

NATIONAL

- The **Gandhi Nagar railway station** in **Jaipur**, became the country's **first major railway station** to be **fully-managed by women**.
- In its **New Health Policy**, the **Kerala government** has proposed to make **vaccination cards mandatory for children** seeking admission in first standard.
- Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, **Sushri Uma Bharti**, launched the **Bagori Ganga Gram project, New Swajal Project** (drinking water programme) at Bagori and **Gangotri Iconic Place** at Dunda village in **Uttarkashi district** of **Uttarakhand**.
- The Centre has announced a special package of **925 crore rupees** for **strengthening the power transmission and distribution system** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **India's** indigenous **light transport aircraft Saras** was successfully test flown for a second time in Bangalore, Union Science and Technology minister **Harsh Vardhan** said.
- **eNAM**- an **online agriculture market offering** the best prices to the farmers has **6.6 million farmers** registered and 470 agriculture markets connected with six new features.
- **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has become the **first state in India** where business and investment projects can now be **cleared digitally**, without any human interface. This has become possible with launch of '**Nivesh Mitra**', a digital platform which will serve as a **single-window clearance system**.
- The **Haryana government** launched "**Parivartan**", a scheme designed to address 10 issues, including cleanliness and pollution, in 46 developmental blocks of the state.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced a **Rs 20,000-crore** for **defence industrial corridor** in **Bundelkhand** for development of one of the most backward regions of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The **Odisha government** approved a **Long-Term Linkage (LTL)** policy for **bauxite**, similar to the one it framed for iron ore. It would help **Vedanta's Lanjigarh alumina refinery** to source bauxite from government-owned **Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC)**.
- The **Telangana Government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taoyuan City of **Taiwan** for **better technology partnership in the state**.

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between **India** and **Canada's IDRC** to usher the '**Programme Based Research Support**' in addressing current and future global and local developmental challenges was signed.
- **India** has contributed **USD one million** for the rehabilitation efforts in **Tonga** after the **Tropical Cyclone Gita** caused massive destruction in the **Pacific island nation**.
- **India** will host the **first International Solar Alliance (ISA) summit** on 11th March, which will be attended by **French President Emmanuel Macron** and **United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres**.
- **India** successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable '**Dhanush**' **ballistic missile** with a strike range of **350 km** from a naval ship off **Odisha coast**.
- The **third Partnership Summit** of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** will begin, with over 2,000 delegates attending the meet.
- The Assam government will be observing **September 22 as 'Rhino Day'** to generate public awareness on protection of the one-horned pachyderm, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated various developmental projects in Daman in **Union territory of Daman and Diu**.
- The **44th edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival 2018** was held at **Khajuraho temple**, a UNESCO world heritage site in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Government of India in association with Government of Telangana is organizing the **21st National Conference on e-Governance** on February 26- 27, 2018 in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- **DRDO** successfully flew its **Rustom 2** at its Aeronautical Test Range(ATR) at **Chalakere at Chitradurga**.
- Government of India led the Indian delegation to the **20th Conference of the Commonwealth Education Ministers (20CCEM)** held in Nadi, **Fiji** during 19-23 February 2018. **Theme** of the Conference was "**Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?**"
- **Amritsar, the city of Golden Temple** will get **Rs 100 crores** for the execution of various development works.
- **Andhra Pradesh** inked MoU with **US-based AutoGrid** to help transform electricity sector of the state. With this Andhra Pradesh will adopt **smart grid and Internet of Things (IoT)** based solutions of AutoGrid to improve energy utilities' financial health and customer experiences.

- **UIDAI or the Unique Identification Authority of India**, introduced a '**Baal Aadhaar**' card. This **blue-coloured card** will be given to children **below the age of five years**.
- The **Sustainable Biofuel** is one of the Seven Mission Innovation Challenges and **India** Co-leads this along with other countries **Brazil, Canada** and **China**. Sustainable Biofuel development is a key challenge as well as an opportunity for Governments, researchers, investors and industry to work together.
- The **government of Tamil Nadu** announced signing an agreement with **IT Major Microsoft to improve the integration of technology** in teaching and learning in the state.
- The **government-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)** signed MoUs with **Andhra Pradesh government** to invest **Rs 3,730 crore** in the state.
- **Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao** has announced **five lakh rupees health-cum-life insurance scheme** for farmers in the state.
- The **15th edition of BioAsia**, the annual flagship event of the Government of Telangana, was held **Hyderabad**. The **theme of BioAsia 2018** was "**Right Time, Right Now**"
- The **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)** will get the largest chunk of loans on offer under **Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)**.
- **Union Rural Development Ministry** has sanctioned more than **Rs. 700 crore** for 43 roads and 15 bridges under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** for **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani** released **India 2018** and **Bharat 2018**.
- Flying officer **Avani Chaturvedi** has scripted history by **becoming the first Indian woman to fly a MiG-21 bison fighter aircraft solo**

