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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

April - 1

- The Union Cabinet has approved signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) for cooperation on response to **oil** and **chemical pollution** in south Asian seas region.
- The Union Cabinet has approved signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **United Kingdom** and **Northern Ireland** regarding cooperation in the field of organised **crime**. It is exchange of information for purposes of combating international criminality and tackling serious organized crime.
- Scientists using **Kepler 2 telescope** have discovered **hot, metallic, Earth-sized planet named K2-229b orbiting dwarf** star located **260 million light years** away. They had employed Doppler spectroscopy technique also known as **'wobble** method to discover and characterise this faraway planet.
- **Google** is **shutting down** its **URL Shortener** service **goo.gl**, which was unveiled in **2009**. The support for **goo.gl** will be turned down over the coming weeks and will be replaced with **Firebase Dynamic Links (FDL)**.
- According to National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18, over **93%** households in **villages** who have access to **toilets** are using them and about **77%** homes in **rural areas** have got toilets. The survey was conducted by Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under **World Bank** support project to Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (**SBM-G**).

April - 2

- The **fifth Indo-Kyrgyzstan** joint training exercise **KHANJAR V** culminated after a Joint Tactical Validation Exercise and a closing ceremony held at Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School, **Vairengte**, and **Mizoram**.
- The Indian delegation for the annual meeting comprises **India's Indus Water Commissioner P K Saxena** and Pakistan's **six-member** delegation for the commission's **114th** meeting is being led by **Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah** begins in **Delhi**.

- **India** is now the **second-largest mobile phone producer** in the world after **China**. According to the data shared by **Indian Cellular Association** with the government, annual production of mobile phones in India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to **11 million** units in **2017**.
- **India** has now become the **largest importer** of **almonds** in the **world**. India, the second largest almond importer in the world in 2017, has already imported 154 million pounds till February this crop year (August 2017 to July 2018), overtaking Spain and China.

April - 3

- **China** to unveil world's **longest cross-sea bridge** connecting **Hong Kong, Macau** and mainland **china**. This bridge will be **55km** long and six lanes wide, comprising of four tunnels **four artificial islands**.
- Google Doodle today paid a tribute to Indian freedom fighter and feminist social reformer **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay** on her **115th birth** anniversary. The colourful doodle celebrates Kamaladevi's multi-faceted accomplishments and her immense contribution in enriching India's **cultural and social fabric**.
- Indian security forces are bracing for a **“hot” summer** in the **Himalayas** along the Line of Actual Control with China this year. But unlike the Line of Control with **Pakistan**, where cross-border firing duels is the norm, it will be a battle of nerves in the shape of troop face-offs and transgressions without actual shots being fired on the China front.

April - 4

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** and **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan** launched construction of Turkey's first ever nuclear plant on the **Mediterranean coast at Akkuyu**. It is being built by Russia's nuclear energy agency, Rosatom.
- **India** ranked **37th** in the **global startup ecosystem** in 2017, according to a report released by global startup ecosystem map Start up blink. The list, measuring startup ecosystem strength and activity, was **topped** by the **United States** followed by the United Kingdom.

April - 5

- **India will be the partner country for International Frankfurt Trade Fair, Ambiente 2019** to be held during February 8-12, 2019 in Germany. India will take over the partner country globe from the Netherlands.
- Keeping with the tradition in **India-Nepal ties**, **Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli will visit India first after taking charge.**
- **An earthquake of magnitude 6.2 struck off the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.** There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quake, which hit at a depth of 61 km (38 miles), about 128 km (80 miles) east of the island's key city of Davao.
- **Mr. Zuckerberg, who co-founded Facebook in 2004,** sought another chance for himself to lead the social media giant despite acknowledging mistakes that his company made in sharing its users' information with a third-party.

April – 6

- NASA's **Hubble Space Telescope** has discovered the farthest individual star ever seen – an enormous blue stellar body nicknamed **Icarus** located over halfway across the **universe**. The star, harboured in a very distant **spiral galaxy**, is so far away that its light has taken **nine billion years** to reach **Earth**.
- President Donald Trump instructed the **U.S. trade** representative to consider **slapping** an additional **\$100 billion** in tariffs on Chinese goods on Thursday in a dramatic escalation of the trade dispute between the two countries.

April – 7

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** is in **Baku** to attend the **ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement** being held in the capital of **Azerbaijan**.
- **Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy, search and rescue exercise 'Sahyog- Hyeoblyeog 2018'** was conducted off the **Chennai** coast, in **Tamil Nadu**. The Korean Coast Guard ship '**Bodaro**' took part in the exercise.

- The Government of India, Government of **Maharashtra** and the **World Bank** signed a **US\$ 420 million project** to help **Small and Marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha** regions of Maharashtra. The project will help in increasing climate resilient practices in agriculture and ensuring that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity for them.
- **Qatar** has introduced national service for women for the **first time** as per a law issued by **Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani**. According to the law, women above the age of 18 can volunteer for national service.

April - 8

- From 10th to 23rd April, 2018, Indian Air Force (**IAF**) will conduct exercise '**Gagan Shakti, 2018**', its biggest ever combat exercise along **Pakistan** and **China** borders. Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (**LCA**) Tejas will be taking part in the exercise for the first time.
- RH300 sounding rocket was launched from **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS)**, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The RH300 sounding rocket was **developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.

April – 9

- Japan activated its Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (**ARDB**), **its first marine** unit since **World War Two**. The marine unit has been activated to counter invaders who attempt to occupy Japanese islands along the edge of the East China Sea. Japan fears that those islands are vulnerable to attack by **China**.
- United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) and Malaysia concluded "**Desert Tiger 5**" joint military exercise aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing **joint military actions**. It was aimed at **improving combat readiness, raising combat efficiency and enhances interoperability** of the **ground forces of both the countries**.
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** stated that **India and South Korea** will sign a pact to provide **Indian seafarers employment** on over **500 Korean ships**. It will not only create job opportunities for Indian seafarers, but will also grant recognition of maritime education and training certificates for seafarers issued by the governments of both the countries.

April - 10

- An international conference on **‘Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership’** started in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The **three-day** event is being organized by the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage and Govt of Nepal.
- Nepal’s Prime Minister **KP Sharma Oli**, who is on a **three-day** State visit to **India**, was presented an honorary **degree** at **GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology** in the capital city of **Uttarakhand**.
- **India and Equatorial Guinea signed four agreements** including in the field of **health**. The agreements were signed following delegation level talks. President **Kovind** had one on one talks with his Equatorial Guinea counterpart. India will assist Equatorial Guinea in **agriculture, mining, health, telecommunications and IT**.

April - 11

- The three-day international conference on **human rights** with the theme **‘Identifying challenges and assessing progress: addressing impunity and human rights in South Asia’** started in Nepal to address the **issues** relating to human **rights** and impunity in South Asia.
- **Singapore and China** signed a **MoU** in Beijing, China to promote greater collaboration between Singapore and Chinese companies in third-party markets along the **Belt and Road**.
- **India and World Expo 2020** signed participants contract for India’s pavilion in the prestigious World Expo 2020 held once **in 5 years**. The contract provides for the setting up of India pavilion at Expo 2020 on an **extra large plot** (about one acre) in the **‘Opportunity’** segment.
- **NASA** is all set for its first interplanetary launch from **Vandenberg Air Force Base** in **California** on May 5 with the **Mars-bound InSight lander**. InSight is planned for landing at **Red Planet** on November 26.
- The first international conference on **‘Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership’** has started in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. Vice President of Nepal Nanda **Bahadur Pun** inaugurated the conference.

April - 12

- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Host country (**Headquarters**) Agreement between India and International Solar Alliance (**ISA**). The agreement was signed between Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) and **ISA in March 2018**.
- **2018 edition** of the Boao Forum for Asia (**BFA**), also known as **Asia's Davos** was held in Hainan, **China**. The theme for 2018 Boao Forum for Asia (**BFA**) is: "**An Open and Innovative Asia for a World of Greater Prosperity**"
- India has become the top recipient of foreign direct investment (**FDI**) from within the Commonwealth. It has become the **second-most** lucrative source of investment within Commonwealth after the **UK**.

April - 13

- **Bangladesh** ends reservation in Government **Jobs after furious protests**. Bangladesh **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** announced she will be abolishing the **quota system** for government jobs. The decision is being viewed as a victory for **tens of thousands of students** and job-seekers.
- **World's first long-distance electric bus** line began service on **April 12, 2018** in **Paris, France**. This **49-seater bus** has a maximum travel range of **250 kilometres**. Its batteries can be fully charged in **5 hours**.
- **India** has signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with **Timor-Leste (East Timor)** in the field of **public health to extend affordable healthcare** to its people.
- **India and Morocco** have signed a **MoU (Memorandum of Understanding)** in the field of **Mining and Geology for a period of 5 years**.
- **UAE** approves law on **equal wages for men, women**. With a vision to bring more **females into its workforce**, **United Arab Emirates'** cabinet approved a bill guaranteeing equal pay for men and women.

April – 14

- The third **India-Russia Military Industrial Conference** was held on the side-lines of **DefExpo 2018** at **Thiruvudanthai, Kancheepuram** district on the East Coast Road near **Chennai**. Seven **MoUs** were signed between **Indian** and **Russian** companies for defence equipment.
- The **National Highways Authority** of **India** signed an agreement for its first international project. The main aim is to provide seamless **vehicular** movement for enhancing **trade, business, health, education** and **tourism** among **India, Myanmar, and Thailand**.
- **India** plans to construct **12 expressways** with an investment of over **Rs 1 Lakh Crores** which would stage a number of opportunities for **Korean businesses**. Republic of Korea (**RoK**) involvement in financing interlinking of rivers, highway construction, developing logistics parks and shipbuilding activity in India.
- Union External Affairs Minister (**EAM**) **Sushma Swaraj** met the Afghan Defence Minister Lieutenant-General **Tariq Shah Bahramee** in New **Delhi** and agreed to make efforts in combating **terrorism** in the **South Asian region**.
- **Pakistan's** Supreme **Court disqualified** former Prime Minister **Nawaz Sharif** from holding office for life. Supreme court disqualified him on an issue over **undeclared** source of **income**.
- US President Donald **Trump** launched air strikes on **Syria** in a combined operation with **France** and **Britain**.

