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BANKING

- **India** signed a **USD 500 million (Rs 3,371 crore)** loan pact with **World Bank** to provide additional financing for **PMGSY** rural road projects.
- **Citi Bank** becomes the first corporate bank to make use of **UK's Open Banking** regime.
- Shares of **IDFC Bank** surged over **7** per cent after it has received RBI's approval for merger of Capital First, Capital First Home Finance and Capital First Securities with the company.
- **World Bank** offered assistance to the **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)**, a Rs.6000 crore Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has amended the **Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) 2015**, whereby deposits can be placed with banks for broken periods such as one year three months, or 13 years four months 15 days.
- **Airtel Payment Bank** has been denied permission to use Aadhaar-linked Know Your Customer authentication awaiting a report from **RBI**.
- At 17.2 per cent, **Axis Bank** commands the largest value share of mobile banking transactions but it's **Paytm** that tops volumes with **22** per cent.
- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to grant private-sector lender **HDFC Bank** permission to raise additional capital of up to **Rs. 24,000** crore through **foreign direct investment**.
- **Marg ERP limited**, a inventory and accounting software solution company has partnered with **ICICI Bank** to offer an integrated payments platform to micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) customers, using **MARG's accounting software**.
- **Karnataka Bank** has unveiled a novel card variant '**KBL Deposit Only Card**', which enables hassle free cash deposit transaction at Bank's 24x7 e-Lobby services.
- **Reserve Bank** has eased investment norms for **foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** in debt, especially into individual large corporates, a move that can help attract more overseas flows and thereby help arrest the recent fall in the rupee on one hand and also lift the recent fall in demand for corporate bonds.
- Concerned over funds sent abroad under the '**maintenance of close relative**' category of the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has narrowed the definition of relatives to check the flow of funds.
- **Yes Bank** has received approval from market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** for acting as custodian of securities.
- Housing loans of up to **Rs 35 lakh**, for dwellings costing less than **Rs 45 lakh**, will be treated as priority sector lending (PSL) to give a fillip to the low-cost segment. **PSL** loans are relatively cheaper than market interest rate.
- **RBI** has proposed to set up a board of management for the **urban co-operative banks**. The guidelines have been recommended by committee headed by former deputy governor of RBI R Gandhi. The objective of the board is to oversee daily business operations.
- The **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** has extended **USD 10 million** worth of **line of credit (LOC)** to **Seychelles** for healthcare and procurement of goods and projects.
- After hiking stake to **60** per cent in Mumbai-based financial services products distributor **Swadhaar FinServe (SFL)**, private lender **RBL Bank** has acquired rights to increase the stake to 100 per cent.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has closed six foreign branches and is in the process of closing down another nine branches as part of rationalisation of overseas operations.

