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WEEKLY CAPSULE
3rd WEEK OF APRIL
(15th – 21st April)

ECONOMY & BANKING

IMF's outlook on Indian Economy

- As per latest **World Economic Outlook**, released by International Monetary Fund (IMF), **Indian economy is projected to grow 7.4% in the current fiscal i.e. FY 2018-19 and accelerate further in FY 2019-20 to 7.8%**
- India's growth in current and next fiscal will come **on back of strong private consumption as well as fading transitory effects of demonetisation (in November 2016) and roll out of Goods and Services Tax (in July 2017).**
- **Consumer inflation is projected at 5%** for the current as well as next year while the **current account deficit is seen at 2.3%** of GDP this fiscal and 2.1% next fiscal.
- **Global growth is seen stable at 3.9% over the current and next calendar years.**

Note: IMF - Founded in – 1945, Headquarters – Washington D.C., US, Managing Director – Christine Lagarde

CII projects FY19 GDP growth at 7.3-7.7 percent

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) projected **India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at 7.3-7.7 percent during the 2018-19 financial year**
- The growth in 2018-19 will come **on back of strong demand in the rural economy, including agriculture and non-farm activities, as well as better global growth climate.**
- **Agriculture sector is expected to grow at 2.5-3.5 percent, industrial sector to grow at 7.2-7.5 percent and services sector to grow at 8.4-8.7 percent.**

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Note: **CII- Confederation of Indian Industry:** Formed in – 1895, Headquarters – New Delhi

India's social sector spending remains woefully below peers: RBI bulletin

- The study **titled 'Union Budget 2018-19: An Assessment'** has been published in the latest RBI monthly bulletin.
- The Report analysed 17 countries, including India, with respect to their social sector expenditure as per cent of GDP 2016.
- India's social sector spending remains woefully below peers, including Latvia and Iceland, in terms of GDP.
- As per The study ,the expenditure on **health and education** together is **budgeted to grow by 4.6 per cent as per the 2018-19 Budget.**
- India's social sector expenditure as per cent of GDP in 2016 was **7.5 per cent** whereas it was 29 per cent in Belgium, 15.2 per cent in Iceland, 14.5 in Latvia and 10.4 per cent in Korea, among other countries.

NABARD approves Rs 14,690 crore funding to Rajasthan

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has **extended total credit support of Rs 14690 crore to Rajasthan during 2017-18.**
- Rajasthan has been **one of the biggest beneficiaries under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD.**
- Funds sanctioned by NABARD were used for **10 irrigation projects, construction of 1614 roads and two rural drinking water supply projects in the state.**

Note: **NABARD:** Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra, Chairman – Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

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India slapped anti-dumping duty on import of phosphorus pentoxide from China for five years.

- The imposed anti-dumping duty of \$1,685.42 per metric tonne is **to protect the domestic manufacturers from cheap shipments,,**
- **Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties** found that the chemical was being exported to India below the normal value.

***Note:** Phosphorus Pentoxide is used as a powerful desiccant and dehydrating agent and is a useful building block and reagent in the chemical industry.*

Anti-dumping measures are taken to ensure fair trade and provide a level-playing field to the domestic industry. They are not a measure to restrict imports or cause an unjustified increase in cost of products.

RIInfra won Rs 1,081 crore contract for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project

from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) for work in two units of the Kudankulam project in Tamil Nadu

- It is for **Common Services System, Structure & Components (SSC) package and allied civil works of Unit -3 and 4 of the Kudankulam project at Tirunelveli District.**
- This project **will be commissioned in 56 months**

60% of India's GDP to come from AI, other digital services by 2021:Microsoft Study

As per Microsoft study- By the year 2021, around 60 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to be derived from digital products and services created through the use of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things and cloud computing, among others, It says ***digital transformation will add an estimated \$154 billion to our GDP by 2021.***

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CENTRAL GOVT EFFORTS: The central government has formed a **committee on AI to suggest a technical framework or platform for the emerging technology** chaired by **P P Chakraborty**, a professor at IIT, Kharagpur.

- Committee has representatives from Google, Microsoft, NVIDIA and TCS, from Nasscom, the apex association of the information technology (IT) sector, beside the National Informatics Centre and the ministry of electronics and IT.

Cashbacks launched on BHIM for users, merchants

- Merchants who accept payments through BHIM or other apps using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) entitled to a ***maximum cashback of Rs 1,000 per month, they will receive a cashback worth 10% of the value of each transaction, subject to a cap of Rs 50 per transaction.***

BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) is a mobile app developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), based on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

India's global trade rises 16% to \$767.9 billion in 2017-18

- As per data released by Commerce Ministry, India's global trade in 2017-18 stood at \$767.9 billion. This marks an **increase by 16.32 per cent** as compared to \$660.2 billion in 2016-17.
- Bilateral trade with **Latin American Countries (LAC) including Bolivia, Peru, Chile and Brazil** has recorded **healthy growth of 19.63 per cent in 2017-18.**
- Out of all the above stated LACs, *India-Bolivia bilateral trade grew phenomenally at 205 per cent* from \$253 million in 2016-17 to \$772.44 million in 2017-18.

