

## Financial

- 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 NHAI** 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 Aril 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-Profitteering Authority (NAA) launched the "Anti Profitteering" online community** in association with a citizen-engagement platform, LocalCircles.

## Non-financial

- 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 Orbán** 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 Tiruvadanthal, 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**.

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