



## • Skipper Graeme Cremer, all coaching staff fired by - Zimbabwe Cricket

Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) has fired the captain of its cricket team, Graeme Cremer along with the entire coaching staff after the elimination of team during the ICC World Cup qualifier. The team has lost their ICC World Cup qualifier by just three runs to the United Arab Emirates on 22nd March, giving Afghanistan and Ireland a chance to fight it out for the last remaining spot in the upcoming 2019 ICC World Cup.

The nation's cricketing body has fired bowling coach Douglas Hondo, head coach Heath Streak but also batting coach Lance Klusener, fielding coach Walter Chawaguta, fitness coach Sean Bell, team analyst Stanley Chioza and all other coaching staff, including Zimbabwe A coach Wayne James and Under-19 coach Stephen Mangongo.

Report says, former captain and leading batsman Brendan Taylor is likely to take over the team's leadership.

### Important Highlights

- The statement, giving orders to the staff to quit was issued by Zimbabwe Cricket MD Faisal Hasnain via an email.
- However, Streak and his staff refused to resign on the principle that they did not consider their overall work as a failure.
- Expressing his disappointment, Heath Streak said, "as a former player and a coach, to be given an email with no full explanation or even the courtesy of a hearing is something I never expected."

### Did you know?

It would be the first time since 1983 that Zimbabwe would not be participating in the Cricket World Cup.

## China's out-of- control space station to soon crash into Earth was planned to hit on - 31st March 2018

China's uncontrolled space station, Tiangong-1, was planned to enter again Earth's atmosphere between March 31<sup>st</sup> -April 1<sup>st</sup>. The space lab, with a length of 10 meters and mass of above 8 tonnes, that routinely entered again Earth's atmosphere. Since China has vanished all communication with the spaceship, its lineage will be uncontrolled.

### Damage it is expected to cause-

- As per to the specialists, most parts of the spaceship will lighten-up on re-entering into the earth's atmosphere and therefore, there is a very less danger of any part hitting an inhabited area.
- As per to United Kingdom Space Agency's main engineer Richard Crowther, "the widely held parts of Tiangong-1 can be predictable to burn-up during re-entry due to heating, with the highest chances being that any living remains will fall into the ocean."

### More about Tiangong-1

- The space station was released by China in September 2011 to assess docking systems and other knowledge required for an even larger, multi-component space station to be constructed in the 2020s.
- The space station was stayed-in by China's unmanned Shenzhou-8 spacecraft in November 2011 and 2 crewed missions, in 2012 and 2013, individually.
- The station was believed to have been de-orbited in an intentional manner. The planning was to utilise its thrusters to initiate the vehicle towards a remote region above the Southern Ocean.



- However, all facility associations with the space laboratory were shortly lost in March 2016, leading the China Manned Space Engineering Office to announce its mission over.

## India's antibiotic usage touching alarming levels among- Low and Middle-Income Countries

A fresh study proposes that India has revealed the increase in antibiotic ingesting among Low and Middle-Income Countries between 2000-2015.

The doctors and specialists advise that extended consumption of antibiotics can cause patients becoming anti-antibiotic resistant at a level that even initial diseases would become problematic to treat thus, transforming them into lethal diseases. As per to medical specialists, if such matters continue to grow, no antibiotics will be left even for the simplest infections by 2030.

### Key Highlights

- The new observation discovered that India witnessed the highest increase about 103% in antibiotic usage followed by China and Pakistan between 2000-2015.
- Antibiotic usage was defined in DDD-Daily Defined Doses where, it said in 2015, the leading High Income Countries utilisers of antibiotics were the US, France, and Italy, while the leading LMIC utilisers were India, China, and Pakistan.
- Between 2000-2015, antibiotic usage augmented from 103% DDDs in India, from 79% in China and from 0.8 to 1.3 billion DDDs in Pakistan.
- In 2012, India toppled the USA in antibiotic usage rate for oxazolidinones to become the highest user of the antibiotic drug class.

## First city in India to roll-out BS-VI fuel - Delhi

Delhi became the first city in India to supply ultra-clean BS-VI rating fuel for both petrol and diesel with a focus to fight against the increasing levels of air pollution in Delhi and NCR area. State-owned oil companies have started providing the Bharat Stage-VI fuel which is equal to fuel meeting Euro-VI

emission guidelines at all their 391 petrol stations in NCT.

### Key Points

- Other cities in NCR including Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad and other 13 main cities, consisting Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru and Pune will roll-out clean BS-VI rating fuel from January 1 st , 2019.
- However, Bharat Stage-VI fuel will be rolled-out in rest of the nation by April 2020. By swapping to Bharat Stage-VI, India will join league of United States, Japan and EU which follow Euro Stage-VI emission guidelines.

### Did you know?

- The Union Government in October 2016 had finalised to surpass one stage and migrate to Bharat Stage-VI directly from Bharat Stage-IV from April 2020 to combat the rising pollution.
- The limit line for it in Delhi was took forward to 2018 due to greater pollution levels.
- It was part of concentrated efforts of Government to decrease vehicle-exhaust and upgrade fuel efficiency with an objective to decrease carbon footpaths and maintain environment healthy.

### Benefits of BS-IV fuel

- The foremost difference in standards between the present Bharat Stage-IV and new Bharat Stage-VI auto fuel guidelines is existence of sulphur.



- Bharat Stage-IV fuels comprise 50 ppm sulphur, while Bharat Stage-V and Bharat Stage-VI rating fuel will have 10 ppm sulphur. Thus, freshly announced Bharat Stage-VI fuel is believed to reduce sulphur emission by 80 per cent.
- It will also decrease the emission of nitrogen oxides from diesel vehicles by marginally 70 per cent and 25 per cent from petrol engine cars.
- It will also reduce cancer causing particulate matter releases from diesel engine cars by remarkable 80 percent.

### 114th Permanent Indus Commission meeting held in Delhi between India and - Pakistan

The 114th conference of the Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan was organised in New Delhi. Delegates from both nations deliberated Indus Water Treaty argument and resolving outstanding problems. India's Indus water commissioner P.K.Saxena and Ministry of External Affairs delegates were in Indian delegation for annual conference. Pakistan's 6 members delegation will be headed by Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah.

#### Permanent Indus Commission

- The Indus Waters Treaty was inked in 1960. It covers the water circulation and 6 rivers sharing rights of Indus river system including Sutlej, Indus, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum and Chenab.
- The agreement clarifies that 3 western rivers water from Indus, Chenab and Jhelum is preserved for Pakistan, while waters from eastern rivers including Ravi, Beas and Sutlej is reserved for India.

- The Permanent Indus Commission is recognized mechanism under Indus Water Treaty
- Its command is to create and maintain supportive preparations for implementation of water distribution pact and encourage collaboration in development of Indus water systems between India and Pakistan.
- The conference of Permanent Indus Commission is organised alternately in India and Pakistan minimum once per year as instructed by treaty.

- The Permanent Indus Commission had previous meeting in Islamabad in March 2017.

### World Autism Awareness Day 2018 observed across the world on - 2nd April 2018

The World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated around the world on April 2 nd , 2018 with an objective to inspire the Member States of the United Nations to take actions to spread awareness about autism throughout the world. Autism is a lifetime developmental incapability that demonstrates itself during the 1st 3-years of life.

It originates from a neurological illness that affects the brain functions, generally affecting children and adults in many nations, regardless gender, race or socio-economic status. It is categorized by impairments in social interaction, difficulties with verbal and non-verbal communication and repetitive behaviour and actions.

#### Important Highlights

- The subject of World Autism Awareness Day 2018 was 'Empowering Women and Girls with Autism.'
- Present year, the day was observed at the UNs Headquarters, New York with the main aim on importance of empowering women and girls suffering from autism and involving them in the policy and decision-



making to address the difficulties associated with autism.

- The day was announced by the UNs General Assembly through the resolution 62/139.
- The World Autism Awareness Day was approved in the United Nations Council on November 1st , 2007 and was accepted on December 18th 2007.
- This determination was sanctioned and adopted without a vote in the United Nations General Assembly.
- World Autism Day is also one of the only 4 official health-specific United Nation Days.

## West Bengal introduces Rupashree scheme' for marriage of poor girls on - 28th March 2018

The state government of West Bengal initiated a fresh plan known as 'Rupashree' in order to provide marriage help to girls coming from economically weaker families with a budgetary distribution of Rupees 1500 crores on March 28th, 2018. The plan's declaration was made earlier by the state's Finance Minister Amit Mitra during the state budget presentation for 2018-19.

### Key Features

- The plan suggests to extend 1-time financial help worth Rupees 25,000 to the girl's family with annual income about Rupees 1.5 lakh.
- A woman is required to complete the application form before her marriage and deposit it to the office of Block Development Officer or Municipality Office to gain advantages under Rupashree plan.
- The plan is supposed to beneficial around 6 lakh families yearly.

- The state's Finance Minister has planned to provide Rupees 1500 crores for the implementation of the plan.
- Many poor families find it very difficult to bear their daughter's marriage expenditure and have to borrow money at a greater rate of interest to bear the marriage expenses.
- The fresh plan focuses to decrease the financial burden of such families.

### Did you know?

- The state government had earlier introduced a plan known as Kanyashree Prakalpa, which look forward to improve the status and well-being of girls belonging to socio-economical families.
- The plan's main aim was to make sure that girls stay in school and continue their education and postponement their marriages until at least age 18.
- The purpose of the initiative was to elevate the girls who belong to poor families and thus can't follow higher studies due to hard economic conditions. The flagship plan has helped over 45 lakh girls.

## Mithali Raj wins Sportsperson of the Year award on - 31st March 2018

Indian women's cricket team skipper Mithali Raj was termed Sportsperson of the Year at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association yearly prizes for 2017 in Hyderabad on March 31 st , 2018. The prize was delivered by B.V.Papa Rao, Advisor to the Telangana government. It was received by Mithali Raj's parents, as she was not in India on the prize function.

### Other Awards

- Best Senior Male athlete prize was given to top Indian shuttle player Kidambi Srikanth by previous BCCI president N.Shivlal Yadav.



- Best Senior Female athlete prize was given to top Indian shuttle player P.V.Sindhu by tennis Star Sania Mirza.
- Best Coach of the Year prize was presented by previous Indian cricketer V.V.S Laxman to Gopichand, who received the honour for the 2nd time in continuation.
- Lifetime Achievement prize honour was given to triple Olympian and former national hockey player N Mukesh Kumar.
- Team of the year prize was secured by Hyderabad Cricket team. It was given by national selection committee chairman M.S.K Prasad who advised the youth to play it fair.
- Outstanding achievement prize was given to top Indian gymnast B.Aruna Reddy.

### Which country has become World's second largest mobile phone producer? - India

India has substituted Vietnam to become the 2nd mega mobile phone producer in the world, only after China. The information was given by the Indian Cellular Association with Union Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. According to the data, the yearly mobile phone production of India has augmented from three million devices in 2014 to 11 million devices in 2017.

#### Key Highlights

- As per the information shared by Indian Cellular Association, India accounted for 11% of global mobile manufacturing in 2017 in comparison to 3% in 2014.
- India substituted Vietnam to become the 2nd mega mobile phone manufacturer in 2017. The leading 3 mobile manufacturing nations are China, India and Vietnam.
- With an increase in mobile phone manufacturing, imports of the devices in the nation has also decreased to less than half in 2017-18.

- The government has recognized a Fast Track Task Force under Ministry of Electronics and IT, which has marked the aim to achieve approximately 500 million mobile phones manufacturing in India by 2019, with a projected value of USD 46 billion.
- The Fast Track Task Force has also formed the aim to export 120 million mobile phone devices with an approximate value of USD 1.5 million by the end of 2019.

### E-way Bill System rolled out in India on - 1st April 2018

According to the time limit fixed by the GST Council, the e-Way Bill became compulsory from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 for all inter-state displacement of goods in India. The e-Way Bill system is being executed by GST Network in connotation with the National Informatics Centre. The system is being held on the <https://ewaybillgst.gov.in.portal>.

#### Functioning of e-Way Bill system

- The Central helpdesk of GST has made superior arrangements with 100 agents to reply various enquiries of taxpayers and transporters concerned to e-way Bills.
- E-way Bill can be produced through online, Android App, SMS, using Bulk Upload Tool and API based site to site integration, and many more.
- Transporters can generate multiple sub-operators and assign roles to them.
- There is also a facility for cancelling e-way Bill within 24 hours of generation.
- The receiver can also discard the e-way Bill within validity time period or within 72 hours of bill generation of the e-way bill by the consignor, whichever is earlier.

#### Facts and Figures

Until now, a total of 1096905 taxpayers have recorded themselves on e-Way Bill web Portal. More than 19000 GST non-registered



transporters, have registered themselves on the e-Way Bill web Portal.

## ISRO loses contact with communication satellite GSAT-6A on - 1st April 2018

Indian Space Research Organisation has missed contact with India's most influential communication

GSAT-6A satellite under 48 hours afterward it was released. The contact loss is supposed to have

resulted due power system failure or any other short circuit on the satellite.

### Key Points

- The GSAT-6A satellite was supposed to be placed in orbit in 3 phases after its successful release on March 29th, 2018 onboard of GSLV-F08. Indian Space Research Organisation had positively completed 1st orbit levitation operation of GSAT-6A Satellite on March 30th, 2018, which observed satellite altering its closest and farthest point from earth in addition to altering its inclination.

- The 2nd orbit levitation operation of GSAT-6A was positively completed on March 31st, 2018, however, during the 3rd and final firing programmed on April 1st, 2018, further contact with satellite was lost, after upholding uncharacteristic peace on the health of the satellite.

### GSAT-6A

- GSAT-6A is powerful communication satellite which was having a mission lifespan of about 10 years.

- Its command was to deliver mobile-communication for India with multi-bandwidth facility—5 beams in S-band and 1 beam in C-band.

- The satellite had 6m wide antenna, the biggest utilised by Indian Space Research Organisation

communication satellite so far, intended for the S-band communication.

- Its purpose was, to permit and provide mobile-communication for nation through held ground stations, which was not conceivable earlier as smaller antennas intended larger ground stations.

- The satellite was also to deliver with communication services for the armed forces.

## Nepal launched its first accessible trekking trail on- 29th March 2018

As a part of 3-day international session on "Accessible Tourism", Nepal has initiated its 1st

accessible trekking trail for differently abled and elders in Pokhara city. The 3 days accessible tourism conference session was held in Nepal from March 29th to 31st, 2018.

The freshly initiated trek is a 1.3 kilometres section of the fourteen kilometres hiking pathway in the ridge linking Sarangkot to Naudanda areas. The trek offers unmatched view of Mt. Annapurna, Fishtail and Manaslu. The trail has been loaded with proper signage and

### Accessible Tourism Concept

Accessible tourism refers to an evolving concept meant for travel which is easy to access for all people, with various disabilities including movement, audible, vision, intellectual and psychosocial, older persons and those with provisional disabilities.

## Donald Trump declares DACA program dead on - 2nd April 2018

The President of USA, Donald Trump acknowledged dead the Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals programme that safeguarded immigrants



brought to the country illegally as children, on April 2nd, 2018. Previously in September 2017, President Trump had stated that he would dismiss the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programme, which was presented by his previous president Barack Obama. Donald Trump however, gave the Congress time up until March 6th to substitute the programme.

Although Congress was unsuccessful to meet the limit line, the courts governed that the programme can stay in place for now. Stating via a twitter post, President Trump published that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is no more because the Democrats did not act, and now everyone wants to get onto the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals movement.

As per to the elder administration administrators, legislation expected helping expedite some expulsions of immigrants in the nation illegally was being arranged. However, they did not deliver a timetable for presenting it to the Congress and did not say whether requirements to assist Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients would be included.

On the flip side of the coin, the Democrats held responsible Trump for the fragile status of a programme that protected thousands of immigrants from banishment and issued them work-permits.

Trump also said that he would dismiss a major trade agreement with Mexico if it did not do more to protect its border with the USA. The United States is negotiating again the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.

## accreditation of journalists caught generating fake news on - 3rd April 2018

The Union Government cancelled its earlier direction of permanently cancelling the accreditation of a journalist if the individual was found producing or broadcasting fake news, on April 3rd, 2018. The corrected guidelines for the approval of journalists, which informed that if a telecast of false news is confirmed, then the accreditation of the reporter held responsible for it will be adjourned for a time period of 6 months in the 1st violation and for 1 year in case of a 2nd violation and lifelong invalid in case of a 3rd violation, stand inhibited.

### Government planning to identify fake news-

- To regulate whether a news item is fake or not, any complaint of fake news instances would have been referred to the Press Council of India if it linked to printed-media and to the News Broadcasters Association, if it linked to the electronic-media.
- The related company would then have had to complete their examination of the information within fifteen days and confirm whether it is false or not.
- Once the complaint is itemized for determination of false news, the accreditation of the journalist, who produced or broadcasted the news, would have been suspended till the resolution related to the fake news is completed.

## Process of filing petitions for H-1B visa began on - 2nd April 2018

The procedure of filing petitions for H-1B visa started on April 2nd, 2018 within strict

Government rolls back its decision to cancel



examination by the Trump Government. H-1B visa is measured as the most requisite work-visa among extremely skilled Indian specialists, who goal to work in the United States.

### Guidelines on petitions

- The petitioner should deliver a beneficiary's valid passport copy.
- If the applicant needs an extension of stay/alteration of status, he/she will be needed to provide an evidence to establish that the beneficiary will uphold a valid non-immigrant status all over the employment.
- Once the applicant give the impression before the American political missions for a formal visa interview and got stamped their passport, they would be needed to present the their social media profile, emails and phone numbers details used in the past 5 years.

### Rejection of the petitions

- The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the federal agency accountable for dispensation all H1B visas, demanded that there will be zero-tolerance for even minute errors.
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services also cautioned that all duplicate applications files would be subject to refusal.
- It will also refuse the H-1B petitions requesting an earlier job begin date or a begin date of As Soon As Possible or ASAP.

**Import duty on key smartphone components levied by - The Central Bureau of Excise and Customs under Finance Ministry**

The Central Bureau of Excise and Customs under Finance Ministry has forced a 10 percent duty charges on imports of important

smartphone parts including populated printed circuit boards, camera modules and connectors. Presently, there is nil import duty forced on the 3 parts.

### Important Highlights

- This initiative will result into expensive imports of smartphone parts while giving chance to Indian producers under Make in India program.
- These parts for making these smartphone components nearby, will not have any import duties, however, it will cause an increase in prices of international mobile phones whose firms do not get these components locally.
- Printed circuit boards make-up about 50 percent of cost of making smartphone. This conclusion will push local production of these components as organisations who produce here will get a price benefit over those who don't.

### Phased Manufacturing Programme

- Government had Phase Manufacturing Programme, that will issue fiscal advantages to local production of various parts of cellular mobiles in different fiscals, in May 2017 for promoting the development of domestic production of Cellular mobile phones.
- This programme is under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Its general goal is to force duties and give tax liberations and incentives on few products that came under domestic production of cellular mobiles.

**SC rejects stay on its earlier verdict on SC/ST Act on - 3rd April 2018**

The Supreme Court of India declined to give a stay order on its previous verdict on SC/ST Act, in which it had governed that there shall be no instant arrest on any complaint filed under the law, on April 3rd , 2018.



The Supreme court governed that it is not against the Act, but only worried that innocents should not be penalized needlessly due to the mismanagement of the law. While hearing the Centre's review appeal, the Supreme court informed there should not be any politics on the matter and asked all the political parties to present detailed answers within 2 days. The supreme court added that they know how to protect the rights of the residents and have not affected the punishment segments of the Act. The supreme court even asked that why the government needs the people to be arrested without verification. The issue will be listened again after ten days.

#### Did you know?

- Previously in the day, the Supreme Court had approved to hear the Centre's review appeal after Attorney General KK Venugopal sought a crucial hearing, after the outbreak of huge violence in various parts of the nation due to the 'Bharat Bandh', which was held in objection of the supreme court's earlier ruling.
- The review appeal, filed by Union Ministry of Social Justice on April 2nd, 2018, claimed that the safety would dilute the aim of shielding the marginalised sections and represent them to extra violence in a caste-ridden setting while requesting the court to review the ruling.

### New plant species discovered in Western Ghats - *Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis*

Scientists have revealed new grass looking plant species known as "*Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis*" in Ponmudi hills within the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in the Western-Ghats biodiversity area. It has been classified as the

grass-like plant and has been termed after the neighbourhood area from which it was located.

#### Key Points

- The new species of plant is related to the Cyperaceae family.
- Its flower and fruits were studied from October-March. Cyperaceae genus is represented by 122 species in India and many of the known Cyperaceae species are medicinal plants and also being utilised as fodder.
- *Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis* is highly prone to wild-grazing. Because its habitat falls within tourism spot and nearby place of worship, therefore It comes under anthropogenic pressures and absence of scientific conservation could lead to its extinction. Scientists have suggested plant as 'critically endangered'.

#### More about Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve

- It was recognized in 2001. It is termed after Agastya Mala peak that has height of 1868 metres approximately in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. In March 2016, it was encompassed in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO.
- Its vegetation mostly consists of tropical forests and is home-ground to 2,254 species of higher plants including approximately 400 endemics. About 400 Red Listed Plants, 125 species of orchids and rare and endangered plants have been noted from the reserve.
- It is also home-ground to rare animals including tiger, Asian Elephant, and Nilgiri Tahr. It is homeland to one of the oldest living earliest tribes in the world, Kanikaran tribe.

**Government launched Digital Initiative for Ease of Export on - 3rd April 2018**



Union Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the digital initiatives by Export Inspection Council for comfort of export, on April 03rd, 2018. It is believed that these digital initiatives will give a high uplift to India's potential for agricultural and food export. Export Inspection Council is the Government of India's authorized export certification body and has initiated this project of Digital India Initiative to maintain pace with altering dynamics of the world.

### Key Digital Initiatives

- 3 portals have been established to decrease transaction time and price in a transparent manner, in order to continue the vision for trustworthy inspection and authorization and to support the confidence on Indian products.
- To provide fast, efficient and transparent facilities for comfort of performing business in all segments, the wide-ranging export food chain has been combined into this digital platform.
- Primary production, chain-catch, aquaculture and dairy farmhouses all are joined.
- 'One lab-one assessment' portal delivers a combined approach to all shareholders including accreditation bodies, controllers and laboratories by fetching them all on a common platform.
- Basic process for yielding joint certification and joint decisions aid in decreasing cost, time and diversity of assessment.
- The Export Alert Monitoring portal screens non-compliances elevated by importing nations.
- The portal will make able to monitor alerts and acts taken by various firms involved in initial certification in the food safety & bio-

security and analysing the trade-barriers to decrease the alerts and improve the export trade.

## NASA successfully tested supersonic Mars landing parachute: ASPIRE

NASA has positively directed Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment to trial supersonic parachute that will support its space exploration missions to land on Mars. The parachute was released aboard of sounding rocket from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in United States. It was trailed in sky, imitating conditions of going into red planet.

### Key Points

- The trail of Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment was meant to imitate conditions that spaceship will practice during red planet entry, descent and landing.
- Soon after lift-off, Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment splashed down into Atlantic Ocean, and further was recovered by boat.
- Study of recovered parachute, and information collected by cameras will assist scientist to design the whole parachute for NASA's 2020 Mars traveller.

### Did you know?

NASA's determined Mars rover mission is planned to inaugurate in 2020 to install 6-wheeled vehicle on Martian surface to investigate rocks on surface and store samples for eventual return to Earth. It will rely on superior parachute to slowdown the spacecraft when it is going to enter in Martian atmosphere at more than 12,000 mph of speed.



## MoU between Indian Army and HDFC Bank on defence salary package on- 3rd April 2018

Indian Army has inked MoU with HDFC Bank on the Defence Salary Package. It is renewed version 1st Memorandum of Undertaking inked between Indian Army HDFC Bank and in 2011 and renewed in March 2015. The present Memorandum of Undertaking is tailor made to fit needs of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.

### Key Points

- This Memorandum of Undertaking will profit large number of working and retired Indian Army workers who are having their bank accounts with HDFC bank.
  - It will also deliver them a chance to access current banking facilities and will also get other advantages like free individual accident death cover and free everlasting disability cover of Rupees 30 lakhs.
  - The dependent children in case of accidental death of defence staff will receive free educational cover of about Rupees One Lakh every year for 4 years.
  - They will also avail 100 per cent processing charges ignored for Cars and Personal Loans.
- Did you know?** Presently Indian Army has Memorandum of Undertakings on Defence Salary Package with eleven public and private banks. These Memorandum of Undertakings are measured for inception and renewal with banks on analysing their usefulness and appropriateness to necessities of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.

## Construction of first-ever nuclear plant launched by - Turkey

The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan along with Russian President Vladimir Putin initiated the building of Turkey's 1st-ever nuclear power plant in Mersin area, which is a great port city on the Mediterranean coast of southern Turkey, on April 3rd, 2018.

The initiation of the project was led by the both Presidents via video conferencing. The sum total assessed cost of the power plant would be approximately 20 billion dollars.

### Key Importance

- Once accomplished, the power plant will provide about 10% to the electricity requirements of Turkey, which is important because the country has less energy resources of its own.
- The structure workers at the place have already started work on the ground.
- The 1st stage is due to be finished by 2023, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of modern Turkey's establishment. It is projected to be accomplished completely by 2026.
- It is projected to provide the nation's energy security and also perform a crucial role in fighting against its climate variations.
- Though Turkey and Russia enjoyed strained historical events with the 2 countries busy in a number of wars till the primary 20th century.
- However, relationships among the 2 countries deteriorated after Joseph Stalin took over and necessitated Soviet bases on the Turkish Straits.



## Most distant star ever seen captured by - Hubble Telescope from NASA

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has revealed the most distant star ever noticed termed as Icarus. This mega blue star is situated over halfway across the universe. It need 9 billion years for the Icarus light to reach the Earth. The team consisting Jose Diego of the Instituto de Fisica de Cantabria in Spain, and Steven Rodney of the University of South Carolina in the United States termed the star as Icarus following the Greek mythical character who glided too near to the Sun on his wings made-up of feathers and wax which were melted later. Icarus's authorized name is MACS J1149+2223 Lensed Star 1.

### How the astronomers were able to spot this distant star?

- Space scientist were able to view this faraway star and set a new distance record through a process known as Gravitational Lensing that extremely strengthens the star's shabby luminosity.
- In Gravitational lensing the gravitational powers from gigantic galaxies act as a natural lens in space, that helps in twisting and intensifying light and enables tremendously-faint and far away objects bright enough to understand.
- This huge galaxies cluster located between the Earth and the galaxy that comprises the Icarus and is situated about five billion light years far away from Earth.
- Space scientist were able to observe and study Icarus by joining the strong point of this gravitational lens with Hubble delicate firmness and sensitivity.

## First large-scale age-map of Milky Way created by -

## European Southern Observatory

An international team headed by space scientist from the European Southern Observatory has formed the 1st large-scale map of the Milky Way galaxy after analysing the colour, brilliance and spectral data on the chemistry of specific stars. The map indicates that a star formation period long-lasting about 4 billion years shaped the complex structure at the core of our milky way galaxy.

### Key

### Highlights

The Milky Way galaxy is a spiral-galaxy with a knob at the centre, which comprises about a quarter of the total build of stars. Earlier investigations have revealed that the bulge hosts 2 components:

1. A population of metal-deprived stars that have a sphere-shaped distribution
2. A population of metal-enrich stars that procedure an elongated bar with a "waist", like a bi-lobed peanut

However, study of the ages of the stars to date have formed conflicting results. Expanding on the study, one of the investigators Marina Rejkuba definite that they studied the colour and illumination of stars to find those that had just reached the point of exhausting their hydrogen fuel in the middle as a sensitive age-indicator. Rejkuba informed that their studies were not consistent with a virtuously old Milky Way bulge, but need star formation long-lasting around four billion years and starting around eleven billion years ago. The youngest stars that they study are minimum seven billion years old, which is older than few earlier studies had suggested.

## Union Cabinet approves Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 on - 4th April 2018



The Union Cabinet passed the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018, on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 intended to protection and advancement of human rights in India. The Bill looks forward to amend the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

### **Provisions of the Bill**

- It proposes to comprise the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights' as deemed-Member of the National Human Rights Commission.
- It proposes to augment a female-member in the conformation of the Human Rights Commission.
- It looks forward to increase the scope of entitlement and scope of selection of Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission and of the State Human Rights Commission as well.
- It demands to include a proper process to examine the cases of human rights violation in the UTs.
- It recommends to amend the tenure of office of Chairperson and Members of National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission as equal as that of the tenures of Chairperson and Members of other Commissions.
- Once the bill becomes an Act, it will be in flawless sync with the well-defined global morals and standards towards ensuring the life relating rights, freedom, equivalence and self-respect of the person.
- It looks forward to make National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission much more obedient with the Paris Principle relating to its independence, individuality and multiple functions.

**International Mines Awareness Day celebrated on - 4th April 2018**

International Day for Mines Awareness was celebrated on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018, to spread the awareness

about the hazards caused by landmines to the protection, health and lives of citizen populations.

The theme for 2018 was "Advancing Protection, Peace and Development". On 8<sup>th</sup>, December 2005, the UN had announced that 4<sup>th</sup>, April of each year shall be celebrated as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

### **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) unveils 'Virtual ID' in - Beta Form**

The Unique Identification Authority of India has revealed the beta version of 'Virtual ID', which will shortly be recognized by service providers in place of Aadhaar card number.

#### **Virtual ID in lieu of Aadhaar Number:**

- In January 2018, Unique Identification Authority of India had declared that it will come up with a "Virtual ID" for Aadhaar Card bearers to tackle privacy issues concerned to quoting Aadhaar.
- Virtual ID, which an Aadhaar card bearer can produce from Unique Identification Authority of India's website, is a random 16 digits number planned to a person's Aadhaar number and biometrics information.
- Virtual ID of the subscriber would be given too any authorised agency including a mobile company, with restricted details for instance name, address and photograph, which are sufficient for any authentication.
- Thus Virtual ID will do away with the requirement of unveiling 12 digits Aadhaar card number for verification purposes.
- Unique Identification Authority of India had informed that all sanctioned agency or service provider firms will have to necessary



accept Virtual ID for undertaking authentication from June 1 st , 2018.

## Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu clinched first gold for India on - 5th April 2018

World champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu smashed the records by winning India's first Gold Medal on the opening day of the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia on April 5th, 2018. Mirabai won the coveted medal in the 48 kg category with a total lift of 196 kg (86 kg + 110 kg) with her marvelous performance.

She pulled off clean lifts in all her three attempts in 80kg, 84kg and 86kg categories and then went on to lift more than double of her body weight in 103kg, 107kg and 110kg categories, breaking the overall Commonwealth Games record till date.

### Important Highlights

- In the women's category Silver went to Mauritian Marie Ranaivosova (76kg + 94kg), while Sri Lanka's Dinusha Gomes (70kg + 85kg) claimed the bronze.
- Weightlifter P Gururaja bagged silver for India at the 21st Commonwealth Games in the men's 56 kg category with a snatch and lift of 249kg (111+138).
- He finished second in a field where Malaysia's Muhammad Izhar Ahmed broke the Games record with the snatch and lift of 261 kg (117+144) and fetched the Gold.
- The bronze in men's category went to Sri Lanka's Lakmal Chaturanga (114kg + 134kg).

### Commonwealth Games 2018

The 21st Commonwealth games started on 4th April 2018 at Gold coast in Australia. This year, the Games will be marking the 5th time that Australia has hosted the games. India was represented at the opening ceremony by

a contingent of more than 200 athletes, led by flag-bearer P V Sindhu.

## NASA successfully tests Mars landing parachute in - March 2018

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully conducted the test of the Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) of the Mars landing parachute for possible future missions in March 2018.

The parachute was launched in Virginia on the Black Brant IX sounding rocket from Wallops Flight Facility of NASA. The test was conducted with an objective to know all the conditions that a spacecraft would be experiencing during the entry, descent and landing (EDL) on the Red Planet.

After the first one took place in October 2017, it was the second flight test of ASPIRE.

### Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE)

- The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA in Pasadena, California manages the Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment.
- It is also administered by NASA's Langley Research Centre in Hampton , Virginia and Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, California also administer it.

### Did you know?

NASA's Sounding Rocket Program is based at Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

## Russia's call to join spy poisoning probe rejected by - OPCW

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has rejected Russia's call for a joint investigation with Britain in the case of nerve-agent poisonings



of a former Russian spy and his daughter in the United Kingdom.

Russia stated that the number of countries that abstained from the vote suggested that many have doubts about Britain's allegations that Moscow was behind the attack. Russia has denied any involvement in the ex-spy poisoning and the nation now is planning to take its case to the UN Security Council.

### Important Highlights

- Russia's proposal for a joint investigation in the case received only six votes during the special session of the executive council of OPCW, while 17 abstained.
- The council has representatives from 41 countries.
- The British government on March 4th had invited experts from OPCW to help in identifying the substance that was proved toxic to the two people.
- While speaking on the development, Russia's OPCW envoy Alexander Shulgin mentioned that the 17 abstentions from the vote meant that more than half of the executive
- council members refused to support the US and UK position on the matter.
- Russia has now requested for an open meeting of the UN Security Council in the case.

### Did you know?

More than 21 nations led by the United States have expelled more than 200 Russian diplomats to show solidarity with Britain over the poison attack. Russia also responded by expelling more than 150 foreign diplomats.

### 9th India, Japan, US trilateral meeting held in - New Delhi

The 9th India-Japan- USA tri-lateral conference was organised in New Delhi and was represented by

senior ambassadors by 3 nations. It organised discussions on regional and global matters of common

interest and focussed on connectivity, anti-terrorism and other local and global matters of common

interest.

### Key Points

- The tri-lateral nations decided to stay-in to cooperate to promote increased connectivity in Indo-Pacific.
- They also settled to remain involved and toughen collaboration in support for free, wealthy, peaceful and comprehensive Indo-Pacific region via corporation with nations in region.
- They also discovered practical steps to enhance coordination in areas of connectivity and infrastructure progress, tackle-terrorism, tackle-proliferation, nautical security and Philanthropical Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- The tri-lateral meeting aimed on reputation of keeping the maritime ways open, over India's issue about preserving freedom of navigation in South China Ocean and Western-Pacific Sea.

### Did you know?

- The India-Japan- USA trilateral was initiated in December 2011, during the time of Hillary Clinton as an United States Secretary of State.
- For 1st many rounds, the tri-lateral was organised at assistant secretary level. It was upgraded to ministerial level in 2015.
- The opening ministerial tri-lateral was organised in September 2015 in New York on side lines of UNs General Assembly Session.
- It was also led by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.



## Second largest manufacturer of crude steel - India

As per to Steel Users Federation of India, India has surpassed Japan to become world's 2nd largest crude steel manufacturer in February 2018. China is the largest manufacturer of crude steel in the world, responsible for over 50 per cent of the manufacturing. Previously in 2015, India had surpassed United States to become 3rd largest crude steel manufacturer.

### Key Points

- India's crude steel manufacturing mounted at 93.11 MT for time period of April 2017-Feb 2018 and was up 4.4 per cent in comparison with April 2016-Feb 2017 time period.
- This assisted to surpass Japan and become 2nd largest crude steel manufacturer in the world.
- The development in steel manufacturing was attributed to policies undertaken by government after host of stages introduced to control imports, increase domestic demand with creativities including
- Make in India and GST implementation to inspire the local market.

## Cabinet approves MoU on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector between India and - UAE

The Union Cabinet has passed MoU inked among India and UAE on Technical Collaboration in Railways Sector. The Memorandum of Understanding was inked in February 2018 with Federal Transport Authority – Land and Maritime of United Arab Emirates.

### Key Points

- The Memorandum of Understanding will deliver platform to Indian Railways to

interrelate and share modern developments and information in railways.

- It will simplify interchange of data, professional meetings, technical appointments and mutually agreed collaboration projects execution among both nations.
- The Memorandum of Understanding will enable technical collaboration in following areas Regulation, security and practical investigation of accidents.
- Station re-development.
- Engines, coaches and railway wagon.
- Any other area mutually identified by both nations in future.

### Did you know

- Ministry of Railways has inked various Memorandum of Understandings for technical collaboration in Railways sector with numerous overseas Governments.
- The identified areas of assistance under these Memorandum of Understandings consists of high-speed corridors, expansion of world class stations, speed-raising of Present lines, heavyweight tow operations and upgrading of rail infrastructure.
- The assistance is attained via data exchange for developments in areas of railways-technology and operations, mechanical visits, training and seminars in areas of common interest.

## Weightlifter Sanjita Chanu wins India's second Gold Medal on - 6th April 2018

Weightlifter athlete Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu won 2 nd Gold Medal for India by victory in the 53-kilogram Women weightlifting category at the 21st Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre in Gold Coast, Australia on April 6th, 2018. Sanjita beaten Dika Toua of Papua New Guinea with a total weight of 192 kg lifted in combination of 84-kilogram snatch and 108



kilograms clean and Jerk. She broke the Commonwealth Games record in snatch with a weight lift of 84 kilogram. 2014 Glasgow gold medallist Dika Toua secures the Silver Medal with a total weight lift of 182 kg and the Bronze to Canada's Rachel Leblanc-Bazinet who finished by lifting 181 kilograms total. This was the 2nd Commonwealth Gold Medal of Sanjita as well. She secured the 1st Gold in the 48 kilograms event in the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

This is India's 3rd medal of Commonwealth Games 2018 with Mirabai Chanu winning Gold and P.Gururaja demanding the silver in weight-lifting on Day first of the games.

#### More about Commonwealth Games 2018

- The 21st Commonwealth games started on April 4 th , 2018 at Gold coast in Australia. Present year, the Games will mark the fifth time that Australia has organised these games.

- Indian players delegate was characterized at the inaugural ceremony by a contingent of more than 200 athletes who were headed by flag-bearer, the Olympics Silver medallist, P.V.Sindhu.

#### Government institutes committee to regulate online news on - 4th April 2018

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting introduced a committee to control online portals consisting news sites and entertainment websites, on April 4th , 2018.

The ten members committee will have secretaries of the Home departments, Legal Affairs, Electronics and Information & Technology, and Industrial Policy and Promotion, CEO MyGov and a demonstrative each from the Press Council of India and NBA.

#### Key Highlights

- The news broadcasted on TV channels are controlled in terms of the programme and advertisement codes under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.
- The print-media is controlled by the self-directed body, Press Council of India.
- The fresh committee would be controlling online media by concentrating on the following 3 things:
  - Taking online information broadcasting under guidelines.
  - Suggesting a policy for overseas direct investment in the online media.
  - Observing at international best practices on such current regulatory mechanism.

#### Panel set up to examine tax evasion risks posed by super rich by - The Central Board of Direct Taxes

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has formed an internal-working group to inspect the taxation aspects of high net worth individuals. The group has been formed to make sure that individuals who positions a substantial tax danger pay their dues. The Central Board of Direct Taxes informed in a letter that in current times, there has been a movement of high net worth individuals migrating from their home-nation to other jurisdictions, which stances a greater tax risk, as they may show themselves as non-residents for taxation drives even though they may have strong individual and economic relations with India.

#### Key Highlights

- The working group of tax administrators will include 5 members including a joint secretary-rank officer and 4 revenue officers.
- It will suggest measures on tax dangers rising out of such persons and how to treat with them.



- It will also accept inputs from field-officials previously finalising its statement.
- The 1st meeting of the working group will be organised on April 6th .

### Wi-Fi grid to bring down cost of internet by 90% by - TRAI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has projected concept of start architecture related public Wi-Fi grid to decrease the internet prices by 90 per cent. It is much desired as broadband proliferation across nation is significant pillar of Digital India and Wi-Fi serves as inexpensive option given low-cost of apparatus and free spectrum.

#### Key Points

- The Wi-Fi grid projected by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India entails different providers coming together to address features like services, access, expense and authentication.
- Its references are sponsored by findings of pilot project directed by regulator. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's pilot and trials were focused at representative proof of concept of such architecture.
- It has advised that any entity including organisation, proprietorship or non-entities should effortlessly be capable to form a public Wi-Fi access point.

#### Significance

- The newest references of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India follow BharatNet project being pursued by Central government that aims to provide Wi-Fi services to village-panchayats across the nation. Government has finished its 1st phase and supposes the project to be completed by 2019.

### RBI directs banks to stop services to businesses dealing

### in virtual currencies on - 5th April 2018

The RBI directed all the banking system controlled by it to block providing services to trades dealing in virtual currencies consisting bitcoin, to safeguard user interest and check money laundering, on April 5th , 2018. Reserve Bank of India informed in an announcement that looking at the associated dangers, it has been finalised entities controlled by Reserve Bank of India shall not provide facilities to any individual or trade entities dealing with or settling virtual currencies and stop that with instantaneously".

The central bank stated in its 1st bi-monthly monetary policy review that via technological inventions together with virtual currencies have the latent to improve the efficiency and comprehensiveness of the monetary system, they also increase consumer protection concern, market honesty and money laundering.

Reserve Bank of India has also regularly alerted its subscribers, accountholders and businesspersons with regard the various risks concerned in dealing with virtual currencies. VCs are also referred to as crypto-currencies and crypto-assets.

### International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2018 observed globally on - 6th April 2018

The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace was celebrated across the world on April 6th , 2018 with an objective to recognise the increasing contribution of sport to the development realisation and peace in its advancement of tolerance and respect.



Sport has a crucial role as a peace promoter and for economic progress in various geographical, cultural and political backgrounds. It acts as a commanding tool to spread peace and understanding by carrying people all together across the limits, cultures and religions.

### **When was the day proclaimed?**

- The Day honours the date of the appointment of the 1st Olympic games of the contemporary era in Athens, Greece in 1896.
- The UN General Assembly finalise to announce 6th April as the International Day of the Sport for the Development and the Peace on 23rd August 2013 through its resolution. The day was 1st observed in the year 2014.
- The acceptance of the day by the United Nations shows the positive influence of sport on the advancement of human, communal and economic progress.

**Qatar to allow women to volunteer for national service by - the Gulf Nation Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani**

Qatar would be announcing national service for females for the 1st time with instantaneous effect, under a new law delivered by the Gulf Nation Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

The country has also prolonged the time served in the military by recruited men. While females aged more than 18 will now be capable to volunteer for national service under the law, males will have to work for a year instead of 3 months.

### **Important Highlights**

- It is the 1st time that females have been permitted to work for national

service, although some females already serve in the military in directorial roles.

- While the national service is essential for Qatari men aged among 18-5, for females it would be voluntary.
- The new law also permits for a National Service Academy to be formed and informs that men necessity apply for the service within sixty days of turning 18.
- Anyone found trying to dodge military service could be punished up to 3 years in jail and a fine of about 50,000 Qatari riyals.