Note: **Bolivia**-Capitals – La Paz, Sucre, Currency – Boliviano, President – Evo Morales

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India's average GDP growth to rise to 7.8 pc in first half of this year: Nomura Report

- According to the Japanese firm Nomura, India's average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is expected to rise to 7.8 per cent in the first half of 2018 & growth for Q4-2018 is forecasted at 6.9 per cent.
- As per Nomura, this GDP growth in first half of 2018 will come on back of increase in investments as well as consumption demand.

Note: *Nomura Group-Headquarters – Tokyo, Japan*

HRD Ministry Launched Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 in New Delhi

- ***Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0*** is a flagship programme of the **Ministry of Human Resources Development**.
- Under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0, *students from selected colleges and universities will go to nearby villages to get acquainted with the life of the village people and the problems faced by them in day to day life.*
- Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0, **750 reputed Higher Educational Institutes (both public and private) have been selected and faculty and students of each selected institute would adopt a cluster of villages/panchayats to undertake above stated activity.**

Note: *Indian Institute of Technology – IIT Delhi has been designated as the National Coordinating Institute for this programme.*

Government launches first tranche of Sovereign gold bonds for FY19

- GoI issued **Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018-19 – Series-I**. These bonds will be issued by Reserve Bank India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India.

Details about Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme 2018-19 – Series – I:

Subscription Date: April 16, 2018 to April 20, 2018.

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Denomination: 1 gm multiples **Issue Price:** Rs. 3114 per gram

Tenure: 8 years **Interest Rate:** 2.50% per annum, payable every 6 months.

Exit Option: From 5th year onwards

Minimum Size: 1 gm **Maximum Limit:** 4 KG for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts

Sold By: Banks, Post Offices, Stock Holding Corporation of India (SHCIL), National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme was First announced in **Union Budget 2015-16**.

- The two objectives were- to reduce the demand of physical gold and thereby reduce the import bill and the funds deployed can be used for developmental projects in the country.

Note: Benefits includes The stipulated interest on the bonds. These bonds are highly liquid, eliminates the need for conducting quality check, issued in paper form and can even be dematerialised.

E-way bill rolled out on April 20, 2018 in six states

- Intra-State E-way (Electronic Way) bill i.e. the E-way bill for movement of goods within the state rolled out in six more states from April 20, 2018.
- Six states are **Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Uttarakhand.**
- E-way bill system for moving goods worth over Rs 50000 from one state to another has already been rolled out since April 1, 2018.
- **Karnataka is the only state which had rolled out Intra-State E-way bill system from April 1, 2018.**
- After that, **Intra-State E-way bill system was rolled out in five states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh** from April 15, 2018.

Note: E-way bill provision of the GST is an anti-evasion measure which would help in increasing tax collections by curbing trade that is being undertaken on cash basis.

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POSHAN Abhiyaan: 1st meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges held in New delhi

- The Abhiyaan aims to reduce the level of **under-nutrition and stunting, under-nutrition, anemia** (among young children, women and adolescent girls) **and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.**
- The Abhiyaan targets to reduce The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to **25% by 2022.**
- *POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 by the Prime Minister in Jhunjhunu.*

Note : *Stunting is defined as the percentage of children, aged 0 to 59 months, whose height for age is below minus two standard deviations (moderate and severe stunting) and minus three standard deviations (severe stunting) from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards.*

• *In India, 38 per cent of children younger than five years of age are stunted, a manifestation of chronic undernutrition.*

Indian economy has recovered from impact of demonetisation, GST: World Bank Report

- As per World Bank's bi-annual South Asia Economic Focus report released on April 15, 2018, Indian economy has recovered from the adverse impacts of demonetisation (in November 2016) and roll out of Goods and Services Tax (in July 2017).
- **Indian economy is projected to grow by 7.3% in 2018 and 7.5% in 2019.**
- Indian recovery will again make South Asia region- projected to grow at 6.9% in 2018 and 7.1% in 2019, the world's fastest growing region.

Note: World Bank Headquarters – Washington D.C ; President – Jim Yong Kim

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List of MOUs and Agreements exchanged on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister to Stockholm (April 16-17,2018):

MOUs/Agreements between India and Sweden:

- Joint Declaration on India-Sweden **Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future.**

MOUs/Agreements between India and Denmark:

- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Sustainable and Smart Urban Development, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Food Safety Cooperation and Agricultural Research and Education.

