in Gold Coast, Australia, with a colourful opening ceremony. This will be a momentous day for the city as the biggest event in its history begins.

Carrara Stadium has been chosen as the venue to host the opening ceremony. These Games will mark the 5th time that Australia has hosted the games. India will be represented at the opening ceremony by a contingent of over 200 athletes who will be led by flag-bearer P V Sindhu.

India finished third in the medals tally at the Commonwealth Games 2018 with 66 medals (26 Gold, 20 Silver & 20 Bronze). Australia with 198 medals & England with 136 were ahead. India's 26 Golds was also third, behind Australia (80) & 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). India bettered its showing in Glasgow 2014, where we finished fifth overall, by just two medals.

## Complete List of all the Medals won by India in the CWG 2018

GOLD MEDALS (26)		
S. No.	Winners	Sports Category
<b>Weightlifting</b>		
1.	Chanu Saikhom MIRABAI	Women's 48kg
2.	Venkat Rahul RAGALA	Men's 85kg
3.	Sanjita Chanu KHUMUKCHAM	Women's 53kg
4.	Sathish Kumar SIVALINGAM	Men's 77kg
5.	Punam YADAV	Women's 69kg
<b>Shooting</b>		
6.	Manu BHAKER	Women's 10m Air Pistol
7.	Jitu RAI	Men's 10m Air Pistol
8.	Anish BHANWALA	Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol
9.	Sanjeev RAJPUT	Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
10.	Heena SIDHU	Women's 25m Pistol

11.	Tejaswini SAWANT	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
12.	Shreyasi SINGH	Women's Double Trap
<b>Wrestling</b>		
13.	Kumar SUSHIL	Men's Freestyle 74 kg
14.	SUMIT	Men's Freestyle 125 kg
15.	Rahul AWARE	Men's Freestyle 57 kg
16.	BAJRANG	Men's Freestyle 65 kg
17.	Vinesh PHOGAT	Women's Freestyle 50 kg
<b>Boxing</b>		
18.	Gaurav SOLANKI	Men's 52kg
19.	Vikas KRISHAN	Men's 75kg
20.	MC Mary KOM	Women's 45-48kg
<b>Table-Tennis</b>		
21.	India	Men's Team
22.	Manika BATRA	Women's Singles
23.	India	Women's Team
<b>Badminton</b>		
24.	Saina NEHWAL	Women's Singles
25.	India	Mixed Team Event
<b>Athletics</b>		
26.	Neeraj CHOPRA	Men's Javelin Throw

### SILVER MEDALS (20)

S. No.	Winners	Sports Category
<b>Weightlifting</b>		
1.	Pardeep SINGH	Men's 105kg
2.	GURURAJA	Men's 56kg
<b>Shooting</b>		
3.	Heena SIDHU	Women's 10m Air Pistol
4.	Mehuli GHOSH	Women's 10m Air Rifle
5.	Anjum MOUDGIL	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
6.	Tejaswini SAWANT	Women's 50m Rifle Prone
<b>Wrestling</b>		
7.	Mausam KHATRI	Men's Freestyle 97 kg
8.	Babita KUMARI	Women's Freestyle 53 kg
9.	Pooja DHANDA	Women's Freestyle 57 kg
<b>Boxing</b>		
10.	Satish KUMAR	Men's +91kg
11.	AMIT	Men's 46-49kg
12.	Manish KAUSHIK	Men's 60kg
<b>Table-Tennis</b>		

13.	ACHANTA Sharath/ GNANASEKARAN Sathiyam	Men's Doubles
14.	BATRA Manika/ DAS Mouma	Women's Doubles
<b>Badminton</b>		
15.	Satwik RANKIREDDY/ Chirag Chandrashekar SHETTY	Men's Doubles
16.	Srikanth KIDAMBI	Men's Singles
17.	PV Sindhu	Women's Singles
<b>Athletics</b>		
18.	Seema PUNIA	Women's Discus Throw
<b>Squash</b>		
19.	CHINAPPA Joshna/ PALLIKAL KARTHIK Dipika	Women's Doubles
20.	PALLIKAL KARTHIK Dipika/GHOSAL Saurav	Mixed Doubles

17.	GNANASEKARAN Sathiyam/BATRA Manika	Mixed Doubles
<b>Badminton</b>		
18.	REDDY N. Sikki/ PONNAPPA Ashwini	Women's Doubles
<b>Athletics</b>		
19.	Navjeet DHILLON	Women's Discus Throw
<b>Para Powerlifting</b>		
20.	Sachin CHAUDHARY	Men's Heavyweight

BRONZE MEDALS (20)		
S. No.	Winners	Sports Category
<b>Weightlifting</b>		
1.	Deepak LATHER	Men's 69kg
2.	Vikas THAKUR	Men's 94kg
<b>Shooting</b>		
3.	Om MITHARVAL	Men's 10m Air Pistol
4.	Ravi KUMAR	Men's 10m Air Rifle
5.	Om MITHARVAL	Men's 50m Pistol
6.	Ankur MITTAL	Men's Double Trap
7.	Apurvi CHANDELA	Women's 10m Air Rifle
<b>Wrestling</b>		
8.	SOMVEER	Men's Freestyle 86 kg
9.	Sakshi MALIK	Women's Freestyle 62 kg
10.	Divya KAKRAN	Women's Freestyle 68 kg
11.	KIRAN	Women's Freestyle 76 kg
<b>Boxing</b>		
12.	Hussamuddin MOHAMMED	Men's 56kg
13.	Manoj KUMAR	Men's 69kg
14.	Naman TANWAR	Men's 91kg
<b>Table-Tennis</b>		
15.	DESAI Harmeet/SHETTY Sanil Shankar	Men's Doubles
16.	Sharath ACHANTA	Men's Singles

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### PM Modi's 3-Nation Tour of Europe: Important Highlights

- 👉 Prime Minister visited Sweden & the UK with the aim of boosting bilateral cooperation in several key areas, including trade & investment.
- 👉 In the UK, PM attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) & in Sweden, he attended the India-Nordic Summit which was co-hosted by India & Sweden.
- 👉 Prime Ministers of all the Nordic countries -- Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway & Sweden also attended the summit.

### UK Joins International Solar Alliance to Mark Narendra Modi Visit

- 👉 The United Kingdom joined the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Britain.
- 👉 At an event held at the London Stock Exchange as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 (CHOGM), Britain formally announced its

membership of the alliance, which aims to raise \$1 trillion of private & public finance to provide affordable & sustainable energy for all by 2030.

**Modi in Sweden on 1st leg of 3-nation visit**

PM Modi left for Sweden on the first leg of his three-nation tour of Europe.

This was the first prime ministerial visit from India to Sweden in 30 years after the visit of Rajiv Gandhi in 1988.

Modi held a bilateral summit with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.

India & Sweden also co-host the first ever India-Nordic Summit, where the Prime Ministers of the other four Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland & Norway were present.

PM Modi held a roundtable with top Swedish CEOs Companies in Sweden, the largest Nordic economy in Europe has committed a fresh 1.1 billion dollars investment in India. He Signed various agreements with Sweden, Denmark & Iceland.

**Modi in the UK on 2nd leg of 3-nation visit:**

PM Modi addressed the world in a globally broadcast live event called 'Bharat Ki Baat, Sabke Saath' from the iconic Central Hall Westminster in London.

PM Modi & 52 other leaders attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) at the Buckingham Palace in London. He joined other heads of government for the leaders' retreat at Windsor Castle, which concluded the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in the UK.

PM Modi also held bilateral talks with his British counterpart Theresa May. Counter-terrorism cooperation was the main agenda of discussion. Modi & May agreed to take "decisive & concerted actions" against terrorism in all its manifestations.

Mr Modi also paid floral tributes at the bust of 12th-century Lingayat philosopher & social reformer Basaveshwara at Albert Embankment Gardens on the banks of the river Thames.

At the special invitation extended by Prince Charles, Modi became the first Indian PM to attend the event in a decade.

**Modi in Germany on 3rd & last leg of 3 nation visit:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin & discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

It was third & the last leg of Modi's three-nation tour to the UK, Sweden & Germany. The PM arrived in Delhi from Berlin.

**List of MOUs & Agreements Signed on Visit of PM Modi to Stockholm**

**MOUs/Agreements between India & Sweden**

Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future between Ministry of Science & Technology of India & the Ministry of Enterprise & Innovation.

**MOUs/Agreements between India & Denmark**

MOU on Cooperation in the field of Sustainable & Smart Urban Development between the Ministry for Housing & Urban Affairs of India & the Ministry of Industry, Business & Financial Affairs of Denmark.

MOU on Cooperation in the fields of Animal Husbandry & Dairying between Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare of India & the Danish Veterinary & Food Administration, Ministry of Environment & Food of Denmark.

MOU on Food Safety Cooperation between the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India & the Danish Veterinary & Food Administration.

MOU on Cooperation in Agricultural Research & Education between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research & the University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Science, Denmark.

**MOUs/Agreements between India & Iceland**

MOU on the Establishment of the ICCR Chair for Hindi Language between Indian Council for Cultural Relations & the University of Iceland.

**MOUs/Agreements between India & UK**

India & the UK have signed 10 agreements in several sectors including cyber-relationship, rejuvenation of Ganga & skill development.

The two countries have agreed to an overarching cyber-relationship framework that among others enables the development of a common & shared understanding of the international cyber activity.

An MoU on the rejuvenation of River Ganga, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) & the UK-based Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC).

An MoU on Skill Development, Vocational education & Training & seek to promote greater collaboration in domains such as strengthening skill delivery in high demand sectors where UK has technical & skilling expertise.

A Statement of Intent between NITI Aayog & UK's Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has also been signed.

Inked the deal on cooperation in the field of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries Sectors seeking to strengthen collaboration in livestock health & husbandry, breeding, dairying & fisheries.

☞ An MoU on Exchange of Information for the Purposes of Combating International Criminality & Tackling Serious Organised Crime has been signed.

**Static Takeaways**

- ☞ Sweden Capital- Stockholm, Currency- Swedish krona.
- ☞ Denmark Capital- Copenhagen, Currency- Danish krone.
- ☞ Iceland Capital- Reykjavik, Currency- Icelandic króna.
- ☞ The United Kingdom Capital- London, Currency- British pound.
- ☞ Germany Capital- Berlin, Currency- Euro, Chancellor- Angela Merkel.
- ☞ Nordic countries include Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark & Iceland.

**65th National Film Awards: The Complete List of the winners**

- ☞ The 65th National Film Awards were announced in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ☞ The chairpersons of the three juries (Feature, Non-feature & Writing) for the National Film Awards have announced the awards for the different categories.
- ☞ This year, the jury is being headed by director Shekhar Kapur. The jury panel has 10 members.
- ☞ National Film Awards will be given by the President Ram Nath Kovind in May 2018.

