

# Monthly One Liner Current Affairs PDF – April 2018

## Financial

- Government has **extended the dates for indefinite period for linking Aadhaar and Permanent Account number (PAN) with bank accounts of account holders.**
- **The Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA)** of the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) has **become the first Indian institution to be granted membership by Hyperledger project hosted by Linux Foundation.**
- Uttar Pradesh Khadi and Village Industry minister Satyadeo Pachauri has said the **state government would provide loan of Rs 378 crore to entrepreneurs for setting up 20,000 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)** in the state under the prime minister employment creation scheme.
- **India** overtook China and Spain **to emerge as the world's largest consumer of the almond nut in recent times.**
- **India is now the second largest mobile phone producer in the world after China,** as per information shared by the Indian Cellular Association with telecom minister Manoj Sinha and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- Private sector lender **Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched 'Keya' an AI-powered voice bot** integrated with Kotak's phone-banking helpline aimed at augmenting the traditional interactive voice response (IVR) system in both English and Hindi. The platform has been developed by the bank in partnership with **Nuance** a Nasdaq listed firm based out of Massachusetts, USA.
- As per the deadline fixed by the GST Council, **the e-Way Bill system became mandatory from April 1, 2018 for all inter-state movement of goods in India.**
- **Uttar Pradesh** has clocked **highest growth in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) credit** with total outstanding of Rs 570 billion at the end of December 2017.
- As per the government, **97.05 lakh subscribers have enrolled under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) at the end of Financial Year 2017-18.** It just missed the target of 1 crore set by the pension regulator PFRDA.
- A Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) tailor-made to suit the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families, was signed between the **Indian Army and HDFC Bank on the Defence salary package in April, 2018.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) late in April, 2018 **dropped Axis Bank from a list of banks it has cleared to import gold and silver** in the current financial year that began April 1.
- Homegrown ride-hailing major **Ola** has **acquired end-to-end public transport ticketing app Ridlr** in an all-stock deal at an undisclosed valuation as it looks at integrating its own services with mass transit infrastructure that exists in cities.
- Private lender **IndusInd Bank** in April, 2018 **announced a pilot program with WhatsApp enterprise solution in India** to communicate with its customers.
- The **Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE)** and the **National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE)** have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) focused on exploring opportunities to work together and co-operate with each other to foster a deeper and more strategic relationship.
- Digital financial services platform, **MobiKwik**, in April, 2018 announced its partnership with **Microsoft** for powering digital payment services on Microsoft's chat platform - **Microsoft Kaizala.**
- Following the past success of Skill Development initiatives in 2015-16 & 2017-18, **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and **Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)** signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on for Financial Assistance for Employment Oriented Training and Skill Development Programme for SC/ST/OBC/Women, Unemployed Youth & people belonging to EWS.
- In a digital initiative to promote ease of exports, particularly for Indian agricultural products, the Commerce Ministry in April, 2018 launched **three portals - for Safe Food Export Traceability, Single Laboratory for Accreditation and Approvals, and the third for Monitoring Export Alerts from importing regulators.**
- The Reserve Bank said in April, 2018 that **Jio Payments Bank commenced its banking services from Tuesday.** Reliance Industries Ltd was one of the 11 applicants which were issued in-principle approval for setting up a payments bank in August 2015. **Jio Payment Bank Limited is a 70-30 joint venture** between Mukesh Ambani's **Reliance Industries Limited** and India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI).**

- **Three trade receivable discounting systems (TReDS)—digital invoice discounting platforms—approved so far by the RBI have jointly implemented a blockchain solution**, which is expected to help reduce frauds in bills discounting or receivable financing. The platforms—**RXIL, A.TReDS** and **M1xchange**—had been set up to bring together buyers, sellers and financiers for discounting the MSME invoices and provide them with timely funding. **This is billed as India's first live blockchain implementation in the enterprise financial segment.**
- Leading private lender ICICI Bank announced the launch of a service that enables **Non Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to a beneficiary in India using social media platforms like WhatsApp and e-mail**. Christened '**Social Pay**', this first-of-its-kind service is available on Money2India (M2I), the bank's app for remittances. This new facility will enable NRIs to send money conveniently to their friends and family.
- IndusInd Bank in association with the JSW Foundation launched **the IndusInd Bank Girl Power Programme** to support junior as well as established girl athletes. This power-packed Programme supports girl athletes from various parts of the country and in different individual sports disciplines, so as to enable them to compete on a global stage.
- The **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)** has slapped **Rs 9 crore penalty on Bank of Baroda for "failing" to adhere to anti-money laundering norms**, and not having an effective system to report suspicious transactions linked to the Rs 6,000 crore scam in its Delhi-based branch.
- International payments platform **PayPal has digitised the Foreign Inward Remittance Certificate (FIRC) application process for the ease of Indian sellers and freelancers**. With the new process, PayPal sellers receiving payments from across the globe can apply for an FIRC online by filling a form on the PayPal website and paying the FIRC fee via NEFT as opposed to the previous process of a Demand Draft (DD), reducing tedious paper work.
- **The GST Council** on April 4, 2018 delegated its powers to an **IT Grievance Redressal Committee** to approve and recommend the steps to be taken to redress the grievance and provide relief to the taxpayer.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 5, 2018 released its **First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19**. After assessing the current and evolving macroeconomic situation in the economy, the six member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) **decided to keep the Repo Rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0 percent.**
- **PayPal**, and the **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)**, an apex international trade promotion organisation, announced a partnership **to promote exports while leveraging the technology and experience of each other.**
- Indian ride aggregator **Ola** in April, 2018 launched a **comprehensive in-trip insurance program with Acko** for its customers across India, thereby extending the benefits of the '**Chalo befikar**' insurance program to its customers across all categories, namely cabs, auto, and e-rickshaw.
- Global financial messaging cooperative **Swift** in April, 2018 said **ICICI Bank has become its first Indian client to go live with an improved cross-border payments service.**
- The **Government of India, Government of Maharashtra** and the **World Bank** signed here in April, 2018 a **USD 420 million projects to help Small and Marginal farmers** in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra. The **Maharashtra Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture** will help in increasing climate resilient practices in agriculture and ensuring that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity for them.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on April 5, 2018 directed all the **entities regulated by it including banks to stop providing services to businesses dealing in virtual currencies** such as bitcoin, in order to protect consumer interest and check money laundering.
- Private sector lender, **IndusInd Bank** in April, 2018 announced collaboration with Samsung Electronics to enable its MasterCard and Visa Credit Card customers to use '**Samsung Pay**'.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) **has set up an internal working group to examine the taxation aspects of high net worth individuals (HNWIs).**
- **Prasar Bharati**, which runs Doordarshan and All India Radio, will have to use its own funds to pay salaries of employees recruited after October 2007, and also clear pending liabilities amounting to Rs 1,800 crore for the use of radio waves and satellites to broadcast its services, **according to an MoU it signed with the I&B Ministry last week.**
- **Reserve Bank of India** decided to **set up Data Sciences Lab to improve its forecasting, surveillance and early warning detection abilities.**
- Union Minister of State for MSME Giriraj Singh launched a mobile phone application for locating **4000 Khadi stores in the country.**

