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WEEKLY CAPSULE

1ST WEEK of April

(1st - 7th)

Part I

Economy and banking

FIEO, PayPal ink MoU to empower Indian SMEs to sell globally for promotion of outbound shipments among small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

- As per the terms of the MoU, **PayPal will work with FIEO to educate SMEs on how to leverage global opportunities, help them receive money in a safe and timely manner with PayPal products and inform them of global best practices.**
- FIEO will be able to reach out to cottage industries, MSMEs, artisans and clusters

Note: FIEO:

- Set up in – 1965 by – Union Ministry of Commerce
- *Significance – Has over 25000 members, who contribute more than 70 per cent of India's exports*

IndusInd Bank gets RBI nod to acquire IL&FS Securities Services Ltd. (ISSL), the securities services arm of IL&FS.

- IL&FS is the promoter shareholder of IL&FS Securities Services Ltd (ISSL).
- *ISSL is a capital markets intermediary for professional clearing, depository and custodial services catering to both retail and institutional clients including over 1000 brokers, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIS).*

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LTCG Tax, Other Budget Measures to begin from Apr. 1

- Several budget proposals, including [the reintroduction of tax on long term capital gains \(LTCG\) exceeding Rs. 1 lakh from sale of shares](#), .
- **Higher health and education cess to 4%** from 3%.to be applicable too.
- The 2018-19 Budget had, **reintroduced 10% tax on LTCG exceeding Rs. 1 lakh from sale of shares**. Now, **15% tax is levied on capital gains made on share sale within a year of purchase**. However, it is nil for shares sold after a year of purchase.

LTCG - A long-term capital gain or loss is a gain or loss from a qualifying investment owned for longer than 12 months before it was sold.

Smooth Roll-out of E-way Bill System from 1st April, 2018

- As per decision of the GST Council, [e-Way Bill system became mandatory from today i.e. 01st April, 2018 for all inter-State movement of goods](#),
- The implementation of the nationwide e-Way Bill mechanism under GST regime is being done by GSTN .

What is e-Way Bill?

- **An electronic ticket which is generated online for movement of goods costing over INR 50,000/-**

Public Financial Management System (PFMS) achieved a Historical Record Breaking Volume of Digital Transactions

- [On 28th March, 2018, an amount of Rs. 71,633.45 crores has been digitally transacted/routed through PFMS Portal for 98, 19,026 transactions.](#)
- This is a historic record of number of digital transactions processed in a single day. It is *being implemented by Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance.*

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- PFMS provides **platform for efficient management of funds through tracking of funds and real time reporting of expenditure and receipts through Treasury and Bank Interface.**
- PFMS is also used for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payments under MGNREGA and other notified schemes of the Government of India.

Swachh Bharat Summer Internship

- The **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** coordinating **Ministry of Swachh Bharat Mission**, with the Ministry of **Human Resource Development**, has come up with the innovative ‘**Swachh Bharat Summer Internship (SBSI) 2018**’ aimed at **engaging the college youth with Swachhata work in villages in the coming Summer vacation.**
- Under the terms of the Internship, candidates would be required to undertake 100 hours of activities including shramdaan.

Continuation, strengthening and establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras till 2019-20

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for **continuation / strengthening, up to 2019-20, of 669 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) established , 11 Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs), support to the Directorates of Extension Education (DEEs) of Agricultural Universities (AUs) .**
- **Financial Outlay** for the KVK for 2017-20 shall be of **Rs 2,82,400.72 lakh.**

The **special programmes** initiated through the KVK Scheme are:

- A Network Project on New Extension Methodologies and Approaches; **Nutri-sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI);**
- Programs tilted **Knowledge Systems and Homestead Agriculture Management in Tribal Areas (KSHAMTA),**
- **Value Addition and Technology Incubation Centres in Agriculture (VATICA),**
- **Farm Innovation Resource Management (FIRM) and**
- **Establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Centre.**

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- **Farmer FIRST** at 52 centres and **Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)** for **100 Districts**.