**Complete List of Winners of 65th National Film Awards**

Category	Winner
<b>Best Anthropological film</b>	Name Place Animal Thing, Slave Genesis
<b>Best Critic on Cinema</b>	Girdhar Jha (Swarn Kamal)
<b>Special Mention</b>	Mhorkya (Marathi), Hello Arasi (Oriya), Take Off (Malayalam), Newton (Hindi)
<b>Best Ladakhi Film</b>	Walking With The Wind
<b>Best Jasari Film</b>	Sinjar
<b>Best Tulu Film</b>	Paddayi
<b>Best Odiya Film</b>	Hello Arsi
<b>Best Kannada Film</b>	Hebbet Ramakka
<b>Best Hindi Film</b>	Newton
<b>Best Bengali Film</b>	Mayurakshi
<b>Marathi Film</b>	Kachcha Limbu
<b>Best Malayalam Film</b>	Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum
<b>Best Telugu Film</b>	Ghazi
<b>Assamese Film</b>	Ishu

<b>Best Tamil Film</b>	To Let
<b>Best Gujarati Film</b>	Dhh
<b>Best Action Direction</b>	Abbas Ali Moghu for Baahubali 2
<b>Choreography</b>	Ganesh Acharya for 'Gori Tu Latth Maar' for Toilet - Ek Premkatha
<b>Best Special Effects</b>	Baahubali 2
<b>Best Music Director</b>	Kaatru Veliyidai
<b>Best Background Score</b>	Mom
<b>Special Jury Award</b>	Nagarkirtan
<b>Best Lyrics</b>	JM Prahalad for Muthuratna song
<b>Best Make Up Artist</b>	Ram Rajjak (Nagarkirtan)
<b>Best Production Design</b>	Santhosh Raman (Malayalam movie Take Off)
<b>Best Screenplay (Original)</b>	Sajeev Pazhoor (Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum)
<b>Screenplay Writer (Adapted)</b>	JAYARAJ (Bhayanakam)
<b>Best Dialogues</b>	Sambit Mohanty (Hello Arsi)
<b>Best Cinematography</b>	Bhayanakam
<b>Best Cameraman</b>	Nikhil S Praveen
<b>Best Playback Singer</b>	Shashaa Tirupati for Kaatru Veliyidai.
<b>Best Actress</b>	Sridevi for 'Mom'
<b>Best Actor</b>	Riddhi Sen for 'Nagar Kirtan'
<b>Best Director</b>	Jayaraj for 'Bhayanakam'
<b>Best Film</b>	Village Rockstars (Assamese)

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## Winners of the 2018 Pulitzer Prizes

- 👉 Winners of the 2018 Pulitzer Prizes were announced at Columbia University in New York City.
- 👉 The Pulitzers are highly revered & mark the best in journalism in different categories.
- 👉 Following are the winners of the Pulitzer Prize 2018.
- 👉 **Fiction-** Andrew Sean Greer's "Less" has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Greer's novel tells the comic story of a middle-aged novelist.
- 👉 **Drama-** Cost of Living, by Martyna Majok.
- 👉 **History-** The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea, by Jack E. Davis (Liveright/W.W. Norton).
- 👉 **Biography-** Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Fraser (Metropolitan Books).
- 👉 **Poetry- Half-light:** Collected Poems 1965-2016, by Frank Bidart (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

### Notes:

- 👉 1917 was the first year when the Pulitzer Prizes were awarded.
- 👉 Pulitzer Prize has been named after Joseph Pulitzer.

## Winners of the Miami Open 2018

- 👉 The Miami Open, sometimes known as the Miami Masters, is an annual tennis tournament for men & women currently held in Florida, the USA.
- 👉 American John Isner won his first ever Masters 1,000 title with a victory over German Alexander Zverev in the Miami Open final.
- 👉 S. Stephens won in the Women's singles category. She has defeated J. Ostapenko.

### Complete list of Miami Open 2018 Title

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	John Isner (USA)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)
Women's Singles	Sloane Stephens (USA)	Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)
Men's Doubles	Mike Bryan (USA) Bob Bryan (USA)	Karen Khachanov (Russia) Andrey Rublev (Russia)
Women's Doubles	CoCo Vandeweghe (USA) Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)

## Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards 2018 Announced

- 👉 Bollywood actors Bhumi Pednekar, Sonam Kapoor & Akshay Kumar bagged the best actress & best actor awards respectively at the Dadasaheb Phalke awards, given by Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation, held in Mumbai.
- 👉 Manisha Koirala won the 'Most Versatile Actress' award. Veteran actor-director Rakesh Roshan was given the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the industry as an actor, producer & a director.
- 👉 The complete list of all the winners of Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards 2018:

Category	Winner
<b>Best Actor</b>	Akshay Kumar, for Padman (Jury) & for Toilet: Ek Prem Katha
<b>Best Actress in a Leading Role</b>	Sonam Kapoor, for Padman
<b>Best Actress</b>	Bhumi Pednekar, for Toilet: Ek Prem Katha
<b>Lifetime Achievement Award</b>	Rakesh Roshan
<b>Saraswatibai Dadasaheb Phalke Best Actress (Lifetime) award</b>	Farida Jalal
<b>'Most Versatile Actress' Award</b>	Manisha Koirala
<b>Best Actor in a Character Role</b>	Rajesh Sharma
<b>Best Playback Singer (Female)</b>	Neeti Mohan
<b>Best TV Anchor</b>	Aditya Narayan Jha
<b>Best Entertainer (TV)</b>	Manish Paul
<b>Best Playback Singer (jury)</b>	Bhumi Trivedi
<b>Best Stage Anchor</b>	Siddharth Kannan
<b>Best Producer (Short Films)</b>	Sandip Marwah
<b>Most Entertaining Film (Sonu ki Titu ki Sweety)</b>	Luv Ranjan

## Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs

- SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) has celebrated its foundation day on 2nd April 2018. Chairman Managing Director of SIDBI Mohammad Mustafa launched a series of initiatives from its Lucknow bank headquarters. Chairman SIDBI also launched 'Samridhhi- the virtual assistant' on banks revamped universal loan portal [www.udyamimitra.in](http://www.udyamimitra.in).
- Jana Small Finance Bank (formerly Janalakshmi Financial Services) announced commencement of its banking operations.
- In a bid to prevent the possibility of manipulation in the prices of securities, especially government securities (G-Secs), the Reserve Bank of India has changed the methodology used by debt market players, including banks & primary dealers, for their valuation. As per a central bank directive, security/bond valuation will be based on the weighted average price of the last half-an-hour of trading on the last trading day of every quarter against the last traded price earlier.
- An MoU was signed between the Indian Army & HDFC Bank on the Defence Salary Package. Under the current MoU apart from other benefits the Army personnel will get free personal accident death cover & free permanent disability cover of Rs 30 lakhs, free educational cover of upto Rs 1 Lakh per year for four years for education of dependent child in case of accidental death of defence personnel & 100% processing fees waived for Car Loans & Personal Loans.
- Jio Payments Bank Limited commenced operations as a payments bank. RBI has issued a licence to the bank under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on the business of payments bank in India.
- Private sector lender IndusInd Bank has received RBI's approval to buy the securities services arm of IL&FS.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0%. India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth marginally upward to 6.6% from 6.5% in the first advance estimates. CPI inflation excluding food & fuel remained unchanged at 5.2%.
- In a move that could temporarily soften bond yields, the Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government, hiked the foreign portfolio investors (FPI) investment limit in Central government securities (G-Sec) from 5% of outstanding stock now to 5.5% in FY2019 & 6% in FY2020.
- Deutsche Bank AG named Christian Sewing as the Chief Executive officer of the Bank. He has replaced John Cryan. Sewing will take over with immediate effect.
- RBI switched back to the gross domestic product (GDP)-based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology, citing global best practices.
- India's foreign exchange reserves hit a life-time high of 424.361 billion US dollar after rising by 1.828 billion dollar in the week to March 30, according to the Reserve Bank of India data.
- 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.
- State Bank of India 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.
- Jammu & Kashmir Bank has launched a special financing scheme named 'Add-on Working Capital GST' to help the state industry cope with the delay in reimbursement of GST under special tax relief.
- National E-Repository Limited (NERL), a group company of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), has brought in ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank on board as the repository participants for pledge finance.
- Reserve Bank of India 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.
- Small Industries & Development Bank of India (SIDBI) announced a plan to promote micro-enterprises in 115 aspirational districts across the country. It has tied up with Common Service Centre (CSC).
- State-run Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched new products such as pre-approved credit card & UPI solution to mark its 124th foundation day.
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has announced that it expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 7.3-7.7% during the 2018-19 financial year.
- As part of the drive to double the income of farmers by 2022, the government has raised the authorised capital of NABARD by six times from 50 billion to Rs 300 billion to help it increase its lending to the rural economy.

21. Shares of private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd beat India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) for the first time to become the second most valued bank in the country. Data from BSE showed that Kotak Mahindra Bank has a market capitalization of Rs2,22,560.69 crore after its shares rose 1.7%.
22. Yes Bank has announced the launch of 'Yes GST', an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Through this, an MSME can avail OD up to Rs 1 crore, based on their annual turnover, backed by GST returns.
23. State Bank of India (SBI) has come up with an alternate & convenient method of cash withdrawal for its customers. The bank is now providing facilities of cash through 'Cash@POS' initiative.
24. National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has extended total credit support of Rs 14,690 crore to Rajasthan for 2017-18. Rajasthan has been one of the biggest beneficiaries under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD, during 2017-18.
25. Private sector lender Yes Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to open two representative offices in London & Singapore.
26. Reserve Bank of India has revised "Know Your Customer" or the KYC guidelines. The KYC norms have been revised following the government's decision to update the 'Prevention of Money Laundering' rules in June 2017. The RBI made linking of national biometric ID Aadhaar to bank accounts mandatory. However, it said this will be subject to the final decision of the Supreme Court on making of Aadhaar mandatory.its
27. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) entered into an agreement for information utility services with the National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).
28. State-run Bank of India (BoI) has entered into an agreement with National E-Governance Services (NeSL) for information utility (IU) arrangement under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
29. Paytm Payments Bank now has over 100 million KYC wallets, against the constant campaigning done by the bank about the benefits of the Know Your Customer (KYC) system.
30. National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has announced the launch of its "e - Gsec" platform for facilitating the non-competitive bidding in Government of India Dated Securities (G-Sec) & Treasury Bills (T-Bills). This will allow retail investors to invest in Government Securities & hold them in existing demat accounts.
31. According to the Development bank NABARD, it has provided an assistance of Rs 10,012 crore to Uttar Pradesh during 2017-18 to facilitate overall development with special focus on agricultural credit.
32. HDFC Bank launched IRA 2.0, its interactive humanoid at the Koramangala Branch in Bengaluru. The interactive humanoid in its advance version is aimed to enhance user experience for customers visiting in the branch. It has developed IRA (Interactive Robotic Assistant) 2.0 in collaboration with its technology partners Invento Makerspaces & Senseforth Technologies.
33. Looking to provide an impetus to early-stage start-ups, markets regulator Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) decided to double the investment limit by angel funds in venture capital undertakings to Rs10 crore from the current Rs5 crore.
34. With the beginning of the financial year 2018-19, the e-way Bill System for Inter-State movement of goods comes into force. Under this system businesses & transporters have to produce before a GST inspector e-way bill for moving goods worth over Rs 50,000 from one state to another.
35. The government has amended Income Tax rules that will now allow transgenders to be recognised as an independent category of applicants for obtaining a Permanent Account Number (PAN) for their tax-related transactions.
36. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected that India's economic growth is set to rise to 7.3% this fiscal & further to 7.6% in the next financial year, on back of GST & banking reforms.
37. The World Bank has projected a growth rate of 7.3% for India this year & 7.5% for 2019 & 2020. The bank also noted that Indian economy has recovered from the effects of demonetisation & the Goods & Services Tax.
38. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stated that India is expected to grow at 7.4% in 2018 & 7.8% in 2019 & would re-emerge as one of the fastest growing major economies in the period.
39. According to the Deutsche Bank research report, the Indian economy is witnessing a "cyclical upswing" & the country is likely to clock a GDP growth of 7.5% this financial year. Reserve Bank expects India's economic growth rate to strengthen to 7.4% in the current fiscal, from 6.6% in 2017-18, on account of revival in investment activity.
40. Ride-hailer Ola has acquired Mumbai-based Ridlr, an end-to-end public transport ticketing & commuting app.
41. SoftBank has signed a \$930-million deal with China's energy conglomerate Golden Concord (GCL) to produce & sell solar equipment in India.
42. Homegrown e-commerce giant Flipkart has forged a strategic partnership with online travel company MakeMyTrip to offer travel services on its platform.
43. Digital payments company PayPal & the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed an



agreement for the promotion of outbound shipments among small & medium enterprises (SMEs) leveraging the partners' expertise & technology products.