MOUs/Agreements between India and Iceland:

- MOU on the **Establishment of the ICCR Chair for Hindi Language.**

NOTE :Sweden: Capital – Stockholm, Currency – Swedish krona, Prime Minister – Stefan Löfven

WPI inflation reached at 2.47 % in March

- As per Ministry of Commerce & Industry data -**India's annual Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI) was at 2.47 % in March 2018,** a nine-month low, due to a fall in price of vegetables and other food and beverages.
- WPI reflects the change in average prices for bulk sale of commodities at the first stage of transaction.
- The new series of Wholesale Price Index(WPI) are **with base 2011-12.**

YES Bank launched YES GST facility for MSMEs

- Yes Bank has launched 'Yes GST', an OD (over draft) facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

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- It enables **MSME to avail OD up to Rs 1 crore**, based on their annual turnover, backed by Goods and Services Tax (GST) returns.
- This OD facility can be availed by an MSME against mortgage of residential or commercial property.

Note: *Yes Bank: Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra, MD & CEO – Rana Kapoor*

Centre’ to boost farmers’ solar power use- KUSUM scheme

- **Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan or KUSUM scheme** aims to **incentivise farmers to run solar farm water pumps and use barren land for generating solar power to have extra income.**
- It would provide extra income to farmers, by giving them an option to sell additional power to the grid through solar power projects set up on their barren lands
- The **total cost** of the capacities under this scheme would be **Rs 1.4 lakh crore**. The Centre will provide **Rs 48,000 crore financial assistance under the scheme.**
- **MCA (Ministry of Corporate Affairs) zeroed in on 225,000 more suspected shell companies** after taking action against 226,000 shell companies last year.
- Of the 226,000 companies, bank details of 168,000 had been revealed. Of those, 73,000 companies deposited Rs 240 billion in banks post-demonetisation.

Note: *Under the Companies Act, 2013, companies can be struck off the register if they do not file financial returns for a continuous period of three years.*

AU Bank launched ‘Kamao’ app to improve its business through crowd-sourcing, involving not only employees *but also customers and non-customers*

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- If an employee, customer or non-customer give leads (prospective customer's name, contact details, and banking requirements) they will be rewarded.

Note: *AU Small Finance Bank Headquarters – Jaipur, Rajasthan, MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal*

CCEA restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan(RGSA).

- The Scheme will be implemented **for 4 years** at the total cost of **Rs. 7255.50 crore**.
- The scheme will have both **Central Component** - National Level activities including -
 1. **National Plan of Technical Assistance**
 2. **Mission Mode project on e-Panchayat**
 3. **Incentivization of Panchayats" and**
 4. **State component - Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).**

Impact: It will help more **than 2.55 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance, improved service delivery and transparency.

ICICI Bank launched digital form for opening current accounts

- Through 'digital form', ICICI Bank officials would be able **to capture information about the customer and the business digitally and verify KYC documents in real-time, at the premise of the customer.**
- The application will provide a faster and smoother account opening experience to customers.
- **This is a first of its kind service by any bank in India**, and will thus help to secure more clients as it enhances the **'ease of doing business'**.

Note: *ICICI Bank Headquarters – Mumbai, MD & CEO – Chanda Kochhar*

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Yes Bank got RBI's nod to open two global representative offices– in London and Singapore.

- These will primarily cater to the NRI (non resident Indian) population and will also provide networking coverage for Yes Bank's large investor community in these regions.
- Offerings at these offices would include 'Yes First' and 'Yes Private Wealth Management' programme along with Non-Resident External/ Non-Resident Ordinary (NRE/NRO) savings accounts and deposits and similar services.

World Bank group approved massive USD 13 billion increase in paid-in capital

- The package approved by the Development Committee of the Board of Governors consists of 7.5 billion dollars paid-in capital for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and 5.5 billion dollars paid-in capital for International Finance Commission (IFC).
- *The package also includes a 52.6 billion dollars callable capital increase for the IBRD.*
- The boost in capital will be augmented by a broad range of internal measures, including operational changes and effectiveness reforms, loan pricing measures, and other policy steps to create an even stronger World Bank Group.

Note: *The World Bank Group (WBG) HQ- Washington, D.C.*

- **IOB inked information utility pact with NeSL** for utilizing its Information Utility Services envisaged under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.**

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- State-owned NeSL is the **first Information Utility entity** registered with the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** under the aegis of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.**

Note: *Information utility-* It is an information network which procures and stores financial data like borrowings, default and security interests of various entities. It enables lenders in making decisions on credit transactions.

RBI made Aadhaar key to KYC compliance

- Reserve Bank of India amended its 'know your customer' (KYC) guidelines, **making Aadhaar mandatory for conducting customer due diligence by banks and finance companies.**
- As every citizen is eligible for Aadhaar, **the rule will apply to all Indians.**
- The mandatory Aadhaar norm **will not apply to residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Meghalaya.**
- However, any change in norms, will be subject to a final decision by the Supreme Court on matters related to Aadhaar.

