

## **GENERAL AWARENESS–CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **MONTH OF MARCH–2018**

#### **List of Important Days**

- March 1 - Zero Discrimination Day. (Theme - “What if ...” )
- March 3 - World Wildlife Day. (Theme - “Big Cats”).
- March 3 - International Sex Workers Rights Day.
- March 4 - National Safety Day.(Themes – “Reinforce Positive Behavior at the Workplace to Achieve Safety and Health Goals”)
- March 4 – 10 - National Safety Week.
- March 8 - International Women’s Day. (Theme - “PressforProgress”)
- March 8 – World Kidney Day. (Theme - “Kidneys & Women’s Health. Include, Value, Empower”)
- March 10 - 49th Raising Day of the CISF.
- March 12 - World Day against Cyber Censorship.
- March 14 - Pi Day.
- March 14 – (2nd Wednesday in March) No Smoking Day.
- March 15 - World Consumer Rights Day. (Viswa Upabhokta Adhikar Diwas in India) (Theme – “Making digital marketplaces fairer”)
- March 16 - World Sleep Day.
- March 20 - International Day of Happiness. (Theme – “Share Happiness - focusing on the importance of relationships, kindness and helping each other”)
- March 20 - World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People.
- March 20 - World Sparrow Day. (Theme – “ILOVE Sparrows”)
- March 21 - International Day of Forests. (Theme – “Forests and Sustainable Cities”)
- March 21 - World Poetry Day.
- March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day.
- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Theme – “Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination”)
- March 21 – World Puppetry Day.
- March 22 - World Water Day. (Theme – “Nature for Water”)
- March 23 - World Meteorological Day. (Theme – “Weather-Ready, Climate-Smart”)
- March 23 - Pakistan Day.
- March 24 - World Tuberculosis (TB) Day. (Theme - “Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world”)
- March 25 - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade. (Theme - “Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality”)
- March 26 - Independence Day of Bangladesh.
- March 27 - World Theatre Day (WTD).

## Reserve Bank of India

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that it has imposed a **penalty of Rs.2 crore** on **Indian Overseas Bank** after a "fraud was detected" at one of its branches. It said the bank failed to comply with **Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations**.
  - The RBI has also imposed a penalty of **Rs.3 crore** on **Axis Bank** for violation of **bad loan classification** norms.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has levied a **Rs.40 lakh** penalty on **State Bank of India (SBI)** for violating rules of detection and **impounding of counterfeit notes**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a penalty of **Rs.5 crore** on **Airtel Payments Bank** for breaching **Know Your Customer (KYC)** norms.
  - The fine was imposed after the RBI found it guilty of opening payments bank accounts of subscribers without their consent.
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for increased **cooperation** in **effective** implementation of **insolvency law**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has discontinued the issuance of **Letters of Undertaking (LoUs)** and **Letters of Comfort (LoCs)** for **import trade credits**.
  - An LoU is an assurance given by one bank to another to meet liabilities on a customer's behalf.
- According to recently revealed RBI data, as much as **Rs.11302 crore** belonging to over **3 crore account holders** is lying **unclaimed** with **64 banks**.
  - The largest amount of **Rs.1262 crore** is lying with **State Bank of India (SBI)**. **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** stood at **2nd** position with **Rs.1250 crore**.
- The issuer of Indian currency, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it is going to issue **Rs 350 coin** to mark the **350th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **penalized** India's third-largest lender **ICICI Bank** with **Rs. 58.9 crore** for failing to comply with **held-to-maturity (HTM) guidelines**.

## State Bank of India

- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has **increased Marginal Cost-based Lending Rates (MCLR)** across most maturities, making home, education, and auto loans more expensive.
  - The bank raised the key one-year MCLR rate to **8.15% from 7.95%**, effective immediately.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** **slashed charges** for **non-maintenance of Average Monthly Balance (AMB)** for customers in **Metro and Urban centres** from a maximum of **Rs.50 per month** to **Rs.15 per month**.
  - Similarly, for **Semi-Urban** and **Rural centres**, the charges have been reduced from **Rs.40 to Rs.12 and Rs.10** respectively.
  - The changes, effective **April 1**, will benefit 25 crore savings account customers.
- The **Cheque Books of 6 Banks** that merged with **State Bank of India (SBI)** will become **invalid** after **March 31**.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC)** have signed an agreement to offer **mortgage guarantee scheme** for prospective non-salaried and self-employed home loan customers.

## Other Banks

- The scam-hit **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** raised its **lending rate** by **15 basis points** to **8.30%** with immediate effect.
  - The bank also **increased** its **retail** and **build deposit rates** by up **45 basis points** on various maturities.

- **ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar** and **Axis Bank MD Shikha Sharma** have been **summoned** by the **Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)** in the **PNB fraud case**.
  - They have been called in connection with working capital loans given to **Mehul Choksi-owned Gitanjali Gems**.
  - ICICI Bank had led a 31-lender consortium which gave loans worth **Rs.5280 crore** to the company.
- The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has requested the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to provide it **four quarters** for making provisions against the **\$2-billion fraud** by jewellers **Nirav Modi** and **Mehul Choksi**.
- **Passport** details will be made **mandatory** for availing **loans** worth more than **Rs.50 crore** from state-owned banks, the government has announced.
  - Further, the loan application form will be modified to incorporate **passport details** of borrowers. The government has also asked banks to collect passport details of all existing borrowers with loans over **Rs.50 crore** in the **next 45 days**.
- Shares of **Andhra Bank Ltd** fell as much as **15.5%** to hit a 14-year low after the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** filed a charge sheet against one of its former directors on a money laundering case.
- Private sector lender **HDFC Bank** barred the use of its **credit, debit** and **prepaid cards** to buy or trade in **cryptocurrencies** like **Bitcoin**.
  - Earlier, **Citibank India** also banned the use of its cards for buying cryptocurrencies.
- **ICICI Securities**, the brokerage and merchant banking arm of private sector lender ICICI Bank, was hit the **IPO market** on March 22.
  - **Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Citigroup, CLSA, Edelweiss, IIFL** and **SBI Capital Markets** are managing the **ICICI Securities IPO**.
- In a completely online and paperless manner, the **ICICI Bank** has launched instant overdraft '**InstaOD**' facility for **MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) customers**.
  - Customers can get **overdraft** facility up to **Rs.15 lakh** for a **year** anytime, anywhere using the bank's Internet and mobile banking app.
- To enable Indian enterprises to efficiently manage their business travel expenditure, **Happay**, a business expense management solution provider, in collaboration with **HDFC bank**, introduced a new prepaid card-linked **Travel and Entertainment (T&E)** expense management solution.
  - With **Happay-HDFC Bank** prepaid cards and **Happay mobile app** in their pockets, business travelers will be able to easily seek trip advances, get trip itineraries pre-approved by management, do trip bookings and file trip expenses digitally and on the move.
- **Citi Bank India** has launched **India's first home loan** linked to the 3-month Government of India **Treasury Bill** benchmark rate.
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has launched '**Vikas She Plus**', a loan scheme for **women** to take up new ventures or for expanding/modifying the existing enterprises.
  - This scheme provides loan up to a **maximum** of **Rs.2 lakh** with a repayment period of **60 months**.
- Private sector lender **DCB Bank** has launched a **remittance service** to facilitate customers **send money online globally**.
  - Under DCB Remit, any resident Indian can register online and transfer funds across 20 countries, including the **US, Canada, Australia, the UK, the UAE and Germany**.
- Private sector lender **Yes Bank** has launched a robotics based '**Digital export Import**' payments solution as a part of its **Yes Transact Smart Trade product suite**.
- India's 3rd largest Private sector lender, **Axis Bank** has opened a representative office in **Sharjah, United Arab Emirates**.

- This office is the third such Axis Bank office in the UAE after **Dubai** and **Abu Dhabi** and will engage primarily in promoting the Bank's retail products and services to non-resident Indians (NRIs).
- The **Allahabad Bank** received approval from **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** for amalgamation of its fully-owned subsidiary **All Bank Finance Ltd.** (ABFL) with itself.
- **Swiggy**, India's largest food ordering and delivery platform has partnered with **ICICI Bank**, the country's largest private sector bank by **consolidated assets**, to roll out two innovative digital solutions to facilitate a convenient and hassle-free way for its delivery partners to transfer funds to Swiggy.
- **Bank of India** said it has been allowed to terminate/close its **Yangon** representative office with effect from **January 19, 2018** by **Myanmar's Ministry of Planning and Finance, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration**.
  - Following BoI's move, there are now only two Indian financial entities -- **United Bank of India** and **Export-Import Bank of India** – with representative offices in Yangon.
  - **State Bank of India** has a full-fledged branch there.
- Overtaking **Bank of Baroda** and **Punjab National Bank**, private sector lender **Bandhan Bank** has become **India's 8th most valued bank** with a market capitalization of over **Rs.56,000 crore**.
- **Fino Payments Bank** has said it plans to deploy multi-utility **Android-based mPoS** (mobile point-of-sale) devices across 10,000 banking points in the country in a phased manner.
- **Rivigo**, a homegrown logistics start-up that owns as well as acts as an aggregator of trucks, is tying up with **YES Bank**, **IDFC** and 10 other financial institutions to make **cheaper funds** available to **truck owners** and operators on its platform.
- **Jana Small Finance Bank** (formerly Janalakshmi Financial Services, India's leading microfinance company), announced the commencement of its **banking operations**.

### Supreme Court

- In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court gave legal **sanction** to **Passive Euthanasia**, permitting 'living will' by patients on **withdrawing medical support** if they slip into **irreversible coma**.
- The Supreme Court ruled that government authorities **cannot charge more** than **Rs.50** as **application fee** for those seeking information under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**.
  - The apex court also said authorities cannot charge more than **Rs.5** per **page** for **photocopy** and the **applicants** do not have to mention the "motive" in the **RTI application**.

### High Courts and Sessions Courts

- **Punjabi** pop singer **Daler Mehndi** was **jailed** for two years by a **Patiala court** in a 2003 **human trafficking case**.
- A **Ranchi court** pronounced RJD chief **Lalu Prasad Yadav** guilty in the 4th fodder scam case.
  - Yadav has been convicted in three other fodder scam cases and is currently serving his jail sentences.

### Election Commission

- The **Election Commission** announced that voting for **Karnataka Assembly** elections will take place on **May 12** while the counting of the votes will be held on **May 15**.

### Central Government

- The Union Cabinet has **cleared** the proposal for **hiking** the **salaries** of **Members of Parliament (MPs)**.

- Their **constituency allowance** will be increased from **Rs.45,000 to Rs.70,000**, office expense allowance **from Rs.45,000 to Rs.60,000**, and the one-time furniture allowance from **Rs.75,000 to Rs.1 lakh**.
- The Union Cabinet approved **draft rules** to set up **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**, an **independent regulator** to oversee **auditing and accounting standards**.
  - NFRA's jurisdiction will extend to listed and large **unlisted public companies**. The existing self-regulatory body, **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**, will continue to govern **audits of smaller companies**.
- The government has accepted the **demands of students protesting** against the alleged **SSC exam paper leak scam** and ordered a **CBI inquiry** into it.
- The Cabinet approved a **hike in Dearness Allowance** to **central government employees** and **Dearness Relief** to pensioners from **5% to 7%**, with effect from January 1, 2018.
  - The hike is expected to benefit **48.41 lakh** central government employees and **61.17 lakh** pensioners.
- A parliamentary panel has asked the **Finance Ministry** to launch a "comprehensive enquiry" into the **\$2-billion PNB fraud** and submit its report within a month.
  - The panel said it is "extremely concerned" about the fraud which shows that a "small group of individuals can manipulate such a gigantic bank". The fraud was perpetrated by **jewellers Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi**.
- The government recently **revealed** that nearly **25% of the overseas branches** of the state-owned **banks suffered losses** in 2016-17.
  - As many as 41 branches out of the 159 foreign branches of state-owned banks reported loss in fiscal 2016-17.
  - India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** **topped** the list with 9 loss-making foreign branches, followed by **Bank of India** with 8 such branches.
- Scrapping the **10,000 cap on funding for education of martyrs' children**, the government cleared the way to **fully fund the education of children of armed forces personnel missing, killed or disabled** on duty.
- To boost the cultivation of **millets** like **ragi** and **jowar** on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security, the union government decided to declare **2018 as 'National Year of Millets'**.
- To create **public awareness in judicial matters**, the central government is going to install **'Justice Clocks'** at all 24 high courts soon.
  - The clocks will have **LED display** boards showing the daily rate of disposal of cases, pending cases and performance-based ranking of the courts.
- The government extended the **deadline** for linking **Aadhaar** with **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** to **June 30**.
  - This is the 4th time that the government has extended the deadline.

## States

- In a first, the **Maharashtra** government has announced collaboration with online encyclopedia **Wikipedia** to **promote Marathi** globally and increase its online usage.
  - This move is aimed at providing **Marathi-speaking people a single platform** to interact and help reach **Maharashtrians** who have settled abroad.
- The **Assam** government has extended the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958** by **6 more months** in the state.
  - AFSPA gives special rights to security forces to carry out operations in "disturbed areas."
- The **Maharashtra** government announced that the **sale of Gutka, banned** in the state, would be made a non-bailable offence.
  - Punishment for the offence would be enhanced to **three years in prison**.

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **National Nutrition Mission (NNM)**, and expansion of the coverage of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** programme, at **Jhunjhunu** in **Rajasthan**.
- The **Karnataka** government approved a **separate flag** of the **state** and will now be sent to the central government for approval.
  - The flag is a tri-color like our national flag; they are **Yellow, White and Red**. The **top** band is of **yellow**, the **middle** is **white** and **last** band is **red**.
- To ensure **safety of women** at **public places**, the **South Delhi Police** launched a **16 member** all-women patrolling squad named '**Knightingales**'.
  - The squad has been given training in unarmed combat, weapon handling, and driving.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Secretariat** will go **paperless** from **April** as all 93 departments in the **Secretariat** will be connected with an **e-office system**.
- **Bangalore** observed the **2nd edition** of **Less Traffic Day**. Less Traffic Day is a campaign launched in **February 2018** to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion in the city.
  - The Transport Ministry has decided to observe it on the **second Sunday of every month**.
  - Aim: To encourage people to voluntarily opt for public transport services for combating pollution.
- The **West Bengal** government is going to launch a project worth **Rs.700 crore** to bring 50 lakh **rural women** under the **Self Help Group (SHG)** model.
- The **Maharashtra** Government **banned** the use of **Plastic** in time-bound manner.
  - This ban will include plastic bags, thermocol, disposable cups and plates, cutlery, non-woven polypropylene bags, plastic pouches and packaging.
- The **Kerala** government declared **Jackfruit** as the **official fruit** of the **state**.
- The **Punjab** government cleared a proposal **mandating Chief Minister** and other state ministers to pay the **income tax** on their salaries themselves.
- The **Karnataka** government has accepted the suggestion of an **expert panel** and sought **separate religion status** for the **Lingayat** community.
- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** has **banned** the display of arms during **Ram Navami** celebrations.
- The **Telangana** government has decided to make **Telugu** a **mandatory** subject till **Class 10** in all public and private schools.
- **Kerala** government launched an app titled '**mKeralam**'. This app offers around 100 government services through a unified interface.
- To bring technology to remote corners, the Andhra Pradesh Government launched multi-utility vehicle **NAIPUNYA RATHAM** (World on Wheels).
- The **Maharashtra** Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution recommending the Centre to rename the **Kolhapur airport** as the '**Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj Airport**'.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has decided to add '**Ramji**' as **Dr BR Ambedkar's** middle name in all documents and records.