Boost for development projects in North-East

- Cabinet approved Schemes of **North Eastern Council (NEC)** including continuation of existing Schemes of M/o DONER for continuation till March, 2020.
- Expenditure worth **Rs.4500 crore approved for three years upto March, 2020**
- Extension of 100% centrally funded **North Eastern Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS)**;

*The Scheme of NEC - **Special Development Project will be changed to be a Central Sector Scheme with 100% grant***

NEC is also implementing "North Eastern Road Sector Development Scheme - Programme Component" for upgradation of the important and strategic inter-state roads. Transferred from DONER to NEC for implementation, the scheme is 100% Centrally funded- Rs. 1000 crore scheme.

RBI Changed Methodology For Bond Valuation To Check Manipulation

- As per a central bank directive, **security/bond valuation will be based on the weighted average price** of the last half-an-hour of trading on the last trading day of every quarter .
- The methodology as to how the bonds are valued is crucial for **mark-to-market (MTM)** purposes.

Three categories in Securities investment-

1. **Held To Maturity (HTM)**- Investments in the HTM category need not be marked to market as they are held till maturity.

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2. **Available for Sale (AFS)**- if a bank intends to sell them before maturity- Investments in the AFS category are marked to market at quarterly or at more frequent intervals
3. **Held For Trading (HFT)** - Investments have to be sold **within 90 days of investment** and are marked to market at monthly or at more frequent intervals and provided for as in the case of those in the AFS category.

SIDBI celebrated it's Foundation day: 2nd April

- SIDBI celebrated its foundation day as **day of Sampark (connect), Sanwad (interaction), Suraksha (security) and Sampreshan (disseminate).**

Several initiatives launched are:

- **MSME contact programme**
- An **MoU in Bancassurance services** was signed with The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. .SIDBI is thus evolving as one stop solution provider.
- **Samridhhi- the virtual assistant** on banks revamped universal loan portal www.udyamimitra.in.
- **'Bankability Kit'** (brought in partnership with **Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank** to look beyond financial literacy .
- SIDBI is also planning to start MSE award to recognise change-maker MSEs at bottom of pyramid.

Direct tax collections grow 17% to Rs 9.95 lakh crores in 2017-'18

- The Direct Tax collections for the fiscal year 2017-18 stood at 9.95 lakh crore rupees, which is 17.1 per cent higher than net collection of 2016-17. The tax collections during the fiscal year 2017-18 has **exceeded the budget estimates of 9.80 lakh crore rupees.**
- During the last fiscal, 6.84 crore income tax returns were showing **a growth of 26 per cent.**

Core sector growth up 5.3% in Feb

- **The eight infrastructure sectors, coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity** had grown by just 0.6 per cent in February last year.
- The core sectors expanded by 6.1 per cent in January.

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Suresh Prabhu launched Digital Initiative for Ease of Export

- Union Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu launched digital initiatives by **Export Inspection Council (EIC) for ease of export at New Delhi.**

EIC is the official export certification body of Government of India and has launched this flagship project of Digital India Initiative to keep pace with changing dynamics of the world.

Initiatives launched are:

- *One lab one assessment portal -provides*
- *The Export Alert Monitoring portal*
- *Safe Food Export Traceability Portal*

Govt levied 10 pc import duty on key smartphone components With a view to boost domestic manufacturing.

- Earlier in the Budget 2018-19, the government had **hiked customs duty on mobile phones to 20 per cent** from 15 per cent.
- India replaced Vietnam 2017 to become **the second largest mobile phone producer** in the world after China.
- The government has already imposed 15 per cent import duty on chargers, etc as per **phased manufacturing** programme (PMP).

*The **PMP** is aimed at **boosting indigenous production of mobile phones** by providing tax relief and other incentives on components and accessories used for the devices*

Jio Payments Bank begin its operations

- Jio Payments Bank commenced its banking services operations as a payments bank with effect from April 3, 2018,

Other payment banks are:

- Paytm Payments Bank -May 2017 while
- FINO Payments Bank Limited - June 2017
- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank -February 2018.

