



## Current Affairs - May 2018

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### Appointments

- ▶ Airtel Payments Bank appointed Anubrata Biswas as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ▶ Alicia Pucheta has been appointed as South American Nation Paraguay's first woman President (Interim).
- ▶ Amar Devulapalli and Sabina Indrajit have been appointed as President and the Secretary –General of the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) respectively.
- ▶ Cab Aggregator Uber promoted its India head Amit Jain as regional general manager for Asia Pacific region (APAC).
- ▶ Caribbean island Nation Barbados elected Mia Mottley as its first female Prime Minister since gaining independence from UK in 1966.
- ▶ Devraj Anbu has been appointed as new Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS).
- ▶ Former Supreme Court Judge C K Prasad is appointed as chairman of Press Council of India (PCI) for second term.
- ▶ Giuseppe Conte has been appointed as New Prime Minister of European Nation Italy.
- ▶ Government appointed Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra to hold additional charge as Chief of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), replacing S. Christopher who completed his term.
- ▶ Government appointed former SC Judge R K Agrawal as President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
- ▶ Government appointed non-executive chairpersons in 3 public sector banks, as first appointment of bank executives recommended by Banks Board Bureau headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma.
  1. Dena Bank - Anjali Bansal
  2. Punjab & Sind Bank - Charan Singh
  3. Central Bank of India - Tapan Ray
- ▶ Haradanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy (Janata Dal (Secular)) has been appointed as New Chief Minister of Karnataka. G Parameshwara was selected as Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister, and First Dalit for this post. Ramesh Kumar is selected as Assembly Speaker.
  1. H D Kumaraswamy Replaced B. S. Yeddyurappa of BJP, who had to step down after staying as CM for Just 6 Days as BJP did not achieve Majority in recent assembly elections.
  2. BJP - 104 Seats (112 Required for Majority), Congress - 78 Seats, JDS - 37 Seats.
  3. INC and JD (S) partnered to form government, with appointment of H D Kumaraswamy as CM.
- ▶ Ibrahima Kassory Fofana has been appointed as new prime minister of Guinea (West Africa).
- ▶ Indian Ambassadors Appointed in May 2018 -
  1. Munu Mahawar - Sultanate of Oman.
  2. S.D.Moorthy - South Sudan.
  3. Pradeep Kumar Gupta - Mauritania.
  4. Mahender Singh Kanyal - Suriname.
- ▶ Indian ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran has been appointed as deputy National Security Advisor. Note that Ajit Doval is current National Security Advisor.
- ▶ India's former shooter Pawan Singh appointed as Chairman of Result Timing Score Jury by International Shooting Sports Federation for ISSF World Cup in Munich.

17. ▶ Lebanon's Saad Hariri has won his 3rd term as Prime Minister.
18. ▶ Nasirul Mulk is appointed as interim Prime Minister of Pakistan, ahead of dissolution of current government.
19. ▶ New Governors Appointed -
  1. Odisha - Ganeshi Lal, replacing Satya Pal Malik.
  2. Mizoram - Kummanam Rajasekharan, replacing Nirbhay Sharma.
20. ▶ Ramesh Chand Meena has been elected as new Chairperson of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) , while Pratibha Brahma was elected as Vice Chairperson.
21. ▶ Ranbir Singh has been appointed as commander of Northern wing of Indian Army.
22. ▶ Sudha Balakrishnan has been named first Chief Financial Officer of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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## Awards

1. ▶ 2018 Billboard Music Awards (Las Vegas (USA)) -
  1. British singer - songwriter Ed Sheeran won 6 honours - Top Artist, Top Male Artist, Top Radio Songs Artist, Top Radio Song and Top Hot 100 Artist, Top Song Sales Artist.
  2. Janet Jackson won BBMA Icon Award and became first African American female artist to receive this award.
  3. Other Awards -
    1. Top New Artist - Khalid
    2. Top Female Artist - Taylor Swift
    3. Top Billboard 200 Artist - Drake
    4. Top Billboard 200 Album - DAMN. – Kendrick Lamar
    5. Top Selling Album - Reputation – Taylor Swift
    6. Top Selling Song - "Despacito" – Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee featuring Justin Bieber
2. ▶ Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be awarded annual Mark Twain award for American Humor from John F. Kennedy Centre of Performing Arts.
3. ▶ Indian botanist Kamaljit Bawa received Linnean Medal in Botany from Linnean Society of London, becoming 1st Indian to receive this Honour. He was recognised for his pioneering research on evolution of tropical plants, tropical deforestation & non-timber forest products.
4. ▶ Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been awarded most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his contribution in field of social welfare.
5. ▶ Industrial Awards (May 2018) -
  1. Adarsh Credit won *Best Co-operative Society on digital platform* award in BFSI leadership Awards 2018. Adarsh Credit is first credit co-operative society in India to perform financial services digitally.
  2. Vaccine maker Bharat Biotech received National Technology Award for 2018 from government's Technology Development Board for its Rotavac vaccine.
  3. India's NMDC Limited won S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category, in London (UK). This is first time this award has been won by an Indian Company.
  4. Jagriti Yatra, An Indian charity that organises 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won an award in London, at Asian Voice Charity Awards by due diligence platform Charity Clarity.
  5. 2 case studies of IIM Calcutta received awards in 2017 European Foundation of Management Development case competition. It Includes awards for *SIMsePAY at YES BANK: Creating Value Through an UnSmart Innovation* and *Switch On Energy: Social innovation challenges at the bottom of the pyramid.*
  6. NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul (founder of Caparo Group of industries) has been presented a lifetime achievement award for his contributions in promoting brand India in UK. Business Leader of Decade honour was presented to Lord Karan Bilimoria (founder of Cobra Beer).
  7. Guru N Reddy has been given UK & Asia Inspirational Business Leaders Award in London (UK). He will be featured in WCRC Leaders Magazine in June 2018 issue.
  8. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been awarded Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category, recognizing CSIR as top innovator. Clarivate Analytics – formerly IP & Science division of Thomson Reuters - recognizes most innovative companies in India according to patent-related metrics.

9. HDFC bank recognized with Champion Security Award (2nd time) at 14th Visa Asia Pacific Security Summit, in India & South Asia category.
6. ▶ Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony won an international award, in best caricature category. He is among 9 winners at 13th World Press Cartoon awards in Lisbon (Portugal).
7. ▶ Minister of IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development of Andhra Pradesh Nara Lokesh received *Digital Leader of the Year* award, at Businessworld Digital India Summit Award 2018 in New Delhi.
8. ▶ Nobel Laureate Child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi and ISRO Chairman A S Kiran Kumar have been honored by *Santokbaa Humanitarian Award*.
9. ▶ Noted Indian actress Late Sridevi has been posthumously conferred with BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema.
10. ▶ Olga Tokarczuk became First Author from Poland to win Man Booker International Prize, after she won 2018 title for her novel *Flights*, which charts multiple journeys in time, space and human anatomy. It was published in Polish language in 2007 and was translated into English in 2017 by Jennifer Croft.
1. Man Booker International Prize is counterpart to Man Booker Prize for English-language novels presented by Man Group. It is open to books in any language that have been translated into English. It carries monetary award of £50,000 award which is split evenly between writer and translator.
11. ▶ Singer Asha Bhosle, Writer Samaresh Majumdar, Bengali Actor Prosenjit Chatterjee, Justice (Retd.) Shyamal Kumar Sen and Footballer Subrata Bhattacharya are awardees of Banga Bhushan Award this Year, the highest civilian award of West Bengal.
12. ▶ Singer Zubeen Garg honoured with *Hero to Animals Award* from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India for his recent appeal to end animal sacrifice at Kamakhya Temple in Assam.

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### **Books**

1. ▶ Book *Straight Talk* authored by Member of Rajya Sabha, Abhishek Manu Singh has been released.