ECONOMY

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide **USD 375 million** (about **Rs 2,532 crore**) loan for a project to improve irrigation in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Sharing "specific information" with the **income tax** department about any **benami** transaction or property could earn you up to **Rs one crore**, while the same for undisclosed **black money** stashed abroad could **fetch** up to **Rs 5 crore**. Besides, the '**Income Tax Informants Reward Scheme**' has also been amended under which a person can get reward up to **Rs 50 lakh** for giving specific information about substantial evasion of tax on income or assets in India, which are actionable under the **Income-tax Act, 1961**.
- **India** will import its **first** ever cargo of **LNG** from **Russia** under a long-term deal as the **world's fourth**-largest buyer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) diversifies its import basket to meet its vast energy needs.
- **Microsoft Corp** would buy privately held coding website **GitHub Inc** for **\$7.5 billion** in an all-stock deal to expand its clout among **software** developers. **GitHub** supplies coding tools for developers and calls itself the world's largest code host with more than **28 million** developers using its platform.
- Micro-lender **Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL)** has received a no-objection nod from stock exchanges for its merger with private sector lender **IndusInd Bank**.
- **ONGC Videsh Ltd** has announced the arrival of its **first** equity **cargo** of Das blend **crude oil** to **New Mangalore**. The Das blend crude oil originates from the Lower Zakum (LZ) oilfield in **Abu Dhabi**.
- **British** telecom major **Vodafone** plans to invest **€1 billion** or about **1 8,000 cr.** in the proposed joint venture with **Idea Cellular** which is expected to be in place.
- **Trump** administration has approved a deal to sell **six AH-64E** Apache attack helicopters to **India** for **USD 930 million**, underlining that this will strengthen **India's** ability to defend its homeland and deter regional threats.
- The National Stock Exchange (**NSE**) has launched a '**Tri-Party Repo Market**' platform that will give a fillip to the demand for **corporate** bonds and provide liquidity boost to the debt segment of the bourse.
- Almost **one million** people in India are "**testing**" **WhatsApp's** payments service, and the company is working with the Indian government, **NPCI** and multiple banks to further expand the feature to more users.
- **Reliance Industries Ltd.** (RIL) is investing in setting up **India's** first carbon fibre manufacturing unit to cater to aerospace and defence needs.
- **Steel Authority of India Ltd** (SAIL) has supplied around **60,000 tonnes** of **steel** material for the **111-km-long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal** new broad gauge railway project in **Manipur**. The project was taken up in **2008** and was declared a **National Project**.
- In an effort to increase the number of **women** in senior levels in the Information **Technology** (IT) industry, Nasscom unveiled its '**Women Wizards Rule Tech**' programme for women techies.
- In a retaliatory move against the recent **US** import duty hikes, **India** raised **customs duty** on **29** products, including on **iron** and **steel** products imported from the **US**.
- **JSW Steel** plans to invest up to **\$500 million** in acquiring, enhancing and upgrading **Acero Junction Inc.**, an integrated steel manufacturing unit with a potential capacity of **three million tonnes** per annum (**MTPA**), located at Ohio in the **U.S.**, in phases.
- The board of **China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** (AIIB) has approved **\$100 million** investment in the National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (**NIIF**) which could be followed by a similar tranche later.
- The **government** is testing a new '**big data**' that will assist banks in assessing **credit risk** and the probability of fraud using big data analysis. The system is expected to help lenders, particularly rural and cooperative banks, tackle the issue of rising nonperforming assets (**NPA**s).
- **French** utility **EDF** and **General Electric** have signed a pact to jointly build **six reactors** for **India's** most ambitious **nuclear** power plant at **Jaitapur** in **Maharashtra**.

- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ)** has signed a share purchase agreement with **Larsen and Toubro Ltd**, Marine Infrastructure Developer Pvt Ltd, L&T Shipbuilding Ltd and Adani Kattupalli Port Pvt Ltd to acquire **97** stake in Marine Infrastructure Developer for a consideration of **Rs 1,950** crore in cash.
- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India LTd. (MCX)** signed a MoU with the Maharashtra government to create a **value chain** with final market linkages for thousands of **cotton** farmers in **Vidarbha**.

NATIONAL

- Union Home Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** launched an Online Analytical Tool to facilitate closer monitoring of the flow and utilisation of foreign contributions received by various organisations registered or permitted under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**.
- Honorable Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt **Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** laid foundation of **India's First Advanced Forensic Lab**, Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory in the campus of Central Forensic Science Lab, **Chandigarh**.
- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has introduced a new scheme namely '**Seva Bhoj Yojna**' with a total outlay of **Rs. 325.00** Crores for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- **Odisha** government launched a health insurance scheme "**Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana**" for working journalists in the state.
- The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) launched the **Ensemble Prediction System (EPS)** for generating more accurate and area specific forecast of extreme weather events like rains, heat wave and cold wave.
- Union Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal** flagged off Humsafar Jodhpur Bandra Express at Bhagat Ki Kothi Railway Station in **Rajasthan's Jodhpur**.adequate arrangements have been made in the trains, including mobile charging points, CCTVs and Bio Toilets.
- NTPC Ltd has adopted the iconic Charminar in **Hyderabad** under the Swachh Iconic Places Projects of India. This is part of a special drive under the Centre's **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- **Gujarat** Government has decided to launch a "**Neonatal ambulance service project for inter-hospital transfer**" service to shift critically ill infants to better-equipped hospitals. The step has taken to prevent the death of newborns due to lack of medical emergency facilities in health centers.
- The government announced the launch of '**Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan**' under which farmers in select villages will be given assistance and advice on ways to improve farming techniques and raise their income.
- **Government launches 'JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA' – Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin – under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.Affordable sanitary napkins at **Rs. 2.50** per pad now available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras functional in 33 States/UTs across India.
- Government of India has constituted a group of eminent persons to study the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy of India.Head of the group is **Baba Kalyani**.
- The 11 edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 was organized at Manekshaw Centre in **New Delhi**. This event was organized by Geo Spatial Media and Communication in association with Directorate General of Information System as knowledge partners.
- **Bihar** govt launches new crop insurance scheme 'Bihar State crop Assistance scheme' with effect from Kharif (monsoon) this year.
- UP govt decides to set up one police station in each district to check power theft & minimize power loss in state.
- **Madhya Pradesh** government has announced an outstanding power bill waiver scheme Bijli Bill Mafi Yojana 2018 for labourers and poor families.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind**, who is arrived in **Tripura**, inaugurated National Highway from Matabari to Udaipur-Sabroom.
- Minister of State for Defence **Subhash Ramrao Bhamre** inaugurated 578-metre-long Theng Tunnel, the longest in **Sikkim**.

