

## CURRENT AFFAIRS - CAPSULE

### Exclusive for IBPS PO MAINS aspirants

MAY

#### BANKING

- The number of transactions on the **National Payment Corporation of India's (NPCI) Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**, which is a mobile-only digital payment ecosystem, has crossed the **100-crore** mark within two years of its launch.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has consolidated its advertising account for the first time, with the entire business going to **WPP's Rediffusion-Y&R**.
- Easing foreign investment rules, the **Reserve Bank** permitted **FPIs** to invest in treasury bills issued by the central government.
- **YES Bank** is all set to roll out a capacity building project with farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan under its '**Livelihood and Water Security**'.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has initiated **prompt corrective action** against public sector lender **Dena Bank** in view of high non-performing loans, restricting the bank from giving fresh credit and new hiring.
- A state-run **Chinese bank** has launched the country's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund, the Indian market offers the best opportunity for **Chinese investors** due to the prospects of double-digit growth.
- After the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** debarred **Dena Bank** from fresh lending, it has placed additional restrictions on Kolkata-based **Allahabad Bank**, which is under **prompt corrective action (PCA)** since January this year. The regulator has debarred the bank from high-risk lending and raising high-cost deposits.
- **The World Bank (WB)** is going to provide **Bangladesh** a grant to meet the basic needs of around one million **Rohingyas** who fled their homeland **Myanmar**.
- **Paytm** introduced automatic recurring payments, a new feature **My Payments** that lets users configure the payments app to pay for periodic recurring expenses automatically.
- Private sector bank, **Yes Bank** and its think tank **YES Global Institute** have launched '**Agenda 25x25**', aimed at creating a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India.
- **RBI Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released final guidelines prescribing 100 percent **Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR)** for banks aimed at maintaining adequate liquidity for more resilience. **NSFR** is a long-term liquidity measurement included in the Basel III liquidity standards.
- The **World Bank Board of Executive Directors** approved a **\$220 million** (Rs 1,496 crore) loan and an **\$80 million** (Rs 544 crore) guarantee for the **India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program**.
- **Yes Bank** has received approval from **National Stock Exchange** to be empanelled as '**Settlement Bank**' for **National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCCL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **NSE**.
- **Paytm Payments Bank**, India's first bank providing zero balance accounts and zero charges on digital transactions, plans to train and fan out one lakh banking business correspondents, including women, in a year across India's Tier-I and II towns, villages and remote areas.
- India signs Loan Agreement with the World Bank for USD 21.7 Million for Strengthening **Facebook** is set to offer its **WhatsApp payment services** to the entire country in an attempt to win market share, even though its partners aren't all ready. The messaging app will partner **HDFC Bank**, **ICICI Bank** and **Axis Bank** to process the transfers, and **SBI** will join once it has the necessary systems in place.

## ECONOMY

- The revenue collection from Goods and Services Tax (**GST**) exceeded **Rs 1** lakh crore in April 2018. This is the first occasion that the monthly revenue has breached the **Rs 1 trillion** milestone.
- **Cognizant** acquired Belgian analytics and advisory firm **Hedera Consulting**, for an undisclosed amount, to boost its consulting capabilities in **Europe**.
- Pension regulator **PFRDA** has increased the cap on equity investment in active choice by private sector subscribers of the National Pension System (**NPS**) to **75** per cent from **50** per cent.
- The Goods and Services Tax Network - Special Purpose Vehicle (**GSTN-SPV**) will cease to be a private company and morph into a **100** per cent **government owned entity**.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has permitted **exchanges** to allow derivative **trading timing** from **9 a.m. till 11:55 p.m.** Currently, the timing for the derivative segment is the same as that for the **cash segment**, which is open between **9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
- Moving closer to its deal with **Walmart**, **e-commerce** major **Flipkart** has bought back over **1.8 million** shares worth more than **\$350** million from minority investors, as per information filed by Flipkart with Singapore's Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority.
- Ahmadabad-based **Infibeam** will acquire **Snapdeal's** subsidiary **Unicommerce**, which offers **e-commerce** enablement software, in a deal worth up to **₹120** crore.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (**CBDT**) notified the protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (**DTAA**) between **India** and **Kuwait**.
- **Uber** Technologies announced a partnership to study urban manned **aircraft** in conjunction with the **US** space agency **NASA**, following a partnership last year that focused on unmanned drones.
- American retail giant **Walmart** Inc is picking up a **77%** stake in domestic online retailer **Flipkart** for **\$16 billion** (Rs 1.12 lakh crore) in the largest e-commerce deal ever struck anywhere in the world. The deal values the 11-year-old Flipkart at approximately **\$21 billion** (Rs 1.47 lakh crore).
- The Ministry of Finance has approved the **foreign investment** proposal of **DP World Global** Investment BV, **Netherlands** to acquire **65** per cent stake in **Hindustan Infralog Pvt Ltd**. An approval to invest up to **₹3,250** crore has been given for the same.
- Chinese e-commerce giant **Alibaba** had purchased leading **Pakistani** online retailer **Daraz**, continuing its overseas expansion by gaining a foothold in the growing South Asian consumer market.
- The **merger** between **Bharti Airtel** and **Telenor India** has been finally approved by the **Department of Telecom** (DoT).
- **Tata Steel**, whose bid for debt-ridden **Bhushan Steel** was approved by the **NCLT**, would implement the resolution plan through its step-down subsidiary Bamnipal Steel Ltd. **Tata Steel** will initially subscribe to **72.65%** equity share capital of **BSL** at face value i.e. at **Rs. 2** per share, for an aggregate amount of **Rs. 158.89** crore.