44. Tata Consultancy Services has created the history as the market capitalisation of the company has hit the 100 billion dollar mark, making it the first Indian IT company to achieve the mark. TCS joined the ranks of the world's 100 most valued organizations & now ranks 97th. The last Indian name to cross that threshold in 2007 was Reliance Industries Ltd.
45. 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. This card uses Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to enable safe & convenient digital payments.

**Static Awareness Related to Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs**

- ☞ SIDBI CEO- Dr Kshatrapati Shivaji, Founded- 2 April 1990, Headquarter- Lucknow.
- ☞ Ramesh Ramanathan is the chairman of Jana Group.
- ☞ Ajay Kanwal is the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Jana Small Finance Bank.
- ☞ Jana Small Finance Bank headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ☞ SEBI- Securities & Exchange Board of India. SEBI Chairman- Ajay Tyagi, Headquarters- Mumbai.
- ☞ Dr Urjit Patel is the 24th Governor of RBI. RBI Headquarters in Mumbai. RBI was Established on 1st April 1935.
- ☞ Headquarter of Ola is in Bangalore, Karnataka. CEO of Ola is Bhavish Aggarwal.
- ☞ Chairman & CEO of Soft Bank- Masayoshi Son, Headquarters- Tokyo, Japan.

- ☞ HDFC Bank- India's largest private bank by market capitalization. HDFC Bank Chairman- Aditya Puri.
- ☞ General Bipin Rawat is the present Chief of Indian Army.
- ☞ IndusInd Bank commenced operations in 1994. IndusInd Bank Chairman- R. Seshasayee, Headquarter- Mumbai, Owner- Hinduja Group.
- ☞ Flipkart CEO- Kalyan Krishnamurthy, Headquarters- Bengaluru.
- ☞ Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) headquarters in New Delhi. Ganesh Kumar Gupta is the President of FIEO.
- ☞ Deutsche Bank established its first branch in India in 1980. Deutsche Bank Headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.
- ☞ While GVA gives a picture of the state of economic activity from the producers' side or supply side, the GDP model gives the picture from the consumers' side or demand perspective.
- ☞ Sushil Chandra is the present Chairman of CBDT. It headquarters in New Delhi.
- ☞ SBI Chairman- Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 01st July 1955.
- ☞ Chairman & CEO J&K Bank is Parvez Ahmed.
- ☞ President of ADB- Takehiko Nakao, ADB Headquarters- Manila, Philippines, Opened on- 19th December 1966.
- ☞ Chanda Kochhar is the MD & CEO of ICICI Bank. ICICI Bank Headquarters in Mumbai.
- ☞ Chairman of SIDBI- Mohammed Mustafa, Founded- 2 April 1990, Headquarter- Lucknow.
- ☞ CSCs are one of the crucial enablers of the Digital India program that are the access points for delivery of various e-governance & business services to citizens in rural & remote areas of the country.
- ☞ PNB Chairman- Sunil Mehta, Headquarters- New Delhi. Incorporated under the Act VI of 1882, Indian Companies Act, PNB commenced operations on April 12, 1895, from Lahore.
- ☞ The government in the Budget had enhanced the corpus of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIFD) to Rs 280 billion with an overall objective of doubling farmers income by 2022.
- ☞ Nabard is the main agency for implementing RIFD scheme. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala is the Chairman of NABARD. It headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ☞ Rakesh Bharti Mittal is the President of Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ☞ Uday Kotak is the Executive Vice Chairman & Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank. It headquarters in Mumbai.
- ☞ President of the World Bank- Jim Yong Kim. Headquarters of World Bank: Washington, DC.
- ☞ Yes Bank MD & CEO- Rana Kapoor. Head office of Yes Bank- Mumbai.

- ☞ Managing Director of IMF- Christine Lagarde, Headquarters in- Washington DC, USA.
- ☞ MD & CEO of IOB- R. Subramaniakumar, Headquarters- Chennai.
- ☞ The NeSL became India's first information utility (IU) for bankruptcy cases under the 'Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016' in October 2017.
- ☞ Bank of India Headquarters- Mumbai, CEO- Dinabandhu Mohapatra.
- ☞ Paytm Payments Bank is owned 51 percent by Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma & 49 percent by One97 Communications Limited.
- ☞ NSE began operations in 1994 & is ranked as the largest stock exchange in India in terms of total & average daily turnover for equity shares every year since 1995, based on annual reports of SEBI.
- ☞ Mr. Ashok Chawla is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of NSE & Mr. Vikram Limaye is the Managing Director & CEO of NSE.
- ☞ NABARD came into existence on 12 July 1982.

### Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

1. The state government of West Bengal 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 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.
2. Union Commerce & Industry & Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu launched digital initiatives by Export Inspection Council (EIC) for ease of export at New Delhi. EIC is the official export certification body of Government of India & has launched this flagship project of Digital India Initiative to keep pace with changing dynamics of the world.
3. The Union Minister for Railways & Coal Shri Piyush Goyal launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring. UTTAM stands for - Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal. Ministry of Coal & Coal India Limited (CIL) developed UTTAM.
4. In a bid to use technology for farmers' benefit, Tamil Nadu government has come out with a mobile application named 'Uzhavan' (farmer) app that will allow ryots to have access to nine types of services. It was launched by Chief Minister K Palaniswami.
5. Haryana government launched the 'Gobardhan Yojana' to provide for the sale of organic manure & cow urine with an aim to benefit farmers. A provision of Rs 11 crore has been made to provide benefits of various projects under this scheme.
6. Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb launched the state component of Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas

7. Yojna (PMKVY) in Agartala. Tripura is the first state in the North East to implement the state component of PMKVY through Directorate of Skill Development (DSD).
7. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme in Delhi & distributed new LPG connections & cylinders to beneficiaries. Target under this scheme has been increased from the existing 5 crore connections to 8 crore connections by 2020.
8. Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched 'Project Dhoop', an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
9. On the occasion of Birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the phase one of the Ayushman Bharat schemes that aim at creating a healthy, prosperous & strong India. The first phase of Ayushman Bharat will see 1.5 Lakh such Centers being set up across the country.
10. Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the web-based application e-FRRO (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office) scheme under which foreigners can avail, various visa & immigration-related services online. This will facilitate hassle-free travel to India for foreigners.
11. Launching the 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan' in Telangana, the Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan stated the number of LPG distribution points in the State will be increased to 1,000 from the existing 707 for quicker & efficient delivery of gas cylinders.
12. The Union Government has stated that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana or PMGSY is well on its way to achieving the target by March 2019. The scheme, since its inception in 2000, has been able to provide connectivity to more than One lakh 50 thousand habitations.
13. Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha launched the DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India)-PLI App, which will help in collection of premium for Postal Life Insurance (PLI) & Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) policies at Branch Post Offices anywhere in India, with online updation of the policies.
14. Indian Government has launched the 'Study in India' initiative to attract international students to study in India. The website of Study in India can be accessed at [www.studyinindia.gov.in](http://www.studyinindia.gov.in). External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj & Minister of State for Human Resources Development Satya Pal Singh jointly launched the initiative in New Delhi.
15. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched a health scheme of the Assam government named Atal

Amrit Abhiyan that offers free medical care of up to 2 lakh rupees for every individual from Below Poverty Line (BPL) & Above Poverty Line (APL) families. The state government has earmarked 400 crore rupees for the scheme in the financial year 2018-19.

16. Gujarat police unveiled the Pocket Cop project, which will enable quicker verification of passport applicants, & search of accused persons, among others. The project was inaugurated by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in Gandhinagar. Under the project, smartphones with data connectivity will be given to 4,900 police personnel, including every police station in-charge, investigating officer, PCR van, & those involved in passport verification.
17. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel inaugurated the new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for the e-Vidhan project of the Government at the Parliament House Annexe. e-Vidhan is a part of the broader Digital India Programme of the Government & is likely to contribute to the cleanliness & environment by reducing the use of papers to a great extent.
18. Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched integration of e-SANAD portal & NAD - National Academic Depository in a bid to make education system in India more transparent. e-Sanad is a project aimed at online submission & verification of documents with the ultimate object to extend contactless, cashless, faceless & paperless document attestation service. NAD is a 24X7 online storehouse of all academic awards viz. diplomas certificates, degrees, mark-sheets etc.
19. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme aimed at making rural local bodies self-sustainable, financially stable & more efficient. PM Narendra Modi will launch Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme in Mandla in Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day.
20. Hardeep Puri, Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs (I/C) launched a Mobile App (m-Awas) for allotment of Government accommodations in General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) in Delhi under the control of the Directorate of Estates. The application has been developed by NIC.
21. Ministry of Human Resource Development, HRD launched the second edition of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan under which students from 750 higher educational institutions from across the country will adopt villages & visit them to get acquainted with the lifestyle of people there & the problems faced by them.
22. Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi launched the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs & TRIFED, during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh. The Van Dhan scheme along

with others like Jan Dhan & Gobar-Dhan schemes had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system. Under Van Dhan, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers would be constituted.

### Static Takeaways from Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

- 👉 West Bengal CM- Mamata Banerjee, Governor- Keshri Nath Tripathi.
- 👉 Haryana CM- Manohar Lal Khattar, Governor- Kaptan Singh Solanki.
- 👉 Tripura CM- Biplab Kumar Deb, Governor- Tathagata Roy, Capital- Agartala.
- 👉 PMUY was launched in May 2016. The objective of this scheme is to provide deposit-free LPG connections with monetary assistance to women from below poverty line (BPL) households.
- 👉 Pawan Agarwal is the CEO of FSSAI.
- 👉 Telangana CM- K. Chandrashekar Rao, Governor- ESL Narasimhan.
- 👉 Department of Posts has launched DARPAN Project. It aims at connecting all 1.29 lakh Rural Branch Post Offices in the country to enable them to do online Postal & Financial Transactions.
- 👉 NAAC stands for National Assessment & Accreditation Council. NIRF stands for National Institutional Ranking Framework.
- 👉 CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal. Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi.
- 👉 Gujarat Capital- Gandhinagar, CM- Vijay Rupani, Governor- Om Prakash Kohli. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport is situated in Ahmedabad, Guajarat. Kakrapar Atomic Power is located in Gujarat.
- 👉 e-Vidhan is a mission mode project to digitize & make the functioning of State Legislatures in the country paperless.
- 👉 Prakash Javadekar is the Present HRD Minister of India.

### National & State Related Current Affairs

1. India is now the second-largest mobile phone producer in the world after China as per the data shared by Indian Cellular Association with the government.
2. The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 for better protection & promotion of human rights in the country. The features of the Bill are as follows:
3. It proposes to include "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights" as deemed Member of the Commission; It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission; It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility & scope of selection of

Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission; & It proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories.

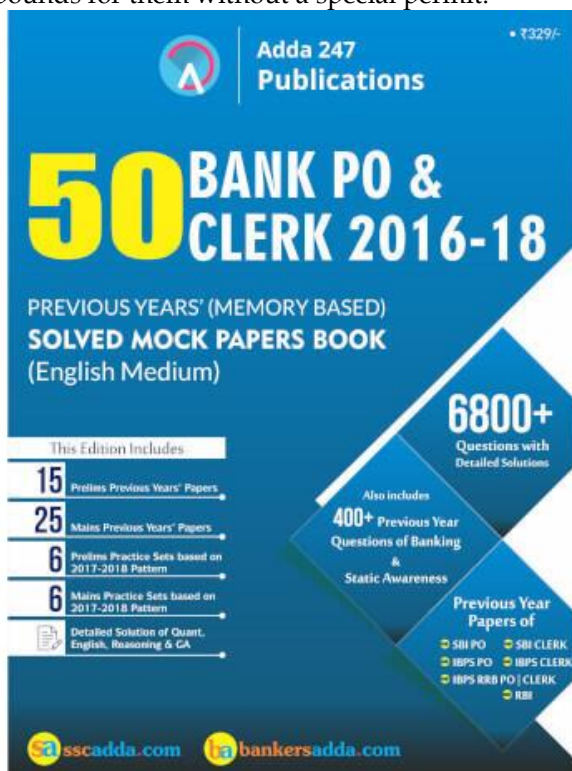
4. President Ram Nath Kovind has asked Indian Diaspora in Zambia to become the partner in India's growth & asked them to take advantage of Overseas Citizen of India, OCI programme. Four MOUs were signed between the two countries which include, the establishment of Entrepreneurship Development Institute in Zambia, taxation, visa exemption on diplomatic passports & judicial cooperation. This is the first time in three decades that a President of India is undertaking a state visit to Zambia.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi left on a five-day visit to Sweden & the UK. The visit to the two nations aims at enhancing bilateral cooperation in key areas like trade, investments & Science & technology. On the first leg of his visit, the Prime Minister will attend the first-ever India-Nordic Summit at Stockholm, which will be co-hosted by India & Sweden. In London, Mr Modi will take part in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting being hosted by the UK.
6. The Union Cabinet approved the promulgation of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance 2018, which would empower the government to seize the domestic assets of those deemed by a relevant court to be fugitive economic offenders. The Ordinance has a provision for a 'Special Court' under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 to declare a person as a Fugitive Economic Offender.
7. The Minister of Housing & Urban Development Hardeep Singh inaugurated the 48th Foundation Day of Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) on 25th April. HUDCO is playing an important role in taking financial inclusion forward in the country, as it is taking care of the housing finance needs of the economically deprived sections.
8. India has agreed for the most revered Buddhist relics from Sarnath to be taken to Sri Lanka for public exposition on the occasion of Vesak festival. This is the first time relics from Sarnath are being brought to Sri Lanka from India, & special arrangements have been made for this purpose.
9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in New Delhi after a two-day informal summit meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan. PM Modi wrapped up his two-day visit to China with both the countries underlining the importance of maintaining peace & tranquillity.
10. With an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR region, petrol pumps in the capital started supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel (both petrol & diesel). This move makes New

Delhi the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI.

11. R K Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power & New & Renewable Energy, laid the foundation stone of the 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat in Uttarkashi.
12. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated a 10.30-km-long elevated road, touted to be the longest of its kind in the country, connecting UP Gate & Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad.
13. Patna tops in 4G connectivity among 20 of India's largest cities. It has emerged ahead of the likes of Bengaluru, Mumbai & Delhi, according to the report of OpenSignal, a wireless coverage mapping company.
14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first all-electric high-speed locomotive in Bihar. The first big Make-in-India project completed by France's Alstom, the train has the country's most powerful engine with 12,000 horsepower & a maximum speed of 120 km/hr.
15. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani approved setting up a 5,000 MW capacity solar park at the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion.
16. A Loan Agreement for IBRD loan of USD 48 million for the "Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)" was signed with the World Bank.
17. The much-awaited bridge 'Ib Setu' built over the Ib river in Sambalpur district was thrown open to the public by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The 2.5-km-long bridge, which is the State's second longest bridge, has been built in three years at a cost of Rs. 117.50 crore.
18. State-run Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) started its socio-economic Neem Project, inaugurated by Union Minister Smriti Irani in Amethi District of Uttar Pradesh.
19. West Bengal has once again topped in the country with Digambarpur Gram Panchayat (GP) bagging the Centre's award for the best Gram Panchayat in the country.
20. The Union Home Ministry completely revoked the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from Meghalaya while diluting it in other regions of Arunachal Pradesh.
21. Diu Smart City has become the first city in India, that runs on 100% renewable energy during daytime setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean & green.
22. West Bengal government has given its approval to State Forest Department to apply for coveted Ramsar Site recognition under Ramsar Convention to Sunderban Reserve Forest. Now, State Forest

Department through Central Government will apply to Ramsar Convention Secretariat. Once it is conferred Ramsar site status, Sundarbans Reserve Forest will be largest protected wetland in the country. There are currently 26 sites in India recognised as Ramsar wetland sites of international importance.

23. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in principle to give an aid of 1,700 crore rupees to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development & creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
24. Home Ministry has decided to relax the six-decade-old Protected Area Permit regime from Nagaland, Mizoram & Manipur for five years. Foreign tourists, except those from Pakistan, China & Afghanistan, will now be allowed to visit some of the most pristine locations of the country which, so far, were out of bounds for them without a special permit.



- ☞ Static Takeaways from National & State Related Current Affairs
- ☞ The major difference in standards between the existing BS-IV & the new BS-VI auto fuel norms is the presence of sulphur.
- ☞ Piyush Goyal is the present Railway Minister of India. John Mathai was the first Railway Minister of Independent India.
- ☞ Nordic countries include Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark & Iceland. Sweden Capital- Stockholm, Currency- Swedish krona. The United Kingdom Capital- London, Currency- British pound.
- ☞ Meghalaya CM- Conrad Sangma, Governor- Ganga Prasad.

- ☞ Odisha CM- Naveen Patnaik, Governor- Satya Pal Malik (In-charge). Hirakud Dam built on Mahanadi River is situated in Odisha.
- ☞ Sunderban tiger reserve & Buxa tiger reserves are situated in West Bengal. Hanumata Dam is in West Bengal built over Ganga River.
- ☞ Manipur CM- Nongthombam Biren Singh, Governor- Dr. Najma A. Heptulla.
- ☞ Mizoram CM- Lal Thanhawla, Governor- Lt. General (Retd.) Nirbhay Sharma.
- ☞ Nagaland CM- Neiphiu Rio, Governor- Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya.
- ☞ Sri Lanka Capital- Colombo (commercial capital), Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (Official Capital), Currency- Sri Lankan rupee, President- Maithripala Sirisena.

### New Appointments (National & International)

1. Debjani Ghosh, former managing director of Intel South Asia, is the new president of Nasscom. She has replaced R.Chandrashekhar upon completion of his term.
2. Long-serving American diplomat Rosemary DiCarlo was appointed to become the first woman to head UN political affairs, one of the most high-profile positions at the world body. DiCarlo has replaced Jeffrey Feltman.
3. Lt Gen Harpal Singh an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla has been appointed as Director General Border Roads (DGBR).
4. Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth was appointed as a Deputy Collector in the state government by the CM of Andhra Pradesh N Chandrababu Naidu.
5. Senior bureaucrat Chandra Bhushan Kumar has been appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner as part of a major bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the government.
6. Subrata Bhattacharjee has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia.
7. SBI Life Insurance has appointed Sanjeev Nautiyal as its new Managing Director & CEO. He replaces Arijit Basu, who takes over a key role in the State Bank of India Group.
8. Assam Health & Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was unanimously elected the Badminton Association of India (BAI) President during its annual general body meeting in Goa. Ajay Kumar Singhania was elected the Secretary General of BAI.
9. Balram Bhargava has been appointed the new Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & Secretary of the Department of Health Research. He will succeed Soumya Swaminathan.
10. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been elected chairman of 'Boao Forum for Asia' (BFA). He

has replaced former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

11. Rishad Premji, Board member of Wipro Ltd. has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Association of Software & Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2018-19. He succeeds Raman Roy. NASSCOM also appointed Keshav Murugesh as the Vice Chairman for 2018-19.
12. Senior IPS officer Rajesh Ranjan was appointed as Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
13. Lieutenant General PP Malhotra assumed charge as Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organization in the world.
14. Dilip Chenoy was appointed as the Secretary-General of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). He has replaced Sanjaya Baru.
15. Jim Bridenstine, a congressman from Oklahoma, US Navy veteran, & former pilot, was confirmed on a 50-49 vote & will become the 13th administrator of the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) seven months after Trump named him to lead the agency.
16. Senior lawyer Indu Malhotra was sworn in as the judge of the Supreme Court in the presence of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra. The appointment was made by the President Ram Nath Kovind.
17. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as his new special envoy on Myanmar.
18. Aditya Ghosh resigned as the President & whole-time director of IndiGo & will leave the company by 31 July 2018. While Interglobe Chairman Rahul Bhatia has been appointed as the interim CEO of the company, Greg Taylor will be appointed as president & CEO of the company.
19. Haryana government has appointed international shooter Gauri Sheoran the brand ambassador for its two health-related programmes. It was announced by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the launch of the measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign.
20. Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling became the longest-serving Chief Minister in India, surpassing the record of Jyoti Basu, who served as West Bengal CM from 1977 to 2000. He became the Chief Minister in December 1994 & belongs to the Sikkim Democratic Front.
21. The board of directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank has redesignated Uday Kotak as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
22. Jammu & Kashmir Assembly speaker Kavinder Gupta has been appointed as the Deputy- CM of the state. He will be the new deputy chief minister in place of Nirmal Singh.

### Static Takeaways from New Appointments

- ☞ National Association of Software & Services Companies is the full form of Nasscom. Raman Roy is the chairman of Nasscom.
- ☞ United Nations is an international organization founded in 24th of October 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. Headquarters of UN: New York, USA. Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General.
- ☞ Om Prakash Rawat is the present Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- ☞ Serbia Capital- Belgrade, Currency- Serbian dinar.
- ☞ SBI Life Insurance is a joint venture life insurance company between State Bank of India & and BNP Paribas Cardif. It headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ☞ Debjani Ghosh has been recently appointed the new president of Nasscom.
- ☞ CISF was first founded in 1969. It Headquarters in New Delhi.
- ☞ NCC was established on 16 April 1948. NCC headquarters in New Delhi.
- ☞ Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest & oldest apex business organisation in India.
- ☞ NASA is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States. NASA founded on 29th July 1958.
- ☞ Headquarters of NASA- Washington, D.C., USA.
- ☞ Myanmar State Counsellor- Aung San Suu Kyi, Capital- Naypyidaw, President- Win Myint.
- ☞ Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil is the present Governor of Sikkim. Khangchendzonga National Park is situated in Sikkim.
- ☞ Jammu & Kashmir CM- Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed, Governor- N. N. Vohra.

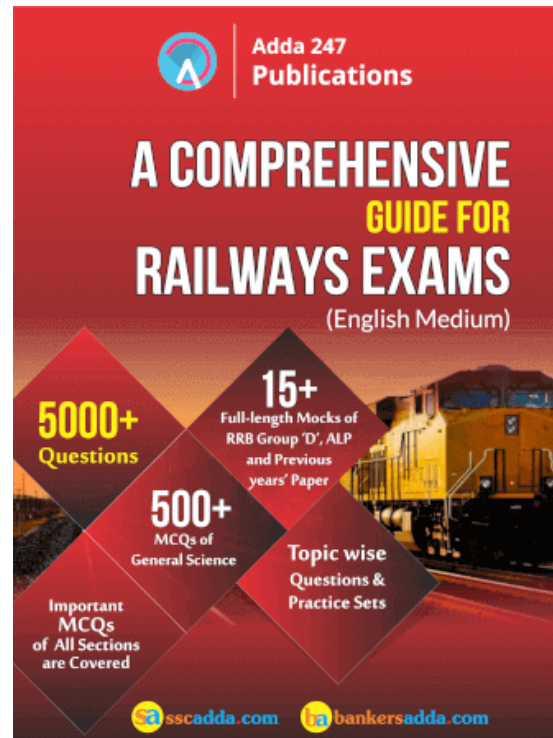
### Sports Current Affairs

1. The Miami Open, sometimes known as the Miami Masters, is an annual tennis tournament for men & women currently held in Florida, the USA. American John Isner won his first ever Masters 1,000 title with a victory over German Alexander Zverev in the Miami Open final. S. Stephens won in the Women's singles category.
2. Kerala has lifted their sixth Santosh Trophy Football title. In a thrilling final at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
3. The 21st edition of the Commonwealth Games begun in Gold Coast, Australia, with a colourful opening ceremony. Carrara Stadium has been chosen as the venue to host the opening ceremony. These Games marked the 5th time that Australia has hosted the games. India was represented at the opening

- ceremony by a contingent of over 200 athletes who were led by flag-bearer P V Sindhu.
4. Weightlifter & current world champion Mirabai Chanu has clinched India's first gold medal of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Mirabai Chanu becomes the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018.
  5. On the first day of competitions at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018, in Australia, India began their campaign with a Silver Medal in Weightlifting. In the 56 kilogram category, P Gururaja lifted a total weight of 249 kg to finish second in the event.
  6. Weightlifter Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu has delivered India its second gold medal of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast City, Australia by dominating the women's 53kg event.
  7. Teenager Deepak Lather became the youngest Indian (18 Yrs old) weightlifter to claim a Commonwealth Games medal, clinching a bronze in the men's 69kg category.
  8. Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has become the most capped player in women's ODI cricket after turning out for the 192nd time against England.
  9. India's 16-year-old Manu Bhaker won the gold in women's 10 air pistol while Heena Sidhu staged a remarkable recovery to secure silver at the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast. Bhaker shot 240.9 to break the Commonwealth Games record.
  10. Indian tennis' ageless wonder Leander Paes 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.
  11. Weightlifter Sathish Sivalingam won India's third gold medal in the ongoing 21st Commonwealth Games.
  12. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel won his second Grand Prix in as many races, at the Bahrain Grand Prix, while Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas finished second by just 0.699 seconds.
  13. Jitu Rai broke the games record to claim the gold medal by some distance in men's 10m air pistol, at the 21st Commonwealth Games. Om Prakash Mitharval bagged bronze in the same event. India's 17-year-old shooter Mehuli Ghosh set a Commonwealth Games joint record to win silver in the women's 10m Air Rifle event. India's 25-year-old shooter Apurvi Chandela won a bronze medal in the same event.
  14. India clinched their first-ever badminton mixed team event gold in Commonwealth Games history after defeating defending champions Malaysia 3-1 in the final at Gold Coast.
  15. India defeated Nigeria to clinch gold in the men's table tennis team event at the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 2006.
  16. India's weightlifter Punam Yadav won gold in the Women's 69kg weightlifting category. Yadav lifted a combined total of 222kg (100 snatch & 122 clean & jerk) & defeated England's Sarah Davies her closest competitor to take her second medal at the Commonwealth Games.
  17. India has bagged three more Gold, one Silver & two bronze medals at the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast. Indian women's Table Tennis team won their first ever Gold Medal defeating Singapore. Manika Batra led Table tennis team's.
  18. Indian shooter Heena Sidhu set Commonwealth Games record to win gold in women's 25m pistol shooting event. This is Sidhu's second medal at CWG 2018, after winning silver in women's 10m air pistol.
  19. Indian shooter Shreyasi Singh won the women's double trap gold in a shoot-off after scoring 96 points to take India's gold medal tally at the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018 to 12.
  20. Indian shooter Om Prakash Mitharval settled for the bronze medal in the men's 50m pistol event at the 21st Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, Australia.
  21. Kidambi Srikanth has become the first Indian male badminton player to attain the world number one ranking since Prakash Padukone in the 1980s.
  22. Indian wrestler & Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar bagged his third straight Commonwealth Games gold medal after winning the men's Freestyle 74 kg event.
  23. Rahul Aware bagged India's first wrestling gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018 after beating Canada's Steven Takahashi in the final of men's Freestyle 57 kg event.
  24. Tejaswini Sawant won India its fifth shooting gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, winning the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Finals in Gold Coast, Australia. India's Anjum Moudgil won silver at the event, after having topped qualification.
  25. Fifteen-year-old shooter Anish Bhanwala became India's youngest gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games, winning the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Finals with a record score at Gold Coast, Australia.
  26. Nineteen-year-old Naman Tanwar won India its first boxing medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, winning a bronze in the men's 91 kg category.
  27. Wrestler Bajrang Punia won his first Commonwealth Games gold medal, defeating Wales' Kane Charig by technical superiority in the men's freestyle 65 kg final in Gold Coast, Australia.
  28. Shooter Sanjeev Rajput won the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions with a Games record at the 2018 Commonwealth Games to seven.
  29. Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin thrower to claim a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, with a season's best effort of 86.47m in the final.

30. Five-time world champion & Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom has become the first Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.
31. World number one Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth won his career's first Commonwealth Games singles Silver medal.
32. Shuttler Saina Nehwal defeated world number three PV Sindhu in the first-ever all-Indian women's singles final at the Commonwealth Games.
33. India finished third in the medals tally at the Commonwealth Games 2018, courtesy 66 medals including 26 gold, 20 silver & 20 bronze medals. Australia with 198 medals (80 Gold, 59 Silver & 59 Bronze) topped the chart & England with 136 Medals (45 Gold, 45 Silver & 46 Bronze) stood second.
34. Pune-based 17-year-old swimmer Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has set a world record to double cross the Bangla Channel.
35. The 2018 Chinese Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race that took place at the Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai, China. Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won the race ahead of Valtteri Bottas & Kimi Raikkonen.
36. 'Son of Dreams' was unveiled as official Mascot of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 in China. The selection of Son of Dreams as China 2019's Official Mascot was the culmination of a unique process by FIBA.
37. 8th South Asian Judo Championship has begun in Lalitpur, Nepal. A total 102 players including 13 from India will compete for 7 gold, 7 silver & 14 bronze medals each in men's & women's individual categories. Indian women made a clean sweep. India won all 7 Gold Medals in women's section.
38. Rafael Nadal of Spain won the 11th Monte Carlo Masters title by defeating Japan's Kei Nishikori in final to retain the world number one ranking. He has become the first male tennis player in the Open Era to win the same title 11 times in his career.
39. Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah has become the first Egyptian player to be named Professional Footballers' Association player of the year.
40. India has won 8th South Asian Judo Championship held in Lalitpur, Nepal. On the concluding day of the championship, Indian women & men won team events. Keeping the unbeaten streak, Indian women whitewashed the championship by beating host Nepal in the final of team events. India topped the medal tally winning 10 Gold & 3 Bronze medals in the individual category. Host Nepal remained second & Pakistan got third place.
41. Rafael Nadal has won his 11th Barcelona Open title on clay. He defeated the 19-year-old Greek Stefanos

- Tsitsipas to clinch the title. Nadal who also won his 11th Monte Carlos Masters title recently.
42. Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi netted a hat-trick as Barcelona defeated Deportivo to clinch the La Liga for the seventh time in 10 years & the 25th time in their history.
43. 56th edition of Belgrade International Boxing Championship was held at Belgrade in Serbia. Indian boxers won three gold, five silver & five bronze medals at this championship. Among Gold medal winners, Sumit Sangwan won the final bout by defeating Ecuador's Castillo Torres in 91 kg category. Indian woman boxer Nikhat Zareen won the Gold medal in 51 kg by defeating Greece's Koutsoeorgopoulou Aikaterini in the final bout. Himanshu Sharma (49 kg) too won Gold medal by defeating Algeria's Mohammed Touareg in the final bout.



#### Static Takeaways from Sports Current Affairs

- 👉 Australia Capital- Canberra, Currency- Australian Dollar, Prime Minister- Malcolm Turnbull.
- 👉 Bahrain Capital- Manama, Currency- Bahraini dinar.
- 👉 Serbia Capital- Belgrade, Currency- Serbian dinar.

#### International Current Affairs

1. The presidents of Iran, Turkey & Russia met for their second tripartite summit in under six months, aiming to speed the peace process for Syria & bolster their influence in the country. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosted his Russian & Iranian counterparts Vladimir Putin & Hassan Rouhani in



- Ankara for a meeting that could have a critical bearing on developments in Syria.
- Singapore & China signed an MoU in Beijing, China to promote greater collaboration between Singapore & Chinese companies in third-party markets along the Belt & Road.
  - India & World Expo 2020 signed participants contract for India's pavilion in the prestigious World Expo 2020 held once in 5 years. The contract provides for the setting up of India pavilion at Expo 2020 on an extra large plot (about one acre) in the 'Opportunity' segment.
  - Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has decided to scrap the quota system in government services after thousands of students marched across the country in protest against a controversial policy of setting aside jobs for special groups.
  - World Bank has approved \$55mn to expand the use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of Bangladesh where grid electricity cannot reach easily.
  - United Nations' Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed announced the launch of the 'UN Road Safety Trust Fund' to stimulate action that can save lives & prevent injuries & sufferings associated with road accidents.
  - United Kingdom joined the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-day visit to Britain.
  - The Jatra begins in Nepal. It is believed that the festival started during Malla dynasty. In Nepal, the famous Bisket Jatra is being celebrated in Bhaktapur & other parts of Kathmandu valley.
  - Since 2016, fourteen new sites have been designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), including the first ones in Europe.
  - India has won an election to a crucial non-governmental organisation committee in the United Nations. It topped the election held by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in the Asia Pacific States category. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is a standing committee of Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC).
  - Swaziland's King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch, 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.
  - Britain's Prince Charles will succeed his mother Queen Elizabeth II as the Head of the Commonwealth after the heads of government agreed on his succession.
  - The Commonwealth countries have unanimously agreed to take action on cybersecurity by 2020. In a landmark declaration at the end of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, the leaders of 53 countries agreed to work closely to

evaluate & strengthen their cybersecurity frameworks & response mechanisms.