- **Punjab** Government launched a “**Business First Portal**” that was released by Industry Minister **Sunder Sham Arora**.
- **Shri Ashwani Lohani, Chairman, Railway Board** launches ‘**Awareness Campaign on Protection of Children in contact with Railways**’ as a Joint Initiative with **NCPCR and Railway Children of India**.
- Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated two Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations in Cuttack district of **Odisha**.
- Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI), **Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu** under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for transfer of technology for **India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project**.
- The Ministry of Railways launched two mobile applications ‘**Rail MADAD**’ and ‘**Menu on Rails**’, to ease the travelling experience.
- Union Steel Minister **Chaudhary Birender Singh** dedicated to the nation the rebuilt Blast Furnace-1 ‘**Parvati**’ of **Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)**.
- **KVIC** has created a world record of distributing maximum number of **bee-boxes** in one day. This was achieved by the **KVIC** in the Zangalee Army area at **Kupwara in Kashmir** beating its previous best of **1000** bee boxes distributed in **Kaziranga** forest area among the Mishing tribe on the occasion of **World Honey Bee Day**.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** floated a **request for qualification (RFQ)** for technology-transfer of the lithium-ion cell to Indian industries.
- The union government has set up a committee headed by former chief statistician of India **T.C.A. Anant** to bring in **transparency in the jobs data calculation and presentation**.
- **Cashless Ticketing through ‘Utsonmobile’ app developed by CRIS** enables booking and cancellation of unreserved tickets, issue and renewal of season and platform tickets, check and load R-wallet balance and helps maintain user profile management and booking history.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** will launch **Solar Charkha Mission on June 27**, which will entail a subsidy of Rs **550 crore** in the initial two years for 50 clusters. The scheme also aims at linking five crore women across the country to the initiative.
- The **Maharashtra government** and **Canada's** Quebec province have signed a pact to increase the **economic cooperation**, specially in areas like information technology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and welfare of the tribal community.
- **Tamil Nadu government** announced a slew of sops for various sectors including the **Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** including setting up an agency to attract foreign investment and cooperation in state **MSMEs**.
- **Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation** announced that **Swajal** schemes in **115 aspirational districts** of the country will involve an outlay of **Rs 700 crores** through flexi-funds under the existing **NRDWP budget**.
- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** inaugurated **three Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) 100 MW Solar Power Projects** each in **Tamil Nadu**. The projects which were erected at **Thoppalaakkarai, Sethupuram in Virudhunagar district and Sellaiya Sezhiyanallur in Tirunelveli** district, with an installed capacity of 100 MW each.
- **National Tribal Museum** proposed to be set up at **Delhi-Shri Jwal Oram**.
- **Shripad Yesso Naik**, Minister of State, (I/C), Ministry of AYUSH Government of India has inaugurated the **Yoga Ambassador's Tour at Leela Convention Centre in Thiruvananthapuram**.
- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, visited Chhattisgarh. He inaugurated the **Integrated Command and Control Centre** at **Naya Raipur Smart City**. He was briefed on various aspects of the Command and Control Centre.
- The **government** has proposed to impose penalty on **insurance companies** for delay in payment to hospitals for settlement of claims under its ambitious **Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)**.
- To cater to the needs of the differently-abled persons from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** laid the foundation stone of a production unit of the **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** at Nawada village of Faridabad district.