#### Place in the News

- After 56 years, the Government has **shifted headquarters** of **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** to **Ballabgarh** in **Faridabad District** of **Haryana** from **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
  - The Animal Welfare Board of India was set up under Section IV of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960)**.
  - Reason behind this shifting: For better coordination between the **Environment Ministry** and **AWBI** for carrying out the animal welfare activities.

- The **Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** has approved proposal of setting up of **Plastic Park** in **Deoghar District, Jharkhand**.
  - The project will be set up at cost of Rs.120 crores in an area of 150 acres.
- **Srinagar's Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden** was opened for visitors.
  - This is Asia's largest **tulip garden**.
- **India's 1st Insect museum** with state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled at **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University campus** in **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**.

### Personalities

- The 1st Indian-origin woman in space, **Kalpana Chawla** was born on 17th March in the year 1962.
  - **Sunita Williams** became the second Indian origin woman to travel into space in 2006.
- March 23 is 87th Shaheed Diwas (Martyr's Day) 87 years ago, on March 23 in 1931, **Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Hari Rajguru** and **Sukhdev Thapar** were hanged by the British for their alleged involvement in the killing of **John Saunders**.

### Defence and National Security

- The **Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) Nag** was successfully flight-tested in desert conditions against **two tank targets** at different ranges and timings. The missile is now ready for induction in the **Army**.
  - It is the third-generation fire-and-forget ATGM developed by the **DRDO**.
- The **6th Annual Garuda Shakti exercise** between the Special Forces of the **Indian Army** and the **Indonesian Army** was concluded at **Bandung**.
- Indian Navy's sailboat **INSV Tarini**, led by all-women crew, reached **Cape Town, South Africa** as part of **Navika Sagar Parikrama expedition**.
  - This stop is last phase of its maiden voyage to circumnavigate globe before it depart Cape Town and return to **Goa in April 2018**, on completion of the voyage.
- Joint investigation committee (JIC) comprising **US** and **Indian** officials has test-fired **M777 Ultra-Light Howitzers (ULH)** at **Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan**.
- The **Andaman Nicobar** naval command is organizing a multi-national mega event titled "**Milan 2018**" at **Port Blair**.
  - Theme: 'Friendship Across the Seas'
  - Purpose of Milan 2018: To enhance regional cooperation for combating **Unlawful Activities at sea**.
- **Russia** successfully launched high-precision aeroballistics **Kinzhal hypersonic missile** from a **MiG-31** supersonic interceptor jet.
- The **US** and **Israeli** military officials have launched a month-long joint military exercise titled "**Juniper Cobra 2018**".
  - The biennial drill is jointly held by the Israeli military and the US European Command (USEUCOM).
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has commissioned interceptor boat **ICGS C-437** at **Porbandar, Gujarat** as part of its efforts to strengthen coastal security.
  - ICGS C-437 shall be based at **Jakhau** under administrative and operational control of commander **Coast Guard Region (North West)**.
- The **Indo-French** joint naval exercise **Varuna-18** was recently held in **Arabian Sea** off **Goa** coast.
  - This exercise was conducted in 3 sea areas. They are, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, South Western Indian Ocean.
- The **Gulf Shield - 1** military exercise of 23 countries including **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** member states was recently held in **Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia**.

- This exercise was organized by the **Defence Ministry of Saudi Arabia**.
- **GE Aviation's GE9X**, world's largest jet engine, has completed its first test flight in the **US**.
- Formidable Supersonic Cruise Missile **BrahMos** successfully flight tested from **Pokhran** test range in **Rajasthan**.
- **Indian Navy's** indigenously built warship **INS Ganga (F22)** was decommissioned in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** after over three decades of service.

### Committees/Commissions

- To look into the **development** and **regulation** of the **financial technology** (fintech) sector in India, the Union Government has set up **8 Member steering committee**.
  - Head of this Committee: **Subhash Garg** (Economic Affairs Secretary).
- The **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence** has recommended making **5-year military training compulsory** for aspirants of **state and central government jobs**.
  - Head: **Maj Gen (retd) B C Khanduri** (BJP MP)

### Schemes/Initiatives

- **Odisha** Government has launched '**Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas**' (Our Village, our development) programme to reach out to people in **rural areas** and involve themselves in **developmental activities**.
  - As part of it, Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** flagged off **mobile video vans** that will move across the state to highlight various welfare schemes at villages in the state.
- The government has sanctioned **Rs.1,000 crore** for the phase two of the **IMPRINT India programme**.
  - Projects will cover domains like **defence, information technology, and energy**.
  - **IMPRINT** - Impacting Research Innovation and Technology
- Union Minister **Ananthkumar** launched **100% Oxobiodegradable Sanitary Napkin, 'Suvidha'**, under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.
  - The affordable sanitary napkin will be available for **Rs. 2.50 per padat** over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India and would ensure '**Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha**' for the underprivileged Women of India.
- On the International Women's Day (8th March 2018), the Chief Minister of **Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced the '**Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh**' scheme aimed at providing **pension to unmarried women** aged over **50 years**.
  - Earlier, Chouhan announced **Rs.4,000** monthly assistance to **pregnant laborers** from the **sixth month of pregnancy**.
- The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** has launched **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** on the occasion of International Women's day (March 8, 2018).
  - WEP's theme song '**Naari Shakti**' composed and sung by renowned singer **Kailash Kher** was also released.
- The **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises** launched **Udyam Sakhi Portal** ([www.udyamsakhi.org](http://www.udyamsakhi.org)) for women entrepreneurs on the occasion of International Women's Day.
  - The portal is a network for nurturing entrepreneurship and creating **business models** for low cost products and services in order to empower women and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient.
- The government of **Telangana** launched **Women Entrepreneurship Hub (WE-Hub)**, India's first state-led incubator for women entrepreneurs.
  - The incubator will help women entrepreneurs establish their **own enterprises** by providing **services** including seed funding, mentoring, and business guidance.
  - Chief Executive Officer of WE-Hub: **Deepthi Ravula**

- PM **Narendra Modi** laid the **foundation stone** for the **Navi Mumbai international airport**, which is expected to ease flight operations at **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has released **Rs.1000** and **Rs.10** commemorative **coins** on the occasion of **Nabakalebar festival** at a function held in **Puri, Odisha**.
  - These coins were release to mark the festival which is a symbolic recreation of sibling deities — **Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra**.
- The Union Cabinet approved the **Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission**.
  - Aim: To provide an annual health cover of **Rs.5 lakh** to **10 crore** poor families.
- According to Union Budget, this is '**world's largest health protection scheme**'.
  - The Centre will fund **60%** expenditure incurred by the scheme.
- To promote employment in **North Eastern Region states** including **Sikkim**, the Union Cabinet has approved **North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS)**, 2017.
  - This scheme will have financial outlay of **Rs.3000 crores** upto **March, 2020**.
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurates 3-day **India Chemicals and Plastics Exhibition** at **Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai**.
- **Department of Posts** under **Ministry of Communications** has launched **Cool EMS Service** between **India and Japan**.
  - It is one-way service from Japan to India which allows customers in India to import **Japanese food items** for personal use which is allowed under Indian regulations.
- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** flagged off the **International Yachting Festival** in **Visakhapatnam**.

#### **Summit/Conference**

- The **Global Digital Health Partnership Summit** was held at **Canberra** (Australia).
  - India was represented by the Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **J P Nadda**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and **French President Emmanuel Macron** has co-chaired the **1st Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in **New Delhi's Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
  - The summit was attended by United Nations Secretary General **Antonio Guterres**, Venezuelan President **Nicolas Maduro** and Bangladesh President **Abdul Hamid** among other dignitaries from over 50 countries.
- The 1st ever **Indo-French Knowledge Summit** successfully concluded with a landmark agreement on mutual recognition of educational qualifications between the two countries.
  - The summit was organized by the **French Embassy in India** and co-hosted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.
  - The two-day summit was held in **New Delhi**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Delhi End-TB Summit** at **New Delhi**.
  - The PM also launched **TB-free India Campaign** to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) from India by **2025**, five years ahead of a globally-set deadline.
  - The Member Countries of **World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO-SEARO)**, participating in **Delhi End Tuberculosis (TB) Summit** have adopted '**Delhi End TB Summit Statement of Action**'.
- The 1st **Regional Conference on Mass Rapid Transport Systems for Urban Areas - Opportunities and Challenges** started in **Kolkata**.
  - The conference was jointly organized by **Ministry of Finance, AIIB, ASSOCHAM and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**.
- The **5th World Ocean Summit 2018** was recently held at **Riviera Maya, Mexico**.
  - Focus: Global fight against plastic pollution.

- The 1st-ever **National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement** was held in New Delhi.
  - The 2-day conference was jointly organized by **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** and **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The **National Conference on Down Syndrome** was held in New Delhi.
  - This conference was organized by the **National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

#### **Agreement/Deal/Signed**

- During bilateral talks between **Jordan's King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein** and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi, India** and **Jordan** signed **12 agreements** at **Hyderabad House** in New Delhi.
- **India, Bangladesh** and **Russia** have signed tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in construction of **Rooppur nuclear power plant** near **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
  - It is first initiative under **India-Russia nuclear deal** to undertake **atomic energy** projects in **third** countries.
  - It will also be **India's first** atomic energy venture **abroad**.
- **India** and **Vietnam** have signed **three** agreements including landmark pact on **civil nuclear** cooperation to boost bilateral relations.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of **Renewable Energy** between **India** and **Hellenic**.
  - The MoU **aims** for exchange of expertise and **networking of information**.
- The Union Cabinet has also approved signing of **Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement** between **India** and **France**.
- **11 Pacific Rim countries** have formally entered into **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership** (also known as CP TPP or TPP11) in **Santiago, Chile**.
  - This is revised version of **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** proposed by US, that was finalized after US withdrew from it.
  - TPP11 includes **Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam**.
  - It will be **world's third largest** trade bloc after **European Union (EU)** and **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**.
- **India** and **France** signed **14 key agreements** in strategic areas of **security, nuclear energy, protection** of classified information and in fields of **education, environment, urban development and railways**.
  - Apart from the above agreements, **Companies** from **India** and **France** signed **contracts** worth over **• 1 lakh crore** on the first day of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit.
  - The deals include a contract for **France's Safran** to supply airline **SpiceJet** with engines and a contract between gas companies **Air Liquide** and **Sterlite**.
- The **Telangana** government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a **Tamil Nadu**-based firm for setting up a **• 100-crore** apparel **superhub** in the state.
  - The hub will be developed on 20 acres in **Sircilla**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved **Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion** with respect to taxes on income between **India** and **Iran**.
- The cabinet also approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) inked between **India** and **Sri Lanka** for promoting cooperation in field of **Information Technology and Electronics (IT&E)**.
- **Indian** government has inked **\$120 million loan** agreement with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for completion of projects to improve **Rail Infrastructure** along high-density corridors and operational efficiency of Indian railways.

- **India's Department of Space (DoS) and European Union (EU)** have signed cooperation agreement related to sharing of earth observation **satellite data**.
  - The data sharing will provide mutual benefits, in particular in pursuit of **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals**.
- **India and Hong Kong** signed a **double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA)** that seeks to improve transparency in tax matters and help curb tax evasion and avoidance.
- **NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation** have inked Statement of Intent (SoI) to work closely with **District Collectors** and key officers of '**Aspirational Districts**' to support their transformation in terms of healthcare, education and nutrition.
- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** and **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** have signed MoU to conduct skill development training programmes for **agriculture and allied sector**.
  - These skill development training programmes will be conducted at **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs)**.
- **India** signed agreement with **UN** to build homes 50000 **Houses for Nepal's** April 2015 earthquake victims.
- The 44 African countries from total 55 members of **African Union (AU)** have signed agreement to create **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**, one of the world's largest free trade blocs.
  - The agreement was signed at a summit held in **Kigali, Rwanda**.
- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has entered into **Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA)** with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** to transfer technology for manufacturing space grade Lithium-Ion (LiIon) cells.
- **Indian and Chinese** companies have signed commercial deals linked to **agriculture** worth nearly **\$2.36 billion**.
- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** signed **Host Country Agreement** in New Delhi.
- **Saudi Arabia** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Soft Bank Group Corp.** for a **\$200 billion solar power project** in the kingdom.
  - This will be the **world's biggest solar power generation company**.
- The **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** has inked line of credit (LoC) agreement with **Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)** to provide **US \$500 million** credit facility to fund various development projects in 15-member countries of **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** region in **western-south Africa**.
- **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has signed Statement of Intent (SOI) with **German** tech company **SAP** to promote culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across **100 Atal Tinkering Labs** across **India**.
- The **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Assam** government for sustainable development of human settlements at villages in **Kamrup** district.
- The Union Cabinet has approved signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **United Kingdom** and **Northern Ireland** regarding cooperation and **Exchange of Information** for the **Purposes of Combating International Criminality and Tackling Serious Organized Crime**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **Canada** to establish bilateral cooperation activities in field of **Intellectual Property (IP)**.

### Meet/Visit

- The **King of Jordan Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein** was visited to **India** for a 3 day visit.
  - **Aim:** Taking bilateral relations to a "new high".
- The **22nd World Information Technology Congress (WITC) 2018** was held at **Hyderabad (Telangana)**.
  - Theme: Future Enterprises.
- **French President Emmanuel Macron** was visited to **India** for a 4-day visit.
  - **Aim:** To boost bilateral cooperation in defence and clean energy sector.
- PM **Narendra Modi** is going to visit neighboring countries **Bhutan** and **Bangladesh** during the coming months aiming to show his government's support to both **Thimpu** and **Dhaka** as both prepare for **general elections** this year.
- As part of the 1st leg of his 2 nation visit (Mauritius and Madagascar) President **Ram Nath Kovind** visited **Mauritius**.
  - During this visit, Kovind inaugurated **World Hindi Secretariat building** in **Port Louis, Mauritius**.
  - Later he was visited to Madagascar, making him 1st Indian President to visit largest African island country.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **105th Indian Science Congress (ISC)** at **Manipur Central University in Imphal**.
  - Theme: "Reaching the Unreached Through Science & Technology".
- **Pakistan** is **not** going **attend** the **World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting** to be held in **Delhi** amid the ongoing diplomatic tension between the two nations.
- **German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier** was visited to India for a 3 day visit.
  - This will be his 1st visit to India as the President of Germany after the **Angela Merkel** government took charge in Berlin on March 14.
  - Aim: To strengthen bilateral ties.
- **North Korea** and **South Korea** was contact **high-level talks** on March 29 to discuss the dates and agenda for the summit between the two countries' leaders **Kim Jong-un** and **Moon Jae-in** in **April**.
- **North Korean leader Kim Jong-un** was visited to **China**.
- The 11th meeting of the **China-India joint-group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science & Technology** was held in **New Delhi**.
  - The session was co-chaired by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry **Suresh Prabhu** and China's Minister of Commerce **Mr. Zhong Shan**.
- The 9th **India-Japan Strategic Dialogue** took place at **Tokyo**.
  - External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** co-chaired the strategic dialogue with her Japanese counterpart **Taro Kono** and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties.

### Bills

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the **Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018** for introduction in the Parliament.
- The **South Korean National Assembly** has passed a law **reducing** the **maximum weekly working hours** from **68 to 52**.
  - The new work week will consist of 40 regular hours and an additional **12 hours of overtime**.
- To deal with those banking fraudsters who are escaping overseas to avoid getting caught, the Union Cabinet proved the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill**.
- **Rajasthan** has become the **2nd Indian state** to pass a bill awarding **death penalty** to those convicted of **raping girls aged up to 12 years**.

- Last year, **Madhya Pradesh** enacted a law to award death sentence to those guilty of raping girls aged 12 years or below.
- The **Haryana** government approved a bill awarding **Death penalty** to those convicted of **raping** children under the age of **12 years**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** Assembly has passed **Arunachal Pradesh Land Settlement and Records Amendment Bill, 2018**.
  - This bill will allow the state's **tribal people** to have ownership rights over **their land** for the first time.
- The Parliament passed the **Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill** which will increase the ceiling of **tax-free gratuity** amount to **Rs.20 lakh** from **Rs.10 lakh**.
- The **Telangana** Assembly passed a bill making the **teaching of Telugu** language in schools **compulsory**.
  - According to the **Telangana (Compulsory Teaching and Learning of Telugu in Schools) Act**, the language will be a mandatory subject for **Classes 1-10** from the upcoming academic session.
- To tackle organized crime with strict punishment, the **Uttar Pradesh** Assembly passed the **Uttar Pradesh Control of Organized Crime Act (UPCOCA) 2017 bill**.

## **Fund**

- The Centre approved projects worth over **Rs.2,900 crore** under the **Nirbhaya fund** for **eight major cities** of the country in a bid to make them **safer for women**.
  - **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad Ahmedabad and Lucknow** have been sanctioned a total of **Rs.2,919.55 crore** after a meeting of the **Empowered Committee**, which is headed by the secretary of Women and Child Development (WCD).
- **China** has announced that it will spend **\$175 billion** on **Defence** this year. This is nearly **4 times** as compared to **India's \$45- billion** defence budget.
- Union Minister **CR Chaudhary** revealed that the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** of **\$209 billion** has been received during April 2014 to December 2017 period.
  - The sectors that received **maximum inflows** include services, computer software and hardware, construction, telecom, automobile, and trading.
  - He further revealed that functional **Export Oriented Units** have reduced to 2,197 from 2,239 in 2016-17.
- The **Indian** government plans to **borrow Rs.2.88 lakh crore** between April-September in the upcoming fiscal.
  - This amounts to **47.5% of government's budgeted gross borrowing target** for the financial year.
- The **Euro zone** has approved a **€6.7-billion loan** to **Greece** under the third bailout deal, with **€5.7 billion**.
- **Hong Kong** is going to pay **2.8 million citizens** a cash handout of up to **HK\$4,000** (over • 33,000) amid reports of a **Rs.1-lakh crore surplus** in its annual budget.

## **Economy**

- **Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jayant Kumar Malaiya** presented the **state budget** worth over **Rs.2 lakh crore** with focus on agriculture, health, education, and employment.
  - The budget allocated **Rs.37,000 crore** for the **agriculture** sector.
- **Telangana** finance minister **Etela Rajender** presented the state budget 2018-19 of **Rs 1,74,453 crore**.
- India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth surged to **7.2%** in the December quarter of 2017-18, restoring its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy.
  - The economy grew at **6.7%** in **Gross Value Added (GVA)** terms.

- The GDP growth rebounded from **6.5%** in the **previous** quarter, reportedly indicating that the economy has moved past disruptions due to demonetisation and GST rollout.
- **Marshall Islands** in Pacific Ocean is set to become **1st country** in **world** to recognize **Crypto-currency** as its **legal tender** and adopt transparent crypto monetary system.
  - The parliament of island has passed law to create the digital currency called “**Sovereign**” with symbol **SOV** to raise some hard cash to pay bills and boost economy.
- **Andhra Pradesh** finance minister **Yanamala Ramakrishnudu** presented Rs 1.91-lakh-crore budget, and projected a revenue surplus of **Rs.5,235 crore**, for the financial year 2018-19.
- The World Bank has said **India's highest GST rate** of **28%** is the 2nd highest among a sample of 115 countries which have a similar indirect tax system.
  - Only **five** countries, including India, use four **non-zero GST slabs**.
- Investment bank **Goldman Sachs** has downgraded its forecast for the Indian economy in the wake of the alleged **\$2-billion PNB fraud**.
  - It lowered its real GDP forecast on India for 2018-19 to **7.6% from 8%** earlier.
- Meeting for the first time under **Chairman Jerome Powell**, the **US Federal Reserve officials**, raised the interest rate by 25 bps to a range of **1.5% to 1.75%**.
- **Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi** government presented its 1st “**green budget**” in the assembly, with an emphasis on education, health and environment.
  - Out of the total Rs.53,000 cr budget, **Rs.13,999 crore** has been allocated for **education** sector in the state.
- **Venezuelan** President **Nicolás Maduro** announced to re-denominate the country's **bolívar currency** by knocking three zeroes off, effective from **June 4** this year.

#### Companies/Industry

- Technology giant **Google** has launched **Hangouts Chat**, a messaging service for the **workplace**.
  - It features virtual rooms for different parts of a **company's team** with a capacity to hold up to 8,000 users per room and works with **28 different languages**.
- The third-largest manufacturer of flash memory **SanDisk** has unveiled the **world's fastest microSD** card called **Extreme UHS-I microSDXC** with **400 GB** of storage.
  - The card can achieve **read speeds** of up to **160 Mbps** and **write speeds** of up to **90 Mbps**.
- **Indian** e-payments and e-commerce brand **Paytm** has emerged as the **largest contributor** to the overall volume of **UPI transactions** in **February 2018**.
- **Facebook** is expanding its **Jobs feature** to **search** and apply for **jobs directly** on its platform to more than 40 countries including **India**.
- **Google** has unveiled a quantum processor with **72 qubits**, surpassing IBM's **50-qubit** computer unveiled last year.
- **Google** is going to **ban advertisements** promoting **Crypto-currencies** and related content including **initial coin offerings**, from **June** this year.
  - Earlier, social network **Facebook** also **banned** advertisements promoting crypto-currencies.
- E-commerce major **Amazon** has launched its 1st-ever **debit card** called '**Amazon Rechargeable**' in **Mexico**.
- **Google** announced the integration of **Hindi language** in its Assistant for devices running **Android 6.0 Marshmallow** and above.
- **Indian** e-payments and e-commerce brand **Paytm** has launched **two wealth management** products under '**Paytm Gold**', called '**Gold Gifting**' and '**Gold Savings Plan**'.

- Gold Gifting: With Gold Gifting, users will be able to send 24K 999.9 Purity gold to others digitally.
- Gold Savings Plan: This will let users save gold as per their requirement by entering the duration and amount of gold they want to save.
- **Google** has announced that users in the **US** will now be able to **send** or ask for **money** by using its **voice Assistant** via **Googles Payments App**.
- **WhatsApp** has started testing payments through **QR codes** for selected users in its latest beta updates.
  - Users can scan the code; enter the amount payable and **UPI PIN** for verification to send money.

### Exports/Imports

- A report by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute** has revealed that **India** was the **largest weapons importer** in the world over the last five years, accounting for 12% of the total global imports.
  - **Russia** was **India's largest supplier**, accounting for 62% of the imports.
  - With the imports of 57% **US** became **India's second** largest supplier.
- To protect domestic producers from below-cost shipments, the **Indian** government has **imposed anti-dumping duty** on import of 'Ofloxacin' from **China**.

### Taxation/Trade

- To help boost overseas sales in a year of surplus production, the **Indian** government has scrapped the **20% sugar export tax**.
  - India is world's second-largest producer of sugar after **Brazil**.
- **US President Donald Trump** imposed **\$60 billion** (Rs 3.9 lakh crore) of tariffs on **Chinese** imports to punish the country for its "unfair" seizure of American intellectual property, a move that could escalate the already tense trade relations between the world's two biggest economies.

### Agriculture/Production

- **Kadaknath**, a chicken breed whose black meat is in demand in **Madhya Pradesh** has got the coveted **Geographical Indications (GI)** tag label.

### Space

- **Elon Musk-led SpaceX** successfully launched its **Falcon 9 rocket** for the 50th time, carrying the 6,000 kg **Hispasat** satellite, the largest geostationary satellite the company has ever flown.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is inviting people around the world to submit their **names online** to be placed on a **microchip** aboard its **Parker Solar Probe mission**, scheduled to launch in July this year.
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** has claimed that the country would be launching an unmanned mission to **Mars** in **2019**.
- In an effort aimed at rebuilding the economy, **Greece** established the country's first space agency titled the **Hellenic Space Organization**.
- 56-year-old **Mangala Mani** has become **ISRO's first woman scientist** to spend 403 days in **Antarctica**.
- The **Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO)** has postponed launch of **India's second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2'** from **April 2018** to October-November 2018 as experts have suggested more tests.
  - It will be launched on board of **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV-F10)**.
- **China's "out-of-control" space laboratory Tiangong-1** would **crash** into **Earth** between March 30 and April 2, according to the **European Space Agency**.

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is going to launch the **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** on **April 16**.
  - TESS is seen as a successor to the **Kepler Space Telescope** which has discovered over 2,500 exoplanets and is currently running out of fuel.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is going to launch communication satellite **GSAT6A** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota**.
  - GSAT-6A, similar to **GSAT-6** is useful in satellite-based mobile communication applications.

### Science and Technology

- **Wadhvani AI**, India's first research institute dedicated to developing artificial intelligence solutions for social good was inaugurated in **Mumbai**.
- **Cybersecurity** agencies have detected a new malware called **Saposhi**, which can take over **electronic devices** and use them for **Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS)** attacks.
  - Saposhi Malware is capable of taking over electronic devices and turning them into **bots** (device taken over by malware) which can then be used for any purpose.
- **Russian cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab's researchers** have discovered a **malware** titled '**Slingshot**' which spies on users' PCs via routers.
  - This malware can access data including keyboard strokes, network traffic, passwords, and screenshots.
- The **Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB)** has claimed that **India's first cloned Assamese buffalo** male calf named **Sach-Gaurav** was born in **Hisar, Haryana**.
  - It was born to Murrah buffalo, at Hi Tech Sach Dairy Farm, 100 kms from cloning laboratory, making it first buffalo calf to be born in field.
- US-based company **Nimbus Data** has unveiled **world's largest solid state drive (SSD) ExaDrive DC100** with 100 TB of storage.

### Health/Diseases/Drugs

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** launched a new program titled **LaQshya**.
  - Aim: Improving quality of maternity care in labor room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT).

### Energy/Gas/Oil

- The **world's largest solar park, Shakti Sthala**, was inaugurated in **Karnataka's Pavagada** by Karnataka CM **Siddaramaiah** and state Power Minister **DK Shivakumar**.
  - The park has a 2000-MW capacity and was built at a cost of **Rs.16500 crore**, over 13,000 acres across **five villages**.
- **Iraq** has overtaken **Saudi Arabia** to become **India's top crude oil supplier** by supplying 38.9 million tonnes (MT) crude oil in the current financial year.
- **India** for first time has started process of importing **Liquid Natural Gas (LNG)** from **United States**. The development comes on the heels of India's first import of crude oil from the US in October 2017.
- **Diu** has become the **1st** and only **Union Territory** in the country to be fully run on **solar energy**.
- The **Power Ministry** has directed all **Central government departments** and **PSUs** in the **National Capital Region** to switch to **e-vehicles** for local use.
- PM **Narendra Modi** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** pledged to begin work on "the largest nuclear power plant in the world" in **India** by this year.
  - Urging **Electricite de France SA** and **India's Nuclear Power Corporation** to accelerate discussions on a contract and start work at **Maharashtra's Jaitapur**, the leaders said the plant would have a 9.6-gigawatt capacity.

- **Surat** (Gujarat) has become the 1st **Indian district** to have **100% solar-powered Primary Health Centres (PHCs)**.

### Environment

- The **World Wildlife Fund for Nature** is organizing the 12th annual '**Earth Hour**' on March 24 from 8:30 to 9:30 PM.
- The 45th anniversary of the **Chipko** movement was observed on March 26.
  - Although the Chipko Movement has its origins in the 18th century Rajasthan, it found momentum in the 1970s as a way to **protect forests**.
- **China** has announced that it had already met its **2020 carbon dioxide emissions reduction target** in 2017.
  - China cut CO2 emissions per unit of GDP by **46%** from the 2005 level, fulfilling its commitment before 2020.

### Education

- The **Rajasthan** government has decided to **introduce uniforms** for **college students**.
- The **Union Textile Ministry** has approved a proposal for setting up a **Garment university** in **Bangalore's Bommanahalli**.
- The **Gujarat** government has made it compulsory for all **schools** in the state to teach **Gujarati** to students of **Classes 1-8** from the next academic session.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an **Integrated scheme** on **school education** by including the **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and Teacher Education** from **April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020**.
- To attract foreign students to pursue higher education in India, the **Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD)** has approved '**Study in India**' programme.

### Transport/Cars/Scooters

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** was deploying an **all-female staff** in at least one of its toll **booths** in **each state** across the nation on the occasion of **International Women's Day** (March 8).
- The **Indian Railways** has announced that **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** charges won't be levied on passengers for **booking** railway tickets through **debit cards**.
- The **vehicles of India's top constitutional authorities**, The President, the Vice President, Governors and Lieutenant Governors will soon have to **display their registration numbers**.
- **India's first helicopter taxi service** was launched in **Bangalore**.
  - This helicopter taxi service will fly passengers from **Kempegowda International Airport to Electronic City** which is expected to reduce the time taken to cover the distance from 2 hours to 15 minutes.
- For the first time, the **Deccan Queen Express** was operated by an **all-woman crew** on International Women's Day.
  - **Surekha Yadav**, the **first female train driver in Asia**, will pilot the express while senior assistant loco pilot **Trushna Joshi** will assist her.
  - The Railways had earlier appointed an **all woman crew** to manage the **Matunga Railway Station** in **Mumbai**.
- The **Railways** has **withdrawn** the sale of **i-Tickets** through its **IRCTC website** from **March 1st**.
- **Delhi Metro's Pink** line running on the **Majlis Park-Durgabhai Deshmukh** section was opened to **public**.

- The 21.56-km circular metro corridor, connecting Delhi University's north and south campuses, is part of the 59-km '**Ring Corridor**' which will reportedly become **India's longest metro line**.
- **Indian Railways** has formally handed over a total of 18 1350 HP AC/DC diesel **electric locomotives** to **Myanma Railways**.
- The 1st regularly scheduled **non-stop flight** between **Australia** and the **United Kingdom** has landed in **London** after a journey of over 17 hours.
  - The 14,498-km journey from **Australian city Perth** was completed in **Qantas' newest aircraft**, the **Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner**.

### Films and Film Festival

- 90th **OSCARS 2018** '**The Shape of Water**' won **Best Picture Award**.
  - The **Director** of '**The Shape of Water**' **Guillermo del Toro** won **Best Director Award**.
  - **Gary Oldman** has won **Best Actor Award**.
  - **Frances McDormand** won **Best Actress Award**.
- Actor **Jackie Shroff's** short film "**Shunyata**" has won an award at **Best of India Short Film Festival** in **Los Angeles, US**.
  - The 22-minute fiction film was **directed** by **Chintan Sarda**.

### Festival

- **Festival of colours Holi** was celebrated with fanfare & religious fervor in **India & Nepal**.
- The 3-day annual **Krishi Unnati Mela** held in **New Delhi** with a focus on **doubling the farmers' income**.
- The spring festival of **Gudi Padwa**, which marks the **traditional New Year** for many in **Maharashtra** and **Goa**, among others, was celebrated.
- Festival to mark the New Year, **Ugadi**, was celebrated by many in **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana**.
- **Lunar New Year** festival **Sajibu Cheiraoba** was celebrated in **Manipur**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated **Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE)** in **New Delhi**.

### Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- According to a report released by internet testing and analysis platform **Ookla**, **India** ranked **67th** in Fixed broadband speeds globally at **20.72 Mbps** in February this year.
  - India ranked **109th** in **mobile internet download speed**.
  - India's **upload speeds** for mobile data stood at **3.66 Mbps**.

### Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- **Armenian** lawmakers elected **Armen Sargsyan** as the country's **4th President**. He will replace **Serzh Sargsyan** in April.
- Human rights activist **Krishna Kumari Kohli** has become **Pakistan's first Hindu Dalit woman Senator** after she was elected to the **Upper House**.
- **Germany's Angela Merkel** secured her **4th term** as the **Chancellor** after the Social Democratic party voted in favor of a grand coalition with **Merkel's Christian Democratic Union**.
- The president of the National People's Party (NPP), **Conrad Sangma**, sworn-in as the new **Chief Minister of Meghalaya**.
- Multinational steel manufacturing corporation **Arcelor Mittal** announced the appointment of **Aditya Mittal** as **President** of the group in addition to his current role as CFO and CEO.

- The chief of Tripura BJP, **Biplab Deb** sworn-in as the new **Chief Minister of Tripura**.
  - **Jishnu Deb Burman** has been selected for the post of **Deputy CM**.
- **Ryoko Azuma** has been appointed as the **Commander** of the **First Escort Division** of the **Japan Maritime Self Defense Force**.
  - With this she became the **1st woman to command** a warship squadron.
- **London's Metropolitan police Scotland Yard** has appointed **Neil Basu** as the new **head** of its counterterrorism operations.
- **Nigerian-origin Tony Iwobi** has been elected as **Italy's first black senator**.
- The leader of **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)** **Neiphiu Rio** sworn in as the new **Chief Minister of Nagaland**.
- Micro blogging website **Twitter** has appointed IIT Bombay alumnus **Parag Agrawal** as the **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)**.
- The **European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)** appointed **Catherine De Bolle** as its **first woman Executive Director**.
- **Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma** has assigned the **Finance, Personnel, Cabinet Affairs, and Planning portfolios** among others to himself.
- **Britain's Prince Charles** appointed Indian-origin steel tycoon **Sanjeev Gupta** as an Official ambassador for the **Industrial Cadets programme**.
- **Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli** has been named cab-hailing startup **Uber's first Brand Ambassador in India**.
- The **Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha**, the highest body for decision making and policy formulation for the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**, re-elected **Bhaiyyaji Joshi** as the **Sarkaryavah (General Secretary)** of the RSS for the next three years.
- **CPN Maoist Centre leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara** was elected as the **Speaker of the House of Representatives**, the lower house of the bicameral federal parliament of **Nepal**.
- Union commerce and industry minister **Suresh Prabhu** was assigned **additional charge** of the **Aviation ministry**.
  - He is going to replace **TDP Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju**, who resigned from the Union Cabinet.
- The central government has appointed **Debashish Mukherjee** as an **Executive Director** of **Canara Bank**.
- **Ramaswami** has taken charge as **Executive Director** of **Vijaya Bank**.
- Senior diplomat **Vinay Kumar** has been appointed as **India's ambassador to Afghanistan**. He has replaced incumbent **Manpreet Vohra**.
- **Anil Kumar Chaudhary** has been appointed as the **Chairman of Steel Authority of India (SAIL)**.
- **Rangarajan Raghavan** has been appointed as the **new Managing Director (MD)** of the **HCL Infosystems**. He has replaced **Premkumar Seshadri**.
- **US President Donald Trump** appointed **Gina Haspel** as the intelligence agency **CIA's first female Director** after appointing outgoing **Director Mike Pompeo** as the Secretary of State.
- **Bidhya Devi Bhandari** was elected **Federal Nepal's first President** after securing nearly two-thirds vote from lawmakers.
  - With this, Bhandari secured her second presidential term defeating Nepali Congress leader **Kumari Laxmi Rai** in the elections.

- IRS officer **Vivek R Wadekar** was appointed as the new **Special Director** in the **Enforcement Directorate** (ED) by the government.
  - The ED is the central investigative agency, under the Union finance ministry, that enforces the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act** (PMLA) and the **Foreign Exchange Management Act** (FEMA) in the country.
- **Chinese President Xi Jinping** became the country's **first leader** to take oath on the **Constitution** after he was unanimously re-elected to serve indefinitely.
  - Jinping took oath as both the **President** and the **head** of the **country's military**.
- **China** appointed the country's former anti-corruption chief **Wang Qishan** as the **Vice President**.
- **All India Radio's News Services Division** (NSD) director general **Sitanshu Kar** will be the next **Head of the Press Information Bureau** (PIB).
- **Vladimir Putin** has been elected as the **President of Russia** for his **fourth** term with over 76% of the votes, and will now lead the country for another six years.
  - Putin, who has ruled Russia as either Prime Minister or President since 1999, was already the country's longest-serving leader since Soviet dictator **Joseph Stalin**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has given **Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik** additional charge of **Odisha** until regular arrangements are made.
- **Sony India** has appointed **Sunil Nayyar** as its **1st Indian Managing Director**.
  - He will replace **Kenichiro Hibi**, who is going to retire in April 2018.
- **Walmart India** appointed **Sameer Aggarwal**, a former executive at American fast food chain KFC, as **Executive Vice-President and Chief Strategy & Administrative Officer**.
- **Vodafone Group** and **Aditya Birla Group** appointed **Balesh Sharma**, the current COO of Vodafone India, as the CEO of the merged **Idea Cellular** and **Vodafone India**.
  - **Kumar Mangalam Birla** will be the non-executive Chairman of the merged company.
  - **Akshaya Moondra**, Idea Cellular's current CFO, will take over as the CFO of the new entity after the merger.
- **Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran** was elected President of the **Court of the Indian Institute of Science** (IISc) for three years.
- **Tata Power** appointed **Praveer Sinha** as the firm's new MD & CEO with effect from **May 1**.
  - Sinha is going to replace **Anil Sardana**, whose exit was announced earlier this year.
- **Vijay Sankar**, deputy chairman of **The Sanmar Group**, has been appointed honorary **consul general for Denmark** in **Chennai**, by the queen of Denmark, with the concurrence of the government of India.
- **Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company** (RARC) announced the appointment of **Ravindra Rao** as its new **Chief Executive Officer**.
- **Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai** elected **Chairman** of the **Jammu and Kashmir Political Party Tehreek-eHurriyat**, replacing **Syed Ali Shah Geelani**.
- Stock exchange major **BSE Ltd.** (Bombay Stock Exchange) has appointed former European Commission official **David Wright** as a **Public Interest Director**.
- The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has nominated former NCERT director **J S Rajput** as **India's representative to Executive Board** (EXB) of **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO).
- US President Donald Trump has named **John Bolton** as his new **National Security Adviser** (NSA).
- **Myanmar's Parliament** has elected **Win Myint** as the country's new **President**.

- Former Indian captain **Rahul Dravid** has been named as the **Election icon** to motivate young voters to come and vote in the upcoming **Karnataka Assembly elections**.
- **Motorola** announced that the company's 20-year veteran **Sergio Buniac** will take over as the new **President** and the **Chairman**.
- The United Nations has appointed American diplomat **Rosemary DiCarlo** as the world body's new **Political Affairs Chief**.
- Veteran director **Shekhar Kapur** has been appointed **Chairman** of the **Central panel** of the 65th **National Film Awards**.

#### **Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit**

- **Hong Kong's richest man Li Ka-shing** announced his **retirement** as the **Chairman** of conglomerate **CK Hutchison Holdings** and property giant **CK Asset Holdings**.
  - The 89-year-old will remain an **advisor** to the group after stepping down as Chairman in May.
  - He will pass control of his \$100-billion retail, infrastructure and property business to elder son **Victor Li**.
- **Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigned** amid a financial scandal over the use of a credit card given by an NGO to buy personal luxury items.
- **Australian cricket team coach Darren Lehmann** is going to resign from his position following the ball-tampering incident that took place against South Africa in the third Test.
- **Htin Kyaw**, who became **Myanmar's** first democratically elected **President** in 2016, has resigned from the position with immediate effect.

#### **Arrests/Jailed**

- **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu**, already under investigation for **two instances** of **corruption**, has been named as the beneficiary of a **PR scheme** worth "up to a billion shekels".
  - Netanyahu allegedly benefitted from a deal struck between his former media adviser **Nir Hefetz** and communications giant **Bezeq** for positive coverage in return for **• 1,800 crore** as bribe.
- The **CBI** has charged former CMD of **United Bank of India Archana Bhargava** for amassing assets worth over **Rs.3.6 crore**, **133.23%** more than her known sources of income.
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** filed a charge sheet against former **Canara Bank** CMD **RK Dubey** and two former executive directors of cheating and forgery in the alleged loan default of over Rs 68 crore sanctioned in 2013.
- **South Korean** ex-president **Lee Myung-bak** was arrested and jailed over a range of corruption allegations.
- The CBI has booked a former General Manager of IDBI Bank, **Battu Rama Rao**, and 30 others for allegedly cheating the bank of **Rs.445 crore** by availing **Kisan Credit Cards (KCC)** and fish farming loans on the basis of fake documents.

#### **Deaths**

- Former Hindustan Unilever (HUL) Chairman **T Thomas** (90) passed away. Thomas was the Chairman of the company, then known as Hindustan Lever, between 1973 and 1980.
- **British athlete Sir Roger Bannister** (88), the first person to run a mile in under four minutes, passed away.
- **Italian professional footballer Davide Astori** (31) passed away at the age of 31 during his sleep.
- Veteran **actress Shammi** (89) passed away. She appeared in over 100 films including 'Khuda Gawah', 'Hum', 'Arth' and 'The Burning Train'.

- Sufi singer **Ustad Pyarelal Wadali** (75), who was one of the singers of the **Wadali Brothers** group, passed away.
- **French** fashion designer **Hubert Taffin de Givenchy** (91) passed away. He is the **founder** of the luxury fashion label **Givenchy**.
- Renowned **British** theoretical physicist and cosmologist **Stephen Hawking** (76) has passed away.
  - He was known for his theory on black holes, the boundless universe, and authoring a bestselling book titled '**A Brief History of Time**'.
- Bollywood **Actor Narendra Jha** (55), known for appearing in films like 'Raees' and 'Haider', passed away.
- Former Nazi SS guard **Oskar Gröning** (96) famously known as the '**Bookkeeper of Auschwitz**' passed away, before beginning his prison sentence.
  - He was found guilty of being an accessory to the murders of 3 lakh Jews at the Auschwitz death camp during WWII.
- Sahitya Akademi Award winning **Hindi** poet **Kedarnath Singh** (83) passed away.
- The Founder and Chairman Emeritus of US toy store chain Toys"R"Us, **Charles Lazarus** (94), died.
- **Sudan**, the world's last remaining **male northern white rhino** has died in **Kenya** at age 45.

#### Awards/Honours

- Indian women's Twenty20 cricket team captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** joined the **Punjab police** as a **Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)** Punjab Chief Minister Captain **Amarinder Singh** and Director General of Police (DGP) **Suresh Arora** pinned the stars on her uniform.
- Former President **Pranab Mukherjee** was conferred the **D.Litt** by the **Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST)**.
- **Indian architect** and reputed urban planner **Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi** has been named the winner of **Pritzker Prize 2018** for being able to interpret architecture and transform it into buildings that respect Eastern culture.
  - With this, he became the **first Indian** to win architecture's highest honour.
- **European** researchers **Bart De Strooper, Michel Goedert, Christian Haass, and John Hardy** have been jointly awarded the **Brain Prize** "for their groundbreaking **research** on the **genetic** and molecular basis of **Alzheimer's disease**".
  - The €1-million (over **Rs.8 crore**) prize, awarded annually by **The Lundbeck Foundation** in **Denmark**.
  - Brain Prize is considered the world's **most prestigious award** in the field of neuroscience.
- **Viola Desmond**, a woman who stood up for the rights of black people in **Nova Scotia** and went to jail for it, was honored as a new **\$10 bill** featuring **her image** was unveiled.
  - The vertical banknote was unveiled by Finance Minister **Bill Morneau** and **Bank of Canada** governor **Stephen Poloz** during a ceremony at the **Halifax Central Library**.
- The Union Government has approved proposal to institute **Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Investigation**.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** was awarded 2017 **Kochon Prize** for building tradition of excellence in **Tuberculosis (TB) research** and **development**.
- Indian Actor-politician **Shatrughan Sinha** is honored with a **Lifetime achievement award** for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at a ceremony in **UK's Parliament complex**, under annual Political and Public Life Awards by **Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper**.
- **Vietnam's Nguyen Huong Giang** has been crowned this year's "**Miss International Queen**" in **Thailand**.

- Miss International Queen is the world's largest and most prestigious beauty pageant for **transgender women**.
- **India** has **won** the "**Best Exhibitor Award**" at **ITB -Berlin World Tourist Meet 2018**, which was held at **Berlin, Germany**.
  - India was represented by the Minister of State (Independent charge) for **Tourism K. J. Alphons**.
- **London** based **Andria Zafirakou** honored with the **World's Best Teacher Award**.
- Ace shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** and former tennis player **Somdev Devvarman** received the country's fourth-highest civilian award, **Padma Shri**, from President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Noted actor **Amol Palekar** was honored with the '**Godavari Gaurav**' award, which has been instituted by '**Kusumagraj Prathishthan**'.
  - The award was given by noted **Marathi** writer **Madhu Mangesh Karnik**, who is the chairperson the Prathishthan.
- The "**Academy Award for Nobel Peace**" from the USA has been conferred on **Dr Ketzia David Prakasam**, a philanthropist, social worker and spiritual worker here.
  - Ketzia is the 1st **Indian woman** to receive this award.
- 26-year-old racer **Anindith Reddy** was crowned '**FMSCI National Motor Sports Person of the Year 2017**' at the FMSCI awards held in **Chennai**.
- **Canadian** mathematician **Robert P. Langlands** has won prestigious **Abel Prize**.
  - He is going to be honored with this award for his visionary programme connecting representation theory to **number theory**.
- Veteran actress and talk show host **Simi Garewal** has been felicitated with a "**UK Golden Flame Award**" for her contribution to Indian cinema.
- **KL Rahul** has been named '**Cricketer of the Year**' in the 6th edition of **Wisden India Almanack**, which has just been released.
  - **Shantha Rangaswamy**, India's first woman cricket superstar has been inducted into the **Wisden India Hall of Fame** alongside **Erapalli Prasanna**.
- The **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport** (Ahmedabad) has received the award for '**Most Improved Airport**' in the **Asia-Pacific region** by the **Airports Council International (ACI)**.
- **Anushka Sharma** is the only Bollywood actress who has featured on the **Forbes Asia 30 under 30** list.
  - Other Indians who have featured on the list include model **Bhumika Arora**, **Youth Ki Awaaz** Founder **Anshul Tewari** and badminton player **PV Sindhu**.
- **Karnataka** Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** has become the 1st CM in the state to complete the full five-year term in **40 years**.
  - The last Karnataka CM to finish the full term was **D Devaraj Urs**, who ruled from 1972 to 1977.

### **Sports/Game**

- The **Mascots** for the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics** and **Paralympics** selected by **elementary school kids** were unveiled.
  - The **Olympics** mascot is a **blue-checked, doe-eyed character** with **pointy ears** and "**special powers**", while the **Paralympics** mascot sports **pink checks** and can "**talk with stones and the wind**".
  - The Tokyo Olympics are scheduled for **July 24 to August 9, 2020**.
- The **Decision Review System (DRS)** will be used in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** for the first time in the tournament's 2018 edition following **BCCI's** approval.

- With this, the Indian Premier League will become the **second major T20 league** to adopt the system after **Pakistan Super League**.
- **Russia's Olympic membership** has been **restored** by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** following its suspension from **Pyeongchang 2018**.
- **Navjot Kaur** became the **1st Indian woman wrestler** to win a **gold** in the **Senior Asian Championships** after winning in the 65 kg freestyle category event.
  - Rio Olympics bronze medallist **Sakshi Malik** won a **bronze** in the 62 kg freestyle category.
  - Indian wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** won a **silver** medal at the **Asian Wrestling Championships** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
- **India** defeated **Pakistan** in the inaugural **IBSF Snooker Team World Cup** in **Doha**. The Indian team was awarded \$15,000 (nearly **Rs.10 lakh**) for winning the tournament.
- **Indian** wicketkeeper **Dinesh Karthik** was appointed the new **Captain of Kolkata Knight Riders** ahead of the 11th edition of the Indian Premier League.
  - **Robin Uthappa** was named the team's **vice captain**.
- **Afghanistan** spinner **Rashid Khan** became the **Youngest Cricketer** at 19 years, 165 days to **captain** a national side after leading the team as interim captain against **Scotland**.
  - Rashid recently became the **youngest player** to hold the **top spot** for any form of **ICC men's ranking**, after being elevated to the top spot in ODI and T20I bowlers rankings.
- The 2018 **Maharashtra Tata Open Men's Tennis Championship** was recently held at **Pune, India**.
  - Men's Singles Winner: **Gilles Simon** (France)
  - Men's Doubles Winners: **Robin Haase** (Netherlands) and **Matwé Middelkoop** (Netherlands)
- The 2018 **Chennai Open Challenger** was recently held at **Chennai, India**.
  - Men's Singles Winner: **Jordan Thompson** (Australia)
  - Men's Doubles Winners: **Sriram Balaji** (India) **Vishnu Vardhan** (India)
- World rapid chess champion **Viswanathan Anand** lifted the **Tal Memorial rapid chess** title.
- India's 16-year-old shooter **Manu Bhaker** won two **Gold** medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol event and **mixed team** event at the **ISSF World Cup**.
- Former India captain **Sunil Gavaskar** has been named as the **Commissioner** of the **T20 Mumbai League**, which was take place at **Wankhede Stadium** from 11th to 21st March 2018.
- The opening ceremony of the upcoming **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, which was scheduled to be held on **April 6**, has been moved to **April 7**.
  - The budget for the ceremony was also reduced to **Rs.30 crore from Rs.50 crore**.
  - The venue has been changed from CCI to **Wankhede Stadium** in **Mumbai**.
- **Cricketer Gautam Gambhir**, who led Kolkata Knight Riders to two Indian Premier League titles, has been appointed as **Captain of Delhi Daredevils** ahead of 2018 season.
- In the new contract system announced, the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has hiked the pay of Grade **A+** cricketers from **Rs.2 crore to Rs.7 crore**.
  - The newly incorporated A+ bracket includes **Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah**.
- **India's** 22-year-old shooter **Akhil Sheoran** today won **Gold** medal the **ISSF Shooting World Cup** in **Guadalajara, Mexico**.
- 17 year old **Gora Ho** from the tribal belt of **Jharkhand**, won the team recurve event **Gold** at **Asia Cup Archery Stage 1**.
- **World champions Australia** won 27th edition of the **Sultan Azlan Shah cup 2018** for record 10th time by defeating **England**.

- **India B** won 45th edition of the **Deodhar Trophy 2018** by defeating **Karnataka** in final match by 6 wickets at the **Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium** in **Dharamsala**.
- **Indian** para-athlete **Deepa Malik** won a **Gold** medal in the F-53/54 category **javelin** event at the **World Para Athletics Grand Prix** in **Dubai**.
  - With the win, Deepa has also qualified for the **2018 Asian Para Games** in **Indonesia**, scheduled to be held in October.
- 17th **IAAF World Indoor Championships** were recently held in **Birmingham** (United Kingdom).
  - **USA topped** the medal tally with 18 medals (6 Gold, 10 Silver and 2 Bronze).
- Football's world governing body **FIFA** announced that it was lifting the three-decade-long **ban** on **Iraq** to allow the country to host **international matches**.
- **Indian Super League** football club owned by MS Dhoni and Abhishek Bachchan **Chennaiyin FC** won the Indian Super League for the **second** time after defeating **Bengaluru FC** in the finals.
  - Chennaiyin's defender **Mailson Alves**, who scored a brace, was named **player of the match**.
- **Vidarbha** has won their maiden **Irani Cup trophy** by defeating Rest of India.
  - This is Vidharbha's **2nd title** in domestic cricket after Ranji Trophy.
- 18-year-old Indian shooter **Elavenil Valarivan** set a qualification world record before claiming a **Gold** medal in the 10-metre air rifle **women junior** event at the **ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup** in **Australia**.
- India's 16-year-old shooter **Manu Bhaker** won a **Gold** on her last shot in the women's 10-metre air pistol event at the **Junior World Cup** in **Sydney**.
- **India** won **Hero Nidhaas Cricket Tri Series** tournament held in **Sri Lanka** by defeating **Bangladesh**.
  - **India's Washington Sundar** has been named as the **Player of the series**.
- India's Rio Olympics silver medalist shuttler **PV Sindhu** is set to be the **Indian contingent's flag-bearer** at the opening ceremony of **the 2018 Commonwealth Games** in **Australia**.
- **Steve Smith** and **David Warner** have stepped down as **Australia captain** and **vice-captain** respectively for the last two days of the Test against **South Africa** in **Cape Town** as a result of the explosive ball-tampering row.
  - Wicketkeeper **Tim Paine** will act as captain for the **Newlands Tests**.
- Indian billiards player **Pankaj Advani** beat his training partner **B Bhaskar** 6-1 in the **Asian Billiards Championships'** final to become the reigning Indian, Asian and world champion in billiards for 2017-18.
- After ball tampering allegations, **Steve Smith** has stepped down as **IPL side Rajasthan Royals' captain**.
  - Indian cricketer Ajinkya Rahane has been named as the **new Captain of Rajasthan Royals**.
- India's 15-year-old shooter **Anish Bhanwala** won a **Gold** medal at the **ISSF Junior World Cup** in the 25m rapid fire pistol event.
- Amid Australia's ball-tampering controversy, Australian cricketer **David Warner** has stepped down as the captain of **Sunrisers Hyderabad** for the upcoming IPL edition.

## Report

- **China** has **topped** the **Hurun Global Rich List 2018** with 819 billionaires, beating the **United States** which had 571 billionaires.
  - **India** replaced **Germany** to reclaim the **third spot** in the list with 131 billionaires.
  - **Jeff Bezos** of **Amazon** stood at **first** place with \$123 billion.
  - **Warren Buffett** overtook Bill Gates and grabbed the **2nd** position.
  - **Pony Ma** of **Tencent** became the **richest Asian** with \$47 billion.

- With a total of 42,07,250 personnel, **India** has been **ranked** as the **4th** most **powerful military** in the world in **Global Firepower Index 2017**.
  - **Top 3: United States, Russia, China.**
- **Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani** has been ranked **India's richest person**.
  - **Wipro Chairman Azim Premji** has been ranked **second richest Indian** with a fortune of \$18.8 billion.
  - **Jindal Group Chairperson Savitri Jindal** is the **richest Indian woman** with a fortune of \$8.8 billion.
  - The 39-year-old Founder of mobile payments startup **Paytm, Vijay Shekhar Sharma**, is the **youngest Indian** in the list.
- According to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 2018 **World Happiness Report**, **Finland** has been named the **happiest country** in the world.
  - **India** ranked **133rd** in the list (last year's rank was 122nd).
  - **Top 5: Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Switzerland**
- According to the **Annual Survey of India's City-System** **Pune** is the **best city** in the country in terms of local governance.
  - **Bangalore** is the **worst city** in the list.
  - **Top 5: Pune, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar, and Surat.**
- **Singapore** has been named as the **world's most expensive city** for the **fifth** time in a row in the **Economist Intelligence Unit's 2018 Cost of Living Index**.
  - **Damascus** has been listed as the **world's cheapest city** in the list.
  - **India's Bangalore, Chennai and New Delhi** named among **world's 10 cheapest cities**.
- **India** was ranked at **78th** among 114 countries on **World Economic Forum's (WEF) Energy Transition Index (ETI)** released as part of report titled **Fostering Effective Energy Transition**.
  - The index ranks countries on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
  - **Top 10: Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, Netherlands, UK, Austria, France, and Iceland.**
- **India** ranked **52nd** in recently released **Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE) 2018**.
  - **Top 5: Ghana, Russia, Uganda, New Zealand, Australia.**
- **West Bengal** has bagged the **top** spot in the **Domestic Ease of Doing Business** – an index created by the central government in collaboration with the **World Bank**.
  - **Top 10: West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Karnataka.**
- The Union Health Ministry revealed that **Maharashtra** generates the **highest amount** of **biomedical waste in India** (70,000 kilograms).
- With 22.4 million followers, Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** won the '**Most Followed Account**' award at the 1st ever **Instagram Awards** in **India**.
  - Cricketer **Virat Kohli** won '**Most Engaged Account**' award.
- **Austria's** capital city **Vienna** has been rated the **world's most liveable city** for the ninth consecutive year by Mercer in its annual **Quality of Living survey**.
  - **Top 3: Vienna (Austria) Zurich (Switzerland) Auckland (New Zealand) & Munich (Germany)**
  - **Iraq's capital city Baghdad** has been rated the **least liveable city** for the tenth consecutive year.
  - **Hyderabad and Pune** have been rated **India's most liveable cities** in the list.
- With a market capitalization of \$768 billion, **Jeff Bezos-led Amazon** overtook **Alphabet** for the first time to become the world's **second most valuable company**.

- The **Singapore Changi Airport** has been named the **world's best airport** for the sixth consecutive year by consultancy firm **Skytrax**.
  - The **Incheon International Airport** in **South Korea** and **Haneda Airport** in **Japan** were placed **second** and **third** respectively.
  - **Mumbai airport** has been ranked **63rd**, the airports in **Bangalore** and **Delhi** are at **64th** and **66th** place respectively.

#### **National Parties/Regional Parties**

- Tamilnadu's ousted AIADMK leader and Independent MLA, **TTV Dhinakaran** launched his own political party titled '**Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam**'.
  - The party was named after late Chief Minister **Jayalalithaa**.
- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu**-led **Telugu Desam Party (TDP)** has **quit** the **BJP-led NDA** over the **Centre's refusal** to grant special category status to the state.

#### **General - National**

- **Mauritius** promised "**necessary regulatory action**" against entities found to be linked with the alleged \$2- billion **PNB Scam**.
  - Indian agencies have sought details of financial transactions related to the case from their counterparts in countries including **Mauritius** and **Hong Kong**.
- On the occasion of **International Women's Day 2018**, the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has launched a **Menstrual Hygiene Campaign** titled **#YesIBleed**.
  - **#YesIBleed** is second edition of such campaign that **aims** to create holistic approach to issue of menstruation, which is experience that transcends culture, class, and caste.
  - The "**#Yes I Bleed**" campaign has been initiated formally across all multi-media platforms, including **Facebook** and **YouTube** to spread awareness about issue.
- The shareholders of **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** have approved **India's candidature to international financial institution**.
  - With this, **India** will become the **69th member** of EBRD.
- **India** and **Pakistan** agreed on a proposal suggested by the External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** to **release** each other's **mentally challenged, women and elderly prisoners** above the age of 70.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented **Nari Shakti Puraskars 2017** to 30 eminent individuals and 9 distinguished institutions at special ceremony held in **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on occasion of International Women's Day.
  - **Nari Shakti Puraskar** is highest **civilian honour** for **women**.
- **India's 1st National Coastal Policing Academy**, National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) to **train police** forces in effectively safeguarding country's **shoreline** will start functioning from **April 2018**.
  - It will be launched from campus of **Gujarat's Fisheries Research Centre** located in coastal Okha town in **Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat**.
- **India's tallest National Flag** was unfurled in **Karnataka's Belgaum** in the presence of several schoolchildren and political leaders.
  - The 9,600- squarefoot-wide flag on an over 110- metre-tall post is said to be a foot taller than the one installed along **Attari** border.
- The **President, Prime Minister, and Vice President** will get their own **customized planes** by early 2020.
  - These planes will be purchased from **Air India** and configured to have VIP enclosures, press conference room, and anti-missile protection.

- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has clarified that **Aadhaar** is still necessary for opening new bank accounts or applying for **Tatkal passports**.
- The **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** under the **Department of Biotechnology** celebrated its **6th foundation day** with the theme 'Sustaining Innovation: A market driven pathway'.
- The 1st-ever **International Print Biennale**, an **International Exhibition of Graphic Prints** was held in **New Delhi**.
  - This exhibition was organised by **Lalit Kala Akademi**.
- **Rajasthan's Jaipur Wax Museum** is going to introduce a **Robot guide** to welcome visitors and give them information like a 'well-trained guide'.
- **India Post** paid tribute to recently died theoretical physicist and cosmologist **Stephen Hawking** by issuing a special cover on him.
- Renowned Indian painter **Raja Ravi Varma's** untitled painting of **Tilottama** sold for **Rs.5.17 crore** at Sotheby's **New York** sale of **Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art**.
- Road, Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** announced that the government has decided to increase the **shelf life of commercial vehicles** to **20 years from 15 years**.

#### **General - International**

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** has announced an **online contest** for the citizens to suggest names for new **nuclear weapons**.
- **German Chancellor Angela Merkel** has **rejected** a plea demanding the country's national anthem '**Song of Germany**' to be made **gender-neutral**.
- The **50th anniversary** of **English rock band The Beatles'** visit to **Maharishi Mahesh Yogi ashram** was celebrated in **Uttarakhand's Rishikesh**.
  - The ashram, now commonly known as '**Beatles Ashram**', has been turned into an eco-friendly tourism destination by the state authorities.
- **Washington** became the **1st US state** to **set up** its own **net-neutrality requirements** after U.S. regulators repealed Obama-era rules that **banned internet providers** from blocking content or interfering with **online traffic**.
  - Governors of five other US states namely, **Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Montana** and **Vermont** have also signed net-neutrality related executive orders.
- **China** voted to amend its Constitution to remove a provision that **bans** more than **two consecutive presidential terms**.
  - This move allows current President of **China Xi Jinping** to serve indefinitely.
- **US President Donald Trump** unveiled '**Keep America Great**' as his campaign slogan for the **2020 presidential election**.
  - '**Make America Great Again**', was the slogan for Trump's **2016** campaign slogan.
- **Iran** has supported **Pakistan** over the **Kashmir issue** by reiterating its support "for the people of Kashmir for their right to self-determination".
  - Iran's Foreign Minister **Mohammad Javad Zarif** also invited Pakistan to participate in the **Chabahar Port Project**.
- The **Saudi Information Ministry** announced that **divorced mothers** can now retain custody of their **children**.
  - This comes as part of a series of social and economic reforms initiated by Saudi Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman** in 2016.
- The **African** nation of **Sierra Leone** has become the world's first country to use **blockchain technology** in elections.

- **Russia** also used Blockchain technology in its presidential elections.
- **Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte** informed the **UN** of the country's decision to **withdraw** from the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.
- **Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena** announced that the nationwide **state of emergency** has been **lifted**.
  - The emergency was imposed to control communal **violence** after **Buddhists** and **Muslims** clashed in the country's central district of **Kandy**.
- Amid a shortage of banknotes in the country, **Venezuelan** city of **Elorza** has begun issuing its **own currency**.
  - The currency, which is available in two denominations, features the face of local independence leader **José Andrés Elorza**.
- The **UK** has reached a legal agreement with the **European Union (EU)** to end the **Brexit transition** by **December 31, 2020**.
- **Oklahoma** is going to become the **1st US** state to **use Nitrogen gas** for executions.
- **Maldives' President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom** **lifted** the **state of emergency** imposed in the country after a period of 45 days.
- **Bolivia's President Evo Morales** unfurled 200 km long and 3 metre wide **National flag**.
  - This flag is claimed to be **world's biggest flag**.
  - This flag extended between cities La Paz and Oruro.
- **Australia** has **abolished** the **subclass 457 visa category** used by **skilled overseas workers**, especially **Indians**, to promote employment of locals.
- **France's President Emmanuel Macron** has announced that the country is going to make **school education compulsory** from the **age of three** instead of six.

## Books and Authors

### Book's Name

### Author's Name

- Indian yogi and mystic **Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev** released a book titled '**Fulfilling Bapu's Dreams - Prime Minister Modi's Tribute to Gandhiji**' at a function held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
  - Author of the Book: **Dr Bindeshwar Pathak** (Noted sanitation activist)
- **Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC)** paid tribute to former **BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya** with a book titled, '**A Tribute to Jagu**'.
  - Dalmiya's son, **Avishek**, joint secretary of the **Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB)** was invited to receive the commemorative book.
- The **1st Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary** comprising of 3000 words has been launched by **Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawarchand Gehlot** in **New Delhi**.
  - The dictionary has been developed by **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**.
- **Indian army** released a book on **Paramveer Chakra Awardees** titled '**Paramveer Parwane**'.
  - Written by **Dr. Prabhakaran Jain**, the book illustrates the bravery of **Paramveer Chakra Awardees** from 1947 to 1965.
- US President **Donald Trump** took to **Twitter** to promote a book titled '**What Really Happened: How Donald J Trump Saved America From Hillary Clinton**'.
  - This book has been authored by **Boston** talk-show host **Howie Carr**.

--- x ---

## TO THE POINTS: MARCH-2018

- The Indian Railways has announced that Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges won't be levied on passengers for booking railway tickets through **debit cards**.
- **Maharastra** ties up with Wikipedia to promote their language.
- **Berkshie Hathaway** CEO has ranked ahead of Microsoft Co-founder Bill Gates on Hurun Global Rich List 2018.
- India ranks **third** on Hurun rich list with 131 billionaires.
- Amazon music streaming supports **12** Language.
- **Karnataka** inaugurated World's largest solar park.
- Core sector grows at **6.7%** in January 2018.
- **Vodafone** is being planned to support a mission for first 4G network on moon.
- Union cabinet has approved the **12** identified Champion Services Sectors for promoting their development, and realizing their potential.
- **12** agreements signed between India and Jordan.
- Merkel gets **Fourth term** as Chancellor as part of coalition.
- Krishna Kumari has become Pakistan's first Hindu Dalit woman Senator after she was elected to the **Upper House**.
- Sir **Roger Bannister**, the first person to run a mile in under four minutes, has died at the age of 88.
- In Russia, **Roscosmos** agency said that Russia and China have agreed to set up a joint data centre for lunar and deep space projects.
- Under the **Non-critical** category India, Russia, Bangladesh signed pact for Rooppur atomic plant.
- Indian Navy sailboat **INSV Tarini** arrives in Cape Town, South Africa.
- NASA's astronomers have found evidence of water using **Hubble space telescope** in the atmosphere of a Saturn-mass exoplanet some 700 light-years away.
- The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and **Manan Chandra** staged a remarkable recovery to defeat Pakistan in the final of the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup.
- Navjot Kaur clinches gold under **65kg** category in the Asian Wrestling.
- Earlier in January, Saudi Arabia allowed its women, for the first time, to spectate at a **Football**.
- Taliban has accepted Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani's offer to join a peace dialogue in order to end a war after **16yr**.
- **Gary Oldman** is the best actor in 90th Academy Awards (Oscars 2018) for "Darkest Hour".
- **A Fantastic Woman** awarded in 90th Academy Awards (Oscars 2018) under Foreign Language Film category.
- Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas means **Our village, Our development**.
- **Sunil Gavaskar** was the first Test batsman to score 10,000 runs.
- **Mars**, chocolate brand has announced that it has appointed Indian cricketer MS Dhoni as brand ambassador.
- Vishwanathan Anand wins **Tal Memorial Rapid**.
- **Manu Bhaker** won a gold medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol at the ISSF World Cup.

- **Harry Athwal**, Indian-origin British man won bravery award in Birmingham man.
- “**Remember Me**” from “Coco” song awarded in 90th Academy Awards (Oscars 2018).
- **Washington** becomes the 1st to set net-neutrality rules in US.
- **Biplab Kumar Deb** has been named the new chief minister of Tripura.
- Union Minister **Smriti Irani** inaugurates FICCI Frames 2018.
- Indian-origin officer **Neil Basu**, who has been appointed as new Chief of Scotland Yard’s Counter-terrorism Unit.
- After Mirai and Reaper, cybersecurity agencies have detected a new malware called **Saposhi**.
- India’s first travel service **Helitaxi** is launched in Bangalore.
- **Iraq** overtakes Saudi Arabia as India’s biggest Oil Supplier.
- Nargis Rabadi also known as Shammi, who passed away, was associated with **Cinema**.
- Recently Paytm Launches, ‘Paytm for **Business**’ mobile app for TN.
- Indian Railways plans provision of cheap rate bio-degradable sanitary **Pad** at 8,000 stations.
- **India**’s former coach has been appointed as the new chief coach of the Pakistan men’s hockey team.
- **Azim Premji** is the second Richest man in India.
- Dearness Allowance hiked to 7% for central govt employees.
- World’s 1st Monopoly hotel to open in Malaysia in **2019**.
- Delhi and Mumbai airports has become Asia’s **Seventh** busiest airport.
- Sukhad Yatra mobile application has been prepared for **Highway** users.
- The agreement between Indian gas utility major GAIL India and US-based Cheniere Energy’s Sabine Pass liquefaction facility in Louisiana has been signed for **Twenty** years.
- **Prakash Javadekar** is the Union Minister for Human Resources and Development.
- Union Minister **Ashwini Kumar Choubey** launches #YesIBleed menstrual hygiene campaign.
- India is all set to become the **69th** member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
- Union Minister **Anand kumar** launched 100% biodegradable sanitary napkins ‘Suvidha’.
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced the ‘Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh’ scheme.
- In **Spain**, over 5 million women observed a mass strike to protest pay inequality and highlight continued discrimination and gender violence.
- **Neiphiu Rio** is the Cheif Minister of Nagaland.
- Under **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched the National Nutrition Mission and Pan India.
- **Narcotic**, type of drugs that Cabinet approves an agreement between India and France. Balkrishna Doshi wins Pritzker Prize in the field of **Architect**.
- In **China** trade tie-up, India hits record \$84.4 billion in 2017.
- **UK** appointed Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta as a Skills Ambassador.
- **Jet Airways, InterGlobe Aviation and SpiceJet** that CCI imposes Rs. 54 crore fine on 3 airlines for unfair business practices.
- Passenger plane lands in **Sikkim** for the first time ever.

- Minister **Suresh Prabhu** gets additional charge of Civil Aviation.
- **Gora Ho**, a teenager from the tribal belt of Jharkhand, won the team recurve event gold at Asia Cup Archery Stage 1.
- **Bangladesh** with India, for the first time declared a part of their common border as a 'crime-free zone'.
- RBI slaps ₹ 5 cr fine on **Airtel Bank Payments Bank** over KYC norms.
- **Virat Kohli** is the first Brand Ambassador for Uber India.
- **Telangana** Government in India launches India's 1st state-led incubator for women.
- **Australia** researchers have created the world's first rechargeable proton battery, which uses carbon and water instead of lithium.
- European researchers Bart De Strooper, Michel Goedert, Christian Haass, and John Hardy have been jointly awarded the Brain Prize "for their groundbreaking research on the genetic and molecular basis of **Alzheimer's disease**".
- Under **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendras** scheme, Government launches 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin.
- **Bolivia** claimed to have unfurled the world's biggest flag that stretched nearly 200 kilometres.
- India's 22-year-old **shooter** Akhil Sheoran won the country's fourth gold medal at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- **Bangalore** observes Less Traffic Day to combat pollution.
- **Amol Palekar** receives 'Godavari Gaurav' award.
- **Rajasthan** passes bill for death penalty for child rape of girls below 12.
- **Jammu Kashmir** has their first state flag.
- **WHO** launches plan for cheaper TB drugs.
- Sultan Azlan Shah Cup is associated with **Hockey**.
- India exchanged 14 agreements with **France**.
- **Karnataka** government approves state flag proposal.
- **Sathya Raj**, Tamil actor will be getting a first statue at the popular wax museum.
- India, France pledge to build world's largest **Nuclear Plant**.
- Railways stops online booking of **I-tickets** from March 1.
- Govt approves **Bangalore's** plan to get a garment university.
- Founder of French luxury label **Givenchy** passes away aged 91.
- Saudi Arabia sets up department to probe **Corruption** cases.
- Ken Dodd signature tune was **Happiness**.
- Chandigarh to host two-day sports literature festival in the name of **Play Write 2018**.
- PM Modi, French President launches Solar Plant at **Mirzapur**.
- Colombia votes with **FARC** as political party for the first time.
- **Run Adam Sports**, analytics-based sporting platform has appointed Anand as brand ambassador.
- **Bidya Devi Bhandari** is re-elected as Nepal president.
- RBI stops issuance of LoUs for trade credits after **PNB Fraud**.

- **Gina Haspel** has appointed CIA's first female Director.
- **Supreme Court** extends Aadhaar linking deadline for mobile, bank account.
- India's tallest National Flag unfurled in **Karnataka**.
- **Russia** was India's largest arm supplier.
- President Kovind inaugurates World Hindi Secretariat building in **Mauritius**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind will become the first Indian President to visit **Madagascar**.
- Assam govt proposes insurance scheme for **Journalists**.
- After Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, **Haryana** has become the third state that approves death penalty for raping kids aged below 12.
- The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2018 is **Making digital marketplaces fairer**.
- India's **Economic** growth to rise to 7.3% next fiscal and further to 7.5% in 2019-20.
- **Chennai** named among world's 8th cheapest cities in the world.
- **Finland** has been named the happiest country, according to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 2018 World Happiness Report.
- **India** has been second highest GST rate in the world.
- **HDFC** blocks use of its cards for crypto-currency trading.
- **Ranbir Kapoor** has been new ad campaign as a brand ambassador for Yatra.
- Amazon launches its first-ever debit card in **Mexico**.
- **Chennai** has the fastest fixed broadband speed.
- **Aadhaar** is must for new bank account, tatkal passport.
- **Baskaran Adhiban** wins chess title in Reykjavik.
- **KL Rahul** is the Wisden India Almanack's Cricketer of the Year.
- **Rajnath Singh** inaugurates Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of IACP.
- **Oklahoma** become first US state to use nitrogen gas for executions.
- **China** develops artificial heart with rocket technology.
- **Sach-Gaurav** is the name of India's first cloned Assamese buffalo.
- LaQshya program launched to improve quality of **care Maternity**.
- Nepal gained ODI status with win over **Papua New Guinea**.
- **Deepa Malik** became Asian rank 1 in javelin F-53 category.
- **Sierra Leone** is the first country to use blockchain tech in elections.
- **Poland** will host 2019 FIFA U-20 World Cup.
- **Xi Jinping** is the President of China.
- **Kochi** to conduct two day Global Digital Summit.
- Krishi Unnati is related to **Agriculture**.
- **Prez Jinping** is the 1st Chinese leader to take oath on Constitution.
- Chennaiyin FC won the Indian Super League for the second time after defeating **Bangalore**.
- **Maharashtra** produces most biomedical waste in India.

- The first Mumbai Edition of Women of India Organic Festival 2018, theme is **Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You.**
- Odisha Government to collaborate with RIMES for **Disaster Management.**
- **The Centre and the Asian Development Bank** inks \$120 Million Loan agreement to improve Rail Infrastructure.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 105th session of Indian Science Congress (ISC) at **Manipur.**
- **Jaipur** host the largest international theatre festival for the first time in India.
- **Maharastra** Government ban use of plastic.
- **Pakistan** pulled out of WTO meet in India amid diplomatic tension.
- **Punjab** to impose permanent ban on hookah bars.
- **Karnataka** seeks separate religion status for Lingayats.
- **Venezuela** issues own currency amid cash shortage.
- **Vladimir Putin** is the President of Russia.
- **Dinesh Karthik** became the first Indian to win a T20I with a six off the match's last ball.
- **PM Narendra Modi** laid foundation stone for Navi Mumbai International airport.
- **Bangladesh** defeated by India to win Nidahas Trophy.
- **Rohit Sharma** became the third Indian batsman to score 7,000 runs in T20 cricket.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurates Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- Two-day ministerial meeting of WTO held in **New Delhi.**
- **Brazil** is the world's largest producer of sugar.
- **Greece** established the Hellenic Space Organization.
- **Sunil Nayar** is the first Indian MD of Sony India.
- **Andria Zafirakou** has been as the world's best teacher.
- The Delhi government has launched a mobile app called **Delhi's Date with Democracy** with an aim to allow applicants from all parts of the city to showcase their talent.
- World's longest sandstone cave found in **Meghalaya.**
- **Hindi poet** Kedarnath Singh has passed away at the age of 83 in New Delhi.
- Robertsganj railway station in Uttar Pradesh as **Sonbhadra.**
- **Virat Kohli** won Instagram's 'Most Engaged Account' award.
- **Central Industrial Security Force** launched mobile app for lost items at airports.
- **Deepika Padukone** won Most Followed Account at Instagram India Awards.
- First India-Japan Workshop on **Disaster Risk Reduction** inaugurated.
- **Mangala Mani** has become ISRO's first woman scientist to spend 403 days in Antarctica.
- Government imposes anti-dumping duty on Ofloxacin import from **China.**
- **NITI Aayog** released SATH-E Roadmaps.
- **Hyderabad and Pune** have been rated India's most liveable cities.
- India signed double tax agreement with **Hong kong.**

- Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik given additional charge as Governor of **Odisha**.
- **Google** Launched “Just a line” app.
- Airbnb inks four MoUs for promotion of tourism in **North-East India**.
- Indian Navy hosts bilateral naval exercise with **France** in the name of VARUNA.
- Union Minister **Ananthkumar** to set up Plastic Park in Deoghar.
- India Post releases special cover on **Stephen Hawking**.
- French President Launches drive to boost French, ‘**Language of liberty**’.
- **Htin Kyaw** is the Myanmar’s first democratically elected President.
- **Baidu**, internet company get approved to test self-driving vehicles in China.
- In **Gujarat**, GOI cleared a plan for IAF base close to Pak border.
- **Afghanistan** registered a last-over win against Ireland in the World Cup Qualifier to book their place in the 10-team 2019 Cricket World Cup.
- **2017** is declared as ‘costliest year on record’ for climate disasters by UN.
- **Stuart Broad** is the youngest pacer to reached 400 wickets in Test cricket.
- Elavenil Valarivan won a gold at Junior WC, is associated with **Air Rifle** fields.
- BrahMos - **Brahmaputra and Moskva**.
- The ‘Aspirational Districts’ to support their transformation in terms of **healthcare, education and nutrition**.
- The Government of India has decided to declare 2018 as **National Year of Millets**.
- **Punjab** Government observed March 23, 2018, the martyrdom day of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Sukhdev and Shaheed Rajguru as ‘Youth Empowerment Day’.
- **Balesh Sharma** has been appointed as CEO of Vodafone-Idea India merged entity.
- Kerala government declares **Jackfruit** official fruit of state.
- **PV Sindhu** to be India’s flag-bearer at Commonwealth Games.
- ‘Earth Hour’ to be observed on **March 24**.
- Union Minister **Arun Jaitley** elected to Rajya Sabha for 4th consecutive term.
- **Manu Bhaker** won gold on last shot at World Cup.
- Kerala CM launches **mKeralam** app for government services.
- India welcomes UN launch of decade of action on **Water**.
- World Tuberculosis Day was observed on **March 24**.
- India’s first sign language dictionary is useful for **Hearing and speech impaired people**.
- **Ahmedabad Airport** has been received award for ‘Most Improved Airport’.
- **Tripura Assembly** has been played National Anthem for first time.
- **Rashid Khan** has became the fastest-ever bowler to reach 100 wickets in ODI cricket.
- Advani now holds Indian, Asian, World titles in **Billiards**.
- **Sebastian Vettel** won season’s first Grand Prix.
- **Praveer Sinha** is the new CEO and MD of Tata Power.

- International day of Remembrance of the victims of Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed on **March 25**.
- India's 2nd mission to the Moon is **Chandrayaan-2**.
- **Reliance Jio** has been ranked as the no 1 innovator brand in India by India Innovation Outlook 2018.
- Indian, Chinese firms sign **Agriculture** deals worth \$2.36 billion.
- **Ajinkya Rahane** is appointed as the captain of Rajasthan Royals.
- India gets **67th** rank in globally broadband speed.
- Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is situated in **Srinagar**.
- Anish Bhanwala won a gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup, in **Fire Pistol**.
- India's oldest city is **Varanasi**.
- First International Exhibition of Graphic Prints held in **New Delhi**.
- INS Ganga is associated to **Indian Navy**.
- Robert P. Langlands won Abel Prize 2018, is associated with **Mathematician**.
- **Rahul Dravid** has been named election icon for Karnataka Assembly polls.
- **Siddaramaiah** has become 1st K'taka CM in 40 yrs to finish term.
- **Microsoft** has inaugurated innovation centre 'The Garage' in Hyderabad.
- **Surat** has become the first Indian district to have 100% solar-powered Primary Health Centres (PHCs).
- Ministry of Culture organizes Madhavpur Mela in **Gujarat** state.
- 'Print Biennale India 2018' Exhibition is related to **Graphic Prints**.
- India became **Fourth** Largest Auto Market In The World.
- India Became **3rd** Largest Electricity Producer In The World.
- **Chennai Super Kings** is tie-up with Equitas Bank.
- **HDFC Bank** is India's most valued bank.
- **Bandhan Bank** is became India's 8th most valued bank.
- SoftBank to create world's biggest solar power firm in **Saudi Arabia**.
- **Win Myint** is the President of Myanmar.
- **USA** scientists proposed new organ 'Interstitial' in human body.
- Tenor is related to **GIF**.
- India's first Insect Museum Opened In **Tamilnadu**.
- **Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan** has been appointed as the principal scientific adviser to the government of India.
- Department Of Posts Launches Cool EMS Service Between India and **Japan**.
- Around 3 lakh houses Affordable Houses Sanctioned For Urban Poor Under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kadaknath chicken.
- GSAT-6A is a **Communication** satellite.

- **ICICI** Bank has penalized for failing to comply with held-to-maturity (HTM) guidelines.
- **Kane Williamson** has been appointed as the captain of SunRisers Hyderabad.
- **NASA** is going to launch Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).
- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** scheme is comes under education.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras is related to **Agriculture** field.
- Permanent Indus Commission is between India and **Pakistan**.
- **Rosemary DiCarlo** has been appointed as the UN Political chief.
- Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been re-elected as the President of **Egypt** for a second term. NASA's InSight is associated with **Mars**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved **Rs.75,000** Crore Rupees over new Integrated Scheme for School Education.
- The 2018 Thai Film Festival has been inaugurated in **Mumbai**.
- Darren Lehmann is associated with **Australia** Cricket Team.
- Assam launches toll-free helpline for women. It is **181-Sakhi**.
- The new hot, metallic Earth-sized planet has been named as **K2-229b**.
- Sarmat is the intercontinental ballistic missile of **Russia**.
- Dabhol is a seaport town in **Maharashtra**.
- US President Donald Trump declares **April 2018** as 'Sexual Assault Awareness' month.
- India has announced a **\$10-billion** aid for the development of Africa.
- Beidou-30 and Beidou-31 satellites were launched by **China**.
- The venue for First National Conclave On Psychological Trauma, Child Protection, And Mental Illnesses is **New Delhi**.
- **Shekhar Kapur** has been appointed as the chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards.

--- x ---

**CURRENT AFFAIRS: MARCH-2018**  
**MODEL QUESTIONS**

1. What is the Zero Discrimination Day campaign for year 2018?  
(1) What never ... (2) What not ... (3) What if ...  
(4) What sure ... (5) None of these
2. What is the theme of the 2018 International Women's Day (IWD)?  
(1) Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030  
(2) Equality for Women is Progress for All  
(3) Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives  
(4) Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality  
(5) None of these
3. What is the theme of the 2018 World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD)?  
(1) Building a digital world consumers can trust  
(2) Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer  
(3) Antibiotics off the menu  
(4) Consumer Justice Now!  
(5) None of these
4. The 2018 World Poetry Day (WPD) is celebrated on which date?  
(1) March 23 (2) March 20 (3) March 22 (4) March 21 (5) None of these
5. What is the theme of the 2018 World Down syndrome Day?  
(1) My life, My Community  
(2) What I bring to the workplace  
(3) My friends, My Community  
(4) What I bring to my community  
(5) None of these
6. What is the theme of the 2018 World Tuberculosis Day (WTD)?  
(1) Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world  
(2) Gear up to end TB  
(3) Transforming the fight  
(4) I am stopping TB  
(5) None of these
7. The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of NFRA to oversee auditors. What does 'NFRA' stands for?  
(1) National Fund Reporting Authority  
(2) National Financial Reporting Authority  
(3) National Finance Reporting Authority  
(4) National File Reporting Authority  
(5) None of these
8. The Union Government has decided to declare 2018 as National Year of which of the following commodities?  
(1) Rice (2) Wheat (3) Pulses (4) Millets (5) None of these
9. Which state government has recently set up toll-free helpline to provide information to students?  
(1) Tamil Nadu (2) Maharashtra (3) Karnataka  
(4) Punjab (5) None of these

10. Which state government has launched 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' programme?  
 (1) Manipur (2) Kerala (3) Odisha (4) West Bengal (5) None of these
11. Which state government has started Asmita Yojana to provide sanitary napkins at subsidised rates?  
 (1) Maharashtra (2) Gujarat (3) Rajasthan  
 (4) Karnataka (5) None of these
12. Which state government will collaborate with Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for disaster management?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Andhra Pradesh  
 (4) Odisha (5) None of these
13. Which state has launched a multi-utility vehicle Naipunya Ratham (or World on Wheels)?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Karnataka  
 (4) Telangana (5) None of these
14. Which state government has observed martyrdom day of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru as 'Youth Empowerment Day'?  
 (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Chattisgarh (3) Punjab  
 (4) West Bengal (5) None of these
15. Which of the following has become the North India's first city to install digital automatic speed gun cameras for traffic management?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Chandigarh (3) Shimla  
 (4) Ranchi (5) None of these
16. Which city is hosting the 19th edition of FICCI Frames 2018?  
 (1) Mumbai (2) Pune (3) New Delhi (4) Kochi (5) None of these
17. Which Indian city hosted the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP-2018)?  
 (1) Kolkata (2) Ajmer (3) New Delhi (4) Bhopal (5) None of these
18. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has developed a coded drug AYUSH QOL-2C for cancer patients. Where is the headquarters of CCRAS?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Pune (3) Varanasi (4) Imphal (5) None of these
19. Which city is hosting the 3rd edition of National Conclave on Mines and Minerals?  
 (1) Raipur (2) Bhopal (3) Shimla (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
20. India's first Insect Museum has opened in which state?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Assam (4) Odisha (5) None of these
21. The first mega food park of Rajasthan has come up in which city?  
 (1) Kota (2) Ajmer (3) Jaipur (4) Udaipur (5) None of these
22. Which Indian naval command is hosting the multinational mega event 'Milan 2018' at Port Blair?  
 (1) Eastern Naval Command  
 (2) Western Naval Command  
 (3) Southern Naval Command  
 (4) Andaman & Nicobar Naval Command  
 (5) None of these

23. What is the theme of the biennial event on Civil Aviation and Aerospace 'Wings India 2018'?
- India-Global Aviation Hub
  - Sab Uden, Sab Juden
  - Bharat-Ek Chhat
  - India-Wings of Aerospace
  - None of these
24. Which of the following first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea has started?
- COAST-18
  - MILES-18
  - NAVAL MEET-18
  - SEA-18
  - None of these
25. The first phase of Indo-French joint naval exercise 'Varuna 2018' has started in which state?
- Maharashtra
  - Kerala
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Goa
  - None of these
26. Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian, the former Supreme Court judge has passed away. He headed which Central Pay Commission?
- 5th
  - 6th
  - 3rd
  - 4th
  - None of these
27. Which committee has been constituted by the Union Government to study issues in Fintech space?
- Arun Jaitley committee
  - Ajit Doval committee
  - Subhash Chandra Garg committee
  - Manohar Parrikar committee
  - None of these
28. The Union Government has constituted the tribunal to solve Mahanadi Water dispute between Odisha & Chhattisgarh. Who will be the Chairman of the tribunal?
- AM Khanwilkar
  - Indermeet Kaur Kochhar
  - Ravi Ranjan
  - Kirtipal Singh
  - None of these
29. The estimates committee has recently recommended effective measures to modernise security systems. The committee is headed by whom?
- Murli Manohar Joshi
  - Arun Jaitely
  - Manohar Parrikar
  - Sushma Swaraj
  - None of these
30. The pan-India expansion of flagship programme "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao (BBBP)" will be start from which district of Rajasthan?
- Baran
  - Jhunjhunu
  - Karauli
  - Pratapgarh
  - None of these
31. Which platform has been launched by the Union Government on the occasion of 2018 International Women's Day?
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform
  - Women Combat Platform
  - Women Power Platform
  - Women Literacy Platform
  - None of these
32. The Union Government has launched TB-free India Campaign from which city to eradicate TB from India by 2025?
- Lucknow
  - Varanasi
  - New Delhi
  - Gandhi Nagar
  - None of these
33. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat in which country?
- Madagascar
  - Sri Lanka
  - South Africa
  - Mauritius
  - None of these

34. Which union ministry has launched first Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary?  
(1) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
(2) Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(3) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
(4) Ministry of Labour and Employment  
(5) None of these
35. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched an initiative 'Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar' in which city?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Ranchi (3) Guwahati (4) Hyderabad (5) None of these
36. The Department of Posts has launched Cool EMS Service between India and which country?  
(1) Brazil (2) China (3) Japan (4) United States (5) None of these
37. Which city hosted the 27th Technological Conference of IJIRA on Shaping the Future of Jute?  
(1) Jaipur (2) Kolkata (3) New Delhi (4) Patna (5) None of these
38. Which of the following countries have co-chaired the first founding conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA-2018)?  
(1) India and Bangladesh (2) India and Russia (3) India and France  
(4) India and Germany (5) None of these
39. The first-ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit was held in which city?  
(1) Varanasi (2) New Delhi (3) Chennai (4) Shimla (5) None of these
40. The 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN2018) has started in which city?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Mysuru (3) Agartala (4) Shimla (5) None of these
41. Which state is hosting the 11th Rashtriya Rifles Biennial Conference 2018?  
(1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Jammu and Kashmir (3) Arunachal Pradesh  
(4) Sikkim (5) None of these
42. The 2018 National Conference on Down Syndrome was organized under which union ministry in New Delhi?  
(1) Ministry of Home Affairs (2) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
(3) Ministry of Rural Development (4) Ministry of Minority Affairs (5) None of these
43. Which state government has signed a MoU with e-Governance Foundation (e-Gov) of Nandan Nilekani to provide citizen centric services?  
(1) Punjab (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Himachal Pradesh  
(4) Haryana (5) None of these
44. India has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which countries for civil nuclear cooperation?  
(1) USA & Nepal (2) Japan & Myanmar (3) Russia & Bangladesh  
(4) Germany & Sri Lanka (5) None of these
45. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has recently signed pact with which international organization to promote solar energy deployment in Asia & Pacific?  
(1) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank  
(2) New Development Bank  
(3) African Development Bank  
(4) Asian Development Bank  
(5) None of these

46. NITI Aayog has recently released SATH-Education roadmaps 2018-2020 in partnership with which states?  
(1) Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha  
(2) Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan  
(3) Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal  
(4) Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram  
(5) None of these
47. European Union (EU) has recently signed pact with which country on sharing earth observation data from each other's satellites?  
(1) India (2) Canada (3) China (4) Thailand (5) None of these
48. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has signed MOU with TIFAC for supporting forest based communities. Where is the headquarters of ICFRE is located?  
(1) Hyderabad (2) Bangaluru (3) Allahabad (4) Dehradun (5) None of these
49. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has recently signed the Host Country Agreement with which country?  
(1) France (2) India (3) Australia (4) Russia (5) None of these
50. The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between India and SACEP for cooperation on oil and chemical pollution in the South Asian Seas Region. What does 'SACEP' stands for?  
(1) South Asian Campatibility Environment Programme  
(2) South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme  
(3) South Asian Connectivity Environment Programme  
(4) South Asian Coercive Environment Programme  
(5) None of these
51. Which country hosted the World ATM Congress (WATMC-2018)?  
(1) Belgium (2) France (3) India (4) Spain (5) None of these
52. Which city is hosting the Informal World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting?  
(1) Mysuru (2) Lucknow (3) New Delhi (4) Bhopal (5) None of these
53. Which country hosted the first G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of 2018?  
(1) India (2) Germany (3) Argentina (4) France (5) None of these
54. What is the India's GDP growth forecast for FY 19, as per World Bank's latest report "India Development Update – India's Growth Story"?  
(1) 8.0% (2) 6.6% (3) 7.5% (4) 7.3% (5) None of these
55. Which online payment service provider has become the official umpire partner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for 5 years?  
(1) PhonePe (2) Flipkart (3) JioMoney (4) Paytm (5) None of these
56. ISRO has tied up with which Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) company for the production of space-grade lithium-ion cells?  
(1) NTPC (2) BHEL (3) SAIL (4) GAIL (5) None of these
57. The world's longest sandstone cave has discovered in which state of India?  
(1) Meghalaya (2) Karnataka (3) Arunachal Pradesh  
(4) Mizoram (5) None of these

58. The world's largest solar park has launched in which state?  
(1) Odisha (2) Madhya Pradesh (3) Rajasthan  
(4) Karnataka (5) None of these
59. Which district has become the India's first district to have 100% solar powered health centres?  
(1) Kolkata (2) Chennai (3) Bangaluru (4) Surat (5) None of these
60. The Union Cabinet has approved formulation of a new Integrated Scheme for School Education by subsuming which of the following schemes?  
(1) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan  
(2) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan  
(3) Teacher Education  
(4) All of the above  
(5) None of these
61. Who has won the best actress award at the 90th Academy Awards 2018?  
(1) Allison Janney (2) Sally Hawkins (3) Frances McDormand  
(4) Saoirse Ronan (5) None of these
62. Who has been appointed as chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards (NFA)?  
(1) Shekhar Kapur (2) Imtiaz Hussain (3) P Sheshadri  
(4) Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury (5) None of these
63. The 2018 cultural festival 'India by the Nile' will be held in which country?  
(1) Nigeria (2) South Sudan (3) Egypt (4) Tunisia (5) None of these
64. The 2018 Shigmotsav festival has started in which state?  
(1) Assam (2) Goa (3) Maharashtra (4) West Bengal (5) None of these
65. What is the theme of the 9th edition of Women's Film Festival 2018?  
(1) Take Freedom (2) Learn to Live (3) Meet with Yourself  
(4) Travelling Women (5) None of these
66. The Festival of Democracy will be celebrated in which city of Rajasthan?  
(1) Kota (2) Udaipur (3) Jaisalmer (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
67. The 2018 Krishi Unnati Mela has started in which city?  
(1) Lucknow (2) New Delhi (3) Indore (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
68. The 5th edition of Nadi Mahotsava has started in which district of Madhya Pradesh?  
(1) Hoshangabad (2) Dhar (3) Bhopal  
(4) Anuppur (5) None of these
69. Which union ministry will organize the International Yoga Fest 2018?  
(1) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
(2) Ministry of Home Affairs  
(3) Ministry of AYUSH  
(4) Ministry of Water Resources  
(5) None of these
70. Which city is hosting the 2018 Festival Of Innovation And Entrepreneurship (FINE)?  
(1) Udaipur (2) Chennai (3) Shimla (4) New Delhi (5) None of these

71. The Nabakalebara festival is celebrated in which state?  
(1) Karnataka (2) Odisha (3) Assam (4) Kerala (5) None of these
72. Neiphiu Rio will be new Chief Minister of which state?  
(1) Kiphire (2) Peren (3) Nagaland (4) Noklak (5) None of these
73. Who has become the first Indian woman from the field of law and justice to be conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar'?  
(1) Fathima Beevi (2) Sujata Manohar (3) Gyan Sudha Misra  
(4) Gita Mittal (5) None of these
74. Who has been sworn in as the 10th Chief Minister of Tripura?  
(1) Biplab Kumar Deb (2) Prabhash K Devvarman (3) Jishnu Debbarma  
(4) Pradyot Kishore Manikya (5) None of these
75. Who will be the new head of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)?  
(1) Ira Josh (2) Sitanshu Kar (3) Frank Noronha  
(4) T S Baku (5) None of these
76. Who is the newly elected President of Nepal?  
(1) Bidya Devi Bhandari (2) Kumari Laxmi Rai (3) Ram Baran Yadav  
(4) Bhimsen Thapa (5) None of these
77. Who has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus?  
(1) P S Raghavan (2) Sangeeta Bahadur (3) Pankaj Saran  
(4) Prabhat Prakash Shukla (5) None of these
78. Satya Pal Malik, who is currently the Governor of Bihar, has been given additional charge of which state?  
(1) West Bengal (2) Jharkhand (3) Odisha (4) Assam (5) None of these
79. Who has been appointed as the new acting chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?  
(1) Jawad Rahim (2) Mohit Arora (3) Dipak Misra  
(4) R S Rathore (5) None of these
80. Who has been appointed as the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to Government of India (GoI)?  
(1) K Vijay Raghavan (2) Mukesh Maheshwari (3) Trilok Nath Das  
(4) R Chidambaram (5) None of these
81. Who has been appointed as the new Director General Border Roads (DGBR)?  
(1) SK Shrivastava (2) Deepak Jain (3) Harpal Singh  
(4) Sanjeev Kumar (5) None of these
82. Who has been appointed as the new Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA)?  
(1) Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey (2) B Kishore (3) Vineet Joshi  
(4) Nitishwar Kumar (5) None of these
83. Who has been elected as the new President of Egypt?  
(1) Moussa Mostafa Moussa (2) El-Sayyid el-Badawi (3) Abdel Fattah al-Sisi  
(4) Ahmed Shafik Sisi (5) None of these
84. Arabinda Muduli, the noted bhajan singer has passed away. He belonged to which state?  
(1) Bihar (2) Mizoram (3) Nagaland (4) Odisha (5) None of these

85. Khagendra Jamataia, who passed away recently, was associated with which political party?  
(1) INC (2) BJP (3) NCP (4) CPI (M) (5) None of these
86. Prafulla Das, the renowned litterateur has passed away. He was belonged to which state?  
(1) Assam (2) Odisha (3) West Bengal (4) Karnataka (5) None of these
87. Shammi, who passed away recently, was the veteran personality of which field?  
(1) Film Industry (2) Politics (3) Sports  
(4) Law (5) None of these
88. Pyare Lal Wadali, the famous sufi singer passed away. He belonged to which state?  
(1) Odisha (2) Punjab (3) Rajasthan (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
89. Dr. Patangrao Kadam, who passed away, was associated with which political party?  
(1) Indian National Congress (2) Communist Party of India (Marxist)  
(3) Bharatiya Janata Party (4) Nationalist Congress Party (5) None of these
90. Ranjan Roy, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?  
(1) Politics (2) Law (3) Sports (4) Journalism (5) None of these
91. Stephen Hawking, the legendary theoretical physicist has passed away. He belonged to which country?  
(1) United States (2) France (3) United Kingdom  
(4) Germany (5) None of these
92. Which Bollywood personality has won the lifetime achievement award at the 2018 'Political and Public Life Awards' in UK?  
(1) Amitabh Bachchan (2) Boman Irani (3) Jackie Shroff  
(4) Shatrughan Sinha (5) None of these
93. Who has become the first-ever Indian architect to win the Pritzker Architecture Prize?  
(1) Chitra Vishwanath (2) Raj Rewal (3) Balkrishna Doshi  
(4) Hafeez Contractor (5) None of these
94. Which Bollywood personality has been honoured with the 'Godavari Gaurav' award?  
(1) Deepika Padukone (2) Amol Palekar (3) Shahrukh Khan  
(4) Rekha (5) None of these
95. Which country has won the 2018 Best Exhibitor Award (BEA) at ITB – Berlin?  
(1) India (2) Canada (3) China (4) Brazil (5) None of these
96. Who has been named as the 'Cricketer of the Year' in the 6th edition of Wisden India Almanack 2018?  
(1) Suresh Raina (2) MS Dhoni (3) Virat Kohli (4) KL Rahul (5) None of these
97. What is the theme of the 2018 World Tuberculosis Day (WTD)?  
(1) Gear up to end TB (2) Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world  
(3) Transforming the fight (4) I am stopping TB (5) None of these
98. Vinesh Phogat has bagged silver in which freestyle category at the 2018 Asian Wrestling Championship in Kyrgyzstan?  
(1) 65kg (2) 54kg (3) 50kg (4) 59kg (5) None of these
99. Which country's team has won the 2018 IBSF Snooker Team World Cup?  
(1) China (2) India (3) Pakistan (4) Japan (5) None of these

100. Manu Bhaker won gold in 10m air pistol women event at the 2018 ISSF World Cup in Mexico. She hails from which Indian state?  
 (1) Punjab (2) MP (3) Karnataka (4) Haryana (5) None of these
101. Which Indian chess master has clinched the 2018 Tal Memorial Rapid Chess tournament in Moscow?  
 (1) Tania Sachdev (2) Koneru Humpy (3) Parimarjan Negi  
 (4) Viswanathan Anand (5) None of these
102. Which Indian shooter clinched gold in men's 50m Rifle 3-Position at 2018 ISSF Shooting World Cup in Mexico?  
 (1) Om Prakash Mitharval (2) Shahzar Rizvi (3) Akhil Sheoran  
 (4) Jitu Rai (5) None of these
103. Which country's hockey team has won the 27th edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah cup 2018?  
 (1) New Zealand (2) Australia (3) Argentina (4) England (5) None of these
104. Who has bagged the Indian Wells Masters Tennis tournament 2018?  
 (1) Juan Martin del Potro (2) Rafael Nadal (3) Novak Djokovic  
 (4) Roger Federer (5) None of these
105. Which Indian sportsperson has clinched the women's singles (Under-19) title at the Israel Junior Badminton tournament 2018?  
 (1) Pallavi Bikash Boruah (2) Purva Barve (3) Nikita Madaan  
 (4) Sonam Patil (5) None of these
106. Which cricket team has won the Irani Trophy cricket tournament 2018?  
 (1) Karnataka (2) Rest of India (3) Vidarbha (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these
107. Which Indian sportsperson has won the 2018 Asian Billiards Championships?  
 (1) Subhash Agarwal (2) Manan Chandra (3) Pankaj Advani  
 (4) Manan Chandra (5) None of these
108. Which Indian sportsperson has been named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast?  
 (1) Chinnaswamy Muniyappa (2) Subrata Paul (3) Suranjay Singh  
 (4) P V Sindhu (5) None of these
109. Which Indian shooter has bagged gold in the women's 10-metre Air Pistol Individual event at the 2018 ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney?  
 (1) Mahima Agrawal (2) Manu Bhaker (3) Zeena Khitta  
 (4) Elavenil Valarivan (5) None of these
110. Which hockey team has won the 8th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2018?  
 (1) Petroleum Sports Promotion Board  
 (2) Hockey Kerala  
 (3) Railway Sports Promotion Board  
 (4) Hockey Punjab  
 (5) None of these
111. Which state is hosting the 17th Sub-junior National Wushu Championship 2018?  
 (1) Himchal Pradesh (2) Punjab (3) Jammu & Kashmir  
 (4) Sikkim (5) None of these

112. Which Indian city has topped the 5th edition of Janaagraha's Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) 2017?  
 (1) Thiruvananthapuram (2) Kolkata (3) Pune  
 (4) Bhubaneswar (5) None of these
113. What is the India's rank in the WEF Energy Transition Index 2018?  
 (1) 55th (2) 69th (3) 78th (4) 47th (5) None of these
114. Which state has become the first Indian state to conduct a household survey exclusively to estimate the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) at the state and district levels?  
 (1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Kerala (3) Odisha  
 (4) Karnataka (5) None of these
115. Which city has topped the Mercer Quality of Living Survey 2018?  
 (1) Zurich (2) Hyderabad (3) Munich (4) Vienna (5) None of these
116. Which state has topped the list of states with most number of beggars, as per data released by Union ministry of Social Justice?  
 (1) West Bengal (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Bihar  
 (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
117. Conrad Sangma has been sworn-in as the 12th Chief Minister of Meghalaya. He is MP from which Lok Sabha constituency?  
 (1) Shillong (2) Tura (3) Mawlai (4) Nongkrem (5) None of these
118. India's tallest Flag has been unfurled in which city of Karnataka?  
 (1) Belagavi (2) Bengaluru (3) Ballari (4) Bidar (5) None of these
119. The Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) works under which union ministry?  
 (1) Ministry of Rural Development  
 (2) Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
 (3) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises  
 (4) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
 (5) None of these
120. Who authored the book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees 'Paramveer Parwane'?  
 (1) Somnath Sharma (2) Prabhakaran Jain (3) Aman Anand  
 (4) Bipin Rawat (5) None of these

**Ans:** 1-3, 2-3, 3-2, 4-4, 5-4, 6-1, 7-2, 8-4, 9-1, 10-3, 11-1, 12-4, 13-2, 14-3, 15-2, 16-1, 17-3, 18-1, 19-4, 20-2, 21-2, 22-4, 23-1, 24-2, 25-4, 26-1, 27-3, 28-1, 29-1, 30-2, 31-1, 32-3, 33-4, 34-1, 35-4, 36-3, 37-2, 38-3, 39-2, 40-1, 41-2, 42-2, 43-1, 44-3, 45-4, 46-1, 47-1, 48-4, 49-2, 50-2, 51-4, 52-3, 53-3, 54-4, 55-4, 56-2, 57-1, 58-4, 59-4, 60-4, 61-3, 62-1, 63-3, 64-2, 65-4, 66-4, 67-2, 68-1, 69-3, 70-4, 71-2, 72-3, 73-4, 74-1, 75-2, 76-1, 77-2, 78-3, 79-1, 80-1, 81-3, 82-3, 83-3, 84-4, 85-4, 86-2, 87-1, 88-2, 89-1, 90-4, 91-3, 92-4, 93-3, 94-2, 95-1, 96-4, 97-2, 98-3, 99-2, 100-4, 101-4, 102-3, 103-2, 104-1, 105-2, 106-3, 107-3, 108-4, 109-2, 110-4, 111-3, 112-3, 113-3, 114-1, 115-4, 116-1, 117-2, 118-1, 119-2, 120-2.

--- x ---