April – 15

- **O'Connell Tower** of **Ireland** has **reopened** to the public here after **47 years** following a **bomb attack**. It is the tallest tower of Ireland.
- The **China** has aimed at making the free trade port system and operational mode of Hainan "**more mature**" by **2035**. A free trade port system will be "**basically established**" according to the guidelines on supporting **Hainan's** efforts to deepen reform and opening up jointly released by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (**CPC**) and the State Council.

- **Pakistan** Prime Minister **Shahid Khaqan Abbasi** has inaugurated the first unit of a key hydropower mega project built with the financial and technical support of **China** in Pakistan-occupied **Kashmir**. The **969- MW Neelum Jehlum Hydropower Project** near Muzaffarabad was announced more than **12 years ago**.
- United Nations (UN) has launched a **UN Road Safety Trust Fund** to spur action that could **save** lives and **prevent** the loss of opportunity associated with road accidents.

April – 16

- **Pakistan** successfully test fired **Babur Weapon System-1 (B)**, an enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile. The cruise missile is important part of Pakistan strategic deterrence.
- **India** has sought **China's** assistance to **speed up** the **Bengaluru-Chennai railway corridor** besides redevelopment of **Agra** and **Jhansi railway stations**. A proposal was made for increasing the speed of the corridor to **150 kmph**.
- **India** is coordinating with **China** and other Asian countries to raise voice against Asian premium charged by Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (**OPEC**).
- **Turkey's** Prime Minister has warned **Greece** to refrain from "**provocations**" after a Greek flag was hoisted on a disputed, uninhabited islet in the Aegean Sea off the **Turkish coast**.

April - 17

- The **first** African Land Forces Summit (**ALFS**) began on **April 16, 2018** in **Nigerian** capital, **Abuja**. **ALFS 2018** is hosted by **U.S. Army Africa and Armed Forces Nigeria**.
- **Fashion retailer Myntra** announced that it has acquired '**Witworks**', a **Bengaluru** based technology startup, involved in developing smart wearable devices and their underlying **software**.
- New South Wales (**NSW**), a southeastern Australian state, announced a two-year **USD 1.58 million partnership** with **India to enhance Indian startup ecosystem, technology, and advanced manufacturing sectors**.

April - 18

- Three-time Oscar winning filmmaker **Steven Spielberg** has created history by becoming the first director whose films have globally taken in over **\$10 billion**. His latest film Ready Player One has helped the **71- year-old achieve this milestone**.
- **Indian Prime Minister Modi** is in Sweden, where he will meet with the five **Nordic prime ministers** for the first **India-Nordic Summit**.
- **Tech giant Google** is set to launch a new security layer for its **mailing service Gmail** that will help users to purge a mail or text **after a period of time**. The 'confidential mode' will enable users to set a passcode to open emails, which will be generated through text message
- The **Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO)** has postponed launch of India's second lunar mission '**Chandrayaan-2**' from April 2018 to October-November 2018
- According to the annual State of **Global Air Report**, published the **Health Effects Institute (HEI)**, more than **95%** of the world's population is breathing unhealthy air and the poorest nations are the hardest hit.
- **Top 34 global technology and securities firms**, led by Microsoft and Facebook, have signed a Cybersecurity Tech Accord to defend people from malicious attacks by **cyber-criminals and nation-states**.

April – 19

- The **NASSCOM** (National Association of Software & Services Companies) and Tech UK launched **new UK-India Tech Alliance**. The leading **technology** trade bodies of **India and UK inked** memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) in this regard during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's visit to the UK**.
- The **Jatra** begins in **Nepal**. It is believed that the **festival started during Malla dynasty**. In Nepal, the **famous Bisket Jatra** is being celebrated in **Bhaktapur** and other **parts of Kathmandu valley**. The **nine-day annual** festival marks beginning of **Nepali New Year**.

- A top **U.S. admiral** has warned **Congress against imposing any sanctions on countries like India and Indonesia** for purchasing defence equipment from **Russia**.

April – 20

- The **opening of the first movie theater in Saudi Arabia** has been highly anticipated across the country, after over **35 years of prohibition** for religious reasons.
- Prince Charles will be the next head of the Commonwealth, succeeding, his mother Queen Elizabeth. The Queen has been head of the Commonwealth since coming to the throne in 1952, but the position is not automatically held by the British monarch.
- ‘Stranger Things’ star **Millie Bobby Brown, 14**, has become the youngest person to be named as one of the **world’s 100 most influential people** by **TIME**.
- The **Global Findex Report, 2017** released by the **World Bank** showed that number of account holders in the country has risen from **35 percent** of the **adults** in 2011 and 53 percent in 2014 to 80 percent in 2017.

April – 21

- The **Commonwealth countries** have unanimously agreed to take action on **cybersecurity** by **2020**. The landmark declaration was made at the end of Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (**CHOGM**) in **London**

April – 22

- With an aim to strengthen trade ties with India, Taipei World Trade Centre (**TWTC**) **launched** its office in **Delhi, ahead of Taiwan’s first-ever expo** that will showcase cutting-edge technology and smart city solutions in **Delhi in May 2018**.
- India has pressed the **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations to set up an **independent credit rating agency** of the **five-member group**.

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has decided to roll out ‘**Integrated initiative for prevention & control of viral hepatitis**’ under National Health Mission
- **India and Finland** have reached an agreement on the tax dispute with Nokia under the **Mutual Agreement Procedure System (MAP)**. This involves payment of **Rs 1,600 crores a sum**.

April – 23

- The **6th** edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (**IONS**) and Conclave of Chiefs is being hosted by **Iran at Tehran from 23 to 25 April 2018**.
- Former **New York** mayor and billionaire **Michael Bloomberg** said he will write a **\$4.5 million cheque** to cover this year's **U.S. financial commitment** to the **Paris Climate Agreement**.
- **Mike Pompeo**, President Donald Trump’s nominee to be **U.S Secretary of State**, could be the **first cabinet** appointee to be voted down by a **concerned Senate committee** in more than **seven decades**.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** asked **Indians and Chinese** to learn each other’s language as it will help them **overcome communication barriers**, resulting in further strengthening the relationship between the **two nations**.

April – 24

- Iran banned the use of **bitcoin** and crypto currencies by its bank and **financial institution**.
- **India and Finland** have reached an agreement on the dispute between **Indian income tax department and Finnish telecom firm Nokia** under Mutual Agreement Procedure (**MAP**)

April – 25

- India is participating in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (**SCO**) Defence Ministers Meeting for the first time. The **15th SCO Defence Ministers Meeting** was held at **Beijing in China**.

- **Six countries** of the Union of South American Nation (**UNASUR**) have suspended their membership amid differences over who should lead the group.
- **Indian External Affairs Minister** led the **delegation** at the 6th joint committee for cooperation with **Mongolian foreign minister**
- India is tying up with **United States and Finland** to create a **pollution forecast system** that will enable anticipation of particulate matter (**PM**) levels at least two days in advance with a better resolution.

April – 26

- Bilateral joint training exercise **HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018** between India and Malaysia will be conducted in the dense forests of **Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia** from 30 April to 13 May 2018 as part of ongoing **defence cooperation between both countries**
- Bangladesh is all set to become a member of the exclusive club of **satellite-owning** countries as its first commercial satellite "**Bangabandhu-1**" will likely be flying to space on **May 7 from the US**.
- India slipped in the annual **World Press Freedom Index 2018** for the second straight year, falling two places to rank **138th among 180 countries** in the latest list.

April – 27

- **India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC)** meeting on trade, transit and cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade started in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The main focus of the **two-day meeting** will be on further strengthening trade and investment ties between both the countries.
- India agreed for the most revered **Buddhist** relics from **Sarnath** to be taken to **Sri Lanka** for public exposition on the occasion of **Vesak festival**. It will be on public display at **Temple Trees in Colombo for four days**.
- **Pakistani** foreign minister **Asif** disqualified by court for holding **UAE** work permit. **Mr. Asif** is one of top leaders of ruling **Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz** and his disqualification is considered as another huge blow to the party.

- **US Senate** approved former **CIA director Mike Pompeo** as secretary of state, after a bruising battle by Democrats against President Donald Trump's nominee.

April – 28

- The Government of **Kazakhstan** has launched a **72-hour-long** transit visa free regime for Indian citizens from **17th April 2018** to **31st December 2018**.
- **Online search engine Google** is the most trusted Internet brand in India, followed by **Facebook**, as per the **TRA Brand Trust Report 2018**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** have decided to issue **strategic guidance** to their respective **militaries** to **strengthen communications** and to build trust and understanding.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (**BIS**) has granted first **licence** for Liquid Chlorine on **All India** basis to **M/s Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd**. Liquid chlorine is primarily used in **paper, pulp, textile bleaching, water** sterilization and manufacture of chemicals.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Research & Development (**R&D**) centre in Faridabad, Haryana has signed a Letter of Intent (**LoI**) with **ISKCON Food Relief Foundation (IFRF), Haryana**.
- National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) signed an agreement with **Macquarie** for **road projects** under the highway **monetisation initiative**.
- **Dalmia Bharat Limited** has signed a **MoU** with the Tourism Ministry to take up **Red Fort and Gandikota Fort (Andhra Pradesh)** under the ‘**Adopt a Heritage**’ project.

April – 29

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** held the **first-ever informal summit in China’s Wuhan city** on 27th and 28th April, 2018 to discuss measures for **strengthening bilateral** ties between **both the countries**.

- **India-Nepal Inter Governmental Committee (IGC)** meeting on **Trade, Transit and Cooperation** to Control Unauthorized Trade was held in Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Paytm** introduces '**Tap Card**' offline payments solution. The Tap Card utilizes Near Field Communication (**NFC**) technology to enable safe and convenient digital payments, totally offline at **Paytm-issued, NFC PoS terminals**, within a second.

April – 30

- The **Pakistan Navy** has delivered medical assistance to an **Indian boat** which has developed engine problems nine days ago and was **lost at the sea**.
- **North Korea** promised to **close its atomic test site** next month and invite U.S. weapons experts to the country, Seoul
- **No May Day for workers of Sri Lanka**. The Sri Lankan Cabinet's decision to postpone May Day events to **May 7**, to avoid any overlap with the celebrations around the Buddhist festival of **Vesak**.

NATIONAL NEWS

April - 1

- **World's fourth largest bus maker Ashok Leyland** began construction of its bus making plant in Mallavalli Model Industrial Park, 40 kilometres from Vijayawada. The flagship company of the Hinduja Group will produce its **first bus in coming six months according to the company**. The foundation stone for the facility has been laid by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu**.
- The recent census carried out in **Kaziranga National Park**, Assam has revealed that there was a marginal increase in the population of the one-horned rhinoceros. As per census report, currently there are 2,413 rhinos in Kaziranga National Park registering a marginal increase of **12 rhinos** compared to last census.
- Government is going to launch Swachh Bharat Summer Internship (**SBSI**) 2018 aimed at **engaging college youth with Swachhata work** in villages in coming **summer vacation**. The initiative will be launched by **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation**, the convening and coordinating Ministry of Swachh

Bharat Mission (SBM) in association with ministry of human resource development.

- **Hindon Elevated Road**, India's longest elevated road was inaugurated in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. It connects UP Gate to Raj nagar extension and it easier to commute between Delhi and Ghaziabad. The elevated six-lane road is approximately 10 kilometres-long. It is built on **227 single pillars**.

April - 2

- The **West Bengal** government has rolled out Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee's dream** project '**Rupashree**' which provides one time financial support to the marriages of poor women. 'Rupashree' scheme follows the chief minister's ambitious '**Kanyashree**' project which has drawn **global applause**.
- Hyderabad has been ranked the top city in the short-term Momentum Ranking of JLL's annual global survey. The 'CMI Short-Term Momentum rankings' published by **Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL)** features Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune and Kolkata among the top five cities with Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai also earning a spot among the top **20 in the Global Top 30 index**.
- In the survey conducted across **53 airports** in the country by AAI, **Mangalore International Airport was adjudged the cleanest**. A team of officials from AAI had inspected the airport terminal, parking area, toilets, commercial stalls, and the road leading to the airport and customer lounge.
- India ranked 37th in the global startup ecosystem in 2017, according to a report released by global startup ecosystem map Startup blink. The list, measuring startup ecosystem strength and activity, was topped by the **United States followed by the United Kingdom**.

April - 3

- **Ministry of Tourism** in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** had launched **Adopt a Heritage Project**. Under it, selected public sector companies, private sector companies and individuals will develop tourist amenities at heritage sites. They will be called as '**Monument Mitra**' and adopt the sites essentially under their **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity**.

- **Multi modal logistics park** was inaugurated at **Balli** station on konkan railway route near madgaon in goa. This facility is expected to bring additional income to konkan railway, the trade and industry in goa will be highly benefited.
- According to recently published **global study**, India is among countries which are at greatest risk of food insecurity due to weather extremes caused by climate change. The study has examined how climate change could affect vulnerability of different countries mainly **122 developing and least-developed countries**.
- More Indians are now filing tax returns with nearly one crore new filers joining the system **in 2017-18** as the revenue department reported robust **increase** in direct **tax receipts**. The rollout of goods and services tax (**GST**) is expected to help boost revenues on the indirect taxes front.
- Union Petroleum minister dharmendra pradhan **inaugurated world class** tourist amenities at **konark sun temple** in odisha. It will showcase natural and cultural heritage in odisha.

April - 4

- **Himachal Pradesh Health Minister Vipin Parmar** launched **Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) programme** with an aim to promote breastfeeding. Objective of MAA programme is to create awareness among masses about the **importance of breastfeeding**.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted a High Powered **Committee** to examine the entire system of conducting **Class X and Class XII** examination conducted by the **CBSE** with a view to **preventing leakages**. Mr. **Vinay Sheel Oberoi**, Retd. Secretary (Higher Education), MHRD will be the Chairperson of the **7 member** High Power Committee.
- **Union Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister**, Suresh Prabhu launched digital initiatives by **Export Inspection Council (EIC)** for ease of export at New Delhi. EIC is the official export certification body of Government of India and has launched this **flagship project of Digital India Initiative** to keep pace with changing dynamics of the world.
- **India – Japan – United States 9th** Trilateral Meeting at Joint level was held in New **Delhi** on April 4, **2018**. During the course of this meeting, the officials

discussed practical steps to enhance cooperation in the areas of counter-proliferation; connectivity and infrastructure development, **counter-terrorism; humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime** security and maritime domain awareness.

- The **UIDAI** has unveiled the beta version of ‘**Virtual ID**’, which will soon be accepted by service providers in lieu of Aadhaar number. Virtual ID (VID), which an Aadhaar-card holder can generate from **UIDAI website** is a random **16-digit number** mapped to a person’s Aadhaar number and biometrics.

April - 5

- India emerged as the third most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats, such as malware, spam and ransomware, in 2017, moving up one place over previous year, according to a report by security solutions provider Symantec. The U.S. remains most vulnerable to such attacks, followed by China, according to the recently released ‘**Internet Security Threat Report**’.
- **DMK working president M.K. Stalin protest near the EVR statue in Anna Salai, Chennai.** The Opposition-sponsored bandh today in Tamil Nadu to protest against the Union government’s failure to form the Cauvery Management Board has begun.
- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is in Russia to attend the 7th Moscow Conference on International Security.** This is her first visit to Russia in her capacity as the Defence Minister.
- **Mumbai**, also known as the financial capital of India, has added another feather to its cap, becoming the first city of the country to have as many as **eight women police station in-charges**.

April - 6

- The Union Minister for Railways and Coal Shri **Piyush Goyal** launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring. UTTAM stands for – **Unlocking Transparency** by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal (**uttam.coalindia.in**). The Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (**CIL**) developed UTTAM, aims to provide an App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries.

- On 5th April 2018, President **Ram Nath Kovind** addressed the **34th** annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation (**FLO**) in New **Delhi**. At the Annual session 10 Indian Women Achievers were presented the **FLO ICON AWARDS**.
- In a major achievement, **India** has overtaken Japan to become the **world's second largest producer of crude steel** in February, according to the Steel Users Federation of India (**Sufi**). At present, China is the largest producer of crude steel in the world, accounting for more than **50 per cent** of the production.
- On April 5, 2018, Union Civil Aviation Minister **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated **first flight** from **Delhi** to **Pathankot** (in Punjab), at a ceremony held at the **Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi**

April - 7

- The Ministry of **Information and Broadcasting** has instituted a committee to **regulate online portals, including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators**. The **10-member** committee will include secretaries of the departments of **Home, Legal Affairs, Electronics and Information and Technology, and Industrial Policy and Promotion**.
- **The Global Logistics Summit** was held in **New Delhi**. It was organized by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, along with **FICCI** (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) and the **World Bank Group**.
- An all encompassing coordinated and composite exercise named "**Gaganshakti**" is being conducted by the **IAF from 08-22 Apr 18**. The aim of this exercise is real time coordination, deployment and employment of **Air Power in a short & intense battle scenario**
- The Tamil Nadu government launched **Amma Free Wi-Fi zones in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu**. This scheme was announced by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **J Jayalalithaa in September 2016**.
- The Ministry of **Tribal** affairs has approved establishment of the **first multipurpose "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra"** on pilot basis for establishment in **Bijapur** District of **Chhattisgarh** State. It has been setup for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility.

- The Central Information Commission (CIC) is holding a seminar on the **topic “Health and Right to Information Act”**. The Seminar is aimed at Health and Right to Information Act 2005, with a view to improve governance in the Health sector.
- **Minister of State for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (Independent Charge), Giriraj Singh** launched a mobile phone application for locating **Khadi store** in the country. The app was **launched during 9th meeting of National Board of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in New Delhi.**

April - 8

- Indian Railway has inducted three **‘09-3X Dynamic Tamping Express machines’**, the state of the art integrated track maintenance machines. A new **3D state-of-the-art tamping simulator** has been installed and commissioned at Indian Railway Track Machine Training Centre Allahabad (IRTMTC) for practical hands-on training to operate such **advanced track maintenance machines.**
- Indian Government banned imports of the hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in the livestock industry. Oxytocin is referred to as “love hormone”, Union Women and **Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi** has stated that abuse of **‘oxytocin’ in animals, especially milch animals, causes hormonal imbalances and makes them barren sooner.**
- **NITI Aayog** is planning to build National Data & Analytics Platform (**NDAP**) to host and interpret huge amount of data which shall be helpful for citizens to understand **patterns of the government, consumption trends and the success of various government policies.**
- As per a report by **OpenSignal**, Patna has ranked No.1 among **20 largest cities in India** in terms of 4G availability. OpenSignal is Lonon based company that specializes in wireless coverage mapping
- Tamil Nadu (TN) **Chief Minister K Palaniswami** recently launched **‘Uzhavan’** (meaning – farmer), a **mobile application for farmers.** This app allows farmers to have access to **nine types of services**, including details about their crop insurance, information on farm subsidies, book farm equipment and related infrastructure and receiving weather forecast.

April - 9

- The Prime Minister has announced that on the occasion of **Ambedkar Jayanti** a “**Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**” would be organised starting from **14th April to 5th May, 2018**. This Abhiyan is being undertaken for reaching out to poor households, spreading awareness about government welfare schemes and other people centric initiatives.
- All **tobacco** products and **cigarette** packs will have a national toll-free number printed on them from September this year to assist users to quit addiction. The number is – **1XXX-XX-2356**. The toll-free number will help in creating awareness among tobacco users and give them access to counseling services to effect **behavior change**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh** Government launched the **Ganga Hariteema Yojana**, also known as **Ganga Greenery scheme**, on in the **27 districts** of Uttar Pradesh that are located on the bank of river Ganga. The scheme aims to enhance the green cover in the catchment areas of the river Ganga and to control the land erosion.
- Union Food Processing Industries Minister, **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** inaugurated **Uttarakhand’s second Mega Food Park** in **Udham Singh Nagar** district. This Mega Food Park will benefit around 25000 farmers in Udham Singh Nagar district as well as neighbouring districts. It is to be noted that Uttarakhand’s first Mega Food Park is located at **Haridwar** and has already become operational.
- In **May-June 2018**, **Kerala State Government** will start a ‘**community radio**’ to update farmers about the latest developments in the sector. This will be the **first** such community **radio in India**, under Government initiative to get connected with the farming community.
- **IHHC** (India Home Health Care) has become the **first home health care company** to create a dedicated **ICU** simulation lab to train nursing staff, at its **Bangalore facility**. This advanced simulation lab will offer **hands-on training modules** and **aide nursing staff to improve the quality of medical and healthcare services offered** to homes.
- **Prof Panchanan Mohanty**, former dean of the School of Humanities at University of Hyderabad (**UoH**) has discovered two new languages: **Walmiki** and **Malhar**. Walmiki is spoken in **Koraput of Odisha** and in the bordering districts

of **Andhra Pradesh**. Malhar is spoken in an **isolated** region **165 km** away from **Bhubaneswar** in **Odisha**.