- Measurements and fitment of assistive devices at the ALIMCO headquarters.
- The Union Government has approved financial assistance amounting to Rs. 5.5 lakh per family to West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs). It will benefit 5,764 families of WPRs settled in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **European Union Film Festival inaugurated in New Delhi**
- To increase the state's green cover, the Punjab government launched a smartphone application that lets users order free plant saplings. The '**i-Hariyali**' app under '**Mission Tandarust**' can be downloaded from the app store for free.
- The **government** has constituted a chief ministers' sub-group to coordinate policy approaches for agriculture and MGNREGS with the Madhya Pradesh CM Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan as the convener.
- **Haryana** has become the first state in the country to give **star ranking** under '**7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow Scheme**' to village on the basis of seven social parameters.
- World's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics launched in Gujarat at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar.
- 7th India Minerals and Metals forum was inaugurated in New Delhi. The forum seeks to come up with solutions to leverage in the sector with the changing global scenario.
- **India** is making rapid strides in the field of renewable energy and will overshoot the target of 175 GW renewable energy by 2022." The inauguration of 1500 kW capacity solar plant developed by Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) at the Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib.
- The Gujarat government announced wind-solar hybrid power policy - 2018, aiming to make optimum utilisation of the land and grid.
- **Rajasthan** witnessed a world record by conducting the largest **yoga session** to mark the **4th International Yoga Day at Kota** where over **one lakh people** together performed the yogic exercises. Yoga guru Ramdev conducted the yoga session that was attended by **Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje**, ministers, officers and local people at RAC ground in the presence of two officials from the Guinness World Records.
- The Vice President of India, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** will inaugurate and participate in a two-day National Consultation on '**Making Agriculture Sustainable and Profitable**', at **Pune**, Maharashtra. This Consultation is organized in the context of the ongoing debate and efforts at various levels to double farmers' incomes by 2022.
- The Gujarat government launched a solar power scheme for farmers- **Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY)** enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Delhi Metro's Mundka-Bahadurgarh** section — an 11.2-km-long fully-elevated corridor which is a part of the Delhi Metro's Green Line.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **Mohanpura** Irrigation Project in Rajgarh district in Madhya Pradesh. The Rs 3,866-crore project includes a dam and a canal system. It will benefit 727 villages in the state.
- The **Godikan panchayat** in **Haryana** has become the **first panchayat** in the country to pass a resolution '**No Toilet, No Bride**' to marry off girls only to families that have a toilet in their house. Inspired by Bollywood movie Toilet- **Ek Prem Katha**, the move, panchayat members, is aimed to ensure safety and well-being of the women folk.
- In a bid to **curb taxi drivers** from fleecing passengers and promote easy facilitation of taxi services in the state, **Goa Tourism** will launch the state's first app-based taxi service '**GOAMILES**'.
- **Sindhu Darshan Festival** is celebrated on the bank of Indus River in Ladakh region of **Jammu and Kashmir**. The Festival is focused at national integration, communal harmony and national pride.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** launched a Passport Seva app for seamless application and issue of passports.
- **Odisha** government health assurance cover for all-women families per year will be increased from **Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh** under the **Biju Swasthya Kalyana Yojana (BSKY)**.

- Maharashtra government announced a new scheme called '**Kanya Van Samruddhi Yojana**', wherein farmers families where girl children are born, will be given saplings for plantation.
- The Centre is set to replace the apex higher education regulator body **University Grants Commission (UGC)** with **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)** by repealing the UGC Act, 1951.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate a two-day '**Kabir Mahotsav**' at Maghar in Sant Kabir district of Uttar Pradesh, to mark the 500th death anniversary of Kabir Das.
- Commerce and Industry Minister **Suresh Prabhu** launched a mobile application — **ReUnite** — to trace missing and abandoned children in India. "This effort to reunite parents whose children have gone missing is a wonderful use of technology to address real life social challenges,".
- **22,000 rural agriculture markets to be linked yo e-NAM portal by 2020**The Centre announced that **22,000** rural markets would be linked to the **Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** by 2020 as part of its drive to double the income of farmers.
- The **Odisha** government signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES)** for effective management of disasters.
- The **Central Reserve Police Force** launched '**Madadgaar Helpline**', a distress helpline for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, with the aim of providing immediate assistance to locals.
- India's nomination of the "**Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai** " has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. The decision was taken at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO at Manama in Bahrain. As recommended by the World Heritage Committee, India accepted the renaming of the ensemble as "**Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai**". **India gets its 37th WORLD UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE.**
- The **Andhra Pradesh** government launched a **Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF)** scale-out scheme, aimed at benefitting around six million farmers by 2024
- '**COP CONNECT mobile App for Telangana police launched**
- Andhra Pradesh entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Singapore** to accelerate the construction work of its new capital, **Amratvati**.

