

NATIONAL

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched three important projects in Arunachal Pradesh.
- India's first radio festival will be held in Delhi and the festival is being organised by the International of Women in Radio and Television, in collaboration with UNESCO. The radio festival is being held to mark World Radio Day 2018. The 2018's theme of World Radio Day: sports and radio.
- The 'Assistance to States and UTs for Narcotics Control' scheme has been extended for a further period of 3 years—from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The estimated budget is Rs 21 crore.
- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced the decision to opt out of Centre's 'Modicare' scheme.
- '**Paschim Lehar**', a tri-service maritime exercise begins in India's western coast. Around 40 ships, submarines and fighter aircraft participated in 'Paschim Lehar'.
- India's biggest **Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices** began in **Bengaluru**.
- **The New Development Bank (NDB)** has signed a loan agreement of **USD 100 million** with the government of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 in **New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan**. It was organised by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**. Theme of the forum is '**Partnerships for a Resilient Planet**'.
- **Chandrayaan-2**, the lunar mission under which the ISRO attempts first time to land a rover on the moon's south pole. It will be launched in April.
- In a first in the country, the State government will be setting up an institute for **artificial intelligence (AI) in Mumbai**.
- The Assam government introduced a Bill in the state Assembly to set up a yoga council for **regulating the teaching and practice of yoga**.
- Tribal affairs minister Mr. Oram has announced that Govt. will setup 562 schools for tribal children. He also added that "Every block with at least 20 thousand tribal persons, will have an Ekalavya School".
- Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Natural History Museum (NHM), UK signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of **genetic/taxonomic studies, research and training, conservation in India**.

- The **Virgin Group** signed an **"intent agreement"** with **Maharashtra government** to build a **hyperloop transportation system** between **Navi Mumbai International Airport** and **Pune**.
- The **Haryana government** launched **four canteens** which will serve subsidised and healthy food to the poor. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the food canteens at **Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar,** and **Yamunanagar** via videoconferencing **from Chandigarh**.
- **Maharashtra government** is all set to roll out its **"Asmita Yojana"** on the **International Women's Day** next month. Under the scheme, girls in **Zilla Parishad schools** will get a sanitary napkin packet at **Rs 5** while rural women can avail it at a subsidised rate of **Rs 24** and **Rs 29**.
- Union minister **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** said that an **International Educational Institution for Minorities** will be built in **Rajasthans Alwar city** as part of the Centres ambitious plan to set up five such institutes across the country.
- The government has finalised the contours of a Rs 6,000-crore scheme to tackle the country's depleting groundwater level. Atal Bhuwal Yojana (ABY), the scheme will be launched in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, covering 78 districts, 193 blocks and more than 8,300 gram panchayats.
- **India** is the global host of **2018 World Environment Day** which will take place on **June 5, 2018**. With **"Beat Plastic Pollution"** as the **theme** for this year's edition, the world is coming together to combat single-use plastic pollution.
- India's **surface-to-surface Agni-II** ballistic missile, with a strike range of **2 thousand kilometres** was test-fired successfully from the **Abdul Kalam Island, off Orissa coast**.
- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri **R.K. Singh** inaugurated the **'International R&D Conclave'**– two day conference on Emerging Opportunities and Challenges of R&D in Indian Power Sector, organised by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off the **Palace Queen Humsafar Express train** at the Mysuru railway station. The train will run from **Mysuru to Udaipur** in Rajasthan.
- Cabinet approves **India-Morocco** Cooperation Agreement in **Railway Sector**
- Cabinet approves Agreement between **India and Israel** on Film Co-production

- Cabinet approves New Bill to **ban Unregulated Deposit Schemes and Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018**
- Cabinet approves proposal for **Mahanadi Water Disputes** – Constitution of a Tribunal under Inter-State River Disputes Act, 1956
- Cabinet approves Six Laning of Nidagatta – Mysuru Section of **NH-275 in Karnataka**
- Cabinet approves **Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel** in Uttarkhand as part of 'Chardham Mahamarg Pariyojana'
- The city is set to host two mega technology events — Nasscom India Leadership Forum (ILF) and the **22nd** edition of the **World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT)** was held in Hyderabad.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) is organizing a National Conference under the title of "**Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmers' Income**" at National Agriculture Science Complex (NASC), **Pusa, New Delhi**.
- The Union cabinet approved extra-budgetary support for government's flagship housing scheme **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** (Urban). Under the PMAY(U), the housing and urban affairs ministry targets construction of about 1.2 crore houses for the urban poor.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **UP Investors Summit** in **Lucknow**. The mega event, organised by the **Yogi Adityanath government**, is aimed at showcasing investment opportunities and potential across various sectors in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has given approval for creation of **National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF)** for **Rs.60,000 crores**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the **methodology for auction of coal mines / blocks for sale of coal under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015** and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Raksha Mantri **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman** and accorded approval to **Capital Acquisition Proposals** of the Services valued at over **Rs 1850 crore**.
- The cabinet has approved amendments to the **Chit Funds Act** to facilitate orderly growth of the sector and provide more financial products to investors. The cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has given approval to introduce the **Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018** in Parliament.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has given its approval to the construction of **4.531 km long 2-Lane Bi-Directional Silkyara Bend – Barkot Tunnel** with escape passage including approaches on Dharasu -Yamunotri section between Chainage 25.400 Km.
- In order **to create a strong base in very initial studies**, Delhi Government has joined hand with Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister **Manish Sisodia** announced the programme **“Mission BUNIYAD”**.

INTERNATIONAL

- The **2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** summit will be held in the **city of Qingdao, China** in June.
- **About 2,300 Indian Army personnel** are leaving for **South Sudan** to join the **UN peacekeeping mission** in the war-torn African country.
- **Iranian President Hassan Rouhani** has arrived in Hyderabad as a three day visit to India.
- The **Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** is on a seven-day visit to India.
- The pacts were signed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Iran **President Hassan Rouhani** at New Delhi.
- The Munich Security Conference, in its 54th edition, began in Munich, Germany, amidst strict security measures for more than 4,000 security personnel.
- **Women in Saudi Arabia** can now open their **own businesses without the consent of a husband or male relative**, as the kingdom pushes to expand a fast-growing private sector.
- The **UK- India Joint research projects on Water Quality Research and Energy Demand** Reduction in Built Environment were launched in **New Delhi**.
- **Saudi Arabia** will debut with its **first ever Arab Fashion Week** in **Riyadh** in March this year. The move is another example of the opening up of the country under Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman’s ambitious transformation programme.
- **Singapore** said it would **impose a “carbon tax”** from **next year** to **cut its greenhouse gas emissions** and make companies more competitive as global agreements on climate change take effect.

- **“Digital Health”** has a great potential towards reducing inequity in provisioning and distribution of healthcare resources and services. This was stated by **Shri J P Nadda**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare during his address at the **Global Digital Health Partnership Symposium** at **Sydney, Australia**.
- The **Indian** and **Indonesian** armies began the **sixth edition of their annual military exercises “Garuda Shakti”** in the **West Java province** of the archipelago country.
- **University Grants Commission** constituted a four-member **Empowered Expert Committee**, which is being entrusted to conduct the appraisal of applications for **shortlisting 20 Institutions of Eminence**. **N Gopalaswami**, former Chief Election Commissioner of India is the **Chairperson of the committee**.

BANKING AND BUSINESS

- According to a report in The New York Post, Apple tops the most valuable company list with \$849.2 billion market cap.
- The Power equipment maker BHEL has bagged an order worth Rs 560 crore for supply and installation of the flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) system from NTPC for 2×490 MW National Capital Power Station (NCPS).
- Yes Bank has listed **\$600 million bond** issued under its **maiden \$1 billion MTN programme**, on **Global Securities Market (GSM) of India INX**.
- The **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** announced that it will enable **Digital Payments** in **Post Offices from April 2018**.
- **India’s Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has detected fraudulent transactions worth over **Rs 11,300 crore** at its Mumbai branch. The amount is nearly 1/3rd of the bank’s total market capitalisation of **Rs 36,000 crore**.
- Private sector lender, **Axis Bank** announced opening of **off-shore banking unit** at the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**).
- **Amazon** has rolled out its own **food retailing business** in India with a pilot in Pune, becoming the **first foreign ecommerce firm** to stock and sell food items directly to consumers.
- International Finance Corporation (IFC), member of the World Bank Group, is set to enter into a pact with PNB Housing Finance to form an \$800-million platform to support construction of environment-friendly affordable houses across the country.