- **BSE, Asia's** oldest stock exchange, has become the **first Indian** exchange to be **recognised** as a designated offshore securities market (**DOSM**) by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (**SEC**) "The DOSM status allows sale of securities to U.S. investors through the trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with the U.S. SEC and thus eases the trades by U.S. investors in India".
- State run **oil marketing** company Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (**BPCL**) will set up an **LPG** bottling plant at Barkhani in **Odisha's** Balangir district at a cost of **Rs 103 crore**. **BPCL** already has an **LPG** bottling plant at **Khordha** in Odisha and this will be the **second** such unit in the state.
- Reliance Industries (**RIL**) has received **environment clearance** for the expansion and optimisation of its petrochemical complex at **Nagothane** in **Raigad** district of Maharashtra at an estimated cost of **Rs 2,338 crore**.
- **India** is the **sixth** wealthiest country in the **world** with a total wealth of **\$8,230 billion**, while the **U.S.** is the richest nation **globally** as per **AfrAsia Bank** Global Wealth Migration Review.
- **Japan's SoftBank** has decided to sell its over **20 %** stake in **e-commerce** major **Flipkart** to United States retailer **Walmart** for an estimated **\$ 4 billion**. SoftBank invested **\$ 2.5 billion** in Flipkart last year.
- **India** received the first cargo of **UAE crude oil** for filling up one of the two Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) caverns built by Indian **Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd** (ISPRL) at Mangalore.
- Digital payments startup **Paytm** has acquired **Chennai-based** ticketing startup **TicketNew** for a reported amount of **\$40 million**.
- **ABB India** and **Niti Aayog** inked a pact to help the country reap the benefits of latest technologies including **robotics** and **artificial intelligence**.
- Tata Consultancy Services' market valuation briefly crossed the **Rs 7-lakh crore** mark, making it the first company to achieve this milestone.
- The ministry of New and Renewable Energy has appointed **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** as the nodal agency for setting up **2,500 MW** of inter-state transmission system-connected (**ISTS**) power projects on a build, own operate (**BOO**) basis across the country, paving the way for the nodal agency to float bids for such projects.
- Baba Ramdev's Patanjali ties up with BSNL, launches Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards.
- Fertiliser major **IFFCO** and Indian Potash Ltd (**IPL**) have acquired **37 per cent** stake in Jordan's largest mining and chemical firm **JPMC** for about **Rs 900 crore**.
- **Gold** options trading on **Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)** of India record turnover of **Rs.2,021 crore** and volume of **6443 kgs** due to increased participation of market participation. The previous record turnover was **Rs.1,560 crore** achieved.

**NATIONAL**

- **Army's 'Vijay Prahar' exercise underway in Rajasthan.** Objective of this exercise is to fine-tune jointmanship between troops of Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) and maximising the impact of the joint operations.
- Maharashtra to get new airport at Sindhudurg.
- 15th **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Varanasi.** It will be inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth.
- Manipur Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** launched '**Go to Village**' mission throughout the state from Konuma ground.
- President Ram Nath Kovind will preside over the first meeting of the national committee for commemoration of **150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** next year. The Committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has on board 114 members including former Prime Minister atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Maharashtra** became the **first state** to provide **digitally-signed land record receipts** (also known as 7/12 receipts), which Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** claimed would check irregularities and bring in transparency.
- Pensioners would now be able to view their pension passbook on mobile phones with the help of **Umang app**. Retirement fund body **EPFO** announced the launch of a facility to extend the special service to pensioners.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a major and unique initiative of online professional development of **1.5 million** higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform **SWAYAM**.
- **The Minister of State for Culture (I/c) and Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma** will inaugurate in New Delhi the Exhibition '**India and the World: A History in Nine Stories**' -an extensively collaborative effort of the **British Museum, London; National Museum, New Delhi;** and **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai** with the active support of the Culture Ministry.
- **Punjab** government along with **WWF-India** would be conducting the first organized census of Indus Dolphins, one of the world's rarest mammals.
- **Cultural Festival in Egypt to Commemorate 157th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.**
- **India** is organising a five-day **cultural festival in Egypt** to commemorate the 157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate **Rabindranath Tagore**. An exhibition on the paintings of Tagore titled '**Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours**' will be held in **Giza**.
- NITI Aayog and **Google** signed a **Statement of Intent (SoI)** to work on a range of initiatives to help build the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)** ecosystem across the country.
- In a major step towards realizing the Centre's **smart city mission (SCM)**, the **Madhya Pradesh** government launched the country's first **Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC)** for all seven smart cities of the state in Bhopal.
- The **third edition** of the **United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP)** was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has given his assent to the **Delhi government's** proposed Bill to amend the **Minimum Wages Act** under which employers violating labour rules in the city will now face fine ranging from Rs 20,000-50,000 and jail term between one to three years.