INTERNATIONAL

- Denmark passed a law banning the Islamic **full-face veil in public spaces**, becoming the latest European country to do so.
- **India signs mutual recognition agreement in nursing with Singapore.**
- **India and Indonesia** issued a joint statement on "**Establishing Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**", elevating their existing bilateral ties.
- An **orchid** was named after **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to mark his visit to the **National Orchid Garden of Singapore**
- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** arrived on a five-day visit to **South Africa** during which she will meet top leadership of the country and attend meetings of **BRICS and IBSA** — the two major groupings where India has been playing a key role
- **Saudi Arabia** has issued its first driving licences for women three weeks before it ends the world's only ban on female drivers, though are still in jail.
- **Myanmar** and **U.N.** agencies signed an agreement that might eventually lead to the return of some of the 700,000 **Rohingya Muslims** who fled brutal persecution by the country's security forces and are now crowded into makeshift camps in Bangladesh.
- A third generation **The European Pressurised Reactor (EPR reactor)** in **China** carried out its **first nuclear chain reaction**, an initial start up which is a **world first for the much-delayed European technology.**
- **Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri, Shakti and Kamorta** arrive **Guam** to participate in **Ex-Malabar 2018.**

- **The UN General Assembly** elected **South Africa, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Germany and Belgium** as non-permanent members of the powerful Security Council for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2019.
- **Indonesia wins UN Security Council vote** .
- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **first Representative Office of Defence public sector, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), in Vietnam.**
- **India and Kazakhstan** have agreed to further develop bilateral cooperation in the military-industrial sphere.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** left on a three-nation 8-day visit to **Greece, Suriname and Cuba**. which will be the first by an Indian head of states.
- **India has trade deficit with 10 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) members** .
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** has left for a 4-nation tour to **Italy, France, Luxembourg and Belgium.**
- The **United States withdrew from the United Nations Human Rights Council** accusing it of a **"chronic bias against Israel,"** a move that activists warned would make advancing human rights globally even more difficult.
- The Minister **of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan** will lead an official delegation to participate in the **7th OPEC International Seminar organised** by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as a special guest in Vienna, Austria.
- **India & Tajikistan agree to enhance mutual cooperation for sustainable water development.**
- **India and Russia** have decided to cooperate in area of **integrated security system** taking forward their decades old defence cooperation.
- **The first India-US '2+2 dialogue'** will be held on July 6 and External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** will travel to the US to take part in the meeting that is likely to focus on strengthening **strategic and defence ties.**
- **Mongolia** launched construction of **its first oil refinery**, a long-awaited project that is funded by **India** and designed to end the country's dependence **on Russian fuel.**
- **A first-of-its-kind UK-India Week** will be held in **Britain next month** to promote bilateral trade and investments through a series of events to be attended by ministers and professionals from both countries.
- **India and Bangladesh** have agreed to **institute Coordinated Patrol(CORPAT) as an annual exercise between navies of two neighbouring countries at Bangladesh.**
- **Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation of India, Suresh Prabhu** co-chaired the 15th **Session of the India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission** with the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Steven Ciobo, in Canberra.
- **The world's largest multilateral naval exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** will begin on **Hawaii** in the Western Pacific Ocean.
- **Global anti-terror financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has decided to keep **Pakistan on its 'grey list'**.Pakistan was officially placed on a **terrorism financing watchdogs grey list**, failing the country efforts to avoid the **designation, diplomatic sources claimed.**
- The navies of **India and Indonesia** participated in **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** held on **the Port of Makassar, Indonesia.**
- **Asia's first arbitration centre specialized in intellectual property** is slated to open in **Tokyo** in September to resolve the growing number of disputes in the region.
- **The United Arab Emirates (UAE)** flagship carrier Emirates Airline has launched a joint project with **US Crop One Holdings to build the world's largest vertical farming facility near Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport.**
- **India** extended a financial aid of **Rs 99 million** to Nepal for the construction of 2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems in 12 districts of the country's southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity.

- **India is planning to gift a Dornier aircraft to Seychelles** and explore trilateral cooperation involving France that will safeguard its strategic interests in the backdrop of **President Danny Faure's** announcement to cancel the project to jointly develop a naval base on Assumption Island ahead of his June 25 Delhi visit.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- Assam's **Priyanka Das**, working on satellite navigation for French major Safran, has been appointed ambassador for an initiative in France to encourage girls to follow scientific careers and take it to higher education levels.
- India cricket captain **Virat Kohli** is among the world's highest-paid athletes, and topped by American boxing champion **Floyd Mayweather**.
- **UFC** announced that **Ronda Rousey** will be inducted into its **Hall of Fame** thanks to her pioneering work in establishing a women's division of the popular mixed **martial arts sport**.
- **NASA's** record-breaking astronaut, **Peggy Whitson**, retired less than a year after returning from her last and longest spaceflight.
- **Mehbooba Mufti resigns after BJP pulls out of alliance with the People Democratic Party's (PDP) in Jammu and Kashmir**
- Amazon founder and CEO **Jeff Bezos** has become the **richest man in the world** with a net wealth of \$141.9 billion, the Forbes World's Billionaires list showed
- Famed Indian composer and singer-songwriter **A.R. Rahman** has been appointed the **brand ambassador of the Sikkim government**.
- Chief Economic Advisor **Arvind Subramanian** will be leaving the finance ministry because of "pressing family commitments" and will return to the US.
- Senior Supreme Court judge, Justice **Jasti Chelameswar** is set to resign from his office.
- **Realty firm Sumadhura Group** has roped in cricketer **MS Dhoni** as its **brand ambassador**.
- Pakistan's **National Security Advisor (NSA) Lt Gen (retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua** resigned, amid reports that he had differences with caretaker Prime Minister Nasirul Mulk.
- **Monti Rajkhowa**, who hails from the **northeastern province of Assam**, has made the state and country proud by becoming the **first Assamese to scale Mount Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world**.
- Bollywood actress **Sonakshi Sinha** has joined forces with **UNESCO to promote a safe and secure cyber environment for youngsters** to ensure they are not targeted for **bullying, abuse, exploitation** and more through the **internet**.

PLACES IN NEWS

- **Shillong 100th city to be selected under Smart Cities Mission**.
- **The Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) International Airport in Babatpur** — about 26km from **Varanasi** — will soon become **the first airport in the country** to have a national highway running under its runway.
- **Delhi to get India's first-ever national police museum in Chanakyapuri area, New Delhi**
- The Centre has picked **Madurai** over **Thanjavur** as the location for the **new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)**
- **Bengaluru** has claimed the **second spot** in the list of best locations for launching tech startups while the first place was secured by **Boulder city** in the US
- **Bhitarkanika national park** has become **the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in India**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite which will be mainly used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring. The **Gaofen-6** satellite was launched on a **Long March-2D** rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- The world's first mini-satellites to venture into deep space – designed to monitor **NASA's InSight Mars lander** – have successfully oriented themselves towards the **Red Planet**. Over the last week, two CubeSats called MarCO-A and MarCO-B have been firing their propulsion systems to guide themselves toward Mars.

- India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Long Range Ballistic Missile (**surface-to-surface missile**) **Agni-5**, which has a strike range of **5,000 km**, off the **Odisha coast**.
- India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun "**Dhanush**" has passed its final test at Pokhran, paving the way for its induction into the Army. Between June 2-6, fifty rounds of shells each were fired from six Dhanush guns.
- To give push to the Centre's e-vehicle green project, **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has offered the industry its indigenously developed lithium ion cell technology at a cost of **Rs 1 crore** for its use in automobiles. The initiative is expected to promote the government's zero emission policy.
- **Russia** successfully launched a **Glonass-M** positioning satellite using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket.
- US scientists have unveiled the world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer **Summit** that can complete over **200,000 trillion** calculations per second - providing unprecedented computing power for research in energy, advanced materials and artificial intelligence (AI).
- Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Rani Rashmoni' commissioned in Visakhapatnam.
- Contributing to the idea of **Chrome** for "**everyone, everywhere,**" tech giant Google announced the rollout of an offline mode for users on Android.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Books	Authors
Vedvigyan Alok	Acharya Agnivarat Naishtik

