

NATIONAL:

PM Modi will begin on a five-day official visit to **Sweden and the United Kingdom**. Modi's visit is aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in the key areas like trade, investments and science and technology

Second India Mobile Congress to be held in New Delhi. The theme of 2018 congress is "**NEW DIGITAL HORIZONS : Connect, Create, Innovate.**"

Govt. Increases FAME-India Scheme by 6 months. The **FAME-India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (hybrid &) Electric vehicles in India)** scheme is intended to **support the hybrid/electric vehicles market development and its manufacturing ecosystem to achieve self-sustenance.**

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the **web-based application 'e-FRRO' (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office)**. The e-FRRO scheme is aimed at building a **centralized, transparent online platform for the foreigners to avail visa related services** and to provide **Faceless, Cashless and Paperless services to the foreigners** with user friendly experience.

Maharashtra Govt. Launches Tribal Development Centre QUEST in Mumbai. Quest is known as "**Quality Evaluation for Sustainable Transformation centre**".

The Centre has launched 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan' on April 14, the birth anniversary of Dalit icon Bhim Rao Ambedkar. It is to push inclusion of **marginalised people in most backward villages of the country** in welfare schemes.

The government has advanced its target year for completion of phase one of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana PMGSY to 2019 from 2022**. The scheme has been able to provide connectivity to more than One lakh 50 thousand habitations.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has planned to promote micro enterprises in 115 aspirational districts across the country to contribute in their development.

India signs a **loan agreement of USD 48 million** for the **Meghalaya Community – Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)** was signed with the **World Bank**. The Objective of the Project is to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected landscapes in the State of Meghalaya.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in cooperation with **Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)** hosts **the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018** in New Delhi.

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has unveiled the beta version of a portal that aims to bring on one platform, the tariffs offered by telecom operators in different service areas. **Trai website www.trai.gov.in.**

Gagan Shakthi- a nationwide mega-combat exercise of the **Indian Air Force or IAF** began in **Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district** to examine the strategic preparedness of its infrastructure in the area.

The first meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under **POSHAN Abhiyaan** was held in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by **Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI**

Aayog.

In Nepal the famous **Bisket Jatra** is being celebrated in Bhaktapur and other parts of Kathmandu valley.

Under the IT Modernisation Plan, Department of Posts has launched **DIGITAL ADVANCEMENT OF RURAL POST OFFICE FOR A NEW INDIA (DARPA)**. The Project aims to connect all **1.29 lakh Rural Branch Post Offices** in the country, to enable them to do online Postal and Financial Transactions.

In Uttar Pradesh, Government has ordered all government hospitals and orphanages to establish **SHISHU SWAGAT KENDRA- PALNA** and put up cradles in front of their buildings so that parents can give up **unwanted babies safely**.

INTERNATIONAL:

The **United Kingdom** has joined the India-led **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-day visit to Britain.

French President Emmanuel Macron will contribute **50 million euros (\$61.9 million)** toward urgent humanitarian aid for Syria following a meeting with a group of non-governmental organizations (NGO) in Paris.

Pakistan has successfully test fired an enhanced version of **indigenously-built Babur cruise missile** that can deliver conventional and non-conventional weapons **with a range of 700 kilometres**.

AGREEMENTS:

The **first India-Nordic Summit** was held in **Sweden, Stockholm**.

Agreements/MoU's Signed by India with Nordic Nations:

Country	PM	Agreement Signed in the field of
Denmark	Lars Lokke Rasmussen	MoUs in the areas of urban development, animal husbandry and dairying, food safety and agricultural research and education.
Iceland	Katrin Jakobsdottir	MoU on the establishment of an ICCR Chair for Hindi language between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the University of Iceland.
Norway	Erna Solberg	(No MoU) Discussion on trade and investment, shipping and port-development, blue economy, renewable energy, health, information technology and green transport solutions.
Finland	Juha Sipila	(No MoU)-Discussions on deepening avenues of cooperation between India and Finland.

India and Sweden Agree upon 'Win-Win' Joint Action Plan.

India and the UK have signed **10 agreements** in several sectors including **cyber-relationship, rejuvenation of Ganga and skill development.**

An MoU Signed between GIFAS (France) and SIDM (India) World. The signing of this MoU between our two bodies is an excellent opportunity to develop the cooperation between France and India and shape the aerospace and defense industry of the future.

BANKING AND ECONOMY:

National E-Repository Limited (NERL), a group company of **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)**, has brought in **ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank** on board as the repository participants for pledge finance.

The Reserve Bank has tightened reporting norms for the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** under which an individual can transfer up to **\$2,50,000 abroad** in a year.

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)** to provide skill training to 500 youth and women at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.

The government has raised the authorised capital of Nabard by six times to **Rs 300 billion** to help it increase its lending to the rural economy.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at **7.3-7.7 percent** during the **2018-19 financial year.**

The Shares of private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd beat India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) for the first time to become the **second most valued bank in the country.** **HDFC Bank Ltd** remained **country's most valuable bank** with a market capitalization of Rs5.04 trillion.

India has won an election to a crucial non-governmental organisation committee in the UN after garnering the highest number of votes besides getting elected by acclamation to other subsidiary bodies in five separate polls.

India's economy is forecast to grow **7.4% in the current fiscal** from **6.7% in FY18** and accelerate further in **FY20 to 7.8%**, shows the IMF's latest forecast.

The World Bank has projected a growth rate of **7.3 percent** for India this year and **7.5 per cent for 2019 and 2020.**

AWARDS AND HONOURS:

Veteran actor Dharmendra and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be conferred with the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement and Raj Kapoor Special Contribution awards, respectively.

APPOINTMENTS:

Lieutenant General PP Malhotra assumed charge as **Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC)**, the largest uniformed youth organization in the world. He will be replacing **Lt Gen BS Sahrawat.**

OBITUARY:

The veteran **journalist S Nihal Singh** has passed away.

Former US first lady Barbara Bush has passed away.

Date	Day	Theme 2018
April 17	World Haemophilia Day	Sharing knowledge
April 18	World Heritage day	Heritage for Generations

SPORTS:

The FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of April 2018 ranked current world champions, **Germany at the top** and **Brazil at the second spot**.

Yuki Bhambri Wins the Taipei Challenger defeated fellow Davis Cupper Ramkumar Ramanathan.