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### **Committees**

1. ▶ 15th Fifteenth Finance Commission constituted a high level group consisting of eminent experts from across country in Health Sector. Randeep Guleria (Director of AIIMS Delhi) will be its Convenor (Chairman). It will evaluate existing regulatory framework in Health sector and examine its strength and weaknesses for enabling a balanced yet faster expansion of health sector. It will also examine best international practices for health sector and seek to benchmark our frameworks to these practices for optimizing benefits.
2. ▶ Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC) headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh completed its deliberations on all 273 recommendations of Punchhi Commission, completing work on Punchhi Commission Report, which is pending for eight years.
1. Government constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under Chairmanship of former Chief Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi Commission made 273 recommendations in its seven volume report that was presented to Government on March 30, 2010.

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### **Days**

1. ▶ May 21 - Anti Terrorism Day. It marks assassination of Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. It is also observed as *World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development*.
2. ▶ May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity. 2018 theme is *Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity*.
1. On this occasion, National Mission for Clean Ganga and World Wildlife Federation (WWF) - India jointly organised workshop *Ganga and its Bio-diversity: Developing a Road Map for Habitat and Species Conservation* in New Delhi. Also, national-level celebrations were held at Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) in Hyderabad.
2. On this occasion, India Biodiversity Awards 2018 were announced in 4 categories -
1. Conservation of Wild and Domesticated Species -
1. Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve Management Committee (Arunachal Pradesh) - For Conservation of Bugun Liocichla, a critically endangered bird.

2. Lemsachenlok Organization (Nagaland)
3. Kutch Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (Gujarat) - Conservation of Kharai camel. which is unique for its ability to adapt well to both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
4. Kalden Singhi Bhutia (Sikkim) - For conservation of Tibetan sheep.
2. Sustainable Use of Biological Resources -
  1. Sangham Women Farmers Group (Medak district of Telangana) - Working towards conservation of agro-biodiversity for 15 years.
  2. Parvathi Nagarajan - (Tamil Nadu) - Works for environment protection, wellness and women's empowerment.
  3. Raipassa Biodiversity Management Committee (Tripura) - Community depends on cultivation, collection and sale of broom grass for its livelihood. Villagers collect about 50 tonnes of broom grass per season, and sell it at Rs. 22/Kg.
3. Replicable Mechanisms for Access and Benefit Sharing
  - 1.
4. Best Biodiversity Management Committees -
  1. Eraviperoor Grama Panchayat (Kerala) - is an excellent model of a multi-stakeholder partnership in local biodiversity conservation. BMC has rejuvenated a tributary of river Pampa, successfully recovered 13.5 acres of river bank and shown exemplary work in plastic waste management.
  2. Pithorabad Grama Panchayat (Madhya Pradesh) - Sustained efforts towards the conservation and sustainable utilization of bio-resources. It conserves around 115 traditional types of paddies, 32 varieties of vegetables, and medicinal plants.
3. ▶ May 23 - World Turtle Day.
4. ▶ May 24 - Commonwealth Day.
5. ▶ May 25 - World Thyroid Day.
6. ▶ May 28 - International Day of Action for Women's Health.
7. ▶ May 29 - International Day of UN Peacekeepers. 2018 Theme is *UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice*.
8. ▶ May 30 - Goa Statehood Day. It attained full statehood on 30th May 1987 becoming India's 25th state. Daman and Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a UT.
9. ▶ May 31 - World No Tobacco Day. 2018 theme is *Tobacco and heart disease*.

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## **Defence**

1. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of equipment for Defence Forces valued at INR 6900 crores. It Includes -
  1. Thermal Imaging (TI) Night Sights for Rocket Launcher (RL) used by Army and the Force under 'BUY(Indian) IDDM' category, to be used by troops to facilitate accurate engagement of enemy targets complete darkness.
  2. Development of Long Range Dual Band Infrared Imaging Search and Track System (IRST) for SU-30 MKI aircraft under 'Make II' sub category, for procurement of at least 100 IRSTs under 'Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.
2. ▶ Fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IVclass, LCU L54 has been inducted into Indian Navy. Remaining 4 ships of same class are in advanced stages of construction at GRSE, Kolkata.
3. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced family of a paramilitary jawan who dies in action will be given a minimum compensation of 1 crore rupees.
4. ▶ India concluded price negotiations with Russia for deal to procure S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems for Indian Air Force (IAF), with finalised financial component nearly Rs 40,000 crores.
  1. Now, both countries are trying to find way out to evade provisions of CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), a US law that seeks to punish countries and entities engaged in transactions with defence establishment of Russia. USA announced sanctions against Russia under CAATSA for its alleged meddling in presidential election in 2016.
  2. S-400 Triumf Air Defence SystemIt is long-range air defence missile system is one of most advanced long-range defence systems in world, manufactured by Almaz-Antey. It It has capability to destroy incoming all airborne targets at ranges of up to 400 km.
5. ▶ Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini) entered Goa harbour, after completing a historic global circumnavigation voyage by an all-women crew. Crew Members of this expedition were presented Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 by Govt.

1. Titled *Navika Sagar Parikrama*, The 254 days long expedition was flagged off in Goa on September 10, 2017. 6 members are - Vartika Joshi (Skipper), Payal Gupta, Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, Aishwarya Boddapati and Shourgrakpam Vijaya Devi.
2. INSV Tarini covered over 22000 Nautical miles (Approx 40000 KMs), visiting five countries – Australia, New Zealand, Falkland Islands (UK), South Africa and Mauritius.
3. During the voyage, It met all criteria of circumnavigation -
  1. Crossing the Equator twice, crossing all Longitudes, Three great capes (Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and Cape of Good Hope). The expedition was covered in six legs.
6. ▶ Indian Navy conducted *Prasthan*, a security exercise, off the coast of Mumbai.
7. ▶ Indigenously developed Rustom-II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be delivered to armed forces by 2020. Rustom-II is part of Rustom line of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) indigenously designed and developed by DRDO that includes Rustom-I, Rustom-H and Rustom-C.
  1. It is a long-endurance UAV that has an 20 hours approximate flight time. Its medium-altitude prototype can fly at over 22,000 feet. It can fly at around 280 km/h.
8. ▶ Joint Indo-Bangladesh Army Trekking Expedition to Nanda Devi started from New Delhi. Nanda Devi (Uttarakhand) east base camp is located 4300m from sea level and has a very challenging trekking route. Summit is at 7816 Metres.

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### **Economy**

1. ▶ As major relief to budding entrepreneurs, government allowed startups to avail tax concession only if total investment including funding from angel investors does not exceed INR Rs 10 crores. Also, An angel investor picking up stakes in a startup should have minimum net worth of 2 crore or should have an average returned income of over Rs 25 lakh in preceding 3 financial years.
2. ▶ Bank Of Baroda signed agreement with CDSL Commodity Repository (CCRL), for pledge finance under repository ecosystem for accredited warehouses. It will boost confidence among bankers and other stakeholders like depositors and warehouse service providers. BOB becomes first public sector bank to become the repository participant.
3. ▶ Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 4th quarter (January-March) Q4 of 2017-18 for FY 2017-18 -
  1. GDP (at 2011-12 prices) in fourth quarter (Q4) registered growth rate of **7.7 %**, compared to 5.6, 6.3 and 7.0 % respectively in first three quarters of 2017-18. Good Growth in agriculture, manufacturing and construction sectors (11.5%) contributed to overall growth.
  2. GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for 2017-18 is estimated at 130.11 lakh crores, showing growth rate of **6.7 %** over 2016-17.
  3. At sectoral level, growth rate of GVA at constant (2011-12) prices in Q4 for agriculture & allied sectors, industry and services sectors are estimated at 4.5 %, 8.8 %, and 7.7 %.
  4. Per capita income (at 2011-12 prices) during 2017-18 is estimated to be INR 86668, compared to INR 82229 for 2016-17 (growth of 5.4 %).
  5. GDP at current prices for 2017-18 is estimated at 167.73 lakh crores, growth rate of 10.0 % over 2016-17.
4. ▶ Child rights organisation NGO Child Rights and You (CRY) received a USD 100,000 grant from global technology major Oracle for a digitally enhanced monitoring system that would potentially improve lives of underprivileged children across 19 states.
5. ▶ Delhi based Sudeva Football Club acquired Spanish league's third division club C.D Olympic Xativa, to expand its operations in Europe. Sudeva becomes First Indian football club to do so.
6. ▶ Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)'s approved 8.55% interest on PF for 2017-18, lowest since 2012-13. It provided 8.5% in 2016-17, 8.8% in 2015-16 and 8.75% in 2013-14 & 2014-15. This will be applied to all 120 offices of EPFO and all 5 crore subscribers.
  1. EPFO also decided to cut Administrative Charges by 15 Basis Points to .5% (from .65%), enabling over 5 lakh employers to save about Rs. 900 crore annually.
7. ▶ Facebook will launch Whatsapp Pay, a payment service for its whatsapp platform. It will be partnering with HDFC , AXIS, ICICI and SBI banks.
8. ▶ Financial services platform MobiKwik launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its platform via its own Virtual payment address (VPA) handle @ikwik.
9. ▶ Government raised customs duty on wheat from 20 % to 30 %, to curb cheaper imports and protect domestic growers. Import duty on walnut shell has also been increased from 30 % to 100 %.

10. ▶ Government reconstituted Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) to include secretaries from revenue department AND Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY) and Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Currently M S Sahoo). It will make FSDC more broad-based to incorporate changes in economic regulatory framework.
11. ▶ Government's Bank Note Paper Mill India (BNPM) received environment clearance (EC) from Environment Ministry to increase production of bank note paper from 12,000 tonnes per annum (TPA) to 16,000 TPA at its Mysuru unit in Karnataka.
12. ▶ HDFC bank launched Digital Loans against Mutual Funds, in partnership with transfer agent CAMS. It aims to reach out to customers in tier 2 and 3 markets and bring them into the digital lending fold and reducing time for availability of loan through mutual funds. Ticket size of the loans will range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore at an interest rate of 10.5 -11%.
13. ▶ ICICI bank launched its innovation lab for digital business, headed by Rohan Angrish. It aims to create technology from scratch and help better digital business. The innovation fund for this project with partnered concerns is INR 100 crores.
14. ▶ India signed \$500 million loan agreement with World Bank to provide additional financing for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project. Govt. will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.
15. ▶ India signed a loan agreement worth USD 21.7 Million with World Bank's IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) for Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan.
16. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (May 2018) -
  1. According to Fitch group company BMI Research, Indian GDP Growth will be 7.3% in FY 2018-19.
  2. As per Harvard University (USA), India will be fastest growing economy for coming decade and will grow at 7.9% annually, ahead of China & US.
  3. Asian Development Bank Projected India's Growth Rate to be 7.3 % in 2018 & 7.6 % in next Fiscal, higher than 6.6 % in 2017.
  4. International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook report stated that India will be fastest-growing economy in 2018 with growth rate of 7.4%. It will rise to 7.8% in 2019. Report also said that China and India contribute 45% to global growth.
  5. According to UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), India's economy is projected to grow 7.6% in 2018-19.
  6. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) expects India's economy to grow at 7.3-7.7 % in 2018-19.
  7. Moody's Investors Service report predicted India's GDP growth forecast for 2018-19 at 7.3% and 7.5% for 2019-20.
17. ▶ Indian IT Firm Infosys acquired WongDoody Holding Company, a US-based digital creative and consumer insights agency, for \$75 million.
18. ▶ Indian Oil Corporation emerged as India's most profitable state-owned company for 2nd consecutive year, with profit of INR 21346 crores in 2017-18, followed by ONGC (19945 crore). Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries is most profitable company for 3rd straight year(INR 36075 crores).
19. ▶ Kerala government decided to cut excise duty on fuel to effect a INR 1 per litre reduction in petrol and diesel prices, starting June 1. Kerala is first state to slash taxes on fuel after recent huge rally in prices.
20. ▶ Kerala is first south Indian state to be visited by 15th Finance Commission, headed by N K Singh. It will assess finances of Kerala and progress made in socio-economic field and other developmental factors.
21. ▶ Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank approved \$375 million loan to improve irrigation in Madhya Pradesh and help increase farmer's income. Total cost is \$535.1 million and rest \$160.71 million will be given by government. Estimated time of completion is September 2025, doubling irrigated to 2 million hectares land by 2025.
22. ▶ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) sanctioned INR 5000 crores for Rajasthan government farm loan waiver, To help waiver loans of small and marginal farmers.
23. ▶ National Stock Exchange (NSE) approved Yes Bank to be empanelled as 'Settlement Bank' for National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCC). Yes Bank is already empanelled as a 'Clearing Bank' for BSE, NCDEX, MCX. Bank now will provide different services to members, including Settlement and Clearing, electronic fund transfer and 'anywhere' banking and free of cost fund transfer across all centres of NSE's members.
24. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank launched a program named *AshaKiran* aimed at educating rural women about financial services.
25. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instructed Pune based Rupee Co-op Bank of Pune to continue its banking services, under Restrictions that were first imposed on February 22 ,2013 to August 2013 and that was extended 8 times till May 2018.
26. ▶ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Common Service Centres (CSC) Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) signed MoU for providing financial support village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) in CSCs. SIDBI will extend financial support to VLEs of CSCs, with minimum one year of operation, under its Direct Financing Window.

1. CSC SPV will approve list of VLEs, within 25 km distance of SIDBI Branch Offices. Maximum project outlay must be 3.50 lakh and term loan requirement not exceeding 2 lakh per project.
27. ▶ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first Indian company to reach 7 lakh crores INR market capitalisation. It is followed by Reliance Industries (5.8 Lakh crores), HDFC Bank (5.2 Lakh crores), HUL (3.4 Lakh crores) and ITC (3.3 Lakh crores).
28. ▶ Western Railway (WR) has launched E-catering facility on 23 major stations, to enable passengers to pick a food item from wide range of menu from wide range of restaurants and food chains.
29. ▶ World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) extended \$300 mn loan to EESL to scale up energy efficiency program (2 loans for \$220 million and \$80 million).
  1. India Aims to avoid lifetime greenhouse emissions of 170 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and 10GW of additional generation capacity. This would be over 50 percent of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency target of 19.6 GW.

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## **International**

1. ▶ Aditya Puri, managing director of HDFC Bank is only Indian in Barron's top 30 global CEO list 2018, Featuring for fourth consecutive year.
2. ▶ Azerbaijan inaugurated a pipeline at Sangachal Terminal, creating first direct route to transport gas from one of world's largest fields to Europe bypassing Russia. Project is worth USD 40-billion. It consists of 3 linked pipelines that will bring gas from Azerbaijani Shah Deniz 2 field across Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Adriatic Sea to southern Italy.
3. ▶ BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) will launch Americas Regional Office in Brazil, to increase operational capabilities of NDB in Brazil.
4. ▶ Chinese space startup *OneSpace* launched its OS-X rocket, with a 30 feet long satellite named *Chongqing Liangjiang star*. It is first private Chinese firm to launch a commercial rocket.
5. ▶ Colombia Became first South American Nation to Join North Atlantic Treaty Organization as global partner. NATO reached partnership agreement with Colombia in May 2017, just after Colombia signed peace agreement with communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), ending longest civil conflict in Latin America.
6. ▶ European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) brought into full effect, clarifying individual rights to personal data collected by companies for targeted advertising and other purposes.
  1. GDPR sets new rules for how companies manage and share personal data. Though rules apply only to citizens of European Union, global nature of internet means that nearly every online service will be affected.
  2. GDPR sets a higher than ever bar for obtaining personal data on the internet, higher seen before. Rules will also force companies that suffer data breaches to disclose them within 72 hours.
7. ▶ Global Flight Pricing Report by Melbourne-based Rome2rio Low-cost carriers IndiGo & Air India among top 5 cheapest airlines in world in providing international connectivity, ranked 2nd and 5th position. Air Asia X is named as cheapest airline in world.
8. ▶ Healthcare Access and Quality Index Data for 195 countries from Global Burden of Disease Study 2016 by Lancet -
  1. India ranked 145th.
  2. Top five - Iceland (1), Norway (2), Netherlands (3), Luxembourg (4), Finland and Australia (5th rank each)
  3. Countries with lowest scores are Central African Republic (195), Somalia (194), Guinea-Bissau (193), Chad (192), and Afghanistan (191).
  4. China (48th), Sri Lanka (71st), Bangladesh (133rd), Nepal (149th), Pakistan (154th).
9. ▶ IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative) and Indian Potash Ltd (IPL) acquired 37 % stake in JPMC (Jordan Phosphate Mines Company), Jordan's largest mining and chemical firm, for INR 900 crores.
10. ▶ IMD World Competitiveness Rankings (63 countries) -
  1. India rose one place to 44th. China is ranked 13th.
  2. Top 5 - US (1), Hong Kong (2), Singapore (3), Netherlands (4), Switzerland (5).
11. ▶ India, Netherlands and Sweden launched first-of-its-kind joint research programme on HIV/AIDS, aimed at harnessing complementary research strengths and diverse expertise of 3 nations to catalyze development of better tools to address epidemic of HIV.
12. ▶ India's National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) established 2nd Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform in Guiyang (China), as India's second IT corridor in China (1st in Dalian) to provide Indian IT firms access to Chinese software market.

13. ▶ Ireland People voted to end *abortion ban*, hailed as a *quiet revolution* in a very socially conservative country. Government proposed that law should be changed to allow unrestricted access to abortions up to 12 weeks of pregnancy.
14. ▶ Kuwait presented draft UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution, proposing to set up an international protection mission for Palestinians, after recent killing of palestinians amid their anti Israel protests at Gaza Strip.
15. ▶ Microsoft surpassed Google's parent company Alphabet in market capitalisation for first time in 3 years, becoming 3rd most valuable firm (at \$753 billion) after Apple (\$924 billion) and Amazon (\$783 billion).
16. ▶ Pakistan hosted its first ever Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) legal experts meeting in Islamabad.
17. ▶ Palestine submitted instrument of accession to Chemical Weapons Convention to European Union (EU), world's chemical weapons watchdog.
18. ▶ Qatar banned products from United Arab Emirates (UAE) , Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt; To protect safety of consumers by stopping trafficking of goods. These 4 nations has cut all diplomatic relations with Qatar amid suspected terror financing by Qatar.
19. ▶ Researchers from Institute of Archaeology of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Peking University announced that Chinese civilization was born 5800 years ago and got matured 3800 years ago., after 15 years of state-funded work. First civilisation emerged in areas around Yellow, Yangtze and Western Liao rivers.
20. ▶ USA based software Firm Adobe acquired Magento for USD 1.68 billion. Magento works in B2B and B2C context and will help Adobe to compete with salesforce and provide functionality in e-commerce space.
21. ▶ USA renamed its oldest and largest strategically important military command US Pacific Command (PACOM) to Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). It is responsible for all US military activity in greater Pacific region. It has about 375,000 civilian and military personnel assigned, which also includes India. Renamed INDOPACOM will now extend its reach from Pacific Ocean to Indian Ocean Region.
22. ▶ USA withdrawn invitation to Chinese navy to participate in 2018 Rim of Pacific (RIMPAC) maritime exercise, amid China's continued illegal militarisation of islands in disputed South China Sea. RIMPAC 2019 is 26th edition of this exercise. RIMPAC is world's largest international maritime warfare exercise, held biennially near Honolulu, Hawaii (USA).
23. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) validated Nepal for having eliminated trachoma, a contagious bacterial infection of eye. It makes Nepal first country in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat trachoma, world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

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### **Meetings**

1. ▶ 2nd meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting held in Beijing . With Indian Delegation headed by Additional Secretary (Multilateral Diplomacy) Gitesh Sharma.
2. ▶ First Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg (Germany) in September 2018, with participation of over 100 countries. Summit will combine 2 main conferences - WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope, Holinsky.
  1. India has 33GW installed capacity of wind energy, ranking 4th after China, US and Germany. Government targets 60 GW of wind energy by 2022.

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### **National**

1. ▶ To make adventure sports safer, Minister of State for Tourism (IC) K. J. Alphons launched Government's newly formed Guidelines on Adventure Tourism, formulated along with Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI). Guidelines have been framed for 15 Land Based, 7 Air Based and 7 Water Based activities which cover entire portfolio of Adventure Tourism available in India.
2. ▶ A Web portal (www.praapti.in) and an App namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators), has been launched by Govt. It is meant to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms. It will capture Invoicing and payment data for various long term PPAs from Generators. It will also help make transactions in the power Sector more transparent.
3. ▶ ASEAN India Film Festival held in New Delhi, organised by Ministry of External Affairs as part of series of events to commemorate 25 years of ASEAN and India relations. Its tagline was 'Friendship through Films'.
4. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu launched LED Solar Street Lighting System in 4 Districts (*Tirap, Longding, Namsai and Tawang*), with assistance from Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development



(NABARD).

5. ▶ As a landmark reform in field of Higher Education, University Grants Commission has approved UGC (Online Courses) Regulations 2018, allowing Higher Educational Institutions to offer Programmes in completely online mode.
  1. It is applicable for disciplines in which institute has already been offering same or similar Courses at graduation level in regular mode or in Open and Distance Learning mode and from which at least one batch has been graduated and approved by statutory councils.
  2. Online Programmes requiring Practical/ Laboratory Courses as a curricular requirement shall not be permitted.
  3. Online learning shall have minimum four quadrants - video lectures, e- content, self-assessment and discussion forum to clarify doubts.
  4. Higher Educational Institutions will be eligible to offer Online Programmes if they have been in existence for at least five years and are accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a valid minimum score of 3.26 on a 4-point scale. It should also be in top-100 in overall category in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for at least 2 years in the previous 3 years.
  5. Analytics of Learning Management System shall be used for ensuring the learner's participation at least for 2 hours every fortnight.
  6. This initiative is a big step towards attaining the targeted GER (Gross enrolment ratio) of 30% by 2020.
6. ▶ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is setting up a LPG bottling plant in Balangir district in Odisha, capable of producing 42 lakh cylinders per year and will be operational from March 2020.
7. ▶ Bhubaneswar (Odisha) became 4th National data centre of National Informatics Centre (NIC) after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune. New cloud-enabled National Data Centre has ability to support 35000 virtual servers. NIC hosts nearly 10,000 websites of Government.
8. ▶ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar flagged off *Krisshi Mahabhiyan-cum-Beej Vikas Vahan Rath*, to create awareness among farmers about government schemes during Kharif season (2 Raths for each district). One is 'Kharif Mahabhiyan-cum-Mahotsav Rath' that would travel to villages AND other is 'Beej (Seed)Vahan Vikas Rath' which would have Kharif seeds and pesticides for treatment of kharif crop.
9. ▶ Bihar Cabinet approved setting up of a Fisheries College at Kishanganj at a cost of Rs 40.31 crore. It also approved creation of 88 new posts in Transplant and Nephrology departments of Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) for starting kidney transplant facility.
10. ▶ Bihar Govt. Requested Centre for granting Special Category Status for state, stating that It will act as catalyst for private investment and will boost employment generation.
  1. Concept of SCS was introduced in 1969 by 5th Finance Commission (Chaired by Mahavir Tyagi), for status was that were disadvantaged in contrast to others, because of their inherent features and low resource base. It is discretion of central govt. to give special favours to states.
  2. Special Category States have special socio-economic, geographical problems, high cost of production with less availability of useful resources and hence low economic base for livelihood activities.
  3. National Development Council accorded Special Category Status to 11 states - 7 North-East States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura), Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
11. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (May 23, 2018) -
  1. MOUs -
    1. Angola - Electronics and Information Technology
    2. France, Morocco - Renewable Energy
    3. Denmark - Food Safety Cooperation
    4. Singapore - Personnel Management and Public Administration
    5. Turkey - Trade in poppy seeds to ensure quick and transparent processing for import of poppy seeds from Turkey
  2. General Cabinet Approvals -
    1. Approved a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for North Eastern Region(NER) in Meghalaya, at cost of INR 3911 crores to be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Features Include Provision of 2G+4G mobile coverage in uncovered areas and National Highways in Meghalaya. It will increase penetration of mobile connectivity in Meghalaya, resulting in equitable access of communication, information and governance.

2. Approved *Universal Service Obligation Fund [USOF]* supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4072 tower locations identified by MHA in inhabited uncovered areas affected by Left Wing Extremism [LWE] of 96 districts in 10 States for Phase-II project, with cost approx 7330 Crores. It would be used by security personnel deployed in LWE affected areas and will also provide mobile services to residents in unconnected inhabited villages.
3. Approved an ordinance to set up country's first national sports university in Imphal (Manipur), on lines of National Sports University Bill 2017 which is pending in Parliament. Proposed university is expected to bridge gap that exists in sports environment of country in various areas such as sports science, sports technology, high performance training.
3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approvals (CCEA) -
  1. Approved restructuring of balance sheet of Scooters India Limited Lucknow, by reducing equity of INR 85.21 crores in share capital of SIL held by Government, amid consistent accumulation of losses.
  2. Approved amending Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC), giving relief to homebuyers who invested in housing projects of real estate companies that have gone bankrupt -
    1. Committee of creditors voting rights of resolution plans will be limited to 66 % from earlier threshold of 75 %, to speed up the resolution process.
    2. Withdrawal of insolvency application will be allowed, if 90 % of creditors agree.
    3. Promoters of companies with turnover of up to Rs 250 crore will be allowed to bid. Earlier, they were barred from bidding as government feared that they will walk away with stressed assets at a discount.
  3. Waiving Penal Interest on Government Loans to -
    1. Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) - 250.89 crores of Penal Interest to be waived, although VPT will pay outstanding Principal of INR 44.69 crores. Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) availed INR 110.41 crore of loan during 1970-71 to 1984-85. VPT could not pay interest during 1979-80 to 1989-90 due to revenue losses, accumulating huge amount of Penal Interest.
    2. Paradip Port Trust (PPT) - 1076.59 crores of Penal Interest to be waived, although PPT will pay outstanding Principal of INR 387.74 crores. Paradip Port Trust (PPT) availed INR 642.69 crore of loan during 1967 to 2002. PPT could not pay start repayment on time due to revenue losses, accumulating huge amount of Penal Interest.
12. ▶ Election Commission of India will launch mobile application called *Model Code of Conduct Violation Reporting App*, ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha polls, to empower people to share evidence of malpractices directly with ECI. It will allow instant sharing of photos, audio and video clips related to electoral malpractices.
13. ▶ FMCG Firm Patanjali tied up Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to launch Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards.
  1. It can be recharged for INR 144, for which users will get unlimited calls throughout country, 2 GB data and 100 SMS daily.
  2. After Roll Out, customers will get 10% discount on Patanjali products. SIM card also comes with medical insurance and life insurance covers. Medical insurance cover is for Rs 2.5 lakh, while life insurance costs Rs 5 lakh (in event of road accident).
  3. Patanjali also launched a new swadeshi messaging application called 'Kimbho' to compete with WhatsApp, with tagline *Ab Bharat Bolega*.
14. ▶ General Conferences (May 21 - 31, 2018) -
  1. A children's theatre and personality development workshop held in North Delhi, organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA).
  2. Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities of Arbitration in SAARC region held in New Delhi.
  3. Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar committed to provide govt financial assistance worth Rs 6 Lakh for cochlear implant of children with hearing impairment in economically weak sections of Sikkim.
  4. Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram launched an exhibition cum sale event, *the PANKHA (Hand-fans)*, created by TRIFED through its artisans from all over the country at its showroom Tribes India in New Delhi.
  5. Railways conducted a one day workshop "Mission Raftaar" aimed at raising average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi. Mission Raftaar aims at doubling average speed of freight trains and increasing average speed of coaching trains by 25 kmph over 5 years.
  6. India and Pakistan held meeting of their coast guard officials in New Delhi.
  7. Actor Akshay Kumar launched twin pit toilet technology campaign in New Delhi, to spread awareness on issue and make cleanliness drive more effective.
  8. Smart Cities India 2018 Expo held in New Delhi, with a vision to help develop attractive and safe cities.
  9. 34th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring held in New Delhi. During it, Construction of new 1.5 lakh affordable houses (most in Andhra Pradesh was approved, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban). It has an investment of

7227 crores with central assistance of 2209 crores. It took number of houses under PMAY(U) to 47,52,751 houses.

10. 1st biannual IAF Commander's conference held at Air headquarters in New Delhi.

15. ▶ Government approved setting up an exclusive *Brahmaputra Study Centre* at Gauhati University (Assam), with funds approx INR 28 crores. It will offer an opportunity for research in different aspects of river Brahmaputra in physics, hydrology, waterways, environment, disaster/flood management, hydro-power production etc.
16. ▶ Gujarat government unveiled its *Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy*, that aims to reduce state's dependence on freshwater sources like Narmada river. It will promote use of treated wastewater and will see setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP) across Gujarat.
17. ▶ Haryana Government approved an affordable housing policy *Housing for all-2018* for core areas of municipalities in state. Town and Country Planning Department would be delegating power to Urban Local Bodies Department for implementation. Key Highlights -
  1. For core areas, projects would be allowed in core areas of municipal towns with an area 1 - 5 acres, while floor area ratio (FAR) should be 250 and for 2.5 to 5 acres, it should be 275.
  2. Allotment rate is 4000 per sq ft in hyper potential zones, Rs 3,000 per sq ft in high potential zones, Rs 2,500 for medium potential zones and Rs 2,100 per sq ft in low potential zones.
  3. Beneficiaries would be provided financial assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh.
18. ▶ Haryana Govt. will launch *Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana*, developed for safety of girl students in Haryana.
19. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Food, civil supplies and Consumer Affairs department launched an app for ration card holders, called ePDS (electronic public distribution system). Beneficiaries can use digital ration card in ration shops. HP government also recently started Himachal Grihni Suvridha Yojna, which will provide 1 lakh women with gas cylinders and stoves free of cost.
20. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government launched *Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana*, to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming System. It would increase soil productivity, decrease use of fertilizers and harmful chemicals and increase water infiltration. State Govt. also Launched a week long *Polythene Hatao, Paryavaran Bachao* Campaign.
21. ▶ Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar Minister launched *Samagra Shiksha* - an integrated Scheme for school education extending support to States from pre-school to senior secondary levels for first time It will treat *school* holistically as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels.
  1. It focuses on improving quality of education at all levels by integrating two T's – Teachers and Technology.
  2. Earlier budget on 3 education schemes (SSA, RMSA and Teacher Education) was 28,000 crores in 2017-18. But, budget outlay on new scheme will be 34,000 crore in 2018-19 and 41,000 crores in 2019-20.
  3. 10 Lakh schools will get library grant of 5,000 to 20,000 to strengthen libraries.
  4. Every school will get sports equipment under *Samagra Shiksha* - 5000 for Primary, 10,000 for Upper Primary & up to 25,000 for SSC & HSC schools.
  5. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya (KGBV) will be expanded from Class 6-8 to Class 6-12 with 4385.60 crores in 2018-19 & 4553.10 crores in 2019-20.
  6. *DIKSHA* - national digital platform for teachers would put high quality teaching learning resources for ready use of teachers. *Samagra Shiksha* Scheme will support 'Operation Digital Board' in all secondary schools over a period of 5 years, so as to enhance use of digital technology through smart classrooms. Digital initiatives like ShaalaKosh, Shagun, ShaalaSaarthi will be strengthened.
22. ▶ India Meteorological Department (IMD) teamed up with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to send extreme weather alerts to people. BSNL and IMD will send area-specific alerts to users if they happen to be at place likely to experience extreme weather conditions, even if their phone numbers do not belong to that particular telecom circle.
23. ▶ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated Samagra Resource Portal and mobile app. More than 40,000 classrooms in Kerala will be made hi-tech by June 2018, through Samagra. Samagra is designed to make sure that all learning objectives are transacted through lesson plans as specified in curriculum.
24. ▶ Kerala Govt inaugurate world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth's Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. The Replica of Jatayu, a character in Ramayana is 200 feet long, 150 feet wide, 65 feet tall and is positioned at top of a rock at 1000 feet above sea level.
25. ▶ MHA created a new Division to address issues of women safety comprehensively. Punya Salila Srivastava has been posted as Joint Secretary to head this Division. It will deal with - Crimes against women, SCs&STs, Crimes against children, elderly persons, Anti-trafficking Cell, Matters relating to Prison legislation and prison Reforms, Schemes under NIRBHAYA fund, Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network System (CCTNS) and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

26. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched a new scheme to help the landless labourers from the Scheduled Castes to acquire agricultural land, paying only 5 % of cost. The rest up to 8 lakh rupees will be borne by Maharashtra government. This is a modified version of Dadasaheb Gaikwad empowerment scheme for landless labourers scheme, that offered 50 % subsidy.
27. ▶ Manipur has become first state in the Northeast and the third state in India to have solar toilets. Solar panel that are fitted to the toilets absorb heat to generate power, also have efficiency to transform waste material.
28. ▶ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare unveiled Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act 2018, to ensure better price to farmers and encouraging investment from agribusiness and food processing industries.
  1. Under contract farming, agricultural production can be carried out based on pre-harvest agreement between buyers and producers (farmers or farmer organisations). It reduces risk of fluctuating market price and demand.
  2. Model Act seeks to create regulatory and policy framework for contract farming and services. It covers contract farming in agriculture crops, livestock, dairy and poultry products. It lays special emphasis on protecting interests of farmers, considering them as weaker of two parties entering into a contract.
  3. It makes mandatory for covering contracted produce under crop and livestock insurance in operation. Under it, no permanent structure can be developed on farmers' land or premises.
  4. It establishes Contract Farming Facilitation Group (CFFG) for promoting contract farming and services at village or panchayat at level.
29. ▶ Ministry of Civil Aviation notified Draft Passenger Charter defining rights for air passengers, aiming to improve hassle-free air travel experience of air passengers. Salient Features --
  1. Passenger can cancel air ticket within 24 hours of booking it and if provided travel is to take place after 96 hours, passenger will be able to cancel ticket without any charge. Cancellation charges will be not more than sum of basic fare and fuel surcharge.
  2. Airline must either offer alternative flight that departs within 2 hours of scheduled departure of flight booked originally or refund ticket cost. Full refund is to be issued If airline doesn't inform passengers about cancelled flight up to 24 hours ahead.
  3. For delays communicated more than 24 hours before scheduled departure, airline must offer option of full refund of ticket cost if delay is for more than 4 hours.
  4. If delay results in flight departing next day, then airline will have to offer free hotel stay. These norms will be applicable only if delay is due to fault of airline, and not caused by bad weather.
  5. If delay results in a passenger missing a connecting flight, then airline will have to pay Rs.5,000 to Rs.20,000. In case of lost baggage, minimum compensation proposed is INR 3000 per kg. If baggage is delayed or damaged, airline is liable to pay Rs. 1,000 per kg.
  6. If passenger doesn't receive due compensation, grievances can be filed on Ministry of Civil Aviation's AirSewa app or at Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) portal.
30. ▶ Ministry of Culture organized 9th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat*, in Tehri (Uttarakhand), also subsuming Tehri Lake Festival (where one can explore water sports) within itself.
  1. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) presents rich diversity and uniqueness of Indian culture and promotes cultural inter-linkages amongst states to strengthen National integration.
  2. Paired state for Uttarakhand under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix is Karnataka, giving special emphasis to Karnataka in the event.
31. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) rolled out 'Gaj Yatra', an awareness campaign to protect elephants from Tura in Garo Hills of Meghalaya. Under this, elephant mascot will be taken across districts frequented by jumbo herds for generating awareness.
32. ▶ Ministry of Railways has launched new user interface of its Next Generation e-Ticketing (NGeT) System on Indian Railway's ([url -www.irctc.co.in/nget](http://www.irctc.co.in/nget)).
  1. Using it, user can enquire trains and check availability of seats without logging in to system, saving time of users.
  2. It will provide enhanced class-wise, train-wise, destination-wise, departure and arrival time wise and quota-wise filters for facilitating customer while planning their journeys.
  3. It also has waitlist prediction which will allow user to get probability of wait-listed or RAC tickets getting confirmed.
  4. User can find out availability for entire Advance Reservation Period (of 120 days), except for few trains in improvised page.
33. ▶ Mumbai police will use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for surveillance and install 'panic buttons' in order to enhance safety of women in the city, as part of INR 252 crores Safe City to be implemented in 3v years.

34. ▶ NITI Aayog and ABB India signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to government realise its vision of 'Make in India' through advanced manufacturing technologies that incorporate latest developments in robotics and artificial intelligence. NITI Aayog will work with ABB across various sectors, to suggest solutions for digitalisation, incorporating Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.
35. ▶ NITI Aayog and Actor Sushant Singh Rajput collaborated to promote 2 major initiatives of NITI Aayog - promotion of BHIM and Women Entrepreneurship Platform.
36. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) began its operations in Nagayalanka block in Krishna District (Andhra Pradesh). This Early production System (EPS) has cost 6804 crores.
37. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first smart and green highway-135 km long Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal (KGP) Expressway also known as Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE).
  1. It has been completed in about 500 days, as against target of 910 days with cost INR 11000 crores. PM also inaugurated first phase of Delhi-Meerut Expressway, India's first 14 lane expressway and spans from Nizamuddin Bridge to Uttar Pradesh border.
  2. Several Features of Expressway Include Solar power Plants, Rainwater harvesting, Closed tolling system, Weigh-in-Motion (WIMs) equipment, Auto Challans, Intelligent Traffic management AND Green cover.
38. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone today for 2400MW first phase of NTPC's Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Jharkhand, as a 74: 26 Joint Venture between Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) and NTPC Owned Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (PVUN). PVUNL will develop it in two phases: 2,400 MW (3x800MW) in Phase-I and 1,600 MW (2x800 MW) in Phase-II.
  1. It will allocate 85 % of power to Jharkhand. Under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) scheme, it will ensure 24x7 power availability to households.
  2. Engineering, Procurement & Construction contract of the project has been awarded to BHEL. Commissioning of first unit is envisaged in 2022.
39. ▶ Rajasthan Government launched *Nidaan* software, for diseases monitoring and strengthening tele-medicine services in government hospitals. It will help in providing presumptive monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as trends of ailments found in specific areas.
40. ▶ Social network Facebook partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch Digital Literacy Programme to train women on safe use of internet and social media. Under it, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women in universities across major cities over 1 year.
41. ▶ Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is named as Nodal Agency to set up 2.5 GW Wind-Solar hybrid Project by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, aiming to Build Hybrid Projects with Transparent Bidding Process limited from 200 MW to 500 MW, with atleast 1 project site with capacity of 50 MW. As of now, we have only 20 GW of renewable energy produced through wind-solar hybrid power projects.
  1. Govt aims for 175 GW Renewable energy capacity by 2022. As of now, India has over 20 GW of Solar Power And approx 354 GW of Wind power Installed Capacity.
42. ▶ Tamil Nadu government demanded permanent closure of controversial Vedanta Group's Sterlite Copper factory in Thoothukudi / Tuticorin, which was centre of violent protests recently that led to killing of 13 people in Police Firing. Locals had been protesting for closure of the factory for 100 days. The actions of police has been highly criticised.
  1. Protests intensified after Sterlite Copper recently applied for to double capacity of plant to 800,000 metric tonnes per annum.
  2. Residents of nearby villages claimed that smelter caused huge level air and water pollution and is the reason behind unnaturally high cancer rates in surrounding villages.
43. ▶ Tata Motors and Maharashtra Government signed MoU to deploy 1,000 Electric Vehicles across a range of passenger and commercial vehicles in Maharashtra. Also, Mahindra & Mahindra signed two MoUs with Maharashtra Government to advance its next phase of expansion in electric vehicles (EVs) and achieve its goal to become completely electric ready.
44. ▶ Tata Trusts signed MoU with Government to provide development support in eight worst Naxal-affected districts in Chhattisgarh, covered under Transformation of aspirational districts Programme of NITI Aayog. Districts are - Kanker, Rajnandgaon, Bijapur, Bastar, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.
45. ▶ Telangana government completed rejuvenation of 18,000 tanks in Telangana under its Mission Kakatiya programme, as announced at a convention on 'Rejuvenation of Krishna river'.
46. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposed use of blockchain technology to check menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) or spam calls / messages. Blockchain technology based norms will record all communication

between subscribers and entities, capturing customer consent for information and authorised telemarketing agencies. Subscriber will be now able to revoke consent given to entities through TRAI app and other mechanism that will be provided under regulation.

47. ▶ Tripura Government announced 10% of all police force will be reserved for women, to encourage women to participate and deal more efficiently with crimes related to them.
48. ▶ Tripura Horticulture Corporation Limited (THCL) signed an MoU with Spicejet Merchandise Pvt Ltd, To provide pineapples to majority of country and help farmers earn profit.
49. ▶ UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) launched Data Visualisation App to provide user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of education scenario in India, developed with technical inputs from UNICEF, NCERT and National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA).
  1. It uses UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education), NAS (National Assessment survey) and demographic data. It can be used as visual tool by policy makers, academia and researchers to address gaps and monitor programs in education.
50. ▶ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala as world's first fully solar energy powered airport. CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999.
  1. It has 15 MWp solar power plant, comprising 46,150 solar panels laid across 45 acres. Plant generates 50,000 units of electricity daily.

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### **Persons**

1. ▶ Indian-origin lawyer Person Gobind Singh Deo become first Sikh in Malaysia to be appointed as a Cabinet minister, after being allotted communications and multimedia portfolio. Another Indian-origin lawmaker M Kulasegaran has been appointed as human resource minister.
2. ▶ Nepali woman Nima Jangmu Sherpa created world record by scaling 3 highest mountains in a single climbing season within 25 days - Kangchenjunga (8586 metres), Nima summited Lhotse (8516 metres) and Everest (8848 metres).
3. ▶ Obituaries (May 2018) -
  1. Ashok Mitra - Noted economist, served as former finance minister of West Bengal and Economic Adviser during Indira Gandhi's prime ministerial tenure.
  2. Kottayam Pushpanath - Noted Malayalam novelist.
  3. Keyur Bhushan - Noted freedom fighter & writer.
  4. Ravinder Sharma - Noted artist and philosopher, Founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram.
  5. Arun Date - Noted Marathi singer.
  6. Arjun Hingorani - Noted Filmmaker.
  7. Dave Michener - Noted American animator.
  8. Gurukrushna Goswami - Noted Odia lyricist.
  9. Rajinder Pal - Former cricketer.
10. Anne V. Coates - Noted Oscar Winning British film editor.
11. Nandram Das Bairagi (*known as Balkavi Bairagi*) - Noted Hindi film lyricist.
12. Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani - Noted Telugu novelist.
13. E C G Sudarshan - Great theoretical physicist.
  1. Had been teaching at University of Texas for over 40 years.
  2. Has been credited with numerous contributions to field of theoretical Physics including *Optical coherence, Sudarshan-Glauber representation, V-A theory, Tachyons, Quantum Zeno effect, Open quantum system, Spin-statistics theorem, non-invariance groups, positive maps of density matrices, quantum computation among others.*
  3. Was given Padma Vibhushan honour in 2007 and had several other decorations to his name.
14. David Goodall - Australia's oldest scientist. Aged 104, He opted for euthanasia in Switzerland to end his life.
15. Yamunabai Waikar - Noted Lavani singer.
16. Balakumaran - Noted Tamil writer
17. Vinod Bhatt - Noted Gujarati writer.
18. Alan Bean - Former US astronaut, who was 4th man to walk on Moon.

19. Madala Ranga Rao -Noted Telugu actor and producer

4. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (May 2018) -

1. Emmanuel Issoze Ngondet - Prime Minister of Gabon (Central Africa).
2. AB de Villiers - South African Cricketer. Also Known as Mr. 360, He is Hailed as an All Time Great of the Game. He played 114 Tests, 228 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 78 T20 Internationals.
3. Vikas Gowda - Noted discus thrower. He is first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medal in Discus Throw.

5. ▶ Visits from India (May 21 - 31, 2018)

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Russia, To attend 1st India - Russia Informal Summit.
2. Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare) visited Fiji (Oceania).
3. Harsh Vardhan (Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences) visited Sweden and Denmark.
  1. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Smart Grid Workshop at Copenhagen (Denmark).
  2. Attended 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Malmo (Sweden) -
    1. On November 30th of 2015, 20 countries launched Mission Innovation (MI) as 5 year commitment to accelerate innovation and make clean energy widely affordable and accessible worldwide.
    2. India announced setting up of First International Incubator for clean energy in public-private partnership at a total investment of US \$ 5 million in Delhi. This incubator will promote entrepreneurship in clean energy and provide opportunities to innovators across MI countries to test their technologies in local market.
    3. India announced research programmes emanating out of MI centric funding opportunities in smart grids and off-grid access at investment of \$ 10 million.
    4. After hosting 2 international MI workshops on Smart Grids and sustainable bio-fuels, India will host MI clean energy materials Workshop in October-November, 2018 at New Delhi.
    5. India announced launch of Joint Virtual Clean Energy Centre with UK, with funding £ 5 million each (signed during PM Modi's recent Visit to UK).
    6. An Indo US Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre on energy storage and smart grids with a total investment of US\$ 30 million with matching share of both Governments and Consortia has been launched. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur will lead a pan-India consortia of technical institutes.
    7. India also announced 3 dedicated MI funding opportunities on sustainable Bio-fuels, Carbon capture and Sunlight innovation challenge with investment of US \$ 11 million.
4. Suresh Prabhu (Minister of Commerce and Industry) Visited Cambodia to attend Inaugural session of 5th India CLMV Business Conclave, held in Phnom Penh.
5. Minister of State (IC) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons attended 108th session of UNWTO Executive Council held in San Sebastian (Spain).
6. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare visited island nation of Tuvalu (Oceania). He handed over a cheque of A\$ 66,705 (Australian Dollar) to Government of Tuvalu as a development partnership assistance from India.
7. Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba visited UK, to attend 3rd Home Affairs' Dialogue between India and UK.

6. ▶ Visits to India (May 21 - 31, 2018)

1. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Visited India. She jointly (with Indian PM Narendra Modi) inaugurated Bangladesh Bhawan at Vishwa Bharti University in Santiniketan (West Bengal).

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## **Science**

1. ▶ American Spzce Exploration Firm SpaceX launched twin NASA satellites GRACE-FO (Follow-On) that will track Earth's water Cycle i.e. water movement and icemelt.
  1. GRACE-FO (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-On) is joint project between NASA and German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ), as as follow-on mission to GRACE mission, which mapped Earth's water and ice by measuring changes in Earth's gravity field from 2002 to 2017.
  2. To measure Earth's gravity, 2 GRACE-FO satellites will orbit around Earth together, with one trailing behind other at distance of 220km.

2. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government notified its new state symbols, after bifurcation of undivided Andhra Pradesh in 2014 that led to formation of New State Telangana. New state symbols -
  1. State bird - Rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*). Locally known as Rama Chiluka.
  2. State tree - Neem (*Azadirachta indica*). Locally known Vepa Chettu.
  3. State animal - Black-buck (*Antelope cervicapra*). Locally known as Krishna Jinka.
  4. State flower - Jasmine (*Jasminum officinale*).
  5. State symbols of Telangana - Bird - Indian Roller (It also state bird of Odisha and Karnataka), Tree: Jammi Chettu, Animal - Spotted deer. Flower - Tangidi Puvvu.
3. ▶ NASA discovered a special kind of neutron star outside the Milky Way galaxy for first time. Neutron stars are highly dense cores of massive stars that collapse and go through a supernova explosion. It was spotted via NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (VLT) in Chile.
4. ▶ Researchers from Northumbria University (UK) found out mountain ranges and three vast, deep sub-glacial valleys hidden under Antarctica ice. This is first finding observed from ice penetrating radar data collected in Antarctica as part of European Space Agency PolarGAP project. Largest valley, named Foundation Trough, is over 350 kilometres long and 35 kilometres wide. Other 2 are Patuxent Trough and Offset Rift.
5. ▶ Scientists created world's smallest house – build on an area of 300 square micrometres – using a robotic system that can accurately assemble nanomaterials into tiny, desirable structures. Researchers from Femto-ST Institute in France, assembled new microrobotics system that pushes forward frontiers of optical nanotechnologies.
  1. With advancement, optical fibres as thin as human hair can be inserted into inaccessible locations like jet engines and blood vessels to detect radiation levels or viral molecules.
6. ▶ Scientists discovered first interstellar immigrant, an Asteroid named (514107) 2015 BZ509 (Also called Oumuamua) that has a different origin other than our solar system because it moves in a direction opposite to that of all objects in our solar system.
7. ▶ Scientists discovered world's oldest lizard fossil, named *Megachirella wachtleri*, in Dolomites mountain range of Italy. Fossil is 240 million years old.
8. ▶ Scientists found a drug named “PLX5622” that could prevent the brain damage caused by exposure to cosmic radiation, useful to spacewalkers as Humans travelling beyond Earth's protective magnetic fields will be exposed to cosmic radiation nearly 1000 times higher than that on Earth.
9. ▶ Scientists from Newcastle University (UK) created world's first 3D printed human corneas that could solve problem of shortage of available eye donors and help millions of blind people gain sight again.
  1. Cornea is outermost layer of the human eye. Its key function is to focus vision. It also barricades eyes against harmful dirt and bacteria.
  2. 3D printed human corneas were produced using bio-ink solution consisting of healthy corneal stem mixed together with alginate and collagen.
10. ▶ Scientists from University of Minnesota (USA) discovered that chemical element ruthenium ( $Ru(44)$ ) is fourth element to have unique magnetic properties (ferromagnetism) at room temperature, after Iron (Fe), Cobalt (Co), and Nickel (Ni). The discovery will help to improve sensors, devices in computer memory and logic industry or other devices using magnetic materials. It was discovered in 1844 by Russian-born scientist Karl Ernst.
11. ▶ Scientists of Chinese Academy of Sciences discovered a 400 Million Year old fossilised body piece of an extinct class of marine animal named Cystoidea or cystoids at Guizhou province (China).

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## Sports

1. ▶ 2018 Hyundai Archery World Cup Round 2 (Antalya (Turkey)) -
  1. India - (2 Silver and 1 Bronze). Medalists -
    1. Silver - Jyothi Surekha Vennam (Compound Women), Recurve Mixed Team (Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari)
    2. Bronze - Compound Mixed Team (Abhishek Verma AND Jyothi Surekha Vennam)
2. ▶ 2018 Thomas Cup Badminton (30th Edition), Bangkok (Thailand) -
  1. China won the tournament, beating Japan in Final. It is 10th Thomas cup title for China.
  2. *Thomas Cup* is informally called World Team Championships for Men.
3. ▶ 2018 Uber Cup Badminton (27th Edition), Bangkok (Thailand) -
  1. Japan won the tournament, beating Thailand in Final. It is Sixth Uber cup title for Japan.



2. *Uber Cup* is informally called World Team Championships for Women.

4. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) signed Letter of Intent (LoI) with UN Environment to promote green' cricket in India. BCCI will endeavor to reduce its environmental impact by greening its operations and engaging cricketers and fans in green initiatives.
5. ▶ CEAT Cricket Ratings awards 2018 -
  1. International Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli
  2. International Batsman of the Year - Shikhar Dhawan
  3. International Bowler of the Year - Trent Boult (NZ)
  4. T20 Bowler of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan).
  5. T20 Batsman of the Year - Colin Munro (NZ)
  6. Outstanding Innings of the Year - Harmanpreet Kaur (Indian Female Cricketer)
  7. U-19 Player of the Year - Shubman Gill
  8. Popular Choice Award - Chris Gayle (Windies)
  9. Lifetime Achievement Award - Farokh Engineer (India).
6. ▶ Chennai Super Kings defeated Sun Risers Hyderabad to win their 3rd Indian Premier League title, equalling Mumbai Indians' record of winning number of Indian Premier League titles (3). 2018 was 11th Edition of IPL and 7th Final of CSK. They were Suspended for 2 years (2016 & 2017). Various Awards given at Closing Ceremony -

S. No	Award	Winner (Team)
1.	Man of the Match (Final)	Shane Watson (CSK)
2.	Orange Cap (Most Runs)	Kane Williamson (SRH)
3.	Purple Cap (Most Wickets)	Andrew Tye (KXIP)
4.	Emerging Player AND Stylish Player	Rishabh Pant (DD)
6.	Perfect Catch	Trent Boult (DD)
7.	Super Striker	Sunil Narine (KKR)
8.	Valuable Player	Sunil Narine (KKR)
9.	Fairplay Award	Mumbai Indians

7. ▶ Iraq will host West Asia Football Federation championship in Basra in November 2018, after FIFA recently lifted a three-decade ban on Iraq hosting international football.
8. ▶ Mike Hesson (New Zealand), Belinda Clark (Australia), and Kyle Coetzer (Scotland) have been appointed to International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee.
9. ▶ Misc. Sporting Events (May 2018) -
  1. Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) conducted 3rd All India Invitational Blind Football Tournament in Kochi (Kerala).
  2. India finished on top in 3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo (Sri Lanka), with 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals (50 Medals).
  3. India's javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished 4th in IAAF Diamond League at in Doha (Qatar). Neeraj Chopra bettered his previous national record mark of 86.48 metres, with a throw of 87.43 metres. Germany's Thomas Rohler won gold medal with throw of 91.78 metres.
  4. Shooters Gagan Narang and Pooja Ghatkar won silver in mixed event at Grand Prix of Liberation international shooting competition in in Pilsen (Czech Republic).
  5. Indian judokas won 3 medals at Asian Cadet Judo Championships 2018 in Beirut (Lebanon) - Gold - Rohini S Mohite AND Thanjam Tababi Devi, Bronze - Harish.
  6. Indian U-16 football team won Four-Nation Tournament held in Serbia , defeating Tajikistan. Tournament was played by India, Serbia, Tajikistan and Jordan.
  7. Indian shooter Heena Sidhu won gold medal in 10-meter air pistol category of international shooting competition of Hannover (Germany).
  8. Swiss Tennis Star Roger Federer became oldest world number one male tennis player for 2nd time in his career. He regained top rank after Rafael Nadal lost in Madrid Open quarter-final.
  9. Bala Prasath won Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu).
  10. Srinath Narayanan won LIC 3rd Kolkata Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament.
  11. Indian Shooter Tejaswini Sawant won gold in Munich Grand Prix (Germany).
  12. Table tennis player Manika Batra and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu signed multi-year agreements with sports management firm IOS.

13. A mountain biking race, touted to be world's highest, at over 17,000 feet across 330 km will be held in June 2018 in North Sikkim. The themes for the race are 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and 'Secure Himalayas'.

10. ▶ Real Madrid won 2017 - 18 UEFA Champions League Football by defeating Liverpool in Kiev (Ukraine).

11. ▶ Red Bull's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo won Formula 1 Monaco 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	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)
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	

12. ▶ Sports Ministry granted a financial assistance (for Medical purpose) of 5 Lakh to Manipuri Fencer Kalambia Chanu , from Pandit DeenDayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportsperson (PDUNWFS).

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