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- Team India captain **Virat Kohli** presented with the prestigious **Polly Umrigar Award for the best international cricketer (2016-17 and 2017-18)**, while **Harmanpreet and Mandhana** become maiden recipients of the awards for best **international cricketer (women) for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons respectively** at the BCCI Awards to be held in Bengaluru .
- Veteran actor **Anupam Kher** will be given the prestigious Lifetime Achievement honour at the upcoming **International Indian Film Academy (IIFA)** awards ceremony in Bangkok.
- Pakistani-British writer **Kamila Shamsie** has won **the international Women's Prize for Fiction** with "**Home Fire,**" a novel about love, radicalism and conflicting loyalties in the post-9/11 era.
- **SVC Bank** received the **National Payments Excellence Award 2017** awarded by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- **President Xi Jinping** awarded **China's first friendship medal** to his **Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin**.
- Well known Indian social worker and the man behind low cost toilet revolution 'Sulabh Shauchalya', **Dr Bindeshwar Pathak**, was honoured with this year's prestigious "**Nikkei Asia Prize for Culture and Community**" at an award ceremony in **Tokyo (Japan)**.
- **Tamil Nadu's Anukreethy Vas** crowned **Femina Miss India 2018**
- The **Vishwas Mandlik** of Nashik and **The Yoga Institute in Mumbai** are the recipients of the **Prime Minister's Award** for outstanding contribution to **promotion and development of yoga**.
- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development** was adjudged the **Best Performing Social Sector Ministry'** by a think-tank that deals with socio-economic issues. SKOCH, a New Delhi-based think-tank, gave the award to Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi.
- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje** was conferred the '**Chief Minister of the Year'** award for her remarkable work in **e-governance**. The award was given at the 52nd Skoch Summit held in New Delhi.
- Bollywood actress **Kalki Koechlin** will be conferred with the **French distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres)**, for her contribution in enhancing Indo-French ties in cinema.

- **The World Food Prize** awarded this year to **Economist Lawrence Haddad, Dr. David Nabarro** who have dedicated their careers to **improving the availability of nutritious food for pregnant women and children in an effort to reduce the effects of malnutrition in developing countries.**
- Ministry of Shipping's flagship programme for port-led-prosperity '**Sagarmala**' received the '**Gold Award**' in infrastructure sector in the recently concluded **52nd Skoch Summit 2018** in New Delhi.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Organization	Name of the Person
Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	Amit Khare
Prime minister of Italy	Giuseppe Conte
Spanish PM	Pedro Sanchez
Egyptian President	Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
RBI deputy governor	Mahesh Kumar Jain
Malaysia ethnic Indian as new attorney general	Tommy Thomas
Indian envoy to Cuba	Madhu Sethi
Non-Executive chairman , Bandhan Bank	Harun Rasid Khan
Prime minister of Jordan's	Omar Razzaz
73 rd U.N. General Assembly president	Maria Fernanda Espinosa
Vigilance commissioner in CVC	Sharad Kumar
Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)	S Ramesh
Yes Bank reappoints CEO	Rana Kapoor
Coal secretary	Inder Jit Singh
Colombia's president	Ivan Duque
ICICI Bank Chief Operating Officer (COO)	Sandeep Bakhshi
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Chairman	Unilever's CEO Paul Polman
Managing Director of State Bank of India	Arijit Basu
Re-elected as President of Turkey	Recep Tayyip
Sebi whole-time member	Anant Barua
Judicial commissioner of Singapore's apex court	Dedar Singh Gill
President of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF)	Janardan Singh Gehlot

SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Seminars and Meetings	Place
3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	Pune
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	Astana, Kazakhstan
World Hindi Conference	Mauritius
International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Kathmandu, Nepal
106th Indian Science Congress'	Lovely Professional University, Punjab
Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) meeting	Jurmala, Latvia
Anti-Doping sports conference	Oslo, Norway
44 th G7 Summit	Quebec, Canada