April - 10

- The **Maharashtra state** government has introduced **free chemotherapy facility in 10 districts** from June. The state government will **include more districts once the scheme** is rolled out in these districts successfully. This facility will be made available at the district hospitals.
- The **Haryana state** government has decided to provide **special benefits**, including **nutritional support, to tuberculosis patients** in an effort to eliminate the infectious disease by **2025**. The state government would provide nutritional support of **Rs 500 per month** during treatment to notified **TB** patients with effect from **April 1 this year** through Direct Benefit Transfer (**DBT**) system.
- The **two-day Assam Spring Festival** began at the **Manas National Park** where visitors will get to experience the state's local **food, music, handloom and handicrafts**. The **aim** of the event is to promote the local **food and culture of the fringe villagers**.

April - 11

- The tenth edition of a biennial exhibition of **weapons and military hardware - DefExpo India- 2018** begun at **Kancheepuram** in Tamil Nadu. The **four-day** long defense expo was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Indigenously developed military helicopters, aircraft, missiles and rockets, capabilities to manufacture submarines, frigates and corvettes would be showcased at the event.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. **Chandrababu Naidu** and Founder of Isha **Foundation** Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev has inaugurated a three-day long '**Happy Cities Summit 2018**' in Amaravati.
- The government has amended **Income Tax rules** that will now allow **transgenders** to be recognised as an independent category of applicants for obtaining a Permanent Account Number (**PAN**) for their tax-related transactions.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first **all-electric high-speed locomotive in Bihar**. The addition of all-electric high-speed locomotive in **Bihar** will be a giant leap in PM Modi's govt. initiative '**Make in India**'.
- The Vice President of India Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the two-day "**Scientific Convention on World Homeopathy Day**" organized by the Ministry of **AYUSH** in New **Delhi**.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) launched '**Project Dhoop**', an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of **Vitamin D** in **students** through natural **sunlight**.
- The first meeting of the newly constituted '**NITI Forum for North East**' was held in **Agartala, Tripura**. The meeting was organized by the NITI Aayog, Ministry of DoNER and the North Eastern Council (**NEC**).

April - 12

- The Indian Space Research Organisation's navigation satellite **IRNSS-1I** was launched by **PSLV-C41** and successfully placed in the designated orbit. PSLV-C41/IRNSS-1I Mission blasted off at 4.04 am from the first launchpad at the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre.
- Delhi's IGI in world's top 20 busiest airports. Robust air traffic growth at the capital's Indira Gandhi International (**IGI**) Airport has propelled it into the list of top 20 airports According to the Airports Council International (**ACI**), **Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai** were among the fastest growing airports in the **world last year**.
- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** has approved setting up a **5,000 MW** capacity solar park at the Dholera Special Investment Region (**SIR**), which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion.
- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, **Thaawarchand Gehlot** launched a **new Website and Mobile App** of the '**National Commission for Safai Karamcharis**'. The new website and Mobile App will help the Commission in addressing the grievances/complaints of petitioners in an efficient manner.

April - 13

- **Indian Railways** has installed more than **one lakh bio-toilets in trains** till **March** this year. **Under the bio-toilet project**, the railway has been improving cleanliness and hygiene at platforms besides facilitating track and **coaches' maintenance staff** to perform their work more efficiently.
- Massive Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (**MIMO**) technology lab, India's **first-of-its-kind 5G radio laboratory** will be inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Delhi on April 13, 2018**.
- **HRD Ministry** sets up committee to reduce the fear of **maths amongst students**. This decision was taken on the basis of **National Assessment Survey** to eliminate the fear of maths among the students. Also, **eminent educationists and senior officials** will be the **part of this committee**.
- The Airports Authority of India (**AAI**) has signed an agreement with the Ministry of External Affairs, for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (**DPR**) on the **first phase** for development of the **Kalay Airport** as a green airport in **Myanmar**.
- On **April 12, 2018**, Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) successfully launched the **IRNSS-1I navigation satellite** aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (**PSLV**)-C41. **IRNSS-1I** is part of Indian satellite **navigation system**

April - 14

- On **April 14, 2018**, on the occasion of **Ambedkar Jayanti**, Prime Minister Modi launched first of **1.5 lakh** health and wellness centres, planned under the recently launched **Ayushman Bharat Scheme**, at Jangla village in Bijapur district of **Chhattisgarh**.
- **Maharashtra** Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched '**QUEST**', a centre to evaluate and quantify special development budget allocations and their impact on **tribal development**.
- State of **Andhra Pradesh** is constructing a world-class city in its **de facto capital Amaravati**. Nearly **3840 apartments** in **61 towers** are under construction in the Amaravati capital region.

- Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), in **Gujarat** launched **6th edition** of Heat Action Plan (HAP) aimed at protecting city dwellers from scorching temperatures during **summer**.
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has decided to celebrate **April 20, 2018** as **theUjjwala Diwas**, as a part of the as a part of the ‘**Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**’.
- The **65th National Film Awards** were announced in **Shastri Bhawan**, New **Delhi**. National Film Awards will be given by the President Ram Nath Kovind in **May 2018**.

April – 15

- **E-way bill** requirement for intra-state movement of goods has been rolled out in 5 states i.e. **Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala**. The electronic e-way bill for inter-state movement of goods valued over **Rs 50,000** was rolled out on **April 1**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan start “**Anubhuti**” programme in which students will be taken to villages. Anubhuti Samvad programme addresses “**life in a village is amazing**”.
- **Haryana** soon to give relax to the undergraduate students as it is going to introduce a unique way which will bring a **smile** on their faces that is Choice based credit system (**CBCS**).
- Union Communications Minister **Manoj Sinha** has announced that **second** edition of India Mobile Congress (**IMC**) will be held in New **Delhi** from **25th – 27th October**.
- Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley**, who was **re-elected** to the **Rajya Sabha** in March, took oath for his new term on April 15, 2018. He was elected to the rajya sabha from **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Central Government announced extension of **phase 1** of the **FAME-India** scheme by six months till end of September 2018. **Under Phase 1, incentives** were offered for mass adoption of electric and strong hybrid **vehicle**.

April - 16

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **left** on a **five-day** visit to **Sweden** and the **UK**. The visit to the two nations aims at enhancing bilateral cooperation in key areas like **trade, investments and Science & technology**.
- Recent National Institute of Virology (NIV) study has found that **Indian Aedes aegypti mosquito** that transmits **dengue** and **chikungunya** is easily susceptible to **zika virus**.
- The **biannual Army Commanders' Conference** shall commence on 16 April **2018**. The opening address will be given by Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence, Shri Subhash Ramrao **Bhamre**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** celebrated its **71st foundation** day with much **fanfare** and **gaiety**. Several cultural events were organized across the state. It may be recalled that the hill state came into existence after the merger of 30 odd princely states in 1948.

April - 17

- In a **bid to further boost** the consumption of **natural gas** in the country, Indian Government is planning to set up a Gas Trading Hub/Exchange (**GTHE**) by **October 2018**. The GTHE will enable trading in natural gas and supply through a market-based mechanism instead of **multiple formula driven prices**.
- **First regional conference** of eastern states on **Water Resources** took place in **Kolkata**. **Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh** was the participating states with the objective to resolve the water disputes among them.
- **East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh** is all set to become the country's **first 'LED street light district'**. This exercise is expected to save around **34 Million Units (MU) annually**.
- **Bengaluru** has emerged as the **highest paying city in India**, with an average annual cost to company (**CTC**) for talents through all levels and functions at Rs 11 lakh, as per the report of **Randstad Insights**.

April - 18

- The Bombay High Court on Wednesday barred **Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA)** from using water from **Pavana dam for maintaining** Pune ground for **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2018** matches till further orders.
- Third edition of the Annual **5G India Congress 2018** will be held on April 20 at **Le Meridian Hotel**, New Delhi. 5G Indian Congress 2018 will focus more on understanding and **analysing current Network infrastructure and its developments.**
- Global IT **Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC), 2018** will be held in New Delhi during 8th to 11th November, 2018. GITC is being held every year in **Asia- Pacific region** and such events were held in the past in countries like **Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam** etc.
- The 1st regional workshop on star rating of garbage- free cities, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) in collaboration with the New Delhi Municipal Council (**NDMC**) was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- **Sushma Swaraj and Shri Prakash Javadekar** launched '**Study in India**' portal. The Study in India is aimed at making India a **preferred destination for the foreign students to pursue their education.**
- Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures (**TLMAL**) on Wednesday inaugurated India's first **metal-to-metal** bonding facility at **Adibatla, Hyderabad.**
- **M Venkaiah Naidu** launched a health scheme of the Assam government named Atal Amrit Abhiyan that offers free medical care of up to **Rs.2 lakh** for every individual from **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** and **Above Poverty Line (APL)** families.

April - 19

- The **Union Government** has formed Defence Planning Committee (**DPC**), a **new integrated institutional mechanism** that will drive country's military and **security strategy** and guide defence **equipment acquisitions.**

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) has introduced updated '**QR code**' for **offline Aadhaar verification** to strengthen its privacy measures during usage.
- **India** has won **six elections** to United Nations (**UN**) Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**) bodies, **five** of them unanimously. In these polls, India won places on executive boards of four UN bodies, **three commissions and committee**.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) has released draft of National Clean Air Programme (**NCAP**) proposing **multiple strategies to reduce air pollution**.
- The much-awaited bridge '**Ib Setu**' built over the Ib River in **Sambalpur** district was thrown open to the public by Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik**. The **2.5-km-long bridge**, which is the State's **second longest bridge**, has been built in **three years** at a cost of **Rs. 117.50 crore**.
- According to **latest data released** by National Crime Records Bureau (**NCRB**), **Bihar** has the **highest rate of crimes against Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe population**.
- The **government** has ramped up printing of **currency notes** and is operating all the four presses **24x7 as ATMs running dry** in many parts of the **country**.

April – 20

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the two-day **Civil Services Day** event in New **Delhi** on April 20. The day is celebrated for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in **work**.
- Two day Regional Conference on "**Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges**" concluded in Ahmedabad, **Gujarat**.
- Vijay Goel launches Central Project Monitoring Unit **for e-Vidhan project** at Parliament House Annexe e-Vidhan is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in **India paperless**.

- In **Uttar Pradesh**, Government has ordered all government **hospitals** and **orphanages** to establish **SHISHU SWAGAT KENDRA- PALNA** and put up cradles in front of their buildings so that parents can give up **unwanted babies** safely.
- Minister of State for Communications (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Railways Shri **Manoj Sinha** has Inaugurated the newly **created Parcel Directorate** in the Department of **Posts**.
- The **BJP** government in **Chhattisgarh** will **start distributing smart phones** to over **50 lakh people** for free from May under the Sanchar Kranti Yojana (**SKY**), months ahead of assembly polls in the state.
- **Gujarat** govt launches "**Pocket Cop Project**", The project '**Pocket Cop**' was launched by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in **Gandhinagar**. This project come up with smart phones containing database of people with a criminal background would be distributed to **4900 police personnel** in the state.

April – 21

- Adani Foundation has partnered with '**Room to Read**' to implement the project '**Utthan**'. The project was formally inaugurated on April 21, **2018**, at Bhat Primary School, Bhat, **Gandhinagar**.
- In a major boost to **sports infrastructure** in **Telangana**, Chief Minister K **Chandrashekar** Rao on Saturday **announced 2 percent reservation** in state government jobs for **sports persons**.
- The Centre on approved the **ordinance** to **award death sentence** to the **rapists** of children below the **age** of **12**. Following a meeting of the Union Cabinet here, the government cleared the amendment in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (**POCSO**) Act.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (**RGSA**) scheme aimed at making **rural local bodies self-sustainable**, financially stable and more efficient.
- The Union Cabinet on Saturday approved a proposal for the **promulgation** of the **Fugitive Economic** Offenders Ordinance 2018 that seeks to confiscate properties

and assets of economic offenders, like **Nirav Modi**, who flee the country to avoid facing **criminal prosecution**.

- An exhibition titled “**Dhvani se Sabd aur Chinh**” was inaugurated at National Gallery of **Modern Art, Mumbai** on April 21, **2018**.

April – 22

- The Punjab government led by **CM Captain Amarinder Singh** approved the extension of the facility of **accidental insurance** cover to nearly **accredited 4200 media persons with yellow cards**.
- **Petrol price** today hit 74.40 a litre — the highest level under the **BJP-led government**, while diesel rates touched a record high of 65.65, renewing calls for cut in excise duty to ease **burden on consumers**.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (**HRD**) launched integration of **e-SANAD portal and NAD – National Academic Depository** in a bid to **make education system in India more transparent**.
- The **Maharashtra** government has pulled **11 websites down** after receiving complaints from the **entertainment industry** that pirated content was displayed.
- **Hydro power major Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Ministry of **Power for generating 9200 million units** for the year **2018-2019**.
- The first International **SME** (Small, Medium Enterprises) convention will be held in **New Delhi** from **22nd to 24th April, 2018**.
- The Group of Ministers (**GoM**) constituted by **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has proposed **One Nation One Tax policy** for seamless movement of commercial vehicles across the country
- **Chairman & Managing Director, Shekhar Mittal** said that Goa Shipyard Limited (**GSL**) is planned to **go public this year**.

April – 23

- Prime Minister **Narendra modi** honoured officials for making **Manipurs Karang the first cashless island** of the country and implementing the **GST** and other
- **Rajya Sabha** Chairman **M. Venkaiah Naidu** rejected the Opposition's impeachment notice against Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Dipak Misra**.
- The central government has declared "**Digambarpur gram panchayat**" of **west Bengal** in south **24 parganas district** as the best panchayat in the country.
- In a bid to make **India** an export hub for **electronics**, the government plans to set up at least one **SEZ** or special **economic zone** in every State under the proposed **electronic policy**.

April – 24

- IT major Tech Mahindra has established Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Operations Centre (**APCSOC**) in **Vijayawada** which is equipped with predictive **threat analytics capabilities**.
- **Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu**, will chair the first meeting of the think tank on the **Framework for National Policy on E-commerce** to be held on April 24th, 2018.
- **Diu Smart City** has become the first city in India, that runs on **100% renewable energy** during daytime setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green. Diu had been importing **73%** of its power from Gujarat until last year.
- Delegates from **37 countries** are participating in the first ever International **SME Convention** being held in **New Delhi** from **22nd to 24th April 2018**.
- **Union Cabinet** stated that India will now maintain a database of sexual **offenders to monitor and track** those individuals convicted of such crimes. It will be maintained by **national crime records bureau**
- The Centre has revoked The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (**AFSPA**) from **Meghalaya since April 1**. Earlier the **AFSPA** was effective in **20 km area** along the **Assam-Meghalaya border**

- **Sunderban** reserve forest is likely to be declared a **Ramsar** site as west Bengal state government has given approval to its state **forest department** to apply for recognition under the Ramsar convention

April – 25

- Railways to hand over **113-year old Lord Curzon Bridge** in Allahabad **UP government**. The construction of the 61-metre- long "**Lord Curzon Bridge**" that caters to both rail and vehicular traffic was sanctioned in 1901 as a state railway bridge.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**, at a public meeting, in Mandla in **Madhya Pradesh**. He unveiled a **Road Map** for overall development of tribals during the **next five years**.
- The **Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh**, chaired the third meeting of the Island Development Agency (**IDA**) in Delhi
- The Union Government (**Ministry of Finance**) has signed a **Loan Agreement** with the World Bank for **IBRD credit** of **US\$ 125** (equivalent) for Innovate in India for **Inclusiveness Project**.
- Sh. **Hardeep Puri**, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (**I/C**) launched a Mobile App (**m-Awas**) for allotment of Government accommodations in **General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** in Delhi under the control of the **Directorate of Estates**.
- The two-day **Secure India Conclave** got underway in New Delhi on **April 24, 2018**. The conclave is being organised by **Global Counter Terrorism** keeping in view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of New India : **Secure India 2018**.
- **Meghalaya government** has launched '**Mission Lakadong**' to achieve a five-fold increase in the production of **lakadong** turmeric, an organic variety of turmeric grown in **Meghalaya**
- A two day coastal security exercise '**Sagar Kavach**' began on April 24 along **Kerala** shores. It is to strengthen the coastal security mechanism which is held twice a year

April – 26

- The **Madras High Court** became the first court in south India and overall eighth in the country to introduce **e-court fee payment facility**. It was jointly launched by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee.
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the **NITI Aayog** will launch the **Atal New India Challenge** on **26th April**. It will be run in **collaboration with five ministries**
- The Minister of Housing & Urban Development Hardeep Singh inaugurated the **48th Foundation Day of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) during remaining period of **14th Finance Commission (2018-20)** with an outlay of **Rs. 1290 crore**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi left** on a three-day visit to China. Mr. Modi will hold talks with **Chinese President Xi Jinping** during an informal summit in Wuhan city. It is expected that the meeting between Mr Modi and Mr Xi will be a milestone in **India-China relations**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between India and World Health Organisation (WHO) represented by its **Regional Office for South-East Asia** acting through its country office in India.
- National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) and **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on technical knowledge sharing for establishing nationwide **Time Stamping and Time Synchronization network (TSTSN)** and traceability of Time signal to UTC NPL Time.
- The **Union Government** has entered into agreement with World Bank for flexible financing arrangement to accelerate research towards early development for biopharmaceuticals under **National Biopharma Mission**.
- **Foreign tourists**, except those from **Pakistan, China and Afghanistan**, would now be allowed to visit some of the most pristine locations of the country. The

home ministry has decided to relax the **six-decade-old Protected Area Permit regime**.

April – 27

- **Google on Friday celebrated** with a doodle the life and work of **Mahadevi Varma**, an influential **Hindi poet, essayist, and freedom fighter**.
- The Centre on Friday moved an application in the **Supreme Court** for a **two-week extension** in time to frame the **Cauvery water-sharing 'scheme'**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has given in-principle approval for the diversion of **77 hectares** of forest land for the **Rs 1.08 lakh crore** bullet train project between **Mumbai and Ahmedabad**.
- The **Madras High Court** on Friday rejected **Rajiv Gandhi** assassination case convict **Nalini's** plea for premature release.
- The **Aadhaar numbers** of over **89 lakh persons** enrolled in the **MGNREGA** scheme in Andhra Pradesh have been made available in the public domain by the **State government**.
- Senior advocate **Indu Malhotra** was administered the oath of office as a Supreme Court judge by **Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra**, making her the first **woman lawyer** to enter the top **judiciary directly**.

April – 28

- **Durishetty Anudeep**, a native of **Chittapur** village near **Metpally** town in **Jagityal district** of **Telangana**, has emerged topper in the Civil Services examination this year.
- Over 50 from **Tamil Nadu** clear **UPSC** exam. **V. Keerti Vasan**, a civil engineer from **Dharmapuri**, secured the **29th rank** emerging the topper among the candidates from **Tamil Nadu**.
- The Centre will amend the **POCSO Act** to provide death sentence for rape of boys under the age of 12, after the ordinance promulgated by President Ram Nath Kovind provided the same punishment for rape of girls in this age bracket.

- **Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh** launched a portal to facilitate **import-export of seeds** and planting material. The portal is geared towards making the entire trade related processing, easy and fast.
- **Union Ministry of Tourism** launched a 360° Virtual Reality (VR) experience video on **Incredible India** launched this video in collaboration with **Google India**.
- Union Minister **Manoj Sinha** said that, the **Telecom Commission** has approved a comprehensive strategy to implement **BharatNet in the North East region**.
- **Shirui Lily Festival 2018** is being held in **Ukhrul** district of Manipur from **24th to 28th April, 2018**. The festival commemorates the significance of **Manipur state flower**, the **Shirui Lily**.
- **Himachal Pradesh Government** has decided to introduce free **Heli-ambulance services** in order to help patients in the far flung and inaccessible areas of the State.
- Former footballer **Bhaichung Bhutia** launched his political party named “**Hamro Sikkim**” at the Press Club of India, **New Delhi**.
- **Maharashtra government** announced the launch of ‘**Startup Week 2018**’ from **25th June to 29th June 2018**, with an aim to promote entrepreneurial ecosystem.

April – 29

- **NDMA conducts** its first-ever **Mock Exercise on Bio-Disasters** at Patna airport. During the course of this training, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** jointly conducted its first-ever full-scale **Biological Management Emergency Exercise**.
- **Swedish-Swiss multinational giant ABB** announced commissioning of India’s **first industrial solar microgrid** at its factory in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.
- A first of its kind Israeli **Modern Art Exhibition** was inaugurated in **New Delhi** on April 28, 2018. This exhibition titled ‘**To the End of Land**’ was organized by **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi**

- **Maharashtra State Government** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **British Council** to strengthen **educational and cultural cooperation**.
- **NITI Aayog** and ITC Ltd will be collaborating in the area of **agriculture and allied sectors** with an objective to strengthen farming systems.
- **The environment ministry** has banned plastics in all **protected areas** throughout **India**, declaring them “**plastic free zones**”.
- **Andhra Pradesh government** and **MasterCard**, along with Fintech valley conducted the **Andhra Pradesh Cyber Security Summit** in Visakhapatnam.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**) set up India’s first Virtual **Bronchoscopy** Navigation (VBN), an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of small **tumour-like spots in lungs**.
- Defence Acquisition Council (**DAC**), chaired by Union **Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman**, approved Capital Acquisition Proposals of **defence equipments/ammunition** valued at over **Rs 3687 crore**.
- Airports Authority of India (**AAI**) has signed its Annual Performance Contract (**APC**) for 2018-19 with **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.

April – 30

- **Sikkim's Pawan Chamling** becomes longest serving Chief Minister. Pawan Kumar Chamling has surpassed the record of former **West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu** by becoming the longest serving Chief Minister of any Indian state.
- President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, visited **Madhya Pradesh on 28th and 29th April, 2018**. He addressed a function related to **Mini Smart City Mission of Government** of Madhya Pradesh.
- Delhi govt. to set up **Rogi Kalyan Samiti** in every **Assembly constituency** in order to provide support to the **health institutions in the national capital**.
- **Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) K E Krishnamurthy** initiated Andhra Pradesh government’s ‘**Bhu Seva**’ (**land hub**) project aimed at

offering integrated services related with land.

- Indian Government will soon launch a uniform and credible national-level disaster database on **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)** insistence to implement its commitment to the **Sendai Framework**.
- **Google** says its Internet **Saathi programme**, which is aimed at making rural women digitally literate and enhance their livelihood options, has touched 1.5 lakh villages so far, covering 1.5 crore women.
- Minister of State for Tourism (**Independent Charge**) and Minister of State for **Electronics and Information Technology** inaugurated the **Indian Culinary Institute (ICI)** at Noida.
- **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated 'Odisha Skills 2018', the state-level chapter of India Skill competition organised by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** in Cuttack, Odisha.

SPORTS

April - 2

- **Kerala** have lifted their **sixth Santosh Trophy Football** title. In a thrilling final at the **Salt Lake Stadium** in **Kolkata**, they held their nerves to beat defending champions and 32-time winners **Bengal** via penalty **shootout**.
- **American John Isner** won his first ever **Masters 1,000** title with a 6-7 (4-7) 6-4 6-4 victory over German Alexander Zverev in the **Miami Open final**.
- Indian women's cricket team captain **Mithali Raj** was adjudged '**Sportsperson of the Year**' while ace shuttlers **Kidambi Srikanth** and **PV Sindhu** bagged the best senior male and female athletes at the **Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017**.

April - 3

- The media rights for **India's bilateral cricket** series at home will go under the hammer in Mumbai on Tuesday. Six companies, including conglomerates such as

Star, Sony, and Jio along with digital majors Face book and Google are in the race.

April - 4

- On **4th April 2018**, the **21st** edition of the **Commonwealth Games** started at **Carrara Stadium in Gold Coast**, Australia. For the first time in the Commonwealth Games there will be equal number of men's and women's medal events. **PV Sindhu** is the **flag-bearer for India at the opening ceremony**.

April - 5

- In the first day of competitions at the **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018**, in Australia, India began their campaign with a **Silver Medal** in Weightlifting. In the **56 kilogram category**, **P Gururaja** lifted a total weight of 249 kg to finish second in the event.

April - 6

- **India** defeated Bangladesh by **27-10** in a one-sided match to win the fifth **South East Asian Women Handball Championship** at K.D. Singh Babu Stadium in Lucknow.
- **World champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu** (48 kg) secured India's first gold medal at **21st common wealth game in gold coast**.

April - 7

- **Satish Kumar Sivalingam** retained his sway over the men's **77kg** title at the **Commonwealth Games**. He claimed **India's third gold medal** at the Commonwealth Games

April - 10

- Indian shooter **Heena Sidhu** set **Commonwealth Games record** to win **gold** in women's **25m pistol** shooting event. This is Sidhu's **second medal at CWG 2018**, after winning silver in women's 10m air pistol.
- **Ankita Raina** became only the **third Indian woman tennis player** to breach the **top-200 rankings in singles**. The **25-year-old** Ankita is the **first player** to

achieve the feat since **Sania Mirza** put India on the singles map with her **remarkable achievements over the years.**

- **German Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel** has won the **Bahrain Grand Prix**, the second race of the **2018 Formula 1 season**, for a record of **fourth time**, two weeks after clinching the **Australian GP**, strengthening his grip on the top spot in the driver standings.

April - 11

- The **2018 Asia Cup**, that was earlier scheduled to be held in **India**, has now been moved out to the **United Arab Emirates. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan** and the winner of Asia Cup qualifier will compete in the **50-overs** format event.
- Indian shooter **Om Prakash Mitharval** settled for the **bronze medal** in the men's 50m pistol event at the **21st Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, Australia.**
- Indian shooter **Shreyasi Singh** won the women's double trap gold in a shoot-off after scoring 96 points to take India's gold medal tally at the **21st Commonwealth Games 2018**

April – 12

- Indian badminton ace **Kidambi Srikanth** became **world No. 1** in the latest rankings released by the **BWF**, Srikanth finds himself atop the table with **76895 points**, ahead of **Viktor Axelsen.**
- **Tejaswini Sawant** brought her years of experience into play en route to claiming the **silver medal** in the women's **50m rifle prone** event of the **21st Commonwealth Games**
- **Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj** voted **world's leading cricketers** Kohli won his **award** for the **second year**, while Mithali raj became the **leading run-scorer in women's One-Day Internationals during India's run to the World Cup final.**

April - 13

- **Rahul Aware** bagged **India's first wrestling gold medal** at the Commonwealth Games 2018 after beating **Canada's Steven Takahashi** in the final of men's Freestyle **57 kg** event.

April – 14

- Fifteen-year-old shooter **Anish Bhanwala** became **India's youngest gold medalist** at the **Commonwealth Games**, winning the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Finals with a record score at **Gold Coast, Australia**.

April – 15

- **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar**, a 17-year-old swimmer from Pune has set a **world record** to double cross the **Bangla Channel**.

April – 16

- The concluding ceremony of the Commonwealth Games held in **Gold Coast Australia**, on 15 April **2018**. **Australia** remained on the top of Medal table with 198 medals followed by **England** with **136** and India got third position with 66 medals.
- Ace Indian shuttler **Saina Nehwal** defeated compatriot PV Sindhu 21-18, 23-21 in women's singles final to clinch a **gold medal** in women's badminton singles final at the **21st Commonwealth Games**.
- Spain's **Rafael Nadal** remained in the number one spot in the **men's Association of Tennis Professionals world singles rankings** released on Monday with 8,770 points.

April – 19

- **FIFA** has laid out plans to replace the **Confederations Cup** with an expanded **Club World Cup** that would only be held every four years from **2021**.

April – 21

- Differently abled indian arm wrestler shrimant jha won a bronze medal at asian arm wrestling championship which is held in kazakhstan

April – 23

- **Rafael Nadal** won monte carlo masters final, Nadal also became the first man in the Open era to win the **Monte Carlo title 11 times** and moved one ahead of rival **Novak Djokovic for career Masters titles**.
- India's top woman player **Joshna Chinappa** beat former **World No. 1 Nicol David 11-8, 11-8, 11-8** in the second round of the **El Gouna International squash** tournament in **El Gouna (Egypt)** for her **first-ever** win over the legendary **Malaysian**.

April – 25

- **India has clinched** the title of team champion in the 8th series of **South Asian Judo Championship held in Nepal**.
- **India's Jeremy Lalrinnunga** won a **silver and bronze medal** at Asian youth and junior **weightlifting championship**.

April – 26

- Blistering knocks from **M.S. Dhoni** and **Ambati Rayudu** powered Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to an exciting five-wicket victory over **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)**
- **Gautam Gambhir** steps down as **Delhi Daredevils captain**, **Shreyas Iyer** to lead the team
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** became the player with the most wins in **Champions League history** as Real Madrid claimed a 2-1 victory at **Bayern Munich**.

April – 27

- The International Cricket Council (**ICC**) confirmed on Thursday that India will open its **World Cup** campaign against **South Africa in Southampton on June 5**.
- **Rahul Dravid** has been recommended for the **Dronacharya** award, while India captain **Virat Kohli** is nominated for the second time for the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** award.

April – 28

- **Top Indian shuttlers**, including **P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal**, qualified for the prestigious **badminton World Championships** to be held in Nanjing, China, from **July 30 to August 5**.

April – 29

- **Sumit Sangwan (91kg) and Nikhat Zareen (51kg)** were among the three **gold-medallists** in India's stupendous campaign at the **56th Belgrade International Boxing Tournament in Serbia**.

April – 30

- **Sumit Sangwan (91kg), Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and Himanshu Sharma (49kg)** are the three gold-medalists in India's stupendous campaign at the **56th Belgrade International Boxing Tournament in Serbia**.
- **Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton** on Sunday won the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix. Hamilton grabbed his 63rd career win and his first in 2018.
- **Rafael Nadal** of Spain earned his **11th Barcelona Open** tennis title on Sunday as he crushed the rising Greek star **Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-1**.

BANKING AND FINANCE

April - 6

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced **First Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement** for financial year **2018-19**. This time too, the Policy Repo Rate has been kept unchanged.
 - Growth rate: **7.4** percent
 - Inflation target for the first half of current fiscal: **4.7-5.1** percent
 - Repo rate: **6** percent
 - Reverse repo rate: **5.75** percent
 - MSF: **6.25%**

- Bank Rate: **6.25%**
- CRR: **4%**
- SLR: **19.5%**
- Leading private lender **ICICI Bank** announced the launch of a service that enables Non Resident Indians (**NRIs**) to **send money** to a beneficiary in **India** using social media platforms like **WhatsApp and e-mail**.

April – 7

- Indian Bank has introduced Public Financial Management System (**PFMS**) and has launched '**Bharat QR**' facility. Indian Bank, **Managing Director and CEO, Kishor Kharat** launched these initiatives in Chennai. '**Bharat QR**' is a **mobile payment collection scheme to accept digital payments**.
- **ICICI Bank goes live with SWIFT gpi Tracker** The improved cross border payments service which is being referred to is the **gpi (Global Payment Innovation) Tracker**, which has been extended to cover all payment instruction send across the SWIFT network.

April – 9

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has decided to use Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) instead of Gross Value Added (**GVA**) to measure economic activity in India. GDP provides the picture from the **consumers'** side or the demand side. **Viral Acharya**, deputy governor of RBI said that, this change has been done to **confirm with international practice and for ease of comparison**.

April - 13

- Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has imposed a penalty of **Rs. 3 crore** on **IDBI Bank** for **non-compliance** with the outlined norms related to reporting of bad loans.
- The Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (**AIIB**) have approved **USD \$ 140-Million loan** to improve the **rural road connectivity and management** for residents in **Madhya Pradesh, India**, at a Meeting held recently in **Beijing, China**.

April - 15

- **Merchants** who accept payments through **BHIM** or other apps using the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) will be entitled to a **maximum cashback** of Rs **1,000** per **month**.
- The government has raised the authorised capital of **NABARD** (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) by **6 times to Rs 300 billion**, aimed to increase its lending to the rural economy, as a part of the initiative to **double farmers' income by 2022**.

April – 17

- Yes Bank has launched '**Yes GST**', an **OD** (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSME**). This OD facility can be availed by an **MSME against** mortgage of residential or commercial property.
- On **16th April 2018**, data from Ministry of **Commerce & Industry** stated that, **India's** annual Wholesale Price Inflation (**WPI**) was at **2.47 %** in March **2018**, a nine-month low, due to a fall in **price of vegetables and other food and beverages**.
- **Bandhan Bank** has found a place in the list of the **top-50** most valuable companies in terms of market capitalization (**m-cap**) in India.

April - 18

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** in its latest World Economic Outlook (**WEO**) has projected India to grow at **7.4% in 2018 and 7.8%** in 2019.

April – 19

- **SBI** Chairman **Rajnish Kumar** said today that the problem of cash **crunch being** faced by some **states will be resolved by tomorrow** as **currency is being transported** to areas which are facing the **shortage**.

April – 20

- **India** has **19 crore adults** without a bank account despite the success of the ambitious **Jan Dhan Yojana**, making it the world's second largest unbanked

population after that of **China**, the **World Bank** said.

- **Standard Chartered Bank** has announced an alliance with **Zoho**, a software products company, to offer solutions to enhance **corporate banking experience**.
- **Vikram Raichura**, CEO of **Viva Connect** along with **Radhika Raichura**, announced their new venture '**INFIN8**'. **INFIN8** offers a quick and easy process of connecting potential borrowers with multiple lenders through both online (**APP and Web**) and offline.
- The International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) expects **India** to **re-emerge** as one of the **fastest growing** major economies in the **2018 – 2019** period, projecting the country's **growth** rate at **7.4 percent** in 2018.

April – 21

- Indian Overseas Bank (**IOB**), one of the leading **public sector** banks entered into an agreement for information utility services with the National **E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**.
- **Tata Consultancy Services** has touched **\$100 billion** mark in market capitalisation as its share price surged nearly **7%**. The **IT major** is the first listed **Indian company** to achieve this **milestone**.

April – 24

- Bank of India has entered into an agreement with **National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL)** for availing NeSL Information Utility (**IU**) service to expedite the Corporate **Insolvency Resolution Process**.
- **India** retained the top position as recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending about **USD 69 billion** back home last year, the **World Bank** said.

April – 27

- According to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development **NABARD** provided an assistance of **Rs 10,012 crore** to **Uttar Pradesh** during 2017-18 to facilitate overall development with special focus on **agricultural credit**.

April – 30

- As per **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar**, Indian economy is expected to grow by at least 7.5 per cent in **2018-19**.
- **HDFC Bank** has launched **IRA 2.0**, the second version of its interactive humanoid at the Koramangala branch in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- As per data provided by **Union Finance Ministry**, Government has collected **Rs 7.41 trillion in taxes** in the first year of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** ending **March 31, 2018**.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

April - 2

- **Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and billiards champion **Pankaj Advani** are among the 41 prominent personalities who will be conferred with the prestigious **Padma awards of 2018** by **President Ram Nath Kovind** in **New Delhi** today.

April - 8

- **Chhattisgarh** won the ‘**State of the Year**’ Award under the ‘**business leader**’ category at the **India Business Leader Awards (IBLA)** in **New Delhi**. **Union Information Technology and Electronics Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad** presented the award to **Chhattisgarh Minister Prem Prakash Pandey**.

April – 9

- **Dadasaheb Phalke** Foundation has decided to honour **Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma** with the **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award for 2018**. She has been promoting content-driven or experimental cinema, and encouraging fresh talents, through her production company **Clean Slate Films**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** was conferred with the **Condecoracion**, the highest honour accorded to a non-citizen by the government of **Equatorial Guinea** while his visit there.

- **Actress Tamannaah Bhatia**, who has worked in both the Hindi film industry and southern cinema, will be felicitated with **Sridevi Award** at the **Zee Apsara Awards**.
- **Mahir Pandhi**, an aspiring model from **New Delhi**, has won “**Top Model India**”, which showcases diverse talent and breaks stereotypes. The show gave a chance to **12 aspiring models to transform into supermodels**.

April – 10

- Electronic dance music artiste and music producer **Anish Sood** became the **first Indian artiste to win the Best Electronica/Dance Single** at the **16th Annual Independent Music Awards (IMA)** in **London**.

April – 16

- Veteran actor Dharmendra and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be conferred with the prestigious **Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement** and **Raj Kapoor Special Contribution** awards, respectively.

April - 17

- The **New York Times** and the **New Yorker** won the **Pulitzer Prize** for public service on **April 16** for explosive reporting that brought **down Harvey Weinstein** and **spawned a cultural watershed** on the issue of sexual harassment.
- The production team of “**Game of Thrones**” drama will be awarded the **BAFTA Special Award** at this year’s **British Academy Television Craft Awards**.
- **Aditi Rao Hydari** added another trophy to her achievements as she will receive **Dadasaheb Phalke** excellence award **2018** for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award) for her memorable performance in ‘**Bhoomi**’.

April – 20

- Veteran filmmaker Rakesh Roshan will be felicitated with a **Lifetime Achievement honour** at the **Dadasaheb Phalke Film** Foundation Awards for his contribution as a **producer, director, screenwriter, editor** and **actor** in **Hindi** films.

April – 25

- **Egyptian** photojournalist **Mahmoud Abu Zeid**, known as **Shawkan**, is the recipient of the 2018 **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**.

April – 28

- **Nadiya Shafi**, a video reporter from Srinagar, has received 2018's '**Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment**', with a cash prize of **Rs 1.50 lakh**.
- Council of scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**) was awarded the **National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018** in the category '**Top R&D Institution/Organization for Patents and Commercialization**'.
- **Moglix**, a **B2B commerce company**, announced that it has won 11th edition of **SAP ACE Awards 2018** in Sourcing Excellence category
- **Santosh Kumar Gangwar**, Minister of State (Independent charge) Ministry of **Labour & Employment** presented the National Safety Council's (**NSCI**) **Safety Awards** for 2017 at **New Delhi**.

April – 29

- **KK Birla Foundation** has announced that, Gujarati poet **Sitanshu Yashaschandra** poetry collection "**Vakhar**" has been selected for the **Saraswati Samman for 2017**.
- **Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir** has been shortlisted for Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's excellence award** for promoting digital **payments and cashless economy**.

April – 30

- **Parijat Industries (India) Pvt. Ltd**, an Indian agrochemical company, has been conferred the "**Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar**" gold award for the year 2017.

APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNS

April - 1

- The **BCCI** has appointed former Rajasthan **Director-General of Police Ajit Singh** head of its **Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU)**. Ajit has worked with Rajasthan's anti-corruption bureau for four years.

April - 2

- **Debjani Ghosh**, former managing director of Intel South Asia, is the new **president** of **Nasscom**. Ms. **Ghosh** had taken charge as the **president**, succeeding R. Chandrashekhar upon completion of his term.

April - 4

- **M L Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies)** at the culture ministry has been appointed as the protem chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi. He will continue to hold the office till a regular chairman is appointed.
- **Himanta Biswa Sarma** was elected as the **President of the Badminton Association of India (BAI)** for the next 4 years. Himanta Biswa Sarma is a Cabinet Minister in Assam. He took charge as the interim President of BAI in 2017 following the death of former BAI president **Akhilesh Das Gupta**.

April - 8

- **Rakesh Kumar Vats** has been given the additional charge of chairman of **NPPA** (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority) with immediate effect.

April - 11

- **Rishad Premji**, Board member of **Wipro** Ltd. has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (**NASSCOM**) for 2018-19.

April – 12

- **Balram Bhargava** appointed as the new **Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and Secretary of the Department of Health Research. **Bhargava**, currently a senior consultant cardiologist at the All India Institute of Medical Science, will carry out this role until **2021**. He will succeed **Soumya Swaminathan**.
- **Inspector General KR Nautiyal** has been appointed as the new Coast Guard Commander (**Eastern Seaboard**). KR Nautiyal will take over **Headquarters Eastern Seaboard from Inspector General KS Sheoran on 12th April 2018**. He has been promoted to the rank of Additional Director-General.
- **Rajesh Ranjan** has been appointed as the Director General (**DG**) of the Central Industrial Security Force (**CISF**).

April - 18

- **Lieutenant General PP Malhotra** assumed charge as **Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC)**, the largest uniformed youth organization in the world.

April – 21

- **Miguel Díaz-Canel** was officially named as the new leader of **Cuba**, one day after a secret vote in the country's **National Assembly**.

April – 24

- **Taniya Sanyal** from **Kolkata** has become the first woman firefighter **appointed** by Airports Authority of India (**AAI**)
- **Suresh Kumar** took the additional **charge as chairman and managing director of coal India limited**
- Former Indian foreign secretary **S. Jaishankar** was appointed as **the new president of Tata sons global corporate affairs**

April – 27

- United Nations Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has appointed **Christine Schraner Burgener**, a Swiss diplomat with conflict resolution experience in **Southeast Asia**, as his special envoy for **Myanmar**.

April – 28

- **Haryana State Government** has appointed international female shooter **Gauri Sheoran** as the brand ambassador for its **two health-related programmes** viz. **measles-rubella (MR)** vaccination campaign and **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)**.

BOOKS

April – 15

- On 14th April 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind received the first copy of the book '**Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar: Vyakti Nahin Sankalp**' from Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, who formally released it at a function at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, New Delhi.

April – 20

- VP Releases a Book titled '**Bhavdiye**' based on Compilation of Letters written by Shri **Kedar Nath Sahani**. Shri Kedar Nath Sahani was a **writer, freedom fighter, social reformer** and an **icon** who inspired others all over his life.

April – 21

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book "**Adi Shankaracharya: Hinduism's Greatest Thinker**", from the author Shri Pavan Varma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan .
- The Second Book reading session of '**Archives Reads**' was organised by **NAI** with Author & Prof Deepak Kumar, former Professor, JNU reading from his latest publication "**Trishanku Nation – Memory, Self and Society in Contemporary India**".

April – 23

- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** released three books based on **Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran** movement of 1917. The Champaran movement is acknowledged as the first Satyagraha movement inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi**.

April – 26

- The Vice President of India, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** released the Book ‘**Smart Cities Unbundled**’ authored by **Dr. Sameer Sharma**.

April – 30

- **Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** released a book titled ‘**My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism**’.

ECONOMY

April – 26

- **Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan** said the government is likely to release the draft of new **National Telecom Policy** on May 1 to seek public comments.

April – 27

- **Technology** giant **Microsoft** India declared the most attractive employer brand, followed by **e-commerce** giant **Amazon India**.
- **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** announced the launch of its "e - Gsec" platform for facilitating the non-competitive bidding in **Government of India Dated Securities (G-Sec) and Treasury Bills (T-Bills)**.

BUSINESS

April - 1

- **The Export-Import Bank of India** (Exim Bank) has inked line of credit (**LoC**) agreement with Bank for Investment and Development (**EBID**) to provide US \$500 million credit facility to fund **various development projects** in 15-member countries of Economic Community of West African States (**ECOWAS**) region in western South Africa.
- **Amway India**, which makes **Nutriline range** of traditional **herbal products**, plans to enter into partnerships with a few States for **organic farming** projects. The company recently entered into an agreement with the **Andhra Pradesh** Government, said by Gursharan Cheema, senior vice president of north and south regions, Amway India.

April - 4

- The Reserve Bank has said that **Jio Payments Bank** has commenced its banking services from **April 3**. **Reliance Industries Ltd** was one of the **11 applicants** which were issued in-principle approval for setting up a payments bank in August 2015. Telecom major **Bharti Airtel** was the **first to begin payment bank services** in November **2016**.
- **SoftBank Group Corp of Japan** has planned to launch a **\$930 million** Indian joint solar energy venture with **GCL System Integration Technology Co**, a Chinese firm, as part of its India solar investment roadmap. This joint venture will work on photovoltaic technology that is used in solar panels.

April - 5

- **MakeMyTrip Limited, and Flipkart**, announced a strategic **partnership** to drive online bookings in the travel segment. Initially, one can book domestic flights starting a couple of weeks and a person can also book hotels and bus tickets later.
- Commercial vehicle maker **Ashok Leyland**, the flagship company of the **Hinduja** group, will be entering the Gulf Cooperation Council (**GCC**), **Russia and Ukraine with left-hand driven vehicles soon to pep up exports revenue**.

April - 13

- **UC Browser** has launched **India's first women-only news channel** where they aim to show women related content, **based on relationships, education, health, fashion and lifestyle.**

IMPORTANT DAY

April - 4

- On **4th April 2018, International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** was observed all over the world. Theme for the day is **“Advancing Protection, Peace and Development.”**

April - 5

- **April 5** is celebrated as the **National Maritime Day** in India every year. In 2018, the theme of the occasion is 'Indian Shipping - An Ocean of opportunity'. An award called Varuna is conferred to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the Indian maritime sector on this day.

April - 8

- On **7th April 2018, World Health Day 2018** was celebrated all over the world. The theme for World Health Day 2018 is: **Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere.**

April – 11

- The **National Safe Motherhood** is celebrated on **April 11th** every year to create awareness on proper healthcare and maternity celebrities to pregnant and lactating women. The theme of 2018 NSMD was **"Respectful Maternity Care"**

April – 14

- Ambedkar Jayanti or **Bhim Jayanti** is an annual festival observed on **14 April** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **B. R. Ambedkar**. India celebrated the 127th birth anniversary of Bhim Rao Ambedkar who was born in **1891**.

April - 18

- **April 18** is observed as **International Day for Monuments and Sites**, also called **World Heritage Day**. Theme for 2018 is “Heritage for Generations”

April – 21

- On **april 21**, **World creativity and Innovation day** will be celebrated.
- The Government of india celebrates **april 21** as "**Civil Service Day**"

April – 24

- **National Panchayati Raj Day** is the national day of India celebrated by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on **24 April** annually.

April – 25

- On **25th April** world **malaria day** is observed every year. The theme for the day is "**Ready to beat malaria**"

April – 29

- On **28th April 2018**, the **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** was observed all over the world. The theme for 2018 is: **Occupational safety health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers**.

April – 30

- **29 April 2018** is observed as "**Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare**"

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

April - 3

- Researchers have discovered new grass-like plant species named “**Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis**” in **Ponmudi hills** within the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot. It has been classified as sedge, the grass-like plant and has been named after the locality from which it was found.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has lost contact with India’s most powerful communication **GSAT-6A satellite** in less than 48 hours after it was launched. The loss in contact is believed to have been caused by power system failure or short circuit on the satellite.
- China’s **out-of-control Tiangong-1** space lab has re-entered Earth’s atmosphere, landing in middle of the South Pacific Ocean near world’s ‘**spacecraft cemetery or graveyard**’. Most of its parts were burned up during gravity-propelled **re-entry process**.

April - 10

- **MIT scientists**, led by an **Indian-origin student**, have developed a **computer system that can transcribe words** that users say in their heads. The system consists of a **wearable device and an associated computing** system.
- An Indian-origin scientist in Australia has launched the **world’s first micro factory** that can transform the components from electronic waste items such as **smart phones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use**.

April – 16

- **Chinese** scientists have developed a new device of **3D hollow-cone** structure that can greatly increase the **solar-thermal conversion efficiency**.

April - 17

- On **April 17, 2018** (as per Indian Standard Time), **US** space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) will launch Transit Exoplanet

Survey Satellite (**TESS**), a satellite designed to detect more exoplanets (Earth-like worlds around stars beyond our solar system).

- Scientists at **Northwestern University, USA**, headed by an **Indian**, have developed “**Memtransistor**”, an electronic device that can mimic the human brain.
- **China** authorities said that, China will launch **Fengyun-II 09 satellite**, a new meteorological satellite, in **2018** to enhance its weather forecasting capabilities.

April - 18

- **Indian scientist** have formulated worlds first **ayurvedic drug** to cure dengue which is likely to be available in **market from 2019**

April – 22

- Scientists at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (**IACS**), Kolkata, have been successful in designing **DNA-based logic devices** that would find application in **DNA-based computation**.

April – 24

- **Researchers from Indian institute of technology (IIT) Roorkee** have discovered a small molecule called “**Pep-1**” that exhibits good antiviral activity against **chikungunya virus**.
- Scientist have successfully removed **Sulphur** from **fossil** fuels such as petroleum and **coal bacterial strains**

April – 25

- Researchers have discovered the world’s smallest land fern named **Malvi’s adder’s-tongue fern (Ophioglossum malviae)** in **Ahwa** forests of **Western Ghats in Gujarat’s** dang district.
- Scientists have discovered a giant **mosquito** with a wingspan of **11.15 centimetres** in **China’s Sichuan province**. The mosquito belongs to the world’s largest mosquito species **Holorusia mikado**.

April – 26

- **The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** has developed a next-generation bulletproof jacket for the **Indian armed forces**, which is not only cheaper but also much lighter.
- World's only '**tropical polar bear**' dies at 27 in Singapore zoo. **Singapore** mourned the **death of polar bear**.

April – 29

- **Brahmos**, the fastest missile in the **world co-developed by India and Russia**, will be breaching the mach 7 barrier to be a '**hypersonic**' system in the next decade

ENVIRONMENT

April - 28

- '**Fejervarya goemchi**', a large-sized brown frog, measuring **41 to 46mm**, has been **discovered in Goa**

OBITUARY

April - 6

- **Malayalam film** star **Ajith**, known for portraying negative roles, has passed away. Ajith, **56**, was admitted to the hospital 10 days ago following **health issues**.

April – 21

- **Human rights activist** and former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court Justice **Rajinder Sachar** (94) passed away at a New **Delhi** hospital.

April – 22

- **Nabi Tajima** world's oldest person has died in southern **Japan** at the age of **117**.