India's growth expected to expand at 7.4 % in 2017-18: RBI Governor

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has stated that **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow at 7.4% in 2018-19.**
- Global demand has been improving, which should encourage exports and boost fresh investments in 2018-19.
- **Gross fiscal deficit (GFD) of the Central Government is budgeted at 3.3 per cent in 2018-19.**

Note : RBI-Governor: Urjit Patel , Headquarters: Mumbai

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- **TCS became first Indian company with \$100 bn market cap.**
- This has taken its market capitalisation (m-cap) to **over Rs 6.50 lakh crore or around \$98 billion.** The firm's market valuation zoomed Rs 37,702.06 crore to Rs 6,45,880.63 crore.

Note: *Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) is the sixth-largest private employer in the United States (387,223 employees).*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- United Nations (UN) has launched a UN Road Safety Trust Fund *to spur action that could save lives and prevent the loss of opportunity associated with road accidents.*
 - The fund has been launched in wake of tragic road accidents in Canada and India.
 - *UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is the secretariat for the trust fund.*
 - Usage of the fund will be in accordance *with five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety.*
1. Strengthened road safety management capacities,
 2. Enhanced safety of vehicles,
 3. Improved safety of road infrastructure and
 4. Broader transport networks,
 5. Improved behaviour of road users and improved post-crash care.

UN General Assembly also adopted a resolution on road safety, calling for a range of measures to prevent road accidents and to minimise the resulting damage. This resolution was sponsored by Russia.

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Finance Ministers , Central Bank Governors - G20 agreed to aim for economic growth by promoting trade

- Argentine Treasury Minister Nicolas Dujovne, chaired the meeting

Note: *G20 Members- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico.*

Visit Of Prime Minister Of India To Sweden (16-17 April 2018)

- Prime Ministers of India and Sweden participated in a Round-table meeting with about 30 CEOs of top Swedish enterprises.

India – Nordic Council Summit:

1. India and Sweden hosted an India-Nordic Summit, named '**India-Nordic Summit: Shared Values, Mutual Prosperity**'.
2. Annual India-Nordic trade is about \$5.3 billion. The cumulative Nordic FDI into India is \$2.5 billion.
3. At the end of the Summit, India and the Nordic countries issued -

Sweden India Joint Action Plan (April 17, 2018):

- To promote bilateral cooperation in the field of **Innovation, Trade and investment, Smart Cities and Next Generation Transport, renewable energy, Women's skills development and empowerment, Defence, Space and science and Health and Life Sciences.**
- **India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 was held in New Delhi On 16th and 17th April 2018.**
- **Title of the Conference- 'Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540'.**

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- **World's first long-distance electric bus line to began in Paris on April 12, 2018 .**
- *It will link Paris to France's northern city of Amiens, undertaking a 160 kilometres journey within two hours.*
- **Commonwealth countries unanimously agree to take action on cybersecurity by 2020 in London,**
- The leaders of 53 countries **agreed to work closely to evaluate and strengthen their cybersecurity frameworks and response mechanisms.**
- The declaration is termed **as the world's largest and most geographically diverse inter-governmental commitment on cybersecurity cooperation.**

Note: **CHOGM** is a biennial summit meeting of the heads of government from all Commonwealth nations.

CHOGM 2018 Venue - London.

- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired 6th Joint Committee for Cooperation with Mongolia's Tsogtbaatar**
- Various aspects of bilateral relations, particularly **in trade and investment, energy, mining, animal husbandry, education and capacity building and tourism** were discussed in the meeting.
- **This is Sushma Swaraj's first visit to Mongolia after she became the External Affairs Minister in 2014.**

Note: Mongolia- President – Khaltmaagiin Battulga, Capital- Ulan Bataar

- **Government tied up with US and Finland to jointly develop new pollution-forecast system**
- Pollution-forecast system will **enable anticipation of particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance with a better resolution.**

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- **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** will coordinate this exercise. It has been planned to have the system ready by winter.
- **Informal summit between PM Modi and Prez Xi** was held the **first-ever informal summit in China's Wuhan city** to discuss measures for strengthening bilateral ties between both the countries.
- During this visit, **PM Modi gifted to Xi Jinping, specially made prints of paintings by legendary Chinese artist Xu Beihong.**
- Discussion during the course of this informal summit between PM Modi and Xi Jinping revolved around **trade, strategic military relations, tourism, promoting cultural, people to people relations and other bilateral and regional issues.**
- They also agreed to undertake a **joint India-China economic project in Afghanistan.**
- They shared New **version of “Panchsheel” or five-point agenda – shared vision, shared resolve, strong relationship, better communication and shared thought process**

China-Capital – Beijing, Currency – Renminbi, President – Xi Jinping

- **India-Nepal IGC meeting** on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 26th and 27th April, 2018.
- Discussions at this meeting **focused on adopting measures to further strengthen trade and investment ties between India and Nepal.**
- **IGC also takes up issues relating to bilateral trade, transit facilities provided by India to Nepal to facilitate trade with third countries and Indian investment in Nepal.**

Nepal: Capital – Kathmandu, Currency – Nepalese Rupee

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- **Canada to host the world's female foreign ministers** talks on 21st and 22nd September 2018 ahead of UN General Assembly just for female foreign ministers.

G7 Members – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States

- Singapore and China signed a MoU in Beijing to *promote greater collaboration between Singapore and Chinese companies in third-party markets along the Belt and Road initiative.*
- **As per the terms of the MoU, Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and NDRC (China's lead agency for BRI) will form a working group** to identify sectors and markets of mutual interest, and organise business matching activities and forums to facilitate third-party market cooperation between Singapore and Chinese companies along the Belt and Road.

Belt and Road initiative is a strategic developmental project proposed by Chinese president Xi Jinping, *Aimed to connect China with Eurasia through land-based "Silk Road Economic Belt" (SREB) and ocean going "Maritime Silk Road" (MSR).*

NATIONAL

- Govt rolled out an 'Integrated initiative for prevention & control of viral hepatitis' with a budget of more than 517 crore rupees for three years.
- Components such as surveillance, awareness generation, immunisation, safe blood, injection safety infection control, diagnosis of viral hepatitis, capacity building, research and monitoring would be addressed under the initiative.
- *Under the initiative, the ministry intends to scale up to 100 treatment and 665 testing centres over a period of next three years in all states.*
- *Viral hepatitis is liver inflammation due to a viral infection and it is recognised as a public health problem worldwide.*

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- *It is recognised as a public health problem worldwide.*

India is committed to ending viral hepatitis By 2030.

- **Vijay Goel launched Central Project Monitoring Unit for e-Vidhan project at Parliament House Annexe**
- **This was done as a part of Swachhata Pakhwada being observed by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from 16th to 30th of this month.**

e-Vidhan is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in the country paperless.

- **The 2-day Regional Conference on “Urban Development: Technological Solutions and Governance Challenges” was held in Ahmedabad .**
- **The Conference is a lead-up event to the 3rd Annual Meeting of AIIB scheduled to be held on 25th and 26th June, 2018 in Mumbai**

One third of the Indian population, which lives in urban areas, contributes more than half to the GDP and therefore, urban dwellers are among the most productive segments of the population.

- **The MSME Ministry organised **UdyamSamvad Workshop** in which eleven sessions were held with different ministries and financial organizations like Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), SIDBI, ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI, FISME, PHD Chamber of Commerce and MSME Foundation.**
- **Various issues facing entrepreneurs and Startups in North East States of India like accessing credit, handholding for setting up businesses, accessing markets in India and abroad and R&D for refinement of art based products manufactured in the North East were discussed.**

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For this four Technology Centres for North East are being established in Imphal, Dimapur, Tinsukia and Agartala

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs had set up committee to review the enforcement of CSR provisions in wake of rising instances of non-compliance with CSR requirement.
- The panel is headed by **Manmohan Juneja** .

CSR- Under the Companies Act, 2013, profitable entities are required to spend at least two per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities.

- **Parcel Directorate, headquartered in New Delhi, was inaugurated by Minister of State for Communications Shri Manoj Sinha**
- The global decline in letter mail, has been offset by an increase in packets and parcels. *This is primarily on account of the e-commerce boom in India, with e-tailers requiring integrated collection, aggregation, sorting, transmission and delivery systems.*
- The parcel market (logistics and distribution but excluding fulfilment and merchandise value) in the country is growing at a rate of 15% per annum and is **expected to reach Rs. 60,000 Crore by 2026 from the existing Rs. 18,000 Crore.**

India Post has undertaken the Parcel Network Optimization Project during November, 2016 to revamp the parcel operations.

- **GOM of Transport ministers adopted a nine-point Guwahati Declaration, aimed at harmonisation of tax and permits.**
- A major recommendation was a *'one nation, one tax' which would ease travel as well.*
- Meanwhile, **the Centre has asked states to allow drivers to use private licence for driving taxis and light vehicles for commercial purposes.**

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- *Chairman of the GoM is Rajasthan Transport Minister Yoonus Khan*

STATES

- **Gujarat CM launched Pocket Cop project to improve crime detection rate in the state, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- **Pocket Cop:**
- Under the Pocket Cop project, **smartphones having data of people with a criminal background will be given to 4,900 police personnel.**

The smartphone will contain four different applications for passport verification, tracing criminals, finding missing persons and for stolen vehicles.

- **The Rajasthan government introduced a loan-waiver scheme for farmers under which crop loan of up to 50,000 rupees will be waived**
- As per the scheme cooperative banks will hold camps for waiving loans up to 50,000 rupees of small and marginal farmers.

Rajasthan Capital-Jaipur, Governor- Kalyan Singh, Chief Minister- Vasundhara Raje (BJP)

Vice President **launched Assam govt's cashless health scheme Atal Amrit Abhiyan with budget of 400 crore rupees**

- ***It offers free medical care of up to 2 lakh rupees for every individual from Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.***

Atal Amrit Abhiyan will cover 92 percent of the state's population with annual income below 5 lakh rupees.

- The **Maharashtra** state government announced **Rural areas of Maharashtra open defecation free** with the construction of over 60 lakh toilets costing Rs 4.5 crore in a span of three-and-a-half years.

Maharashtra Chief minister: Devendra Fadnavis , Capital: Mumbai

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- **First regional conference of eastern states on Water Resources was held in Kolkata**
- The conference was aimed at addressing outstanding water resources issues, inter-state issues, intra and inter-basin issues among five eastern states Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
- *Centre is proposing for a single tribunal so that inter-state water disputes can be settled at the earliest.*

Kolkata is the third-largest urban agglomeration in India by population (14,035,959)

- **World Bank approved Rs 770 cr Cold-dam Water supply Scheme for Shimla**
- the purpose of **Water supply Scheme** is water supply and waste water management in Greater Shimla Planning Area and other places.
- The estimated project cost is likely to be Rs 770 crore .
- **East Godavari became first district with complete LED street lighting**
- The rural LED street lighting programme in the district entailing the installation of around 3.1 lakh LED street lights has been completed.
- The exercise is expected to save around 34 Million Units (MU) annually.

Andhra Pradesh Capital - Hyderabad, Amaravati, Chief Minister- N. Chandrababu Naidu

- **UP Govt ordered Govt hospitals and orphanages to establish SHISHU SWAGAT KENDRA- PALNA** and put up cradles in front of their buildings so that any person, lady or couple can leave their unwanted child without disclosing their identity.
- **Objective of this setup is to tackle the problem of abandoning the infants at the roadside** or other places which may pose a risk of life for the baby.

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This setup is expected to bridge the gap between the number of children available for adoption and the increasing list of adoptive parents.

- Odisha's second longest 2.5-km-long river bridge was inaugurated over the Ib river in Sambalpur district.
- The bridge has been built at a cost of Rs. 117.50 crore.

The bridge has enabled direct road connectivity between Sambalpur and Brajarajnagar in Jharsuguda district reducing the distance by 50 km.

- On 16th April 2018, a loan agreement worth USD 48 million for the "Meghalaya Community – Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP)" was signed by India and the World Bank, in New Delhi.

The project has three components:

- strengthening knowledge and capacity for natural resource management
- community-led landscape planning and implementation
- project management and governance

The objective of this project is to enhance community-led landscapes management in selected landscapes in Meghalaya.

Person/Events /Awards

National felicitation of **Kayakalp awards, 2017-18** was held in New Delhi on April 19, 2018.

- **Launched in 2015, Kayakalp scheme awards public health facilities for their work in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene**

AWARDEES:

- All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi got the first prize of Rs. 2.5 crore under the **Central Government Hospitals A category**.

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- **NEIGRIHMS, Shillong** was adjudged the winner in Group B category and was awarded Rs. 1.5 crore.
- District Hospitals, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) were also felicitated for winning the awards in their respective states and union territory.

Kayakalp Coffe Table book was released along with the Patient Safety Framework and Kayakalp Implementation Guidebook during the ceremony.

- **Madhya Pradesh conferred most film Friendly state award** for its efforts towards easing filming in the state by creating a well-structured website, film-friendly infrastructure, offering incentives, maintaining databases, undertaking marketing and promotional initiatives.
- **Uttarakhand has been chosen for the Special Mention Certificate to recognize the efforts made by it towards creating a film-friendly environment.**
- *The jury for selecting the Most Film Friendly State Award 2017 was chaired by acclaimed filmmaker Ramesh Sippy.*

Madhya Pradesh Chief minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Capital: Bhopal

- **TK Rajalakshmi was elected IWPC president**
- Senior journalist T K Rajalakshmi was elected the new president of the **Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC).**
- Every year IWPC members elect a 21-member Managing Committee.
- Along with T K Rajalakshmi's election as President, **Jyoti Malhotra and Shobhna Jain were declared vice-presidents of IWPC.**
- Besides, Shalini Bhardwaj was elected joint secretary and Preeti Mehra as treasurer.

IWPC - Location – Delhi

Objective – to support women journalist in their professional work, in enhancing their knowledge and skills and to provide a forum for networking.

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- **Aditi Rao Hydari** received **Dadasaheb Phalke Phalke excellence award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award)** for her performance in the Bollywood movie 'Bhoomi'
- **Bhuj Mercantile Coop Bank** bagged **Banco Award** for best performing cooperative bank.
- *Banco Award given annually to the top performing cooperative banks recognise and encourage best practices in the cooperative banking sector.*
- MD & CEO, YES BANK - **Rana Kapoor** was **felicitated with 'India Talent Management Award 2018'** at the 13th edition of CNBC-TV18 India Business Leader Awards, in Delhi, for fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and best practices at one of India's fastest growing banks.
- The '**India Talent Management Award**' recognized the innovative strategy of the Bank to enhance the capability, capacity and confidence of the employees - to put them a step ahead in tomorrow's workplace and economy.
- ***YES BANK Headquarters: Mumbai***
- **PM inaugurated Dr Ambedkar National Memorial in New Delhi**
- The memorial is dedicated to the life and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Constitution.

***Note:** The memorial has an exhibition area, meditation hall with the Buddha Statue and 12 feet high bronze statue of Dr Ambedkar.*

Ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth becomes World No 1 in men's singles category in Badminton World Federation weekly rankings. He overtook World Champion Viktor Axelsen at the top of rankings with 76,895 points.

***Note:** Srikanth has now become the first Indian male shuttler to achieve the feat in modern ranking system. He was recently awarded the prestigious Padmasri Award.*

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- Website of veterinary association, Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh was launched by Animal Husbandry Secretary Tarun Shridhar.
- *Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh works for the welfare of the veterinarian's working in government service sector.*
- **KR Nautiyal appointed Coast Guard Commander (East). He replaced Inspector General KS Sheoran on 12th April 2018.**
- **IG Vijay Chafekar was appointed as Flag Officer of ICG (West Region)**
- *Note: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) – West consists of an important area that stretches to the outer limits of Exclusive Economic Zone from the coasts of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep.*

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Director General – Rajendra Singh, Headquarters – New Delhi

- **Rajesh Ranjan has been appointed as DG of CISF Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) till 20th November 2020**
- He is currently the Special Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Headquarters – New Delhi

Winners of 2018 Pulitzer Prize-102nd edition

Winners of 2018 Pulitzer Prize – Letters, Drama & Music:

Category	Winners
Fiction	Less, by Andrew Sean Greer
Drama	Cost of Living, by Martyna Majok
Poetry	Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016, by Frank Bidart
History	The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea, by Jack E. Davis

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General Nonfiction	Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America, by James Forman Jr.
Biography	Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Frase
Music	DAMN, by Kendrick Lamar

Winners of 2018 Pulitzer Prize – Journalism:

Category	Winners
Public Service	The New York Times, for reporting led by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, and The New Yorker, for reporting by Ronan Farrow
Breaking News Reporting	Staff of The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, California
Investigative Reporting	Staff of The Washington Post
Explanatory Reporting	Staffs of The Arizona Republic and USA Today Network
Local Reporting	The Cincinnati Enquirer Staff
National Reporting	Staffs of The New York Times and The Washington Post
International Reporting	Clare Baldwin, Andrew R.C. Marshall and Manuel Mogato of Reuters
Feature Writing	Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, freelance reporter, GQ
Commentary	John Archibald of Alabama Media Group, Birmingham, Alabama
Criticism	Jerry Saltz of New York magazine
Editorial Writing	Andie Dominick of The Des Moines Register
Editorial Cartooning	Jake Halpern, freelance writer, and Michael Sloan, freelance cartoonist, The New York Times
Breaking News Photography	Ryan Kelly of The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Virginia
Feature Photography	Photography Staff of Reuters

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- **Ola co-founder- Bhavish Aggarwal, Deepika Padukone, Virat Kohli are among TIME's 100 most influential people this year.**
- A record 45 people on this list are under 40 - including the youngest designer ever, 14-year-old actor Millie Bobby Brown - and a common theme in the tributes is how much people can learn from them.

TIME's annual list of the world's most influential people is a designation of individuals whose time is now.

- **Lt Gen PP Malhotra took over as the new Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).**
- *National Cadet Corps (NCC) Headquarters: New Delhi, Director General: Lt. General P.P Malhotra*

OBITUARIES

- **Rajasthan's Alwar sitting BJP MLA Dharampal Choudhary passed away**
- He was 64 and suffering from a liver problem for some time.
- **Noted human rights activist Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar passed away** at the age of 94.
- Sachar was Chief Justice in Delhi High Court from August 6, 1985, to December 22, 1985. Since his retirement he was associated with the People's Union for Civil Liberties, a rights group
- **Padma Bhushan awardee Veteran journalist T V R Shenoy passed away**

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- He was the editor of The Week and was an executive member of Prasar Bharati.
- **Former principal information officer (PIO) Shakuntala Mahawal passed away** at the age of 72 .
- She was an IIS (Indian Information Service) officer of the 1969 batch.
- *Swedish DJ Avicii top electronic dance music artist died in Oman at the age of 28.*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **New class of antibiotics Odilorhabdins were discovered** which can help in fighting drug-resistant or hard-to-treat bacterial infections.
- ODLs, are developed by symbiotic bacteria present in soil-dwelling nematode worms that colonise insects for food.
- *The bacteria helps to kill the insect and secretes the antibiotic to keep competing bacteria away. When ODL is bound to ribosome, it disrupts its ability to interpret and translate genetic code.*
- **Health Ministry has banned over-the-counter sale of 14 steroid skin creams**
- This ban has been imposed in response to dermatologists' campaign against these skin creams and ointments containing steroids.
- steroid based ointments **are dangerous and cause fungal epidemic in India.**
- ***Note :** Now, these creams can be bought using doctor's prescription only. The ban is based on recommendations of the Drug and Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) under the Drug Controller General of India.*

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- Tech Mahindra, Balbix launched the security industry's first AI-powered predictive cyber risk platform to provide *intelligent security operations center (iSOC)*.
- iSOC can prioritise actionable intelligence for proactive handling of identified critical risks, enhances reporting by accurately measuring overall breach risk and cyber-resilience.

iSOC uses deep learning and specialised AI algorithms to predict how attacks can occur and propagate. It offers actionable insights to reduce breach.

- **Chandrayaan-2 launch postponed to October-November 2018**
- **The** total cost of this mission is **Rs 8 billion**. Rs 2 billion for launching and Rs 6 billion for the satellite.
- Chandrayaan-2 will **comprise a lander and rover probe** which will descend on the surface of the moon. **It will observe the lunar surface and send back data for analysis of the lunar soil.**

ISRO: Headquarters: Bengaluru, Chairman- : Kailasavadivoo Sivan

- SpaceX blasted off NASA's new planet-hunter spacecraft TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) on board a SpaceX Falcon 9 .
- **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS):** is a \$337 million satellite.
- TESS is expected to find 20,000 planets beyond our solar system.
- TESS will focus on nearby exoplanets in the range of 30 to 300 light-years away.

TESS will spend two months moving into the correct orbit. Its first scientific data will be sent in July 2018.

Important days

- On 15th April Himachal marked its 71st foundation day, awards best performers
- **The state of Himachal was founded on April 15, 1948.**

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- C.M. Jai Ram Thakur presented awards to the best performers in the field of administration, sports, health and social work.
- *Alpine skier Aanchal Thakur* from Manali was **awarded Himachal Gaurav Puruskar**.

Aanchal Thakur is the only Indian who has won a medal in skiing.

Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla, Chief Minister- Jai Ram Thakur, Governor - Acharya Dev Vrat

World Haemophilia Day – April 17 was observed all over the world.

- **Why:** to create awareness about haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.

Theme: The theme for World Haemophilia Day 2018 is: Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger.

Civil Services Day - 21 April

- Government organized a **2-day Civil Services Day function here on April 20- 21, 2018.**
- The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function .
- This year observance of the day focussed on ‘Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts’
- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conferred **PM Awards for Excellence in Public Administration** to recognize the extraordinary

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and innovative work done by Districts & Organizations of the Central and State Governments for the welfare of common citizen.

- The Vice President also released a book titled: **‘Emulating Excellence-Takeaways for Replication’** and inaugurate an exhibition put up by **DARPG on identified Priority Programmes and Innovations**
- During Awards event on April 21, 2018, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi **released two books, namely**
 1. **‘New Pathways’** comprising of Success stories on implementation of identified Priority Programmes & Innovations and
 2. **‘Aspirational Districts: Unlocking Potentials’** on evolving strategies for transforming Aspirational Districts.
- The Award ceremony was preceded by the **Plenary Session** on **‘Artificial Intelligence for Effective Governance’** chaired by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice, Electronics & Information Technology.

SPORTS

- **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar** ,a 17-year-old Pune swimmer double crossed (swim to and fro) **Bangla Channel** to set world record
- He accomplished this feat on April 13, 2018 by completing the journey of 32.2 kilometers in 9 hours and 10 minutes.

Stretch from Saint Martin’s Island Jetty to Teknaf in Bangladesh is known as the Bangla Channel.

- **Birmingham Organising Committee of CWG** decided to exclude shooting from **2022 Games** citing logistical issues.

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- *South Africa (Durban) was to originally host the 2022 CWG but it later expressed its inability to host the Games due to financial problems.*

The Commonwealth Games Federation later awarded the 2022 CWG to Birmingham.

- **Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won 2018 Chinese Grand Prix**
- **Top three in 2018 Chinese Grand Prix are :**
 1. Daniel Ricciardo – Red Bull
 2. Valtteri Bottas – Mercedes
 3. Kimi Raikkonen – Ferrari
- **Bengaluru FC won the inaugural edition of Super Cup Football tournament,** defeating Kolkata football giants East Bengal
- The Super Cup is a knockout football tournament in India featuring all the 20 teams that play in the I-League and Indian Super League.

The tournament is organized by the All India Football Federation.

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