SURVEYS

- **India** has moved up four places to the **137th** rank among **163** countries on the 2018 **Global Peace Index**, **Iceland** remains the most peaceful country in the world, **Syria** remains the least peaceful country in the world
- Three Indian universities feature in the top 200 universities of the **QS World University rankings 2019**, Indian **Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore** and **IIT Delhi**.
- **India ranks 177 out of 180 in Environmental Performance Index**.while **Switzerland's** is the top
- Housing finance major **HDFC** has been ranked as the **5th** biggest public company globally in the '**consumer financial services category**' on a list compiled by **Forbes magazine**, while **American Express** is top in this list
- The **US** has surpassed **India** to become the top destination for Green field FDI investment in 2017.
- **HDFC Bank** is the only brand to be featured in the **BrandZ Top 100** Most Valuable Global Brands ranking released recently by **WPP group** company **Millward Brown**, **Google** tops the list
- **India** is the world's most dangerous country followed by war-torn **Afghanistan** and **Syria** for women due to the high risk of sexual violence, according to a poll of Global Experts released. **Iceland** is the most safest country in the world in 2018
- Due to continuously surging food prices and leisure activities, **Mumbai** continues to be the most expensive city in India to live in for expatriates, ahead of global peers **Washington** and **Melbourne**.
- The **US State Department** categorised **North Korea** as one of the "**worst human trafficking nations**" for the 16th straight year by **2018 Trafficking in Persons Report**

SPORTS

- The ICC included **Nepal, Netherlands, Scotland** and the **UAE** in their **ODI** rankings list apart from the **12** existing countries.
- **Afghanistan's** 19-year-old spinner **Rashid Khan** became the **world's** fastest cricketer to reach **50** wickets in **T20** cricket
- **Virat Kohli** joined the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Usain Bolt in the sports zone of the **Madame Tussauds Wax Museum** as the **Indian** captain's **statue** was unveiled.
- Star batswoman **Mithali Raj** became the **first Indian** cricketer to amass **2000 runs** in **Twenty20** Internationals (T20I).
- The lead striker from the **English** National Team, **Harry Kane** is named as **most valuable player** for the upcoming **FIFA World Cup**, which is set to begin from **June 14**.
- **Bangladesh** stunned **India** by three wickets in a last-ball finish to win their maiden **Women's Asia Cup T20** title at the Kinrara Academy Oval, Kuala Lumpur.
- 2026 World Cup will be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico after their joint bid.
- **India Women's** Cricket team opener **Smriti Mandhana** will become the **first Indian** player to appear in **Kia Super League** - the women's cricket super league in **England**.
- **Commonwealth Games 2018** gold-medal winning shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** was adjudged as the Sportsperson of the Year for **2017** by the Sports Illustrated **India** magazine.
- **India** demolished **Iran** 44-26 in the **final** to emerge as the **Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018** champion.

SPECIAL DAYS

Day	Special	Theme
1 st June	Global Day of Parents	-
1 st June	World Milk Day	Drink Move Be Strong
3 rd June	First World Bicycle Day	-
4 th June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	-
5 th June	World Environment Day	Beat Plastic Pollution
8 th June	World Oceans Day	Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean.
12 th June	World Day Against Child Labour	Generation Safe & Healthy'
13 th June	International Albinism Awareness Day	shining our light to the world".
14 th June	World Blood Donor Day	blood donation as an action of solidarity
16 th June	International Day of Family Remittances	One Family at a Time
19 th June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in conflict	The plight and rights of children born of war
20 th June	World Refugee Day	Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees
21 st June	4th International Yoga Day	Yoga for peace
23 rd June	The International Olympic Day	-
23 rd June	United Nations Public Service Day	Transforming governance to realize the Sustainable Development Goals".
23 rd June	International Widows Day	--
25 th June	Day of the seafarer	seafarers' wellbeing
26 th June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Listen First – Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe
27 th June	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day	The Youth Dimension'
30 th June	International Asteroid Day	-

OBITUARY

Name of the Person	Field
Leela Menon	Veteran journalist
Maria Bueno	Legendary Brazilian tennis player
Peter Thomson(the thinking man's golfer)	Australian golfer
Mushtaq Ahmad Yousufi	Renowned humourist, satirist
B Sujatha Devi	Poetess and winner of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi