

MOU/Agreement Countries

Russia, India and Bangladesh signed a trilateral agreement to cooperate in the construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh, work on which started late last year.

Appointments and Resignations

Name	Post	Institution
Chandra Bhushan Kumar	Deputy Election Commissioner	India
Justice Jawad Rahim	Acting chairperson of	National Green Tribunal (NGT) (NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar had retired in December 2017. After that, Justice Umesh Dattatraya Salvi was appointed as the acting chairperson of NGT who retired from the post in February 2018 after completing a five-year tenure.)
Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan	Principal Scientific Adviser to the	Government of India
R Subrahmanyam	Higher Education Secretary	Government of India
Neiphiu Rio	Chief Minister	Nagaland
Biplab Deb	Chief Minister	Tripura
Conrad Sangma	Chief Minister	Meghalaya
Sitanshu Kar	Head of the	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
Indu Bhushan	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHMP)
Vineet Joshi	Director-General	National Testing Agency (NTA)
Virat Kohli	Brand Ambassador	Uber (Uber India's first brand ambassador)
Kidambi Srikanth	Deputy Collector	Andhra Pradesh government
Sandeep Bakhshi	Managing Director (MD)	ICICI Prudential Life
Sanjeev Nautiyal	MD and CEO	SBI Life Insurance Co
Rosemary DiCarlo	First woman to head UN political affairs	
John Bolton	US National Security Adviser	
Angela Merkel	Chancellor	Germany
Xi Jinping	President	China
Li Keqiang	Prime Minister	China
Wang Qishan	Vice President	China
Abiye Ahmed	Prime Minister	Ethiopia
Vladimir Putin	President	Russia
Sebastian Pinera	President	Chile
Martin Vizcarra	President	Peru
Win Myint	President	Myanmar
Bidya Devi Bhandari	President	Nepal
Abdel Fattah el-Sisi	President	Egypt

Armen Sarkisian	President	Armenia
Nanda Bahadur Pun	Vice President	Nepal
In a first for women, 25-year-old Prakriti has been inducted as the first direct-entry combat officer in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.		
Commerce and Industry minister Suresh Prabhu given additional charge of Civil Aviation Ministry (Incumbent Ashok Gajapati Raju had resigned)		
Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik has been given additional charge as the Governor of Odisha. Dr SC Jamir, who is the present Odisha governor, has completed his tenure.		
RESIGNS:		
Civil aviation minister Ashok Gajapati Raju and junior science and technology minister YS Chowdhary have submitted their resignation letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.		
Mukul Sangma submitted his resignation from the post of Meghalaya Chief Minister		
Myanmar's civilian president, Htin Kyaw, has resigned with immediate effect "in order to take rest from the current duties and responsibilities".		
Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico resigned from the post		
Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar resigned from the post		
Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigned from the post		

Awards and Recognitions

Award Name	Person/Institution	Extra Knowledge
India won the "Best Exhibitor Award" at ITB-Berlin. 'ITB-Berlin World Tourist Meet' was held at Berlin, Germany		
Pritzker Prize	Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi	Prize for being able to interpret architecture and transform it into buildings that respect Eastern culture, at the same time that he has improved the quality of life in his homeland. He is the first Indian to win the award.
UK Golden Flame Award	Simi Garewal (Veteran actress and talk show host)	She won the award for her contribution to Indian cinema at the opening ceremony of the annual Tongues of Fire UK Asian Film Festival in London.
2017 Kochon Prize	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Headquarters: New Delhi	ICMR won the award for building a tradition of excellence in TB research and development.
'Godavari Gaurav' award	Amol Palekar (Actor)	
G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award	Karan Thapar	The award was presented for journalism to senior journalist and television presenter Thapar
Sreekumaran Thampi bags J.C. Daniel award	Sreekumaran Thampi	He has been awarded this award in recognition of his sterling contributions to the Malayalam film industry.
Miss Supermodel Worldwide 2018 title	Aleksandra Liashkova from Belarus	Event held in Gurugram, Haryana

- The "We Are Sikhs" campaign received the top 2018 PRWeek US award in the category of Public Cause. The PRWeek US awards are nicknamed the "Oscars of the Public Relations

Industry”.

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- **Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands** won the prestigious **Abel Prize** for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory.
- Actor-politician **Shatrughan Sinha** has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at a ceremony in the UK’s Parliament complex.
- **Sridhar Rangayan’s** “Evening Shadows”, a film on how a mother-son’s bond is put to the test when the son tells the mother he is gay, has won a ‘Free To Be Me’ Award at the Roze Filmdagen, a LGBTQ film festival in Amsterdam.
- Indian filmmaker **Nila Madhab Panda’s** “Halkaa”, which had its world premiere at the 21st edition of Film Pour Enfants de Montreal Film (FIFEM), has bagged the Grand Prix de Montreal.
- Actor **Jackie Shroff’s** short film “Shunyata” has won an award at Best of India Short Film Festival in Los Angeles, US.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport** in Ahmedabad, Gujarat has received the award for the ‘Most Improved Airport’ in the Asia Pacific region, in Airport Service Quality awards 2017 organised by the Airport Council International (ACI).
- **Delhi High Court acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal** has been conferred with “Nari Shakti Puraskar”. Justice Mittal is one of the 30 individual awardees who have been selected for the Puraskar.