**RH300 sounding rocket launched for atmospheric studies by - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre**

The RH-300 MKII sounding rocket established by IRSO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre was fruitfully released from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

### **Key Points**

- The rocket was released by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre under SOUREX programme for atmospheric studies.
- It uses this rocket to observe Equatorial E and lower-ionosphere regions of atmosphere.
- The observation will enrich accessible atmospheric information and refine models utilised for tropical weather forecast.
- The aim of experiment is to calculate neutral wind in dynamo region of equatorial ionosphere using made in India Electron Density and Neutral Wind Probe. It will also achieve cross-validation with an independent Tri Methyl Aluminium release



method.

### Did you know?

- It was overall 21st release of RH300 sounding rocket.
- Atmospheric observations with Tri Methyl Aluminium were done in 1960's using sounding rockets of overseas nations and 1st it was released on May 2nd , 1965 using Centaure rocket.
- Following a prolonged gap, Tri Methyl Aluminium experiment is being directed now with developed in India payload and rocket.

### World Health Day observed across the globe on - 7th April 2018

World Health Day was celebrated across the world on April 7th , 2018. The day also celebrates the 70th anniversary of WHO. The theme of World Health Day is 'Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere' and the theme is 'Health for All'. The aim along with others such as human rights, environment, threatened species and peace are of universal concern to people around the globe.

### Key Importance

- Some nations have already completed significant development towards universal health coverage. However, half of the world's population is still not able to get the health services they require.
- If nations are to attain the Sustainable Development Goals aim, 1 billion extra people require to advantageous from health services by 2023.
- On the event of its 70th anniversary, World Health Organisation calls upon all world privileged to live up to the initiatives they

made when they decided to the SDG in 2015 and commit to concrete phases to advance #HealthForAll.

- The main objective is to make sure that everyone, everywhere is capable to get required quality health services without fronting financial hardship.

### Global Logistics Summit 2018 began in New Delhi on - 5th April 2018

The Global Logistics Summit was organised in New Delhi from April 5th -6th , 2018 to advance logistics and connectivity which are vigorous for growing intra-state and international business flows. The summit was planned by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry along with FICCI and World Bank Group. It delivered platform to grasp discussions for global experts, researchers, government administrators and private sector and industry senates.

### Logistic Sector

- The Logistic sector consists of transportation, material-handling, warehouse handling, packaging, shipping, inventory administration, and procurement, and customs service.
- Government has defined logistic as multimodal logistics park with a least investment of Rupees 50 crores and least area of ten acres. In November 2017, logistic sector was approved infrastructure status.

### Importance of Logistic Sector

- India devotes about 14.4 per cent of its Gross Domestic Production on logistics and transportation sector.
- It engages more than 45 million people around nation and its sub-sectors increasing



at rate of 15 percent and even 30-40 per cent annually.

- It delivers efficient and low-cost flow of goods from production sector on which other profitable sectors are dependent.

### President Ram Nath Kovind embarks on 3-nation Africa tour from - 7th April 2018

President Ram Nath Kovind boarded on 3 countries official state visit to African nations of Equatorial

Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia from April 7-12 th , 2018. It will be 1st-ever visit by any state head of India to Equatorial Guinea and Swaziland. President of India's visit to Zambia will be happening after 29 years. The official visit will assist to further strengthen relationships between 3 African nations. It will be overall President Kovind's 3rd visit to African-continent since he took in-charge. Previously in March 2018, President had undertaken 2 nations visit to Madagascar and Mauritius.

#### Main Highlights of President's visit

- Equatorial Guinea's visit comes at invitation of Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.
- President Obiang will also throe formal banquet lunch for President Kovind. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind will address the Indian public at a reception planned by Indian Embassy.
- During Swaziland visit, President Ram Nath Kovind will be honoured by King of Swaziland, Mswati-III.
- He will organise delegation discussions with the Swazi administrators. President Kovind and King Mswati-III will mutually initiate IT Centre situated in Royal Science and Technology Park.

- During Zambia's visit, President Ram Nath Kovind will be honoured by his Zambian complement Edgar Chagwa Lunguand. Far along he will have delegation discussions with Zambian side.

- He will also have communication event with Indian public and addressing business occasion.

### RBI switches back to GDP model from GVA model to measure - Economy

The RBI switched back to GDP model from the Gross Value Added methodology to deliver its estimate of economic activity in the nation. The shift to Gross Domestic Product is chiefly to imitate to international ethics and global best practices.

#### Key Points

- The Gross Value Added methodology provides picture of state of economic activity from manufacturers' side whereas the Gross Domestic Product model provides picture from buyers' side. Globally, presentation of maximum economies is evaluated in terms of Gross Domestic Product model.
- This is also a method shadowed by multilateral institutions, International specialists and stockholders because it eases easy across nation evaluations.

#### Did you know?

- Government had initiated analysing growth estimates using Gross Value Added method from January 2015 and had also altered the base year to 2018 from January 2018.
- Even the CSO has initiated by using GDP model as supply measure of economic activity as chief measure of economic activities since January 15 th , 2018.



## Ganga Hariteema Yojana launched in 27 districts of Uttar Pradesh on - 7th April 2018

The UP Government on April 7th , 2018 released the Ganga Hariteema Yojana (Ganga Greenery scheme) in the 27 districts of UP that are situated on the river Ganga bank. CM Yogi Adityanath released the scheme in a function held on the bank of Sangam at Allahabad.

### Ganga Hariteema Yojana

- The plan focuses to improve the green cover in the river Ganga's catchment areas and to control the land erosion.
- In the plan, plantation will be completed in 1 km areas from the river banks.
- Common people will also be stimulated for plantation on their private lands under One Person One Tree slogan.

### Key Points

- A high power committee under Chairmanship of CM has been formed to detect the implementation of the scheme.
- 7 state government subdivisions have been involved for implementation of the scheme.
- A committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary Rajeev Kumar to care for the contribution of various departments.
- The scheme will be carried out by September 16 th , 2018 and that will be celebrated as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2018.

## IAF conducts biggest combat exercise Gaganshakti from - 8th April 2018

The Indian Air Force completed one of its mega war exercises Gaganshakti from April 8th -April 22nd , 2018 to detect its operational readiness for dealing with any likely security

challenges from China and Pakistan. Gaganshakti, is a force level exercise which is directed once in every 2 years. This 2 weeks long exercise will consist of complete resources of the Indian Air Force including its fighter squadrons.

### Gaganshakti Exercise 2018

- The exercises will be directed day-night to detect war waging competence of the force.
- The first phase of the exercise will focus on Northern borders and second phase will be carried out to check preparedness in case of a war-like situation along the Western borders.
- Over 15000 India Air Force employees including 300 officers will be connected in the exercise along with more than 1100 force aircrafts.
- It will aim on flexible usage of airspace, combined maritime air operations with the Indian Navy and combined operations with the Indian Army.
- It will also examine the rescue process for actual removal of downed flight crew behind enemy lines and maximum casualty clearing from highway.

## Justice Gita Mittal to be conferred 'Nari Shakti' award on women's day by - Ministry of Women and Child Development

Justice Gita Mittal, the Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, will be honoured with the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017' by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The prize is also known as India's uppermost civilian honour for women, will be given upon 30 women and firms on March 8th, on the eve of the International Women's day. Gita Mittal is the 1st woman from the law field and justice to be honoured the prestigious



prize. She is known to have presented many welcome variations in the operations of the Delhi High Court, ever since she appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the court in April 2017.

She has also been minutely observing the privilege of justice in Delhi and inaugurated a clean-up drive of the subordinate judiciary.

### **Vulnerable Witness Project**

- Mittal long documented that in typical court room hearings consisting sexual violence on females and children, subsequent a universal practical approach would harshly hamper similar access to law.
- She observed that such cases outcome in secondary traumatising during hearings, which further worsens the women and children victims.
- To discourse these practical blocks and institutional barricades, Justice Mittal as a judge of the Delhi High Court led the Vulnerable Witness Project.

### **More about Nari Shakti award**

- The awards are national award conferred on specific women for their extraordinary achievement and typical facility to the source of rise of women.
- The awards are conferred by the President of India on the eve of International Women's Day on March 8th every year at New Delhi, which were recognized in 1991.
- They object to identify the spirit of courage of women in tough situations and the revolutionary involvement of an individual in emancipating women and augmenting women's problems.

**Rs.1000 crore for research in S and T under IMPRINT-II allocated by - HRD Ministry**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has approved Rupees 1000 crores for phase II of

Impacting Research Innovation and Technology India programme to enhancing research and novelty in the country.

Under the IMPRINT-II, a deposit is being formed by Department of Science and Technology and HRD Ministry in collaboration, in which contribution will come from industry and other attentive Departments. The project will be functioning as a distinct vertical in synchronization with Department of Science and Technology.

### **Impacting Research Innovation and Technology India**

Impacting Research Innovation and Technology India Programme is combined initiative of Indian Institute of Science and Indian Institutes of Technology. It pursues to form road map for study to solve chief engineering and technology encounters in ten technology areas related to nation.

These areas consist of healthcare, ICT, river systems, advanced materials, supportable habitat, security and defence, nano-technology hardware, energy, water resources, construction and climate. These areas are scattered between Indian Institutes of Technologies Kharagpur, Bombay, Kanpur, Madras Roorkee and Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

### **Key Points**

- Locate areas of instant relevance that needs innovation in the society.
- Confirm support and maximum subsidy for research for recognized fields.
- Calculate results of innovation and research efforts and its influence on standard of living of people.
- It will inspire technical organizations to complete research in fields where the nation is deeply dependent on overseas technology. In



this Impacting Research Innovation and Technology- Programme, 142 plans with a fee of Rupees 318.71 crore are already under execution.

- These plans cover ten vital technology areas stated above.

## 46th Know India Programme invited - 40 Participants

40 contestants of Indian Origin from nine nations appeared 46th version of Know India Programme.

MP was spouse state of this version. As part of the enterprise contestants go to see MP, President's House,

Parliament House and appeared orientation programme at the Foreign Service Institute

### Know India Programmes

Know India Programme is scheme of Ministry of External Affairs for Persons of Indian Origin between the age group of 18-30 years. The initiative was inaugurated in 2004 and has so far had 40 publications in which around 1,293 Persons of Indian Origin youngsters took part.

#### Key Objective

- It focuses to engage and make students and younger experts of Indian Diaspora between 18-30 years realise sense of connection with their birthplace.
- Motivated and boost Persons of Indian Origins by transformational fluctuations happening in India and give them an experience to different aspects of modern India's forms of art, tradition and ethos.
- Know India Programme is 3-week positioning programme focused at encouraging awareness on different planes of life in India as well as the development made by nation in areas consisting economic and education.
- It suggests platform for younger Persons of Indian Origins to come to India share their

opinions, knowledges and hopes and kiln closer bonds with India.

- The contestants are nominated on basis of suggestions received and sanctions of heads of Indian Missions and positions.
- The contestants are given all the generosity in India. In 2016, Know India Programme plan was restored to outspread number of days from 21-25 days containing 10 days visit to either 1 or 2 states.

## Over-the-counter sale of 14 steroid creams banned by Health Ministry

The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has barred on-counter sale of fourteen steroid creams to avoid indiscriminate sale of ointments creams having steroids and antibiotics without Rx. These fourteen preparations were consisted under Schedule-H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to impose the restriction.

#### Key Points

- The conclusion was taken after consultation with Drugs Technical Advisory Board, which had suggested restriction on sale of such creams without Rx. It also had presented their recommendations to Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation.
- The initiative comes after skin-specialist complained that pharmaceutical firms were marketing steroid-based ointments to patients, who utilise them without medical supervision.
- Some restricted creamss are beclomethasone, desonide, alclometasone and fluocinonide among others.

#### Drugs Technical Advisory Board

- Drugs Technical Advisory Board is peak statutory decision-making body on



technical issues related to medicines in the nations. It is established according to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

- It is section of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

#### **Schedule H Drugs**

- Schedule-H is a class of Rx medicines enlisted under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 which rules production and sale of all medicines in India.

- These are medicines that cannot be bought over the counter without Rx of competent doctor. It is reviewed timely on advice of Drugs Technical Advisory Board.

#### **Free chemotherapy units for cancer patients to be started by - Maharashtra**

The Maharashtra state government has declared that cancer patients would be issued with free chemotherapy medication at district hospitals. The 1st phase of the planning would initiate in June 2018. The planning will initiate with hospitals in Nagpur, Akola, Jalgaon, Gadchiroli, Pune, Satara, Bhandara, Nashik, Wardha and Amravati districts.

#### **Key Highlights**

- The move focuses to comfort the travelling and lodging issues of cancer patients who come to Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital in Parel, for 6-week chemotherapy medication as a part of their treatment.
- Under the fresh plan, a doctor and nurse from each of the nominated district hospitals would be provided with training for 3 weeks initiating from May by the Oncology department, Tata Memorial Hospital.
- The move is supposed to ease the patients save their lodging and travel expenditures.

- The list of drugs needed to initiate chemotherapy at the nominated hospitals has already been attained from the Tata Memorial.

#### **Goa government to launch app-based taxi service on - 9th April 2018**

The Goa state government has finalised to initiate its own app related taxi service to some key tourist spots of the state. The state operated Goa Tourism Development Corporation on April 9th , 2018 invited taxi-operators to register with the fresh mobile app transport service.

#### **Key Highlights**

- The taxi contractors holding the license to operate cabs in Goa would be entitled to register for the new transport service.
- The fresh service would function from locations including Goa Tourism Development Corporation positions and hotels in the state, the Mormugao Port Trust jetty, the airport and the St Monica Jetty in Panaji, besides other destinations.
- The taxi contractors would be needed to trail the online queuing system, which would confirm or assigned a ride to them.
- The service will be functioned on the lines of specialized taxi services consisting Uber that have a good presence in other parts of the nation.
- With the introduction of the new app-based taxi service, Goa Tourism Development Corporation faiths to solve the state's tourist taxi problematic issue that has been troubling its tourism area for several years.



## Name of two endangered languages discovered - Walmiki and Malhar

Two languages named Walmiki and Malhar were discovered by linguist Prof Panchanan Mohanty from the University of Hyderabad. These languages were hidden till now. Prof Panchanan Mohanty published a paper in Annual Conference of the Foundation for Endangered Languages (UK) after collecting sufficient data of these languages.

Both these languages are categorised as endangered as these are spoken by very less number of people. Important to mention here that Prof Panchanan Mohanty is President of Linguistic Society of India.

## Digitally signed QR code with photo on e-Aadhaar launched by - UIDAI

The Unique Identification Authority of India has come up with a secured digitally-signed QR-Code on e-Aadhaar. It will have photograph of Aadhaar card bearer in addition to demographic details. The small QR-code will be on front side of cutaway portion of e-Aadhaar, with demographic information. It will also have Unique Identification Authority of India digital signature to make this data much secured and tamper-secure.

### Key Points

- QR-code is kind of barcode label which consists of machine-legible data while e-Aadhaar is electronic variant of Aadhaar card that can be downloaded from official Unique Identification Authority of India website.
- The digitally signed QR-code will have a photograph of Aadhaar card bearer

extra to present facility of demographic particulars.

- It will permit various subscriber-based firms including banks to authenticate the validity of Aadhaar card offline.

### Unique Identification Authority of India

- Unique Identification Authority of India is nodal constitutional association behind the Aadhaar card which is a 12-digit unique number.

- It was approved statutory status by Aadhaar Act, 2016. Aadhaar is 10-digit number, which is connected with a person's demographic and biometric data, which obliges as a verification tool throughout India.

- Using Aadhaar card, Union and State Governments are making efforts to connect many of their chief progress and subsidy plans to decrease leakages and duplication.

## Heena Sindhu clinches gold in women's 25m pistol in - CWG 2018

The Day 6th of Commonwealth Games 2018 begun with a high for India with Indian top shooter Heena Sidhu won the gold medal in women's 25 meters pistol game event. Heena Sidhu is also finished to the final of women's 25 meters Air Pistol along with another Indian shooter Annu Singh. Indian boxers Amit Phangal and Naman Tanwar have also guaranteed of a medal by succeeding for the semi-final game of 46-49 kilograms and 91 kilograms categories respectively. In Hockey, India beat Malaysia 2-1 to qualify for the semi-final of the game. In another surprising game for India, Indian sprinter Mohammad Anas qualified for the men's 400m finals game. With this, the athlete became the only 2nd Indian after legendary Milkha Singh to qualify for the championships of any track occasion in the



Commonwealth

Games.

Cultural Relations Urdu Chair in Dhaka University.

### Key Highlights

- Indian shooter Heena Sidhu won the gold medal in the women's 25 meters pistol game at the 21st Commonwealth Games in Australia on April 10 th , 2018.
- Heena Sidhu formed a fresh Commonwealth Game record of 38 points to collect the gold, while her challenger Elena Galiabovitch of Australia recorded 35 for silver and Malaysia's Alia Sazana Azahari got bronze with 26.

- Both the nations also inked an contract to form language laboratories in 500 schools in Bangladesh and improve different roads in Rangpur, Bangladesh.

### GCNEP-BAEC Interagency Agreement

- An addition was inked relating to Inter-Agency accordance between Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership of India's atomic energy department and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.
- All these Contracts form India's efforts to accept projects in Bangladesh in different sectors consisting education, traditions, health and roads.

### India, Bangladesh sign six MoUs including 129.5 km oil pipeline deal on - 9th April 2018

India and Bangladesh inked an accordance to form a 129.5 kilometres oil pipeline objected at pumping oil from India to Bangladesh with a capacity of One million metric tons per year, on April 9 th , 2018.

### MoU for India-Bangladesh Friendship pipeline between Siliguri & Parbatipur

- This 129.5 kilometres long oil pipeline will be constructed from the Siliguri Marketing Terminal of the Numaligarah Refinery Ltd in India to the Parbaripur depot of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.
- The agreement concentrates on excavating bilateral collaboration in the hydrocarbon sector.

### 6 MoUs between India and Bangladesh

- This oil pipeline contract is a part of the 6 MoUs which were inked between India and Bangladesh during a two-sided meeting between the foreign secretaries of both the nations at Dhaka.
- One of the Contracts was on collaboration between India's Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Betar, following with another for the equipment of an Indian Council for

### Who has been appointed as member of UPSC?- M Sathiyavathy

Labour Secretary M Sathiyavathy accepted the responsibility as member of Union Public Service Commission. She was directed oath of office and secrecy as member by Vinay Mittal, Chairman, Union Public Service Commission. Sathiyavathy is IAS Officer of 1982 batch of AGMUT Cadre. She has vast and diverse experience and has served in numerous key positions under the Government during her career span of more than 35 years. She has organised various significant positions in Central Government including first woman chief of Directorate General of Civil Aviation. She also had worked as Joint Directorate General in Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Controller, Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre, Department of Space, Ministry of Textiles, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board.



## UPSC

Union Public Service Commission is a legitimate body that organises the significant civil services exam. It has been recognized under Article 315 of the Constitution of India and comprises of a Chairman and 10 Members, who are selected and detached by President. The chairman and members of the Commission grasp office for a term of 6 years or until their age of 65 years. Article 316 of Constitution deals with nomination and term of office of associates.

### World's first microfactory for e-waste developed by - Indian origin scientist

Trained at IIT, Australian scientist of Indian origin Veena Sahajwalla has released world's 1st micro factory that can convert components from electronic waste items into useful materials for re-use.

#### Key Points

- The e-waste micro-factory uses green production technologies to convert various types of user waste including glass, plastic and timber into profitable products.
- It is modular micro-factory that can function on site of even 50 sqm and can be positioned wherever waste may be build up stocks.
- It has one or small machines series and tools that utilises patented technology to accomplish one or more jobs in the restructuring of waste items into new and working items.

#### Important Highlights

- The e-waste micro-factory has various small modules for dispensing e-waste and fits into minute site.
- The rejected tools are first placed into module for their break down. The next step consists of special robot for reorganisation of valuable parts.

- Another step then consists of utilising small furnace which converts these parts into useful items with the help of exactly controlled temperature process established via extensive research.

- The e-waste micro-factory has the power to decrease the quickly increasing issues of large quantities of e-waste that causes environmental problems.

- It suggests an inexpensive solution to such environmental challenges of our age.

- The micro-factory presents solution to burning and digging waste materials that can be altered into valuable products and items to meet existing and new industry and user requirements.

### Project Dhoop to address vitamin D deficiency amongst youngsters launched by - FSSAI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India released 'Project Dhoop' to tackle increasing incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies, specifically amongst the young people. The project focuses to inspire schools to alter their morning assembly to around noon-time between 11am-1pm to make sure that students get maximum Vitamin D absorption via natural sunlight.

#### More about Project Dhoop

- It has been initiated by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India along with NCERT, New Delhi Municipal Council as well as North Municipal Council Delhi Schools.

- The idea of noon school assembly is an advanced and effective concept to make sure that school students receive satisfactory Vitamin D through sunlight, while also choosing to opt foods like



milk and edible-oils that are enriched with Vitamins A and D.

### Did you know?

The release of project comes after increasing prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency in nation as the studies have found that more than 90 percent of boys and girls in different Indian cities are deficient in Vitamin D in spite of receiving plentiful sunshine through all the year.

Many reasons including extra use of sun screen, wearing clothes that cover most of the skin, working inside all day in AC atmosphere among others, can add to Vitamin D deficiency.

### World Homoeopathy Day celebrated on - April 10th 2018

The World Homoeopathy Day is celebrated annually on April 10 th to pay honour to Dr.Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, who is founder and father of Homeopathy system of medicine. Celebration of this day looks forward to spread additional information about this form of medicine in conventional public health. This year it is 263-birthday of founder of Homoeopathy. On this event, Vice President M.Venkaiah Naidu has initiated scientific convention on World Homeopathy Day 2018 in New Delhi planned by Ministry of AYUSH. The subject of 2-day programme was “Innovate: Evolve, Progress: Exploring Science for 40 years”.

### More about Homeopathy

Homeopathy as system of medicine was established by Dr.Samuel Hahnemann in Germany in 1796.

Now it is one of the main forms of treatment, adapted by maximum doctors of the world. It 2nd most extensively utilised system of treatment. It is one of foremost medical practices utilised to cure the diseases universally.

This system of medicine utilises a unique way of treatment by exciting body's personal healing power.

It is an alternative to the typical medicine system. The whole concept of this system of treatment is different to the other predictable forms of medicines.

Homoeopathy is extensively popular and recognized in India and has been joined into the national health care systems.

### Who has been appointed as DG of CISF ? - Rajesh Ranjan

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet led by the PM Narendra Modi has designated senior Indian Police Service officer Rajesh Ranjan as DG of Central Industrial Security Force. He will have job till November 30th , 2020.

The position was lying unoccupied after incumbent O.P.Singh promoted and joined as Director General of Up Police in January 2018. Ranjan is 1984 batch IPS officer of Bihar cadre. Previously he was Special Director General of Border Security Force.

### Central Industrial Security Force

The Central Industrial Security Force is a central armed police force under the guidance of Ministry of Home Affairs.

It was originally recognized under Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968 to protect major PSUs.

However, it was transformed to armed force with a superior ambit under an amendment to the Act in 1983.

Central Industrial Security Force is designed with providing security to numerous government



installations including national airports, metro stations and many more.

- Nowadays, Central Industrial Security Force delivers security to industrial undertakings and establishments, VIPs and is also engaged in disaster management. It also has Fire Wing to support for fire emergencies and accidents.

- It is the largest security force in the world, with force capacity greater than 1,65,000.

**India signed MoU with World Expo 2020 Dubai on - 10th April 2018**

India and World Expo 2020 inked participants' MoU on April 10th, 2018 for India's pavilion in the World Expo 2020 which will be organised in Dubai. The accord of the contract was inked by Manoj K Dwivedi, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Commerce and Najeeb Mohammed Al Ali, Executive Director of Dubai Expo 2020.

### Key Points

- The MoU delivers the formation of India's pavilion at Expo 2020 on an extra-large plot of approximately 1 acre in the 'Opportunity' segment.

- Focus will be issued to India's advances in Space, Pharmaceutical, Information Technology, Renewable Energy and Telecom segments at the pavilion.

- The pavilion will be established in public-private partnership means.

- Moreover, important industries and trades will work in tune with the Central government and State governments to participate in it.

- Different state governments, bureaus and major industry connotations and businesses have shown their willingness for taking part in the World Expo 2020 which will

be organised for 6 months beginning in October 2020.

- India has already selected Binoy Kumar, Special Secretary in the Department of Commerce, as DG of World Expo 2020 Dubai.

**India's first high-speed electric locomotive of 12000HP capacity launched by - PM Narendra Modi**

India's 1st high speeded electric train with 12000 HP engine has been initiated by PM Narendra Modi from Madhepura Electric Locomotive Factory in Bihar. It is first big Made in India's project established

and accomplished by Indian Railways in association with French firm Alstome.

### Capacity and Speed of the locomotive

- India's 1st high speeded electric train has 12000 HP engine with top speed of 110 kilometres per hour.

- With addition of this, India has links elite list of nations, consisting Russia, China, Germany and Sweden that have 12,000 horsepower and above capacity electric engine.

- Till date, greatest powerful electric locomotive in Indian Railways was of 6,000 horsepower. Usage.

- The high HP electric locomotives are loaded with IGBT based propulsion technology. They will have the capability to tolerate the tough Indian climate and will be pushed into working as freight trains.

- They will be utilised to transport coal and iron ores.

### More about IGBT Technology



- It has 3-terminal power semiconductor device, mainly utilised as electronic switch. It gives mutual benefits of high efficiency and fast switching.
- It proposals greater power advantage than standard bipolar type transistor attached with the higher voltage operation and least input losses.
- The induction of heavy haulage electric locomotives will facilitate to decongest busy routes by enhancing speed and carrying capacity of freight trains of Indian Railways.
- With 100 percent electrification, they will decrease down operating expenses of Indian Railways and also meaningfully cut down greenhouse gas releases.

### 11th World Hindi Conference to be held in - Mauritius

The 11th edition of World Hindi Conference will be organised by Mauritius in its capital Port Louis in August 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> , 2018. The session provides common platform to numerous Hindi scholars, writers and laureates from various parts of the world to contribute towards the language. It will be conducted by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in connotation with Government of Mauritius.

The theme of the Conference is “Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti“. The location of Conference is Swami Vivekanand International Convention Centre, Pailles Mauritius.

### World Hindi Conference

The 1st World Hindi Conference was organised from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January 1975 in Nagpur and was initiated by then PM Indira Gandhi. Since then, 10 such Conferences have been organised in various parts of world.

The 1st conference was attended by then PM of Mauritius Seewoosagur Ramgoolam as Chief Guest and by 122 delegates from 30 nations. Since then every year 10<sup>th</sup> January is being celebrated as World Hindi Day. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of World Hindi Conference was organised in Bhopal, MP in 2015 with the theme of Hindi Jagat-Vistar and Sambhavnaye.

### Shreyasi Singh wins Double Trap Gold in - Commonwealth Games 2018

The Day 7<sup>th</sup> of Commonwealth Games 2018 initiated with Indian shooter Om Prakash Mitharwal grabbing the Bronze in the finals of the men’s 50 metres Pistol game. This was trailed by a classic performance by Indian shooter Shreyasi Singh, who shot her career’s best points to secure the gold medal in the women’s double trap final. Shreyasi Singh defeated Australia's Emma Cox to take the leading position.

In the men’s double trap game, Indian shooter Ankur Mittal secured the bronze medal, while Tim Kneale from Isle of Man won silver and David McMath of Scotland won the gold medal. Indian boxing legend Mary Kom has also entered into the finals of the women's 48 kilograms boxing category after winning her semi-final fight against Sri Lankan player Anusha Dilrukshi Koddithuwakku. With this, Mary Kom became the 1st Indian boxer in Gold Coast to enter the final of her game.

Also, Indian boxers Amit Phangal, Vikas Krishan, Gaurav Solanki and Naman Tanwar have guaranteed the country of a medal by qualifying for the semi-finals of 46-49 kilograms and 91 kilograms categories respectively. Another Indian female boxer, Sarita Devi, lost out to Australia's Anja



Stridsman in the women's 60 kilograms quarterfinal and will not secure a medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018. She is the 1st Indian boxer to lose a game at the Games.

## India's first 5G lab installed by - IIT-Delhi

The IIT- Delhi has fitted Massive Multiple-Input, Multiple-Output lab on campus for standardisation,

Research & Development and production of 5G equipment. It will be the 1st of its kind 5G workshop in the nation and has been formed at Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management.

### Key Facts

- The workshop will serve as 5G base station prototype that will be utilised to test and confirm algorithms and also produce whole 5G base station.
- It will support in manufacturing of 5G base stations in India with sustenance and teamwork from industry.
- It will also be involved in generating skilled workers in this technology.
- In this Massive Multiple-Input, Multiple-Output workshop, numerous antennas are installed at prototype base station to permit network to interconnect reliably with huge number of mobile stations simultaneously at equal time and on similar frequency channel.
- The huge antenna array also progresses system power efficiency as mobile stations will now be needed to issue 10 times lesser power than in 3G and 4G systems.
- In routine 3G and 4G base station technology, only some antennas are positioned.

### More about 5G

- 5G is wireless communication technology grounded on 3rd-generation

partnership project. It is next generation mobile networks technology next to 4G-LTE networks.

- It is believed to suggest enhanced mobile broadband through R15 repeaters that can outfit to coverage needs.

- The 5G wireless technology will issue far greater upload and download speediness that will be 100 times quicker internet data speed than present 4G networks.

- It has power to validates spectral efficiency and power for expanded services such as Internet of Things and increased reality/virtual reality.

## Cabinet approves MoU on return of Illegal Migrants among India, UK and Northern Ireland approved by - Union Cabinet

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned MoU between India and UK and Northern Ireland on the homecoming of Illegal Migrants. Decision in this was granted at Union Cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Key Facts

- The Memorandum of Understanding will enable that Visa Free Agreement for Diplomatic passports bearers as well as liberalization of United Kingdom Visa Regime travelling to United Kingdom rightfully, after its assumption.
- It will make sure coming back of people who have no legitimate basis to be in territory of other nation after authentication of nationality to its fulfilment.
- It will facilitate in streamlining the process of homecoming of citizens who are caught to be residing unlawfully, relating to other party in quantified time-frame.



## Law on equal wages for men, women approved by - UAE

The Cabinet of UAE has passed the issuance of law on Equal Wages and Salaries for males and females.

The fresh law will make sure equal salary for males and females working in the nation. It will provide females with equal chances as partners in the UAE's progress.

### Important Highlights

- The sanctioning of the law comes in line with the government's aim to make sure that the protection of females's rights and backing their role in the national development procedure.
- The law will additionally empower females to lead forthcoming national policies and ambitious projects.
- The law on the gender equality has been greeted by females at the highest levels of the United Arab Emirates Government.

### Did you know?

- Since last few years, the United Arab Emirates Government has attempted to slender the gender gap in the country through consolidated exertions including the founding of the United Arab Emirates Council for Gender Balance in 2015.
- The government also initiated the world's 1st Gender Balance Guide in September 2017.
- Though findings show that United Arab Emirates ranks top in the Middle East for salary equality for same type of work and females have a substantial existence in the labour force of United Arab Emirate's federal government, unevenly above 50%, the nation fares far less in global gender positions.

## Cabinet delegates power to Finance and Oil Ministers to Award oil and gas blocks

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has deputized powers to Finance and Petroleum Ministers to award oil and gas exploration units to effective bidders under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy. Under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy, exploration units are to be awarded double in a year and presently awarding of units needs the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs' sanction. Delegation of these powers will accelerate decision making process on awarding units and extra enhance comfort of doing business in petroleum and natural gas sector.

### Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy

Central Government had initiated Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy in March 2016, as a fresh policy commands for Exploration & Production in petroleum and natural gas segment. Its chief features are Revenue Sharing Contract, solitary Licence for exploration and production of conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon resources etc. Open Acreage Licensing Policy is also chief ground-breaking feature under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy where stockholder can carve out units of their personal interest and present an EoI throughout year. Grounded on areas for which Expression of Interest has been articulated bidding is conducted every six months.

### Did you know?

Under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy, Empowered Committee of Secretaries considers Bid Evaluation Criteria, organises consultations



with bidders wherever required and makes suggestions to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on award of units. Then Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs sanctions the awarding of units. The whole procedure, including Inter Ministerial Consultations is quite prolonged and time taking. It hinders ease of doing business. So, it was required to curtail duration of time taken for award of units and contract areas. Under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy, the modest bidding is continuous .

### India, Timor Leste sign MoU to expand cooperation in healthcare on - 11th April 2018

India and Timor Leste signed a MoU in the field of public health to outspread reasonable healthcare to the people of the Southeast Asian country on April 11th , 2018. The Memorandum of Understanding was inked during Krishan Pal Gurjar's a four-day visit, who is the Minister of state for social justice and empowerment, to Timor Leste.

#### Key Highlights of the MoU

- The deal was in the argument for over 5 years. Its inking is believed to open more avenues of collaboration between the 2 nations.
- Under the Memorandum of Understanding, India has presented to share its proficiency in matching IT with healthcare with the help of tele-medicine.
- India has also passed its commitment to partner with the nation in its socio-economic expansion.
- The 2 countries have also settled to have enhanced contact through bilateral institutional mechanisms to further fortify the present friendly relationships between the 2 nations.

#### More about Timor Leste

- It is a sovereign state, situated in Southeast Asia. It encompasses the eastern half of the island of Timor, an exclave on the north-western side of the island bounded by Indonesian West Timor.
- It is separated from Australia which is its southern neighbour, by the Timor Sea.
- East Timor was colonised by the Portuguese in the 16 th century and was known as Portuguese Timor until November 28th, 1975, when it was announced the independent territory.
- 9 days later, it was attacked and captured by Indonesia and was declared Indonesia's 27th province the following year.

### ISRO successfully puts navigation satellite IRNSS-1I into orbit on - 12th April 2018

The ISRO on April 12th , 2018 released the navigation satellite IRNSS-1I. The satellite was put into trajectory on the PSLV-C41 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in coastal Andhra Pradesh.

#### More about IRNSS-1I satellite

- 8th in the series, IRNSS-1I finished the 1st phase of the Indian regional navigation constellation.
- This 1425-kilogram satellite is construct for a 10-year job in space. IRNSS-1I will be prepared for work in about a month after routine orbit tests.
- IRNSS-1I will be progressively forced in the coming days into a geostationary circular orbit 36000-kilometre away from Earth.
- IRNSS-1I also transports 2 types of payloads for navigation and ranging. The navigation payload will transmit navigation service signals to the subscribers, while the ranging payload having



a C-band transponder for determining the accurate range of the satellite.

- It also encompasses Corner Cube Retro Reflectors for laser ranging.

### **IRNSS-1I to replace IRNSS-1A satellite**

IRNSS-1I is supposed to substitute IRNSS-1A, the 1st of the 7 navigation satellites, which became useless after its 3 rubidium atomic clocks failed. Although IRNSS-1I is the 9th navigation satellite to be released in the 'NavIC' navigation fleet, it is calculated as the 8th as the earlier one IRNSS-1H was misplaced in a faulty launch in August 2017.

### **New rehabilitation policy for slum dwellers approved by - Haryana Cabinet**

The Haryana state cabinet sanctioned the Slum-In-Situ Rehabilitation Policy to deliver housing facility to the slum inhabitants in the state without displacing them to other areas, on April 12th, 2018. The cabinet was headed by the CM Manohar Lal Khattar. Under the fresh policy, a sum of Rupees 1.67 lakhs per inhabitant unit will be issued to the creator for the building of the houses. The expenses for building the housing facility for the slum inhabitants will be tolerated by the Centre and the state government. While the Union government will issue financial help worth Rupees 1 lakh per residence unit, the state government will deliver help worth Rupees 67,000 per residence unit.

### **Key Highlights**

- The shanty town, which are presently distributed on the government land, will be gathered partially with the help of group housing or flats.

- The carpet area preparation of 30 square meters will be replaced with 50 square meters.

- The remaining area following delivering the housing accommodation to the

shanty-town residents will then be issued as free-sale component to cross-subsidise the developers.

- The decision would benefit for keep a eye on violation, as the leftover land could be utilised for other determinations.

- The allocation of the housing units would be directed under the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner administration.

### **Payment Details**

- For Gurugram and Faridabad Municipal Corporation, the applicant will have to pay Rupees one lakh per housing unit in 2 years instalments.

- In other Municipal Corporations, the applicant will have to pay Rupees 75,000 per housing unit.

- In case of Municipal Council and Municipal Committee, the applicant will have to pay Rupees 50000 and Rupees 25000 per housing unit.

- The lock-in period of an allocated housing unit under the plan will be for ten years.

### **Reporting norms for Liberalised Remittance Scheme tightened by - RBI**

The RBI has strict reporting norms for the Liberalised Remittance Scheme under which individual can shift up to US \$2,50,000 overseas in a year. The motive behind stricting the norms is to advance monitoring and also to make sure that it compliance with Liberalised Remittance Scheme limits.

### **Key Points**

- Presently, the Liberalised Remittance Scheme transfers are allowed by banks depending on declaration made by remitter.



○ The monitoring of sticking to limit is narrowed to getting such declaration without independent verification, in absenteeism of reliable source of data.

○ Now under strict reporting norms, daily reporting system by Authorised Dealer banks of transactions under Liberalised Remittance Scheme has been placed, which will be reachable to all the other Authorised Dealers.

○ It will be compulsory for banks to upload daily transaction data undertaken by them under Liberalised Remittance Scheme.

### **Liberalised Remittance Scheme**

○ Liberalised Remittance Scheme is facility delivered by Reserve Bank of India for entire resident persons including minors to freely remit up to defined amount in United States Dollar for current and capital account purposes both.

○ The plan was introduced in February 2004 and its guidelines are provided under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. After its release, the Liberalised Remittance Scheme limit was US \$25,000, but it has been updated in stages consistent with prevailing macro and micro economic situations.

○ Presently, Liberalised Remittance Scheme limit for all inhabitant individuals, is US \$2,50,000 per financial year.

○ Under Liberalised Remittance Scheme, persons can avail remittances for foreign education, travel, Medicare, gifting and donations. The forwarded money can be utilised for purchase of shares and property also.

**Industrial production grows 7.1% in February 2018 by - CSO**

As per to the information released by the Central Statistics Office, factory output calculated in terms of the Index of Industrial Production had full-grown 7.1 per cent in February 2017. It was mainly boost by robust performance of manufacturing sector coupled with capital goods and consumer goods. The Index of Industrial Production documented development of 8.54 per cent in November 2017, 7.1 per cent in December 2017 and 7.4 percent in January 2018. During April-February time period, Index of Industrial Production has decelerated to 4.3 per cent from 4.7 per cent compared to same period 2017-18 fiscal year. Index of Industrial Production

The Index of Industrial Production is compound indicator that calculates short period alterations in volume of production of industrial goods. It is accumulated and printed monthly by Central Statistical Organization.

### **Base year:**

○ The Central Statistical Organization had reviewed the base year of the Index of Industrial Production from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in May 2017 to get structural changes in economy and advances quality and representativeness of directories.

○ The revised Index of Industrial Production shows the alterations in industrial sector and also bring into line it with base year of other macro-economic indicators like Wholesale Price Index and GDP.

### **Sector wise items and weightages:**

○ It covers 407 item groups. The goods comprised falls into three groups including Manufacturing with 405 goods, Mining with one product and Electricity with one item.



○ The volume of the 3 subdivisions are 77.63 percent, 14.37 percent, 7.9 percent respectively. The reviewed combined volume of 8 core Industries in the Index of Industrial Production is 40.27 percent.

### • Artificial intelligence device to detect diabetic eye problems approved by - US

The Food and Drug Administration-FDA of the USA sanctioned an artificial intelligence device, on April 12th, 2018 that can sense diabetic eye issues, therefore, enabling doctors to diagnose the condition without the need of any information or images. This artificial intelligence device is known as 'IDx-DR'.

#### **How the device will detect eye damage from diabetes?**

The device utilises an artificial-intelligence algorithm to detect images of the eye, clicked with a retinal camera Topcon NW400.

The photograph is then uploaded on a cloud server on which IDx-DR software is installed.

The IDx-DR software detects the image and afterward answers about the condition of the patient's eye.

#### **Significance**

IDx-DR is the 1st such device, sanctioned by the Food and Drug Administration for marketing, which delivers screening decision without any clinician detection. This feature allows the routine healthcare benefactors to diagnose diabetic-eye issues.

The device can assist doctors in spotting 'Diabetic Retinopathy', which is the most common cause of loss of vision among over

30 million Americans residing with diabetes.

The United States regulator also elucidated that the usage of this device is not permitted for people with a history of laser eye treatment, people with persistent vision loss and certain retinal disorders.

### Government constitutes 13-member Task Force for fast-tracking implementation of - UAV technology

The Union Government has formed 13-member task force to make road map and fast-track implementation of unmanned aerial vehicle technology in the nation. It will be led by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha and will have delegates from government, industry and sectoral professionals.

#### **Terms of Reference of Task Force :**

The task force will produce roadmaps including results, timelines, employment and review process and measurable metrics for implementing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technology. Its road-map will emphasis on R&D, acquisition and commercialisation, regulatory outline and preference for Make in India.

It will initiate implementable suggestions for central and state governments, industry and research organizations. It will produce its report in 6 months. It will observe global practices and cooperate with relevant shareholders, for the groundwork of its report. It will also have essential consultations and communications with Government firms, industry and research institutions.

### • Vinod Khanna posthumously honoured with



## Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2017 on - 13th April 2018

Late famous actor and politician Vinod Khanna was posthumously awarded with prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2017. He is the 49th person who received the award, measured as the highest award in Indian cinema presented by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### More about Vinod Khanna

- Vinod Khanna was born on 6th October 1946, and he featured in about 146 films in his film-career crossing more than 4 decades. He made his debut in 1968 with movie Mann Ka Meet.
- Some of his famous movies are Mere Apne, Insaaf and Amar, Akbar, Anthony. Last time he was seen in Shah Rukh Khan's movie Dilwale in 2015.
- Vinod Khanna has also secured many awards, including the Filmfare award for best supporting actor and the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award.
- In 1982 Vinod Khanna decided to leave movies industry at peak time of his career to trail his spiritual guru Osho Rajneesh.
- He worked as Union minister for culture and tourism in 2002 under BJP. Later, he also became minister of state in Ministry of External Affairs. At the time of his death in 2017, he was sitting BJP member of Lok Sabha from the Gurdaspur constituency in Punjab.

### Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- The award is presented by Union Government for his fantastic contribution to growth and development of Indian Cinema. It was recognized in 1969 to honour the birth anniversary year of

Dadasaheb Phalke, who is the father of Indian cinema.

### Did you know?

It is highest formal award in Indian cinema. The award contains a Swarn Kamal, a cash prize of Rupees 10 lakhs and a shawl.

## India to host second edition of IMC in October 2018 in - New Delhi

The 2nd edition of India Mobile Congress is planned to be organised from October 25th - 27th, 2018 in New Delhi. The pronouncement was done following the positive debut of the 1st edition in 2017. The news was shared by Union Communications Minister Manoj Sinha on April 13th, 2018 during the starting ceremony of India Mobile Congress. He informed that the 2018 edition of the India Mobile Congress would be accommodated by the Union Department of Telecommunications and the Cellular Operators Association of India. The occasion helps as an ideal platform for policy-makers, industry and controllers to engage in expressive deliberations to initiative the future track of the communications sector.

### Key Highlights

- The 2018 edition of India Mobile Congress will have contribution from ASEAN and BIMSTEC members as well.
- Globally, over 200,000 professionals from numerous sectors of the telecom industry consisting 5G, start-ups, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and allied industry sectors are believed to take part in the event.
- The occasion is believed to be instrumental in driving further expansion in India's technology adoption across sectors.
- It will bring closer all shareholders in the Telecommunications and Information



Technology environment and deliver the correct forum for discussions on the connectivity explanations.

## UN Road Safety Trust Fund launched by - United Nations

- UN has initiated United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund to advance road safety across the world to protect lives and stop the loss of opportunity related with road accidents.
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is secretariat for the trust deposit.
- The deposit has potential to motivate global actions to address road safety condition, structure under development and experience received over Decade of Activities for Road Safety 2011-2020.

### More about UN Road Safety Trust Fund

- The deposit focuses to quicken progress in cultivating global road safety by connecting gaps in mobilization of properties for effective action at all stages. It will mobilize resources from governments, NGOs, private sector and persons.
- It will be backing efforts along 5 pillars of Global Plan for Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, which consist of better-quality safety of road infrastructure and wider transport networks; reinforced road safety management dimensions; improved safety of vehicles; enhanced behaviour of road operators and enhanced post-accidental care.
- The deposit will work as catalyst for very much required development towards road safety aims of Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Development Goals aims 3.6 and 11.2 target to halve number of worldwide deaths and damages from road accidents and deliver access to harmless, cheap, accessible and sustainable transport systems and upgraded road protection for all.

## Gram Swaraj Abhiyan launched by - The Union Government

The Union Government initiated 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan-Special Interventions', a most powerful outreach programme to provide welfare schemes to select villages which require particular attention. It was released on the occasion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti.

### More about Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- The programme was released on the guidelines of rural development schemes like Antyodaya grounded on principle of conjunction and saturation.
- The launch focuses for 100 per cent coverage of 7 schemes released by Central Government for qualified beneficiaries in 3-week time period from April 14<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- The aim of programme is to encourage social harmony, reach out to poor village households, get feedback on current programmes, aim on doubling farmers' income and re-emphasise national urgencies including cleanliness and fortifying Panchayati Raj institutions.
- The 7 schemes covering it are Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ujala scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Saubhagya and Mission Indradhanush.
- Government has nominated number of directors and deputy secretaries to expand these programmes to 100 per cent saturation in rustic areas.
- It will help 17,000 poor villages by delivering them free LPG connections, electricity source, JanDhan accounts, two Prime Minister Insurance plans and



immunisation of children will be available in twenty-one days.

## China develops 3D conic device to increase solar-thermal conversion by - Zhu Jia scientists team

A team of Chinese scientists headed by Zhu Jia have established a fresh 3D conic instrument that can greatly enhance the solar-thermal conversion efficiency. The study was printed in April 2018 in the National Science Review which is an English journal affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

### More about Artificial Transpiration Device

- Known as 'Artificial Transpiration', the instrument is inspired by the transpiration process of trees.
- The instrument is loaded with a special 1D water-pathway which can decrease the energy loss in conduction.
- It can increase the solar-thermal conversion rate to 85%, much greater than the common devices that increase conversion rate to only 40%.
- The instrument will also open-up more possibilities to use the solar energy, as previously, the usage of solar energy in some sectors was withdrawn due to its low-conversion rate.
- Researchers connected this instrument to solar waste-water treatment and the trial presented that the instrument could recover clean water as well as re-cycle heavy metals including copper and cadmium.

## Dharmendra to be conferred Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement award shared on - 15th April 2018

Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra will be deliberated with the prestigious Raj Kapoor

Lifetime Achievement award and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be deliberated with the Raj Kapoor Special Contribution award. The news was shared by Maharashtra culture minister Vinod Tawde on April 15th, 2018. The awards, founded by the Maharashtra state government, will be distributed at the 55th Maharashtra state Marathi Film Festival.

### More about Dharmendra

- Dharmendra has over 250 films to his name. His six-decade old career claims of more than 100 box office successes consisting of Bandini, Anupama, Satyakam, Seeta Aur Geeta, Sholay, Chupke Chupke and Yaadon Ki Baarat.
- The 82-years old actor Dharmendra got the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding involvement to Hindi cinema in 1997.
- He was also a member of the 14th Lok Sabha of India, representing Bikaner constituency in Rajasthan from BJP.
- In 2012, he was deliberated India's 3rd highest civilian award Padma Bhushan by the then President Pratibha Patil.

### Other awardees

- Veteran Marathi actor Vijay Chavhan has been selected for the V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement award.
- He is best known for his role of Mavshi in the well-known Marathi stage drama - Moruchi Mavshi.
- He has also performed in Hindi films.
- Actor and Director Mrinal Kulkarni has been nominated for the V.Shantaram Special Contribution award.
- Kulkarni has performed in both films and Television and is famous for featuring in the television show 'Son Pari'.
- Kulkarni also directed 'Prem Mhanje Prem Asta' and the Marathi historical drama -Rama Madhav.



## Generalized System of Preferences: US announces eligibility review of – India

The United States Trade Representative has officially declared that it is revising eligibility of India, Indonesia and Kazakhstan in Generalized System of Preferences based on concerns about nations' agreement with programme. The revaluations are grounded on Donald Trump administration's new Generalized System of Preferences nation eligibility valuation process as well as Generalized System of Preferences nation eligibility petitions

### Key Points

For India, Generalized System of Preferences nation eligibility review is grounded on apprehensions connected to its compliance with Generalized System of Preferences market access criterion and 2 petitions connected to same criterion. The appeals were filed by United States dairy industry and United States medical device industry demanded review of India's Generalized System of Preferences welfares, given Indian trade barriers affecting United States exports in those segments.

For Indonesia, Generalized System of Preferences nation suitability review is grounded on concerns related to its compliance with Generalized System of Preferences market access criterion and Generalized System of Preferences services and investment criterion. Kazakhstan's suitability review is grounded on apprehensions related to its compliance with the Generalized System of Preferences worker rights criterion.

### Generalized System of Preferences

Generalized System of Preferences is largest and oldest United States trade preference programme announced in 1976. It is intended to promote economic development by permitting duty-free entry for thousands of goods from elected beneficiary nations. Under it, a widespread range of industrial and agricultural goods initiating from certain developing nations are given preferred access to United States markets.

## e-FRRO scheme launched by government to facilitate - Hassle-free travel for foreigners

Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated web-based application e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office to permit overseas tourists and travellers to avail of paperless and cashless visa services.

e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office removes requirement for any human interface and using it overseas touring India will be no longer require to substantially visit office of Foreigners Regional Registration Office for visa services including registration and visa extension.

### e-FRRO scheme Objectives

Sized centralized, transparent online platform for overseas to benefit visa related services. Provide faceless, cashless and paperless facilities to overseas with user friendly practices.

### Salient features:

Online Foreigners Regional Registration Office Service delivery process without the need of visiting Foreigners Regional Registration Office barring exceptional cases. In this online system, overseas can avail as many as 27 visa and immigration concerned services in India from their place of stay. Overseas now can apply online on web portal



and obtain services through email and post without their physically presence at FRRO office.

Using this app, overseas are needed to generate their own User-ID by registering themselves. After that, they can apply online for various visa and immigration services in India.

The e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office scheme is being implemented on Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking with negligible added spending, taking cue from previously successfully running e-visa scheme that has received revenue of over Rupees 1400 crores since its initiation in November 2014.

## Indian mosquitoes susceptible to Zika virus: NIV study

Recent National Institute of Virology study has studied that Indian *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that transmits dengue and chikungunya viruses, is easily vulnerable to zika virus. During the investigation it was revealed that Indian *Aedes aegypti* mosquito disease-ridden with African strain MR-766 of zika virus can simply transmit infection.

### Key Points

This investigation shows that Indian mosquitoes receives ZIKV in natural way. They were contaminated with zika virus experimentally via orally feeding. These contaminated mosquitoes, harbour the virus in their saliva glands were further were permitted to bite on infant and suckling mice.

The organs of sick mice were exposed to 3 detection tests histopathology, real-time RT-PCR, and Immunohistochemistry to checked for existence of virus. The results of tests indicated clinical symptoms of ZIKV including trembling, lonely behaviour, nervous indications, nil movement, and lethargy in

mice after four to five days after being bitten by the contaminated mosquitoes.

### Importance

Zika virus is developing danger unless contained especially in areas where vector *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is in huge numbers, including India. So, there is necessity to discover possibilities for containing virus. This observation will assist to explore appropriate model for understanding Zika virus's natural transmission and disease progression.

### Zika virus -

Zika virus is vector borne disease communicated primarily by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, the similar mosquito that transmits dengue. It can also spread via blood transfusion and sexual contact. It causes serious birth defects including neurological disorders and foetal deformation in which new born babies are born with abnormally smaller heads. Besides a possible link between virus and Guillain-Barré syndrome is also alleged. There is no specific vaccine presently available to treat Zika virus. The best form of prevention is protection against mosquito bites and clearing dump areas of mosquitoes breeding.

## India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 held in - New Delhi

The India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 was organised from April 16th-17th, 2018, in New Delhi.

The label of conference was 'Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships

towards Effective Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540'

### Key Points

- The Wiesbaden Process was introduced by Government of Germany in 2012 to fortify implementation of United



Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 via Government-Industry corporations.

- India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 was presented by Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Government of Germany and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was industry partner. Members from Government and Industry of 39 nations and specialists from United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs had took part in tconference.

- The Conference delivered prospect to members to share experiences on their export control systems and classify legal and technical assistance, achievement plans and challenges in national implementation of United Nations Security Council 1540.

### UN Security Council Resolution 1540

- It starts legally binding responsibilities on all states to accept and enforce suitable and effective measures to avoid to propagation to non-state performers of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

- India has recognized legally backed robust export-control system to device United Nations Security Council 1540 as part of its long-standing promise to international non-proliferation.

**Beta portal for comparing telcos' tariffs launched by - TRAI**

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has revealed beta version of portal [www.tariff.trai.gov.in](http://www.tariff.trai.gov.in) to permit users see tariffs of different telecom service providers and various Licensed Service Areas at solitary place. The 1st of its kind platform to be

supported by the government focuses to bring on single platform telecom tariffs offered by various operators and in various service areas.

### Key Points

- The web portal is projected to deliver extra transparency and news on multiple tariff offerings by telcos and assist users at large.

- The portal's beta version exhibits regular tariffs, special tariff vouchers, promotional-tariffs and value-added service packages among others.

- The web portal will not only profit users but also assist other shareholders do a comparative analysis.

- It also delivers various tariff plans and various another tariff information in a downloadable format.

### Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is an independent regulator of telecom occupations in India.

- It was recognized in 1997 through TRAI Act, 1997. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India also studies the tariffs plans for telecommunication services in India.

**Plastic-eating enzyme developed by - Scientists**

A scientist team freshly established a enzyme that can eat plastic, which further can be utilised to combat one of the world's mega pollution issues.

The research was done by the scientists from Britain's University of Portsmouth and the United States Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory while investigating the building of a natural enzyme that was located in a waste-recycling centre a few years before in Japan.

### Key Findings of the study

- The enzyme - Ideonella sakaiensis 201-F6, is capable to eat plastic in the 1940s.



- The plastic is presently utilised in millions of tonnes of plastic bottles.
- The key objective of the scientists was to observe its structure to support protein engineering, however, they unintentionally structured an enzyme that was much better at breaking down plastics.
- The discovery could deliver a re-cycling solution for the tonnes of plastic waste that presently persist in the environment for many years.
- Apart from this, the enzyme can destroy polyethylene furandicarboxylate which is a biodegradable standby for plastics that is being known as a standby for glass-beer bottles.

### \$48 million Loan agreement inked with World Bank for - Meghalaya Landscapes Management Project

The Union Government Finance Ministry has inked Loan Agreement with World Bank for IBRD loan of US \$48 million for Meghalaya Community-Led Landscapes Management Project. The plan focuses to fortify community headed landscapes management in designated landscapes in Meghalaya by 2023.

#### Key Points

**A. Meghalaya's natural resource such as land, water sources and forests are source of income for majority of state population. The plan contains 3 components:**

- Solidification of information and capacity for natural resource management.
- Community headed landscape planning and implementation.
- Project management and domination.

#### Significance of Project

- It will assist in managing these reducing resources, by solidifying communities and traditional institutions.
- The Restoration of dishonoured and highly inferior landscapes under the plan will rise water for native communities and upgrade soil productivity which will in return upsurge incomes and reduce poverty.

### Elections to UN's NGO committee won by - India

Eleccions conducted by UN's non committee won by India on Non Governmental Organizations in the Asia Pacific States Category on 16th April 2018. India won these elections with highest number of votes - 46 followed by Pakistan (43), Bahrain (40) and China (39). As a rest India would be serving 4 years term in the committee starting from 1st January 2019.

#### Important Points

- In the elections, Ira received only 27 votes and lost the elections completely.
- Voting took place through secret ballot.
- For Asia Pacific States Category , ECOSOC elected India, Pakistan , Bahrain and China .

### Union Environment Ministry notifies Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018 on - 16th April 2018

The Union Environment Ministry advised the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018, on April 16th, 2018. According to the revised guidelines, the phasing out of Multi-layered Plastic will now be legal. The Multi-layered Plastic is non-recyclable, non-



energy that could be recovered and has no alternative usage.

### **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018**

- The revised guidelines suggested a central registration system for the registration of the manufacturer, importer or brand proprietor.

- The guidelines clarify that the registration processes should be automatic and should take into account comfort of doing business for manufacturers, recyclers and producers.

- The centralised registration system will be grown by Central Pollution Control Board for the recording of the manufacturer, importer or brand proprietor.

- Manufacturers with presence in over 2 states require to apply for national registry with the CPCB, while, minor manufacturers or brand proprietors operating within single or 2 states need a state-level registration with the SPCB.

- The Rule 15 of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018 has been detached. This instruction explains the obvious pricing of the carry-bags.

### **FAO designates 14 new sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems on - 19th April 2018**

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation has selected fourteen sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. These sites will be formally revealed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation on April 19th, 2018. These fresh heritage locations belong to Asia, the Middle-East and Central America areas and are situated in China, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Portugal, Sri Lanka and Spain.

These fourteen new locations range from oasis to rice terraces, wasabi farming to raisin production. These locations have shaped sceneries, art works and endangered sustainable ways of living and food production.

### **14 new Agricultural Heritage Sites**

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

### **Union Environment Ministry releases the draft of National**



## Clean Air Programme on - 17th April 2018

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change sanctioned the draft of the National Clean Air Programme on April 17th, 2018. The ministry has published the draft on their website and asked for comments from different shareholders by May 17th, 2018.

The National Clean Air Programme is a national action strategy that proposes numerous plans to reduce air pollution.

### Highlights of the National Clean Air Programme

- National Clean Air Programme focuses to enhance and progress an effective and a proficient network to monitor the ambient air quality around the nation for a inclusive and reliable database.

- The strategy calls for an efficient information distribution and public outreach process for within time actions to prevent and lessen air pollution.

- It also purposes to have a possible management plan for inhibition, control and reduction of air pollution.

### NCAP details

- The Ministry has comprehensive a host of measures to reduce air pollution under the National Clean Air Programme and few of these are:

1. Air quality monitoring network
2. Identification of alternate technology for real-time monitoring
3. Forming 10 city super network
4. Indoor-air pollution observing and management
5. Air pollution health effect observations
6. Air quality estimating system
7. Issuance of announcement on dust management

8. 3-tier process for evaluation, valuation and inspection for implementation of the plan

## US Supreme Court restricts deportation of convicted immigrants on - 17th April 2018

The United States Supreme Court constrained deportation of immigrant offenders by ruling on April 17th, 2018 that the United States Immigration and Nationality Act demanding the deportation of immigrants sentenced of certain violence crimes is unconstitutionally ambiguous.

The court cancelled the provision in a 5-4 ruling. The ruling came on an application filed by sentenced California burglar James Garcia Dimaya, who is a lawful immigrant from the Philippines.

### Key Highlights

- The United states SC supported a 2015 lower court ruling that the provision demanding Dimaya's deportation formed doubt over which crimes may be measured violent, risking uninformed enforcement in destruction of the US Constitution.

- The Supreme court's ruling will not affect various serious crimes, consisting murder, rape, terrorism offenses which are precisely enlisted in the law as bases for deportation.

- Hence, this could bound the impact of the ruling even though the government does not gave information on which crimes cause the most number of deportations.

- The Supreme court's ruling comes at a time when there is a strong focus on immigration questions in the USA, as Donald Trump looks forward to rise deportations of criminal immigrants.



## SC stays NGT declaration of Amarnath shrine as 'silence zone' on - 16th April 2018

The India Supreme Court crashed down the order of the National Green Tribunal that had announced the Amarnath cave shrine as a 'silence zone' and banned religious offerings including chanting of hymns and ringing bells outside the entry point on April 16th, 2018. A 2-judge bench including Justice Madan B Lokur and Justice Deepak Gupta remained the National Green Tribunal command while hearing a application filed by the Amarnath Shrine Board against the instruction on the bases that a conclusion in a case could not be grounded outside the pleading of the parties.

The Amarnath Shrine Board had confronted the National Green Tribunal order in the Supreme court, disagreeing that the green tribunal cannot give orders on the Amarnath shrine related to ban the use of horses and ponies in Vaishno Devi shrine premises in Jammu. The judges' bench specified that the NGT had surpassed its jurisdiction in giving the order. The Amarnath cave temple, located in the Himalayas in the J&K state, is measured as one of the most holy places for Hindus. The cave is shielded with snow during most of the year except a short time period in summer when it is unlocked for pilgrims.

### Did you know?

The NGT had on December 13th, 2017 announced the Amarnath cave shrine as a 'silence zone' and banned religious offerings like hymns chanting and ringing bells outside the entry point. The action was an effort intended at preserving the shrine and its ecosystem, indirectly avoiding avalanches and maintaining its untouched nature. The tribunal also acknowledged that nobody

would be allowed to bring anything from the stairs and everyone should be checked properly at the entry point. It also announced the iron grills elimination presented in front of the Shiva Linga in order to permit the pilgrims a better view of the structure. The tribunal also restricted pilgrims from taking any personal belonging including mobile phones beyond the last barrier and instructed the shrine board to build some place for keeping the valuables of the devotees.

## NASA launched CHES mission to study matter between stars on - 7th April 2018

The NASA effectively released Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph-CHES 4 from the Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, on April 17th, 2018.

The mission released on a National Aeronautics and Space Administration Black Brant IX sounding rocket will study the interstellar medium, the material among stars. The interplanetary space between distant stars is not empty. It comprises vast clouds of neutral molecules and charged plasma interstellar medium, which may, grow into fresh stars and even planets. The Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph mission would chiefly emphasis on these floating interstellar translucent gas clouds, which deliver the important building blocks for the stars and planets. The clouds are known to have very little densities and the only medium to observe them is to calculate how a cloud is affected by a star and its related outpouring of stellar material moving



through

it.

### Key Highlights

- The CHESS-4 instrument was established by the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder.
- The mission will observe the interaction of the stellar wind with the adjacent interstellar medium to observe the excitation of atoms and molecules in the interface area.
- This would empower the investigators to study the catalysts of galaxy chemistry and the underdone materials for forthcoming generations of stars and planets.
- The investigation team will also measure the temperature and motions of the clouds along the line of sight.
- The new version of CHESS also structures an updated instrument, a re-tuned spectrograph, which will deliver about 4-5 times higher spectral resolution than earlier launches.
- The greater resolution will be ideal for detecting the activated molecules against the background signal produced by the interstellar medium.

### 1st meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges held in New Delhi for - POSHAN Abhiyaan

The 1st meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan was organised in New Delhi. It observe participation of NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr.Rajiv Kumar, CEO Amitabh Kant and senates of various ministries of Central and State Governments.

### More about National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges

- Its directive is to deliver policy guidelines to address nations nutritional challenges through synchronized inter-sectoral action.
- It is also instructed to manage and review conjunction between Ministries and review programmes for nutrition on a three-monthly basis. It will present its report to the Prime Minister every six months.

### More about POSHAN Abhiyaan

- POSHAN Abhiyaan was initiated by PM Narendra Modi in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan in March 2018.
- POSHAN represents Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition.
- It objects to make sure holistic progress and satisfactory nutrition for pregnant females, mothers and children.
- It aims to decrease level of under-nutrition and other concerned issues by guaranteeing convergence of various nutrition concerned plans.
- It also marks under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth rate.
- It will check and review execution of all such plans and uses present structural preparations of line ministries wherever available.

### Over 95 percent of world's population breathing unhealthy air reported in - State of Global Air Report 2018

According to the State of Global Air Report 2018, more than 7 billion people of the world's population are breathing unhealthy-air and reside in areas of unsafe air. The report was published by the Health Effects Institute on



April 17th, 2018.

### Highlights of the Report

- According the report, prolonged contact to air pollution results into an approximated 6.1 million deaths globally in 2016.
- The exposure to air pollution resulted to heart attacks, strokes and long-lasting lung disease, leading to early deaths.
- The report also reports about those who are exposed to the burning of solid fuels in their homes for cooking or other purposes. Burning of solid fuels causes the indoor air pollution.
- In 2016, more than 2.5 billion individuals were exposed to air pollution from solid-fuels including wood and charcoal.

### State of Air Pollution in Asian Countries

- Maximum of population affected with air pollution, reside in low and middle-income countries in Asia.
- This joint exposure results into 1 in 4 air pollution deaths in India and approximately 1 in 5 in China.
- India and China were combinedly accountable for more than 50% of global deaths due to air pollution.
- Pakistan, Bangladesh and India felt the intense rise in air pollution levels since 2010.

### Study in India programme to attract foreign students launched by - Government

The Ministry of Human Resources Development in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs has sanctioned 'Study in India' programme to fascinate foreign students to pursue higher education in India. The programme is same to initiative released by Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Canada. It goals at

boosting nation's share of international students and next, progress global reputation and rankings of Indian educational institutions.

### Study in India programme

- Encourage additional foreign students to select India for higher education.
- Double India's market share of global education disseminates from less than 1 per cent to 2 per cent.
- Advance global ranking of Indian educational institutes.

### Features

- The programme will deliver meritorious foreign students fee waiver and scholarship.
- It will focus students from thirty nations, primarily in Asia and Africa, including Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Thailand, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Rwanda, among others.
- Government will propose complete fee waiver to top 25 per cent meritorious candidates, 50 per cent fee waiver to the next 25 per cent candidates and 25 percent waiver to the next 25 per cent foreign student applicants.
- The proposed fee waiver and scholarship will be finalised by institute concerned grounded on predefined structure.
- The concerned institutes will bear spending on fee waiver grounded on cross- subsidisation funding.
- The seats for foreign students will not affect number of seats which are kept for Indian students in any educational institute.

### India forms committee to reform higher defence planning on - 18th April 2018



The Union Government formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, Defence Planning Committee to reform the process of higher defence planning, on April 18th, 2018. The committee is believed to drive the nation's military and national security policy, draft capability development strategies and guide and accelerate defence tools acquisitions.

### Composition of the committee

- The permanent body would be headed by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- It will encompass the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, 3 service chiefs and the Defence, Expenditure and Foreign Secretaries.
- The Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman of the Chief of the Staff Committee will be the member secretary of the committee.

### Functions of the Committee

- The committee will be needed to undertake external security danger assessment and define national defence and security priorities.
- It will also have to make draft reports on national military strategy, national security strategy and international defence engagement strategy.
- It will also have to make a roadmap to build defence production ecosystem and a plan to improve defence exports and priority capability development strategies.
- It will have to present all its draft information to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Also, 4 sub-committees could be shaped under the Defence Planning Committee across 4 broad areas.

- The involvement and the terms of reference of the sub-committees will be finalised distinctly.

## Nasscom, TechUK launched - UK-India Tech Alliance

The National Association of Software and Services Companies and TechUK initiated fresh UK-India Tech Alliance. The leading technology business bodies of India and United Kingdom signed MoU in this regard during PM Narendra Modi's visit to the United Kingdom.

### The UK-India Tech Alliance

- The alliance is intended at growing partnership on skills and fresh technologies, supporting policy development and cheering innovation and lay groundwork for roadmap which will be cooperatively presented in June 2018.
- It will encourage growth of skills desirable for world where artificial intelligence, machine learning, giant-information analytics and cyber-security have become chief technology growth areas.
- It will be important partner for government, provided that sounding board and professional advice for policy development to make sure that both governments cultivate growth in this sector and beyond.
- The memorandum of understanding obligates 2 organisations to interchange information and learn lessons from FutureSkills initiative launched by National Association of Software and Services Companies, discover expansion of FutureSkills platform, work collectively to support people-to- people and business-to-business relations between India and United Kingdom.



It sounds for exploring wider partnership to progress digital skills in both nations and reassure Indian firms active in United Kingdom to distribute digital skills training opportunities as part of cross-sector Digital Skills Partnership convened by United Kingdom government.

### Which country opened its first movie theatre after 35 years - Saudi Arabia

On 18th April 2018, Saudi Arabia opened its first public movie theatre after a gap of 35 years. Before that it was prohibited due to religious reasons.

Special Screening of film Black Panther was held in Riyadh. This was attended by Saudi Culture and Information Minister Awwad Alawwad along with other guests. More movie theatres will be opened in coming years. By 2030 there will be roughly 350 cinema screens.

All films which will be screened will be subjected to censorship as per media policy rules of Kingdom.

### 34 global technology firms sign Cybersecurity Tech Accord on - Cyber-security matters

34 leading global technology organisations including Facebook, Microsoft, HP, ARM, Cisco, and Oracle have signed Cybersecurity Tech Accord to work together on cyber-security matters. Under it, signatory firms have agreed to cooperate on stronger defence systems, no-offensive cyber-attacks, and defend against tampering of their products, capacity building and collective action. The participant firms view

Tech Accord as Digital Geneva Convention.

4 Principles of Cybersecurity Tech Accord

1. Safeguard subscribers and customers everywhere
2. Defend cyber-attacks on innocent citizens and initiatives
3. Empower subscribers, clients and developers to toughen cyber-security
4. Partner with each other and same minded collections to enhance cyber-security

### Features of Accord

The 4 principles of cyber-security Tech Accord intended at advancing online security and resiliency across the earth. Signatory firms decided to mount tougher defence against cyber-attacks, regardless of motivation underlying them. They promised not to assist governments launch cyber-attacks against blameless citizens or enterprises.

They will defend their products and services from any exploitation that could permit their usage in cyber- attacks. They will authorize developers, and people who practice technology products to advance their capacity to preserve against cyber-attacks. It comprises combined work on developing stronger security practices.

Under this harmony, signatory firms object to take cooperative action to found formal and informal partnerships with industry, civil society and security researchers, to advance association for disclosure of weaknesses and other threats. The aim is to diminish potential for introduction of malevolent code.

### Chandrayaan-2 launch postponed to - October-November 2018

The ISRO has suspended release of India's second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2' from April 2018 to



October-November 2018. The release was suspended for additional tests recommended by national level committee to review Chandrayaan-2.

### More about Chandrayaan 2

- Chandrayaan-2 is 2nd mission of India towards Moon and is more advanced version of previous Chandrayaan-1 mission that was released earlier in 2008.

- It has been established in India by Indian Space and Research Organisation. It consists of Spacecraft, Lander and Rover configuration.

- In this mission, Indian Space and Research Organisation will for 1st time effort to land a rover on moon's southern pole.

- It will be released on board of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III.

- It is Indian Space and Research Organisation's 1st inter-planetary mission to land rover on any heavenly body.

- The orbiter weighs approximately 3,290 kilograms and it will orbit around moon and achieve purposes of remote sensing moon.

- Once Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F10 put spacecraft in 170 kilometres x 20,000 kilometres elliptical orbit, spacecraft will be manoeuvred towards 100 kilometres lunar orbit by firing thrusters and then lander housing the rover will separate from spacecraft.

- The 6 wheels rover will run on the surface of moon and will gather soil, rock samples for on-site chemical investigation to collect scientific data on moon's topography, mineralogy, lunar exosphere and signatures of hydroxyl, water & ice. The information will be transmitted to Earth through spacecraft.

- The rover will circulate around landing site in semi-autonomous mode as defined by the ground instructions.

### Updated QR code for offline Aadhaar verification launched by - UIDAI

The UIDAI has announced updated 'QR code' for offline Aadhaar verification to boost its privacy measures during any use. The updated 'QR code' is intended at adding an additional privacy layer to Aadhaar after Unique Identification Authority of India announced the concept of virtual identification.

#### Key Points

- The restructured 'QR code' will only reveal non-sensitive details including name, address, photo, and date of birth.

- It can be utilised for offline subscriber verification without disclosing 12-digit Aadhaar identification number.

- The fresh QR code has photo and can be utilised in offline mode to protect against any tampering of documents.

- Aadhaar card bearers can download and print their biometric ID with QR code from Unique Identification Authority of India website or its mobile application. Subscribers also can manually blacken Aadhaar number and utilise printout with new QR code for launching their identity, offline too.

- The printed QR code when scanned will only read non-sensitive information without revealing 12-digit Aadhaar identification number.

#### QR code

- Quick Response code (QR) is two-dimensional machine-readable bar code made-up of black and white square.

- This code can be read by the smartphone cameras.



- It is utilised for storing other data that connects directly to text, emails websites phone numbers. It is talented of 360 degrees high speed reading.
- Quick Response Code can store about 7089 digits as compared to conventional bar codes which can store max 20 digits.
- It encrypts same amount of information in one-tenth the space of a traditional bar code.
- It carries data both horizontally and vertically. It has error rectification capability and data stored in it can be stored again, even if it is incompletely damaged or dirty.

## • Make BCCI public body and bring under RTI by - Law Commission

The Law Commission of India has suggested to declare BCCI as a public body. It also suggested Board of Control for Cricket in India and it's all associate cricket associations to be considered under RTI law regime.

### Recommendations of LCI

- Board of Control for Cricket in India's monopolistic activities, directly or indirectly, hampers the fundamental rights of inhabitants, players, and other officials.
- Private citizen should be able to move high court against Board of Control for Cricket in India for any violation of his fundamental duties.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India has been flying under radar of public scrutiny and fortified environment of opacity and non-accountability.

- It has shaped an impression in minds of general public that corruption and other forms of ill practices are unpleasantly affecting the most popular sports cricket played in India.

- Board of Control for Cricket in India should be thought responsible, under all situations, for any violations of basic human rights of shareholders.

- Board of Control for Cricket in India exercises 'state-like' controls in the regulation of cricket, and therefore, comes under the definition of 'state' under Article 12 of the Constitution.

- Board of Control for Cricket in India practically acts as National Sports Federation and Sports Ministry website should explicitly mention Board of Control for Cricket in India in list of National Sports Federation. This will inevitably bring it within the purview of the Right To Information Act.

## World Liver Day celebrated on -19th April 2018

The World Liver Day is celebrated annually on April 19th to spread awareness and considerate importance of liver in human body and how liver diseases can be treated. The 2018 theme for World Liver Day is 'Riding New Waves in Liver Diagnosis, Staging and Treatment. According WHO, liver diseases are 10th most communal cause of death in India.

### Important Highlights

- Liver is unique organ in human body and has distinct quality of regeneration.
- It is the 2nd largest organ and plays an important role in digestive system of our body. Everything our body eats and absorbs passes through the liver.



○ liver fights against infections, eliminates toxins, controls our cholesterol levels, regulates blood glucose, synthesise proteins and releases bile to aid digestion. It has been observed that even 75 percent of liver can be safely detached without any untoward consequences due to its capability of regeneration.

○ Therefore, to take care of the liver, one needs to accept a healthy lifestyle and have to eat a balanced diet of proteins, grains, dairy foodstuffs, fruits, vegetables, and fats.

## e-SANAD portal and National Academic Depository integrated by - The Ministry of Human Resource Development

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has released integration of e-SANAD portal and National Academic Depository in a proposal to make education system more crystal clear in India. e-SANAD

e-Sanad is project focused at online submission and verification of documents with eventual aim to extend contact-less, cashless, faceless and paper-less document attestation service.

Using it, any type of document including personal, educational and commercial can be validated and apostilled.

The project was intended and being implemented by National Information Centre in management with CBSE, States and Union Territories and Ministry of External Affairs in a phased way.

### National Academic Depository

○ National Academic Depository is 24X7 online store-house of all academic awards including diplomas certificates,

degrees, marks detail cards and many more, suitably digitised and lodged by academic boards, educational-institutions, suitability assessment bodies.

○ It makes an easy access to recovery of academic award and authenticates and guarantees its genuineness and safe storage.

○ National Academic Depository encompasses of 2 interoperable digital depositories including NSDL Database Management Limited and CDSL Ventures Limited.

## Qatar approves draft law on property ownership by non-Qataris on - 19th April 2018

Qatar declared the sanction of a draft law on regulating the ownership and usage of properties by foreigners, on April 19th, 2018. The decision was publicized during a Cabinet meeting headed by Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani.

### Significance

The draft law states that non-Qataris might get and utilise properties under specific conditions.

The law is applicable to land space consisting buildings and residential units, in adding to the disinterest units in residential areas.

### Current property regime in Qatar for Non-Qataris

As per to the present property ownership regime in Qatar for Non-Qataris people, they may capitalize and own land, buildings and constructions in three designated projects:

1. Pearl – Qatar
2. West Bay Lagoon
3. Al Khor Resort Project

The Non-Qataris are also allowed to acquire rights over:

Real-estate that is rented for a term period of 99 years and is renewable on similar terms.



Residential complexes for a term period not more than 99 years and in general a right to convey property belonging to another person for its own profit, utility or advantage. The law also allows a non-Qatari owners to apply for visas and residency for themselves and their families without any local sponsorship.

On August 9th, 2017, Qatar permitted visa-free entry to residents of 80 nations including India, Canada, United States and United Kingdom, to become the most open nation in the Gulf region.

The initiative was focused at inspiring more people to travel to the country and discover its well-known hospitality, cultural heritage and natural reserves.

In November 2016, Qatar started a free-transit visa that permitted passengers of all nationalities transiting through the nation to reside there for a least of 5 hours up to extreme 96 hours.

**Facebook to roll out new privacy choices from - 18th April 2018**

Social media massive Facebook declared that it would be rolling out fresh privacy choices in compliance with European Union rules. The alteration will be 1st seen by European inhabitants, on April 18th, 2018. The social network will initiate executing the new privacy measures to comply with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation, which become active from May 25th.

#### **New Measures**

- Under the new policy, Facebook subscribers will be asked to review and make decisions about the ads they receive.
- The subscribers will also be asked to evaluate and choose what to share

from the political, religious, and relationship information on their profiles.

- The subscribers will also be permitted to choose in or out of use of facial recognition technology.

- Talking on the same, Facebook's Chief Privacy Officer Erin Egan and Deputy General Counsel Ashlie Beringer informed that they not only want to comply with the law, but also go outside their obligations to build fresh and improved privacy experiences for everyone on Facebook.

- Egan and Beringer informed that Facebook subscribers in the European Union will begin seeing the requests the following week so they can make choices before May 25th.

#### **Other Details**

- Facebook would be taking initiatives to comply with the European Union rules that limit ads and public viewing of information for teens.

- This will mean that there will be no facial recognition for subscribers under the age of eighteen and there would also be a limitation on who can watch certain data shared by them.

- Further, to comply with GDPR, Facebook will also restrict what it shows to subscribers between the ages of thirteen and fifteen unless they get consent from a parent.

**Swaziland King changes his country's name to 'Kingdom of eSwatini' on - 19th April 2018**

Swaziland's King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch, on April 19, 2018 officially changed the name of his country to the 'Kingdom of eSwatini'. Accordingly, the country, a member of the Commonwealth, will now be known by its historic name of eSwatini, a Swazi language



name that stands for 'place of the Swazi'. The announcement was made during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the King's 50th birthday as well as the 50th anniversary of Swazi's independence from British colonial rule.

### Reason behind change of name

- According to the last trends, African nations returned to their ancient names on receiving independence.

- Nyasaland became Malawi, Rhodesia became Zimbabwe and Bechuanaland became Botswana.

- However, this minute landlocked country of Swazi in the southern Africa did not alter its name after receiving complete independence in 1968 from the Britishers.

- Moreover, the name 'Swaziland' even aggravated the citizens as it is a mix of Swazi language and English. Also, there had been instances when 'Swaziland' was jumbled with 'Switzerland'.

- Several suggestions for changing the name of nation were proposed in past years; however, it was only in 2015 that the issue was considered by lawmakers.

- King Mswati III has also mentioned to the nation as the 'Kingdom of eSwatini' many times in his speeches, during his address to the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 also.

- Now that the 'Swaziland' has been retitled to 'eSwatini', this may lead to the rewriting of the nation's constitution.

- It could also initiate changes for the Royal Swaziland Police Force, the Swaziland Defence Force and the University of Swaziland.

- Furthermore, nation's currency may request modifications as all of the nation's notes and coins bear the name of the 'Central Bank of Swaziland'.

- The fresh name will have to be recorded with the international unions like the UN, The Commonwealth, African Union and WTO.

## Government to roll out initiative for prevention & control of viral hepatitis by - The Union Health Ministry

The Union Health Ministry has finalised to event out a creativity for prevention and control of viral hepatitis. The news was shared by Union Health Minister J.P.Nadda through a tweet on April 20th, 2018.

J.P.Nadda informed that the National Health Mission has finalised to event out & Integrated initiative for prevention and control of viral hepatitis & with a budget of over 517 crore rupees for a time period of 3 years.

Viral hepatitis? Viral hepatitis is liver inflammation due to a viral contamination. It may occur in acute or chronic forms.

The most communal causes of viral hepatitis are the 5 hepatotropic viruses Hepatitis-A, B, C, D and Hepatitis-E.

Most common hepatitis types are avoidable and treatable. While Hepatitis-A and Hepatitis-B can be prohibited by vaccination, effective treatments are available for Hepatitis-C.

### Key Highlights

Under the initiative, the Health Ministry has finalised to start a state synchronization unit under the state National Health Mission for efficient roll-out of the programme in 26 large and 4 small states.

The Ministry is also planning to form 50 state laboratories for supporting in diagnosis and training of the district hospitals for screening of hepatitis.

It aims to scale-up to 100 treatment and 665 testing centres over a period of next 3 years.



The ministry has also planned to begin 15 model treatment centres, which will work as referral centres for diagnosis and treatment of Hepatitis-C and contribution in capacity building.

## Deepika Padukone, Virat Kohli among TIME's 100 Most Influential People published on - 19th April 2018

The TIME Magazine published the 100 Most Influential People List of 2018 entitling individuals whose time is now, on April 19th, 2018.

The 2018 list structures the names of 4 self-made Indians- Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone, Indian cricket skipper Virat Kohli, Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal and CEO Microsoft Satya Nadella. Flipkart Executive Chairman Sachin Bansal inscribed the profile for Bhavish Aggarwal, while Sachin Tendulkar inscribed for Virat Kohli, Hollywood actor Vin Diesel inscribed for Deepika Padukone and Walter Isaacson, a former Managing Editor of TIME, prescribed for Satya Nadella.

### Highlights of the list

- The list also represents the United States President Donald Trump.
- The list of 100 Most Influential People of 2018 have the names of actress Nicole Kidman, Wonder Women's starrer Gal Gadot, Prince Harry and his fiancé Meghan Markle and Rihanna and Jennifer Lopez.
- The list also represents the Heads of various countries such as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, Chinese President Xi Jinping, North-Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, Ireland's PM Leo

Varadkar and Bangladesh's PM Shiekh Hasina.

- In the field of sports, the list designates Chloe Kim, who is record- breaker in snowboarding.
- Astronaut Peggy Whitson also made it to the list this year. Whitson freshly finished her 665th cumulative day in space, which is extra than any other American.
- 45 people on the list are under 40 years of age-group consisting the youngest designer and actor Millie Bobby Brown.

## GoM recommends uniform road tax structure for vehicles across country by -Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

The Group of Ministers established by Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has planned One Nation One Tax policy for seamless movement of commercial vehicles across the nation. The two-day meeting of Group of Ministers organised in Guwahati, Assam was attended by transport ministers from UP, Assam, HP, Bihar, Goa, Kerala, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya and Jharkhand.

### Recommendations of GoM

1. Uniform road tax for vehicles across states It will permit transfer of vehicles from one state to another without imposing road tax. It will have check on people registering their automobiles in low-tax states and running them in other states.
2. Tax Structure Centre has the authorities to decide principles on which motor vehicles tax can be imposed. The unvarying tax should be based on invoice price of automobiles in 3 slabs. 8 per cent tax on vehicles below 10 lakhs, 10 per cent for vehicles costing between 10-20 lakh, and 12 per cent for



vehicles more than 20 lakh. Diesel automobiles may have to pay 2 per cent extra taxes, while electric vehicles will be given 2 per cent discount.

3. National passenger vehicles permit for passenger cars

There should be national bus and taxi-permit on lines of such permit for goods transport. It will provide the much-required fillip to public transport and assist decreasing road congestion and its attendant problems.

## North Korea to halt its Nuclear Tests declared on - 21st April 2018

On April 21st, 2018, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared that the nation would be halting its nuclear tests and intercontinental missile launches and will also be shutting down its atomic test site.

The official announcement stated that from April 21st, North Korea has stopped nuclear tests and launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). It further stated that Pyongyang will be shutting down a nuclear test site in the country's northern side to prove its vow to suspend nuclear tests.

This decision was made during a meeting of the ruling party's full Central Committee, which had convened to discuss a new stage of policies.

Donald Trump, US president, China, South Korea and Japan welcomed this decision.

### Did you know?

North Korea has announced nuclear missile testing only and that does not include short

and mid range missile launches and ground based testing.

## Ordinance for death penalty for child rapists approved by - The Union Cabinet

The Union Cabinet has permitted promulgation of Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance to give death penalty for rapists of under 12 years girls. The law amends IPC, Criminal Procedure Code, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and Indian Evidence Act.

### Key Provisions of Ordinance

- It delivers strict punishment of jail for at least twenty years or life imprisonment and death for rape of under 12 years girls. It delivers penalty with imprisonment for rest of life or death penalty in case of gang rape of girl under 12 years.
- It intensifies at least punishment from ten years to twenty years for crime of rape of girl below sixteen years, which can be stretched to imprisonment for rest of life. It rises minimum punishment for rape of women from rigorous imprisonment of seven years to ten years, which can be stretched to life imprisonment.
- It offers for fast investigation and trial, which must be finished in 2 months. It proposes six months' time limit for discarding of appeals in rape cases. It delivers devoted manpower for investigation of rape cases in a time-bound means.
- It offers nil provision for anticipatory bail for individual accused of rape/gang rape of girl below 16 years.
- It has also been provided that court has to provide notice of fifteen days to Public Prosecutor and



demonstrative of victim earlier deciding bail applications in case of rape of a girl below sixteen years of age.

- It has provision for preserving national database and profile of sexual offenders by National Crime Records Bureau.

- This information will be shared on regular intervals with States and Union Territories for monitoring, tracking and examination including verification of antecedents by police.

### Commonwealth Cyber Declaration adopted by - Commonwealth countries

The Commonwealth nations at the end of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London have accepted Commonwealth Cyber Declaration to take action on cybersecurity by 2020. The announcement is measured as world's largest and most geographically varied inter-governmental commitment on cybersecurity cooperation.

#### Key Points

- Below this announcement leaders of 53 commonwealth nations decided to work closely to assess and reinforce their cybersecurity outlines and response mechanisms.

- It also goals to handle criminal clusters and hostile state actors who stances a world-wide threat to cybersecurity.

- The announcement forms common vision for making sure that internet remains free and open around Commonwealth. It pledges associates to increase national levels of cyber security and amplified collaboration to counter those who look forward to undermine our values, security, even integrity of elections.

- The capital below it will support Commonwealth associates to avoid and respond to cybersecurity hazards affecting governments, trades and citizens.

- It will permit low and middle-income Commonwealth associates to carry out national cybersecurity capacity reviews before next CHOGM in 2020. It will support projects across Commonwealth to provide technical help, training and guidance to address variety of cybersecurity and cybercrime threats.

### Civil Services Day celebrated on - April 21st 2018

12th edition of National Civil Services Day was celebrated on April 21st, 2018 across India. This year observation of the day aimed on 'Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts'. A function was planned on this occasion, by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. Civil employers from various corners of nation come together and met each other and learnt from each other's experiences of working in the public field. On this day, the PM Award for Excellence in Public Administration was conferred upon best civil servants.

#### More about Civil Services Day

- The National Civil Services Day is observed every year on April 21st, when civil-servants re-dedicate themselves to cause of the citizens and reintroduce their promise to public service.

- On this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel had addressed the 1st probationers batch at All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House,



New Delhi. Sardar Patel had referred bureaucrats as “steel frame of India” in this famous speech.

- On this day, the ‘Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration’ is offered in 3 categories.

- These awards were instituted in 2006. The awards have been introduced with an idea to admit, recognise and award the extraordinary and advanced work completed by officials of Central/State Governments for the wellbeing of common residents.

### CCEA approves restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme by - Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs led by the PM Narendra Modi permitted restructured

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. The updated plan will emphasis on training, construction infrastructure, stepping up creativities for e-governance under e-Panchayat

Mission Mode Project to distribute on the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be executed during

time period from April 2018-March 2022 with sum proposed price of the plan is Rupees 7255 crores.

#### Key Points

- The plan will spread to all states and Union Territories of nation and will also have institutions of rustic local government in non-Part IX areas, where survival of Panchayats is not there.

- The plan will have both central component-National Level activities together with National Plan of Technical Assistance, Mission Mode project on e-Panchayat,

Panchayat's Incentivization and state component Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

- The execution and monitoring of activities of plans will broadly be associated for achieving Sustainable Development Goals with chief thrust on Panchayats recognized under Mission Antyodaya and 115 aspirational districts as recognised by NITI Aayog.

#### Importance

- The restructured plan will assist over 2.55 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions to progress governance capabilities to distribute on Sustainable Development Goals via inclusive local governance with attention on ideal usage of available resources.

- It will endeavour to attain chief principles of Sustainable Development Goals, reaching farthest 1st and universal coverage, along with gender equality.

- It will prioritise to subjects of national position that marks the excepted groups the most, including poverty, nutrition, teaching, principal health services, vaccination, hygiene, water conservation and many more.

### President promulgates Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance on - 22nd April 2018

President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, which will permit the government to remove properties and assets of loan defaulters who escape the country, on April 22nd, 2018. The President sanctioned the regulation after its endorsement by the Union Cabinet led by PM Narendra Modi. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill was presented in the Lok Sabha on March 12th, but it could not be taken up for



debate due to commotions in the house over various matters.

### Key Provisions of the Ordinance

- The regulation looks forward to seize properties of economic offenders who have port the nation to avoid facing criminal prosecution.

- The provision will be applicable for economic offenders who rejected to come back, peoples against whom an arrest warrant has been released for a arranged offence as well as wilful bank loan nonpayers with an outstanding of more than ?100 crores.

- The regulation also delivers for removal of assets without a belief and paying off lenders by selling off the fugitive's belongings. Such economic offenders will be under trail under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

### Other Details

- As per to the regulation, a deputy director selected under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 may file an application prior to a special court elected under the 2002 Act to announce an individual as a fugitive economic offender.

- The application will also have the data of the fugitive's locations, a list of properties supposed to be profits of a wrongdoing, foreign properties and a list of people having an interest in these belongings.

- Upon getting the application, the special court will release a notice to the person, guiding him to look at a specified place within the restricted time of 6 weeks.

- Any property concerned to the fugitive economic lawbreaker may provisionally be involved without the former permission of the special court, provided that the application is filed previously the court within thirty days.

- Petitions in contradiction of the orders of the special court will presented earlier to the high court.

**World Earth Day 2018 celebrated on - 22nd April 2018**

World Earth Day was celebrated on April 22nd, 2018 around the world. On the event of Earth Day on Sunday, influential around India and the world stated solidarity over shield and preservation of the planet Earth, with stress on reduction of plastic usage and adopting a supportable lifestyle.

People across the world also came together to observe the Earth Day. The Earth Day was 1st observed in the US in 1970, and the idea of memorializing such a day was advocated by Gaylord Nelson, who was a United States senator from Wisconsin. Gaylord Nelson, who had been an observer to the destruction caused by an enormous oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969 and thought the perseverance of the issue. As per to The Earth Day Network, current year's Earth Day is finalised to distributing awareness about the pollution triggered by plastic and the required to eventually terminate its usage. The Earth Day went global by the 1990s and is now observed by minimum 192 nations.

**World Book and Copyright Day 2018 observed globally on - 23rd April 2018**

The World Book and Copyright Day was celebrated around the world on April 23rd, 2017 to limelight the power of books and to encourage UNESCO's vision of knowledge societies that are inclusive, diverse, equitable, open and participating for all citizens. The World Book and Copyright Day pays tribute to books and authors by supporting



everyone to discover the pleasure of reading.

### World Book Capital for 2018: Athens, Greece

- Every year, UNESCO along with the international firms representing the 3 major sectors of the book industry -publishers, booksellers and libraries, select the World Book Capital for the 1 year with effect from 23rd April each year.

- This year, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization designated Athens, Greece as the World Book Capital for 2018. The city of Athens was selected for its efforts in making books available to the city's entire inhabitants including immigrants and refugees.

#### Did you know?

- 23rd April is measured as a symbolic date for world literature. In 1616, on this day, Cervantes, William Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega passed away.

- The Day also marks the birth or death of other prominent authors for instance Maurice Druon, Haldor K Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov and Manuel Mejia Vallejo.

### French National Assembly passes controversial immigration law on - 22nd April 2018

The National Assembly of France on April 22nd, 2018 approved a controversial immigration law, after 61 hours of discussion. The controversial law, which was passed with 228 votes in favour, 139 against and 24 abstentions, uncovered unprecedented divisions in President Emmanuel Macron's young centrist party. The Controversy Though the law approved largely with the help of Macron's Republic on the Move party, one of the party's chief members, Jean-Michel Clement,

protested and proclaimed his exit from the party after casting a no vote. Politicians of both the right-wing and left-wing parties also voted against the law along with the far-right party, National Front.

#### Key Highlights

- The National assembly of the French Parliament was believed to vote on April 20th , on the bill, but the discussion stretched into the weekend due to over 1,000 amendments proposed by delegates.

- Over 200 of the alterations were recommended by LREM members as they agreeably challenged Macron's plans to double the upper time immigrants can be detained in detention to 90 days.

- While the government fortified the bill as balanced, it has been opposed by right-wings for being too soft and by left-wings for being repressive.

### India's first \$100 billion IT company - TCS

TCS, the country's largest IT outsourcing organisation created history by becoming the 1st Indian organisation to attain \$100 billion market capitalisation milestone. Market cap is value of organisation that is operated on stock market. The Indian IT mega hit \$100 billion in market cap after it surpassed

Rupees 3,447 per share, presumptuous the present value of the rupee at 66.2150 against the United States dollar.

#### Key Points

- With this, Tata Consultancy Services joined the ranks of the world's 100 most valued organizations and now positions 97th.

- Tata Consultancy Services has also overhauled outsourcing and consultancy huge Accenture which has market cap of



\$98.20 billion. Tata Consultancy Services grips 1st position among most treasured international pure play technology services organisations.

- INTL Business Machines Corp. has market capitalisation of \$133.48 billion, but it has both hardware and technology services actions.

- Presently there are 96 organisations which have market capitalisation of more than \$100 billion.

- In 2007, Mukesh Ambani headed Reliance Industries Ltd., was the 1st Indian organisation to surpass the \$100 billion mark. Presently, its market capitalisation is at \$89.36 billion.

### First court in south India to introduce e-court fee payment facility - Madras HC

The Madras High Court became 1st court in South-India and completely 8th in the nation to introduce e- court fee payment provision. It was combinedly released by CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee at the principal seat of the High Court in Chennai as well as at its Madurai Bench.

#### e-court fee payment facility

- The fresh system will make able complainants who file cases in High Court to pay judicial stamp duty to government through e-stamps, which can be bought both online and offline. It will pave way for calmer and secured way of paying stamp duty. It will also assist to handle sale of counterfeit judicial stamps.

- The e-stamps can be bought online through web portal of Stock Holding Corporation after simple registration procedure. Payments for it can be made through net banking/debit cards and so on.

- The e-court fee slips can be involved along with case bundles while presenting them in High Court Registry at time of filing cases.

- The benefit of the system is that the court fee can be paid as and when subscriber requirements without bothering about non-availability of physical stamps.

- It will save time of complainants from standing in long queues at the physical counter.

### Gifting of obsolete weaponry to friendly countries is planned by - Government

The Union Government is scheduling to gift obsolete weaponry that can be renovated at least cost to friendly nations in a bid to enhance defence collaboration with them. Specific military platforms being observed under this suggestion are artillery guns, armoured carriers, helicopters, naval patrolling carriers and radar systems that are outdated or near obsolescence.

#### Key Importance

- Fulfilling the appeals of these nations will open doors for deeper strategic appointment with these nations.

- It will also structure ways for enduring partnership through deploying training teams, offering special courses in India and supply of spares, repair work being carried out in India over the long time.

- It will also help to create base for Indian defence trade to increase export of new defence platforms, which have been develop in India to these nations.

#### Did you know?



- In the course of India's appointment with many overseas nations, especially during various higher-level visits, number of friendly overseas nations have projected need for 2nd-hand military equipment for their armed-forces on a gift basis.
- These appeals have come from some nations of Indian Ocean Region, few African nations, Central Asian Republics and the Asia-Pacific region.

### Union Ministry of Road Transport inaugurated 29th National Road Safety Week on - 23rd April 2018

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari initiated the 29th National Road Safety Week while stating the ministry's priority to make sure safety of road users in the nation on April 23rd, 2018. The Ministry holds the Road Safety Week every year with an objective to generate awareness among general public and improve upon the safety of road users. Present year, Road Safety Week is being planned from April 23 to April 29th, 2018 and the aim is on schools and commercial drivers. Various events have been planned for school and college students, drivers and all road utilisers.

The subject for the road safety week for the 2018 is is 'Sadak Suraksha - Jeevan Raksha'.

While releasing the Road Safety Week, the Ministry also lime-lighted that India is exploring the prospects of signing a MoU with South Korea for introduction of Highways Information System in the nation. This system will be established on lines of the system run by the Express Highways Information Corporation of South Korea, with combined monitoring of a highway at a

centralized control room.

### Indian Road Safety Campaign

- On the same event, Nitin Gadkari published a paper on road safety developed by Indian Road Safety Campaign.
- Indian Road Safety Campaign is a youth headed national mission led by students and alumni of IIT Delhi, promoting road safety.
- It is presently working on generating awareness on road safety, developing technologies, simplifying laws and improving the post-accident emergency care system.
- Indian Road Safety Campaign also plans an annual road safety championship 'Safer India Challenge' in coordination with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and various state polices.

### Supreme Court seeks government's response on plea against Section 377 on - 23rd April 2018

The Supreme Court of India pursued an answer from the Central Government on pleas challenging the IPC's Section 377, which criminalises homosexuality, on April 23rd, 2018. The answer was pursued by a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice A.M.Khanwilkar and Justice D.Y.Chandrachud on a plea by hotelier and LGBT activist Kesav Suri.

### Did you know?

- The supreme court had ordered on January 8th, 2018 that it will reassess its 2013 verdict upholding Section 377 that criminalises gay sex.
- It was found that a section of people who exercise their choice should never remain in a state of fear.



- After mentioning the issue to a larger bench, the court had said - person autonomy and also distinct orientation cannot be atrophied unless the restriction is observed as reasonable to yield to the morality of the Constitution.
- It ruled that otherwise the children would become victim, and protection of the children in all scopes has to be guarded and endangered.
- The supreme court's January 8th ruling had come on a petition by Navtej Singh Johar, who is a Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Bharatnatyam dancer, superstar chef Ritu Dalmia and others holding that Section 377 was violative of fundamental rights under Article Article 21.

### Loan agreement with World Bank for Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project signed by - The Union Government

The Union Government's Ministry of Finance has inked a Loan Agreement with the World Bank for IBRD credit of US\$ 125 approximately for Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project.

The aim of project is to encourage Made in India innovation, foster native product development and fast-track commercialization procedure in bio-pharmaceutical and medical instruments industry in India.

#### Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project

- The project looks forward to attain its aim by linking critical skill and organizational gaps to promote reasonable and innovative healthcare items generation for comprehensive development and enhance competitiveness in India.

- The project will sustain consortia of public, private, and educational institutions to overwhelmed key market catastrophes presently holding-back progress of innovative bio-pharmaceutical and medical instruments industry in India.

- The segments of project are solidification of pilot-to market innovation ecosystem, quickening of pilot to market procedure for specific items and project management, monitoring and assessment. The last date of project is June 2023.

### Giant mosquito with 11.15 cm wingspan found in - China

Researchers have located a giant mosquito with a wing-extension of 11.15 cms in China's Sichuan

province. The mosquito related to the world's largest mosquito species *Holorusia mikado*. This species mosquito species was 1st discovered in Japan and generally have wing-extension of about 8 cms.

#### Key Points

- The mega mosquito was discovered in August 2017 during field-trip to Mount Qingcheng in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province.
- The mosquito mostly feeds on nectar and not on blood.
- The adults of this species have lifetime of only few days and are presented in areas with dense vegetation. They are weak fliers due to their greater bodies and when they fly and are more like hopping.

### World's smallest land fern discovered in - Western Ghats

Scientists have found the world's minutest land fern known as Malvi's adder's-tongue fern which scientifically is known as *Ophioglossum malviae*, in Ahwa forests of



Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district. Ferns are seasonal and generally cultivate with first monsoon rains. They are not very common even in the area they are found in.

### Key Points

- The fingernail size fern relates to class known as adder's-tongue ferns, which were named after their resemblance to snake's tongue. Its size is only one cm, however, the most similar adder's-tongue fern is 10 centimetre tall.
- Its spores have unique thick outer layer which is not present in same species.
- It is varied from same ferns in not just size but also in various other complex fern features.

### NASA's lunar orbital platform 'Gateway' to begin construction by - Early 2019

National Aeronautics Space Administration will initiate working on its Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway by early 2019 when it will honour the 1st contract for the programme. The lunar platform will be National Aeronautics Space Administration's intentional 'staging' area for observations of the moon and the deep-space environment. It will also work as an entryway space station for Astronauts drifting to and from Mars.

### Key Highlights

- National Aeronautics Space Administration would start the work on the platform by 1st spending on power and propulsion elements in early 2019, trailed by habitation components.
- They will be released towards the moon, in that order, starting in 2022.
- The platform is believed to orbit the moon in 2025.

- It is supposed to carry a 4-astronaut crew on thirty days missions.
- The lunar platform- Gateway would deliver impetus to National Aeronautics Space Administration's aim of fashioning another human-landing on the moon.
- It will aid in regulate whether water near the surface could be utilised to produce propellant for deep-space missions.
- The moon's gravity could also benefit a spacecraft diminishing the blistering velocities used for 6 months journeys back-and- forth to Mars, thus facilitating re-entry to Earth's atmosphere.

### CCEA approved restructured National Bamboo Mission on - 25th April 2018

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs accepted the centrally sponsored scheme 'National Bamboo Mission' under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture on April 25th, 2018, for the lasting period of 14th Finance Commission. The National Bamboo Mission will make sure integrated progress of the bamboo segment by launching effective linkage of farmers with industry.

### Empowerment of Executive Committee

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also sanctioned the Empowerment of Executive Committee for preparation of guidelines of the National Bamboo Mission and to make the deviations therein.
- The committee will also offer specific approvals for the States, with the consent of Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- The government has passed an outlay of Rupees 1290 crores for execution of the Mission during the residual period of



fourteenth Finance Commission. Of the sum share, Rupees 950 crores will be borne by the centre.

### Beneficiaries

- The structure will profit the farmers, local artisans and associated people and industries in bamboo sector.
- It will bring about 1 lakh hectares area under bamboo plantation, which will directly profit over 1 lakh farmers.
- The Mission will emphasis on expansion of bamboo in States where it has social, commercial and economical benefit including the complete North-Eastern region and States including MP, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, AP, Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

### Government to tie up with US and Finland to jointly develop - New pollution-forecast system

The Ministry of Earth Sciences is tethering up with United States and Finland to grow new pollution-

forecast system that will assist anticipate particulate matter levels minimum 2 days in advance and at greater resolution. The new system will equally develop with expertise from Finnish Meteorological

Institute and United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### Did you know?

- Presently, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research, run out of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, works as top forecaster of pollution trends in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad. It produces similar air quality profile for a day in advance, for these

cities. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research detects pollutants like PM1, PM2.5, PM10, NOx, CO, Ozone, SO2, BC, Methane, Benzene, VOC's, Mercury.

- Freshly, Union Environment Ministry also had issued draft of National Clean Air Programme that focuses to progress air quality monitoring in India by growing number of pollution monitoring stations and, including it into a pollution forecast system.

### New pollution-forecast system

- The fresh system will utilise a diverse modelling approach and computational methods from that employed in the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research model.

- System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research will continue to be the main support for pollution forecast but this fresh system will practice different method of study for healthier resolution and more precise forecasts.

### Indo-Malaysian Armies to conduct defence exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018 from - 30th April 2018

Indian and Malaysian armed forces will be directing the combined training exercise 'HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018' in the thick forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia from April 30th, 2018 to May 13th, 2018. The workout will be a part of continuing Indo-Malaysian defence collaboration and will be focused at improving collaboration and harmonization between the armies of both the countries.

### Highlights of the HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018



- As a part of the exercise, the two countries will be sharing the expertise of each other's commissions to conduct counter-insurrection operations in the forest terrain of Malaysia.
- Indian commission will be embodied by 4 GRENADIERS, who have enrich operational experience in predictable and counter-insurgency warfare as well.
- While, the Malaysian commission will be embodied by soldiers from 1 Royal Ranjer Regiment and the Royal Malay Regiment.
- The training will be a cross training followed by a field exercise of 7 days in the forests of Hulu Langat wherein both armed forces will combinedly train, strategy and perform a series of training actions.
- It will not only deliver an excellent chance to both the armed forces to improve their operational skills but will also add to improve the strategic partnership among India and Malaysia.
- This is for the 1st time wherein a combine training exercise involving Indian and Malaysian armies will be organised on Malaysian land.

**Government sent second notice to Facebook, Cambridge Analytica on - 25th April 2018**

The Union Government presented a 2nd set of notices to Facebook and Cambridge Analytica over the recent information breach, on April 25th, 2018. The organisations have been given the time limit of May 10th to reply to the extra queries. The government look forward extra responses after investigating discrepancies between the earlier responses given by the British data analytics company and the American social

networking massive. The notice informed that given the submission by Facebook after its public apology, the onus now lay with Cambridge Analytica. Significance

By conveyance the notices, the government wants to send out a solid signal to international firms operating in IT and information platform that any information handling of Indians, in violation of law and privacy norms, will be observed seriously.

### **Responses sought by the Indian government from CA**

- In its new notice to Cambridge Analytica, the government wanted a response on the kind of information that was gathered in India and the research instruments utilised to capture such information.
- The government has sought reply on whether the firm had harvested any information through a 3rd-party app and whether with or without subscriber consent.
- It has also looked forward information on entities operating under the parasol of Cambridge Analytica and particulars of directors.
- Further, the government has interrogated the analytics organisation on the non-disclosure pacts inked by the organisation with its connections and clients for Indian assignments and has questioned it to share the templates that were utilised in inking such contracts.

**Indu Malhotra, first senior woman advocate to become SC Judge on - 27th April 2018**

In a 1st, senior advocate Indu Malhotra is going to make a start for the 1st woman lawyer to be selected as Supreme Court Judge. The Union Law Ministry has allegedly cleared her name for the post. With the decision, Indu Malhotra will be the 1st woman



lawyer to be directly nominated from the Bar as a Judge in the Supreme Court. She is believed to be sworn into the new post on April 27th, 2018.

### Important Highlights

- After Independence, only 6 women judges have been selected to the Apex Court.
- Actually, in the 1st 39 years of the Supreme Court, no woman judge was appointed to it.
- In 1989, Justice Fathima Beevi was nominated as the 1st woman judge of the Supreme Court.
- The other woman judges designated to the apex court in succeeding years consists of Justice Sujatha Manohar, Justice Ruma Pal, Justice Gyan Sudha Misra and Justice Ranjana Desai.
- Currently, the Supreme Court has only single woman Judge- Justice R Banumathi.

### More about Indu Malhotra

- Indu Malhotra is a senior counsel practicing in the Supreme Court of India for the last thirty years.
- In 2007, Indu Malhotra had become the only 2nd woman to be nominated as a senior advocate by the supreme court, 3 decades after Leila Seth achieved the feat.
- Indu Malhotra, has given the impression in various domestic and global commercial arbitrations.
- In December 2016, she was selected as a member of the High-Level Committee in the Ministry of Law and Justice by the Union Government to reassess Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India.
- She was also selected Amicus Curiae by various benches of the Supreme Court in various issues. Freshly, she was selected as an amicus for the restoration of Jaipur as a heritage city.

## • BARC developed cheaper, lightweight bulletproof jackets - Bhabha Kavach

The BARC has established Bhabha Kavach, a forthcoming generation bulletproof jacket that is cheaper, lighter. It has been named after Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, father of Indian nuclear programme. The jacket was produced at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre's Trombay centre in Mumbai in response to appeal from Ministry of Home Affairs and Central Reserve Police Force.

### Important Points

- Bhabha Kavach is made of boron carbide and carbon nanotube polymer mixture and carrying weighs 6.6 kilograms only.
- The materials used in it decrease weight by nearly 50 per cent as compared to currently used heavy steel-armoured jackets that weights between 10 kilograms to 17 kilograms.
- It has accepted over 30 tests carried out by expert agencies. These materials have been developed in India at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and are spin-off from nuclear technology.
- Apart from being lighter, stronger and more reliable, this Bhabha Kavach is cost effective also. It will cost Rupees 60,000-70,000 as compared to trade in bulletproof jackets costing around Rupees 1.5 lakh.
- Bhabha Kavach is capable to survive eight 7.62 millimetres bullets fired from AK 47 rifle from distance of 5-10m. It can even survive 5.56 millimetres bullet of Indian Small Arms System.
- It is presently being verified by joint team of Central Reserve Police Force, ITBP and CISF. The northern command of Indian Army is also testing jacket variants in J&K.



○ If jackets qualify various tests, it will be produced by defence public sector unit Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited.

### **More about Bhabha Atomic Research Centre**

○ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is India's leading nuclear research facility located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is multi-disciplinary research centre with widespread infrastructure for advanced R&D.

○ Its Research & Development covers whole spectrum of nuclear science, engineering and concerned areas. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre's core command is to sustain peaceful applications of nuclear energy, primarily for power generation.

### **23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council in held in - Gandhinagar**

The 23rd meeting of Western Zonal Council was organised at Gandhinagar, Gujarat under the leadership of Union home minister Rajnath Singh. The meeting was witnessed by CM Maharashtra and Gujarat, ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Union Territories of Daman and Diu administrators and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and senior officers from Central and state governments.

### **Zonal Councils**

○ Zonal Councils were organised under the State Reorganization Act, 1956 to increase Inter-State collaboration and harmonization among the States.

○ Presently, there are total 5 zonal councils viz. Northern, Western, Eastern, Central and Southern.

○ They are not constitutional bodies and they are only purposeful and

advisory bodies. The Union Home Minister is its Chairman.

○ Zonal Councils provide a mutual meeting ground for the States to encourage and facilitate synchronized efforts for fostering economic and social progress.

○ They are regional fora of obliging endeavour for States connected with each other geographically, economically and culturally.

○ They are authorized to discuss and make approvals on matters of common interest in field of economic and social planning, linguistic minorities, border disputes and inter-State transport and many more.

### **Seed import-export portal launched by - The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released seed import-export web-portal to simplify export-import of seeds and planting material. It has been established for making trade process easy. The ministry has detached all bans imposed on export of seeds of different varieties to boost export of seeds. It also has made import-export policy elastic and transparent for determining availability of good quality seeds to farmers found out universally. The import-export of seeds and planting material is measured under Import Export Policy 2002-2007.

### **Key Points**

○ With the release of this web portal, all firms importing-exporting seeds will not be needed to submit their applications in 20 copies.

○ Using this portal, employees of agriculture department will also implement



the process associated to import-export applications in smooth way.

- This portal will expeditiously process remarks from the various departments that will outcome in timely disposal of the applications.

### PM Modi launched Van Dhan Scheme to help increase tribal income on - 14th April 2018

The PM, Narendra Modi initiated the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED on April 14th, 2018, during the festivities of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh.

While speaking at the release, the PM said that the Van Dhan scheme along with others like Jan Dhan and Gobar Dhan schemes had the power to alteration the tribal-rural economic system. Henceforth, he instructed that all the 3 schemes require to be encouraged by the state governments.

#### Key Highlights

- Under Van Dhan, ten Self Help Groups of thirty Tribal gatherers would be formed.
- The groups will then be skilled and provided with working money to add value to the products that they collect from the forest.
- These groups would then be capable to market their products, by employed under the management of collector, within and outside the states.
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India would be delivering all the needed training and technical support.
- The SHGs will be suitably trained on maintainable harvesting, primary processing and value addition and be shaped into clusters so as to collect their stock in tradable quantity and connect them with the

provision of primary processing in a Van Dhan Vikas Kendra.

- Big businesses shall be complicated under PPP model for the formation of secondary level value-addition facility at district level and tertiary level value addition facility at the state level.
- The central and state government would deliver backing by creating infrastructure and delivering environment for enterprise value addition of systematic scientific lines.

### First license for Liquid Chlorine on all India basis granted by - Bureau of Indian Standards

BIS has decided First Licence to Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd for Liquid Chlorine on all India basis according Indian Standard 646:1986. It is the First all India based approved Licence. The licence has been operative starting from April 2018 for a period of 1 year.

#### Key Facts

- Liquid Chlorine is in liquid form and stored in metal containers. It is typically utilised as gas obtained by evaporating liquid from metal container. It is utilised mostly in paper, pulp, water sterilization, textile bleaching and chemicals manufacturing.
  - The endorsement of 1st licence will simplify industry to get quality Liquid Chlorine with Standard Mark under Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Marks scheme.
- #### Bureau of Indian Standards
- Bureau of Indian Standards National Standard Body of India recognized under BIS Act, 1986. It is mandated for harmonious progress of activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected. It is HQ at New Delhi.



○ Bureau of Indian Standards is incorporated in various actions including standards formulation, product-certification scheme, compulsory-registration scheme, foreign-manufacturers certification scheme, hall marking scheme, laboratory services, laboratory recognition scheme, sale of Indian standards, consumer affairs activities, promotional activities, training services, national & international level and information services.

### Long Term Agreements for supply of iron ore to Japan and South Korea approved by - Union Cabinet

Union Cabinet has permitted renewal of long-term agreements for export of iron ore of grade +64 per cent Fe content to Japan and South Korea for another 5 years from 2018 to 2023, through state-owned trading firm MMTC. The wide range of quantity of iron ore to be exported will be 3.8 million tonnes/annum to 5.5 million tonnes/annum.

#### Benefits

○ Export of iron ore under Long Term Agreements will benefit India to fortify its bilateral relations with long-standing partner nations, Japan and South Korea by securing export market and result in inflow of foreign exchange.

○ It will permit India to secure global market for its ores and make sure stable economic environment that ensures direct/indirect services in mining and related segments.

#### Did you know?

○ India has been exporting iron ore to Japan for about last 6 decades and it has been reliable component of India's

bilateral relations with Japan. MMTC has been providing iron ore to Japanese Steel Mills since 1963 and to South Korea since 1973.

○ The present Long-Term Agreements with Japanese Steel Mills and South Korea's POSCO for supply of iron ore for time-period of 3 years had pass away on 31st March, 2018.

○ The Union Cabinet had sanctioned MMTC to engage in Long-Term Agreements with Japanese Steel Mills and POSCO, South Korea for supply of iron ore for a term-period of 3 years from 2015-2018, in its meeting organised in June 2015.

### CSIR wins National Intellectual Property Award 2018 on - 26th April 2018

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was bestowed the National Intellectual Property Award, 2018 for being the highest research and development company for patents and commercialisation, on April 26th, 2018. The prize was conferred by Union Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu, at a function planned by the Indian Intellectual Property Office and CII in New Delhi, to rejoice the World Intellectual Property Day. The Director-General of CSIR, Girish Sahni, acknowledged the award on behalf of CSIR.

#### More about CSIR

○ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is a modern research and development firm. It was founded in 1942.

○ It runs 38 laboratories and 39 field stations around the country, with a communal staff of more than 12,000 scientists and scientific and technical personnel.

○ It has been positioned 9th in the world amongst 1207 government institutions, with a complete global ranking of 75 amongst 5250 organizations.



○ It is known as the innovator of India's intellectual property movement.

○ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research laboratories have been evolving and providing technology focused on the unsatisfied necessity and the cutting-edge information base and HR on the other, for socio-economic development in the Country.

### **More about World Intellectual Property Day**

The World Intellectual Property Day was celebrated on April 26th, 2018 with the subject of 'Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity'.

The day is observed yearly to learn about the role that intellectual property rights play in inspiring innovation and creativity. Present year's World Intellectual Property Day movement observes the brilliance, ingenuity, curiosity and courage of the women who are driving alteration in the world and shaping our common future.

## **Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in agree on Korean Peninsula's complete denuclearisation during - Inter-Korean Summit**

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean Leader Moon Jae-in inked a landmark peace contract namely, 'Panmunjeom Declaration' for the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula on April 27th, 2018. The Panmunjeom Declaration was inked during the Inter-Korean Summit that organised on April 27th, 2018 at the Peace House at Panmunjom among leaders of North Korea and South Korea. The both leaders sworn a 'new era of peace' through the combined declaration.

It is the 1st time that a North Korean leader has crossed the southern side of the

Demilitarised Region to enter South Korea, since the termination of the Korean War in 1953.

### **More about Panmunjeom Declaration**

- To re-join the blood relations of the people and bring forward the future of co-prosperity and union headed by Koreans. The both sides decided to proceed with reunion programmes for the divided families on the eve of the National Liberation Day on August 15th, 2018.

- To hold dialogues and discussions in different fields and to take energetic measures for the execution of the contracts inked during the summit.

- To begin a combined liaison office with occupant representatives of both nations in the Gaeseong area for smoothing cooperation among the peoples.

- To inspire more active collaboration, exchanges, appointments and contacts at all levels to revitalize the sense of national unity.

- South and North Korea decided to organise the 'Inter-Korean Red Cross Meeting' to deliberate and solve various issues, including the reunion of disconnected families.

- Both the nations decided for implementing the projects earlier agreed in the October 4th, 2007 Declaration, to encourage balanced economic growth and coprosperity of the country.

- Both the nations together will have combined efforts to diminish the heightened military tension and remove the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula.

- The both sides decided to transform the demilitarised area into a peace area by finishing all hostile acts and removing their means including broadcasting through loudspeakers in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line.



- South and North Korea decided to develop a practical scheme to develop the zones around the Northern Limit Line in the West Sea into a maritime peaceful area.

## World Day for Safety and Health at Work observed globally on - 28th April 2018

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work was celebrated internationally on April 28th, 2018. This year, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work and the World Day against Child Labour are coming collectively on same day in a combined campaign to enhance the safety and health of young workers and termination of child labour. The main objective of the combined campaign is to fast-track action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 8.8 of safe and secure working environments for all workers by 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 of ending all forms of child labour by 2025.

### More about World Day for Safety and Health at Work

- The day is an yearly worldwide campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work.
- It encourages the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases worldwide.
- It is organised on April 28 every year and has been celebrated by the International Labour Organization since 2003.
- It objects to start a national occupational safety and health culture, where the right to a safe and healthy working environment is appreciated at all levels, where governments, employers and workers actively take part in securing a safe and healthy employment environment through a system of well-defined rights,

responsibilities and duties, and where the maximum priority is bestowed to the principle of prevention.

### Did you know?

The total number of young workers worldwide -541, which have 37 million children in hazardous child labour, account for over 15% of the world's labour force. The young work force is also described to suffer up to a 40% higher rate of non-fatal occupational damages than adult workers older than the 25 years of age.

## India-China Informal Summit held in Wuhan on - April 27-28th 2018

The first Casual Summit between PM Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping was organised in Wuhan. The motive of meeting was to inter-change opinions on overarching issues of bilateral and international importance and to extravagant their respective dreams and priorities for national development in situation of present and future international situation.

### Key Takeaway from the meeting

- Both leaders approved that simultaneous emergence of India and China as 2 mega economies and major powers has suggestions of regional as well as global meaning. The peaceful, steady and well-adjusted ties among them will be optimistic factor for stability amidst present global uncertainties.
- They approved proper management of bilateral ties for conducive development and wealth of region.
- They finalised to fortify Closer Development Partnership in mutually beneficial and sustainable way.



- They also arranged to release strategic directions to their forces and fortify present mechanisms to preserve peace and tranquillity along with the border parts is larger interest of the overall progress of bilateral relations.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi specially emphasis on reputation of people-to- people contact through STRENGTH; which is S-Spirituality; T-Tradition, Trade and Technology; R-Relationship; E-Entertainment; N-Nature conservation; G-Games; T-Tourism and H-Health and Healing.
- Chinese President Xi organised that 2 nations should stand for multi-polar world order and globalisation.
- He detained that China and India are both significant engines for global development and they central pillars for encouraging multi-polar and globalised world.

### Acquisition of NAG Missile System for Army and long range guns for Navy approved by - DAC

Defence Acquisition Council led by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved capital acquisition proposals of DRDO's NAG missile system for Indian Army and 127 millimetres calibre guns for Indian Navy. Defence Acquisition Council is Defence Ministry's highest decision-forming body on procurement.

#### Key Points

- NAG missile system will be obtained for Indian Army at cost of Rupee 524 crores. It has been developed in India by DRDO.
- The system comprises 3rd generation anti-tank guided missile Nag along with the missile carrier vehicle.

- The NAG anti-tank guided missile has strike-range of more than 2.5 kilometres with fire and forget abilities.
- It has highest attack capabilities that can effectively engage and terminate all known enemy tanks during day as well as night.
- The Indian army is presently using 2nd generation Milan 2T and Konkur anti-tank guided missiles and has been seeking for about 8000 3rd generation anti-tank guided missiles, which are vital for ending advancing enemy tanks.
- Thirteen 127 millimetres calibre guns will be acquired for Indian Navy. They will be acquired from BAE Systems under Buy group of Defence Procurement Procedure at price of more than Rupees 3,000 crores.
- These guns will be equipped on-board fresh construction ships for undertaking surface engagements together with Naval Gunfire Support Operations. These guns have range of 24 kms, allowing Naval ships to provide fire-support and engagement of targets on the land.

### Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra chosen for - Saraswati Samman 2017

Gujarati poet, dramatist and academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra was nominated for 2017 'Saraswati Samman' for his poetry collection themed "Vakhar" which was printed in 2009. It was 27th edition of the prize.

#### More about Sitanshu Yashaschandra

- Sitanshu Yashaschandra was born in 1941 in Bhuj district of Gujarat.
- He has 3 poetry collections — Odysseusnu Halesu, Jatayu, and Vakhar to hispraise. He has penned ten plays and 3 books on critical analysis. He has also received the Padma Shri and Sahitya



Akademi

Award.

### More about Saraswati Samman

- Saraswati Samman is a yearly award conferred to Indian inhabitant for his outstanding literary work written in any twenty-two Indian language mentioned in Schedule VIII of Constitution and printed during past ten years.
- The prize has been named after Indian goddess of learning- Saraswati. It has cash prize of Rupees fifteen lakhs, a citation and a sign of goddess Saraswati.
- Saraswati Samman is well-thought- out one of the highest literary awards in India. It was recognized in 1991 by KK Birla Foundation.
- Harivansh Rai Bachchan was 1st recipient of this prize for his autobiography printed Dashdwar Se Sopan Tak written in 4 volumes. Past awardees also include Oriya poet Ramakanta Rath, Marathi playwright Vijay Tendulkar, and M.Veerappa Moily and many more.

### International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini, Nepal on - 29-30th April 2018

International Buddhist Conference was organised in Lumbini, Nepal on 29-30th April, 2018 to honor 2562nd Buddha Jayanti. The subject of the conference was 'Lumbini Nepal: The birthplace of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace'. Lumbini is biological place of Gautama Buddha, who was the founder of Buddhist religious principle. Lord Buddha was born in sacred garden of Lumbini during 6th - century BC and had achieved enlightenment in Bodh Gaya, in Bihar, India and gave his 1st sermon in Sarnath and passed away in

Kushinagar.

### Key Points

- The main aim of conference was to distribute Buddha's teachings and distribute preaching of nonviolence, brotherhood, cohabitation, love and harmony to international community. It also focused to assist to proliferate and augment the reputation and the glory of Lumbini in the international ground.
- Senates from sixteen nations including United States, Japan, India, China, Indonesia and Sri Lanka took part in the conference. Buddhist researchers from different nations also showcased their research papers for debate during the conference.
- At end of the conference, 10-point Lumbini Declaration was accepted. It consists of matters such as interfaith dialogue, infrastructure progress, joining Buddhist attractions in Nepal and India, and executing Greater Lumbini Area Master Plan.

### Derby air- to-air beyond visual range missile test fired by - LCA Tejas

Made in India light combat aircraft Tejas positively fired Derby air-to- air beyond visual range missile off the coast of Goa. The positive test confirmed its complete capability as effective supersonic combat jet. It also enlarges firing envelope and established safe operation of Tejas during missile plume ingestion into aircraft engine under poorest cases. It will also permit its developers state-run HAL and Aeronautical Development Agency of the Defence Research and Development Organisation inch closer to final operational clearance.

### More about Derby BVR missile

- Derby is short to medium range BVR Air-to- Air rocket. It is a dual utilised missile. It



is established mutually by Israeli armament development agency Rafael and Israel Aircraft Industries MBT.

- It has maximum actual range of around 50 kilometres.
- The missile carries weight about 118 kilograms light and is 3.8 m long. Its heaviness permits it to be revised to various modern fighter aircraft.
- It is active radar air-to-air warhead for fighter aircraft and has competence to be launched at target day/night and in altogether weather situations. It has look-down and shoot-down competence, fire and forget mode and advanced Electronic counter counter-measures tailored to client's operational needs.

## External borrowing norms to enable cheaper funds eased by - RBI

The RBI has further liberalised External Commercial Borrowings Policy by counting extra sectors in the window in a bid to simplify cheaper access of overseas reserves to Indian firms.

### Key Points

- Reserve Bank of India has specified uniform, all-in cost ceiling of 450 bps over benchmark rate, which, in maximum cases, is 6-month London Interbank Offered Rate.
- The standard rate for rupee-denominated bonds will be predominant yield of government bonds of corresponding maturity.
- Reserve Bank of India has finalised to raise External Commercial Borrowing Liability to Equity Ratio for External Commercial Borrowing raised from direct foreign equity bearer under automatic route to 7:1.

- This ratio will not be applied if total of all External Commercial Borrowings elevated by entity is up to \$5 million or equivalent.
  - Reserve Bank of India also has permitted all housing finance firms regulated by National Housing Bank and Port Trusts to increase External Commercial Borrowing under all tracks.
  - Reserve Bank of India also has permitted firms engaged in business of maintenance, repair and overhaul and freight promoting to increase External Commercial Borrowings denominated in rupee only.
  - Reserve generated via External Commercial Borrowings will be not permitted to be invested in real estate or for buying land except for affordable housing, construction and progress of SEZ and industrial parks or integrated townships.
  - Reserve Bank of India also hassle-free norms for foreign investment in bonds by retreating investment lid for investors from investing in government bonds with minimum residual maturity of 3 years.
- ### External Commercial Borrowings
- External Commercial Borrowings are commercial loans rented from overseas sources for financing the commercial activities in India. It may be bank loans, securitised instruments, buyers' credit, suppliers' credit, foreign currency convertible bonds and many more. It should be noted that External Commercial Borrowings are not FDI.