



Current Affairs - May 2018

Month Type



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Appointments

- ▶ Anil Kumar Jha has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India.
- ▶ Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma has been elected as vice-president of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC).
- ▶ Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan has been named as Green Ambassador of Sikkim by State government.
- ▶ Cabinet Reshuffle -
 1. Coal and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has been given Additional charge of Finance Ministry, until Arun Jaitley is on rest due to health issues.
 2. Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore has been given additional charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Independent Charge).
- ▶ Dilip Tirkey has been appointed as chairman of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation.
- ▶ Former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi has been appointed as an eminent jurist in selection committee for appointment of Lokpal.
- ▶ Government appointed noted artist and sculptor Uttam Pacharne as regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi. He replaced M.L. Srivastava, who was appointed Protem (Temporary) Chairman recently.
- ▶ Gujarat Governor Om Prakash Kohli has been given additional charge of Madhya Pradesh, while Gujarat Governor Anandiben Patel is on leave.
- ▶ Indian Analyst C Raja Mohan has been appointed as director of Institute of South Asian Studies, a think tank of National University of Singapore.
- ▶ Indian-American Susheela Jayapal has been elected as a member of Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County in Oregon (Western USA State). She is first South Asian to be elected in This western US State.
- ▶ Misc. Govt. Appointments and Extensions -
 1. New Secretaries -
 1. Heera Lal Samariya - Ministry of Labour & Employment.
 2. Deepak Khandekar - Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
 3. Amit Khare - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
 2. Extension -
 1. Pawan Kumar Agarwal - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
 2. N. Baijendra Kumar - CMD of National Mineral Development Corporation.
 3. Usha Sharma - Director General in Archaeological Survey of India.
 4. Yogendra Tripathi - CMD of Food Corporation of India.
 5. Sushil Chandra - Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes.
 3. Pravin Agarwal - BHEL Part Time Director.
- ▶ Rajinder Singh is named the new President of Hockey India (HI), after Mariamma Koshy's resignation.
- ▶ Ramalingam Sudhakar is appointed as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court (Imphal).
- ▶ Sarah Mullally became first female Bishop of London, holding 3rd most senior position in the Church of England.
- ▶ Shashank Manohar has been re-elected as the independent Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC).

16. ▶ South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement agency, held its first-ever meeting in India (in Kolkata). Its member countries are India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, Pakistan & Maldives.
17. ▶ Stacey Cunningham has been appointed as First woman President of New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).
18. ▶ Sukhdeep Sangwan has been appointed as Director General of Indian Army Unit Assam Rifles.
19. ▶ US India Business Council named Ambika Sharma as its head for India.
20. ▶ US Senate confirmed Gina Haspel as first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
21. ▶ Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro won another six years term, after being re-elected.
22. ▶ Yudhvir Singh Malik (Secretary in Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways) has been given additional charge as chairman of NHAI.

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Awards

1. ▶ 11 National Geoscience Awards for 2017 were conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind on 22 geoscientists for their outstanding contributions in 9 fields of geosciences. Noted Winners are -
 1. Shib Sankar Ganguli (IIT Kanpur) - Young Scientist Award 2017. Other Categories and Awards -
 2. Mining Technology - Samir Kumar Pal
 3. Basic Geosciences - Suryendu Dutta, Md Erfan Ali Monda
 4. Applied Geology - Girish Chandra Kothiyari
 5. Geophysics / Applied Geophysics - Ambrish Kumar Mahajan
 6. Natural Hazard Investigations - Davuluri Srinagesh
2. ▶ 71st Cannes Film Festival 2018 -
 1. Australian actress Cate Blanchett was President of the Jury for Main competition.
 2. Winners -
 1. Palme d'Or (Best Film) - Japanese film Shoplifters, directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda.
 2. Grand Prix - *BlacKkKlansman* by Spike Lee
 3. Best Director - Paweł Pawlikowski (Poland) for *Cold War*
 4. Best Screenplay -
 1. Alice Rohrwacher for *Happy as Lazzaro*
 2. Jafar Panahi and Nader Saeivar for *3 Faces*
 5. Best Actress - Samal Yeslyamova (Kazakhstan) for *Ayka*
 6. Best Actor - Marcello Fonte (Italy) for *Dogman*
 7. Jury Prize - Capernaum by *Nadine Labaki*
 8. Special Palme d'Or - *The Image Book* by Jean-Luc Godard
 3. Golden Camera (Caméra d'Or) - *Girl* by Lukas Dhont
 4. Noted Bollywood actress Late Sridevi honoured with TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award.
 5. Chopard Trophy - Elizabeth Debicki and Joe Alwyn
 6. L'Eil d'or - Samouni Road by Stefano Savona
 7. Palm Dog -
 1. Palm Dog Award - Canine cast of Dogman
 2. Grand Jury Prize: Diamantino
3. ▶ Bindeshwar Pathak (Founder of Sulabh International), has been honoured with Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his contribution to Asia's development. He was among three who were conferred with this award. Nikkei Asia Prize is conferred by Nikkei Inc, a media corporation in Japan.
4. ▶ Brazilian footballer Neymar is named France's player of Year, as part of 27th UNFP (French National Professional Football Players Union) trophy Ceremony.
5. ▶ Chennaiyin FC's head coach John Gregory has been presented a Special Achievement Award by England's League Managers Association (LMA) London. He became first Englishman to win Indian Super League (ISL).
6. ▶ New York based Indian Writer Mimi Mondal become first Indian to be nominated for this year's Hugo awards, for best literary works of science fiction or fantasy in best related works category.
7. ▶ Noted Actor Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured by European Union for strengthening Europe-India cultural ties.

8. ▶ Noted Singer Lata Mangeshkar has been honoured with Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami.
9. ▶ Prajnesh Gunneswaran won T.K. Ramanathan award 2017-18 at by Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA).
10. ▶ Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman conferred DRDO Awards 2016 & 2017 to various DRDO scientists, Including -
 1. V KSaraswat - DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award 2017
 2. Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre - DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award 2016
 3. G Satheesh Reddy - Technology Leadership Award 2016
 4. P Sivakumar (*Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) (Chennai) director*) -
 5. YST Raju - Scientist of the Year 2016
 6. S Pazhanikumar - Scientist of the Year 2017
 7. *Navrachna* implementation programme was also launched during the event.
11. ▶ RedInk awards for excellence in journalism, by Mumbai Press Club -
 1. Lifetime achievement in journalism - British journalist William Mark Tully.
 2. Journalist of the year - Faye D'Souze (Mirror Now channel).
 3. Apart from these two awards, Redink awards for excellence in journalism are awarded in 13 categories to 32 journalists.
12. ▶ Three Indian alumni of UK universities (Saumya Saxena, Ruchi Shah and Sushant Desai), have been awarded by British Council for their outstanding achievements and contribution to country.
 1. Saumya Saxena - *Professional Achievement Award*.
 2. Ruchi Shah - *Social Impact Award*
 3. Sushant Desai - *Entrepreneurial Award*
13. ▶ US-based Kathak dancer Anindita Anaam has been presented *Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018* at *Jayadev International Dance Festival* in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

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Books

1. ▶ Book *Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System* written by Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan has been released.
2. ▶ Books *A Treatise on Cleanliness and Waste Management, an Introduction*, written by Rajat Bhargava have been released.
3. ▶ Noted wildlife photographer Latika Nath unveiled her New book *Hidden India*.

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Committees

1. ▶ A 30 member parliamentary panel headed by Murali Manohar Joshi will study recovery of black money & performance of public sector banks.
2. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu (also Chairman of Rajya Sabha) constituted a 2-member committee to review rules of procedure and conduct of business in Rajya Sabha, headed by V.K. Agnihotri and S.R. Dhaleta as other member.

