CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2018
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 Thiruvidanthai, 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 **HARIMAOU SHAKTI 2018** between India and Malaysia will be conducted in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia from 30 April 18 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 it's 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)](https://www.jll.com) 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](https://www.mangaloreairport.com) 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)](https://asi.nic.in) 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 spend 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 INRSS-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.

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.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has decided to celebrate April 20, 2018 as the Ujjwala 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 Facebook 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 commonwealth 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. Chandrashekar 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 Nutrilite 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"**
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.

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.

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

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.