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- Following the biggest scam in the country's banking sector to the tune of Rs 11,340 crore at state-run **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, **credit ratings agency Moody's** placed the lender **under review for downgrade**.
- **India** has been ranked **12th-worst** among 52 low-middle income countries based on the number of children dying within the first month of their birth, which is **25.4 per 1,000 live births**.
- A top American business advocacy group **USIBC** has announced the formation of an **India Advisory Council** to **enhance bilateral strategic and economic partnership** between them.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNS

| Name of the person | Appointed for the post | Replaces | Resign |
|---|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Sher Bahadur Deuba | Nepal Prime Minister | ----- | has resigned |
| Jacob Zuma | as president of South Africa | ----- | Resigns |
| Haruhiko Kuroda | Bank of Japan Governor | ----- | ----- |
| Hailemariam Desalegn | Ethiopia's prime minister and chairman of the country | ----- | resigns |
| K.P. Sharma Oli | Appointed As Nepal's New PM | Sher Bahadur Deuba | ----- |
| Archaeologist and historian Arvind P. Jamkhedkar | next Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) | Prof. K. Sudershan Rao | ----- |
| Vice-Admiral R B Pandit | takes over as Commandant of INA | S V Bhokare | ----- |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------|-------|
| Rajiv Kumar | to study the Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam and neighbouring states | ----- | ----- |
|--------------------|--|-------|-------|

AWARDS AND RESIGNS

- **India's Aadhaar** won the **best emerging technology award** at the recently concluded **World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai**. India was the 'Guest of Honour' country at the summit. **Umang App** won in **Best m-Government Service Award** for Accessible Government Category.
- **Vikas Sathaye**, a Pune-born person has been honoured with the Scientific and Engineering Academy Award at the Oscars Scientific and Technical Awards 2018. It was held at Beverly Hills in **Los Angeles, California**.
- **Sanjiv Bajaj**, Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017. **Dr. E Sreedharan** was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for transforming the face of public transportation in India.
- **Milkbasket**, India's first and largest micro-delivery platform has been recognised as '**Startup of the Year' 2017** at the **7th Small Business Awards**.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- In Tennis, **Yuki Bhambri** has become the first Indian to reach the quarter-finals of the **Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament**.

SPORTS

- Tamil Nadu beat Manipur 2-1 to lift their maiden title in the Senior Women's National Football Championship. The 23rd Senior Women's National Football Championship was held in Cuttack.
- The 20-time Grand Slam champion **Roger Federer** has become the oldest world number one in Tennis history.
- Gopichand launched 'train the trainers' programme inducting 1500 Physical Education (PE) teachers from across Gujarat for advanced training.

- **Roger Federer** marked his impending return to the top of the world rankings by sweeping aside second seed **Grigor Dimitrov** in the **Rotterdam Open final in Netherlands**.
- **Bhuvneshwar Kumar**, a fast bowler, has become the **first Indian bowler** to take a **five-wicket haul** in **all three formats** in **International Cricket**. Bhuvneshwar Kumar made this record by taking his first T20I five-wicket haul at the first T20I against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg.
- **Christian Coleman** has set up a **world record** in **60 metres race**. The World silver medallist ran the distance in 6.34 seconds at the US indoor national championships in **Albuquerque, New Mexico**.
- **Japanese Yuzuru Hanyu** became the **first figure skater** in 66 years to **win back-to-back Winter Olympic gold medals** in the **men's singles event** as he won Japan's first gold medal at PyeongChang Games.
- The Hockey India selectors brought back **Sardar Singh** as captain of an 28-member Indian squad for the **27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup** to be held in **Ipoh, Malaysia** from March 3-10.
- **Alex Blackwell**, Australia's most capped **female player** has announced **retirement** from all forms of cricket.

OBITUARY

A COMPLETE EXAM GUIDER

- Ruud Lubbers, the youngest and longest-serving prime minister of the Netherlands, died at the age of 78 in Rotterdam.
- French jazz violinist **Didier Lockwood**, whose eclectic career spanned more than four decades and the world's most prestigious festivals and concert halls, has died. He was **62**.
- Well-known Telugu cinema comedian **Gundu Hanumantha Rao** passed away in Hyderabad. He was 61. The first role he essayed on stage was in a play called **Ravana Brahma** in Vijayawada. He has won three **Nandi awards**.
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HISTORIC EVENT OF THE DAY

| February | Important day | theme |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 20 | World Social Justice | Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice |