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Days

1. ▶ 20th of May 2018 is first World Bee day, declared by United Nations General Assembly. First World Bee Day celebrations held in Slovenia.
2. ▶ May 11 - National Technology Day. 2018 theme is *Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future*.
 1. On 11th May 1998, India carried out series of nuclear tests at Pokhran. Also first indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown on this day and India also performed successful test firing of Trishul missile on same day.
 2. Considering these technological advancements, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared 11th May as National Technology Day.
 3. On this occasion, Atal Tinkering Marathon's Top 30 Innovations to be supported through industry partnerships were showcased. Atal Tinkering Labs of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog organized an Atal Tinkering Marathon in an effort to identify India's best student innovators. It was six month long nationwide challenge across 6 thematic areas - *clean energy, water resources, waste management, healthcare, smart mobility and agriculture-tech*.
3. ▶ May 12 - International Nurses Day (IND). It marks birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing. 2018 theme is *Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human Right*. On this occasion, President conferred National Florence Nightingale

Awards to nursing personnel from across country.

4. ▶ May 12 - World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD). 2018 theme is *Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation*.
5. ▶ May 15 - International Day of Families. 2018 theme is *Families and inclusive societies*.
6. ▶ May 16 - UNESCO International Day of Light AND International Day of Living Together in Peace.
7. ▶ May 17 - World Hypertension Day. 2018 theme is *Know Your Numbers*.
8. ▶ May 17 - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. 2018 Theme is *Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All*.
9. ▶ May 18 - International Museum Day. 2018 theme is *Museums and Hyper Communication – New Approaches and New Public*. It is also observed as AIDS Vaccination day.
10. ▶ May 20 - World Metrology Day. 2018 Theme is *Constant evolution of the International System of Units*.

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Defence

1. ▶ Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) invited private players in Coimbatore (Tamilnadu) for building Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the next generation defence aircraft. Project will be implemented in Sullur in Coimbatore district, which may house permanent base of Tejas squadron.
2. ▶ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) commissioned special unit called Bastariya Battalion (numbered 241) to combat Naxal activities in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. This is first such time that CRPF has raised a special battalion that includes local representation to enhance combat capabilities.
 1. 241 Bastariya Battalion comprises 739 local tribal youths including 198 women combatants selected through special recruitment drive from four highly Naxal infested district in Chhattisgarh - Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.
3. ▶ Chetak corps of South Western Command of Indian Army conducted military exercise Gandiv Vijay in Rajasthan.
4. ▶ India successfully test fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, to validate it as first Indian missile whose life has been increased from 10 to 15 years.
 1. BrahMos cruise missile developed by joint-venture between Russia's Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), named after Brahmaputra river in India and Moskva river in Russia.
 2. It is capable of carrying warhead of 300 kilogram (conventional / nuclear) with top speed of Mach 2.8 to 3 (thrice the speed of sound).
 3. Its range was initially capped at 290 km, now increased to 450 km after India's entry into MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime). It is planned to rise to 600km soon.
5. ▶ Indian Army finalised INR 15000 crores indigenous ammunition project under which range of ammunition for its critical weapons and tanks will be produced indigenously. It aims to cut dependence on imports and create inventory to enable forces to fight 30-day war. 11 private firms will be involved and implementation will be monitored by Defence Ministry.
6. ▶ Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Vikram, first of seven new-generation offshore patrol vessels.
7. ▶ Indian Navy's Marine Commando (MARCO) cadre conducted 2nd Asymmetric Warfare Training Exercise 'Ekatha 2018' at Maldives. Additionally, Indian Navy ship Sumedha is conducting a joint exclusive economic zone (EEZ) surveillance of Maldives.

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Economy

1. ▶ BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange) became first Indian exchange to be designated as Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM) by US Securities and Exchange Commission (US-SEC). It will allow sale of securities to US investors through trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with US SEC. It will ease trades by US investors in India and also enhance attractiveness of Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs) amongst US investors.
2. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) released all 7 e-filing forms for taxpayers, For e-filing of the taxpayers for assessment year 2018-19. New ITR forms require the salaried taxpayers to break down their salary and for businessmen to provide their GST number and turnover.
 1. ITR-1 is called 'Sahaj' and is for the salaried person earning upto Rs. 50 lakh. 3 crore taxpayers used this file for previous year.
 2. ITR-2 is for the individuals and 'HUF' (Hindu Undivided Families) having income from profits and gains in business including NRIs.

3. ITR-3 and ITR-4 can be filed by HUFs having income under head business and profession.
4. An individual of 80 years and above or any HUF or whose income is Rs. 5 lakh and less can file for returns in ITR-1 and ITR-4.
3. ▶ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) approved Bharti Airtel's acquisition of Norway based Telenor India. Bharti Airtel will buy Telenor India in a no-cash deal and will take over its outstanding spectrum payments of Rs 1650 crores.
4. ▶ FIH Mobile, subsidiary of Foxconn Technology Group (leading global contract manufacturing giant), written off an additional \$40 million of its \$200 million investment in online marketplace Snapdeal.
5. ▶ Financial Firm Paytm acquired Chennai-based online ticketing platform *TicketNew*, owned by Orbgen Technologies, for approx \$40 million.
6. ▶ Fino Payments Bank launched several digital products, in addition to mobile banking app BPay launched in 2017. New initiatives include Unified Payments Interface (UPI), net banking, easy digi savings account and FasTag for making digital payments at toll plazas.
7. ▶ IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) launched *Bharat Inclusion Initiative* to build knowledge and foster innovation and entrepreneurial activity across areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health. It will aim at channelizing \$25 million over 3-4 years.
8. ▶ Income Tax Department launched ITR-2, the third income return form for assessment year 2018-19.
 1. ITR-2 is for individuals, Hindu Undivided families (HUFs) and NRIs who have income from any sources except income from profits and gains of business or profession.
 2. Now, total 3 Income Tax Returns (ITRs) have now been activated by Income Tax Department - ITR-1 (Sahaj), ITR-4 and ITR-2.
 3. ITR-1 is primarily for salaried class of taxpayers with income up to Rs 50 lakh from salary while ITR-4 is for professionals and self-employed individuals who have opted for the presumptive income scheme.
9. ▶ Karnataka Bank will sell 8.26 % stake (from total 14 % stake) in Universal Sompco General Insurance.
10. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry created Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in Department of Commerce, by amending Allocation of Business Rules 1961.
 1. DGTR will be apex authority for administering trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures. It will merge Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties (DGAD) AND Directorate General of Safeguards (DGS).
 2. It will provide trade defence support to our domestic industry and exporters in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries. Creation of DGTR will result in savings of 49 posts to Government on account of merging DGAD and DGS. Thus, its establishment will be in line with Government's goal of "Minimum Government Maximum Governance."
11. ▶ Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) launched India's first copper options contracts, to provide physical market participants additional instrument to hedge their price risk. It has lot size of 1 tonne in three contracts expiring in June, August and November 2018.
 1. Copper is third-most-consumed industrial metal, after iron and aluminium. In last few years, refined copper demand has surged in sectors like electrical, electronic products and industrial machinery.
 2. Copper ore production in India was 3846 thousand tonnes in 2016-17 and demand for refined copper was 820 thousand tonnes in FY16.
 3. *Options* give buyer right to buy or sell an underlined at present price on a future date. They are of two types: puts (right to sell) and calls (right to buy). Options are a better hedging instrument as compared to futures for hedgers.
 4. Copper options contracts will be optimal tool for stakeholders to mitigate price risk in copper, giving copper industry greater flexibility to take on price risk.
12. ▶ NMDC and NLC India will invest over USD 26 million for setting up an R&D facility for developing innovative technologies in iron and steel making. Australian Securities Exchange, India's Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and NMDC will sign Master Project Agreement (MPA) with ECT to establish world's first Australian-designed Coldry and Matmor plant in Tamil Nadu.
13. ▶ Punjab National Bank reported net loss of Rs 13412 crores for Q4 quarter ending March 2018, as Biggest ever quarterly loss for any bank in Indian Banking History. It has been mainly due to provisions towards bad loans, and being badly hit by Nirav Modi led scam that has cost PNB INR 14357 crores, through unauthorised letters of undertaking and domestic loans.
 1. India's Biggest Bank State Bank of India (SBI) also reported record losses of INR 7718 crores in January-March quarter, mainly due to higher provisions for bad loans. All public sector banks have posted huge losses for concerned period due to

NPA issues.

14. ▶ RBI imposed penalty of INR 5 crores on South Indian Bank (SIB) for non-compliance with its directions on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and treasury function.
15. ▶ RBI modified norms (that were set up in 2015) for setting up International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) Banking Units (IBUs) by banks in IFSCs, applicable to IBUs set up in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) and other IFSCs to be set up in India.
 1. It has been mandated for parent bank to maintain at all times minimum capital of US \$ 20 million to its IBU.
 2. Parent bank will be also required to provide Letter of Comfort for extending financial assistance, in form of capital support to IBU.
16. ▶ RBI released final guidelines prescribing 100 % net stable funding ratio (NSFR) for banks aimed at maintaining adequate liquidity for more resilience.
 1. NSFR is a long-term liquidity measurement included in Basel III liquidity standards. It is amount of available stable funding (ASF) relative to amount of required stable funding (RSF).
 2. RBI's 100 % NSFR guideline requires banks to fund their activities with more stable sources of funding on an ongoing basis.
 3. RBI notified that NSFR would be applicable for Indian banks at stand-alone as well as consolidated level. For foreign banks operating as branches in India, the framework would be applicable on stand-alone basis (i.e., for Indian operations only).
17. ▶ Reliance Industries received environment clearance for expansion of its petrochemical complex at Nagothane in Raigad district of Maharashtra, at cost approx 2338 crores.
18. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put Govt Owned Dena Bank under prompt corrective action (PCA) framework, barring Dena Bank from extending loans, due to mounting non-performing assets (NPAs) and losses. Dena Bank is 12th Govt. Owned bank to face PCA action by RBI.
19. ▶ Supreme Court barred all high courts from listening to any plea related to a recent RBI circular titled *Prohibition on dealing in virtual currencies*, that prohibited dealings in virtual currencies (Bitcoin etc).
20. ▶ Tata Steel's subsidiary Bannipal Steel Ltd (BNPL) acquired 72.65 % stake in Bhushan Steel Ltd (BSL) for Approx INR 36400 crores. It will help banks recover NPAs amounting to over 36,000 crore. Tata Steel acquired 79 crore share at Rs 2 each. It was finalised under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC).
21. ▶ YES Bank will roll out a capacity building project with farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan under its 'Livelihood and Water Security' CSR initiative, aiming at sustainable agricultural practices and digital literacy.
22. ▶ Yes Bank launched *Agenda 25x25*, a framework aimed at creating a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India.
 1. Agenda 25X25 is geared towards ensuring that by 2025, at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women.

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International

1. ▶ According to *Clampdowns and Courage-South Asia Press Freedom Report 2017-18* by UNESCO -
 1. India accounted for 82 out of 97 instances of Internet shutdown among South Asia between May 2017 and April 2018.
 2. Pakistan witnessed 12 while Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka reported just 1 instance each of internet shutdown.
2. ▶ According to report *Indian Industry's Inclusive Footprint in South Africa – Doing Business, Doing Good*, released by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) -
 1. 140 Indian companies invested approx \$4 billion in South Africa, creating nearly 18000 direct employment opportunities.
3. ▶ AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review -
 1. India is named 6th wealthiest country in world, with total wealth of 8,230 billion dollars.
 2. USA is ranked top with total wealth of 62,584 Billion dollars, followed by China with wealth of 24,803 billion dollars and Japan (19,522 billion dollars).
4. ▶ As per a UN Report, Delhi will surpass Tokyo (Japan) as most populous city in world by 2028.
5. ▶ Bangladesh's first communication satellite Bangabandhu-1 will be launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A. It will provide wide range of broadcast and communication services throughout Bangladesh. It is built by Thales Alenia Space, a Franco-Italian aerospace manufacturer. It is named after Bangladesh's *Father of the Nation - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman*.
6. ▶ China's first domestically manufactured aircraft carrier known only as "Type 001A" started sea trials. Its name is speculated to be *Shandong*, after province of same name. It is approx 315 metres long, with displacement capacity of about 55,000 tonnes (70,000

loaded).

7. ▶ Cyclonic Storm Sagar, the strongest tropical cyclone to ever make landfall in Somalia (East Africa), and first named cyclone of 2018 North Indian Ocean cyclone season. It traversed entire Gulf of Aden, affected Yemen and made landfall over northwestern Somalia.
8. ▶ Guatemala (Central America) and Paraguay (South America) moved their Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem, after USA recently moved its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
9. ▶ India dragged USA to World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Mechanism over imposition of import duties on steel and aluminium.
 1. In March 2018, USA imposed heavy import tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items, sparking fears of global trade war. USA levied 25% tariff on steel and 10% tariff on aluminium imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico.
10. ▶ India named 3rd largest solar market in world in 2017 behind China and USA, in a Mercom Communications report. India had set up record 9.6 GW of solar installations in 2017, more than double 4.3 GW installed in 2016.
11. ▶ India released grant of Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 18.07 crore for river training and construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Nepal. India also released 33.10 Crore rupees to Nepal towards cost of two road packages of Birgunj-Thori Road being implemented under Postal Highway Projects.
12. ▶ Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) launched China's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund, named *Industrial and Commercial Bank Credit Suisse India Market Fund* with over \$3.6 trillion in assets (largest in world).
 1. It will invest in exchange-traded funds listed on more than 20 exchanges in Europe and US that are based on Indian market. It will invest in future of Indian economy and track distribution of industrial structure across Indian market.
 2. This fund opens way for Chinese investors and provided good tool for low-threshold investment in India. It is also regarded as significant to boost investments in India.
13. ▶ Japan Based Conglomerate Sony Corporation acquired London Based EMI Music Publishing, in a USD 1.9-billion deal. EMI is second-largest music publishing company by revenue. It will add over 2.1 million songs to Sony's huge list, which already owns 2.3 million copyrights.
14. ▶ Malaysia Government announced abolishing Goods and Services Tax (GST) by reducing it to 0%. New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had promised to abolish 6% GST levy before his electoral victory.
15. ▶ USA Govt. cancelled NASA's Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) programme, amid budget constraints and higher priorities within science budget. NASA's CMS Programme costing \$10 million per year was meant to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.
16. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) adopted a new system of entry visas, under which it will issue long-term residency visas for up to 10 years to international investors and 'exceptional talents' including professionals and students. It will attract investors and increase economic competitiveness globally. UAE also allowed foreign investors to own 100% of UAE-based businesses by end of 2018, up from 49% cap currently.
17. ▶ United Kingdom's National Crime Agency (NCA) listed Pakistan among top three sources for money laundering, other two being Nigeria and Russia. UK is prime destination for foreign corrupt and politically exposed people (PEPs) to launder money.
18. ▶ World Bank (WB) agreed to provide a grant to Bangladesh for meeting the basic needs of around one million Rohingyas who fled their homeland Myanmar.
19. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) published its first *Essential Diagnostics List*, a catalogue of tests needed to diagnose most common diseases along with number of global priority diseases.
 1. It aims to address inability to access diagnostic services, keeping the away from correct treatment.
 2. The list contains 113 tests, out of which 58 are for detection of a wide range of common conditions and Remaining 55 tests are for detection of *priority* diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis and human papillomavirus.
 3. WHO will update list on regular basis and will also issue call for applications to add categories to next edition.
 4. It will provide a uniform tool useful to all countries, to test and treat health complications better and use health funds more efficiently by concentrating on truly essential tests.
20. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) launched comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial trans fats from global food supply by 2023. WHO calls on governments to use 'REPLACE' action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from food supply. World Health Organization (WHO) also held an emergency meeting to discuss on outbreak of Ebola in Congo (Central Africa).

Meetings

1. ▶ 4th Edition of Global Exhibition on Services held in Mumbai.
 1. In India, services sector contributes 61 % in gross value added. India's global services exports stood at 3.4 % in 2016, aimed to be 4.2 % by 2022.
 2. Champion Services Sectors scheme was also launched on the occasion. 12 identified sectors where Government wants to give focused attention for promoting their development includes *Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT& ITeS)*, *Tourism and Hospitality Services*, *Medical Value Travel*, *Transport and Logistics Services*, *Accounting and Finance Services*, *Audio Visual Services*, *Legal Services*, *Communication Services*, *Construction and Related Engineering Services*, *Environmental Services*, *Financial Services* and *Education Services*.
 3. Fund of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed to be established to support initiatives for sectoral Action Plans of Champion Sectors.
2. ▶ 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held an emergency summit in Istanbul (Turkey), to discuss recent Israeli violence against Palestinian protesters in Gaza Strip.
3. ▶ India hosted 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi, organised by Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) with theme *Telling our Stories- Asia and More*.
 1. Established in 1977, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is a regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in field of electronic media. It is hosted in Kualampur (Malaysia).

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National

1. ▶ 71 ministries and departments of central government have allotted INR 16500 crores for implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in 2018-19, as per Swachhata Action Plan (SAP) 2018-19 released recently.
2. ▶ A recent Nipah Virus (NiV) infection has been reportedly in Kerala, with Its traces were found in samples of two persons who died of viral fever in Kozhikode region, and confirmed by National Institute of Virology Pune.
 1. Fruit bats of Pteropodidae Family, Pteropus genus are natural host of this virus. Its first outbreak took place in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia in 1998.
 2. Virus is believed to spread through direct contact with infected bats, or contaminated Fruits. Human to Human transmission from other NiV-infected people is also reported.
 3. Symptoms Include breathing trouble, inflammation in brain, fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation and delirium. It can be deadly too.
3. ▶ An MoU has been signed between Government of Bihar and NTPC Limited, aiming to improve performance of Power Sector in Bihar through transfer of Barauni Thermal Power Station (720 MW) and Bihar State Power Generation Company's (BSPGCL) equities in Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam & Nabinagar Power Generating Company to NTPC. It will result in better performance of these units.
4. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 16, 2018) -
 1. Foreign MOUs -
 1. France - Technical Cooperation in railways.
 2. Morocco - legal Matters, Mining and Geology.
 3. Swaziland - Health and Medicine
 4. Colombia - Traditional Systems of Medicine.
 5. Suriname - Electoral management and administration
 6. Equatorial Guinea - Traditional Systems of Medicine
 7. With Brunei Darussalam for Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes.
 2. General Cabinet Approvals -
 1. Establishing a **New Central University in Andhra Pradesh**, named *Central University of Andhra Pradesh*, in Jantalu Village of Ananthapur District (Andhra Pradesh). INR 450 crores are approved for first phase expenditures.
 1. Cabinet approved its operationalization initially by forming a society under Societies Registration Act 1860, till amendment to Central Universities Act 2009 is enacted and to enable commencement of academic activities from

2018-19.

2. Setting up a **new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Deoghar (Jharkhand)**. INR 1103 crores have been approved for it and it will be set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
3. **Establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)** at Bhopal (MP) as a Society under Societies Registration Act 1860, under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Estimated cost is Rs. 179.54 crore in first three years. NIMHR will provide rehabilitation services to persons with mental illnesses. It will have 9 Departments and will conduct 12 courses in area of mental health rehabilitation.
4. Approved **strengthening of mechanism for resolution of commercial disputes** of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) -
 1. New 2 tier mechanism will be put in place of existing Permanent Machinery of Arbitration (PMA) mechanism to resolve commercial disputes (excluding disputes concerning Railways, Income Tax, Custom & Excise Departments).
 2. At First level, commercial disputes will be referred to a Committee comprising of Secretaries of administrative Ministries / Departments to which disputing CPSEs / Parties belong and Secretary in Deptt. of Legal Affairs. Max time at 1st Level is 3 Months.
 3. If unresolved at 1st Tier, dispute will be referred to Cabinet Secretary, whose decision will be final.
5. Approved **National Policy on Biofuels 2018**, to promote biofuels, that are more environment friendly and match up well with ongoing initiatives of Government like Make in India, Skill Development and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Salient features Include -
 1. Salient Features -
 1. Categorises of biofuels -
 1. Basic Biofuels - First Generation (1G) bioethanol and biodiesel.
 2. Advanced Biofuels: Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.
 2. Expansion scope of raw material for ethanol production - It allows use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like sweet sorghum, sugar beet, starch containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged food grains like broken rice, wheat, rotten potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
 3. Allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
 4. Viability gap funding scheme indicated for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of 5000 crores in 6 years for giving special emphasis to advanced biofuels.
 5. Encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, short gestation crops.
 2. Expected Benefits Of Policy -
 1. Reduce Import Dependency.
 2. Cleaner Environment - will reduce CO2 emissions and Green House Gas emissions.
 3. Health benefits - Using cooking oil as a potential feedstock for biodiesel will prevent diversion of used cooking oil in the food industry.
 4. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management - One ton of such waste has potential to provide around 20% of drop in fuels.
 5. Infrastructural Investment in Rural Areas - Addition of 2G bio refineries across country will spur infrastructural investment in rural areas.
 6. Employment Generation - Setting up one 100klpd 2G bio refinery contributes to 1200 jobs in plant operations, village level entrepreneurs and supply chain management.
 7. Additional Income to Farmers - Adopting 2G technologies for producing biofuels, agricultural residues and waste which otherwise are burnt by farmers can be converted to ethanol. Through this process farmers can fetch price for these waste.
3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) Approvals -
 1. Approved Development of Freight Village, an Integrated Multi Modal Logistics Hub (IMLH), Nangal Chaudhary (Haryana), in two phases. Sanction of 1029 crore for development of Phase I has been approved. Investment of 763 crore by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).

2. Approved **enhancement of budget by 11,330 crores for Network For Spectrum (NFS) project** for laying alternate communication network for Defence Services for release of spectrum over INR 13,334 crore already approved by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure in July 2012. Project, being implemented by BSNL, will be completed in 24 months. NFS project will boost communication capabilities of Defence Forces.
3. Approved initial Corpus of INR 5000 crores for setting up of a dedicated **Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with NABARD** under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
 1. Allocation of 2,000 crore and 3,000 crore will be utilised during 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. NABARD will extend loan to State Governments during this period, to be paid back in 7 years (with grace period of 2 years). Lending rate will be 3% lower than cost of raising fund by NABARD.
 2. Dedicated MIF will supplement efforts of Per Drop More Crop Component (PDMC) of PMKSY.
 3. Fund will facilitate States to mobilise resources for their initiatives, to achieve annual target of about 2 Million ha/year during remaining period of 14th Finance Commission under Per Drop More Crop Component of PMKSY.
4. Approved extension of Delhi Metro from Noida City Centre to Sector-62 (Noida - UP) covering 6.675 KM at cost INR 1967 crore.
5. ▶ Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched Vikas Yatra from Dantewada district aimed at spreading awareness about the development the state has witnessed during curret Govt's tenure. It will include distributing free pesticides to 5.5 lakh labourers and giving smartphones to 50 lakh families under Sanchar Kranti Yojna.
6. ▶ Chhattisgarh will soon get specialised anti-Naxal combat force called Black Panther, like Greyhounds unit of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It Raised in 1989, Greyhounds is elite commando force force that specialises in anti-insurgency operations against Naxals and Maoists.
7. ▶ Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology adopted word '*AYUSH*' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes. AYUSH is acronym for five traditional systems of medicine - *Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*.
8. ▶ Department of Agriculture released 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2017-18. At 279.51 million tonnes, Record Foodgrains generation is expected in 2017-18.
9. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion(DIPP) launched a competitive ranking framework system called *State Startup Ranking Framework 2018*, to grow a sense of competition in providing startup environment in different states(including 30 states / UTs). These states and UTs will be evaluated based on 38 parameters categorized into 7 areas and on a score of 100 they will be ranked.
10. ▶ Department of Industrial and Management Engineering of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has set up India's first Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) with help of United Kingdom Govt. It aims at providing independent advisory on matters related to power and energy sector.
 1. IIT-Kanpur also signed a 15-crore MoU with VTOL Aviation India to develop vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) craft prototypes, potentially to be used as flying taxis.
11. ▶ First International Children's Film Festival of Kerala s held in Thiruvananthapuram. Chairman of organising committee is Mukesh.
12. ▶ First Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team began its operations in Phagwara (Punjab). It was 192nd POPSK in country and first one to be operated by an all-woman team.
13. ▶ Four States and 1 UT (*Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh (UT)*) signed first MoU with Government's National Health Mission, for implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission (PMRSSM).
 1. MOUs were signed during Ayushman Bharat Northern Region's first workshop on PMRSSM at Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).
 2. Ayushman Bharat is Centrally Sponsored health insurance scheme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
 1. It will target over 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database.
 2. It will provide Rs. 5 lakh insurance cover per family per year.
 3. Under it, government will set up 1.5 lakh wellness centres across the country by 2022 that will leverage on comprehensive primary health care for preventive, promotive and curative care.
14. ▶ General Conferences (May 11 - 20, 2018)
 1. 6th US-India Aviation Summit held in Mumbai, jointly organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation and US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). During this, Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Rs 945-crores 15 year deal with

- Harris Corporation of USA for development of its futuristic telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) programme.
2. Customs and Department of India Posts held a first-ever Joint Conference in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.
 3. 2 day North east Regional Conference on *Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development* held in Guwahati (Assam).
 4. Stakeholder Meeting on Samarth (*Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector under Skill India Mission*) held in New Delhi. This scheme was Launched in December 2017 and aims to provide placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), by training 10 lakh persons (9 lakh in organised and 1 lakh in traditional sector) by 2020, with outlay of 1300 crores.
 5. First International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) held in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), to focus on Rail Coaches and train sets, hosted by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) under Railways Ministry.
 6. National Conference of Fisheries Ministers of Coastal states held in New Delhi.
 7. NITI Aayog and Vision India Foundation organized Venture Capital Symposium 2018 to deepen economic relationships between France and India. 20 big French venture capital participated in event, to explore investment opportunities.
15. ▶ Government will link additional 200 wholesale mandis to online trading platform eNAM (electronic National Agriculture Market) in 2018-19 and will encourage inter-mandi transactions. At present, 585 regulated mandis in 14 states are linked with the eNAM, with 73.50 lakh farmers, 53,163 commission agents and over 1 lakh traders registered on it.
 1. eNAM is pan-India electronic trading portal for farm produce which aims creates unified national market for agricultural commodities by integrating existing Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets.
 2. It provides single window service for all APMC related services, including commodity arrivals and prices, provision for responding to trade offers, buy and sell trade offers, among other services.
 16. ▶ Government's Film Facilitation Office will launch dedicated web portal for disseminating information on filming locations and facilities available in India for production. It will help potential production companies looking to shoot in India to obtain permissions and explore potential benefits.
 17. ▶ Government's Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme (implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd) has so far distributed over 30 crore light emitting diode (LED) bulbs across country.
 1. It has led to energy savings worth INR 15581 crores, increased penetration of LED in domestic market to 10% from mere 0.4% earlier.
 2. It has increased India's share in global LED market to 12% from a mere 0.1%.
 18. ▶ Gujarat government will launch free treatment scheme for road accident victims, by bearing medical expenses of up to 50,000 rupees for each victim of a road accident in for first 48 hours.
 19. ▶ Guwahati became India's first railway station run by solar power, with 2352 solar modules installed with a capacity of generating 700 kwp.
 20. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government will spend 25 crore rupees on renovating historic British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate' as a major tourist attraction. It was acquired by government for over 27 crores two years ago, from a Business family.
 21. ▶ Home Ministry approved Central Assistance of INR 1161 Crores to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Lakshadweep (UT) and Rajasthan -
 1. Assam (480 Crores), Himachal Pradesh(84 Crores), Sikkim (67 Crores) were affected by floods/ landslides during 2017-18.
 2. Lakshadweep (2.6 Crores) was affected by cyclone Ockhi.
 3. Rajasthan (526 Crores) affected by kharif drought during 2017.
 22. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) wil add 30 more doppler radars in 2 years, with 14 in northeast, 4 in Jammu and Kashmir and 3 each will be Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
 1. Doppler radar is an observational tool used for precisely monitoring and predicting severe weather events such as hailstorms, thunder storms, cyclones and tornados.
 2. It uses Doppler effect by bouncing microwave signal off desired target to produce velocity data.
 3. It mainly gives information about wind velocity and precipitation. Doppler radar has radius of 250 km and helps in issuing forecasts two-three hours prior to severe weather conditions.
 4. First Doppler radar in India was installed in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in 2002. There are currently 27 Doppler radars in country.
 23. ▶ India launched 9th and biggest ever auction of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks, offering permits to companies for selling Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in 86 geographical areas.

1. Companies with net worth over 150 crore can bid for cities with a population of 50 lakh and more. Companies with 100 crore net worth can bid for cities with 20 lakh to 50 lakh population and firms with Rs 5 crore net worth can bid for cities with under 10 lakh population.
24. ▶ India's longest Rail and Raod bridge *Bogibeel bridge*, linking Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh will be inaugurated in 2018. It is 4.94 km long and stays 32 metres above waters of Brahmaputra River. At present, travel from Dibrugarh to Arunachal Pradesh by train takes over 500 km detour. This bridge will bring travel length under 100 km.
25. ▶ International Labour Organization (ILO)'s *World Employment and Social Outlook Report* projected increase in surface temperature due to global warming will lead to around 2,59,000 job losses in India by 2030. Global temperature rise of 1.5°C by end of 21st century will result in heat stress, which will reduce total number of working hours by 2030.
 1. It will result in 5.3% rise work loss in percentage of total hours and productivity loss equivalent to 30.8 million full-time jobs.
 2. Agricultural workers will be worst affected, with loss of around 64% of working hours lost by 2030 due to physical nature of their work.
26. ▶ Karnataka Assemtly Election Results 2018 -
 1. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as largest party by winning 104 out of 222 Seats. INC (Indian National Congress) won 78 seats and Janata Dal (Secular) won 40 Seats.
 2. Votes Percentage - BJP (36.2%), INC (38 %), JDS (18.3%)
 3. Karnataka Election witnessed maximum expenditure by candidates and parties ever, estimated at 9500 - 10500 crores.
27. ▶ Kerala Government approved setting up of *Kerala Fibre Optic Network Limited*, to offer free internet to over 20 lakh poor families. A Joint Venture company will be launched by *IT Infrastructure Limited, State Electricity Board and state government* to get this task done.
28. ▶ Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for increasing solar power generation in state, including setting up a 15 MW solar power unit at NTPC complex in Kayamkulam.
29. ▶ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched *My MP Rojgar Portal* to provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills and interest and ensure availability of able candidates to employers as per their needs, as part of *Ham Chhu Lenge Asman* programme.
30. ▶ Maharashtra State Government became first state to sign a MoU with Centre's Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state's Public Works Department (PWD) officials to rate government buildings. Objective is to encourage environment friendly buildings, that are designed using environmentally responsible processes.
31. ▶ Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh laid foundation stone of frozen semen station in Maranga, Purnea (Bihar), being set up at a cost of Rs 64 crore under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (100% contribution from Central Government). It aims at increasing milk production through artificial insemination techniques used by CMOFED (Sudha) in Bihar.
 1. Rashtriya Gokul Mission was initiated in December 2014 with an aim to conserve and develop indigenous breeds.
32. ▶ Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu launched Intellectual Property (IP) mascot – IP Nani, at conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.
 1. Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who helps the government and enforcement agencies in combating IP crimes with the help of her grandson "Chhotu" aka Aditya. IP mascot will spread awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).
 2. National IPR Policy is a vision document that aims to create synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies. It aims to adapt global best practices to Indian scenario. In this regard, Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) was created in 2016 under DIPPP.
33. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP), to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors through 30 courses by 2021 for sustainable conservation of natural resources.
 1. GSDP-ENVIS mobile application was also launched to provide more information and applying to courses under GSDP programme.
 2. GSDP was launched in 2017 by MoEFCC in partnership with National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) to develop green skilled workers having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development.
34. ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issued National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, aiming at promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land. It provides for integration of both

energy sources (wind and solar) at AC and DC level.

1. It also provides for flexibility in share of wind and solar components in hybrid project, subject to condition that, rated power capacity of one resource be at least 25 % of rated power capacity of other resource for it to be recognised as a hybrid project.
 2. Policy permits use of battery storage in hybrid project for optimising output and further reduce variability.
 3. With significant capacity additions in renewables, and Hybrid Policy aiming at better utilisation of resources, it is envisaged that Hybrid Policy will open-up a new area for availability of renewable power at competitive prices.
 4. A scheme for new hybrid projects under the policy is also expected shortly.
35. ▶ Ministry of Tourism expanded Buddhist tourism circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to 21 more states to make it India's first trans-national tourist circuit. Earlier it was envisaged only to 7 major Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
36. ▶ National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is creating a national registry of crimes against women, amid growing concern over incidents of sexual assaults. Records will be sourced from the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).
37. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) launched *Yamuna River Front Development (RFD) project* implemented by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), named *Asita* (Another name for River Yamuna). It aims to restore, revive and rejuvenate river's floodplains and make them accessible to the people of Delhi.
38. ▶ Navratna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) signed MoU with Ministry of Mines, setting highest ever target of Rs 9350 crore revenue from operations for FY 2018-19, 15% higher than last year.
1. It aims at production of 2.1 million tons Alumina with 100% capacity utilisation & an optimum Aluminium production target of 4.15 lakh tonnes.
39. ▶ Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh) has been honoured with 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018 in Odisha.
40. ▶ North Eastern state Arunachal Pradesh has been put on air connectivity map after its first commercial flight (of Alliance Airlines) landed at Pasighat Airport (East Siang district), under UDAN scheme. Alliance Air (subsidiary of Air India), will operate flight services on Kolkata-Guwahati-Pasighat route thrice a week.
41. ▶ Northeast Frontier Railway started operating one lease Parcel Cargo Express Train (PCET) on fortnightly basis, connecting Northeast to West Coast, Connecting New Guwahati in Assam to Kalyan in Maharashtra with stoppages at New Jalpaiguri, Kalumna Goods Shed.
1. It would enable farmers in North east to market their products like tea, betal nuts, pineapple, jute, horticulture products, cane furniture etc. at the retail markets in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Nagpur, Pune etc.
 2. A single PCET can carry consignment equivalent to 52 trucks. This will ensure less Carbon Emission which will contribute for Green India & saving of foreign exchange on account of purchasing of fuel.
42. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project and laid Foundation Stone of Pakal Dul Power Project in J & K -
1. Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project -
 1. With capacity of 330 MW, This project in Bandipora District of Jammu and Kashmir is a run of river scheme, that is designed to divert water from the Kishanganga River to a power plant in Jhelum River basin.
 2. It has been completed at cost of INR 5882 crores. Kishanganga H.E. Project will provide free power of 13 % to J & K, of approx 133 crores per year.
 2. Pakal Dul -
 1. With 1000 MW capacity, it will be largest Hydro Power Project in J & K on completion. To be built on Marusadar River (a right bank tributary of Chenab), It is also first storage Project in state. Its sanctioned cost is INR 8112 crores.
 2. As it is a storage project, it shall improve water availability during lean season.
 3. It will employ Around 3000 persons during construction and 500 persons shall be employed during operation phase.
 4. J&K will get 12 % free power after 10 years of commissioning of Project.
43. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Zojila tunnel project, to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh. Its Length will be 14.2 km, making it country's longest road tunnel. It will cut down time taken to cross Zojila pass from 3.5 hours to 15 minutes. It will also be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel and will be built at a cost of INR 6,809 crores.
44. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Integrated Centre for Crisis Management (ICCM) at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Mumbai. It will help respond more effectively to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies, monitoring radiological data from 504 radiation sensors across country. Other launches Include -
1. Multi-leaf collimator system - It enables gamma radiation to be exposed only on cancer-affected organs.
 2. Trombay Chhattisgarh Dubraj Mutant-1 - High-yielding dwarf variety of Dubraj mutant rice.

3. Metal fuel pin fabrication facility - Will help increase plutonium production in fast breeder reactors.
 4. High-power electron beam melting furnace - To be used for nuclear and strategic applications.
 5. Integrated enriched boron tri-fluoride gas generation facility - It was developed by Heavy-water Board in Odisha. It will be used in neutron detectors.
45. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind launched three public welfare schemes in Rajasthan - Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana and loan and interest waiver scheme for SCs/STs/OBCs, sanitation workers, physically challenged -
1. Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana - Government will provide loans of up to Rs 50000 to members of economically backward classes (EBC) from around 50,000 families at 4 % interest rate.
 2. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana - State government would provide loans worth up to Rs 50000 at 4 % interest rate to about 50,000 families from the scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes for self-employment.
 3. Loan waiver scheme - State government would provide 2 lakh worth interest-free loans to people belonging to SC/ ST community and other backward classes for skill development and create employment resources.
46. ▶ Punjab CM Amarinder Singh announced several development projects worth 555 crores for up-gradation of border district of Tarn Taran.
47. ▶ Punjab Government signed MoU with United Kingdom (UK) for setting up of bio-gas and bio- Compressed natural gas (CNG) plants in state. It aims to find a sustainable solutions to paddy straw burning, which is a major concern in Punjab and surrounding region.
48. ▶ Supreme Court (SC) approved *Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes-2018*, as a uniform compensation scheme for victims of sexual assault and acid attacks. It was prepared by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). It provisions Fines ranging 2 - 10 lakhs for several kinds of crimes against women.
49. ▶ Supreme Court approved Centre's draft Cauvery Management Scheme for smooth distribution of water among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry (UT). SC raised Karnataka's share of Cauvery water by 14.75 tmcft saying that issue of drinking water of Southern Karnataka region is of higher priority. Tamil Nadu's share is reduced, compensated by allowing TN to extract 10 tmcft more groundwater from river basin.
1. Cauvery Management Scheme deals with release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, implemented by Cauvery Management Authority (CMA).
50. ▶ Swachh Survekshan 2018 Results -
1. Top 3 cleanest Cities - Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Chandigarh.
 2. Stats -
 1. Organized by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), It Assessed 4203 Urban Local Bodies, compared to 434 cities covered in 2017 and 73 cities in 2016.
 2. Record 37.66 lakh citizen feedbacks were collected during Swachh Survekshan 2018.
 3. In ranking cities, 35% weightage given to each of citizen feedback & service level progress, 30% weightage given to direct observation. In 2017, it was 25 % to direct observation, 30 % to citizen feedback and 45 % to service level progress.
 4. Cleanest cities in various categories -
 1. Big City - Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh)
 2. Medium City - Mysuru (Karnataka)
 3. Small City - New Delhi Municipal Council
 4. State Capital / UT - Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra)
51. ▶ Telangana Govt. announced setting up of a new Pay Revision Commission (PRC) for government employees, giving special allowances to employees working in remote areas.
52. ▶ Telangana government launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) Scheme, an investment support scheme to support livelihood of farmers. It is first such investment support scheme for farmers to be launched by any state in India.
1. Farmers will directly get financial support twice every year to maximise agricultural production. They will get support of 8,000 per acre every year (Rs. 4000 each for monsoon and Rabi season) as crop investment support.
 2. State government has set aside Rs 12,000 crore in 2018-19 budget exclusively for this scheme.
 3. State government also announced to provide life insurance cover to all farmers in state for Rs five lakh each, from August 15, 2018 Onwards.

53. ▶ To enable customers to check if medicine is genuine, Govt will mandate brands to print a unique 14-character code on packages. Sending this code to a number will tell if medicine is genuine.
54. ▶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will set up a skill development centre for clients of Bharosa, an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in Hyderabad (Telangana). It aims at empowering marginalised women by imparting skills training.
55. ▶ Uttarakhand Govt inaugurated state's first (and India's 8th) City Gas Distribution (CGD) network at Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district, comprising 500 km long pipeline and 10 CNG stations.

Top

Persons

1. ▶ 16 year old Shivangi Pathak became India's youngest female to scale Mount Everest (Nepal).
2. ▶ Australian Steve Plain became fastest climber to scale highest peaks on seven continents, taking 117 days, after he scaled Mount Everest. He began his mission by climbing Mount Vinson in Antarctica. Record was earlier held by a Polish climber who scaled in 126 days.
 1. Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai become youngest person to scale six peaks over 8000 metres when he summited Kangchenjunga (Sikkim), third highest mountain in world. He intends to become youngest person in world to scale all 14 above 8000 metre-peaks. His next is Shishapangma (8013 metres) in Nyalam County, Tibet.
 2. Also, Sangeeta Bahl became oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest, at 53 years of age.
3. ▶ Visits from India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -
 1. Shanghai Cooperation Organization's First Tourism Ministers' conference held in Wuhan (China). India's Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, K. J. Alphons represented India at the conference.
 2. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj visited Myanmar.
 3. Minister of State for Culture (I/c) and Minister of state for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma attended Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers Meeting at Sanya (China).
 4. PM Narendra Modi Visited Nepal -
 1. Nepal announced to host 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit. BIMSTEC is sub-regional group of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal. Nations are - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South East Asia.
 2. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated direct bus service between Janakpur (Nepal) and Ayodhya (India). Both are sacred cities for Hindus and bus service was launched as part of India's Ramayan Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
 3. PM Modi laid foundation stone of 900-megawatt Arun III Hydroelectric Power Plant in Tumlingtar area in eastern Nepal. It is expected to bring in USD 1.5 billion foreign direct investment into Nepal. Nepal granted licence to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Power Development Company, to generate power from Arun-III Hydropower Project. Project will also provide 21.9 (197 megawatts) of generated energy free of cost to Nepal.
 4. India and Nepal also agreed to run a joint operation to control wildlife poaching.
 5. Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan Visited UAE. During this,
 1. Mr. Pradhan flagged off first consignment of 2 million barrels of ADNOC crude for Mangalore Cavern (India), as part of an agreement with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE, under which ADNOC will store about 5.86 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility at Mangalore at its own cost.
 6. Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat visited Sri Lanka.
 7. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited South American Nations Guatemala, Peru and Panama, along with Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Javantsinh Sumanbahi Bhabhor.
 1. Guatemala -
 1. MoUs signed in fields of wildlife protection, human resource training, education and exchanges between training institutes.
 2. India and Guatemala agreed to support each other's candidature for Non-Permanent Membership in United Nations Security Council. Guatemala will support India's candidature for UNSC membership for 2021-22 while India will do so for Guatemala for 2031-32.

3. Agreement signed for strengthening diplomatic cooperation through Respective Foreign Service Institutes in educational field.
 4. Indian agreed to Guatemala's request for supplying solar panels to its airports. An MoU has been signed for training training Guatemalan English Teachers in India.
2. Panama -
1. India will set up two centres for Biodiversity and Innovation in Panama worth US \$10 million and US \$15 million each.
 2. Signed agreements for exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic and official passports. An agreement on strengthening cooperation in agriculture was also signed.
 3. Panama will support India's bid for -
 1. Human Rights Council (HRC) for 2019-2021, for which elections will be held in October 2018.
 2. Council of International Telecom Union (ITU), elections for which will be held in October – November 2018.
3. Peru -
1. Attended an event to mark 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Peru.
 2. India and Peru signed agreement in field of Renewable Energy.
8. Raksha Rajya Mantri Subhash Bhamre visited Nauru (Oceania Nation).
9. Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change) visited Durban (South Africa) to attend 4th BRICS Ministerial meeting.
1. During this meet, Indias *Green Good Deeds* societal movement to protect environment and promote good living, was included in its official agenda in next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in Russia.
 2. Harsh Vardhan Also attended 26th Environment Ministers Meet Of BASIC (*Brazil, South Africa, India and China*) Nations, held in Durban.
10. Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh visited North Korea, as first high-level visit to North Korea from India in 20 years.
11. Health Minister J P Nadda visited Switzerland to attend 71st World Health Assembly held in Geneva, under theme *Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage*.
1. 71st World Health Assembly adopted resolution on Digital Health, initiated by India and co-sponsored by 20 countries. It paves way for WHO to establish global strategy on digital health, identify priority areas and engage nations to optimise their health systems in sync with global digital health agenda.
12. Indian Air Force Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Israel. He attended a conference on *Air Superiority as a Bridge to Regional Stability*.
13. Minister of State for External Affairs, M.J. Akbar visited European Nations Austria and Slovak Republic. He met with President of STRATEGY (Society for Political & Strategic Studies), a leading think tank of Austria.
4. ▶ Visits to India (May 11 - 20, 2018) -
1. Indonesia's Minister of Maritime Affairs, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan Visited India.
 2. Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte visited India. During his visit, Invest India (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and Dutch Government launched Indo-Dutch #StartUpLink initiative, to further spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum was also inaugurated, to take forward MoU signed in June 2017.
 3. India and Netherlands also launched Clean Air India Initiative in New Delhi, aiming to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and companies from Netherlands.
 4. Queen Maxima of Kingdom of the Netherlands visited India, as UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.

