

**NATIONAL**

- **The Kerala government** has declared jackfruit as its official fruit. The official announcement in this regard was made by the **Agriculture Minister, VS Sunil Kumar**, in the State Assembly.
- The Cabinet approves opening of **18 new Indian Missions** in Africa. It approves **North-East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017**.
- The **NHAI pavilion** has been adjudged as **BEST DESIGN PAVILION**.
- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has introduced the use of **Point of Sale (POS) machines**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of the **Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM)**, which was announced in the Budget.
- **General Insurance Corporation., GIC Re** starts its operations in **Lloyd’s London office**.
- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Inland ferry services in the port city of Vasco in Goa.
- The world’s longest sandstone cave at 24,583 metres in length has been discovered in Meghalaya.
- ISRO has entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), which is one of the country’s leading PSUs.
- A three-day International Yoga Fest was inaugurated by Union minister Jitendra Singh as a curtain raiser for the International Yoga Day (IYD) to be held on June 21.
- The BrahMos was successfully test fired from Rajasthan’s Pokhran test range. It is test fired for the first time from a Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jet.
- Kerala CM **Pinarayi Vijayan** launched **M-Kerala**, a unified app for all government services at **#FUTURE 2018**, a first-of-its-kind digital tech summit in the state.
- **FICCI** is organizing the **“5th India Maize Summit 2018”**.
- The government has decided to declare 2018 as **‘National Year of Millets’** to boost the cultivation of millets like ragi and jowar on a mission mode to achieve nutritional security, which are being promoted under the **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**.
- **INS Ganga**, an indigenously built frigate of the **Indian Navy**, was **decommissioned in Mumbai**, after over three decades of service.

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister **Thaawarchand Gehlot** launched the **first Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary** of three thousand words at a function in **New Delhi**.
- The Minister of State for Home Affairs, **Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir** inaugurating the **two-day first National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement in New Delhi**.
- India and China Economic Group meeting will be held in New Delhi.
- The Assam government launches a programme to build one lakh toilets across the state under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- India's electricity production grew 34% over seven years to 2017. The country now produces more energy than Japan and Russia.
- As per the data released by Union ministry of Social Justice, there are around 4 lakh beggars in total. The highest number of beggars, 81,000, are in West Bengal. West Bengal is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at number two and three respectively.
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) formally granted environmental clearance for the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project.
- Surat becomes the first district to have 100% solar powered health centres.
- The public sector Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has won an order for setting up a 75 MW Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) power plant in Gujarat.
- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has signed an MoU with Assam government under its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiative.
- The Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Saras Aajeevika Mela at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Finance has approved the Government guarantee of Rs 5,000 crore in the current financial year for the IRFC bonds to be subscribed by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- SAP has signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship programme of the Government of India to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The Defence Ministry has framed a draft policy which expects to achieve a turnover of Rs 1,70,000 crore in military goods and services in 2025 by promoting the domestic defence industry.
- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of 3,21,567 more affordable houses.

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated an insect museum in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU).
- The Ministry of Power joins hands with Skill India to support electrification scheme 'Saubhagya'.
- The Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram has launched 'e-Tribes:Tribes India', an initiative for digital commerce at Tribes India outlet.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), signed the Host Country Agreement.

### INTERNATIONAL

- The **first G20 meeting** of finance ministers and central bank governors began in **Buenos Aires**, with the presence of 57 delegations from countries and institutions.
- A Russian carrier rocket blasted off from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan**, sending three astronauts aboard the **Soyuz MS-08** spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS).
- Over 100 Russian diplomats have been removed by Western countries following the attack on a former Russian spy Sergei V. Skripal in Britain.
- The world's biggest cruise-liner, Symphony of the Seas, has left the shipyard of Saint-Nazaire in France, the Mediterranean Sea.

### BANKING & BUSINESS

- Austria's capital city **Vienna** rated the world's most liveable city for the ninth consecutive year. It was followed by **Switzerland's Zurich, while New Zealand's Auckland and Germany's Munich** tied for third place.
- **The Singapore Changi Airport** has been named the world's best airport for the sixth consecutive year by **consultancy firm Skytrax**.
- The Andhra Pradesh Government launched, NAIPUNYA RATHAM or World on Wheels, a multi-utility vehicle which aims to bring technology to the remote corners. The Government will roll out 12 more Naipunya Rathams by May this year.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has allowed the amalgamation of State-run Allahabad Bank's wholly own subsidiary – All Bank Finance Ltd (ABFL)-with the bank.
- Swiggy, online food ordering and delivery platform has partnered with ICICI Bank.
- The government has fixed the **agriculture credit target of 11 lakh crore** rupees for the year **2018-19** against last year's target of 10 lakh crore rupees.

- Mukesh Ambani-helmed **Reliance Industries Ltd** announced an integration with leading **music app Saavn** for its digital music service JioMusic.
- All public sector banks (PSBs) will have to link their SWIFT systems with their respective Core Banking Solution (CBS) systems by April 30 as a measure to prevent fraud.
- The Ride-hailing firm Uber Technologies Inc has agreed to sell its Southeast Asian business to bigger regional rival Grab. Uber had invested \$700 million in its Southeast Asia business.
- The RBI is set to roll out a coin of Rs 350 denomination to mark the 350th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- SWIFT announces the extension of its gpi Tracker to cover all payment instructions sent across the network, enabling gpi banks to track all their SWIFT payment instructions at all times, and giving them full visibility over all their payments activity.
- The Export-Import Bank will provide a USD 500 million credit facility to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to fund various development projects in the western-south Africa.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNS**

Name of the person	Appointed for the post of	Replaces	Resigned
<b>Pedro Pablo Kuczynski</b>	Peru's President	-----	announced his resignation
John R. Bolton	has been appointed as third national security adviser.	Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster	-----
Martin Vizcarra	<b>Sworn In As Peru's New President</b>	Pedro Pablo Kuczynski	-----
Balesh Sharma	<b>the new CEO Of Vodafone-Idea India Merged</b>	-----	-----

	<b>Entity</b>		
NCERT director JS Rajput	<b>India's representative to the Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO</b>	-----	-----
<b>Win Myint</b>	<b>Elected New Myanmar President</b>	Htin Kyaw	-----
<b>Justice Jawad Rahim</b>	<b>As Acting Chairperson Of NGT</b>	-----	-----
<b>K Vijay Raghavan</b>	<b>as Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India</b>	R Chidambaram	-----
<b>Indu Bhushan</b>	<b>CEO of the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM).</b>	-----	-----

**AWARDS & HONOR**

- Mukesh Ambani-helmed **Reliance Industries Ltd** announced an integration with leading **music app Saavn** for its digital music service JioMusic.
- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award for journalism to senior journalist and television presenter Karan Thapar.
- The South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF), a London based organisation has received the Frederick Pincott Award for 2017.
- The Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma and shuttler PV Sindhu has been featured in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2018 list.

**SPORTS**

- The world badminton governing body, BWF released the latest badminton rankings. Indian shuttler HS Prannoy jumped four places to regain his world number 12 spot.
- Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan shattered the world record and claimed the gold medal in 10m women's air rifle event of the season's first junior ISSF World Cup.
- **Vivaan Kapoor** bagged the trap bronze medal by defeating **Kun-Pi Yang** of Chinese Taipei in the ISSF junior World Cup at **Sydney, Australia**.
- India U-16 were crowned champions of the Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament after defeating hosts Hong Kong.
- Pankaj Advani wins Asian Billiards Championships title by defeating B Bhaskar.
- Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) won the 2018 Australian Grand Prix after surpassing Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) during a safety car period.
- Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu will be Indian contingent's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- India's Anish Bhanwala won the Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol title at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup.
- The duo of Manu Bhaker and Anmol secured India's seventh gold medal in the ISSF junior World Cup by winning the mixed 10m air pistol event with a qualification world record.
- The Australian pair Steven Smith and David Warner, the country's captain and vice-captain has been banned from IPL 2018 (1 year) because of ball tampering issue. Cameron Bancroft has been banned for 9 months.

**OBITUARY**

- Les Payne, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, columnist and editor of Newsday passed away.
- The third division football player Bruno Boban passed away of a heart attack.

**HISTORIC EVENT OF THE DAY**

<b>March</b>	<b>Important Event</b>	<b>Theme</b>
<b>22</b>	World water day	<b>Nature for Water</b>
<b>23</b>	World Meteorological Day	Weather-Ready, Climate-Smart
<b>24</b>	<b>World TB Day</b>	<b>Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>World Theatre Day</b>	-----

**BANKERS**

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