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) promotes the idea of **an ambitious model of a public Wi-Fi grid that aims to slash Internet access cost by 90 percent.**
- Reliance Communications Ltd (RCom) received the approval of the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to proceed with the sale of its tower and fibre business.**
- Union Minister of Railways and Coal Piyush Goyal on April 5, 2018 launched the **UTTAM App** for Coal Quality Monitoring. The word 'UTTAM' here is abbreviated as '**Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal**'.
- Leading public sector bank, **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** as part of their '**Customer First**' initiative launched **Internet of Things (IoT)-based customer feedback application on a pilot basis.**
- **Gobardhan Yojna**, a central government scheme for managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste into manure and biogas, will be launched nationally from **Haryana's Karnal** on April 30.
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** will be investing a total of **Rs 80 billion in the Arun III hydropower project of Nepal**, which has 900 megawatts (MW) electricity production capacities.
- **Tata Communications**, a leading digital infrastructure provider, **has been selected as the principal partner by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** to help organisations in India unlock the true benefits of digital technologies.
- In order to recover over Rs 7,000 crore of investors money, **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** is all set to **auction 24 properties of Pancard Clubs** and its late chairman and MD Sudhir Moravekar, next month at a reserve price of Rs 2,087 crore.
- **SEBI** will take action in a **phased manner against more than 14,700 entities** for non-genuine trades through illiquid stock option segment.
- The **SBI** has announced the launch of its **UK subsidiary, SBI (UK) Limited**, with an initial capital commitment of **225 million pounds** from its parent entity.
- **Fitch Ratings** in April, 2018 downgraded the **Viability Rating of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) to 'bb-' from 'bb'** and maintained the rating on Rating Watch Negative (RWN) following a multi-crore fraud involving diamond trader Nirav Modi.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has charted a plan to promote micro-enterprises in **115 aspirational districts across the country to contribute to their development.**
- **India and Bangladesh** on April 9, 2018 signed an agreement to set up a 129.5 km oil pipeline aimed at pumping oil from India to Bangladesh with a capacity of 1 million metric tons per annum.
- **Department of Defence Production Secretary Ajay Kumar** in April, 2018 announced the creation of a **dedicated defence and aerospace small and medium enterprises (SME) fund**, registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), where a minority stake could be taken by investors.
- In line with the efforts to indigenise the defence sector under the 'Make in India' initiative, **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, India's multinational engineering conglomerate, and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a leading public sector enterprise in defence electronics and tactical systems, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April, 2018 **to cater to the needs of evolving domestic and export markets for defence products and systems.**
- **UPS** in April, 2018 **inaugurated a larger integrated logistics facility in Ahmedabad to support businesses and SMEs (small and medium enterprises) in Gujarat** looking to expand trade with the global marketplace.
- **Cyient**, a provider of engineering design, manufacturing, geo-spatial, networks and operations management services to global industry leaders and Israel-based **BlueBird Aero Systems**, a leader in design, development, and production of micro, mini, and small tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) announced a **joint venture to offer field-proven UAV systems to Indian defence, paramilitary, security, and police forces.**
- **India and World Expo 2020** signed participants' contract on April 10, 2018 for India's pavilion in the World Expo 2020 which will be held in Dubai.
- An Indian consortium **comprising IOCL, BPCL and HPCL on April 11, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producer.** Under the agreement, Saudi Aramco has taken 50 per cent stake in a planned USD 44-billion refinery-cum-petrochemical project in Maharashtra. The move will provide the Saudi Arabian company with an assured customer for additional 30 million tonnes of its crude oil.
- **The first meeting of NITI Forum for Northeast outlined five development missions for promoting sectors like horticulture, tourism and food processing.** These development projects in the region will be based on the concept of '**HIRA**' which stands for Highways, Internet ways, Railways and Airways.

- Approximately 1.5 million rural residents in **Madhya Pradesh** will directly benefit from improved livelihoods, education and mobility with the **USD 140 million loan approved by the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** in a meeting held recently in Beijing.
- The Reserve Bank in April, 2018 tightened reporting norms for the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) under which an individual can transfer up to USD 2,50,000 abroad in a year.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty worth Rs. 3 crore on IDBI Bank** for not complying with the outlined norms related to reporting of bad loans.
- Swedish home furnishings chain **IKEA** in April, 2018 said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Gujarat** government to set up its stores in the state with an expected investment of up to Rs 3,000 crore in the long term.
- **India has emerged as the top recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) from within the Commonwealth** and is the second-most lucrative source of investment within the 53-member organisation after the UK, according to a new trade review.
- The union government has **set up a 12-member panel to review the enforcement of CSR provisions under the Companies law** as well as look at having a centralised scrutiny and prosecution mechanism to deal with violations.
- Yes Bank has announced the launch of first ever 'Yes GST', an **OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. Through this an MSME can avail OD up to Rs 1 crore, based on their annual turnover, backed by GST returns. Any additional assessment of balance sheet or bank statements will not be required
- The **National Highways Authority of India** on April 12, 2018 signed an agreement for upgradation of **Yagyi – Kalewa section of highway in Myanmar** to two lanes with earthen shoulder. **The first International project of NHA** will be funded by the Union Ministry of External Affairs and will be executed on EPC mode at a cost of Rs 1177 crores.
- **Boeing India** on April 12, 2018 signed **MoU with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), and Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS)** at the Defence Expo 2018 to manufacture **Super Hornet fighter aircraft in India.**
- Global networking giant **Cisco** on April 12, 2018 launched the '**Blueprint for Digital Education**' to skill students in technologies like Big Data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cyber Security.
- President Ram Nath Kovind and his Zambian counterpart Edgar Chagwa Lungu on April 12, 2018 **laid the foundation stone of Lusaka traffic Decongestion Project in Zambia.**
- **NBCC (India) Ltd., the Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in April, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Skill Development Institute (SDI) Bhubaneswar, for the construction of the institute.**
- As part of the drive to double income of farmers by 2022, **the government has raised the authorised capital of Nabard by six times to Rs 30,000 crore to help it increase its lending to the rural economy.**
- In a bid to ensure timely grievance redressal for consumers, the **National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) launched the "Anti Profiteering" online community** in association with a citizen-engagement platform, LocalCircles.
- A loan agreement worth **USD 48 million for the "Meghalaya Community - Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)"** was signed in April between **India** and the **World Bank.**
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned project to provide **solar powered irrigation pump sets under Saur Sujala Scheme in Chhattisgarh's un-electrified villages.** These villages are situated mostly in the Naxal-hit zones of Bastar district.
- As per the World Bank's South Asia Economic Focus Spring 2018 report, **Indian economy has recovered from the impact of demonetisation and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax regime** and is projected to grow by 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.5 percent in 2019.
- **PhonePe**, India's fastest growing digital payments company in April announced a partnership with **MMTC-PAMP** to provide 24K Gold of 99.99% purity on the PhonePe app. **With this partnership, PhonePe is now the first digital payments app to offer a sophisticated gold marketplace to its users.** PhonePe customers can buy 24K Gold from the provider of their choice at transparent and competitive live prices.
- **New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian** in April announced a **two-year USD 1.58 million partnership with India** to enhance the country's startup, technology, and advanced manufacturing sectors.
- The Union Government **plans to set up a Gas Trading Hub / Exchange (GTHE) by October 2018**, thus creating an Indian gas benchmark that will spark an increase in the consumption of the cleaner-burning fuel.

- Online fashion retailer **Myntra** in April said it has **acquired Bengaluru-based Witworks**, as the Flipkart-owned firm looks to launch smart wearable products for its in-house brands.
- The **Indian Army** renewed its MOU with **Axis Bank**, to offer '**Power Salute**', a salary account, exclusively designed for the Army personnel.
- The Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the '**FIEO GlobalLinker**', a digital platform for MSME exporters to digitise their businesses and join a global community of growing businesses.
- Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on April 15, 2018 announced that India will coordinate with China and other Asian countries to raise voice against the "**Asian premium**" being charged by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- The US Department of Treasury has added **India in the monitoring list of its major trading partners** that value close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies.
- **The Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)** and the **Groupement des Industries Françaises Aeronautiques et Spatiales (GIFAS)** signed a memorandum of understanding on the sidelines of a **major industrial mission in India in the field of aerospace and defence organised by GIFAS with the support of SIDM from the April 16 to 19, 2018.**
- **India and the US** in April decided to **set up a joint task force on natural gas with a view to promote strategic and economic interest of the two nations.**
- **India and Sweden signed the Joint Declaration on India-Sweden Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future.** The MoU was signed between the Union Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation of Sweden.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the **Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs of Denmark** for cooperation in the field of sustainable and smart urban development.
- **India and Iceland** signed a MoU on the establishment of the **ICCR Chair for Hindi Language.** The MoU was signed between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the University of Iceland.
- Both **India and the United Kingdom (UK)** in April agreed to forge a **dynamic new India-UK Trade Partnership, to develop new trading arrangements.**
- **Bandhan Bank**, the private sector lender, **has entered the list of the top-50 most valuable companies in terms of market capitalization (m-cap)** following a sharp surge in its stock price post listing.
- The TRA Brand Trust Report 2018, launched on April 18, 2018, stated that the **State Bank of India is the most trusted bank in the country and ICICI Bank topped the chart among the private ones.**
- RBI Deputy Governor N.S. Vishwanathan on April 18, 2018 announced that **the RBI norms on resolution of banks' Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) are outcome-oriented and provide banks the flexibility on deciding the contours of resolution.**
- The government in April announced this **fiscal's first tranche of sovereign gold bond (SGB) and its subscription opened on April 16.**
- **India has 190 million adults without a bank account despite the success of the ambitious Jan Dhan Yojana**, making it the world's second largest unbanked population after that of China, the World Bank said in April.
- **India has been declared the sixth largest economy in the world with a GDP of 2.6 trillion in 2017, as per the recently released report by Indian Monetary Fund (IMF).** India displaced France to stand firm on this position, while the United States of America, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom are ahead in the race.
- **As per the London-based OpenSignal, Reliance Jio topped the charts of 4G availability and was able to provide an LTE signal more than 95 per cent** of the time to testers in every single region in India.
- **Taipei World Trade Centre (TWTC)** launched its office at New Delhi with the objective of promoting trade between India and Taiwan.
- **The World Bank on April 19, 2018 released the Global Findex Report 2017** stating that though Financial Inclusion is on the rise globally, gaps still remain there across the countries. Men still are ahead of women to have an account in a bank. Despite having a relatively high account ownership, India claims a large share of the global unbanked population, after China. **Over 190 million Indian adults still do not have a bank account.**
- State-run lender **Punjab National Bank** is expected to recover around Rs 1,800 crore from its non-performing assets (NPAs) recovery mechanism -- "**Mission Gandhigiri**" -- which will soon complete one year of operation.

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**, one of the leading public sector banks, in April entered into an agreement for information utility services with the **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**.
- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** in April said it has introduced a '**digital form**' which will help open current accounts in a few hours.
- The Reserve Bank of India on April 22, 2018 revised its "**Know Your Customer**" or the KYC guidelines, following the government's decision to update the '**Prevention of Money Laundering**' rules in **June 2017**. **RBI made linking of national biometric ID Aadhaar to bank accounts mandatory**. However, this will be subject to the final decision of the Supreme Court on making of Aadhaar mandatory.
- India's largest IT outsourcing company **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** on **April 23, 2018** created history by becoming **the first Indian company to reach the USD 100 billion Market Capitalisation (m-cap) mark**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind on April 22, 2018 promulgated the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance**, which will allow the government to confiscate properties and assets of loan defaulters who flee the nation.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on April 21, 2018 **approved the restructured centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**. The scheme will be implemented during the period from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2022 at the total cost of Rs 7255.50 crore.
- Suresh Prabhu, the commerce and industry minister, held the **first ecommerce think tank meeting**. The minister chaired the meeting which aimed at framing a national policy on ecommerce.
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has agreed in principle to give an **aid of Rs 1,700 crore to Uttarakhand** for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
- The Union Government along with the state government of **Madhya Pradesh** on April 24, 2018 **signed a \$210 million loan agreement with the World Bank for the Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project**.
- Online marketplace for food delivery **Foodpanda** in April announced its partnership with **PhonePe** to enable seamless digital payments for all its users.
- The bilateral trade between **India** and **Poland** has crossed \$ 3 billion in 2017 and the European country is exploring various sectors to improve the trade balance.
- According to a recent report, **Xiaomi** continued to lead the Indian smartphone market with 31.1 per cent market share while **Reliance Jio** topped the feature phone market with a massive 35.8 per cent share in the first quarter of 2018.
- As per **World Bank's Migration and Development Brief**, **India received the highest remittances of USD 69 billion** from its diaspora in 2017. The report was released on April 23, 2018.
- **The Union Government and World Bank signed a \$125 million agreement** on April 24, 2018 for the '**Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project**' to support India in developing an innovative biopharmaceutical and medical devices industry, which is globally competitive.
- In a relief to small service providers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April **lifted credit caps with immediate effect for all service sector Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) borrowers** qualifying under the priority sector lending norms. In February, the Central bank had made a similar relaxation for MSMEs engaged in manufacturing activities.
- **India** and **Mongolia** on April 25, 2018 agreed to explore ways to identify new areas of cooperation in all sectors of mutual interest and to enhance bilateral trade and investments.
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the NITI Aayog will be launching the **Atal New India Challenge on April 26, 2018**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in April has approved **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Bamboo Mission (NBM) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** during remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20). The Mission would ensure holistic development of the bamboo sector by addressing complete value chain and establishing effective linkage of producers (farmers) with industry. **An outlay of Rs.1290 crore (with Rs. 950 crore as Central share) is provisioned** for implementation of the Mission during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission (2018-19 and 2019-20).
- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi launched the **Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED on April 14, 2018**, during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur, Chattisgarh. Under Van Dhan, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers would be constituted.

- **Axis Bank in April said its board has approved a proposal to increase its borrowing limit up to Rs 2 lakh crore.**
- **HDFC Bank launched IRA 2.0, its interactive humanoid at the Koramangala Branch in Bengaluru in April.** The interactive humanoid in its advance version is aimed to enhance user experience for customers visiting in this branch and will interact with them, answer bank-related queries, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and also guide them inside the branch with voice-based navigation.
- **Vistara has become the third Indian carrier to be a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA),** the trade association of more than 280 airlines.
- The State government has decided to develop the eco-system required for the usage of Blockchain technology in Hyderabad. As a prelude to this, **an International Blockchain Congress will be held in Hyderabad.**
- Government has collected **Rs 7 lakh 41 thousand crore from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) during 2017-18.** The tax system was rolled from July 1, 2017.
- One97 Communications Limited, the owner of digital payment major, **Paytm, announced the launch of its offline payments solution - the Paytm Tap Card,** in line with the company's vision to provide seamless payments solutions for non-internet customers. For Paytm Tap Card, the Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led company has collaborated with Chennai-based NFC technology company **YELDI Softcom.**
- In a bid to facilitate cheaper access of overseas funds **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April further liberalised External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Policy** by including more sectors in the window. "It has been decided to increase the ECB Liability to Equity Ratio for ECB raised from direct foreign equity holder under the automatic route to 7:1. This ratio will not be applicable if total of all ECBs raised by an entity is up to USD 5 million or equivalent," RBI said in a late night notification.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it is **withdrawing a restriction that limited foreign investors to only investing in government and corporate bonds** with tenures of three years or more, a move that could bolster the domestic bond market.
- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has signed its Annual Performance Contract (APC) for the year 2018-19 with **Ministry of Civil Aviation.**
- **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** on April 27, 2018 approved **Capital Acquisition Proposals of the services valued at over Rs 3687 crore.**
- Online search engine **Google is the most trusted Internet brand in India, followed by Facebook, a report said in April.**
- The Government kicks off a **Pilot Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW on competitive basis for 3 (three) years under medium term** i.e. from generators with commissioned projects but without Power Purchase Agreement. The Ministry of Power had recently issued the model bid documents, model PAPP and PPSA on 6th April, 2018. The Guidelines for the said scheme were issued on 10th April, 2018.
- The **Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED)** in April signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** for **setting up a five lakh litre per day capacity modernised dairy plant.**
- **India and Nepal in last week of April 2018 agreed to review their bilateral trade treaty by July 2018.** The decision was taken during a meeting of India-Nepal Inter-Government Committee (IGC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade in Kathmandu.

## Non-financial

- **Chittaranjan Locomotive Works became the largest electric loco producer in the world under single roof.**
- **Mumbai Police** announced on Twitter that **they are first in the country to have eight women officers as police station in-charge.**

- **Surat becomes the first district in the country to have 100 per cent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC).** All 52 PHCs in the district are now powered by a solar system.
- After the **GSAT-6A satellite** launch on March 29, ISRO had been a little quiet on further information about its progress. It confirmed in April, 2018 that it **had lost contact with the satellite and were doing their best to fix the communication channels.**
- The warning and the information is from a unique three-minute broadcast on an FM radio channel that the Jharkhand forest department started to check growing man-elephant conflicts in the state. This special elephant bulletin — called **Hamar Haathi, Hamar Saathi** or My Elephant, My Friend, was aired at 4.30pm in April, 2018.
- Tata Global Beverages in April, 2018 announced **the appointment of Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone as its brand ambassador for Tetley Green Tea.**
- **Kerala** defeated defending Champions Bengal 4-2 on penalties after the full-time scoreline read 2-2 to **win the 72nd Hero Santosh Trophy at the Vivekananda Yuvabharati Krirangan** in the city in April, 2018.
- Organised for the first time in the 14000 ft high Chansal Pass of Shimla district, **Indian Army men won the three-day International Snow world championship** ended in April, 2018.
- **'Dev Saab- A journey with the legend Dev Anand'**, devoted to friendship with the legendary actor Dev Anand, was launched here in April, 2018. The book launch by Suneil Anand, son of Dev Anand, and author Vijay Kumar saw a pouring in of crowds coming to pay tribute to the legend.
- **Odisha Day or Utkal Diwas celebrated in Odisha on 1 April 2018.**
- In order to combat the rising levels of air pollution, the Delhi-NCR region on April 1, 2018 began supplying ultra-clean **Bharat Stage VI grade fuel**, both petrol and diesel. With this, **Delhi became the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI.** BS-VI fuel is equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norms.
- The state government of **West Bengal** on March 28, 2018 introduced a new scheme called '**Rupashree**' in order **to provide marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families with a budgetary allocation of Rs 1500 crore.**
- The 114th meeting of the **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)** between **India** and **Pakistan** was held in New Delhi.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on April 1, 2018 suspended the implementation of the new "**good conduct certificate**" for foreign job seekers.
- A supersonic parachute that will help NASA missions to land on Mars, was successfully launched into the sky during a key test designed to mimic the conditions of entering the red planet. The **Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE)** was launched aboard a sounding rocket on March 31 from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in the US.
- Indian women's cricket team captain **Mithali Raj** was named '**Sportsperson of the Year**' at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017 in Hyderabad on March 31, 2018.
- American **John Isner** triumphed over Germany's Alexander Zverev in the **Miami Open title showdown** to finally put an end to his ATP Masters final agony.
- Former Indian skipper **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and star cueist **Pankaj Advani** in April, 2018 received **the coveted Padma Bhushan award from President Ram Nath Kovind** at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the national capital.
- **Debjani Ghosh**, former Managing Director of Intel South Asia, was on April 2, 2018 **appointed as the President of NASSCOM.**
- **Costa Rica's** ruling-party presidential candidate **Carlos Alvarado Quesada is all set to be the country's next leader**, according to preliminary poll results posted by electoral officials.
- Czech carmaker **Skoda** in April, 2018 said **Gurpratap Boparai** has taken charge as **the managing director of its Indian arm—Skoda Auto India Private Ltd. (SAIPL).**
- The **World Autism Awareness Day** was observed across the world **on April 2, 2018.** The theme of World Autism Awareness Day 2018 was '**Empowering Women and Girls with Autism**'.
- **Winnie Mandela**, the ex-wife of South African anti-apartheid fighter and former president Nelson Mandela, died in April, 2018 at the age of 81, her spokesman said.
- **Steven Bochco**, a writer and producer known for creating the groundbreaking police drama Hill Street Blues, died on April 1, 2018. He was 74.
- Former military dictator **Efraim Rios Montt**, who ruled Guatemala between 1982 and 1983 and was accused of genocide, passed away on April 1, 2018. He was 91.



- The state government of **Haryana** has decided to **double the monthly allowance for chowkidars (watchmen), from Rs 3,500 to Rs 7,000**. The decision came into effect on April 1, 2018.
- Scientists at the civil engineering department of **IIT-Kharagpur** have developed an award-winning **bio-toilet that recycles waste water for its reuse and generates electricity**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** chief minister Jai Ram Thakur **launched a free bike ambulance service 108 in Shimla town** in April, 2018. He flagged-off bike ambulances, thereby making **the state the first in the region to launch this service**.
- **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, has been ranked best institution in country** by HRD Ministry's national ranking framework.
- **Qutub Minar** on April 2, 2018 was lit up with blue lights on **World Autism Awareness Day** as part of the international '#LightItUpBlue' campaign to increase sensitisation and acceptance of autism in the society.
- Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** was in April, 2018 once again **appointed as the Leader of the Rajya Sabha** following his re-election to the House.
- Former American diplomat **Rosemary DiCarlo** was on March 29, 2018 **appointed as the Head of UN Political Affairs**, one of the most high-profile positions of the United Nations (UN).
- **YES BANK**, India's fourth largest private sector bank announced the **appointment of Raj Ahuja as Chief Financial Officer of the Bank and Group CFO**.
- Chocolate and confectionery firm **Hershey India** has appointed **Herjit S Bhalla as its new Managing Director**.
- **Rubique**, in April, 2018 announced the appointment of former Yes Bank, senior president and chief financial inclusion officer, **Ajay Desai as its chief operating officer (COO)**.
- **SBI Life Insurance Company Limited** in April, 2018 appointed **Sanjeev Nautiyal** as its new MD and CEO.
- E-commerce major **Myntra** in April, 2018 announced the appointment of **Mithun Sundar** as its **Chief Revenue Officer (CRO), effective June**.
- **India and Bangladesh** have started **the first container train service between Kolkata and Dhaka**, reports HCI Dhaka.
- **China** has increased **tariffs by up to 25 percent on 128 US products**, ranging from frozen pork and wine to certain fruits and nuts in response to US duties on imports of Aluminium and Steel.
- The **Egyptian parliament** has preliminarily approved a new law to establish a supreme council for combating terrorism.
- **Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope** has discovered the farthest individual star ever seen - an enormous blue stellar body nicknamed **Icarus** located over halfway across the universe.
- **International Children's Book Day observed on 2 April, 2018**.
- **Delhi** to become **the first state to issue licences with the mother's name**.
- **India and Azerbaijan** in April, 2018 agreed for a global and concerted action to combat terrorism, stating that both sides had zero tolerance on the issue.
- **India and Russia** have reviewed ongoing military technical cooperation projects , including measures to promote joint industrial activities under the 'Make in India' programme with respect to defence production.
- **India, Japan and the United States** on April 4, 2018 participated in the ninth trilateral meeting in New Delhi.
- **Reliance Wealth Management Ltd.**, a subsidiary of Reliance Capital Ltd., in April, 2018 **announced appointment of Nitin Rao as its new Chief Executive Officer**.
- **India ranked third in the list of countries where the highest number of cyber threats were detected**, and second in terms of targeted attacks in 2017, according to security software firm **Symantec**.
- The United States on April 3, 2018 announced **additional tariffs of 25 percent on 1300 products imported from China** that could amount to USD 50 billion.
- The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan along with Russian President Vladimir Putin on April 3, 2018 launched the construction of **Turkey's first-ever nuclear power plant in Mersin region**, a large port city on the Mediterranean coast of southern Turkey.
- **Indonesia** on April 3, 2018 **declared a state of emergency around a port on Borneo island** after a large oil spill and fire killed four people.
- Japanese electronics company Epson's India faction announced the elevation of **Samba Moorthy**, the current Vice President of Sales and Marketing, as the **President of Epson India**.
- **Julius Maada Bio** took oath as the **President of Sierra Leone** in the capital Freetown on April 5, 2018.

- Broadcasting giants **Star India** in April, 2018 **bagged the media rights of Indian cricket team's bilateral home series as well as domestic cricket** for a record Global Consolidated Rights (GCR) bid of Rs **6138.1 crore (USD 944 million approx)** for a period of next five years, till **2023**.
- **P Gururaja** opened the country's account on the first competition day by **claiming a silver** in the **men's 56kg category at Gold Coast, Australia**.
- Weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** has **bagged India's first gold medal of the 21st Commonwealth Games with a Games' record lift of 196kg**.
- Australian track star **Sally Pearson** pulled out of the Commonwealth Games on April 5, after failing to recover from an Achilles problem, dealing a heavy blow to the event.
- US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation **to send the National Guard to the country's border with Mexico**.
- The Indian Air Force is scheduled to hold war game exercise '**Gagan Shakti**' from April 8th to better train its fighters for crisis situations. According to reports, the exercise is meant to practise and strategise rapid force deployment from one valley to another in the high mountainous region along the China border.
- The Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy exercise '**SAHYOG- HYEOLYEOG 2018**' was conducted on April 5, 2018 off the Chennai coast.
- The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on April 4, 2018 **instituted a committee to regulate online portals including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators**.
- **Santosh Kumar Mohanty** was in April, 2018 appointed a **whole-time member of market regulator SEBI**.
- Weightlifter **Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu** on April 6, 2018 clinched second **Gold Medal for India by winning in the 53 kg Women weightlifting category at the 21st Commonwealth Games** at the Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre in Gold Coast, Australia.
- **The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace was observed across the world on April 6, 2018** with an aim to recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect.
- Oscar-nominated Japanese animation director **Isao Takahata** passed away on April 5, 2018. He was 82.
- In a bid to use technology for farmers' benefit, Tamil Nadu government has come out with a bi-lingual mobile application "**Uzhavan**" (meaning Farmer) that will allow ryots to have access to nine types of services including details about their crop insurance.
- The Union government in April, 2018 **banned imports of the hormone oxytocin to stop its misuse in the livestock industry**, where activists say it causes hormonal imbalances and shortens the lives of milch animals.
- **IHHC**, India's premier home healthcare service provider **became the first home health care company to set up a dedicated ICU simulation lab** at their Bengaluru facility to train nursing staff.
- **Patna tops in 4G connectivity among 20 of India's largest cities**. It has emerged ahead of the likes of Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi, said a report from OpenSignal, a wireless coverage mapping company.
- **Chhattisgarh** in April, 2018 **bagged the 'State of the Year' Award under the business leader' category as part of the India Business Leadership** for the remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors.
- **Rakesh Kumar Vats**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been given the **additional charge of chairman of drug price regulator NPPA with immediate effect**, an official statement said.
- India has added another Gold to its medal tally in the ongoing 21st Commonwealth Games as weightlifter **Sathish Sivalingam won the coveted Gold medal by winning the men's 77kg weightlifting event at the 21st Commonwealth Games**.
- **Venkat Rahul Ragala** became the **fourth Indian weightlifter to claim a gold medal at the ongoing Commonwealth Games**.
- **World Health Day** was observed across **the world on April 7, 2018**. The day also marks the 70th anniversary of World Health Organisation. The theme of World Health Day is '**Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere**' and the slogan is '**Health for All**'.
- **Niranjan Thomas Alva**, a Supreme Court lawyer and husband of Congress leader Margaret Alva, passed away here in April, 2018 after brief illness, a family member said.
- National award winning Assamese film-maker **Munin Barua** passed away in April, 2018 following a prolonged illness, family sources said.

- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb launched the state component of **Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) in Agartala** on April 7, 2018.
- The state government of **Goa** has decided to launch its own app-based taxi service to few key tourist destinations of the state.
- The state government of **Maharashtra** has announced that cancer patients would be provided with **free chemotherapy treatment at district hospitals**. The first phase of the plan would start in June 2018.
- **Indian men**, in April, 2018, replicated the achievement of the women's table tennis team yesterday as they **won the gold medal by defeating Nigeria 3-0 in the final at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Gold Coast**.
- Indian tennis' ageless wonder **Leander Paes in April, 2018 became the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup** as he combined with Rohan Bopanna to not only grab a record 43rd win but also bring the country back in the tie against China
- **Manika Batra** inspired India to a historic gold medal with her stunning singles victories, fashioning **an unthinkable 3-1 victory over four-time gold medallists Singapore in the final of the women's team event at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast**.
- The gold rush continued in weightlifting for India as **Punam Yadav added a fifth to the tally with a top finish in the 69kg category of the 21st Commonwealth Games** .
- Indian shooting ace **Jitu Rai** claimed **the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event by creating a new games record** while compatriot **Om Prakash Mitharval bagged a bronze at the 21st Commonwealth Games in April, 2018**.
- **China** has banned the export to **North Korea** of some items with potential dual-use in weapons of mass destruction.
- Hungary's right-wing **Prime Minister Viktor Orban** on April 8, 2018 claimed a landslide victory in the nation's general election.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 10, 2018 launched **India's first 12,000 horsepower electric locomotive from Madhepura locomotive factory of Bihar**. This all-electric high-speed locomotive was made with the help of French company Alstom under 'Make In India' Project at Madhepura Rail Loco factory of Bihar.
- The **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB)** has reportedly **created a land bank with the aim of giving a major boost to tourism in the state**.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** on April 9, 2018 launched '**Project Dhoop**', which is an initiative aimed at shifting the school assembly time to noon to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
- The state government of **Haryana** has **launched water ATM policy to provide clean drinking water at public places to the people of the state**.
- The historic event of **8th Theatre Olympics** concluded on April 9, 2018 in Mumbai after a glorious run of 51 days across 17 cities of India. **Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Chief Minister, was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony**. **Nana Patekar** were Guests of Honour at the closing ceremony of the event.
- A two-day scientific convention was inaugurated in New Delhi on April 10, 2018, on the occasion of the **World Homeopathy Day**.
- The Day 6 of Commonwealth Games 2018 started with a high for India with Indian ace shooter **Heena clinching the gold medal in women's 25m pistol event**.
- India's teen shooter **Manu Bhaker grabbed the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol gold medal** by shattering the games record at the 21st Commonwealth Games on April 8, 2018. Senior Indian shooter and former world no. 1, Heena Sidhu bagged silver at the event.
- Global software major Wipro's Chief Strategy Officer **Rishad Premji has been appointed the new Nasscom Chairman for 2018-19**, said the Indian IT industry's apex body in April, 2018.
- **M Mahender Reddy**, who has so far been in-charge Director-General of Police, was in April, 2018 **appointed as full-time DGP of the state**.
- British multinational banking and financial services company **Standard Chartered Bank announced the appointment of Sachin Gupte as its new Head of Human Resources (HR) in India**.
- The **Delhi airport jumped from the 22nd rank in 2016 to the 16th rank**, as passenger traffic grew by 14.1 per cent to 63.45 million solidifying its status as one of the fastest growing airports in the world for passenger traffic, as per **the Airports Council International (ACI)**.
- The first group of China's **Yaogan-31** remote sensing satellites was launched into space on April 10, 2018.

- Around 1200 year-old **Buddhist cliff carvings** have been found in **Tibet** that may offer a glimpse into Buddhist art and local history.
- The **Governor of Oregon state**, Kate Brown said on April 9, 2018 that she has signed **the Net Neutrality bill**, which bans Internet operators from offering paid prioritisation services to customers, into law.
- **World Homeopathy Day** was observed on 10 April 2018.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 10, 2018 addressed the **National Convention of Swachhagrahis at Motihari, Bihar**. The meeting was organized as a part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha.
- **The Supreme Court ruled on April 11, 2018 that the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the 'first among equals'** and has the constitutional authority to decide allocation of cases and setting up of benches to hear them.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch first privately built satellite **IRNSS-1L, the backup navigation satellite with a new atomic clock**
- The **10th edition of a DefExpo India- 2018**, a biennial exhibition of weapons and military hardware, began at Tiruvudanthal, Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu on April 11, 2018. The tag line of DefExpo this year is **"India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub"** to showcase India's capability in export of defence systems and components.
- The **16th International Energy Forum (IEF)** ministerial meeting began in New Delhi, India on April 10, 2018. It would conclude on April 12.
- **Inspector General Vijay Chafekar** was on April 11, 2018 appointed **as the new Flag Officer of Indian Coast Guard (West Region)**.
- **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** was **re-appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Bandhan Bank** for a period of three years with effect from July 10, 2018.
- **Jet Airways** in April, 2018 **appointed former Civil Aviation Secretary Ashok Chawla as an independent director on its board**.
- The Day 7 of Commonwealth Games 2018 started with Indian shooter **Om Prakash Mitharwal bagging the Bronze in the finals of the men's 50m Pistol event**. This was followed by an exemplary performance by Indian shooter Shreyasi Singh, who shot her career-best score to clinch the gold medal in the women's double trap final.
- **The first international conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership'** was inaugurated in Kathmandu, Nepal on April 10, 2018.
- **Diu has become one of the first states in India to run entirely on solar energy**. The island is the tenth least populated district of India with 50 acre of barren land which can be easily used to convert natural resources into energy.
- **India and Morocco** on April 11, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation in the field of mining and geology for a period of 5 years.
- **India and Timor Leste** on April 11, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of public health to extend affordable healthcare to the people of the Southeast Asian nation.
- The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development on April 11, 2018 constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Gujarat Education Minister **Bhupendrasinh Chudasama** to **eliminate the fear of maths among the students**.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on April 12, 2018 launched the navigation satellite **IRNSS-1I**.
- **Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth became World number 1 in men's singles category after Badminton World Federation** updated its weekly rankings on April 12, 2018.
- The Maharashtra state government on April 11, 2018 **announced cash prizes for all the players from the state who have bagged medals in the ongoing Commonwealth Games Gold Coast**.
- Indian wrestling legend **Sushil Kumar**, who won the Commonwealth Championships last December, displayed his top form as he took on South Africa's Botha Johannes in the men's freestyle 74 kg finals.
- **Babita Kumari**, who entered the gold medal round of women's 53kg freestyle wrestling on a high note, had to settle for silver after she lost to Canada's Diana Weicker.
- Indian shooter **Tejaswini Sawant** grabbed the silver medal in the women's 50m Rifle Prone final on April 11.
- India's skating champion **Priyam Tated** has won Gold medal in the **Basic Novice B Category (13-15 years) in Cambodia Open National Figure Skating Championship** which was held in Phnom Penh from 4 to 7 April 2018.
- Former bureaucrat **Bhanu Pratap Sharma** has been **appointed chairman of the Banks' Board Bureau**. He succeeded Vinod Rai.

- **India was ranked at 130th spot** in the latest **annual Index of Economic Freedom**, which was released by a top American think-tank the Heritage Foundation. **Hong Kong** topped the list.
- **The Cabinet of United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has approved the issuance of **law on Equal Wages and Salaries for men and women**.
- **New Zealand** Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on April 12, 2018 announced a **ban on all new offshore oil exploration, as a transition towards a zero-carbon economy**.
- The **World Bank** has approved **\$55 million** to expand the use of clean renewable energy in rural areas of **Bangladesh** where grid electricity cannot reach easily.
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on April 11, 2018 permitted the **marketing of the first medical device to use Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to detect greater than a mild level of the eye disease diabetic retinopathy in diabetic adults.
- **Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March will be the theme of Sabarmati Station in Ahmedabad** which will be the terminating station of the proposed **high-speed rail corridor between Mumbai-Ahmedabad**, a senior official said in April, 2018.
- **Rajnath Singh**, the Union Home Minister, on April 13, 2018 launched the **e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office (e-FRRO) Scheme**, a web-based application.
- The state cabinet of **Haryana** on April 12, 2018 approved the **Slum-In-Situ Rehabilitation Policy** to provide housing facility to the slum dwellers in the state without making them relocate to other areas. The cabinet was chaired by the state's Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- The Union Government on April 12, 2018 announced to constitute a **Task Force under the Chairmanship of Jayant Sinha**, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, **for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology**.
- Consumer goods major **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** announced that its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD), Sanjiv **Mehra**, will take **over as the Chairman and MD of the company**.
- A new **United Nations trust fund on road safety** launched Thursday, in a bid to address the growing number of road traffic injuries and deaths in developing countries.
- **Veena Sahajwalla**, an Indian-origin scientist in Australia, **launched the world's first microfactory** that can transform electronic waste items such as smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use.
- National Awards 2018 announced. **Sridevi** won the best actress award and **Riddhi Sen** won the best actor award. **Vinod Khanna was conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Award**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April, 2018 inaugurated **the first Health and Wellness Centre in Chhattisgarh's restive Bijapur district** to mark the launch of first phase of national **Ayushman Bharat Yojana**.
- **The second edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) is scheduled to be held from October 25-27, 2018 in New Delhi**. The decision was taken after the successful debut of the first edition in 2017.
- The **United States along with Britain and France** launched a combined military operation against **Syria** on April 14, 2018. The military operation is in response to an alleged chemical attack in Douma, a Syrian town near Damascus.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is set to launch its **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) to detect planets outside the solar system**.
- Taxi aggregator **Ola** in April announced its "**Mission: Electric**", with a commitment to place 10,000 e-rickshaws and electric auto-rickshaws in its service in the next 12 months.
- The biannual **Army Commanders' Conference** will begin in New Delhi on April 16, 2018.
- Mining mogul Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Resources plc in April announced the appointment of **Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan as the new chief executive of the company, replacing interim CEO Kuldip Kaura**.
- Leading online travel company, **Yatra.com**, in April announced the appointment of **Mudit Shekhawat as its Chief Marketing Officer**.
- Queen Elizabeth has **appointed Prince Harry as a youth ambassador for the Commonwealth**, a role that will see him encouraging young people to use the network of mostly former British colonies to address their challenges.
- Veteran Bollywood actor **Dharmendra will be conferred with the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement** award and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will be conferred with the **Raj Kapoor Special Contribution** award.
- **China** has stepped up its campaign against foreign espionage with a website in Mandarin and English encouraging people to report national security threats such as bids to overthrow the socialist system.

- A team of Chinese scientists led by Zhu Jia have developed a **new 3D conic device that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency**.
- After a period of over two years, Indian tennis player **Yuki Bhambri** featured among the top 100 ranks in the ATP men's singles chart in April.
- The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has **designated 14 sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)**. These sites will be officially unveiled by the FAO on April 19, 2018.
- **India** on April 16, 2018 **won the elections conducted by UN's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations** in the Asia Pacific States category.
- British Prime Minister Theresa May on April 16, 2018 **opened the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) in London**, marking the start of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved use of '**Acuvue Oasys Contact Lenses**' with Transitions Light Intelligent Technology, world's first contact lens that automatically darkens when exposed to bright light.
- **Pakistan** successfully test fired **Babur Weapon System-1 (B)**, an enhanced version of indigenously-built Babur cruise missile.
- **The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)** was on April 16, 2018 **inducted to the Ayush Ministry's empowered committee** with an objective to control misleading advertisements and exaggerated claims of its drugs.
- **Toshiba Software India Pvt. Ltd. (TSIP)**, a 100 percent subsidiary of Toshiba Corporation in April announced **the appointment of Takashi Ishikawa as its new Managing Director**.
- Director General of the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**, **Dilip Chenoy**, will take over as **the Secretary General** of the industry body.
- The winners of the 2018 Pulitzer Prizes were announced on April 16, 2018 at Columbia University in New York City. This year, the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in the Public Service was shared by '**The New York Times**' for reporting led by **Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey**; and '**The New Yorker**' for reporting by Ronan Farrow.
- **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** has **manufactured the first rake of paintless (exterior) Antyodaya coaches**. The rake comprising 24 coaches, which was handed over to the Southern Railway recently, is operated as a special train between Tambaram and Tirunelveli.
- **The first meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan**, which met here in April, **confirmed inclusion of 235 additional districts in Phase II of the ambitious programme in financial year 2018-19**.
- **In the first of its kind pro-power consumer policy in the country, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in April approved the power department's policy for compensating consumers** for unscheduled power cuts by the private power distribution companies in Delhi.
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on April 17, 2018 released the draft of the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**. The ministry has put up the draft on its website and invited comments from various stakeholders by May 17, 2018.
- The United States has notified **Pakistan** that the diplomats at their embassy in Washington and at consulates in other cities would not be able to travel beyond 40 kilometres of their offices without permission from May 1, 2018.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on April 17, 2018 successfully launched **Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph (CHESS 4)** from the Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- **International Day for Monuments and Sites or World Heritage Day** observed on **18 April** with the theme "**Heritage for Generations**".
- **World Haemophilia Day** observed on **17 April** with the theme '**Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger**'.
- Veteran filmmaker and animation pioneer **Bhimsain**, best known for his film 'Gharaonda' and animation short films like 'Ek Anek Ekta', has passed away.
- Former US first lady **Barbara Bush** died Tuesday at the age of 92, triggering an outpouring of praise for the matriarch of a Republican family once at the apex of American politics.
- **UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)** services in April announced an extension of **Super Priority Visa service (SPV) to Pune and Bengaluru**.
- **Assam** government's new cashless health scheme, '**Atal Amrit Abhiyan**' was launched by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on April 19, 2018.

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has introduced a new and updated 'QR code' that will have non-sensitive details such as the name, address, photo and date of birth.
- The Union Government on April 18, 2018 formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, **Defence Planning Committee (DPC)** to reform the process of higher defence planning. The permanent body would be chaired by **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval**.
- Cab aggregator **Uber** in April said it has entered into a partnership with **Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited for setting up kiosks at 24 stations across the city**.
- Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for Human Resource Development Satya Pal Singh jointly launched the Study in India programme of HRD Ministry by launching the '**Study in India**' portal.
- Researchers have developed an innovative smartphone app '**Smart Health**' to enable 'ASHA' community health workers track the growing burden of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes in the rural areas.
- **The Union Government on April 18, 2018 announced to provide smartphones**, instead of tablets, to Anganwadi workers to promote Poshan Abhiyaan nutrition scheme.
- On the occasion of World Haemophilia Day on April 17, 2018, **Gujarat launched 'Haemophilia Jagruti, a magazine to spread awareness about haemophilia**, a hereditary and genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to control blood clotting.
- As per the 2018 Commonwealth Innovation Index, **India fetched 10th position in the index topped by the United Kingdom, Singapore and Canada**.
- **Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani and human rights lawyer Indira Jaising have been named by Fortune magazine as the World's Greatest Leaders of 2018**.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on April 19, 2018 launched the **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)**, the first-of-its-kind mission to discover planets outside the solar system, including some that could support life.
- **China** on April 18, 2018 proposed the construction of the **India-Nepal-China Economic Corridor with multi-dimensional connectivity through the Himalayas**.
- The **United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** and leading technology company **Ant Financial Services Group** have signed an agreement to propel rural economic development and reduce poverty in China and elsewhere.
- **Sanjay Kumar Moitra** in April took over charge of **Director (Onshore) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**.
- The Union Government has asked states to **allow drivers to use private licence for driving taxis and light vehicles for commercial purposes**.
- The **Indian Olympic Association** has **decided to bid for the 2026 Youth Olympics as well as the 2030 Asian Games and the 2032 Summer Olympics**.
- **The Mumbai Football Arena**, the new hub of Indian football, will play host to the inaugural edition of the four-nation **Intercontinental Cup, which is slated to be held from June 1 to June 10, 2018**.
- Swaziland's King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch, on April 19, 2018 officially changed the name of his country to the '**Kingdom of eSwatini**'.
- **Syria** has returned to France the prestigious **Legion d'honneur presented to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad**.
- Nepal's government on April 19, 2018 honoured **two climbers who were the first to scale Mount Everest without supplementary oxygen 40 years ago**. Italian **Reinhold Messner** and Austrian **Peter Habeler** had reached the summit without the use of supplementary oxygen, while others on their team used bottled oxygen.
- Prince Charles will be the next head of the Commonwealth, succeeding, his mother Queen Elizabeth.
- **Miguel Diaz-Canel** was formally named as the new President of Cuba on April 19, 2018.
- The US Senate on April 20, 2018 confirmed the appointment of **Jim Bridenstine as the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**, the US space agency. The Senate voted 50-49 in favour of Bridenstine.
- Swedish musician **Tim Bergling**, popularly known as **Avicii**, has passed away at the age of 28.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated the criminal law amendment ordinance, paving the way for the stringent punishment**. The Union Cabinet's approval to the Ordinance followed public outcry over cases of sexual assault and murder of minors in Kathua and Surat.

- **Nagaland government in April launched an interactive mobile app through which farmers can seek solutions to their problems** and know about diseases of plants. Agriculture Minister G. Kaito Aye launched the '**NagaFarmDoctor**', an app for android phones.
- Domestic handset maker **LAVA in April launched its first all-women operated mobile handset service centre in India** where customers will be able to view and experience the repair of their mobile handsets in front of them.
- The TIME Magazine on April 19, 2018 released **the 100 Most Influential People List of 2018 designating individuals whose time is now**. The 2018 list features the names of four self-made Indians- Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone**, Indian cricket captain **Virat Kohli**, Ola co-founder **Bhavish Aggarwal** and Microsoft's CEO **Satya Nadella**.
- The **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)** concluded in **London, United Kingdom on April 20, 2018**. The theme of the summit was '**Towards a Common Future**'.
- **Civil Services Day** observed in India on 21 April 2018.
- The first official **World Creativity and Innovation Day** observed on 21 April 2018.
- International Mother Earth Day 2018 observed on 22 April with the theme "End Plastic Pollution".
- Bollywood actress **Kriti Sanon has been announced as the brand ambassador of Bata India**. It is after 21 years that the footwear brand has finalised a Bollywood face post it's association with Rani Mukerji.
- Tata Sons in April announced the appointment of former Indian foreign secretary **S Jaishankar as Tata Group's President, Global Corporate Affairs**.
- **Mario Abdo Benitez**, who represents Paraguay's long-dominant Colorado conservatives, won the 2018 Presidential Elections on April 22, 2018.
- **Canada and the European Union will together host the world's first female foreign ministers' meeting** on September 21, 2018 in Canada. The meeting will be held for 2 days.
- **The World Book and Copyright Day** was observed **across the world on April 23, 2017** to highlight the power of books and to promote UNESCO's vision of knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory for all citizens. **This year, UNESCO designated Athens, Greece as the World Book Capital for 2018**.
- **India won 10 gold medals at 8th South Asian Judo Championship in Lalitpur, Nepal**.
- On National Panchayati Raj Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Madhya Pradesh to launch **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at Ramnagar** and unveiled the road map for development of tribal areas.
- **The Madras High Court in April became the first court in south India and eighth in the country to introduce e-court fee payment facility**. Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Chief Justice Indira Banerjee jointly launched the facility at the principal seat of the High Court here as well as its Madurai Bench.
- With insurgency-related incidents in the northeast region down by 85% from the levels recorded at the peak of militancy two decades ago, the central government **has withdrawn the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) totally from Meghalaya**.
- State-owned **Steel Authority of India (SAIL)** and **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** in April entered into an **MoU to utilise SAILs Rourkela, Bokaro and Burnpur airstrips under the Udan air regional connectivity scheme**.
- Jailed Egyptian photographer **Mahmoud Abu Zeid**, popularly known as Shawkan, on April 23, 2018 won the **2018 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO)**.
- **World Day for Laboratory Animals** is observed on 24 April.
- **National Panchayati Raj Day** observed on 24 April.
- In order to boost defence cooperation, the Union Government has asked the armed forces to **compile a list of obsolete military equipment** that can be refurbished at minimal cost with an aim to gift them to friendly countries.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be tying up with the **United States and Finland** to develop new pollution-forecast system **to anticipate particulate matter (PM)** levels at least two days in advance and at greater resolution.
- Two-day coastal security exercise '**Sagar Kavach**' was held in Kerala to strengthen and evaluate the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism.
- **Anushka Sharma** named Standard Chartered Bank Retail Digital Banking brand ambassador.
- Bharti Infratel board has reappointed **Akhil Kumar Gupta** as Executive Chairman of the company for five years with effect from August 1, 2018.



- NASA will start work on its **Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway by early 2019** when it will award the first contract for the program.
- **The World Malaria Day** was observed across the world on **April 25, 2018** with the **theme 'Ready to beat malaria'**.
- Swedish-Swiss multinational giant **ABB** in April announced it has commissioned **India's first industrial solar microgrid at its Vadodara manufacturing facility in Gujarat.**
- Bihar government in April rolled out "**Graduation Approach to Sustainable Livelihood**" scheme which will provide alternative employment opportunities to families who have been affected by the implementation of total alcohol prohibition in the state.
- In a first in the country, **the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in April set up Virtual Bronchoscopy Navigation (VBN),** an advanced facility for diagnosis and treatment of patients with small tumour-like spots in lungs.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) granted **the first licence to M/s Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd for Liquid Chlorine on All India basis.**
- The third ship of the **Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV project** was inducted into the Indian Navy on April 25, 2018 at Port Blair.
- Indian and Malaysian armies will be conducting the joint training exercise '**HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018**' in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia from April 30, 2018 to May 13, 2018.
- The Union Human Resource Development Ministry on April 25, 2018 launched the second edition of **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** in New Delhi.
- In a first, senior advocate **Indu Malhotra is set to become the first woman lawyer to be appointed as Supreme Court Judge.**
- The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on April 25, 2018 released the World Press Freedom Index 2018, reflecting growing animosity towards journalists. **India's rank dropped down to 138th this year from 136th in 2017,** two points below the previous year. This year, **the index has been topped by Norway again** for the second year, followed by Sweden at second and the Netherlands at third.
- The **Maharashtra** government in April signed an MoU with the **British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.**
- The 23rd meeting of the **Western Zonal Council was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat** on April 26, 2018 under the chairmanship of the Union home minister Rajnath Singh.
- The state government of **Meghalaya** on April 26, 2018 **installed a software at Shillong district jail to integrate information about its inmates,** as a part of its initiative to modernise correctional homes in the state.
- IndiGo, the country's largest airline with a two-fifths domestic market share, announced in April that its president, **Aditya Ghosh,** is resigning from the position effective 31 July. The airline's promoter **Rahul Bhatia** will assume charge as interim CEO till the company finalises a new president and CEO.
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed **Christine Schraner Burgener, a Swiss diplomat with conflict resolution experience in Southeast Asia,** as his special envoy for Myanmar.
- Former CIA Director **Mike Pompeo was sworn in as America's 70th Secretary of State,** after the US Senate confirmed his nomination by 57-42 votes on April 26, 2018.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the appointment of **Aashish Kapoor as chairman of the All-India Junior Selection Committee.**
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was on April 26, 2018 awarded the **National Intellectual Property Award, 2018** for being the top research and development organisation for patents and commercialisation.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 28, 2018 highlighted the importance of maintaining peace along the India-China border** during the first-ever two-day informal summit between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping that began on April 27, 2018 at Hubei Provincial Museum in Wuhan, China.

- The four-day Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, jointly hosted by the Union Ministry of Environment and UNCCD Secretariat concluded on April 27, 2018.
- Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Smriti Zubin Irani addressed the **69th Valedictory session of Development Journalism Course** at Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi.
- The Environment Ministry has **banned plastics in all protected areas around the country and declared them plastic free zones.**
- **Uttarakhand High Court** declared the practice of solitary confinement as unconstitutional as per the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on April 27, 2018 signed a landmark peace agreement namely, '**Panmunjeom Declaration**' for the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula".
- The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** was observed globally on **April 28, 2018**. 2018 Theme: **Occupational safety health (OSH) vulnerability of young workers**
- Tech giant **Google** said in April it has collaborated with **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to allow students check their results on its platform.**
- In a major milestone, **indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has successfully fired an air-to-air beyond visual (BVR) range missile**, demonstrating its overall capability as an effective combat jet, and inched closer to receive final operational clearance.
- **Dalmia Bharat Group has become the first corporate house to adopt a historical monument in India.** The private entity has adopted the **Red Fort** under the central government's Adopt a Heritage Scheme.
- As part of **Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat Diwas was celebrated across the country on April 30, 2018.**
- Delhi's Lt Governor Anil Baijal in April **inaugurated the Centre for Sight Institute at Dwarka here which is said to be the country's largest state-of-the-art single specialty private eye hospital** designed to cater to North India.
- **In a first, India and Pakistan** will jointly take part in '**Peace Mission-2018**', a multi-nation counter-terror war game, under the aegis of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia in August 2018.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 29, 2018 announced that April 28 will be remembered as a historic day in the development journey of India as on this day, **every single village of India was electrified.**
- **The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Indian Yoga Association (IYA)** have signed MoU to facilitate interaction and cooperation between two organisations to promote wellness, **spiritual and cultural tourism in Krishna Circuit.**
- **Renowned Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra was on April 28, 2018 chosen for the 2017 Saraswati Samman** for his collection of verses (poetry) titled '**Vakhar**', published in 2009. The collection '**Vakhar**' engages with larger and more immediate human conditions.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** in April announced the **appointment of Prakash Apte as part-time chairman of the Bank** for a period up to December 31, 2020, subject to regulatory approvals.
- **Intex Technologies**, an Indian mobile and consumer electronics companies, **announced the appointment of Rajiv Bakshi as its Chief Marketing Officer (CMO).**
- Pakistani-origin **MP Sajid Javid was appointed Britain's new Home Secretary to replace Amber Rudd**, who resigned after admitting that she had "inadvertently misled" Parliament over the existence of deportation targets for immigrants.
- **International Jazz Day observed on 30 April**
- **International Dance Day observed on 29 April**
- **This year's World Immunization Week campaign, celebrated from April 24 to 30**, aims to highlight that protecting entire communities with vaccines protects everyone and so the theme of this year's campaign is "**Protected Together, #VaccinesWork**".
- The Office of United States (US) Trade Representative (USTR) placed **India on 'Priority Watch List' in its annual Special 301 Report** on the state of intellectual property protection.
- International Buddhist Conference was held in Lumbini, Nepal on April 29-30, 2018 to commemorate 2562nd Buddha Jayanti.
- World's oldest person, **Nabi Tajima** from Japan born in the 19th century, dies at 117 years.