INTERNATIONAL

- The **United States** and **Thailand** will kick off the 2018 iteration of the annual Cobra Gold exercises – an engagement that began as a bilateral drill between the two allies and has now grown into **Asia's largest multinational drill in Chonburi province, Thailand**.
- A three -day **India International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) of India** began in Sri Lankan capital of **Colombo**.

- Business leaders of **SAARC** member nations will gather in **Kathmandu** next month to take part in the **SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave** scheduled to be held from **March 16 to 18**, with an objective to **promote investment, innovation and entrepreneurship in the region**.
- **India** has imposed **anti-dumping duty** on **import of ceramic tableware and kitchenware from China** in a bid to protect domestic producers.
- **Maple Assist Inc.** has launched the **Maple Assist App**, a groundbreaking mobile application designed to be a **one-stop shop** for all you need to know **about studying in Canada**.
- **India** congratulated **China** on its election as **vice-president** of the **global money laundering watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, a development that comes on the back of news reports and speculation that a deal on giving China a larger role in the FATF had been reached.
- 2nd India-Korea Business Summit in New Delhi. The **theme** of the **Summit** this year is "**India-Korea: Scaling up the Special Strategic Relationship through Trade and Investments**".
- **Kabul Process Conference**, which is aimed at discussing security and political issues **in Afghanistan**, held.

BANKING & BUSINESS

- **Google's** new unified payments service "**Google Pay**", which combines **Google Wallet and Android Pay** is finally rolling out with a new app for Android devices.
- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation**, EPFO has declared **8.55 per cent** interest rate **for 2017-18** for its about 5 crore members. This was decided during the meeting of **Central Board of Trustees** of EPFO in **New Delhi**.
- The government of **Andhra Pradesh** will collaborate with **Facebook (India)** in a bid to take up **innovative pilot projects** in the state.
- India 7th Most Targeted Nation for Web Application Attacks, Finds Akamai's State of Internet Security Report
- The Union Government has issued order setting up the '**Niti Forum for North-East**' to **identify constraints and recommend suitable interventions for speedy and sustainable growth in NER**.
- A report released by **Transparency International (TI)** has placed **India** on the **81st spot** on the **Global Corruption Perception (GCP) Index 2018**, in terms of graft and

press freedom in the Asia-Pacific region. India was ranked 79th on the Global Corruption Perception Index in 2017.

- **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**, ICAI has issued **show-cause notices** to the **auditors of Punjab National Bank** and **Gitanjali Gems** in connection with the **11,400 crore rupees fraud**.
- The **Rs.11,500-crore** fraud at the **Punjab National Bank** has prompted the **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) to set up a committee under former board member **Y.H. Malegam** to look into the reasons and suggest steps to prevent such occurrences.
- The **Government of India** and the **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) signed a **\$84 million loan** for improvement and expansion of water supply in Bhagalpur and Gaya towns in **Bihar**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has launched **Ombudsman Scheme** for **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** for redressal of complaints against them.
- The **first sale of Electoral Bonds** will commence from the **1st** of next month for a period of **ten days**.
- **Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd (ABIPBL)** started operations, making it the **fifth payments bank** to roll out operations after the central bank gave its in-principle approval to 11 applicants in August 2015.
- **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has introduced **UAN-Aadhaar linking facility** for the convenience of members using EPFO Link in **UMANG Mobile App**.
- The **Reserve Bank** raised the **exposure limit** under **exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD)** trading for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to **USD 100 million** across all currency pairs involving the **Indian rupee**.
- **India** is ranked **47th** out of **86 countries** when it comes to inclusive Internet and connectivity for all, a Facebook report. **Sweden** took the **first place**, followed by **Singapore** and the **US**.
- Technology giant **Google** announced a deeper integration with **State Bank of India (SBI)** for its **mobile payments app, Tez**.
- **IndusInd Bank** announced its **partnership with Ripple**, the enterprise **blockchain solution** for Global Payments, to facilitate payments into and out of India.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNS

Name of the person	Appointed for the post	Replaces	Resigns
Michael McCormack	Australia's new deputy prime minister	Barnaby Joyce	-----
Nhlanhla Nene	as finance minister of South African	-----	-----
Samina Baig	the first Pakistani woman appointed UNDP goodwill ambassador	-----	-----
Debashish Mukherjee	appointed executive directors of Canara Bank	-----	-----
Murali Ramaswami	appointed executive directors of Vijaya Bank	-----	-----

SPORTS

- Norway's **Marit Bjoergen** (14 Olympic medals) became the **most successful athlete** in **Winter Olympics** history as she took **bronze** in **Pyeongchang, South Korea** in cross country skiing's women's team sprint free.
- **Australia** clinched the **T20 tri-series** against **New Zealand** after cruising to a 19-run victory in the rain-affected final at **Auckland**.
- **Virat Kohli** became only the **second batsman** after **AB de Villiers** to cross the **900-point mark** simultaneously in both **Tests and ODIs** and the **fifth** overall, in the latest rankings for the 50-over format announced by the **ICC**.
- **Indian "A" team won gold at the 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship** held in Gold Coast, **Australia**, between 14 and 18 February 2018. The Indian "A" team was **headed by Kiran Nadar**.
- **Canada** became the latest to embrace franchise-based **T20 cricket** with the formation of the Global T20 Canada.
- **Ester Ledecka** became the **first woman** to claim **gold medals** in **two sports** at a **Winter Olympics** with a win in the snowboarding parallel giant slalom.
- **Aruna Budda Reddy** has created history by becoming the **first Indian** to win an **individual medal** at the **Gymnastics World Cup**. She clinched a **Bronze** in the **Women's Vault** event in **Melbourne**.

- Indian pugilists **Vikas Krishan** and **Amit Panghal** bagged **Gold medals**, while **MC Mary Kom**, **Seema Poonia** and **Gaurav Solanki** settled for Silver on the final day of the **69th Strandja Memorial Boxing tournament** at **Sofia in Bulgaria**.
- **Skipper Virat Kohli** was presented with the **prestigious ICC Test Championship** mace as **India** retained the **top spot** in the **ICC Test team rankings**.
- Reigning **Asian Champion Gopi Thonakal** retained his title at the **IDBI Federal Life Insurance New Delhi Marathon** in New Delhi. In the **women's** event also, **Monika Athare** retained her title.
- **Romanian tennis ace Simona Halep** has returned to **world number one** in **women rankings**. She replaced **Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki**, who held the top spot for four consecutive weeks.
- **Roger Federer** has won the 2017 **Laureus World Sportsman** of the Year and Comeback of the Year awards. The 36-year old Swiss star bagged the honour last night at the **18th edition of the awards ceremony in Monaco**.
- **PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018**, officially known as the **XXIII Olympic Winter Games** were held in **Pyeongchang, South Korea**. The motto of Winter Olympics 2018 was "**Passion.Connected**".
- **Indian Greco Roman Style Wrestler Rajender Kumar** won **Bronze Medal** in 55 kg weight category in **2018 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship** being held at **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.

OBITUARY

- Noted violinist **M.S. Anantharaman**, an exponent of Parur style of violin playing, died. He was **94 years old**.
- **Senior journalist and editor-in-chief of National Herald, Neelabh Mishra**, passed away at a Chennai Hospital.
- **Bollywood actor Sridevi passed away** after a cardiac arrest, confirmed her brother-in-law Sanjay Kapoor. She was 54.
- **Former Cabinet secretary TSR Subramanian** has **passed away**. He was 79. Mr Subramanian was the Cabinet Secretary from August 1996, to March 1998.
- **Kanchi Shankaracharya Jayendra Saraswathi**, the 69th pontiff of **the Kanchi Mutt**, passed away in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu.
- Noted **Odia** author **Kanakalata Mohanty** died in a private hospital. She was 82.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to former Prime Minister **Morarji Desai** on **his birth anniversary**.

HISTORIC EVENT OF THE DAY

February	Important day	Theme
22	World Thinking Day	-----
24	World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED)	-----
28	National Science Day	Science and Technology for a sustainable future