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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## March – 1

- The **two – day meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on Homeland and Public Security of India and Israel** concluded in **New Delhi**

## March – 2

- **List of MOUs** signed during the visit of the **king of Jordan to India** on defence and cultural exchange programme (**CEP**)
- **Western Naval Command** of the **Indian Navy** concluded a large scale operational exercise in the **Arabian sea**. The **Exercise** named '**Paschim Leher (XPL)**'

## March – 3

- **India, Bangladesh and Russia** sign pact for **Rooppur atomic plant**. The Rooppur project is the **first initiative** under an **Indo – Russian** deal to **undertake atomic energy projects in third countries**.

## March – 4

- **Old paper Z 10 notes** featuring British naturalist **Charles Darwin** – went out of circulation across the **UK**. They have been replaced by the **new polymer** version featuring British author Jane Austen introduced last year.
- Pakistan will be placed on the '**grey list**' as **FATF** (Financial Action Task Force) has observed deficiencies in its **Anti – money laundering** and countering of **Terrorist Financing Framework**.

## March – 8

- **Washington has become the first state to enact its own net-neutrality requirements** after U.S. regulators repealed Obama-era rules designed to keep the internet an even playing field. The new law also requires internet providers to disclose information about their management practices, performance and commercial terms. Violations would be enforceable under the state's Consumer Protection Act.
- **India is all set to become the 69th member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** after shareholders of the international financial institution gave their nod to the country's candidature. The formal membership process will now get underway, which includes the purchase of shares by India at an estimated cost of around **1 million euros**. The **EBRD's** Board of Governors, which represents all the existing shareholders of the **UK-based bank, voted in favour of India's** membership application.
- With a fortune worth **\$110 billion, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is the world's richest man** and tops a 2018 Forbes Magazine list of billionaires. According to the Forbes, **Bezos is the first person to top \$100 billion** as number one on the Forbes list of the World's Billionaires

## March – 9

- **An independent global property Consultancy in a city wealth index report ranked India's financial capital Mumbai at 47<sup>th</sup> spot out of 315 cities** across the global. In terms of the **top 20 costliest global cities Mumbai has been ranked at 16<sup>th</sup> position.**
- **India** signed an agreement with **UNDP and UNOPS** to build **50,000 homes** for the quake victims in **Nepal** for its massive reconstruction programme.
- **India ranks 52 in Master Card women entrepreneurs' index.** **MIWE** focuses on female entrepreneur's ability to capitalize on **opportunities granted** through various supporting conditions within their local environments.

### March – 10

- The **Indian Navy** began an **eight-day-long mega naval exercise** along with leading maritime powers of the region at the **Andaman and Nicobar islands**.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the signing of **Migration and Mobility partnership** agreement between India and **France**.
- **Israel and American** troops train together through '**Juniper Cobra**' exercise in Israel. It is aimed to train for **very complex Scenarios** like **simultaneous attacks** from enemy countries and militant groups.

### March – 12

- **China's Parliament** has abolished the decades-old two-term limit for the President, allowing **Xi Jinping** to remain as the country's leader for life. The constitutional changes were passed in Beijing by the annual sitting of the **National People's Congress - the country's legislature** - with the **two-thirds majority**. Of the 2,964 delegates, only two voted against the change, while three abstained.

### March – 14

- The **Maldives** Parliament has approved the anti-defection bill with retrospective effect amidst the boycott by opposition MPs. According to the bill, MPs elected on political party tickets will lose their seat if they leave their party, get expelled, or switch parties.

### March – 16

- The **17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH)** was held in **Cape Town, South Africa** from 7-9 March 2018. It united researchers, academics, non-governmental organisations, civil society, scientists, healthcare professionals and public officials working on all aspects of tobacco control from more than 100 countries.

- **The World Happiness Index 2018**, which measures 156 countries in terms of happiness, has placed **India in the 133rd position**, a drop of 11 places from last year's 122nd rank. **Norway has been named as the world's happiest country.**
- India has been ranked at the **78th position in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) report** on Energy Transition Index (ETI). **The report, titled 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition'**, benchmarks historic and current performance of energy systems of 126 countries on 18 indicators, covering the three core dimensions of energy-access and security, sustainability and contribution to economic growth, and development.

#### March – 17

- India to host 17<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of International competition network 2018 (**ICN 2018**) from **21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 in New Delhi**
- **India** has ranked **78<sup>th</sup>** among 114 countries on the **World Economic Forum Energy Transition Index.**

#### March – 18

- India to host 17th Annual Conference of International Competition Network 2018 (ICN 2018) from 21st to 23rd March 2018 in New Delhi.

#### March – 19

- Mauritius President **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim** has resigned after being embroiled in a scandal over the use of a credit card to buy **luxury personal items**. She will leave office on **23rd of this month.**
- The United Nations has issued an appeal for **951 million Dollars** to meet the needs of **nearly 900,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.**
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** stormed to victory in presidential election, giving him another **six years in power**. Putin, who has ruled Russia for almost two decades, won more than 75% of the vote according to preliminary results.

- The **Philippines** says it will withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), a month after the **judicial body started** an inquiry into **President Rodrigo Duterte's controversial war on drugs**.

#### March – 20

- **Singapore** has been dubbed the **world's most expensive city** to live in for the **fifty year running**.
- The **last surviving northern white male rhinoceros** of the **world named Sudan** has passed away in **Kenya**.
- **Naval ships** of the **UAE** and **India** will hold a **first – ever joint exercise – ‘Gulf Star 1’**. **Two Indian Navy ships INS Gomati and INS Kolkata** arrived in **Dubai** for the **‘Harbour phase’** of the exercise.

#### March – 21

- **The Donald Trump administration** banned all use by Americans of **Venezuelan crypto currency (Petro)**, saying that its introduction is intended to skirt U.S. sanctions.
- **The first G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors** began in Buenos Aires, Argentina with the presence of 57 delegations from countries and institutions.

#### March – 24

- **US** launched a challenge at the World Trade Organization (**WTO**) against **China over intellectual property breaches**.
- **Bank of America** has started rolling out **Erica** its **chat bot** that can help **customers check balances** remind about bills and answer **bank – related questions**.

#### March – 25

- The **world's biggest cruise – line “Symphony of the Seas”** has left the shipyard of Saint – Nazaire in France to embark on its maiden voyage in Mediterranean.

- **Martin Vizcarra** served as Peru's **first Vice President** and **ambassador to Canada** has been sworn country's New President.

### March – 26

- The country's National Academy of Art, the Lalit Kala Akademi hosted the first-ever International Print Biennale in the country with a record number of 17 countries taking part in it. The first-ever **International Exhibition of Graphic Prints 'Print Biennale India 2018'** opened, at the Rabindra Bhavan Galleries of the Lalit Kala Akademi in **New Delhi**.
- The Government of India has decided to nominate Professor J S Rajput, former Director **NCERT**, as India's representative to the Executive Board (**EXB**) of **UNESCO**. **Professor J S Rajput** is an eminent educationist with rich experience in various fields including **UNESCO**.

### March – 27

- Now India is the **third largest electricity producer** ahead of Russia Japan. India's electricity production grew 34% over seven years to 2017, and the country now produces more energy than Japan and Russia, which had 27% and 8.77% more electricity generation capacity installed, respectively, than **India seven years ago**.

### March – 28

- The US state of New Jersey has declared April as 'Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month' as part of its effort to promote awareness of the faith. New Jersey's State Assembly made the declaration in a joint resolution this week, saying it was an effort to combat the "increasing and unacceptable levels of anti-Sikh bigotry".
- 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of India-us joint working group on counter terrorism was held in New Delhi. They discussed efforts to curb the funding and operations of regional and global terrorist organization.



### March – 29

- Pakistan conducted successful test fire of indigenously developed **Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) BABUR** having a range of **450 KMs**. **SLCM BABUR** is capable of delivering various types of payloads and incorporates state of the art technologies.
- **Scientists have identified a new organ** in the human body, which they hope could help them understand the **spread of cancer within the body**. Layers long thought to be dense; connective tissues are actually a series of **fluid-filled compartments that researchers have termed as “interstitium”**.

### March – 30

- The stock market regulator Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) allowed **physical settlement of both stock options and stock futures**. At present only cash settlement of derivatives is allowed. **SEBI** stated stock **exchanges** will also have the **flexibility** to offer a combination of **cash settlement**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 58.9 crore** on **ICICI Bank** Limited for non-compliance with the directions issued by the RBI on direct sale of securities from its Held to Maturity (**HTM**) portfolio and specified disclosure in this regard.

### March – 31

- NASA is all set to send the first – ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars. It will be scheduled to launch on May 5. ‘Insight’ is a stationary robotic lander and stands for ‘Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations Geodery and Heat Transport’.
- India received its first shipment off Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from US under a 20 year deal.

# NATIONAL NEWS

March – 1

- **Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare**(Shri J.P. Nadda) inaugurated the one-day conference to mark **‘World Rare Disease Day’**
- **‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) – 2018’** a diversified cultural carnival organized by Ministry of culture in **Madhya Pradesh** ended in **Indore with a dazzling closing ceremony.**
- The cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by **Narendra Modi** approved the continuation of **‘PMEGP’ – Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme’** beyond **12<sup>th</sup>** Plan for three years.
- In an effort to transform environment protection into a peoples movement, a **digital mobile application** was launches the **Environment Minister in New Delhi.**
- **1,28,509 affordable Houses Sanctioned** for **Urban Poor** Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

March – 2

- **First Mega Food Park** in **Maharashtra** at **Satara.** This is the **12<sup>th</sup>** Mega Food Park operationalized in the **country** so far and the **10<sup>th</sup>** operationalized during the tenure of present government.
- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Dr. Subhash Bhamre** inaugurated **one-day Annual Army seminar for 2017 – 18** on **‘Contribution of the Army towards Nation Building’** at New Delhi.
- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri **Arun Jaitley** said that there is a **certain amount of sanctity** which must remain attached to the **government accounting system.**
- Delhi Government has decided to set up its **State Sanskrit Education Council** to improve the **State of formal education** of the language in the **national capital.**

- The **National Highways Authority of India** has decided to **deploy all women toll collecting staff** in day shift on at least **one toll plaza close to the city area** in every **State and UT** of the country on **8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, International Women's Day**.