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Science

1. ▶ *IceCube*, a small NASA satellite has developed first global map of ice clouds. Ice clouds start as tiny particles high in atmosphere. They absorb moisture, and become heavier. This make them to fall to lower altitudes. Ice clouds affect Earth's energy budget by absorbing Sun's energy and by affecting emission of heat from Earth into space. IceCube will operate for a year, and then it will reenter Earth's atmosphere and burn up.

2. ▶ According to study by Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) spacecraft mission of German Aerospace Center and NASA, India has seen sharp decline in availability of freshwater, due to overuse by humans, climate change and natural cycles.
3. ▶ China launched relay satellite *Queqiao (Magpie Bridge)* to establish communication with its planned Chang'e-4 lunar probe (rover) that will explore dark side of moon.
 1. Queqiao (meaning bridge of magpies) will serve as communications relay for future Chang'e-4 rover that will explore in South Pole-Aitken Basin in moon's far side. It will be world's first communication satellite operating in halo orbit - Earth-moon Lagrange point L2, a gravitationally stable spot located 64,000 kilometers beyond lunar far side.
 2. Need for relay Satellite -
 1. Moon is tidally locked to Earth, it always shows same face (near side) to Earth. So, relay link is necessary to communicate with spacecraft on far side, which will otherwise have to send their signals through moon's rocky bulk.
 2. Under China National Space Administration (CNSA)'s Chang'e program (Chinese Lunar Exploration Program), Chang'e 1 and Chang'e 2 probes already have reached lunar orbit in 2007 and 2010 respectively. Chang'e 3 mission is in process to put lander and rover on moon's near side.
4. ▶ Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) demanded more tests for genetically modified mustard- Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH -11) for *commercial cultivation*. It has called for 'field demonstrations' of GM mustard in an area of 5 acres at several locations, to study possible impact transgenic crop could have on honey bees.
 1. GEAC had given final clearance for GM mustard (in May 2017). Clearance was later put on hold by Environment Ministry.
 2. Even high-powered panel on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) said Genetic Engineering is 'powerful' tool for developing future crop, but for now it should be adopted only for non-food crops.
 3. Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH -11) is transgenic mustard developed by Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants at Delhi University. It is genetically modified variety of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) mustard.
5. ▶ ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is developing environment-friendly propellant blend based on hydroxylammonium nitrate (HAN) to power satellites and spacecrafts, aiming to replace conventional hydrazine fuel, Which has dominated space industry as choice of propellant for over six decades despite hazards.
 1. HAN-based monopropellant formulation consists of HAN, ammonium nitrate, methanol and water. Monopropellant is chemical propulsion fuel which does not require separate oxidizer. It is used extensively in satellite thrusters for orbital correction and orientation control.
 2. HAN-based monopropellant will replace conventional hydrazine rocket fuel, a highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical, with greener propellant for future missions. It will also ensure cost effective re-usable, recoverable, re-startable and reliable space launches of ISRO.
6. ▶ Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) developed a *Arsenic Sensor and Removal Media* device to remove arsenic content from water and make it safe for use. It is capable of sensing soluble arsenic which cannot be easily removed. It is highly sensitive as it can sense up to parts per billion (ppb) levels, compared to currently available techniques that sense parts per million (ppm).
 1. Arsenic is a natural component in earth's crust, widely distributed and highly toxic in its inorganic form.
7. ▶ Scientists discovered new frog species named *Microhyla kodial* or Mangaluru narrow-mouthed frog in a region in coastal Karnataka. It is seen only in small industrial region which was former timber dumping yards surrounded by seaport, petrochemical, chemical and refinery industries. It is small in size measuring just 2 cm long.
8. ▶ Scientists discovered world's second oldest grain of magmatic zircon (mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) from Champua from Singhbhum rock sample in Odisha's Kendujhar district. It is oldest magmatic zircon on earth.
 1. Isotopic analysis of Singhbhum rock sample with magmatic zircon was done used Sensitive High Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP) at Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences. It confirmed presence of two zircon grains that aged 4240 million and 4030 million years.
 2. Oldest zircon on earth was found in Jack Hill (Western Australia), which is 4400 million years old. It is metamorphosed sedimentary rock.

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Sports

1. ▶ 2018 Mutua Madrid Open Tennis Title (Spain) -
 1. Men's Singles - Alexander Zverev (Germany)
 2. Women's Singles - Petra Kvitová (Czech Republic)

3. Men's Doubles - Nikola Mektić (Croatia) AND Alexander Peya (Austria)
4. Women's Doubles - Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) AND Elena Vesnina (Russia)
5. Spanish Tennis Player Rafael Nadal broke John McEnroe's 34-year record by winning his 50th consecutive set on clay at Madrid Open.
2. ▶ Argentina Footballer Lionel Messi won European Golden Shoe for fifth time, after winning it earlier in 2010, 2012 and 2013, 2017.
 1. Additionally, Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo is named he most popular athlete as he topped ESPN World Fame 100 list for 3rd straight year.
3. ▶ Chelsea FC defeated Manchester United FC to win 2017/18 FA Cup, winning the title for 8th time. FA Cup 2017-18, was 137th edition of oldest recognised football tournament in world.
4. ▶ Football Delhi will launch a Pro League in October 2018 and a community league in January 2019. Earlier, Football Delhi, was known as Delhi Soccer Association.
5. ▶ Inaugural National Para Games, on lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018 in Bengaluru (Karnataka). Games will be held for age group of 16 to 40 in 10 disciplines - *para athletics, badminton, chess, blind judo, para powerlifting, shooting para-sport, para-swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing.*
6. ▶ Italian Open Tennis 2018 (also known as Rome Masters) -
 1. Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
 2. Women's Singles - Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
 3. Men's Doubles - Colombia's Juan Sebastián Cabal AND Robert Farah
 4. Women's Doubles Ashleigh Barty (Australia) AND Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)
7. ▶ Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton won Formula 1 Spanish Grand Prix 2018 -
 1. 2018 Formula 1 (F1) Calendar-

Serial	Grand Prix	Date	Winner
1	Australian Grand Prix	25 March	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
2	Bahrain Grand Prix	8 April	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
3	Chinese Grand Prix	15 April	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
4	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	29 April	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
5	Spanish Grand Prix	13 May	Lewis Hamilton (UK)
6	Monaco Grand Prix	27 May	
7	Canadian Grand Prix	10 June	
8	French Grand Prix	24 June	
9	Austrian Grand Prix	1 July	
10	British Grand Prix	8 July	
11	German Grand Prix	22 July	
12	Hungarian Grand Prix	29 July	
13	Belgian Grand Prix	26 August	
14	Italian Grand Prix	2 September	
15	Singapore Grand Prix	16 September	
16	Russian Grand Prix	30 September	
17	Japanese Grand Prix	7 October	
18	USA Grand Prix	21 October	
19	Mexican Grand Prix	28 October	
20	Brazilian Grand Prix	11 November	
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	25 November	

8. ▶ South Korea won 5th Women's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy, Defeating defending champions India in Donghae City (South Korea).
9. ▶ Zimbabwe Cricket council appointed 56 year old former Indian Cricketer Lalchand Rajput as interim head coach of Zimbabwe.

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