- Bolivian Foreign Minister Fernando Huanacuni has announced that Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay & Peru had decided to temporarily leave the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), given differences over choosing the secretary general of the group.
- Iran has banned the use of bitcoin & other cryptocurrencies by its banks & financial institutions.
- Canada & the European Union will host the world's first 2-Day female foreign ministers' meeting in September 2018 in Canada. The announcement was made by the Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland.
- European Union & the United Nations co-chaired an international conference in Brussels, Belgium aiming to pump financial aid for Syrians & garner political support for UN-led intra-Syrian talks.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi left on a three-day visit to China. Mr Modi will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping during an informal summit in Wuhan city.
- Mario Abdo Benitez won the presidential election conducted in Paraguay. He belongs to the ruling Colorado Party. He had secured 46.5% of the votes, with 96% of 21,000.
- Mike Pompeo was sworn in as the secretary of state, shortly after the Senate confirmed the former CIA director's nomination as America's top diplomat at a crucial time when the US is involved in several high stakes negotiations around the world.
- The leaders of North & South Korea agreed to pursue a permanent peace & the complete denuclearization of the divided peninsula, as they embraced after a historic summit laden with symbolism. Kim Jong-un, the leader of North Korea & Moon Jae-in, the leader of South Korea also agreed to end hostile activities between the two nations, change the demilitarised zone (DMZ) that divides the country into a "peace zone" by ceasing propaganda broadcasts.

#### Static Takeaways from International Current Affairs

- Iran Capital- Tehran, Currency- Iranian Rial. President- Hassan Rouhani.
- Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira.
- Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) is a mega project initiated by China to connect countries across Europe, Africa & Asia together via ancient land & sea trade routes.
- President of the World Bank- Jim Yong Kim. Headquarters of World Bank: Washington, DC.
- United Kingdom Capital- London, Currency- British pound, Prime Minister- Theresa May.

- ☞ Swaziland King- Mswati III, Capitals- Mbabane, Lobamba. eSwatini in a Swazi language stands for 'place of the Swazi'.
- ☞ The Secretary-General of Commonwealth is Patricia Scotland.
- ☞ UNASUR was promoted by late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Surinam, Uruguay & Venezuela remain in the bloc.
- ☞ Canada Capital- Ottawa, Currency- Canadian dollar, Prime minister- Justin Trudeau.
- ☞ Syria Capital- Damascus, Currency- Syrian pound, President- Bashar al-Assad.
- ☞ Paraguay Capital- Asuncion, Currency- Guarani.

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### Defence Current Affairs

1. United States & South Korea began their joint military training exercise named 'Foal Eagle. Foal Eagle, the largest annual joint military exercise in South Korea, usually runs about two months.
2. The Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEK) was awarded a construction licence for Akkuyu NPP, Turkey's first nuclear power plant, which is being built in Mersin province, in southern Turkey. JSC Akkuyu Nuklear is the Russian-owned company which is responsible for the project.
3. Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy, search & rescue exercise 'Sahyog- Hyeoblyeog 2018' was conducted off the Chennai coast, in Tamil Nadu. The Korean Coast Guard ship 'Bodaro' took part in the exercise.
4. Indian Air Force (IAF) is going to conduct its biggest ever combat exercise named Gagan Shakti, 2018 along Pakistan & China borders. Depending upon the order of the Air Force Chief, the Air Force will mobilise its assets in the war scenario within 48 hours of the orders.
5. United Arab Emirates (UAE) & Malaysia concluded joint military exercise "Desert Tiger 5" aimed at sharing expertise & enhancing joint military actions in Dubai, UAE.

6. The tenth edition of a biennial exhibition of weapons & military hardware - DefExpo India- 2018 held at Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu.
7. The Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) & the Groupement des Industries Françaises Aeronautiques et Spatiales (GIFAS) signed an MoU on the sidelines of a major industrial mission in India in the field of aerospace & defence organised by GIFAS with the support of SIDM.
8. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman & External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj have attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) defence ministers' & Foreign Ministers meeting in Beijing, China, respectively. The annual summit of the SCO, in which India is the latest entrant along with Pakistan, will take place in the Chinese city of Qingdao in June 2018.
9. As part of ongoing Indo-Malaysian defence cooperation, a joint training exercise Harimau Shakti will be conducted in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia.
10. Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is being conducted to strengthen & assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism along Kerala shores. Along with Coastal Police & Marine Enforcement wing, Indian Coast Guard & Indian Navy is also participating in Exercise 'Sagar Kavach'.
11. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the capital acquisition proposals of over 3,687 crore rupees. The decision was taken in the meeting council, chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.
12. Indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has successfully fired an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile.

### Static Takeaways related to Defence

- ☞ South Korea President- Moon Jae-in, Capital- Seoul.
- ☞ Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira, President- Recep Tayyip Erdogan.
- ☞ Director General, Indian Coast Guard is Rajendra Singh & Commissioner of Korean Coast Guard is General Park Kyung.
- ☞ Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the present Chief of Air Staff.
- ☞ UAE Capital- Abu Dhabi, Currency- UAE dirham. Malaysia Capital- Kuala Lumpur, Currency- Malaysian ringgit.
- ☞ Zambia Capital- Lusaka, Currency- Zambian kwacha, President of Zambia- Edgar Chagwa Lungu.
- ☞ France Capital- Paris, Currency- Euro, President- Emmanuel Macron.
- ☞ SCO, headquartered in Beijing, was founded in 2001.

- ☞ Malaysian Capital- Kuala Lumpur, Currency- Malaysian ringgit.
- ☞ Admiral Sunil Lanba is the present chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy.
- ☞ Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the present chief of Air staff of Indian Airforce.

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### Ranks/Indexes Released

1. Mangalore International Airport has been adjudged the cleanest airport in the country. Airport director VV Rao received the award during the 23rd annual day celebrations of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in New Delhi.
  2. According to report released by global startup ecosystem map Startupblink, India was ranked 37th out of 125 countries in global startup ecosystem in 2017. Startupblink is a global startup ecosystem map with tens of thousands of registered startups, coworking spaces, & accelerators. It was topped by the United States followed by the United Kingdom.
  3. Reliance Industries Chairman & Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has been ranked 19th on Bloomberg Billionaires Top 100 Index as he becomes the third richest Asian on the list. While Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has added \$21.8 billion to his fortunes this year & takes the top spot, Microsoft founder Bill Gates was ranked 2nd.
  4. Union Minister of HRD, Mr. Prakash Javadekar, released the NIRF (National Institute of Ranking Framework) India Rankings 2018 in various categories on the basis of performance of Higher Educational Institutions in a programme held in New Delhi. The top 3 Overall Institutes in India are:
    1. Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bengaluru), 2. Indian Institute of Technology Madras & 3. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.
- The top 3 Universities in India are:**
1. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, 2. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, & 3. Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi.

5. India emerged as the third most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats, such as malware, spam & ransomware, in 2017, according to a report by security solutions provider Symantec. The U.S. (26.61%) was most vulnerable to such attacks, followed by China (10.95%), according to 'Internet Security Threat Report'.
6. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has climbed six positions to reach on 16th Position to enter the club of the top 20 airports across the world, the Airport Council International's preliminary report on airport traffic for 2017. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport in the United States with 104 million passengers secured the top spot, followed by Beijing at the second position & Dubai at the third.
7. India has jumped 13 places in the last one year to 130th spot in the latest annual Index of Economic Freedom released by a top American think-tank the Heritage Foundation. As per the latest Index of Economic Freedom, China has jumped one spot to 110th & Pakistan is now at 131 position. The top 3 countries in the list are- 1. Hong Kong, 2. Singapore & 3. New Zealand.
8. The garden city of Bengaluru is found to be the highest paying city in the country, with an average annual cost to company (CTC) for talent across all levels & functions standing at about Rs 11 lakh, according to Randstad Insights, the research & analysis division of Randstad India.
9. India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the worth of the economy, clocked in at \$2.6 trillion for 2017, according to the database of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO) for April 2018. India is now the world's sixth largest economy, displacing France. The Top 3 economies of the world are: 1. The United States, 2. China, & 3. Japan.
10. As per the 2018 Commonwealth Innovation Index, India fetched 10th position in the index topped by the United Kingdom, Singapore & 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.
11. In India, Bangalore has emerged as the most preferred city for office expansion, according to a survey by real estate consulting firm, CBRE South Asia.
12. According to the TRA Brand Trust Report 2018, the State Bank of India was the most-trusted bank (both public & private sector) in the country & ICICI Bank topped the chart among the private ones. This year, State Bank of India tops the chart of BFSI (Banking & Financial Services Institutions) super-category despite seeing a dip in its overall brand trust index ranking. The leader among the private banks is ICICI Bank,

rising nine ranks in overall ranking, it ranked 38th overall in 2018.

13. The TIME Magazine 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 & Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella.
14. India is poised to remain the fastest growing large economy in the world, & its GDP is expected to reach \$5 trillion by 2025, Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has told the World Bank in the 97th meeting of the Development Committee of the World Bank in Washington, USA.
15. India has retained its position as the top remittances receiving country with its diaspora sending about \$69 billion back home in 2017, according to the report of the World Bank. Remittances to India picked up sharply by 9.9% to \$69 billion in 2017, reversing the previous year's dip. The World Bank said remittance inflows improved in all regions & the top remittance recipients were India with \$69 billion, followed by China (\$64 billion) & the Philippines (\$33 billion).
16. Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani (24th Rank) & human rights lawyer Indira Jaising (20th Rank) have been named by Fortune magazine as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018. This year's list is topped by 'The Students' of Marjory Stoneman Douglas & other schools of US that witnessed gun violence.
17. According to the 2018 World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), India has ranked 138th (falling 2 positions down from 136th in 2017). The list has been topped by Norway. North Korea was at the bottom-most position (180th) in the list. The Top 3 countries in World Press Freedom Index Report are: 1. Norway, 2. Sweden, 3. The Netherlands.
18. Technology giant Microsoft India has been declared the most attractive employer brand, followed by e-commerce giant Amazon India. The winners were named by HR service provider Randstad's Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2018. Sector-wise, Tata Consultancy Services is most favoured in IT, while Larsen & Toubro tops Infrastructure & Construction & Hindustan Unilever emerges the winner in FMCG.
19. Online search engine Google is the most trusted Internet brand in India, followed by Facebook, as per the TRA Brand Trust Report 2018. With 1.2 trillion searches per year, Google has become the first port of call for all things on the Internet. Google was followed by Facebook, Amazon & eBay.

### Static Takeaways Related to Rank & Reports

- The Chairman of Airports Authority of India is Guruprasad Mohapatra.
- Bengaluru is the capital city of Karnataka. CM of Karnataka- Siddaramaiah. Governor of Karnataka- Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala.
- The Secretary-General of Commonwealth is Patricia Scotland.
- Google CEO- Sundar Pichai, Parent organization- Alphabet Inc., Headquarters- the USA.

### Important Days

1. The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day. The theme for WAAD 2018 is "Empowering Women & Girls with Autism".
2. The 55th edition of National Maritime Day was celebrated all over India. NMD is celebrated on 5th April every year since 1964. The theme for National Maritime Day 2018 is: 'Indian Shipping - An Ocean of opportunity'.
3. The World Health Day is a global health awareness day organized globally on 7th April. World Health Day is one of the eight official health campaigns which are marked by the World Health Organization. The theme of World Health Day is: Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere. The slogan is "Health for All".
4. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a scientific convention on the World Homeopathy Day in New Delhi. The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Homoeopathy founder Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann (10 April 1755).
5. Nation remembers Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 127th birth anniversary. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution of India, was born on 14th April 1891 at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, which is now known as Dr Ambedkar Nagar. He was also the first law minister of India.
6. Himachal Pradesh celebrated its 71st foundation day on 15th April 2018 with much fanfare & gaiety. Several cultural events were organized across the state. It may be recalled that the hill state came into existence after the merger of 30 odd princely states in 1948.
7. Every April 17 World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia & other inherited bleeding disorders. The theme of WHD 2018 is 'Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger'.
8. Every year, 18th April is celebrated Worldwide as World Heritage Day to create awareness about Heritage among communities. This year the theme is 'Heritage for Generations'.

9. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the two-day Civil Services Day event in New Delhi. The Day focuses on the topic 'Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts'. - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018
  10. The World Earth Day (WED) is celebrated on 22nd April not only to spread awareness of the need for conservation but also to take action to protect the environment. The theme for World Earth Day 2018 is 'End Plastic Pollution'.
  11. World Book & Copyright Day is celebrated globally this year on 23 April to provide the people with many ideas & plans to make them aware of the situation & condition in the World. The World Book Capital for 2018 is Athens, Greece.
  12. The nation celebrates the National Panchayati Raj Diwas (24th Aril) as this date marks a defining moment in the history of decentralization of political power to the grassroots level. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Mandla in Madhya Pradesh on the National Panchayati Raj Day. He launched the Rashtriya Gramin Swaraj Abhiyan.
  13. World Malaria Day is observed on April 25 every year to recognise the global effort to control malaria & also to spread awareness about the around the world. The theme for this year's Malaria Day is 'Ready to beat Malaria'.
  14. World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on 26th of April to learn about the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation & creativity. The theme for WIPD 2018 is 'Powering change: Women in innovation & creativity'.
3. India & Nepal have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in key areas of border security, connectivity, trade & agriculture. The two countries agreed to develop inland waterways for overall economic development of the region.
  4. India & Equatorial Guinea sign four agreements in the field of agriculture, mining, health, telecommunications & IT after delegation-level talks between Indian President Ram Nath Kovind & Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo at Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.
  5. India has inked a pact with Morocco under which focus would be laid on the evaluation of potential mineral resources & promoting exploration & mining through the participation of both public & private sector.
  6. An Indian consortium consisting of IOCL, BPCL & HPCL signed an MoU with Saudi Aramco on the sidelines of the 16 International Energy Forum Ministerial. The plan is to finish the project by 2025.
  7. India & Timor Leste have signed an MoU in the field of public health to extend affordable healthcare to the people of the Southeast Asian nation. Krishan Pal Gurjar, the minister of state for social justice & empowerment has recently concluded a four-day visit to Timor Lest.
  8. National Highways Authority of India has signed an agreement for the upgradation of Yagyi - Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar to two lanes with an earthen shoulder. The aim is to provide seamless vehicular movement for enhancing trade, business, health, education & tourism among India, Myanmar & Thailand.
  9. India & Russia signed 7 MoUs at Defence Expo at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. These MoUs were signed between the Indian Private Defence sector manufacturing companies & Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for manufacture, development of spares, sub-assemblies & assemblies of identified Russian origin platforms.
  10. In line with the efforts to indigenize the defence sector under the 'Make in India' initiative, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU to cater to the needs of evolving domestic & export markets for defence products & systems.
  11. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed an MoU with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to provide skill training to 500 youth & women at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.
  12. India & the UK have signed 10 agreements in several sectors including cyber-relationship, rejuvenation of Ganga & skill development.
  13. SJVN Limited has signed an MoU with Ministry of Power for the year 2018-19. The MoU was signed by

### Static Takeaways from Important Days

- 👉 WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the Present Director-General of WHO.
- 👉 Himachal Pradesh CM- Jai Ram Thakur, Governor- Acharya Dev Vrat.
- 👉 UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization. France's Audrey Azoulay- 11th DG of UNESCO, Headquarters- Paris, France.

### Agreement Signed

1. India & Azerbaijan have inked two documents for the visa waiver for diplomatic, official & service passports holders & cooperation between diplomatic training institutes. Ms Swaraj is there to be part of 18th NAM Ministerial Conference in Baku.
2. The Centre, Maharastra Government & the World Bank have signed a 420 million dollar project to help small & marginals farmers in the Marathwada & Vidarbha region of the state.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Secretary (Power) & Shri Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN.

14. Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors from G20, the Group of 20 economies, have agreed to aim for economic growth by promoting trade. In their two day meeting at Washington, the financial leaders agreed to work together to promote trade & global economic growth. Argentine Treasury Minister Nicolas Dujovne has chaired the meeting.
15. India & the World Bank signed a \$210 million loan agreement for the Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project. The Project will cover 10,510 km stretch of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh that fall under the Chief Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (CMGSY) program.
16. A Loan Agreement for IBRD credit of US\$ 125 (equivalent) for the "Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project" was signed with the World Bank in New Delhi.
17. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is tying up with the US & Finland to develop new pollution-forecast system that will help anticipate particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance & at greater resolution. The new system will jointly develop with expertise from Finnish Meteorological Institute & US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
18. An MoU on technical knowledge sharing for establishing a nationwide Time Stamping & Time Synchronization network & traceability of Time signal to UTC NPL Time was signed between Council of Scientific & Industrial Research -National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) & Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.
19. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) entered into a pact with Macquarie for road projects under the highway monetisation drive.
20. Dalmia Bharat Limited has signed an MoU with the Tourism Ministry to take up Red Fort (in Delhi) & Gandikota Fort (Andhra Pradesh) under the 'Adopt a Heritage' project. Becoming the first corporate to be part of the initiative, Dalmia Bharat will look after the operations & the maintenance of these heritage sites for the next five years.
21. Maharashtra government signed an MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational & cultural cooperation.

### Awards & Recognition

1. Lyricist & director Sreekumaran Thampi has been selected for the J.C. Daniel Award, the Kerala government's highest honour for lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema. The award comprises of Rs5 lakh & a citation.
2. Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma will be awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award for her successful movies as a producer.
3. Veteran Hindi film actor Shri Vinod Khanna was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contribution to Indian Cinema. This was announced during the 65th National Film Awards.
4. Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra will be conferred with the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement & filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani with Raj Kapoor Special Contribution awards. Maharashtra Culture Minister Vinod Tawde announced the names of the winners.
5. Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank Ltd became one of the top 50 most valuable publicly traded firms in India. The market capitalization of Bandhan Bank was at Rs64,000 crore, claiming 50th rank, according to BSE data. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd is the most valuable company in India, followed by Reliance Industries Ltd & HDFC Bank Ltd.
6. Aditi Rao Hydari will receive Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award) for her memorable performance in Bhoomi.
7. The Most Film Friendly State Award was announced by the Chairman of the Jury, Shri Ramesh Sippy. State of Madhya Pradesh was conferred the award for the Most Film Friendly State for its efforts towards easing filming in the State by creating a well-structured website & film-friendly infrastructure. Total 16 states have participated in this award.

8. Indu Jain, chairman of Bennett, Coleman & Co, India's largest media house, has received the All India Management Association's (AIMA's) annual award for lifetime contribution to media.
9. Lalit Kala Akademi, organised the award ceremony of the '1st Print Biennale India 2018 (PBI)' in New Delhi. The Chief Guest of the programme was Ms Sujata Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture. Arup Kumar Kuity (Andhra Pradesh), Satya Narayana Gavara (Andhra Pradesh), Preya Bhagat (Uttar Pradesh), Purvi Parmar (Gujrat) & Sonal Varshneya (Uttar Pradesh) were given the award in the 1st PBI.
10. Jailed Egyptian photographer Mahmoud Abu Zeid, popularly known as Shawkan won the 2018 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize of the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization's (UNESCO).
11. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is awarded the National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018 in the category "Top R&D Institution / Organization for Patents & Commercialization". Dr Girish Sahni, DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR received the award at the hands of Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry.
12. Bollywood actors Bhumi Pednekar, Sonam Kapoor & Akshay Kumar bagged the best actress & best actor awards respectively at the Dadasaheb Phalke awards, given by Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation, held in Mumbai. Manisha Koirala won the 'Most Versatile Actress' award. Veteran actor-director Rakesh Roshan was given the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the industry as an actor, producer & a director.
13. Gujarati poet, playwright & academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra was selected for 2017 Saraswati Samman for his collection of verses (poetry) titled "Vakhar" published in 2009. It was 27 edition of the award.
5. Tripura hosted the first meeting of the NITI Forum- a unit of NITI Aayog in Agartala. In this meeting, Chief Ministers of all Northeastern States, Minister of Development of North Eastern Region & senior officials of NITI Aayog & Union Government joined the conclave.
6. President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari inaugurated an International Conference on Human Rights in South Asia in Kathmandu. The conference is organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.
7. An international conference on 'Water, Environment & Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing & Partnership' started in Kathmandu, Nepal.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi. It is the largest gathering of Ministers from energy consuming, producing & transit countries. It is hosted by India & co-hosted by China & Korea.
9. India Mobile Congress will be held in October 2018 at Aerocity in New Delhi. It is one of the biggest marquee Mobile, Internet & Technology events in Asia, organized by Department of Telecommunications & Cellular Operators Association of India.
10. The seventh edition of Home Expo India 2018, organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), was inaugurated at India Expo Centre & Mart in Greater Noida.
11. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2018) has begun in London, the UK. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take part in the event on 19th & 20th of April. The theme of the summit is 'Towards a Common Future'.
12. Commerce & Industry Minister launched the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) GlobalLinker platform for MSME exporters in New Delhi. This move is aimed at assisting the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in exports.
13. Ministry of External Affairs in cooperation with the Government of Germany & the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) hosted the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 in New-Delhi. The title of the Conference is 'Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540'.
14. The first meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan was held today in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog.
15. With an aim to strengthen trade ties with India, Taipei World Trade Centre (TWTC) launched its office in Delhi, ahead of Taiwan's first ever expo that will showcase cutting-edge technology & smart city solutions in Delhi in May 2018. Note: James C.F

## Summits/Events Held

1. Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregation, Huddle Kerala, will be held at Kovalam.
2. The crucial dialogue between the three leading democratic powers (viz. India, Japan & the USA) of the Indo-Pacific region was held in New Delhi.
3. The Global Logistics Summit was held in New Delhi. It was organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, along with FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) & the World Bank Group.
4. The two-day Assam Spring Festival began at the Manas National Park where visitors will get to experience the state's local food, music, handloom & handicrafts.

Huang is the chairman TWTC. Taipei is the Capital city of Taiwan.

16. Suresh Prabhu, the commerce & industry minister, held the first e-commerce think tank meeting in New Delhi. The minister chaired the meeting which aimed at framing a national policy on e-commerce.
17. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the 6th round of India-Mongolia Joint Consultative Committee meeting with her Mongolian counterpart Damdin Tsogtbaatar in Ulaanbaatar. Mrs Swaraj became the first Indian External Affairs Minister to visit the nation in 42 years.
18. India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on trade, transit & cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade started in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Indian side is led by Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia.
19. Manipur's Shirui Lily Festival 2018 was concluded at Ukhrul district. The festival was sponsored by the department of tourism, Manipur to spread awareness about conservation of the endangered Shirui Lily.

### Miscellaneous includes the Visits, Science & Tech, Indian Railways & Other topics.

1. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is in Russia to attend the 7th Moscow Conference on International Security. This is her first visit to Russia in her capacity as the Defence Minister.
2. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj begun her three-day visit to Azerbaijan to participate in the Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku.
3. Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has begun his three-day visit to India. According to the External Affairs Ministry, the visit will provide an opportunity to review wide-ranging cooperative partnership & to progress it further.
4. Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari is on a four-day official visit to South Korea. The visit is aimed at strengthening ties between the two nations & further cementing cooperation in areas, including sharing of technology, experience in port development & joint participation in port-related construction.
5. President Ram Nath Kovind, on a three-nation Africa visit, held delegation-level talks with Swaziland King Mswati III in Mbabane. India & Swaziland signed two agreements on health & visa waiver. President Kovind was conferred with 'Order of the Lion', the highest award of Swaziland.
6. President Ram Nath Kovind has returned to New Delhi after three African nations tour of Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland & Zambia. Mr Kovind & his Zambian counterpart Edgar Chagwa Lungu laid the foundation stone of Lusaka traffic Decongestion

Project. The cost of the 93-km road is 289 million dollar India is providing 250 million dollars. The project will be completed in three years.

7. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi was on the three-nation visit of Europe to Sweden, the UK & Germany. He has signed various important agreements & attended various conferences during the visit. Following are the important highlights regarding the 3-nation visit of PM Modi.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel & discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.
9. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj left for China on a four-day visit. She will participate in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). She will hold talks with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.
10. Indian Space Research Organisation launched the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System-1I, the eighth such satellite to be a part of a constellation. It was launched from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. IRNSS-1I is expected to replace IRNSS-1A.
11. A world-class interpretation centre & other tourist facilities for visitors were inaugurated at the Konark Sun Temple, Odisha.
12. The trial run of the first container train between India & Bangladesh was flagged off from Kolkata city.
13. Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated first flight from Delhi to Pathankot (Punjab), at a ceremony held at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. Pathankot in Punjab state is the 21st airport in the country, which got operational for passengers.
14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr Ambedkar National Memorial in New Delhi. The memorial is dedicated to the life & contributions of Dr. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Constitution.
15. Karan Johar has become the first-ever Bollywood filmmaker to get a place at the famous Madame Tussauds.
16. Madras High Court became the first court in south India & overall eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility. It was jointly launched by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami & Chief Justice Indira Banerjee. It will enable litigants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to the government through e-stamps, which can be purchased both online & offline.
17. Ministry of HRD constituted a High Powered Committee to examine the entire system of conducting Class X & Class XII examination conducted by the CBSE with a view to prevent leakages. Mr. Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Retd. Secretary (Higher Education),



MHRD will be the Chairperson of the 7 member High Power Committee.

18. The Union Government formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to reform the process of higher defence planning. The permanent body would be chaired by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
19. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released three books based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917. Nitish Kumar released the books titled- 'Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary' written by Arvind Mohan, 'Champaran Andolan 1917' edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar & 'Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi' collected & edited by Srikant.
20. Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the 29th Road Safety Week at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. He released a book named "Have a Safe Journey".
21. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released a book titled 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism' by former Planning Commission & Finance Commission member C H Hanumantha Rao.

**Static Takeaways related to  
Miscellaneous | Summits | Awards | Agreements based  
Current Affairs**

- 👉 Vietnam Capital- Hanoi, Currency- Vietnamese dong, President- Tran Dai Quang.
- 👉 Thiruvananthapuram is the capital city of Kerala.
- 👉 Kerala CM- Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor- Justice (Retd.) Palaniswamy Sathasivam.
- 👉 Konark Sun Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was built in the 13th century.
- 👉 Japan Capital- Tokyo, Currency- Japanese yen, Prime Minister- Shinzo Abe.
- 👉 US Capital- Washington D.C., Currency- American dollar, President- Donald Trump.
- 👉 President of Azerbaijan- Ilham Aliyev, Capital- Baku, Currency- Azerbaijani manat.
- 👉 Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Currency- Nepalese rupee, President- Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister- Khadga Prasad Oli.
- 👉 UDAN is a Regional Connectivity Scheme stands for Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagarik. Under UDAN, air connectivity is provided to unserved & underserved airports at a subsidized fare. The Chairman of Airports Authority of India is Guruprasad Mohapatra.
- 👉 Chief Minister of Maharashtra- Devendra Fadnavis
- 👉 Manas National Park is also a tiger & rhino reserve which covers five districts of Assam.
- 👉 Equatorial Guinea | Capital- Malabo, Currency- Central African CFA franc.
- 👉 South Korean President- Moon Jae-in, Capital- Seoul.

- 👉 Nirmala Sitharaman is the present Defence Minister of India.
- 👉 Dr. K Sivan is Chairman of ISRO. Headquarters of ISRO- Bengaluru.
- 👉 Morocco Capital- Rabat, Currency- Moroccan dirham.
- 👉 The capital of Timor Leste is Dili. Timor Leste President- Francisco Guterres, Prime Minister- Mari Alkatiri.
- 👉 Nitin Gadkari is the Present Road Transport & Highways Minister of India.
- 👉 Zambia Capital- Lusaka, Currency- Zambian kwacha, President of Zambia- Edgar Chagwa Lungu.
- 👉 MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank is Chandra Shekhar Ghosh. It headquarters in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- 👉 Federation of Indian Export Organisations was set up in 1965. It was set up by Union Ministry of Commerce.
- 👉 Dilip Chenoy is the Director General of FICCI. Sanjaya Baru is the Secretary General of FICCI. FICCI was established in 1927.
- 👉 Madhya Pradesh CM- Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Governor- Anandiben Patel. Kanha National Park (famous for Tiger Reserve) is situated in Madhya Pradesh.
- 👉 Germany Capital- Berlin, Currency- Euro, Chancellor- Angela Merkel.
- 👉 Madhya Pradesh CM- Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Governor- Anandiben Patel.
- 👉 The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize was established in 1997 by UNESCO in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist. France's Audrey Azoulay- 11th DG of UNESCO, Headquarters- Paris, France.
- 👉 Mongolian Capital- Ulaanbaatar, Currency- Mongolian togrog, Prime Minister- Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh.
- 👉 Dr Harsh Vardhan is the present Minister of Earth Sciences.
- 👉 Puneet Dalmia is the Managing Director of Dalmia Bharat Group. K J Alphons is the Minister of State for Tourism (I/C).

**Obituaries**

1. Former Manipur Chief Minister R K Dorendra Singh passed away in Imphal.
2. Veteran journalist S Nihal Singh passed at the age of 88 following an illness. He was suffering from kidney-related ailments.
3. Former US first lady Barbara Bush passed away at the age of 92. She was the first lady of the USA from 1989 to 1993.
4. Veteran journalist & columnist TVR Shenoy passed away at Manipal Hospital in Karnataka. Shenoy was famous for his deeper analysis & narrative style writing in his illustrious career.

5. Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar passed away. He was 94. Mr Sachar has since his retirement been associated with the People's Union for Civil Liberties, a rights group.
6. Indian animation pioneer & multiple National Award winner Bhimsain Khurana had passed away. He was 82. Khurana was known for films like "Gharaonda" & for iconic animation shorts like "Ek Anek Ekta".
7. The world's oldest person, a 117-year-old Japanese woman named Nabi Tajima had passed away. Tajima, born on Aug. 4, 1900, was the last known person born in the 19th century.

#### Cabinet Approvals in APRIL 2018

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given the following set of approvals. The important Cabinet Approvals are given as follows-

1. Cooperation Arrangement between India and Afghanistan for cooperation in the field of food safety and related areas,
2. MoU between India and Iran on the establishment of an expert group on trade remedy measures,
3. Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and Canada to foster cross-border partnerships focused on research excellence and industry-academic collaboration,
4. Closure of loss-making Burn Standard Company Limited - a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)- Decision taken in view of the continuous poor physical and financial performance of the company for more than 10 years combined with low probability of its revival in the future,

5. Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and United Arab Emirates on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector,
6. Demerger and transfer of surplus land from Tata Communications Limited (TCL) to Hemisphere Properties India Ltd. (HPIL),
7. Rightsizing the Competition Commission of India- from 1 Chairperson and 6 Members (totalling seven) to 1 Chairperson and 3 Members (totalling four) by not filling the existing vacancies of two Members and one more additional vacancy.
8. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018.
9. MoU between India and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the return of Illegal Migrants.
10. Revision of pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories.
11. Headquarters (Host country) Agreement between India and the International Solar Alliance.
12. Exploration and Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) from areas under Coal Mining Lease allotted to Coal India Limited (CIL) and its Subsidiaries.
13. MoU between India and Sao Tome and Principe for Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.
14. The Memorandum of Agreement between India and World Health Organisation represented by its Regional Office for South-East Asia acting through its Country Office in India.
15. MoU on cooperation in the field of regulation of medical products for human use amongst the medicine regulatory agencies of the BRICS countries.
16. Long-Term Agreements for the supply of iron ore (lumps and fines) to Japan and South Korea through MMTC Limited.
17. Declaration of Scheduled Areas in respect of Rajasthan under Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India.
18. Restructured National Bamboo Mission- 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).
19. Minimum Support Prices for Raw Jute for 2018-19 season- The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Raw Jute has been increased to Rs.3700/- per quintal for 2018-19 season from Rs. 3500/- per quintal in the 2017-18 season.

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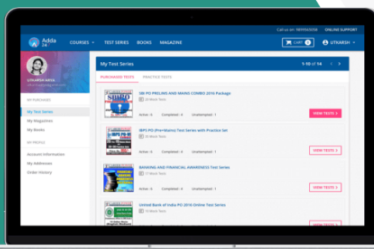
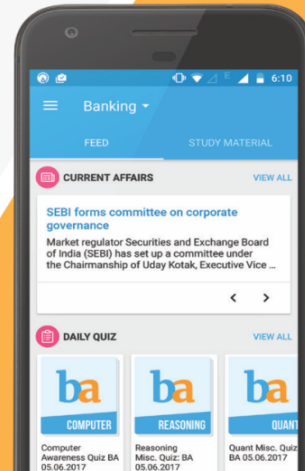
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