

## NATIONAL

- The **Government of India** and the Union Territory of **Lakshadweep** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Scheme **Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana** (UDAY), for operational turnaround of the Union Territory's Electricity Department.
- The Union Cabinet approves the draft **Trafficking of Persons** (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, which also proposes a punishment of life imprisonment for repeat offenders. In order to empower the NIA to probe trafficking cases, the National Investigation Act, 2008, will have to be amended.
- Union Minister of Civil Aviation **P Ashok Gajapathi Raju** inaugurated the country's **first Aviation Multi Skill Development Centre** at Chandigarh Airport's old terminal.
- The **Defence Ministry** has started the process to set up the country's **first Defence Industrial Corridor – 'Quad' or quadrilateral corridor** will connect **Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem** and **Tiruchirappalli** of Tamil Nadu to promote industries manufacturing weapons and military equipment.
- The **Haryana government** approved a proposal to **enact a law** providing for capital punishment to those found **guilty of sexually abusing girls aged 12 years or below**.
- **Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited** (IRSDC) is taking up **redevelopment of around 600 major Railway** stations across the country. Towards this objective of stakeholders' consultation, an idea competition for development of 635 stations on Indian Railways, '**SRIJAN**' (**S**tation **R**ejuvenation **I**nitiative through **J**oint **A**ctio**N**) has been launched at **MyGov portal**.
- The **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute** (CMFRI) has developed a multi-vendor e-commerce website "**www.marinefishsales.com**" and mobile app "**marinefishsales**" to help fish farmers and fishermen sell their catch directly to customers online.

- Shri **J P Nadda**, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the **“Viral Load testing for all People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV)”**. The initiative will provide free of cost viral load testing for 12 lakh PLHIV on treatment in the country at least once a year.
- The **Chilika lake in Odisha** has emerged as the **single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins** in the world with the spotting of 155 such animals, a Chilika Development Authority (CDA).
- Union Textile Minister **Smriti Irani** attended the **27th Technological Conference** of Indian Jute Industries’ Research Association on Shaping the Future of Jute in **Kolkata**.
- The **first Mega Food Park** in the state of **Maharashtra** M/s **Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd.** at Village Degaon, **District Satara** will be inaugurated by Smt. **Harsimrat Kaur Badal**, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, in the presence of Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister, and Maharashtra.
- **Women and Child Development Ministry** has approved projects worth over **Rs 2,900 crore** under the **Nirbhaya fund** for eight major cities to make them safer for women. These cities are Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow.
- The Defence Acquisition Council, DAC, chaired by Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** gave approval to Capital Acquisition Proposals of the Services and Coast Guard valued at approximately **Rs. 9,435 crore**.
- Clean energy firm **Avaada Power** said it will invest **Rs 3,500 crore** to develop **500 MW** utility-scale solar projects in Andhra Pradesh.
- India test-fired **Anti Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) Nag** in desert conditions, defence sources said. The Nag ATGM is **one of five missile systems** has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP).
- The **Telangana government** launched an **m-Governance** mobile application called **‘T App Folio’** to help citizens with one point access to government services like MeeSeva services, RTA services, fee payments and bill payment services etc.

- **Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL)**, a joint venture between **Boeing** and **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)**, inaugurated the country's **first facility to produce fuselages** for the **AH-64 Apache** helicopter in **Hyderabad**.
- Union Health Minister **J.P. Nadda** and Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the one-day conference to mark "**World Rare Disease Day**".
- **Tamil Nadu Government** announced **24-hour helpline** has been set up for the **first time in the country** that would **provide information on education** and **offer guidance to students**. Chief Minister **K Palaniswami** formally launched the toll free number **14417** through the 24-hour Education Guidance Centre set up at the Secretariat.
- The **Maharashtra government** has tied up with **Wikipedia**, the free online encyclopedia, to propagate the **Marathi language** and increase its usage online.
- The **Karnataka government** inaugurated the **first phase** of a **2,000 megawatts (MW) solar park** in the drought-prone Pavagada region of **Tumkur district**, about 180km from Bengaluru.
- **Bharati Defence and Infrastructure Ltd (BDIL)** delivered an interceptor boat – **C-162** – to **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** at BDIL jetty in **Mangaluru**.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** has approved the proposal for establishment of **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)** and creation of one post of Chairperson, three posts of full-time Members and one post of Secretary for NFRA.
- The **Odisha government** has launched a programme **AmaGaon, AmaVikas** (Our Village, our development) to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities.
- **Siddaramaiah** said the '**Arogya Karnataka**' (Healthy Karnataka) will provide **quality primary, secondary and tertiary treatment** to both **BPL and APL families** in the state.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the new premises of **Central Information Commission, CIC at Munirka** in the **national capital**.

- **App-based taxi service** took on a whole new meaning when **Bengaluru's first helitaxi service** took off, ferrying passengers from **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)** to Electronics City in 15 minutes.
- A group of officials from **India** and the **United States** were at the **Pokhran** firing range to **test-fire M777 ultra-light howitzers** in the wake of an accident during its trial in September last year.
- As per the announcement made by the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri **Arun Jaitley** in his Budget Speech 2018-19, a **Steering Committee** has been constituted under **the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance**.
- Union Information and Broadcasting and Textiles Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani** inaugurated **FICCI Frames 2018**, with the theme '**Creative Future: Coronation of Digital Consumer**', in Mumbai.
- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister** Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the week-long **29th annual, world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF) in Rishikesh's Parmarth Niketan**.
- To mark the **International Women's Day**, a Women's Film Festival is being organized from during March 9 – 11, 2018 at **National Film Archives of India (NFAI)**
- **Panaji Shigmotsav float parade 2018** will be held on the new route from the Science Centre, **Miramar, to the Harley Davidson showroom** to ensure **smooth traffic flow in the heart of the city**.
- The **Himachal Pradesh government** approved the setting up of a regional-cum-facilitation centre of the **National Medicinal Plants Board** of the Ministry of Ayush in the state at an outlay of **748.30 lakh**.
- **Punjab Government** has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with **e-Governance Foundation (e-Gov)** of Nandan Nilekani regarding the managing of **electronic governance of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) throughout Punjab**.

## INTERNATIONAL

- The seventh meeting of **Eminent Persons Group** (EPG) on Nepal-India relations has concluded in **Kathmandu**. Issues like the 1950 Peace and Friendship treaty, trade, environment, border and hydropower were discussed in the meeting.

List of MoUs/Agreements signed during the Visit of the King of Jordan to India

- MoU on **Defence Cooperation**.
  - **Visa waiver** for diplomatic and official passport holders.
  - **Cultural Exchange Programme** (CEP).
  - **Manpower** Cooperation Agreement.
  - MoU for cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine between India and Jordan.
  - MoU for setting up of the **next generation Centre of Excellence** (COE) in Jordan.
  - MoU for long term supply of **Rock Phosphate and Fertilizer/NPK**.
  - **Customs Mutual Assistance**
  - Twinning Agreement between **Agra and Petra** (Jordan).
  - Cooperation between **Indian Institute of Mass Communication** (IIMC) and **Jordan Media Institute** (JMI).
  - MoU between **PrasarBharati** and Jordan TV.
  - MoU between **University of Jordan** (UJ) and ICCR regarding setting up of a **Hindi Chair at the University**.
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- **Huawei** and **Bouygues Telecom** announced a joint innovation program to experiment **5G in France**. Bouygues Telecom is part of the **first operators** worldwide to experiment 5G 3GPP in field with Huawei.
  - In a landmark development **India** for the **first time** signed a **tripartite agreement** with foreign partners **Russia & Bangladesh** for **civil nuclear cooperation**.

- **Myanmar** has indefinitely deferred signing an agreement with **India** to streamline the **free movement of people within 16 km along the border.**
- **Washington** has become the **first state** to enact its **own net-neutrality requirements.**
- **India** is all set to become the **69th member** of the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** after shareholders of the international financial institution gave their nod to the country's candidature.

### **BANKING & BUSINESS**

- **Moody's Investors Service** said the Indian economy is starting to recover from the negative impact of demonetisation and disruption caused by the GST roll-out, but kept GDP growth estimates unchanged at **7.6 per cent** for **2018** and **for 2019 at 7.5 per cent.**
- Retirement fund body **EPFO** has made it mandatory to file online claims for provident fund withdrawals **above Rs 10 lakh**, taking another step towards becoming a paperless organisation.
- The **Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd (CSB)** has tied up with **Celebrus Capital Ltd (Celebrus)**, to offer **CSB's customers online trading and demat services.**
- The **State Bank of India** has raised its lending rates by 20 basis points to **8.15 per cent**, with immediate effect, setting the tone for the industry to follow suit.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has eased position limit in **Interest Rate Futures (IRFs)** for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).
- **India** has raised **import tax on crude palm oil** to **44 percent** from 30 percent and lifted the tax on **refined palm oil** to **54 percent** from 40 percent, India is the world's biggest importer of edible oils.
- With 31 new Indians on the list, **India** comes **third after China** and **USA** on **Hurun's Global Rich List 2018.**

- The **Indian economy** grew at **2 percent** in **October-December 2017**, and will likely expand 6.6 percent in 2017-18, amid strong revival signs in consumption spending and investment activity.
- **Iraq** has overtaken **Saudi Arabia** by a wide margin **to become India's top crude oil supplier**, meeting more than a **fifth of the country's oil needs** in the current financial year.
- **US lender Citi** has launched **India's first market benchmark rate-linked lending product**. The bank has introduced a home loan product that will be linked to the rate of treasury bills, which is used by government for its **short-term borrowings (3-month)**.
- Reserve Bank of India has decided to do **away with per borrower loan limits** to **Micro/ Small and Medium Enterprises (Services)** for classification under **priority sector lending**.
- The **Marshall Islands** will issue its **own cryptocurrency** that will be circulated as **legal tender** along with the **S. dollar**, according to one of the remote Pacific republic's top officials.
- **HDFC bank**, introduced a **new prepaid card-linked Travel and Entertainment (T&E) expense management solution** to enable **Indian enterprises** to efficiently manage their business travel expenditure.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** said it **will conduct additional variable rate repo operations** for longer tenors **up to 31 days every Tuesday** this month (**March 2018**) for **Rs 25,000 crore each** to **provide additional** liquidity support to banks.
- **India's military** is placed **fourth** on a global index that has ranked **133 countries** on the basis of their global military prowess, trailing behind only the **US, Russia** and **China** in that order.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said it has imposed a penalty of **3 crore** on **Axis Bank** for **violation of non-performing asset (NPA)** and for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on **Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC)** norms.
- Tech giant **Microsoft** said it has inked its **first renewable energy deal** in **India** for **powering its new facility in Bengaluru**.
- **ONGC Videsh Ltd**, the overseas arm of state-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corpn** has signed a pact with **Iran's IDRO Oil** to jointly bid for a **USD**

**1 billion contract** for development of **Susangerd oilfield in southern Iran.**

- The **World Trade Organisation's** (WTO) dispute settlement body has agreed **to set up a panel to determine** whether India has complied with its ruling in a case against the US regarding domestic content requirements for solar cells and modules.

### **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNS**

<b>Name of the person</b>	<b>Appointed for the post of</b>	<b>Replaces</b>	<b>Resigns</b>
<b>A K Pradhan</b>	appointed its general manager of Group Chief Risk Officer	-----	-----
<b>Senior IAS officer Sudhir Tripathy</b>	appointed as Chief Secretary of Jharkhand	<b>Rajbala Verma</b>	-----
<b>R Subramanyam</b>	as the new Secretary, Higher Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development	<b>K K Sharma</b>	-----
<b>Vinay Kumar</b>	has been appointed as India's ambassador to Afghanistan	<b>Manpreet Vohra</b>	-----
<b>Virat Kohli</b>	as the brand ambassador for the brand Amaze	-----	-----
<b>Rangarajan Raghavan</b>	appointed director & managing director of HCL	<b>Premkumar Seshadri</b>	-----

	Infosystems		
<b>Armen Sarkisian</b>	as country's president	-----	-----
<b>Conrad Sangma</b>	Appointed as Chief Minister of Meghalaya	-----	-----
<b>Neil Basu</b>	has been appointed as the counter-terrorism chief	-----	-----
<b>Krishna KumariKohli</b>	was elected to the Pakistan Senate	-----	-----
<b>Mahendra Singh Dhoni</b>	has become a brand ambassador	-----	-----
<b>Australia dragflick specialist Chris Ciriello</b>	analytical coach of Indian hockey team	-----	-----
<b>Ryoko Azuma</b>	first female commander of a navy destroyer squadron in Japan	-----	-----
<b>P K Gupta</b>	as Nominee Director on SBI Life Board	-----	-----
<b>Neiphiu Rio</b>	to take over Chief Minister of Nagaland	-----	<b>T R Zeliang</b>
<b>Biplab Kumar Deb</b>	has been named the new chief minister of Tripura		

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- An **Indian-American scientist Navin Vardarajan** has been awarded a grant of over **USD 1.1 million** for his ground-breaking research on cancer (to improve effectiveness of **T-cell immunotherapy**).
- Actor-politician **Shatrughan Sinha** has been honoured with a **lifetime achievement award** for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at a ceremony in the **UK's Parliament complex**.

## **SPORTS**

- **Russia's Olympic membership** has been restored by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** following its suspension from Pyeongchang 2018. Russia was banned from February's Games by the IOC over state-sponsored doping.
- Para-swimmer **Prasanta Karmakar** has been suspended for **three years** by the **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** for allegedly recording videos of his female counterparts at the National Championships in Jaipur last year.
- India's star wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** has settled for **Silver Medal** in the **50kg Freestyle competition** at the **Asian Wrestling Championship** in **Kyrgyzstan**.
- The **Maharashtra women's team** won the **interstate national tennis championship 2018** by defeating **Delhi** team held in The championship was organised under the auspices of the **All India Tennis Association (AITA)** by the **Chhattisgarh State Tennis Association (CSTA)**.
- **Navjot Kaur** has scripted history by becoming the **first Indian woman** to win a **Gold medal** by defeating Japan's **Miya Imai** at the **Senior Asian Wrestling Championships**.
- Afghanistan's **Rashid Khan** achieved a massive feat when he became the **youngest top-ranked player** as per ICC Rankings.
- **Indian** shooter **Shahzar Rizvi** clinched **gold** with a world record score while **Jitu Rai** grabbed **bronze** in **10m air pistol men's final** in the **ISSF World Cup** at Guadalajara in **Mexico**.
- **India** jumped to the top of the pecking order as young **Manu Bhaker**(women's 10m Air Pistol event) clinched a **gold medal** while **Ravi**

**Kumar** bagged a **bronze** (men’s 10m air rifle event) in the ISSF World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico.

## OBITUARY

- British writer **Penny Vincenzi**, whose stories of romance, rivalry and family secrets topped best-seller lists, has died.
- Former Supreme Court Judge Justice **S Ratnavel Pandian** passed away after a brief illness.
- Renowned Oriya musician, lyricist and bhajan singer **Arabinda Muduli** passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 56 in Odisha’s Bhubaneswar.
- Tripura fisheries and cooperative minister **Khagendra Jamatia** died at the AIIMS in New Delhi following a brief illness.
- Litterateur **Prafulla Das** passed away at his residence at Rajkanika in Kendrapara district.
- Fiorentina captain and Italy international **Davide Astori** died of a sudden illness at the age of 31.
- Noted disability rights activist **Javed Abidi** passed away following a heart attack. He was 53.
- Veteran Odia film actor **Sarat Mohanty** passed away **following a prolonged illness. He was 88.** He acted in the film Laxmi released in 1962.
- Veteran Bollywood actor **Shammi** passed away at the age of 89 after prolonged illness.
- **Justice D Sreedevi**, who was a social activist, judge of the Kerala high court, and chairperson of Kerala Women’s Commission, passed away.

## HISTORIC EVENT OF THE DAY

March	Important event of the day	Theme
1	<b>Zero Discrimination Day</b>	-----

<b>3</b>	<b>World WildlifeDay</b>	<b>"Big cats: predators under threat"</b>
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