- In a major step towards ushering in a clean gas-based economy, India launched its biggest auction of **city gas distribution (CGD)** networks, offering permits for selling compressed and **piped natural gas** (CNG and PNG) in 86 geographical areas.
- From all-women managed 'Pink Booths' to the use of third generation Electronic Voting Machines, the assembly elections in **Karnataka** are marked by several firsts. In a womenoriented step, 450 "**pink booths**" called '**Sakhi**' have been set up.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to UAE, an agreement was signed between **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL)** and **ADNOC of UAE**, under which ADNOC will store about 5.86 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility at Mangalore at its own cost.
- Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways, Shipping, Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate the upgraded 4-lane NH-15 from Amritsar to Bhatinda and NH-64 from Zirakpur to Bhatinda, and will lay the foundation stone of 2-laning with paved shoulders of the Munak-Jhakkhal-Budhlana section of NH-144B in Punjab.
- President Ram Nath Kovind launched **Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarojgar Yojana**, Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC (economically backward class) **Swarojgar Yojana** and **Rin Maufi Yojna** of **Rajasthan State Government**.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Communications and Minister of State of Railways, Manoj Sinha flagged off Antyodaya train named **Darbhangha-Jalandhar City Antyodaya Express (Weekly)**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the **4th edition of Global Exhibition** on services in Mumbai. He has also released the logo for Services and launched the portal.
- **CM inaugurates Uttarakhand's first City Gas Distribution system.**The network comprises 500 km long pipeline and ten CNG stations, one each in Jaspur, Bazpur, Khatima and Kiccha, two in Kashipur and three in Rudrapur.
- Guwahati now has India's first solar powered railway station.
- Punjab Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh** announced a slew of development projects to the tune of **Rs 555 crore** for the uplift and up-gradation of the border district of **Tarn Taran**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will be on a day-long visit to Jammu and Kashmir, will unveil a plaque to mark the commencement of work on the Zojila Tunnel.The 14-km-long Zojila Tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel.
- The Minister of Commerce and Industry **Shri Suresh Prabhu** launched the **Intellectual Property (IP) mascot - IP Nani** - at the conference on **National Intellectual Property Rights Policy** in New Delhi.
- The **Odisha** State Bar Council announced '**one bar one vote rule**' that the rule as pronounced by the Supreme Court will be implemented in all the 167 bars of the state, including that of the High Court.
- Supreme Court approved Central Government's draft **Cauvery Management Scheme** aimed at ensuring smooth distribution of water among **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry**.
- Gujarat government would start bearing medical expenses of up to **Rs 50,000** for each victim of road accident in the state for the first 48 hours.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is likely to visit **Jammu and Kashmir**. He will inaugurate a **330 MW** Kishanganga hydro-electricity project and participate in the 100th birth anniversary celebrations of Ladakhi spiritual leader Kushak Bakula and a university convocation.
- **India and Indonesia** have agreed to double their efforts to boost bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2025, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, after holding comprehensive talks with President **Joko Widodo**.
- Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities of Arbitration in SAARC region held in New Delhi
- **"Green Good Deeds"**, the societal movement initiated by Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** to safeguard environment and promote good living received acceptance from the global community.
- The Northeast Frontier Railway flagged off its first **Parcel Cargo Express Train(PCET)** that will be connecting the northeast to the **west coast**.
- Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) has adopted the acronym **"AYUSH"** as a word, both in the English and Hindi languages, for scientific and technical purposes.
- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** flagged off the **'Krishi Mahabhiyan-cum-Beej Vikas Vahan Rath'** to create awareness among farmers about government schemes for them during Kharif season.
- **Tamil Nadu to build India's next generation defence aircraft**. The proposal for India's Next -Gen Defence aircraft has been announced by The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). They announced that India's fifth generation aircraft could even replace the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
- **Haryana CM announces setting up of Durgashakti Vahini for safety of women and Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana**, developed for the safety of girl students.
- **IIT-Kanpur** has set up India's first advisory Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) with the help of government of **United Kingdom**.
- The all-women crew of the Indian Navy on board **INSV Tarini** returned from expedition **"Navika Sagar Parikrama"** and landed at Mandovi in **Goa**. This is the first ever Indian female crew to navigate the world. The circumnavigation was done in **254 days**.
- Chhattisgarh will get a specialized **anti-Naxal combat** force named the **"Black Panther"** in line with the Greyhounds unit.
- Chief Minister of **Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched 'My MP Rojgar Portal' to provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills and interest and ensure availability of able candidates to employers as per the need of their business.
- New software, **'Nidaan'**, has been launched in **Rajasthan** for presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as the trends of ailments found in specific areas.
- India and Nepal's joint military exercise **Surya Kiran-XIII will** be held at **Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand**.
- The Union Cabinet approved the ordinance of setting India's first National Sports University in **Imphal, Manipur**.
- The HRD Ministry announced the launch of **'Samagra Shiksha'** programme subsuming three existing schemes: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

- Ministry of Culture organized the 9 edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2018 in **Tehri, Uttarakhand**. Uttarakhand's Tehri Lake Festival will be a part of the event. IT consists of water sports organized by the Uttarakhand tourism each year. This initiative is under the '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**' .
- **Manipur** has become the first state in the Northeast and the **third state in India** to have **solar toilets**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated 1 phase of Delhi-Meerut expressway. The Delhi-Meerut Expressway aims to provide safe connectivity from Delhi to Meerut **to Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** government has decided to promote **organic farming** in a big way and plans to adopt an integrated approach for promoting organic and zero budget natural farming system.
- The main event of **4th International Yoga Day** celebrations (IDY-2018) will be held on 21st June 2018 at Dehradun in **Uttarakhand**.
- **Gujarat government launches 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy'**
- The famous Hindi film actor **Akshay Kumar**, while spreading awareness of cleanliness, launched an advertisement campaign for the **Swachh Bharat Mission** (Grameen) in Delhi.
- Ministry of Railways Launches New User Interface of its Next Generation e-Ticketing System
- **PRAAPTI App and Web portal launched by Minister of State (I/C) for Power, Shri R.K. Singh for bringing transparency in electricity payments to Generators.**
- The Government is for the first time issuing guidelines for **Adventure Tourism** in India. These guidelines will be launched by the Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge), **Shri. K. J. Alphons**, at an event in New Delhi.
- The food, civil supplies and consumer affairs department of **Himachal Pradesh** has launched a **e-PDS** mobile app for ration card holders.
- **Rajasthan** Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** claimed that her state government is the first in the country to launch ambitious health schemes for the benefit of poor tribal people. This while addressing a public rally in Gadi assembly constituency of Banswara district.
- The students of the government **primary and upper primary** schools in **Rajasthan** will get milk in the midday meals thrice in a week under an "**Annapurna Doodh Yojana**" scheme for improving nutritional status of children.
- **Telangana CM KCR launches Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Karimnagar**, The scheme will ensure, farmers will get **Rs 8,000 per acre per year for two crops**
- Telangana Chief Minister **Chandra Sekhara Rao** announced a unique life insurance scheme for farmers, in **Hyderabad**, As per the scheme, the government will offer life insurance facility of **5 lakh rupees** to the nominee, after the death of the insured farmer.
- **Neem and black buck** have been declared as the state tree and animal respectively of **Andhra Pradesh**. **Rose-ringed parakeet** will be the state bird while **Jasmine** the flower.

**INTERNATIONAL**

- **Palestine** joins **world's chemical weapons watchdog**
- **Netherlands** Agrees to join as a **64<sup>th</sup>** country in the **International Solar Alliance**
- The militaries of **India and China** have agreed to set up a **hotline** between their headquarters after an informal summit between Indian **PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping**.
- India has joined the United States and China as one of the **world's five biggest military spenders**, reflecting geopolitical tensions as well as the country's reliance on imported weapons and sprawling personnel costs.
- **India and Sri Lanka** agreed on cooperation on exchange of information and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries.
- **Israel** withdrew from a race against **Germany and Belgium** for two seats on the **United Nations Security Council in 2019-20**.
- **North Korea** has asked the **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)** for permission to open **an air corridor to South Korea**.
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** emplaned for a five-day visit to **South America's Guatemala, Peru and Panama**.
- The **North Korean** leader, **Kim Jong-un**, has made a **second surprise visit to China** to meet its president, **Xi Jinping**.
- **Donald Trump announces US withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal**.
- **Saudi women** will be allowed to start driving in the kingdom from **June 24**.
- **India and Panama** signed an agreement on the **exemption of visas for the holders of diplomatic and official passports**. The two nations also signed an agreement on strengthening cooperation in the field of agriculture.
- **India and Guatemala** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for expanding cooperation in the area of diplomatic training.
- **India and Peru** signed an agreement in the field of **Renewable Energy** at Lima.
- After engaging with **India in Wuhan**, **China** is rebooting ties with **Japan**, as part of a larger **pan-Asian** initiative that appears to counter growing protectionism in the **U.S**.
- **India and Nepal** have agreed to expand their partnership for **socio-economic** development on the basis of principles of **equality, trust, respect and mutual benefit**.
- **China** has approved a **USD 1 billion** loan to revive a long-delayed expressway in central Sri Lanka.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched "REPLACE" a comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial **Trans fats** from the global food supply by **2023**.
- **India** has released grant of NRs. (Nepalese Rupees) **18.07 crore** for **river training and construction of embankments** along **Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Nepal**.
- **Guatemala** opened its **embassy in Jerusalem**, becoming the **second nation after the US** to open its diplomatic mission in the **Israeli city**.
- **Russia** unveiled the **world's first floating nuclear power station** at a ceremony in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk, where it will be loaded with nuclear fuel before heading to **Eastern Siberia**.
- **Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change Dr. Harsh Vardhan** will be leading an Indian delegation for participation in the **Mission Innovation Ministerial** being held at **Malmo-Sweden** during May, 2018
- In a first, India received the **1st cargo of UAE crude oil** for filling up one of the two **Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)** caverns built by Indian **Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL)** at **Mangalore**.
- The Governments of India and The **Netherlands** will announce the launch of the **first-of-its-kind** collaborative research **programme on HIV/AIDS**.
- **Nepal** has become the **first country in south-east Asia** to **eliminate trachoma**, world's leading cause of preventable blindness of infectious origin, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.
- **Colombia** is first Latin American nation to join **NATO** as 'global partner'

- **India** launched its **second IT corridor in China** to cash in on the burgeoning Chinese software market which remained elusive despite the presence of top Indian technology firms.
  - The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, **Shri K. J. Alphons** along with a delegation of senior officials attended the **108th session of UNWTO Executive Council** in May 2018 held in San Sebastian, **Spain**.
  - **Azerbaijan** inaugurated a pipeline that will eventually create the first direct route to transport gas from one of the world's largest fields to **Europe** bypassing **Russia**.
  - **The 71th World Health assembly** the decision making body of **World Health Organization (WHO)** has adopted India's digital Health initiative. The assembly was held at Geneva, Switzerland.
  - As many as **26 countries**, including **India**, would participate in the **biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** military exercise from **June 27 to August 2**, in and around the **Hawaiian Islands and Southern California**.
  - **U.S. Pacific Command renamed U.S. Indo-Pacific Command**.
  - **Uganda's** parliament has imposed a tax on the use of **social media** like **Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp** in a bid to raise revenue but opponents of the law it aims to stifle criticism of President **Yoweri Museveni**, who has been in power since 1986.
  - **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched three **Indian mobile payment apps (BHIM, RuPay and SBI app)** in **Singapore** at a business event aimed at internationalisation of the country's digital payment platforms.
- Persons in News**
- **WhatsApp** co-founder and **CEO Jan Koum** have decided to **exit** from WhatsApp due to difference of opinion with parent company Facebook because of **data privacy**, encryption and other issues.
  - **U.S.** President **Donald Trump** nominated **Diane Gujarati**, a prosecutor of **Indian descent**, to a **federal judgeship**.
  - **Sachin Bansal** quits **Flipkart** as **Walmart** wanted **only one founder on board**.
  - **Pawan Kumar Agarwal** was given **three months** extension as Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**).
  - The **Sikkim** government has nominated Bollywood **singer Mohit Chauhan** as the **Green Ambassador** of the state.
  - Online pharmacy **Netmeds** has appointed cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its brand **ambassador**.
  - **Shivangi Pathak**, a 16-year-old girl from **Haryana**, has become the **youngest Indian** woman to conquer Mt Everest from the Nepali side.
  - **Megastar Amitabh Bachchan** has been honoured by European Union for strengthening Europe-India cultural ties.
  - Niti Aayog and Bollywood actor and newbie entrepreneur **Sushant Singh Rajput** have decided to collaborate to promote two major initiatives of Niti Aayog, the **BHIM app** and the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform**.
  - **28 year old Nima Jangmu** made her historic ascent on **Mt Kanchenjunga**, third highest peak of the world and She has become only woman in the world to climb three highest peaks in Nepal above 8,000 meters in one season within 25 days. She had successfully scaled Mt Everest and Mt Lhotses.
  - **Sangeeta Bahl**, a 53-year-old former model and entrepreneur from **Jammu and Kashmir**, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer **Mount Everest**.
  - Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** has launched advertisement campaign for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) in Delhi. The campaign focuses on promoting the **twin pit toilet** technology in rural India.
  - HDFC Bank's managing director **Aditya Puri** has figured in the top 30 global CEOs list published by Barron's.

### PLACES IN NEWS

- The **Pakyong airport in Sikkim** is set to become the **100th operational airport** in the country.
- The **Maharashtra** government decided to recommend the promulgation of an ordinance to rename the **Jalgaon-based North Maharashtra University** after poetess **Bahinabai Chaudhari**.
- **The Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK)** run by an all-woman team began its operations **Phagwara, Punjab**.
- For the first time an **International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE)** to focus on Rail Coaches and train sets, is being held in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- **The Union Cabinet** approved an ordinance to set up the **country's first national sports university in imphal at Manipur**.
- IT Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** is all set to inaugurate, a cloud-enabled **National Data Centre** at **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, which will offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for e-governance applications of ministries and departments.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **China** launched a new communication satellite "**APSTAR-6C**" at the southwestern Xichang Satellite Launch Center. The satellite was sent into orbit by the **Long March-3B** carrier rocket. This was the 273rd mission of the Long March rocket series.
- A restored **Dakota DC-3 VP 905** joined the Indian Air Force in an induction ceremony at Hindan air force station, more than four decades after the aircraft fleet was phased out following an illustrious service record.
- NASA launches InSight spacecraft to Mars to study Red Planet's quakes.
- **China** successfully launched a hyperspectral imaging satellite **Gaofen-5** for comprehensive observation of the atmosphere, including air pollution which is one of the country's major problems.
- Yahoo has just entered the densely competitive market of messaging apps by releasing its own new **group chat app** named **Squirrel**. The app - currently still in testing - is now listed on Google Play and the App Store, and is invite-only for now.
- An updated version of the **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket, tailored for eventual crewed missions for **NASA**, made its debut launch from Florida's Cape Canaveral carrying a communications satellite for Bangladesh into orbit.
- India successfully test-fired the Indo-Russian joint venture **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missile from a test range along the Odisha coast to validate some new features.
- The UNICEF launched a '**data visualisation app**' which provides a user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of the education scenario in the country.
- Vice Admiral GS Pabby, AVSM, VSM, Chief of Materiel commissioned **IN LCU L54** into the Indian Navy at Port Blair. IN LCU L54 is the fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class to be inducted into the Indian Navy. The ship has been indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

Books	Authors
Hidden India	Wildlife photographer Latika Nath
Straight Talk	Abhishek Manu Singhvi

**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

- The **Nobel Prize** in **literature** will not be awarded this year due to sex-abuse allegations and other issues. By the **Swedish Academy**, the **Nobel Literature Prize 2018** will be given in 2019. The Nobel Literature Prize is postponed for the first time in **70** years.
- Jnanpith laureate **M T Vasudevan Nair** has won this year's annual **ONV Literary Prize**, instituted in memory of iconic poet late **O N V Kurup**, for his overall contributions to **Malayalam literature**.
- **Mahendra Chaudhry**, Fiji's Indian-origin former prime minister, has been chosen to receive the **V K Krishna Menon** Award in recognition of his contribution to the Indian diaspora.
- **Nisha Bhalla** conferred with **WEF 2018** award
- **Prof Muhammad Yunus** was awarded the **11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018** at an event, in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **NMDC Limited** bagged the prestigious **S&P Global Platts Global Metals Award 2018** in the corporate social responsibility category.
- Leading **NRI** industrialist **Lord Swraj Paul** has received a **lifetime achievement award** for his contributions towards promoting brand **India** in the **UK**.
- Sunil Chhetri named Players' Player at Bengaluru FC Awards Night.
- Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development **Nara Lokesh** received the "**Digital Leader of the Year**" award during **Businessworld Digital India Summit and Awards 2018** at **New Delhi**.
- The 71 annual **Canned Film Festival** was held in **Cannes, France**.
- **Prajnesh Gunneswaran** won the prestigious **T.K. Ramanathan award** for the year 2017-18 at the **Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA)** annual day function at the SDAT tennis stadium. He received a cash prize of Rs. 30,000.
- Veteran singer **Asha Bhosle**, Bengali superstar **Prosenjit Chatterjee** and Justice **Shyamal Kumar Sen** (retd) among others will be conferred the highest civilian award of West Bengal, the **Banga Bibhushan**, by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a function.
- Barcelona forward **Lionel Messi** has won the **European Golden Shoe** for a fifth time.
- An English translation of Polish novel "**Flights**", which interweaves narratives of travel with explorations of the human body, was named as the winner of the prestigious **Man Booker International Prize**. The novel by **Olga Tokarczuk**, translated by **Jennifer Croft**.
- Late veteran actress **Sridevi** was posthumously conferred with the **BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award** for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema.

- Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. **Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** presented the prestigious **Nari Shakti Puraskar2017** to the members of the INSV Tarini team in New Delhi.
- **Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve** received the first prize for conserving the rare wildlife resources from the National Bio-diversity Authority, at Hyderabad
- Indian botanist **Kamaljit S. Bawa**, president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), received the prestigious **Linnean Medal in Botany** from the Linnean Society of London.
- Kerala cartoonist **Thomas Antony** has won an international award, in the best caricature category. Antony, currently working as Executive Artist of Malayalam daily 'Metro Vaartha', is among the nine winners at the 13th edition of the **World Press Cartoon awards**, instituted by an organisation based in Lisbon, Portugal.
- Indian star cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** has been awarded the '**most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare**' award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare.
- **HDFC Bank** has once again been recognized with the **Champion Security Award** at the 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit.
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to two noted personalities. Child rights activist and Noble Laureate **Kailash Satyarthi** and space scientist **A S Kiran Kumar**, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Kendrick Lamar** has won the **Pulitzer Prize for Music** for his album, DAMN., becoming the first non-classical or jazz artist to receive the honor.

#### CEAT cricket rating's Awards

Name of the Person	Category
<b>Virat Kohli</b> (India)	International Cricketer of the Year
<b>Shikhar Dhawan</b> (India)	International Batsman of the Year
<b>Trent Boult</b> (New Zealand)	International Bowler of the Year
<b>Harmanpreet Kaur</b> (India)	Outstanding Innings of the year award
<b>Chris Gayle</b> (West Indies)	Popular Choice award
<b>Farokh Engineer</b> (India)	Lifetime Achievement Award

**APPOINTMENTS**

<b>National Appointments</b>	
<b>Name of the Organisation</b>	<b>Name of the Person</b>
Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB).	Sitanshu Ranjan Kar
IRDAI Chairman	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
Full-time member of 15 <sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.	Ashok Lahiri
2nd term as ICC chairman	Shashank Manohar
chief justice of Manipur high court	Ramalingam Sudhakar
Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation	Himanta Biswa Sarma
Hockey India president	Rajinder Singh
chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of Coal India Limited	Anil Kumar Jha
Karnataka Chief Minister	H. D. Kumaraswamy(Janata Dal)
Airtel Payments Bank MD & CEO	Anubrata Biswas
Chief of the Press Council of India (PCI) for a second term.	C K Prasad
Governor of Odisha	Ganeshi Lal
Governor of Mizoram	Kummanam Rajasekharan
first CFO of Reserve Bank of India	Sudha Balakrishnan
president of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)	R K Agrawal
Deputy Chairman of CII Eastern Region (ER)	Chandra Sekhar Ghosh
<b>Internationa Appointments</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup> term Russian President	Vladimir Putin
prime minister for Armenia	Nikol Pashinyan
Costa Rica's president	Carlos Alvarado
first female director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).	Gina Haspel
first woman chief in 226-year history	Stacey Cunningham
Indian-origin politician to become Malaysia's first Sikh Cabinet minister	Gobind Singh Deo
first woman prime minister of Barbados	Mia Mottley
Lebanon's prime minister for third time	Saad Hariri
Guinea's PM	Ibrahima Kassory Fofana
Paraguay 's first woman president	Alicia Pucheta (68)

**SEMINARS AND MEETINGS**

Seminars and Meetings	Place
9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue	New Delhi
India- South Africa Business Summit	Johannesburg, South Africa
12th informal meeting of SAARC finance Ministers	Manila, Philippines
15th Asia Media Summit	New Delhi
'First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities'	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Naval Commander's conference	New Delhi
World Robot Conference 2018	Beijing, China
2019 Climate Summit	New York
Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Tourism Ministers' conference	Wuhan, China
Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.	Kathmandu, Nepal
Conference on "Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development"	Guwahati, Assam
26th BASIC Ministerial meeting of Environment Ministers	Durban, South Africa.
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on counter-terror	Pakistan
Regional Conference on "Clean and Renewable Energy" as a lead up event to 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank(AIIB)	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
International Conference on the TRIPS CBD Linkage 2018	Geneva, Switzerland

**Surveys**

- **Delhi** and **Varanasi** are among the **14** Indian cities that figure in a list of **20** most polluted cities in the world in terms of **PM2.5** levels in 2016, data released by the **WHO**.
- **India** and **China** were among the five biggest military spenders which together accounted for **60** per cent of the total global defence expenditure of **USD 1.739 trillion** in 2017.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been ranked among the top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes in a list that has been topped for the first time ever by Chinese President **Xi Jinping**, who dethroned Russian President **Vladimir Putin** as the most influential person on the planet. **Mr. Modi** ranks **9th** on the **Forbes 2018** list of **75** of '**The World's Most Powerful People**' who make the world turn.
- **India** emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017 behind **China** and the **US** by Mercom Communications India in a report.
- For the second consecutive year, **Indore** has been named India's cleanest city under **Swachh Survekshan 2018**, followed by **Bhopal** and **Chandigarh**.
- **India** ranked **145th** among **195** countries in terms of **Healthcare access and quality (HAQ) index** in the year 2016, behind its neighbours like China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

- **India** has moved one notch higher, to the **44th** place in terms of **competitiveness**, in the annual rankings compiled by International **Institute for Management Development (IMD)** which placed the **US** in the top slot.
- **United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)** gave recognition to the **Cochin International Airport** as world's first fully solar energy-powered airport. It is the largest and busiest airport of **Kerala** and was constructed in **1999**.
- **Microsoft** has surpassed Alphabet, the parent company of **Google**, in the market capitalization for the first time in three years, becoming the third most valuable firm after **Apple** and **Amazon** globally.

#### Sports

- Hockey India names Harendra Singh as head coach of Indian Men's Hockey team., Sjoerd Marijne back as women's coach.
- **Neeraj Goyat** has been conferred with the **WBC Asia Boxer of the Year**.
- **BJP MP Anurag Thakur** and cricketing great **Sachin Tendulkar** launched '**Khel Mahakumbh**' in the presence of **1500** athletes. The event **aims** to attract participation of at least **one lakh** youth from Thakur's Hamirpur constituency.
- Lewis Hamilton wins Spanish Grand Prix to stretch lead in F1 title race.
- **Neymar** was named as **France's player of the year** at an awards ceremony in Paris, despite the **Paris Saint-Germain** superstar missing the last three months of the season due to injury.
- Amicus Curiae **Gopal Subramaniam**, guiding the **Supreme Court** in the matter of the implementation of the Justice **Lodha Committee** Reforms in Cricket by the **BCCI** and its full members, has urged the apex court to issue directions to increase the composition of the selection committees (senior men, junior and women) from **three to five** members.
- Defending Champions **Indian Women's Hockey Team** lost to hosts **South Korea** in the Final match of the **5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy**.
- **Rafael Nadal** defeated **Alexander Zverev** in the final of the **Italian Open**. This is **Rafael Nadal's** eighth Italian Open title. Through this victory Rafael Nadal will regain his No. **1** ranking from **Roger Federer**.
- Barcelona forward **Lionel Messi** was crowned Europe's **top-goal** scorer for the **fifth** time after scoring on 34 occasions in the **La Liga** for the Catalan side.
- Former **South Africa** captain and batting mainstay **A B de Villiers** announced his retirement from **all** forms of **international cricket**, saying that he has run "out of gas".
- Former World Champion **Tejaswini Sawant** bagged the **50m rifle prone gold** in the **Grand Prix**, a prelude to the **World Cup**.
- Top **Indian javelin** thrower **Neeraj Chopra** finished **sixth** in the **Diamond League Series** third leg with a below-par effort of **80.81m**.
- **Chennai Super Kings** beat **Sunrisers Hyderabad** by eight wickets to win their **third** Indian Premier League (IPL) **11th** season title in **Wankhede Stadium**. **Shane Watson** became only the second batsman in Indian Premier League history to score a century in a final.
- **Man-of-the-match** of the final – **Shane Watson**
- **Kane Williamson** won the **Orange cap** with **735** runs.
- **Andrew Tye** won the **Purple cap** with **24** wickets.
- **Rishabh Pant** is the **Emerging player of the season** as well as **Stylish Player of the Season**.
- **Japan's** women clinched the **Uber Cup**, breezing by surprise finalists **Thailand** 3-0 in

- Top discus thrower **Vikas Gowda retired** from the sport after competing at the highest level for more than **15 years**, during which he became the **first** and **only Indian male** to win a **Commonwealth Games medal** in the discipline.

### SPECIAL DAYS

Day	Special	Theme
1 <sup>st</sup> May	World Labour Day	Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	World Press Freedom Day	Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law.
8 <sup>th</sup> May	World Red Cross Day 2018	-
11 <sup>th</sup> May	National Technology Day	Science and Technology for a sustainable future
12 <sup>th</sup> May	International Nurses Day	Nurses A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right
12 <sup>th</sup> May	The World Migratory Bird Day	Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation
15 <sup>th</sup> May	International Day of the Families	Families and inclusive societies
17 <sup>th</sup> May	World Tele-communication and Information Society Day	Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for all
18 <sup>th</sup> May	International Museum Day	Hyperconnected museums: New approaches, new publics
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Anti Terrorism Day	-
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	International Bio-diversity Day	Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity.
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Commonwealth Day	Towards a Common Future
29 <sup>th</sup> May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	70 Years of Service and Sacrifice.
31 <sup>st</sup> May	World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)	Tobacco and heart disease

### OBITUARY

Name of the Person	Field
Ashok Mitra	Eminent economist and former West Bengal Finance Minister
Idris Hassan Latif	Former Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF),
Kottayam Pushpanath	Malayalam detective novelist
Keyur Bhushan	Freedom fighter, writer
Arun Date	Renowned Marathi singer
Anne V. Coates	Oscar-winning film editor
Balkavi Bairagi	Poet-politician
V Balakumaran	Eminent Tamil novelist and scriptwriter
Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani	Veteran writer, novelist
Lt Gen Zorawar Chand Bakshi	India's most decorated General
Geeta Kapoor	Veteran actress (Pakeezah movie)