Oscar Awards 2018

Here is the full list of winners:

Best Picture – **“The Shape of Water”**

Best Director – **Guillermo del Toro, “The Shape of Water”**

Best Actor – **Gary Oldman, “Darkest Hour”**

Best Actress – **Frances McDormand, “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”**

Best Supporting Actor – **Sam Rockwell, “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”**

Best Supporting Actress – **Allison Janney, “I, Tonya”**

Best Original Screenplay – **“Get Out”**

Best Adapted Screenplay – **“Call Me by Your Name”**

Best Foreign Language Film – **“A Fantastic Woman” (Chile)**

Best Animated Feature – **“Coco”**

Best Visual Effects – **“Blade Runner 2049”**

Best Film Editing – **“Dunkirk”**

Best Animated Short – **“Dear Basketball”**

Best Live Action Short – **“The Silent Child”**

Best Documentary Short – **“Heaven Is a Traffic Jam on the 405”**

Best Score – **“The Shape of Water”**

Best Song – **“Remember Me” from “Coco”**

Best Production Design – **“The Shape of Water”**

Best Cinematography – **“Blade Runner 2049”**

Best Costume Design – **“Phantom Thread”**

Best Makeup and Hairstyling – **“Darkest Hour”**

Best Documentary Feature – **“Icarus”**

Best Sound Editing – **“Dunkirk”**

Best Sound Mixing – **“Dunkirk”**

Iconic Bollywood actors **Shashi Kapoor** and **Sridevi** were honoured at the 90th Academy Awards ceremony during the ‘In Memoriam’ montage which pays tribute to those the film industry has lost in the past year. Filmmaker **James Ivory**, who once worked closely with late Indian star **Shashi Kapoor**, became the oldest Oscar winner at 89 for his adapted screenplay for “Call Me By Your Name”.

Conference and Summits

Summit	Place	Extra Knowledge
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Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA)	New Delhi	
World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting	New Delhi	
Krishi Unnati Mela	New Delhi	
Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, IACP	New Delhi	
First Print Biennale India – 2018	New Delhi	
5th edition of India Maize Summit	New Delhi	
SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018	New Delhi	
National Legislators Conference	New Delhi	Theme: 'We For Development'
National Conference on Down Syndrome	New Delhi	
All India Police Science Congress	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	
Madhavpur Mela	Madhavpur Ghed of Porbandar district in Gujarat	
India's biggest Media & Entertainment Services Market – enTTech 2018	Mumbai, Maharashtra	
2018 edition of FICCI Frame	Mumbai, Maharashtra	
Wings India 2018	Hyderabad, Telangana	
27th Technological Conference of Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA) on Shaping the Future of Jute	Kolkata, West Bengal	
World ATM Congress (WATMC) 2018	Madrid, Spain	
World Ocean Summit 2018	Riviera Maya, Mexico	
17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH) - 2018	Cape Town, South Africa	

- 7th edition of the Women science congress and 105th Indian Science Congress held in Manipur. The theme of 105th Indian Science Congress was "Reaching the Unreached Through Science & Technology".
- 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress will be held in January 2019 at Barkatullah University Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The theme for the ISC 2019 will be "Future India: Science & Technology".
- First G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors for 2018 held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is the first of five such meetings to be held before Argentina hosts the G20 Summit on November 30 to December 1.

International News

- India announced a new Line of Credit of USD 100 million for defense procurement by Mauritius. President Ram Nath Kovind also inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat building in Mauritius.
- In a reconstruction bid for earthquake-ravaged Nepal, the Government of India has sealed an agreement with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to build 50, 000 homes for quake victims.
- The US state of New Jersey has declared April as 'Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month' as part of its effort to promote awareness of the faith.
- The Trump administration banned all use by Americans of Venezuelan cryptocurrency, saying that its introduction is intended to skirt U.S. sanctions.
- Pakistan did not attend a World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting held in Delhi amid the

ongoing diplomatic tension between the two nations.

- Sierra Leone has become the world's first country to have blockchain-powered elections. Blockchain technology helps ensure transparency with cryptocurrency transactions using public ledgers, by recording each vote on blockchain.
- The Philippines announced that it is withdrawing from the International Criminal Court (ICC) due to what President Rodrigo Duterte called "outrageous" attacks by U.N. officials and violations of due process by the ICC.
- Bolivia claimed to have unfurled the world's biggest flag that stretched nearly 200 kilometres.
- The last surviving northern white male rhinoceros of the world, named Sudan, has passed away in Kenya. Late Sudan had made headlines worldwide when, in an effort to raise funds for the conservation of the sub-species, dating app Tinder named him the 'most eligible bachelor in the world'.
- US launched a challenge at the World Trade Organization (WTO) against China over intellectual property breaches.
- China has set its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth target at around 6.5 percent for the year 2018-19. The figures are, however, slightly lower than previous figures of 6.7 percent in 2016 and 6.8 percent in 2017 respectively.
- The world's biggest cruise-liner, "Symphony of the Seas", has left the shipyard of Saint-Nazaire in France to embark on its maiden voyage in the Mediterranean.
- The ship weighs 228,000 tonnes and is 362 metres long. It can hold up to 8,000 people including 2,200 staff.
- Pakistan conducted successful test fire of indigenously developed Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) BABUR having a range of 450 KMs.
- The Marshall Islands is creating its own digital currency in a bid to raise money. In doing so it becomes the first country in the world to recognize a cryptocurrency as legal tender.

National News

- German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier arrived on a four-day visit to India.
- French President Emmanuel Macron arrived on a four-day-visit to India.
- Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang arrived on a three-day visit to India.
- The government has decided to declare 2018 as National Year of Millets to boost the cultivation of millets like ragi and jowar on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security. The push will promote cultivation of jowar, bajra, ragi.
- Government announced that the birth anniversary of India's Dalit social reformer Dr BR Ambedkar (14 April) will be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day'.
- According to World Bank, India's new unified Goods and Services Tax, which subsumed a web of central and state levies to make life easier for businesses, is one of the most complex and has the second highest rate in the world.
- In a first for both countries, the director generals of the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) declared an 8.3 km stretch of the Indo-Bangladesh border as a 'crime-free zone'.
- The Cabinet approved Rs 6,600 crore for providing education loans to students belonging to economically weaker sections.
- Cabinet has approved Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC) including continuation of existing Schemes. It will boost the development projects in North-East. Also, 4,500 crore rupees have been approved for the scheme for three years upto March, 2020.
- A total amount of Rs. 5638.87 crore was sanctioned with release of Rs. 2148.17 crore since 2014-15 till date under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- Women and Child Development Ministry has approved projects worth over Rs 2,900 crore under the Nirbhaya fund for eight major cities to make them safer for women.
- Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). NFRA will act as an independent regulator for the auditing profession which was one of the key changes brought in by the Companies Act 2013.
- Ministry of Communications has launched the Cool EMS Service between India and Japan. Cool EMS service 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.

- The headquarters of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has been shifted from Chennai to Haryana's Ballabhgarh for "better coordination" between the environment ministry and the board.
- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council mandated the use of electronic way (e-way) bills from April 1 to track inter-state movement of goods but deferred a decision on a simplified return filing process due to lack of consensus.
- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari launched Sukhad Yatra mobile App and Toll-free Emergency number (1033) for Highway users.
- In a major boost for research and innovation in the country, the Central Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1000 crore for the phase two of the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India programme.
- On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, for the first time in the country a sanitary pad dispensing machine was installed in a coach of Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express.
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched a portal for women entrepreneurs of India: www.udyamsakhi.org.
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, PM Narendra Modi launched the National Nutrition Mission and Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) covering all 640 districts of the Country at a mega event held at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.
- The Union Cabinet approved 2% Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners.
- Government of India has approved Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme for the period 2017-18 upto 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the PM Narendra Modi approved the continuation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) beyond 12th Plan for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has approved the construction of another 3.12 lakh affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with an investment of over Rs. 18,000 crore with central assistance of over Rs. 4,700 crore.
- India's first helicopter taxi service was launched in Bengaluru to fly passengers from Kempegowda International Airport to Electronic City.
- Govt. launched the first Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary of three thousand words. The basic aim of developing the ISL Dictionary is to remove communications barriers between the deaf and hearing communities as it is focused on providing more information in Indian sign language.
- The dictionary has been developed by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. ISLRTC Headquarters: New Delhi.
- The government has fixed the agriculture credit target of 11 lakh crore rupees for the year 2018-19 against last year's target of 10 lakh crore rupees.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a campaign to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025, five years ahead of a globally-set deadline.
- The government has planned to construct 1,911-km international connectivity roads and 3,319-km border roads under its flagship Bharatmala programme.
- The Supreme Court (five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra) extended the March 31 deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to avail various services and welfare schemes run by the government. The government has decided to institute an award for carrying out best investigation of crime for promoting high professional standards among police forces.
- The 9,600 sq.ft flag on a 110 m flag pole has been unfurled in Belagavi, Karnataka. It is claimed to be the country's tallest national flag.
- The award – Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Investigation – will be given to the best investigators of police forces of States, Union Territories and central investigating agencies.

- The program outlay is proposed at Rs.5,500 crore.
- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Health Mission (NHM) with effect from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020 with a budgetary support of Rs 85,217 crore as Central share.
- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the launch of Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) promising health coverage to 10 crore poor families with no restriction on age and family size. Ayushman Bharat is popularly known as Modicare and is tagged as world’s largest government. AB-NHPM would be ready for launch by July end.
- Govt. approved the Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry which aims at making India self-sufficient in silk production by 2022.
- The Indian government is in process of formulating ‘Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme’ to harness solar power for rural India. The scheme will allow to setup grid-connected solar plants in rural areas.
- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar announced the launch of ‘Suvidha’, the 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the PradhanMantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- India Post paid tribute to theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking by issuing a special cover on him.
- President Ram Nath Kovind released Rs 1,000 and Rs 10 commemorative coins on the occasion of Nabakalebar festival in Puri, Odisha.
- India handed over the 18th diesel-electric locomotive to Myanmar, thereby completing the first project under the current Indian line of credit (LoC).
- **National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA)** project of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, implemented by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has been **certified as the world’s first Trusted**
- **Digital Repository** as per ISO 16363:2012 standard, granted by Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd. (PTAB), United Kingdom.
- The Union Housing Ministry has launched ‘I-Metros’, an association of all-India metro rail companies, which will act as a forum of exchange of ideas and innovations.
- Ministry of Power has been awarded with the Certificate of Appreciation for the commendable work done towards successful implementation of e-Office in the Ministry.
- Health Ministry launched the ‘NikshayAushadi Portal’ and shorter regimen for Drug Resistant TB.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched ‘LaQshya program’ aimed at improving quality of maternity care in labour room and maternity Operation Theatre (OT).
- Union Information & Broadcasting and Textiles Minister Smriti Irani launched 2018-22 action plan for transformation of Narmada district in Gujarat.
- The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of the External Affairs ministry launched an initiative, “Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar”. The initiative is part of the enhanced public diplomacy outreach to take the objectives of the foreign policy to the common people.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development has approved ‘Study in India’ programme. The ‘Study in India’ programme’s primary objective is to target foreign students by branding India as an attractive education destination.
- The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram launched ‘e-Tribes: Tribes India’. It is an initiative for digital commerce at Tribes India Outlet in New Delhi. It included launch of e-commerce portal of TRIFED, www.tribesindia.com, and M-commerce, the android app ‘Tribes India’.
- Ministry of Power partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train the manpower in six states (Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh) for speedy implementation of its SAUBHAGYA scheme.
- NITI Aayog released comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative ‘Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)’ project.
- NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission signed a Statement of Intent with SAP, a tech company, to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The program aims to enable students to learn advanced technology topics relevant to digital transformation.

- Passport details of borrowers taking loans of Rs 50 crore and more have been made mandatory to ensure a swift action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 33rd Inception Day on 11th March, 2018 and released

“Citizen Services” Mobile App.

- Mobile based Application “ASHTRACK” to help Fly Ash Users & Power Plants launched.
- Renewable solution provider Suzlon Group announced the installation and commissioning of its new product, S128, claiming it to be the largest wind turbine generator (WTG) in India (at the Sangneri site in Tamil Nadu).
- Technology giant Google made ‘searching for Indian addresses’ on Google Maps a tad bit simpler, by announcing Plus Codes, a simple location-based digital addressing system.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), signed the Host Country Agreement in New Delhi. The Agreement will give ISA a juridical personality and gives it power to contract, to acquire and dispose off movable and immovable properties, to institute and defend legal proceedings.

N-TB, an app for TB patients, was launched on March 24, World Tuberculosis Day. The app was developed by Dr. Anurag Bhargava, a professor of Yenepoya University, Mangaluru.

- Google commemorated the 45th anniversary of the Chipko movement with a doodle on 25th March.
- Google on 31st March, 2018 dedicated its doodle to mark the 153rd birth anniversary of India’s first lady doctor Anandi Gopal Joshi. The doodle is created by Bangalore-based artist Kashmira Sarode, who portrayed Joshi celebrating her medical degree.
- According to a report, digital transactions could reach Rs 1 lakh crore by value by 2025

Maruthi School of Banking

State News

Andhra Pradesh

- ‘Ugadi’, the Telugu New Year, was celebrated in Andhra Pradesh with traditional fervour and enthusiasm across Andhra Pradesh State.
- Andhra Pradesh stands at 51st rank globally in Multidimensional Poverty Index according to a household survey conducted in the state. It became the first Indian state to conduct a household survey at state and district level to estimate the multidimensional poverty of the state.
- The Andhra Pradesh Government launched, NAIPUNYA RATHAM or World on Wheels, a multi-

utility vehicle which aims to bring technology to the remote corners.

- International Yachting Festival held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This festival is the first step in developing sea tourism in Visakhapatnam.

Arunachal Pradesh

- The Buddhist Community of Itanagar celebrated the silver jubilee of the Losar Festival at the Nyokum Lapang Ground.

Assam

- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with Assam government under its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiative for sustainable development of human settlements at villages in Kamrup district.
- Assam Govt. launched the 'Mission Sambhav' campaign, which aims at spreading the message of toilet construction in 33 districts of the state.
- In the wake of increasing crimes against women, Assam Govt. launched '181-Sakhi', a toll-free helpline number for women.

Chandigarh

- Chandigarh has become the 1st city in North India to install Automatic Speed Gun Cameras with digital displays for traffic management.

Delhi

- To give a platform to aspiring singers and dancers in the city, the Delhi government launched a **mobile application 'Delhi's Date with Democracy'** that would allow deserving applicants down to the ward-level to showcase their talent on a big stage.

Diu

- Diu has become the first Union Territory in India to run 100 percent on solar power generated energy. Diu has managed to generate surplus solar power for its residents, reducing their electricity costs, in a span of just three years.

Goa

- The Goa Cabinet approved the proposal to make the scenic Kaliningrad region of Russia near the Baltic Sea a twin region of Goa, in order to promote cultural and social exchanges.
- Shigmotsav has been organized enthusiastically in Goa. Shigmotsav or Shigmo is one of the several cultural festivals of the coastal state and is celebrated through colours, costumes, music, dance and parades.

Gujarat

- India's first 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 in Gujarat.
- Surat district located in Gujarat has become the first district in the country to have 100 percent solarpowered Primary Health Centers (PHC).

Haryana

- First of its kind in India, Centre for Design and Innovation (CDI) will be set up in Gurugram to offer courses for freshers, mid-as well as senior-level professionals in design thinking, innovation, strategy and management.
- Haryana government announced setting up of a committee to find a solution to polluted water flowing in Yamuna river affecting the four districts of the state. Committee head - Om Parkash Dhankhar.

Himachal Pradesh

- To empower womenfolk, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur released a handbook titled 'Mahila Suraksha' on women safety.

- The Himachal Pradesh government approved the setting up of a regional-cum-facilitation centre of the National Medicinal Plants Board of the Ministry of Ayush in the state at an outlay of Rs 748.30 lakh. The centre will be set up in Jogindernagar town in Mandi district.

Jammu Kashmir

- Srinagar's Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden has been opened for visitors. Deemed as Asia's largest tulip garden, it is situated on the foothills of the Zabarwan mountain range by the banks of the Dal Lake.

Jharkhand

- Centre has approved to set up a plastic park in Deoghar district of Jharkhand. The park is being set up at an estimated cost of 120 crore rupees and is spread over 150 acres of land.

Karnataka

- Indo-French Centre of Excellence (CoE) was inaugurated in Bengaluru, Karnataka to impart vocational training to engineers in electricity, automation and energy management.
- The Karnataka Government has declared minority status to the Lingayats community.
- From March 8 (on the occasion of International Women's Day), Banaswadi railway station in Bengaluru, Karnataka will be run entirely by women.
- The Karnataka government has unveiled a state flag. The flag design will now be sent to the Central Government for approval, following which it will be announced as the state flag.
- The unveiled flag consists of three colors- red, white and yellow and has state emblem "Ganda Bherunda", a two-headed mythical bird in the middle.
- The 'Arogya Karnataka' (Healthy Karnataka) launched. It will provide quality primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to both BPL and APL families in the state.
- World's largest solar park Shakti Sthala launched in Karnataka/

Kerala

- Kerala Government declared jackfruit as the state government's official fruit. The aim is to promote the 'Kerala Jackfruit' as a brand in markets across the country and abroad, showcasing its organic and nutritious qualities.
- Kerala launched mKeralam, an app that will serve as a single window for accessing thousands of government services.
- Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregation, Huddle Kerala, will be held at Kovalam, Kerala on April 6 and 7.

Madhya Pradesh

- On International Women's day on 8th March, Madhya Pradesh govt. launched 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh' scheme. Under this scheme, the women who aren't married and are above the age of 50 will be given pension.
- The Madhya Pradesh government has come up with a mobile application to market rare chicken breed—the "Kadakhnath"—whose black meat is in high demand for its nutritious content and purported medicinal properties.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of 55770 fully covered tribal habitations with the safe drinking water in the country followed by Odisha and Jharkhand.

Maharashtra

- Maharashtrians celebrated Gudi Padwa on 18th March. Gudi Padwa marks the beginning of the New Year to the Maharashtrians. It became the 18th state of the country to impose such ban. First state in the country was Karnataka to do so.
- The Maharashtra government has tied up with Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, to propagate the Marathi language and increase its usage online.

Manipur

- The traditional festival of Sajibu Nongma Panba Cheiraoba was celebrated in Manipur on 18th

March to mark the beginning of a new year with religious fervour and gaiety.

Meghalaya

- A 24,583-metre-long cave that was discovered in 2016 in Meghalaya has been found to be the world's longest sandstone cave by the Meghalaya Adventurers' Association. Called Krem Puri, it is also the second largest cave in India.

Odisha

- President Ram Nath Kovind dedicated the Anand Bhawan Museum and Learning Centre, the ancestral house of late former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, to the people of Odisha.
- The Odisha government has launched a programme Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas (Our Village, our development) to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities.

Punjab

- In a bid to combat various smoking-related diseases, the Punjab Government imposed a permanent ban on Hookah bars in the state.
- Punjab Government observed the martyrdom day of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Sukhdev and Shaheed Rajguru (23rd March) as 'Youth Empowerment Day'.

Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan assembly unanimously passed a bill that will see rapists of girls 12 years or below being hanged till death. Rajasthan has become second state after Madhya Pradesh to pass such a bill.
- First mega food park in Rajasthan inaugurated at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer.

Tamil Nadu

- A Rs 5 crore insect museum with the state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The museum, established at a 6,691 sqft area, is fully dedicated to insects and is first of its kind in the country.
- Tamil Nadu Government has set up a 24-hour helpline which is for the first time in the country that would provide information on education and offer guidance to students.

Telangana

- The Telangana state government has resolved to make Telugu compulsory in government and private educational institutions up to X standard from the next academic year 2018-19.
- The Telangana government has launched a start-up incubator, named We-Hub, to exclusively promote entrepreneurship among women. The facility was launched on the occasion of International Womens Day. It is the country's first state-led incubator exclusively for women entrepreneurs
- The Telangana government launched an m-Governance mobile application called 'T App Folio' to help citizens with one point access to government services like MeeSeva services, RTA services, fee payments and bill payment services etc.

Uttarakhand

- Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh laid the foundation stone of the 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project at Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand.
- The week-long 29th annual, world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF) international yoga festival was inaugurated in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.

Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and French President Shri Emmanuel Macron inaugurated Uttar Pradesh's biggest solar power plant of 75 MW (101DC) capacity in Mirzapur.
- World's Oldest City, Varanasi is set to go wireless with its overhead power cables being dismantled.

- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in association with Uttar Pradesh Government had organized Swachh Shakti 2018, a Women's Convention on occasion of International Women's Day in Lucknow. This year, Uttar Pradesh had hosted Swachh Shakti 2018, being largest state in country (in terms of population) with massive rural populace.

West Bengal

- West Bengal has become the best performing State both in terms of allotting jobs and utilising funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Finance and Banking News

- The Reserve Bank of India discontinued Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) and Letters of Comfort (LoCs) for Trade Credits.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 40 lakh on State Bank of India (SBI) for non-compliance of its directions on detection and impounding of counterfeit notes.
- The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Airtel Payments Bank for violating operating guidelines and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- RBI imposed penalty of Rs 3 crore on private lender Axis Bank for non-compliance of income recognition and asset classification (IRAC) norms.
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs.20 million on Indian Overseas Bank for non-compliance with the directions issued by the former regarding Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Equitas Small Finance Bank for failing to comply with a licensing condition of obtaining prior approval from the central bank for certain actions.
- The RBI imposed monetary penalty worth Rs. 58.9 crore on ICICI Bank, the country's biggest private bank, for failing to abide by rules on the sale of bonds in the held-to-maturity (HTM) category.
- The government announced that the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of all the banks in the country amounted to Rs 8,40,958 crore in December, led by industry loans followed by services and agriculture sectors.
- Private banking major ICICI Bank announced the launch of an instant overdraft facility for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) customers in a completely online and paperless manner.
- Titled 'InstaOD', this is a first-of-its-kind offering.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the country's first artificial intelligence-powered voicebot in the banking sector. The voicebot has been developed using a library of millions of phone-banking conversations over the past three years.
- Citi India has launched India's first home loan linked to the 3-month Government of India Treasury Bill benchmark rate.
- 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.
- 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.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a new 'Yellow Army Savings Account' to increase its customer base through its association with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK), a franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Jana Small Finance Bank commenced operations after a year of receiving final license from Reserve Bank of India. The bank has its headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Bank of America has started rolling out Erica, its chatbot that can help customers check balances, remind about bills and answer bank-related questions. The bank started testing Erica in 2017.
- India is all set to become the 69th member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) after shareholders of the international financial institution gave their nod to the country's candidature.

The bank is headquartered in London, with the biggest shareholder being the United States and Current President named Suma Chakrabarti.

- Government will come out with a Rs 350 commemorative coin to mark 350th birth anniversary of

Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and last Sikh Guru. The reverse side will bear the picture of “Takht Shri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib” in the centre.

The years ‘1666’ and ‘2016’ in international numerals will be on the left and right periphery of the coin.

MOUs

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on cooperation for an effective implementation of the Bankruptcy Code.
- SBI and India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) signed a pact to offer mortgage guarantee scheme for prospective non-salaried and self-employed home loan customers.

IMGC is a joint venture between National Housing Bank, Genworth Inc International Finance Corporation and Asian Development Bank. It is providing mortgage default guarantee to the lending Institutions in India. Headquarters: Gurugam, Haryana

- SBI Card has partnered with Indian Medical Association (IMA) to launch ‘Doctor’s SBI Card’ which among other things offers professional indemnity insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh to protect doctors against professional risks and liabilities.
- The National E-Repository, a subsidiary of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, has tied up with Bank of Baroda to facilitate pledge finance on its electronic negotiable receipt issued against goods stored in the accredited warehouses.
- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has joined hands with Can Fin Homes for a three-year corporate agency tie up to sell its policies to potential home buyers.
- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for financing a project on ‘Capacity Building of MSMEs in North East India for Export Competitiveness’.
- Muthoot Finance Ltd., the flagship company of Muthoot Group tied up with Global IME Bank to expand its money remittance services between Indo Nepal Corridor. Global IME Bank Headquarters: Kathmandu, Nepal.
- European Investment Bank (EIB) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Ltd. have signed a loan agreement for a second line of credit (LoC) of Euro 150 million on non-sovereign basis. The line of credit will be used for financing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects in India.
- New Development Bank and International Solar Alliance have joined hands to promote solar energy across the globe.

Business News

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the African Development Bank (AfDb), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Green climate fund (GCF), and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed Joint financial partnership Declarations. The International Energy Agency (IEA) also signed a Joint partnership Declaration with the ISA.
- State-run **Allahabad Bank** announced that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has allowed the amalgamation of its wholly own subsidiary – **All Bank Finance Ltd (ABFL)**-with the lender.
- Mobile application based financial services platform Paytm has announced the launch of two new services – Gold Gifting and Gold Savings Plan as part of its wealth management offering, Paytm Gold.
- Financial services platform Paytm has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Paytm Money, has received approval of market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to become a registered investment advisor.
- In a bid to provide mentorship in design, innovation and entrepreneurship for software companies and startups, the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) in association with Facebook launched “Design4India Studio” in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO has entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to transfer the technology for the manufacture of space grade Li-Ion cells.
- Mukesh Ambani-helmed Reliance Industries Ltd announced integration with leading music app Saavn for its digital music service JioMusic.
- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) City, India’s first operational smart city and

International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) entered into an MoU with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, which renders consultancy services for mutual cooperation in areas related to international financial services.

- Technology giant Google has acquired US-based Tenor, a GIF platform for Android, iOS, and desktop. Tenor's GIF- searching functionality will be integrated into Google Images and Gboard, the company's virtual keyboard.
- According to Forbes' 2018 'World's Billionaires' list, Mukesh Ambani's net worth has soared to \$40.1 billion, making him the richest Indian for the 11th year in a row, while Amazon founder Jeff Bezos topped Bill Gates as the world's wealthiest person.
- According to Forbes, Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, 39, is the youngest Indian billionaire, while 92-year-old Samprada Singh, chairman emeritus of Alkem Laboratories, is the oldest.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) has tied-up with NITI Aayog for the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) initiative.
- Mobile wallet company Paytm has come out with a business application 'Paytm for Business' aimed at serving merchants in Tamil Nadu who can track payments, navigate past collections and can also make settlements instantly.

Economy News

- In its Global Economic Outlook report, **Fitch**, the US-based agency, projected India's economic growth:
 - 6.5% this fiscal (2017-18)
 - 7.3% in 2018-19
 - 7.5% in 2019-20
- World Bank's projection for India's GDP growth
 - 7.3% in 2018-19
 - 7.5% in 2019-20
- According to Kotak Economic Research, the Indian economy is likely to recover gradually to 7.1% in 2018-19.
- According to Crisil, the GDP growth is seen rising to a respectable 7.5% next fiscal from 6.5% expected this fiscal.
- A report from Deloitte (UK-incorporated multinational professional services network) has pegged India's growth at 6.8%-6.9% in 2018.
- According to an official data, India's GDP for the third quarter of 2017-18 grew at 7.2 per cent. The GDP growth during the second quarter of the fiscal was at 6.5 per cent.
- Foreign direct investment has increased "steadily" in the country with total capital inflows reaching USD 208.99 billion during April 2014 to December 2017 period.

Defence News

- UAE and India hold Naval Exercise named 'Gulf Star 1' for the first time in Dubai, UAE. Two Indian Navy ships INS Gomati (Guided Missile Frigate) and INS Kolkata (Guided Missile Destroyer) took part in the 'Harbour Phase' of the exercise.
- First phase of Indo-French joint naval exercise Varuna 2018 held at the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) in Vasco, Goa.
- The Coast Guard commissioned an interceptor boat C-437 at Porbandar, Gujarat as part of its efforts to strengthen the security umbrella of the West coast.
- The first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea, MILES-18, began at the Andaman sea. 11 naval ships of 8 countries and nine Indian ships participated in the three-day exercise.
- Formidable Supersonic Cruise Missile BrahMos was successfully flight tested from Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. The precision strike weapon with Indian-made seeker flew in its designated trajectory and hit the target with pin-point accuracy.
- INS Ganga, an indigenously built frigate of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned in Mumbai, after over three decades of service. Commissioned on December 30, 1985, the ship represented a big step forward in the nation's warship building capability.
- The Indian Navy has decommissioned 3 Karwar-class minesweepers 'Konkan', 'Cannanore' and 'Cuddalore'. These minesweepers 'retired' as operational ships after three decades of

service in the Indian Navy.

Science & Technology

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the GSLV-F08 carrying the GSAT-6A communication satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota.

The GSAT-6A will complement GSAT-6 launched earlier. The two satellites will provide platform for advanced technologies for point-to-point communication.

- NASA is all set to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars. Scheduled to launch on May 5, InSight – a stationary lander – will also be the first NASA mission since the Apollo moon landings to place a seismometer, a device that measures quakes, on the soil of another planet.
- Scientists have identified a new organ “interstitium” in the human body, which they hope could help them understand the spread of cancer within the body.
- Leading global IT services organisation, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world in an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance.
- Chinese mobile giant Huawei has unveiled its first 5G chip named Balong 5G01, which the company claims is the world's first commercial chipset that meets the latest 5G standards.

Sports News

Tournament	Winner	Other Info
Nidahas Cricket Trophy (final held in Colombo, Sri Lanka)	India	Beat Bangladesh
IBSF Snooker Team World Cup (held in Doha)	India	Beat Pakistan
Irani Trophy	Vidarbha	Beat Rest of India
Indian Super League (ISL) title	Chennaiyin FC	Beat Bengaluru FC
Asian Billiards Championships title	Pankaj Advani	Beat B Bhaskar
Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament title held in Hong Kong	India Under-16 team	Beat Hong Kong
8th men's National hockey championships held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Punjab	Beat Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB)
22nd Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships	Tejaswin Shankar	
Asian Wrestling Championships (in women's 65 kg freestyle category)	Navjot Kaur	She became first Indian woman to win gold at Asian Wrestling Championships
ISSF World Cup (men's 10m air pistol event)	Shahzar Rizvi	
11th Tal Memorial chess Championship	Viswanathan Anand	
Sultan Azlan Shah cup	Australia	Beat England (Held in Ipoh, Malaysia)
Australian Grand Prix title	Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel	

Sports

- 17th Sub-junior National Wushu Championship held in Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Tata Motors has entered into a three-year partnership with the BCCI under which its compact SUV Nexon will be an official partner for the popular T20 tourney, the Indian Premier League (IPL). The latest edition of the IPL begins on April 7.
- The Indian Premier League (IPL) launched the anthem “Best vs Best” for the 2018 edition,

starting April 7, with defending champions Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings.

- The Indian football team has re-entered the top-100 of the FIFA world rankings and is now placed at 99th in the latest chart.
- Rio-Olympic silver-medalist PV Sindhu will be the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia to be held from 4 Apr 2018 to 15 Apr 2018.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) appointed former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan as the coach-cum-mentor of its senior state side for the 2018-19 season.
- 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 and also became the Asian rank one in the F-53 category.
- Odisha will host the 80th Senior National Table Tennis Championships, most probably at Cuttack.
- Navjot Kaur, who clinched a gold medal at the recently concluded Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, has jumped to the second spot in the world women's 65kg weight category rankings released by United World Wrestling.
- Hyderabad's Anindith Reddy was crowned 'FMSCI National Motor Sports Person of the Year 2017'.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Paytm as the official umpire partner for the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the next five years.
- Nepal have gained ODI status for the first time in their history after defeating Papua New Guinea by six wickets in the Cricket World Cup Qualifier play-off.
- Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), on the occasion of the 70th independence of the island nation, paid a glowing tribute to former BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya by releasing a book, titled 'A Tribute to Jagu'.
- The highly-competitive World Series of Boxing comes to India for the first time, with the National Boxing Academy in Rohtak set to host an explosive clash between the Indian Tigers and the Astana Arians from Kazakhstan on the starting day.
- Teenaged Afghanistan legspinner Rashid Khan has become the fastest bowler to the milestone of 100 ODI wickets, doing so in 44 matches which is eight fewer than the previous record holder, Australia's Mitchell Starc who took 52 matches to break an 18-year-old record in 2016.
- 2020 Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo, Japan.

International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup held in Guadalajara, Mexico

- India topped the medals tally in the ISSF World Cup with four gold, one silver and four bronze medals.
- Gold and Silver Winners:
 - Shahzar Rizvi won the gold medal in the 10m air pistol event (Men's).
 - Manu Bhaker won the gold medal in the 10m air pistol event (Women's).
 - Manu Bhaker partnered with Om Prakash Mitharval for the 10m air pistol mixed team gold.
 - Akhil Sheoran clinched the gold medal in men's 50m rifle 3 position.
 - Anjum Moudgil won silver medal in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) event.

ISSF Junior World Cup held in Sydney, Australia

- Gold winners:
 - Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan clinched the gold medal in the women's 10 metre Air Rifle event.
 - Manu Bhaker clinched the gold medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol title.
 - Anish Bhanwala clinched the gold medal in the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event.
 - Muskan Bhanwala won gold medal in the women's 25m Pistol event.
 - Manu Bhaker and Anmol Jain won gold medal in the mixed 10m air pistol event.

Committee

Head of Committee	Purpose
Shekhar Kapur	Appointed as the chairman of the central panel of the 65th National Film Awards. Mr Kapur is known for his work in Hindi cinema and International cinema.
Subhash Chandra Garg	The government has set up a steering committee headed by Economic Affairs Secretary, Subhash Chandra Garg to consider various issues relating to the development of Fintech space in India with a view to make Fintech related regulations more flexible and generate enhanced entrepreneurship.

Rankings

Index	India's Rank	Other Information
World Happiness Index 2018	133rd	1st – Finland. Index is released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
Energy Transition Index (ETI)	78th	1st – Sweden. The report, titled 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition' released by World Economic Forum's (WEF) on ETI.
Ookla's Speedtest index	109th	1st – Norway. The index tells about Mobile Internet download speeds
Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE)	52nd	1st – Ghana.
Global cyber security provider Kaspersky Lab in a summit stated that India ranks 33rd worldwide in the list of countries facing web-borne threats.		
India has become the 3rd largest electricity producer in the world as its electricity production grew 34% over seven years to 2017. China topped the list followed by USA and India.		
According to the latest 2018 global data show, India has overtaken Germany and has become the fourth largest automobile market in the world. China topped the list followed by USA, Japan and India.		
With 31 new Indians on the list, India comes third after China and USA on Hurun's Global Rich List 2018. The Hurun Rich List 2018 ranked 2,694 billionaires from 68 countries and 2,157 companies.		
Out of 133 countries, India is ranked fourth on a global index for its military strength, only the United States, Russia and China are ranked above India on the list.		

Rankings (Persons, Cities, Organizations and Others)

- Singapore Changi Airport has been named the world's best airport for the sixth consecutive year by consultancy firm Skytrax. Mumbai airport (Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Mumbai) has been ranked 63rd.
- Airports Council International (ACI), a trade association of 1,953 airports in 176 countries, announced its annual airport service quality (ASQ) awards and Mumbai (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport) tied with Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport) for the top position among airports handling over 40 million passengers annually. Beijing and Shanghai Pudong have been ranked second.
- Paris in France topped the list of Travellers' Choice awards for Destinations by TripAdvisor. New Delhi has been ranked 22nd in the world and 8th in Asia.
- According to Mercer's 20th annual Quality of Living survey, the Austrian capital Vienna has been named the world's best city to live in for the ninth consecutive year.

Baghdad remained the worst city.

- Singapore has been dubbed the world’s most expensive city to live in for the fifth year running in the Economist Intelligence Unit’s (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living 2018 survey.
- According to a survey conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, Pune has emerged as the top city to show improvement in quality of governance.
- According to 2018 economic impact report by World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), India is expected to establish itself as the third largest travel and tourism economy by 2028 in terms of direct and total GDP.
- According to the independent global property consultancy Knight Frank’s Wealth Report 2018, Mumbai ranked 47th on the “city wealth index” among 314 cities in the world. The “city wealth index” is drawn from four major indicators — wealth, investments, lifestyle and future.
- Guangzhou, a city in China, tops the list with property prices appreciating by 27.4% in the last one year.

Loans from Banks

From	To	Amount	Purpose
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$120 million	Loan agreement is to improve operational efficiency of Indian railways by double-tracking and electrification of tracks along high-density corridors.
ADB	India	\$80 million	Loan agreement to help modernise technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
Export-Import Bank, Exim Bank	15-Nation Group In Africa	\$500 million	Credit facility to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to fund various development projects in western-south Africa

Deadlines/ Important Dates

What for	Deadline/Date
Member-countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region, including India, committed to intensifying efforts to eradicate tuberculosis by 2030.	2030
Deadline for linking Aadhaar with PAN and welfare schemes	June 30 (Earlier was March 31)

Books

- General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff released a book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees – ‘Paramveer Parwane’. The book illustrates the bravery of Paramveer Chakra Awardees from 1947 to 1965. The book is written by Dr Prabhakaran Jain and is published by Medha Books.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book ‘Fulfilling Babu’s Dreams – Prime Minister Modi’s Tribute to Gandhiji’ from Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, who formally released it at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Aamir Khan launched the book ‘How to be a Human’, which is penned by Rajkumar Hirani’s wife Manjeet Hirani was. The book is based on the dog which the Hirani’s adopted from ‘PK’ sets. In her book, Manjeet has written about attachment, parenting, and karma, among other things. She shows how having a dog in the house can alter your perspective and change the way you experience life.
- The Union Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh, launched the social media of “Namaste Shalom”, a magazine on India-Israel relations. The magazine ‘Namaste Shalom’ is edited by Tarun Vijay, former

Obituaries

Name	Profession	Other Info
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rakhi sister Sharbati Devi has passed away		
Pyare Lal Wadali	Sufi singer	
Nargis Rabadi (Shammi)	Bollywood actress	
Sarat Mohanty	Odia actor	
Arabinda Muduli	Odia Bhajan singer	
Narendra Jha	Film and television actor	
Dilip Roy	Musician and Violinist	
C R Chandradath	Social activist	
Ranjan Roy	Journalist	
Sunil Sharma	Journalist	
Veturi Sriharsha	Journalist	
Prafulla Das	Literateur	
Shivaji Dasgupta	Broadcaster	
Khagendra Jamatia	Politician	He was Tripura minister.
Pratim Chatterjee	Politician	He was former West Bengal minister.
Patangrao Kadam	Politician	He was former Maharashtra minister.
Begum Hamida Habibullah	Politician	She was former UP minister.
R K Dorendra Singh	Politician	He was former Manipur Chief Minister
Jayendra Nath Chaturvedi	First Commissioner of Delhi Police	
Javed Abidi	Disability rights activist	
Davide Astori	Italy international footballer	
Stephen Hawking	British theoretical physicist Professor	
John E. Sulston	British biologist and academic	
Emily Nasrallah	Author and feminist from Lebanon.	
Les Payne	Journalist and columnist from USA.	

Important Days

Date	Day	Extra Info
1 March	World Civil Defence Day	Theme 2018: "Civil defence and the national institutions for more efficient disaster management"
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day	
3 March	National Defence Day	

3 March	World Wildlife Day	Theme 2018: “Big cats – predators under threat”
3 March	World Hearing Day	Theme 2018: “Action for hearing loss: make a sound investment”
4 March	National Security Day	
8 March	International Women’s Day	Theme 2018: “Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives”
9 March	World Kidney Day	Theme 2018: “Kidneys and Women’s Health”
March 4-10, 2018	National Safety Week	
10 March	CISF Raising Day	
12 March, 2018	Commonwealth Day	Theme 2018: “Towards a Common Future”
15 March	World Consumer Rights Day	Theme 2018: “Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer”
17 March	National Vaccination Day	
16 March, 2018	World Sleep Day	Theme 2018: “Join the Sleep World, Preserve Your Rhythms to Enjoy Life”
18 March	Ordnance Factories Day	
18 March	Global Recycling Day	The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) proclaimed March 18, 2018 the first Global Recycling Day
20 March	International Day of Happiness	Theme 2018: “Share Happiness”
20 March	World Sparrow day	
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Theme 2018: “Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination”
21 March	International Day of Forests	Theme 2018: “Forests and Sustainable Cities”
21 March	World Poetry day	
22 March	World Water day	Theme 2018: “Nature for Water”
23 March	World Meteorological Day	Theme 2018: “Weather-ready, climate-smart”
24 March	World Tuberculosis Day	Theme 2018: “Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world”
24 March, 2018	2018 Earth Hour	11th edition [8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m] It is a global initiative of the World Wide Fund for Nature India or WWF-India. “Give Up to Give Back” initiative was launched.

25 March	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members	
25 March	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	Theme 2018: "Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality"
27 March	World Theatre Day	

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