### March – 3

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the establishment of **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)** as an independent regulator for the auditing profession.
- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** arrived at **Parmath Niketan in Rishikesh** to attend the **International Yoga Festival**.
- **World's largest Solar Park 'Shakti sthala'** launched in Karnataka. It is spread over **13,000 acres** and five villages. It is part of **'Karnataka solar policy 2014 – 2021'**.
- **Lakshadweep**, the Union territory joined hands with the **UDAY Scheme**, which is meant for the revival of **debt – stressed power distribution companies** in the country. The **MOU** signed as an operational turnaround of the **UT's Electricity department**.
- **Tamil Nadu Government Unveils 24 hour Toll free Helpline** to provide information on education. The **toll free number is 14417** which are launched by **TN CM K. Palanichami**.
- **Maharashtra Government ties up with Wikipedia to spread the Marathi language and enhance its online usage**.
- **Central Government** approved projects worth **Rs.2919.55 crore** under the **'Nirbhaya fund'** for eight major cities like **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Luck now**

### March – 4

- The **Telangana Government** has launched an m-governance mobile application called **"T APP Folio"** to help citizens with one Point access to government services.
- As Part of initiative to empower women the **Odisha Government** has launched **Kushi scheme** to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the State.

- Under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Textiles. The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) – New Delhi will conduct a National sizing survey of India to develop an “**India size chart**” for the garment Industry.
- Bharati Defence and Infrastructure Ltd (BDIL) delivered high-speed interceptor boat **ICG C – 162 to India Coast Guard (ICG)** at Karnataka. It is fifth interceptor boat delivered by Mangaluru shipyard to ICG.
- Indian Navy’s sailboat INSV Tarini, led by all women crew reached cape town, South Africa as part of Navika Sagar Parikrama expedition. This stop is last phase of its maiden voyage to circumnavigate globe before it depart cape down and return to Goa in April 2018.

### March – 5

- Maharashtra got its own 1st ever Mega Food Park in Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd was inaugurated at Village Degaon in Satara district. Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal unveiled the Satara Mega Food Park in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** charges will not be levied on passengers for booking railway tickets (at the railway ticketing counters as well as through IRCTC ticketing website) on payment made through Debit Cards for a transaction value up to Rupees one lakh
- **Punjab** government in both transparent and smooth manner, the state government signed a MoU with **e-Governance Foundation (e-Gov) of Nandan Nilekani.**
- The 19th edition of FICCI Frames has inaugurated by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Smiriti Irani in Mumbai, Maharashtra on March 5, 2018.
- Vinod Kumar Omprakash has clinched bronze in men’s 70kg freestyle at the 2018 Asian Wrestling Championships at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Also, defending champion Bajrang Punia won bronze in men’s 65kg freestyle on March 3
- **India** won the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup title. The Indian combine of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra defeated Pakistan in the best-of-five final played in Doha.

- The Singapore-based holding firm of Indian online retailer Flipkart had invested 4843.4 crores into two of its India entities, in a bid to take on its rival Amazon.
- The Union government has set up a steering committee to consider various issues relating to the development of Fintech space in India with a view to make Fintech related regulations more flexible and generate enhanced entrepreneurship.. The 8-member committee headed by Economic Affairs Secretary, **Subhash Chandra Garg will also focus on how Fintech can be leveraged to enhance financial inclusion of MSMEs.**
- The World Wildlife Day (WWD) is observed every year on March 3. 2018 theme is 'Big Cats: Predators under Threat'

### March – 6

- National Safety Day: 4 March
- The Odisha government has launched a programme Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas (Our Village, our development) to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagged off mobile video vans for 'Ama Gaon Ama Vikas' programme that will move across the State to highlight various welfare schemes at villages in the state.
- The government of India has signed an MoU with Israel to enhance cooperation on 'National Campaign for Water Conservation in India'. It was announced by the Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation S S Ahluwalia. As per this MoU, both sides would work to enhance cooperation at the national, regional and international level to design, implement and monitor a professionally designed National Water Conservation Campaign in India to put water conservation on to the national agenda.
- The Union Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh, launched the social media of "Namaste Shalom", a magazine on India-Israel relations. The magazine 'Namaste Shalom' is edited by Tarun Vijay, former MP.
- In view of the increasing importance of the services sector and to encourage banks to lend more to this sector, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to do away with the per borrower loan limits to Micro/Small and Medium Enterprises (Services) for classification under priority sector lending.

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled a healthcare scheme named 'Arogya Karnataka' (Healthy Karnataka) aimed at benefitting about 1.43 crore households in the state. It will provide quality primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to both below-poverty-line (BPL) and above-poverty-line (APL) families in the state. Through the scheme, all the BPL households will get free treatment at government hospitals while for APL households, the state will bear about 30% of the treatment cost.
- A Steering Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Finance under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Shri Subhash Chandra Garg, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) to consider various issues relating to the development of Fintech space in India. The constitution of the committee is in pursuance of the announcement made by the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley in his Budget Speech 2018-19
- Shigmotsav has been organized enthusiastically in Goa. Shigmotsav or Shigmo is one of the several cultural festivals of the coastal state and is celebrated through colours, costumes, music, dance and parades.
- India and Vietnam inked three agreements in the areas of trade, agriculture and atomic energy. The countries signed an MoU on economic and trade cooperation to establish a framework for enhancing economic and trade promotion. Another MoU signed on Cooperation between the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, India (GCNEP) and the Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute (VINATOM) to strengthen the technical cooperation in the field of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.
- A total amount of Rs. 5638.87 crore was sanctioned with the release of Rs. 2148.17 crore since 2014-15 till date under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism. Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development. Meanwhile, under the PRASHAD scheme, 23 projects have been sanctioned to 15 States for a total amount of Rs.687.92 crore with the release of Rs.241.28 crore since 2015-16 till date. The objective of the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) is of holistic development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destination.
- Marshall Island in Pacific Ocean is set to become first country in the world to recognize crypto currency as its legal tender and adopt transparent crypto monetary system.

## March – 7

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated the **week-long 29th annual, world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF)** in **Rishikesh's Parmarth Niketan**.
- **The Karnataka government** inaugurated the first phase of a **2,000 megawatts (MW) solar park** in the drought-prone district, **Tumkur**. The first phase of the **Rs16,500 crore park called “Shakti Sthala”** will generate 600MW, while the balance 1,400MW is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2018.
- **India and Jordan** has renewed their support to the Palestinian cause as the two sides signed **12 agreements**, including one on defence cooperation, following a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and King of **Jordan Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein**.
- These include agreement on **Defence Co-operation, Visa waiver of Diplomatic & Official Passport holders, Cultural Exchange Programme, Manpower Co-operation agreement, Co-operation in field of Health and Medicine**. Setting up of Next Generation Centre of Excellence. **MoU** for long term supply of Rock Phosphate and **Fertilizer/NPK**, Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement.
- **The Odisha government** has launched a programme **Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas (Our Village, our development)** to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities
- **The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani** inaugurated the **FICCI Frames 2018, in Mumbai**. She has also released the **FICCI-EY Media & Entertainment Report 2018** named '**Re-imagining India's M&E Sector**'.
- **India** is ranked fourth on a global index for its military strength, out of **133 countries**, only the **United States, Russia and China** are ranked above India on the list, according to the latest report of the **Global Firepower index 2017**.
- Iraq overtook **Saudi Arabia** to become India's top crude oil supplier by supplying 38.9 million tonnes (**MT**) crude oil in the current financial year. It was **fifth of India's oil needs**. India is 80% dependent on imports to meet its oil needs. **India** had imported **184.4 MT** of crude oil during **April**.

- **India's first helicopter taxi service** was launched in **Bengaluru** to fly passengers from **Kempegowda International Airport to Electronic City**.
- The service is expected to reduce the time taken to cover the distance from 2 hours to 15 minutes. The helicopter will seat up to **six people apart** from the **pilot** and the **service will cost Rs3,500 plus GST**.
- **Animal welfare Board of India** shifted its headquarters from Chennai to **Ballabgarh in Faridabad**.
- **Indian-US team test fires M777 ultra light** howitzers in **Pokhran**.

### March – 8

- **International Women's Day** is a worldwide event that celebrates the achievements of women everywhere. This year's celebration comes at the heels of an unprecedented movement for women's rights as **2018 marks 100 years since women gained the vote after the suffragette movement**.
- **Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari** has announced that soon there will be no human interface in granting driving licences to heavy vehicle drivers in the country. **He has launched the scheme for District Driving Training Centres in New Delhi**.
- **Tech giant Microsoft** has inked its **first renewable energy deal in India** for powering its new facility in Bangalore. The facility, which will be operational starting June, is spread over 5.85 lakh square feet. The agreement will see Microsoft purchase 3 megawatts of solar-powered electricity from Atria Power for its new office building in Bangalore, meeting 80% of the projected electricity needs at the facility
- **Iraq has become India's biggest crude oil supplier by overtaking Saudi Arabia** with a wide margin in this current financial year.
- The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has Sanctioned **Rs.1000 crore** for phase **II** of Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (**IMPRINT**) **India** programme to boost research and innovation in the country



- **40 participants** of **Indian** origin from **9 countries** attended **46<sup>th</sup> edition** of Know India Programme. **Madhya Pradesh** was the partner state of this edition. The objective of the programme is to **engage and make students** young professional of **Indian Diaspora** feel sense of connect with their motherland.
- **Street Lightning National Programme** was launched by prime minister on January **2015** under this scheme Energy Efficiency Service Limited has installed **49 lakh LED Street lights** in **28 states** and **UT's** under this programme.

### March – 9

- On the **Occasion of International women's day** the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **National Nutrition Mission**, and expansion of the Coverage of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** Programme at **Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan**.
- **Union Minister for chemicals & fertilizers** and parliamentary affairs, **Shri Ananth Kumar** announced the launch of '**Suvidha**' the **100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin**, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (**PMBJP**)
- On the Occasion of International women's day the ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (**MSME**) launched a **portal for women entrepreneurs of India** '[www.udyamsakhi.org](http://www.udyamsakhi.org)'

### March – 10

- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on women's day announced '**Mukhyamantri Mahila kosh**' scheme under which women who **aren't married** and are above the **age of 50** will be **given pension**.
- The harnessing of solar energy has made **Div the country's first energy surplus union territory and a model** for an effective way for people to harness this renewable energy source.
- Over a decade after **NGO Common Clause** filed a petition seeking the right for terminally-ill patients "**to die with dignity**" **India's Supreme Court** has decreed that **passive euthanasia is legally valid** across the country.
- **Karnataka** government unveiled **the state flag**. **Karnataka government** receives Central government approval it will be the **second state after Jammu and Kashmir** to have a flag.

- **PK Sinha**, Cabinet Secretary launched “**I-Metros**”, an association of all Indian Metro Rail Companies at the Conference on “**Indian Metros : Collaborating for Excellence**” conducted at **Metro Bhawan in New Delhi**.
- The Institute of Bio resources and Sustainable Laboratory (**IBSD**). **Imphal** has established a **floating laboratory** in **Loktak Lake, Manipur** to continuously monitor its **water quality and improve it**.

### March – 11

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **National Legislators Conference on the theme ‘We for Development’ in New Delhi**. The motive of the conference is to bring MPs and MLAs on a single platform where ideas and plans for development can be exchanged.
- **India’s biggest Media & Entertainment Services Market – enTTech 2018** was inaugurated in Mumbai. The market, spread over two days (March 7 – 8, 2018) will see fast matchmaking between 100 international delegates and their Indian counterparts.
- The International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) and the African Development Bank (**AfDb**), the Asian Development **Bank (ADB)**, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (**AIIB**), the Green climate fund (**GCF**), and the New Development Bank (**NDB**) signed Joint financial partnership Declarations. The International Energy Agency (**IEA**) also signed a **Joint partnership Declaration with the ISA**.
- **French President Emmanuel Macron** arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit to India. The visit aims at strengthening the bilateral economic, political and strategic dimension of engagement between the two countries. During the visit, India and France will sign agreements in different fields tomorrow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron will co-chair the **Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance**.
- National Crime Records Bureau (**NCRB**) celebrated its **33rd Inception Day**, on **March 11, 2018** in their newly constructed Complex at **Mahipalpur**, New Delhi and released “**Citizen Services**” bThis single App is a bouquet of various essential police related services to the citizen.

- **World Kidney Day 2018: 8 March:** World Kidney Day (WKD) is a global health awareness campaign focusing on the importance of the kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on Women's day announced '**Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh**' scheme under which women who aren't married and are above the age of 50 will be given pension. Chouhan also took the occasion to assert that any person who will misbehave with women will be hanged in public.
- The harnessing of solar energy has made Diu the **country's first energy surplus Union territory** and a model for an effective way for people to harness this renewable energy source. In just **three years**, it has made rapid progress in **solar power generation**.

### March – 12

- The first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea, **MILES-18**, began at the Andaman Sea. **11 naval ships of 8 countries** and nine Indian ships are participating in the three-day exercise.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** has signed a cooperation arrangement to promote solar energy deployment in **Asia and the Pacific**. The cooperation envisages **solar power generation**, solar based mini-grids, and transmission systems for integrating solar energy into grids, **among others**.
- **The Karnataka government** unveiled the **State flag (nada dhwaja)** for the state. If approved by the Centre, **Karnataka will be the second State to have a flag after Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The government of **Telangana** launched Women Entrepreneurship Hub (**WE-Hub**), **India's first state-led** incubator for women entrepreneurs.
- Telangana IT and Industries Minister **K T Rama Rao** inaugurated the biennial event on Civil Aviation and Aerospace titled '**Wings India 2018**' at the **Begumpet Airport**. The four-day event was jointly organized by the Civil Aviation Ministry, Airports Authority of India and **the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry**.

- **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport** have beaten **1,952** other airports from **176 countries** to tie at number one for **world's best airports**, as per Airports Council International (ACI) ASQ 2017 rankings.

### March – 13

- The Institute of **Bioresources and Sustainable Laboratory (IBSD), Imphal, set up a floating laboratory in northeast India's largest freshwater lake, Loktak** to constantly monitor its water quality and eventually improve it. The laboratory was inaugurated by **Manipur's Forest and Environment Minister, Thounaojam Shyamkumar Singh in Imphal.**
- For intra-State movement, the e-way bill will be rolled out in a phased manner beginning April 15 and will cover all the States by June 1. Businesses will continue to file summary sales return **GSTR-3B until June as the GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council has extended the present system of return-filing by three months.** Electronic way or e-way bill for movement of goods between States would be implemented from April 1.
- **Rajasthan assembly has passed an amendment bill awarding death penalty for convicts involved in the rape of girls below 12 years of age.** State Home Minister **Gulab Chand Kataria** introduced 'The Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2018' in the assembly, which was passed in the House by a voice vote following a debate.
- In a major expansion of strategic ties, **India and France have inked 14 pacts in key areas of defense, security, nuclear energy and protection of classified information besides resolving to deepen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and step up joint efforts to contain terrorism.**
- The Union Housing Ministry has launched 'I-Metros', an association of all-India metro rail companies, which will act as a forum of exchange of ideas and innovations. The association was launched by Cabinet Secretary P.K. Sinha at an event "**Indian Metros: Collaborating for Excellence**" in the presence of **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Managing Director Mangu Singh in New Delhi.**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated 101-megawatt solar power plant at Dadar Kala village in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh.** The largest solar project in the country has been set up by French company **ENGIE**.
- **The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018** has been introduced in the **Lok Sabha**. The Bill will help in laying down measures to deter economic offenders from evading the process of law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts. The cases where the total value involved in such offenses is **Rs. 100 crore** or more will come under the purview of the Bill. Minister of State for Finance, **Shiv Pratap Shukla** introduced the Bill.
- According to Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Radha Mohan Singh**, Milk production in the country **increased by 20 percent from 137.7 million tonnes to 165.4 million tonnes between 2014 and 2017**. Also, the per capita availability of milk has risen by 15.6 percent from 307 gms a day to 355 gms per day between 2013-14 and 2016-17
- The Centre has constituted a three-member **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal to adjudicate the dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over sharing the river's water. Supreme Court Judge AM Khanwilkar will be the Chairman of the tribunal**, with Justice Ravi Ranjan of the Patna High Court and Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar of the Delhi High Court being the other two members.
- India has announced a **new Line of Credit of USD 100 million for defense procurement by Mauritius as the two sides signed many agreements on the second day of President Ram Nath Kovind's visit.**
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has **launched a number of schemes for the poor in Varanasi and emphasized on harnessing solar energy for cooking.** PM Modi laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth over Rs. 800 crores in **Varanasi**.

**March – 14**

- **India's tallest national flag** was unfurled in **Belagavi (also known as Belgaum) in Karnataka**. Belagavi District Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi unfurled the **9,600 sq ft wide flag on a 110-metre-tall flagpole**. This flag in Belgaum beats the one at the **India-Pakistan border at Attari in Punjab**.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a campaign to **eradicate tuberculosis (TB)** from India **by 2025**, five years ahead of the globally-set deadline.
- **India** has announced a new **Line of Credit of USD 100 million** for defense procurement by Mauritius as the two sides signed many agreements on the second day of **President Ram Nath Kovind's visit**.
- The agreements were signed after **President Kovind** held delegation-level talks with **Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth** and members of his Cabinet.
- The government has planned to construct **1,911- km international connectivity roads and 3,319-km border roads under its flagship Bharatmala programme**. The project would be completed in a phased manner, with the first phase set to be completed between 2017-18 and 2021-22.
- Samvedna 2018, the first multilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise of Indian Air Force (IAF) in association with South Asian Region nations was held off the coast of Kerala. The multilateral exercise was spearheaded by IAF and conducted by Southern Air Command (SAC) and involved representatives from air forces of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and UAE.

### March – 15

- **Home Minister Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the two-day **Asia-Pacific Regional Conference** of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (**IACP**) in **New Delhi**. The theme of the conference is "**Challenges to Policing in 2020 - How is Cyber Space shaping our approach to Cybercrime and Terrorism, how do we perform within it and take advantage of it**".
- **The Telangana government** is setting up an **Rs. 100-crore Apparel Super Hub in Sircilla**. It signed a memorandum of understanding with Kay Ventures to roll out the project. To be set up on **20 acres**, the hub will be completed in three phases. The first phase will be taken up with an investment of **Rs. 30 crores** in a year. While the State government will infuse **90 percent of the phase-1 funds**, Kay Ventures and its associates will take care of the balance amount.

- **Amazon.com Inc** launched its **first-ever debit card in Mexico**, part of a push to encourage shoppers without bank accounts to buy online.
- A signed hardcover copy of **Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's 'The King of the Dark Chamber'**- the English translation of his famous Bengali play 'Raja' - has been sold for USD 700 at an auction in the US.
- **Saudi Arabia's Cabinet** has approved the **national policy of its atomic energy programme**, as the kingdom prepares to award contracts for its **first nuclear power plants**. The policy insists on limiting nuclear activities to peaceful purposes and calls for enhanced safety measures as well as the use of best practices for radioactive waste management.
- **World Ocean Summit** was held recently in **Mexico's Riviera Maya**. It's a chance for business, government and environmental leaders to talk about the problems **facing the world's seas** and to come up with **solutions to protect the planet's vast ocean resources**.
- **West Bengal** has become the best performing State both in terms of allotting jobs and utilizing funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (**MGNREGA**). **Tamil Nadu** occupied the second spot with **22.17 crore work days** and spent **Rs 5,981.75 crore**.
- The **Union home ministry** recently sanctioned the launch of the National Academy of Coastal Policing (**NACP**) located in coastal **Okha** in the newly created **Devbhoomi Dwarka** district.
- The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (**CIPAM**), a professional body under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (**DIPP**), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, is organizing a National Conference on Counterfeiting and Role of Enforcement Agencies on **13th-14th March, 2018 in New Delhi**, in collaboration with European Union (**EU**).
- A **one-day Conference on Command Area Development** is being organised by Ministry of **Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation** on **March 13, 2018** at **CSMRS Auditorium, New Delhi**.

- India-United Kingdom (UK) Joint Team has won **Newton-Bhabha** Fund for project on Groundwater Arsenic Research in Ganga River Basin. The project was undertaken by Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), UK to find solutions to **water challenges faced in pervasively arsenic-affected Ganga River Basin**
- To empower womenfolk, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram **Thakur** released a **handbook** titled '**Mahila Suraksha**' on women safety.

### March – 16

- **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO** met **J.P. Nadda, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister** in **New Delhi**. They discussed perspectives on national, regional and global public health program. To strengthen collaborative work between India and WHO in achieving improved health outcomes, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).
- **The International Air Transport Association (IATA)** has signed a **MoU with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the National Aviation University** to enhance human resource availability in India's aviation industry.
- **The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** launched a mobile app called '**Citizen Services**' on the occasion of its 33rd Inception Day.
- **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** signed an **MoU** with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The MoU was signed by **Sudarshan Sen**, Executive Director of the RBI and **Dr. Mamta Suri**, Executive Director of the IBBI during the 4th meeting of the Insolvency Law Committee (ILC) at **New Delhi**.
- **PM Modi** inaugurated the **105th Indian Science Congress in Imphal, Manipur**. The theme for ISC 2018 is '**reaching the unreached through science and technology**'. This event is being held in **Manipur for the first time** and for the second time in the North-East. Earlier it was **held at Shillong in 2009**.
- **The three-day annual Krishi Unnati Mela** has begun in **New Delhi** with a focus on doubling farmers' income. The objective of the event is to create awareness among farmers about the **latest agriculture-related technological developments**.



- The Union Cabinet has approved **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** inked between **India and Sri Lanka** for promoting cooperation in field of Information Technology and Electronics (**IT&E**). The MoU was signed in **January 2018** during the visit of Minister of Electronics & Information Technology **Ravi Shankar Prasad** to Sri Lanka
- The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (**CCRAS**) has undertaken development of coded drug **AYUSH QOL-2C** for improving quality of life in **cancer patients**.
- **World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March**
- **The theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2018 is “Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer”.**

**March – 17**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **Rising India Summit**, organized by **network 18**. **Rising India implies the rise of self respect** among the people of India.
- **NITI Aayog** will release comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative **“Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)”** project. It is to introduce system wide governance transformation in school education.
- More than **17 lakh beneficiaries** enrolled under **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**. It is an cash incentive Scheme towards maternity benefit, so that an average woman **gets Rs.6000/-**
- Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (**MoEF**) has granted environmental clearance for setting up India-based Neutrino Observatory (**INO**) project at **Bodi** west hills in **Theni, TN**
- **Three day annual krishi unnati mela** focusing on ‘**doubling farmers**’ income began in new **Delhi**. It is to create awareness among farmers about **latest agriculture related development**.

## March – 18

- The **Odisha** government will collaborate with Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for strengthening its early warning services. The partnership will be forged between Odisha State Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA) and RIMES in field of drought monitoring and early warning.
- The **Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB)** claimed that India's first cloned Assamese buffalo male calf named Sach-Gaurav was born in Hisar, Haryana.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched **LaQshya program** aimed at improving quality of maternity care in labor room and maternity Operation. It is being implemented to 'fast-track' interventions for achieving tangible results. Key Facts. The program aims to improve quality of care for pregnant.
- **NITI Aayog** released comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative '**Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)**' project. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog released the forward-looking blueprints.
- India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a \$120 million loan agreement for completion of works for double-tracking and electrification of railways tracks along high-density corridors to improve the operational efficiency of Indian railways.
- Lok Sabha has passed gratuity amendment bill. **The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017** aims at increasing the upper ceiling of the gratuity **from the present 10 lakh rupees to 20 lakh rupees** for employees in the private sector and in Public Sector Undertakings at par with Central Government employees.
- The Government of India has approved Pan-India implementation of PMMVY in all districts of the country from 01.01.2017 under which the eligible beneficiaries get Rs. 5,000/- under PMMVY and the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards Maternity Benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6000/-. Number of beneficiaries enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) has increased to 17,66,423

## March – 19

- **Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba** is on a five-day visit to the USA. The visit aims to consolidate relations between the Armed Forces of both the nations and to explore

new avenues of defence co-operation. During the visit, Admiral Lanba will hold bilateral discussions with **US Defence Secretary James Mattis**, **Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer** among others.

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurates a **Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship** and present **Gandhian Young Technological Innovation** awards at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, in New Delhi.
- Representatives from 50 countries gathered in New Delhi for a **two-day informal World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting**.
- **The Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr Rajiv Kumar** inaugurated the **First India-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction** in New Delhi. The two-day workshop is being jointly organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs, **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and Government of Japan.
- **Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the **5th 'Nadi Mahotsava'** in **Hoshangabad** District of Madhya Pradesh.
- The **Maharashtra** cabinet decided to impose a ban on certain plastic items from the **Marathi New Year, 'Gudhi Padwa', on March 18**.
- **7th Women Science Congress** at the ongoing **105th session of Indian Science Congress** in **Imphal**, **Shri Tripathi** pointed out that representation of women in science and technology.

### March – 20

- The **Punjab Government** is all set to impose a **Permanent** ban on **hookah bars across the State** instead of issuing temporary orders against them **every two months**. It will be the **second state after Gujarat** to take the significant decision.
- A **3-day** International Yoga fest is being organized as a curtain raiser for International Day of Yoga (**IDY**) **2018**. It will be held at **Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi**.
- **Indian Navy and the French Navy** has conducted **bilateral maritime exercise** named **VARUNA**. This year **VARUNA's** would be conducted in three sea areas namely the **Arabian Sea**, the **Bay of Bengal** and **South Western Indian Ocean**.

- The Ministry of **Tribal Affairs** has developed an android based mobile application called '**Tribal Diaries**' for internal monitoring as also connecting with officers concerned with implementation of **schemes / programmes for tribal development**.
- The **first National Workshop on POSHAN Abhiyan** involving all the states and union territories is being held on **20<sup>th</sup> March** at **Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi**.

**March – 22**

- **The Punjab government** decided to impose a **permanent ban on hookah bars in the state** instead of issuing temporary orders against them every two months. The state cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh**, approved an amendment to the **Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003**
- **NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation** have inked **Statement of Intent (SoI)** to work closely with District Collectors and key officers of '**Aspirational Districts**' to support their transformation in terms of healthcare, education and nutrition.
- **Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated **Mormugao Port Trust and Drishti Marine's ambitious inland ferry services** in Goa.
- **The Singapore Changi Airport** has been named the **world's best airport for the sixth consecutive year by consultancy firm Skytrax**. The Incheon International Airport in South Korea and Haneda Airport in Japan were placed second and third respectively.
- **Mumbai airport (Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Mumbai)** has been **ranked 63rd**, the airports in **Bangalore (Kempegowda International Airport)** and **Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport)** are at 64th and 66th place respectively.
- **Jackfruit** has attained a respected status with the state government declaring it as the **official fruit of Kerala**. Kerala has been producing around **30 to 60 crore jackfruits every year**.

- **The NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) pavilion at 105th Indian Science Congress** has been adjudged as **Best Design Pavilion**. The award was conferred by **Dr. Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur**.
- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has introduced billing through **Point of Sale (POS) hand-held machines** in trains to check overcharging by vendors.
- **German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier** will arrive in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India. This will be his first visit to India as the President of Germany. He will visit Varanasi.
- The German President is also scheduled to attend a **business event in New Delhi** and visit to Chennai.
- **The World Water Day** is observed on **22 March every year**, to raise awareness about the importance of water. The theme this year is, **‘Nature for Water’** – exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges the world faces in the 21st century.
- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare** and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have signed MoU to conduct skill development training programmes for agriculture and allied sector. These skill development training programmes will be conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs).
- **Important Cabinet approvals on March 21**  
The Union Cabinet **chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has given the following set of approvals. The important Cabinet Approvals are given as follows-

## **THE CABINET HAS APPROVED-**

1. Opening of Missions in Africa to implement commitments of **India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III)**.
2. **Ayushman Bharat** – National Health Protection Mission, Benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year, More than 10 crore families to be covered.

3. Revision of the Agreement between **India and Qatar for the avoidance of double taxation** and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
4. Cabinet apprised of a MoU between **India and Guyana on cooperation in Renewable Energy**.
5. Closure of **India Development Foundation** of Overseas Indians.
6. Formation of 100% owned C Corporation of **Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL)** in USA.
7. Continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** - National Higher Education Mission.
8. Central Sector "**Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry**" for sericulture sector.
9. **North-East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017**.

March – 23

- **The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir** inaugurated the two-day **first National Conference** on Drug Law Enforcement in Delhi. The conference is being organised by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has launched **home-delivery of diesel** on a pilot basis **in Pune** and plans to expand doorstep delivery of the fuel to other parts of the country in near future.
- **India Post** has paid tribute to theoretical physicist and cosmologist **Stephen Hawking** by issuing a special cover on him.
- The **National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP)** aims at setting up of family type biogas plants for providing biogas as clean cooking fuel and a source of lighting. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has fixed an annual physical target of setting **up 65,180 biogas plants for the current year 2017-18** under the NBMMP.

- The Ministry of Tourism has identified following **12 sites** for development under **Iconic Tourist Sites Project**:

1. Taj Mahal & Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh)
2. Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra)
3. Humayun Tomb, Qutub Minar and Red Fort (Delhi)
4. Colva Beach (Goa)
5. Amer Fort (Rajasthan)
6. Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat)
7. Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)
8. Hampi (Karnataka)
9. Mahablipuram (Tamil Nadu)
10. Kaziranga (Assam)
11. Kumarakom (Kerala)
12. Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar)

**March – 24**

- The Government has decided to declare **2018** as ‘**National Year of Millets**’ to boost the cultivation of millets like **ragi and jowar** on a **mission mode** to achieve **nutritional security**.
- **5<sup>th</sup> India Maize Summit 2018** held at **New Delhi**. Maize production in India has seen a boom in recent years. The average productivity in **India is 2.43 ton/ha**
- **Hansraj Gangaram Ahir** inaugurates **first National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement** in **New Delhi**. The **challenge** for **law enforcement agencies** and the **society** is to prevent drug abuse among **youth**.
- “**First Indian** sign Language Dictionary of **3000 words**” was launched by **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social justice and empowerment**.
- **Chandigarh** has become the **1<sup>st</sup> city in North India** to install Automatic speed Gun Cameras with digital displays for **traffic management**.
- **INS Ganga** an indigenously built frigate of the **Indian Navy** was decommissioned in **Mumbai** after over **three decades of service**.
- **ISRO** has entered into a **technology transfer** agreement with **BHEL** to transfer the technology for the manufacture of space grade **Li-Ion cells**

## March – 25

- Andhra Pradesh Government launched ‘**NAIPUNYA RATHAM**’, a **multi – utility vehicle** which aims to bring technology to the remote corners. It is to **improve digital literacy, digital skills and create and awareness** on various government schemes.
- **INS Ganga**, an indigenously built frigate of the **Indian Navy** was decommissioned in Mumbai after over three decades of service. This ship represented a big step forward in the nations worship building capability.
- **MHRD** has approved ‘**Study in India**’ programme. The primary objective is to target foreign students by branding India as an attractive education destination.
- The **SARAS AajeevikaMela 2018** was organized by ministry of rural development in New Delhi. The mela provides rural women producers with a national platform and an opportunity to showcase their products and seek buyers.
- **Google** commemorated the **45<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the **Chipko Movement** with a doodle on **25 March**. The whole movement was taken forward by women participants who became a driving force in educating people on the deleterious effects of deforestation.
- According to the latest **2018 global data** show our nation has overtaken **Germany** and has become the fourth **largest automobile market in the world**.

## March – 26

- **West Bengal tops the list of states with most number of beggars**, The government has come out with the total number of beggars in the country. As per the data released by Union ministry of Social Justice, there are around 4 lakh beggars in total.
- Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal launched the ‘**Mission Sambhav**’ **campaign**, which aims at spreading the message of toilet construction in 33 districts of the state. This scheme aims to promote mass mobilisation through public representatives, local units of security forces, NGOs, and colleges.
- Srinagar’s **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden** has been opened for visitors. Deemed as Asia’s largest tulip garden, it is situated on the foothills of the **Zabarwan mountain** range by the banks of the Dal Lake.



- According to Ookla's Speedtest index, India, the largest consumer of mobile data in the world, ranks 109th when it comes to mobile Internet download speeds. The average download speed over the mobile increased to 9.01 mbps in February from the 8.80 mbps in November last year. **Norway is positioned at the top** with an average download speed of 62.07 mbps.
- Surat district located in Gujarat has become the first district in the country to have **100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC)**.
- A '**National Conference on Down Syndrome**' was organised by the National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi. A book entitled "**Twilights Children**" based on the lives of person suffering from Down Syndrome was released on the occasion.

**March – 27**

- The government has extended the deadline for linking **Aadhaar with PAN for the fourth time by three more months, till June 30**. It also extended the deadline for linking Aadhaar with the disbursement of benefits including subsidies under the social welfare schemes by three more months, till June 30.
- Ministry of Power partnered with the Ministry of **Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** to train the manpower in six states (Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh) for speedy **implementation** of its **SAUBHAGYA scheme**.
- The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram launched '**e-Tribes: Tribes India**'. It is an initiative for digital commerce at Tribes India Outlet in New Delhi. It included launch of e-commerce portal of TRIFED, [www.tribesindia.com](http://www.tribesindia.com), and M-commerce, the android app 'Tribes India'.
- Rs 5 crore insect museum with the state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The museum, established at a 6,691 sq ft area, **is fully dedicated to insects and is first of its kind in the country**.

## March – 28

- **Ministry of Communications** has launched the **Cool EMS Service** which will come into force from 29.03.2018. Cool EMS service is one-way service from Japan to India which allows customers in India to import Japanese food items for personal use which is allowed under Indian regulations. Initially, Cool EMS Service will be available in Delhi only.
- Government has setup **National Academic Depository (NAD)** which is a **24x7 online store house of academic awards** digitally lodged by various academic institutions/school boards/eligibility assessment bodies. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been designated as authorized body to operationalise NAD.
- The Cabinet approved Rs 6,600 crore for providing education loans to students belonging to economically weaker sections. It is made available for all the professional/technical courses in India and students with annual gross parental income up to Rs 4.5 lakh.
- The Goa Cabinet approved the proposal to make the scenic **Kaliningrad region of Russia near the Baltic Sea a twin region of Goa**, in order to promote cultural and social exchanges.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the **GSLV-F08 carrying the GSAT-6A communication satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota**. It is providing mobile communication to India through multi-beam coverage facility, is a key feature of the satellite.

## March – 29

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** has given its approval for restructuring of National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to strengthen governance, implementation and monitoring framework.
- **Union Food Processing Industries Minister Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal** will inaugurate the first mega food park at **Roopangarh Village in Ajmer, Rajasthan**. The Food Park is being set up at a cost of Rs 113.57 crore and will benefit around 25,000 farmers in Ajmer as well as **neighboring** districts.

- In the wake of increasing crimes against women, Assam Chief **Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** launched '**181-Sakhi**', a **toll-free helpline number for women**. This service intends to provide **24-hour immediate and emergency response** to women affected by violence.
- **Indian** cricket captain **Virat kohli's** wax figure will soon be unveiled at **Madame Tussauds, Delhi**. This museum is known for the portrayal of the famous names in the world of **entertainment, sports, history and politics**. The main museum is located in London.

### March – 30

- The **NITI Aayog** has released a preliminary ranking for the **101 most** backward districts of India that have signed up for the **Narendra Modi** government's '**Transformation of Aspirational Districts**' programme. **Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon and Maharashtra's Osmanabad** lie second and third on the top of the table.
- **Kerala to host Asia's largest startup conclave 'Huddle Kerala'**. It is aimed to create a platform for start-ups to display their products and interact with technology and **industry leaders** from various part of the world.
- **Tripura** state government has decided to set up a well equipped crime wing under the **state police to prevent unlawful state activities** such as drugs and narcotics peddling. It will be modeled on lines of **Delhi police crime branch**.
- **India soon exports** all varieties of edible oils except mustard **oil**, it will continue to be exported only in consumer packs up to **5 Kgs** and with a minimum export price of **US \$ 900 per tonne**. The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved.

### March – 31

- Andhra CM inaugurates International yachting festival in Visakhapatnam. This festival is the first step in developing sea tourism in Visakhapatnam.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister has announced raising the retirement age of State Government employees to 62 years from the current 60 years.

- Kadaknath, a children breed whose black meat is in demand in Madhya Pradesh has got the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag label.
- The Unique Nilgiri Mountain Railway in Tamil Nadu which has been conferred heritage status by UNESCO will run special train services from today till 24<sup>th</sup> June year to cater popular demand during summer holidays.
- Prakash Javadekar inaugurates smart India Hackathon Grand Finale 2018 software edition in New Delhi. He stated that Hackathon aims to build digital India and to engage the Youth directly in Nation – building.
- Chief Minister Shivraj promises pucca house for all labourers in Madhya Pradesh by 2022. It will be constructed for all laborers who registered under Chief Minister Unorganized labourer welfare scheme.

## SPORTS

March – 1

- **Twenty – time tennis grand slam champion Roger Federer** has won the **2017 Laureus World Sportsman of the year**

March – 3

- **Navjot Kaur** Clinched the **1<sup>st</sup> gold medal for India** in the **Asian wrestling championship** in Bishkek, **Kyrgyzstan**; she defeated **Imai Miyu of Japan** in the final of women's 65 kg freestyle.
- **The 27<sup>th</sup> Sultan Azlan Shah cup Hockey** tournament begins in the **Malaysia city of Ipoh**.
- **International Olympic Committee** has restored **Russia's Olympic membership**, following its suspension from the winter **Olympics at South Korea**.

March – 4

- **India** won the inaugural **IBSF Snooker team world cup in doha, Qatar**. India beat Pakistan by 3 – 2 in the best of five final.

## March – 6

- On the opening day of the ISSF World Cup at Guadalajara in Mexico, India had won four medals which include two gold and two bronze. Shahzar Rizvi clinched the gold medal with a world record score in his maiden ISSF World Cup appearance.
- The leg-spinner from Afghanistan, Rashid Khan (19-year-old) has become the youngest captain in international cricket history. He now holds the ICC No. 1 rank for bowlers in both the ODIs and T20Is and also became the youngest player ever to hold the top spot for any form of ICC men's ranking.
- India won the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup in Doha, Qatar. India beat Pakistan by 3-2 in the best-of-five final. In the finals, Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra staged a remarkable recovery after being 0-2 down.
- World rapid champion Viswanathan Anand annexed the Tal Memorial rapid chess title in Moscow, Russia after an easy final round draw against Boris Gelfand of Israel.

## March – 9

- **Indian junior archers bagged three gold and three bronze medals to finish Asia cup Archery.**

## March – 12

- **Navjot Kaur**, who clinched a gold medal at the recently concluded **Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek**, has jumped to the **second spot in the world women's 65kg weight category rankings released by United World Wrestling.**
- **Hyderabad, S Anindith Reddy** was crowned '**FMSCI National Motor Sports Person of the Year 2017**'. The country's outstanding performers during the year were felicitated at the **FMSCI Awards Nite**, including **Arjun Maini, Jehan Daruvala, Aditya Patel, Armaan Ebrahim, Gaurav Gill** and **Abhilash PG.**
- Delhi youngster **Tejaswin Shankar** smashed his own national record to claim the **high jump gold as three athletes booked their Commonwealth Games berths** on the **third and penultimate day** of the **22nd Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships.**

### March – 13

- World champions **Australia lifted the coveted Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey title**. In the final at Ipoh, Malaysia, they **beat defending champions England** by a **narrow 2-1 margin**. **Australia** won the prestigious tournament for the **10th time**.

### March – 18

- Indian para-athlete **Deepa Malik** won a **gold** medal in the F-53/54 category javelin event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai. With this, she became the Asian rank one in the F-53 category.
- After Afghanistan's rapid rise to prominence in limited-overs cricket, **Nepal** took a massive step forward after **achieving One-day International status**, after their victory over Papua New Guinea.
- Nepal defeated the Pacific nation by six wickets in a playoff game in the ICC World Cup Qualifier being held in Zimbabwe, achieving the distinction for the first time.

### March – 20

- **India beat Bangladesh** by four wickets to win the **Nidahas Cricket trophy final in Colombo**.

### March – 21

- **India's Purva Barve** won the **Women's Singles (Under-19) title** at the **Israel Junior 2018 Badminton** tournament held in **Rishon LeZion, Israel**. She has defeated the third-seeded and top-ranked Russian **Anastasiia Pustinskaia in three sets**.

### March – 23

- **Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan** shattered the qualification world record in **10-meter women's air rifle event** of the season's first junior **ISSF World Cup** in **Sydney, Australia**. Besides her individual podium finish, Elavenil also combined with **Shreya Agrawal** and **Zeena Khitta** to claim the team gold medal.

### March – 25

- **Star shuttler P V Sindhu** has been named the flag – bearer of the Indian Contingent for the **opening ceremony** of the commonwealth **Games in Gold Coast**.
- **Teenager Manu Bhaker** nailed her second world cup gold medal inside a month winning the women's 10 m Air pistol title at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)

### March – 26

- **Pankaj Advani** defended his **Asian Billiards Championships** title in style by demolishing his practice partner B Bhaskar 6-1 in the summit clash in Yangon, Myanmar.
- Hockey Punjab were crowned champions of the **8th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship** after they came from a goal down to defeat **Petroleum Sports Promotion Board 2-1 in a well-fought encounter**.

### March – 27

- **Muskan Bhanwala** won the gold medal at the Shooting Junior World Cup as she topped the women's 25 metres Pistol event.
- 17th Sub-junior National Wushu Championship began in Jammu. The national level sports event is being organised in the winter capital city of Jammu by the Wushu Association of India in collaboration with J&K State Sports Council at MA Stadium

### March – 29

- Cricket Australia (CA) has banned Australian captain **Steve Smith** and **Vice-captain David Warner** for **12 months and handed a nine-month ban to Cameron Bancroft**. Warner and Smith have also been banned from captaining Australia for **two years**. These players have been charged for deliberately trying to tamper with the condition of the ball in an orchestrated attempt to gain an advantage.
- **Tata Motors** has entered into a three-year partnership with the **BCCI** under which its compact **SUV Nexon** will be an official partner for the popular **T20 tourney**, the Indian Premier League (**IPL**). The latest edition of the IPL begins on **April 7**.

**March – 30**

- Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) appointed **Irfan Pathan** as the coach cum mentor of its senior state side for 2018-2019.

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

**March – 1**

- In a bid to increase the importance of services sector and to encourage banks to lend more to this sector, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to remove the per borrower loan limits for **MSMEs** involved in services for classification under priority sector lending.
- **Paytm** has said it is the largest contributor to the overall volume of **UPI transactions** in February 2018. It had registered **6.8 crore** UPI transaction.

**March – 8**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a **penalty of Rs 3 crore on private sector Axis Bank for violation of non-performing asset (NPA) classification norms, and Rs 2 crore on state-run Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for not complying with the Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations.**

**March – 12**

- The government has made providing **passport details mandatory** for taking loans of **50 crore rupees** and above to ensure a **SWIFT action** in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched '**Vikas She Plus**', a loan scheme for women to take up new ventures or **for expanding/modifying** the existing enterprises. This scheme provides loan up to a maximum of **₹2 lakh** with a repayment period of 60 months.



### March – 13

- The country's largest lender, **SBI** has slashed charges for non-maintenance of Average Monthly Balance (**AMB**) in savings accounts by nearly **75 percent**. The revised charges will be effective from **April 01, 2018** and will benefit over **25 crore** customers.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched instant overdraft '**InstaOD**' facility for **MSME** (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) customers in a completely online and paperless manner. Customers can get overdraft facility up to **Rs 15 lakh** for a year anytime, anywhere using the bank's Internet and mobile banking app.

### March – 14

- **ICICI Bank** has launched instant overdraft '**InstaOD**' facility for **MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)** customers in a completely online and paperless manner. Customers can get overdraft facility up to **Rs 15 lakh for a year anytime**, anywhere using the bank's Internet and mobile banking app.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** signed Mou with Reserve Bank of India for increased co operation in effective implementation of insolvency law

### March – 18

- **Capital markets regulator SEBI** raised the exposure limit under **exchange-traded currency derivatives trading for residents and FPIs to USD 100 million** across all currency pairs involving the Indian rupee.
- The move will help entities engaged in forex transactions to maintain their currency risks in a better manner.

### March – 21

- **General Insurance Corporation** is going to start operations at **the Lloyd's London office** in April 2018 thereby increasing its share of international business. This will also facilitate Indian becoming a regional reinsurance center.
- **India's largest lender SBI** and **India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC)** signed a pact to offer mortgage guarantee scheme for prospective non-salaried and self-employed home loan customers.

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## **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

**March – 4**

- **Indian Actor – Politician Shatrughan Sinha** has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at the annual ‘**Political and Public Life Awards**’.

**March – 6**

- The 90th Annual Academy Awards (also known as Oscar Awards) were held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, the USA. The Shape of Water won the top prize of the night - Best Picture. Jimmy Kimmel hosted the ceremony for the second year in a row. He has become the first host since Billy Crystal to do so.

### **THE FULL LIST OF WINNERS IS BELOW-**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winner</b>
1.	Best Picture	The Shape Of Water
2.	Best Director	Guillermo del Toro, The Shape Of Water
3.	Best Actress Outside	Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Ebbing, Missouri
4.	Best Actor	Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour
5.	Best Supporting Actress	Allison Janney, I, Tonya
6.	Best Supporting Actor	Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

7.	Best Original Screenplay	Get Out
8.	Best Adapted Screenplay	Call Me By Your Name
9.	Best Animated Feature Film	Coco
10.	Best Foreign Language Film	A Fantastic Woman, Chile
11.	Best Original Score	The Shape Of Water
12.	Best Original Song	Remember Me, Coco
13.	Best Documentary Feature	Icarus
14.	Best Documentary	Short Heaven Is A Traffic Jam On The 405
15.	Best Live Action Short	The Silent Child
16.	Best Animation Short	Dear Basketball
17.	Best Sound Editing	Dunkirk
18.	Best Sound Mixing	Dunkirk
19.	Best Production Design	The Shape Of Water
20.	Best Cinematography	Blade Runner
21.	Best Makeup And Hair	Darkest Hour
22.	Best Costume Design	Phantom Thread
23.	Best Film Editing	Dunkirk

### March – 8

- **Architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi** has become the **first Indian to win the Pritzker Prize**, the highest award in architecture. Calling the 90-year-old's works "**poetic**", the foundation commended him for respecting the eastern culture and working towards enhancing the quality of life in India.

### March – 9

- **Balkrishna Doshi** has become the **first Indian architect** to win the **Pritzker prize** in its four-decade history. It is regarded as the profession's equivalent to the **Nobel Prize**, the award went to doshi in recognition of a career spanning almost **70 years**.
- **Britain's Queen Elizabeth II** recognized '**Srishti Bakshi**' from **India** as the **26<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth point of Light** in honour of her exceptional service to empowering women in India.

### March – 13

- The government has decided to institute an award for carrying out best investigation of crime for promoting high professional standards among police forces. The award - **Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Investigation - will be given to the best investigators** of police forces of States, Union Territories and central investigating agencies.
- India has won the "**Best Exhibitor Award**" at **ITB – Berlin** on its last day. 'ITB-Berlin World Tourist Meet' was convened at Berlin, Germany from 7th March to 10th March 2018. India was represented by the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism **Mr. K. J. Alphons** along with a couple of Tourism Ministry officials

### March – 15

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** was awarded 2017 Kochon Prize for building a tradition of excellence in Tuberculosis (**TB**) research and demand development

- **Indian filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda’s “Halkaa”**, which had its world premiere at the 21st edition of Film Pour Enfants de Montreal Film (**FIFEM**), has bagged the **Grand Prix de Montreal**.
- **Actor Jackie Shroff’s short film “Shunyata”** has won an award at **Best of India Short Film Festival in Los Angeles, US**

**March – 17**

- **KL Rahul** is the ‘**Cricketer of the year**’ in the sixth edition of **Wisden India Almanack**, which has just been released.

**March – 20**

- A **British school teacher** has won a **\$1million Global Teacher Prize** instituted by an **Indian origin entrepreneurs** foundation in **UAE** to honour an exceptional teacher who has made a significant contribution to the profession

**March – 22**

- **Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands** won the prestigious **Abel Prize** for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory.

**March – 23**

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (**DRDO**) has received the ‘**Most Informative Pavilion**’ Award in Pride of India Expo organized as part of the **105th Indian Science Congress** held from 16 to 20 March 2018 at **Manipur University, Imphal**.
- **National Mission for Clean Ganga** was awarded Certificate of Appreciation for ‘**Encouragement and Appreciation of the Efforts in Ganga Rejuvenation**’ during the **Water Digest Water Awards 2017-18**.
- The “**We Are Sikhs**” campaign received the top **2018 PRWeek US award** in the category of Public Cause. The PRWeek US awards are nicknamed the “**Oscars of the Public Relations Industry**”.

### March – 24

- Former Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** presented the **G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award** for journalism to **senior journalist and television presenter Karan Thapar**.
- The **Bengaluru Airport (Kempegowda International Airport)** won **skytrax award** for being the best in **India and Central Asia** under the regional category at the **World Airport awards**.

### March – 26

- Former Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** has presented the **G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award** for journalism to senior journalist and television presenter **Karan Thapar**.
- Bollywood actress-producer **Anushka Sharma** and Badminton Ace **P V Sindhu** had featured in the **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2018 list**. The list includes innovators and disruptors who are reshaping their industries and changing Asia for the better
- **Aleksandra Liashkova** from Belarus was crowned Miss Supermodel Worldwide 2018 at a grand finale in **Gurugram, Haryana**. India's **Shweta Parmar** was awarded **Miss Congeniality**.

### March – 27

- Chhattisgarh bagged the National 'Water Digest Award' for Water Conservation-Diversion and for increasing the irrigation capacity in the State. This is the first time that Chhattisgarh Water Resources Department had been given national Award during the past 17 years.
- South Asian Cinema Foundation (**SACF**), a London based organisation has received the Frederick Pincott Award for 2017 from the Indian High Commissioner, **Y K Sinha** for promoting Hindi cinema in Britain for the last 18 years.

**March – 28**

- One of the most popular Malayalam film personalities, **Sreekumaran Thampi** was **awarded the prestigious J.C. Daniel Award** for in recognition of his sterling contributions to the Malayalam film industry.

## **APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNS**

**March – 1**

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has appointed its general manager **A K Pradhan** as the **Group Chief Risk officer**.

**March – 2**

- **Senior diplomat Vinay Kumar** has been appointed as **India's ambassador** to strategically key **Afghanistan**, succeeding incumbent **Manpreet Vohra**.

**March – 4**

- **Senior IAS Officers R Subrahmanyam** and **Anil Gopi Shankar Mukim** have been appointed as **secretaries of Higher education and mines department** respectively.

**March – 6**

- **Krishna Kumari Kohli** from **sindh province in pakistan** became the first ever **Dalit Hindu Woman** to get elected as **senator member of upper house of muslim majority country**.
- **National People's Party President Conrad Sangma** takes oath as the **Chief Minister of Meghalaya**. Mr Sangma was invited by **Governor Ganga Prasad** to form the government after he staked the claim with the support of **34 MLAs in 60-member Assembly**.

**March – 8**

- **Nagaland Governor PB Acharya** has appointed **Neiphiu Rio** as the new **Chief Minister of the state**. **Mr Rio will replaces TR Zeliang**. The Governor has received letters of support in favour of Rio from MLAs of **BJP, JD(U)** and an Independent besides **NDPP** legislators.

### March – 9

- **Neiphiu Rio** has taken **Oath today as the Chief Minister of Nagaland**. This will be Rio's fourth time as the chief minister of Nagaland. This comes after the **BJP** and the Nationalist Democratic People's Party (**NDPP**) won **29 seats** in the election.

### March – 10

- **Virat Kohli** named **Uber India's first brand ambassador**. This partnership will see Uber and Virat Kohli joining hands to underscore the **company's** commitment to **serve billions in the country**.

### March – 11

- **Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju** and **Minister of State for Science and Technology Y S Chowdary** have submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The ministers have resigned but will continue to be a part of **NDA**. **PM Modi** will control the **Civil Aviation Ministry**.

### March – 12

- All India Radio's News Services Division (**NSD**) director General **Sitanshu Kar** will **be the next head of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)** after superannuation of Frank Noronha on April 30.

### March – 14

- Businessman-turned politician **Sebastian Pinera** was sworn in as **Chile's president**, beginning what will be his second term in office after a four-year absence.
- **Nepal's first woman president Bidya Devi Bhandari** has been re-elected for a second term in office. Incumbent President Bhandari defeated Nepali Congress leader Kumari Laxmi Rai with an overwhelming majority in the presidential election.

### March – 15

- **Gina Haspel**, the newly nominated first-ever female director of the **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**, is a career intelligence officer with more than 30 years' experience.



### March – 17

- **Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran** was elected President of the Court of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for three years. He was elected as the **8<sup>th</sup> President**.
- **MS. Sangeeta Bahadur** has been appointed as the **next ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus**

### March – 18

- **Sangeeta Bahadur** appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus.
- President Donald Trump named **Larry Kudlow** as the next head of the **White House National Economic Council**.
- **Xi Jinping** was re-elected as **President** for a second five-year tenure by China's rubber-stamp parliament. The Parliament has recently allowed Xi to have a life-long tenure
- Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran was elected President of the court of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for three years.

### March – 21

- **Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik** will discharge the functions of Odisha Governor in addition to his own duties till regular arrangements are made. **Odisha Governor SC Jamir completed his tenure**.
- **Nanda Bahadur Pun** has been **re-elected as the Vice-President of Nepal** for the second term unopposed.
- **Myanmar's President and Aung San Suu Kyi's** right-hand man **Htin Kyaw** stepped down after two years in the position.
- US-educated economist **Yi Gang** named the next governor of China's central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

### March – 20

- **Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik** has been given **additional charge** as the **Governor of Odisha**.

### March – 22

- **Austria's capital city Vienna** has been rated the **world's most liveable city for the ninth consecutive year** by Mercer in its annual **Quality of Living survey**.
- **Hyderabad and Pune** have been rated **India's most liveable cities** as they have tied for the **142nd place** in Mercer's global Quality of Living survey.
- A 24,583-metre-long cave that was discovered in 2016 in **Meghalaya has been found to be the world's longest sandstone cave** by the Meghalaya Adventurers' Association. **Called Krem Puri**, it is also the second largest cave in India. It is over 6,000 metres longer than the current world record-holder for the longest sandstone cave, the Cueva Del Saman in Zulia, Venezuela.

### March – 24

- **John Bolton** Replaces McMaster as **US National Security Adviser**. It was announced by President **Donald Trump**

### March – 27

- **Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan** was appointed the **principal scientific adviser to the government of India**. Vijay Raghavan will succeed physicist Rajagopala Chidambaram who has been in the position for more than 16 years
- Veteran director Shekhar Kapur has been appointed as chairman of the central panel of the **65th National Film Awards**. Mr. Kapur is known for his work in Hindi cinema and International cinema.

### March – 28

- Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth has been appointed as a Deputy Collector by the Andhra Pradesh government.

- The Supreme Court appointed **Justice Jawad Rahim as the acting chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)**. Justice Rahim would also participate in the selection process of judicial experts.

#### March – 29

- **K Vijay Raghavan**, one of the most distinguished **biologists of the country**, was appointed **Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India**. He will succeed 81-year-old nuclear physicist **R Chidambaram**, who has been in the position for more than 16 years, having been appointed in **2001**.
- **Myanmar's** parliament has elected **Win Myint** as the country's next president, a week after the resignation of his predecessor **Htin Kyaw**.

#### March – 30

- **Indu Bhushan** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (**ABNHPM**).

#### March – 31

- US diplomat Dicarlo becomes first female UN Political Chief. It is one of the most high profile positions at the World body.
- Senior bureaucrat Chandra Bhushan Kumar has been appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner to the part for five years an order issued by the Department of Personal and Training (DOPT)
- The Government has appointed senior bureaucrat Vineet Joshi as the director General of National Testing Agency (NTA) which will conduct the entrance examinations for higher educational institutions organized by CBSE.

## BOOKS

March – 4

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, launched the social media of ‘**Namaste Shalom**’ a magazine on India – **Israel relations**

March – 10

- **President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind** received the first copy of the book ‘**Fulfilling Bapu’s Dreams – Prime Minister Modi’s tribute to Gandhiji**’ from **Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev**, who formally released it at a function held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

March – 17

- Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on the Occasion of the **70<sup>th</sup> independence** of the Island nation paid a glowing tribute to former BCC President **jag Mohan Dalmiya** by releasing a book titled “**A Tribute to Jagu**”

March – 21

- **General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff** released a book on **Paramveer Chakra** Awardees - ‘**Paramveer Parwane**’. The book illustrates the bravery of Paramveer Chakra Awardees from **1947 to 1965**. The book is **written by Dr Prabhakaran Jain** and is published by **Medha Books**.

## ECONOMY

March – 15

- The **World Bank** has projected India's **GDP growth at 7(point)3 percent** for the next financial year and accelerates further to **7(point)5 percent in 2019-20**. The World Bank's biannual publication, India Development Update - India's Growth Story, expects the economy to clock a growth rate of **6.7 percent** in the current fiscal ending **March 31**.

## March – 16

- **India's exports grew by 4.5% in February-2018** to 25.8 billion dollars. It was 24.7 billion dollar during the same period in February-2017. This announcement was made by the Commerce Secretary **Rita Teotia**.
- **Private sector lender Yes Bank** has launched a robotics based 'Digital export Import' payments solution as a part of its Yes Transact Smart Trade product suite.
- **A report from Deloitte has pegged India's growth at 6.8-6.9 per cent in 2018**, adding that it will be driven by private consumption by both rural and urban areas.

## BUSINESS

### March – 1

- **India** regained the status of the **worlds fastest – growing major economy** in the **October – December** quarter driven by a **pick – up** in growth in manufacturing and services sectors.

### March – 2

- **Union Cabinet** chaired by **Modi** has approved the **proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (**EESL**) signed **MOU** with the Airports Authority of India (**AAI**) for installing energy – efficient **LED Lights at airports, buildings, and facilities owned by AAI across India**.

### March – 9

- The **Reserve Bank** has slapped a penalty of **Rs.40 lakh** on **SBI** for not complying with its directions on detection and impounding of **Counterfeit notes**.
- **Legal global IT Services** organization, Tata Consultancy Services (**TCS**) was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world in an assessment done by leading brand Valuation firm, **Brand Finance**.

### March – 10

- As per the **second advance estimates** released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) the growth of Gross Domestic product (GDP) is estimated to be **6.6 percent in 2017-2018**.

### March – 11

- As per the Second Advance estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to be 6.6 per cent in **2017-18**, which is same as the annual average GDP growth rate during last 30 years, starting from **1987-88 to 2016-17**.

### March – 12

- **Financial services platform Paytm** has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, **Paytm Money**, has received approval of market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to become a **registered investment advisor**.

### March – 14

- The public sector **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has secured significant orders worth **736 crores Rs.**, after competitive bidding, for supplying Steam Generators for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). The generators will be manufactured at the Tiruchirappalli plant of BHEL and will be installed at the **Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)**, Gorakhpur, Haryana.
- According to data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), India's factory output, measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded overall 7.5% growth in January 2018, indicating early signs of industrial revival. Factory output grew at 7.1% in December 2017, before hitting 25-month high of 8.4% in November 2017. The cumulative IIP growth for period of April-January over corresponding period of previous year was 4.1%.
- India has attracted reaching US \$208.99 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) during April 2014 to December 2017 period. The main sectors that received maximum FDI include services, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, construction, trading and automobile.

### March – 17

- Government of **India** and the Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) have signed a **\$120 million loan agreement** for completion of works for double – tracking and electrification of **railway tracks along high – density corridors**.

### March – 19

- **State Bank of India** is giving a special facility to its **ATM** card holders. With this, customers can keep their ATM cards under control. **SBI Quick App** has special features for controlling special ATM cards. It provides the facility of blocking, turning on or off ATM cards and generating an ATM PIN.
- Former **Gujarat** Chief minister **Anandiben Patel** has launched her biography ‘**Karma Yatri**’, written by **Ameya Latkar** in the presence of **BJP** chief **Amit Shah** and Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani**.

### March – 25

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has launched a new “**Yellow Army Savings Account**” to increase its customer base through its association with **Chennai Super kings (CSK)**
- **Bengaluru** based startup **Fisdom** and **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** have entered into a partnership to enable investments in the **National Pension Scheme (NPS)**

### March – 29

- Government will come out with an **Rs 350** commemorative coin to **mark 350th birth anniversary** of **Guru Gobind Singh**, the 10th and last Sikh Guru. The **coin** with standard weight of **35 gram** will have **50 per cent silver**, **40 per cent copper** and **5 per cent each of nickel and zinc**.
- The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and the Government of India signed **\$80 million** loan to help modernize technical and vocational education and training (**TVET**) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

## March – 31

- Fino payments Bank has said it plans to deploy multi – utility Android based MPOS (Mobile Point – of – sale) devices across 10,000 banking points in the country in a phased manner.
- Rivigo, a homegrown logistics start up that owns as well as act as an aggregator of trucks, is tying up with YES Bank, IDFC and to other financial institutions to make cheaper funds available to truck owners.

## IMPORTANT DAY

### March – 20

- International Day of **Happiness** is celebrated **World Wide** every **March 20**. The theme of this year is “**Share Happiness**”.
- **World Sparrow day** is observed on **March 20** to raise awareness of the **house sparrow and then other common birds to urban environments**.

### March – 22

- **International Day of Forests: 21 March**. The theme of the International Day of Forests in 2018 is “**Forests and Sustainable Cities**”.
- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: 21 March**. The theme of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2018 is “**Promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination**”.

### March – 24

- **World Tuberculosis day** observed on **24<sup>th</sup> March** is designed to build public awareness about the **global epidemic** of tuberculosis and efforts to **eliminate the disease**. The theme for the year **2018** is ‘**Wanted : Leaders for a TB – free World**’



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

March – 1

- Anti Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) NAG were **successfully flight – tested** in desert conditions against **two tank targets** at different ranges and timings. It was developed by **DRDO**.

March – 4

- **NASA launches** advanced **weather satellite**. **GOES** stands for Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites. It has been launched to monitor and forecast Crisp images of hurricanes, floods and other natural calamities.

March – 13

- Russia successfully launched high-precision **aeroballistic Kinzhal** hypersonic missile from a **MiG-31** supersonic interceptor jet. During the test, the missile launch was normal and it hit preset target on the test site. It also met its performance characteristics and time indicators.

## APPS AND PORTAL

March – 3

- **CMFRI** has developed a **multi – vendor e-commerce website & mobile app** to help **fish farmers & fisherman** sell their catch directly to customers online.
- **Madurai Police** have come up with a new app “**Cops Eye**”. It would help Police to detect the people with criminal backgrounds by clicking photographs

# OBITUARY

## March – 5

- Javed Abidi (53), the noted disability rights activist, has passed away in New Delhi on March 4, 2018. A former civil servant,
- Sarat Mohanty (88), the Veteran Odia film actor, has passed away in Balasore, Odisha on March 3, 2018.

## March – 6

- Veteran Literateur Prafulla Das passed away. He was 91. He worked in Odia language. He was a recipient of the prestigious "Sarala Award" for his achievement in the literary field. 'Banhimana', the biography of freedom fighter Malati Chaudhury, brought him the Sarala Award in 2014

## March – 8

- **Veteran Bollywood actor**, who was fondly called '**Shammi aunty**' by many in the film fraternity passed away at the age of 89. Born as **Nargis Rabadi** she has appeared in over 100 films.

## March – 10

- The **Sufi** singing pair of **Wadali Brothers** was broken as **pyarelal Wadali** the younger brother passed away at the age of 65 in **Amritsar**.

## March – 12

- **Senior journalist Ranjan Roy** has passed away after battling cancer for several years. Roy, chief of the Times News Network (TNN) and a member of the **paper's national editorial board**, was 57.

## March – 14

- **First Commissioner of Delhi Police** and former Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police **Jayendra Nath Chaturvedi** has passed away.

- Former UP minister and one of the most popular faces in the state capital, **Begum Hamida Habibullah** has passed away

### March – 15

- **Prominent British theoretical physicist Professor Stephen Hawking** has passed away. The theoretical physicist is known for his groundbreaking work with black holes and relativity.
- **Noted film and television actor Narendra Jha** has passed away following a heart attack. He was 55. The actor best is known for his performances in films such as “Raees”, “Kaabil” and “Haider”.

### March – 16

- **Acclaimed Lebanese author and feminist Emily Nasrallah**, who articulated women’s experiences in her writing about **Lebanon’s civil war**, has passed away.

### March – 22

- Renowned Hindi poet and critic **Kedarnath Singh** passed away at the age of 83. Prof. Singh was a recipient of the Jnanapeeth award in 2013. He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1989 for his poetry collection Akaal Mein Saras.

### March – 23

- **Les Payne, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist** and columnist for Newsday who fiercely championed racial equality has passed away. He was 76. He won Pulitzer Prize for “Heroin Trail” series in **1974**.

### March – 30

- Former Manipur chief minister **R K Dorendra singh** died at the **Jawaharlal Nehru** institute of medical science hospital in **Manipur**, he was **83 years old**.