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- Department of Posts, -yet to start its services formally, who is running services on pilot basis currently.

SoftBank, China's GCL plan \$930-m Indian solar venture

- SoftBank Group Corp has agreed to launch a **\$930 million Indian joint solar energy venture** (working on photovoltaic technology used in solar panels) as part of its **ambitious India solar investment roadmap** having a **capacity of 4GW**

SoftBank's Vision Fund- recently announced it would invest in building the world's largest solar power project in Saudi Arabia — a project expected to cost up to \$200 billion and have a capacity to produce up to 200 GW by 2030.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) unveiled 'Virtual ID' which will soon be accepted by service providers in lieu of Aadhaar number, to address privacy concerns related to quoting Aadhaar.

- *Virtual ID (VID), which an Aadhaar-card holder can generate from UIDAI's website is a random 16-digit number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number and biometrics.*
- **Thus VID will do away with the need of disclosing 12-digit Aadhaar number for authentication or verification purposes.**
- **UIDAI had stated that** all authorised agency/service providers will have to compulsory accept VID for undertaking authentication from June 1, 2018.

RBI asked banks to stop services to those dealing in virtual currencies

- The Reserve Bank directed all regulated entities including **banks not to provide services to businesses dealing in virtual currencies like bitcoins, so as to protect consumer interest and check money laundering.**

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- All payment system operators will ensure that data related to payment systems operated by them are stored only inside the country within a period of 6 months.

First 2018 Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement

- The Monetary Policy Committee, MPC, headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel
 - kept the repo rate at 6 per cent.
 - ***The RBI said, GDP growth is likely to strengthen from 6.6 per cent in 2017-18 to 7.4 per cent in 2018-19 ..***

Policy Repo Rate	6.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.50%

RBI decided to use GDP instead of GVA to measure economic activity in the country, the change is **to conform with international practice**, for ease of comparison.

Globally, the performance of economies is gauged in terms of GDP.

Central Statistical Office has been using GDP as the main measure of economic activity since January 2015.

Note –

- Gross Value Added (GVA) - gives a picture of the state of economic activity from the producers' side or the supply side.
- GDP gives the picture from the consumers' side or the demand perspective.

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IndAS implementation deferred by a year

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave another relief to the banks by delaying the implementation of Indian Accounting Standards (IndAS) **by one year, to April 2019.**

E-commerce think tank set up to stimulate local players

- The government has set up a think tank to look into ways **to encourage home-grown e-commerce players and develop a domestic policy** to respond to doubts raised by other countries on India's stance on cross-border digital trade.
- **Led by commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu**, the think tank
- will predict technologies that are likely to come in future and help the government decide the policy flexibilities needed to be put in place accordingly.

Income tax department formed committee to look into HNI'S migrating abroad

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has set up **A Five-Member Working Group** to look into the taxation aspects of such high-net worth individuals (HNIs) leaving the country to settle abroad and also arrive at the country's stand on such migrations.

Note -

- **In 2017 alone, 7,000 millionaires left India, taking India to the top of the exodus charts.** The data shows **that 2.1% of India's rich left the country compared with 1.3% for France and 1.1% for China.**
- 23,000 dollar-millionaires have left India since 2004, the highest in percentage terms among all countries
- ***High-Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) - Generally in the Indian context, individuals with over Rs. 2 crore investible surplus are considered to be HNIs***

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RBI decided to set up Data Sciences Lab Lab to improve its forecasting, surveillance and early warning detection abilities which will aid policy formulation.

- *Lab will comprise experts and budding analysts, who are trained in Computer Science, Data Analytics, Statistics, Economics, Econometrics and Finance.*

PERSON/NEWS/EVENTS

- **HCL Technologies acquired C3i Solutions for \$60 million in a move to enhance HCL's growth in life sciences and consumer services.**

C3i Solutions is a wholly owned, independently operated subsidiary of Merck & Co. It offers multi-channel customer engagement services for life sciences and consumer packaged goods (CPG) industries.

- **Gaganshakti: IAF to conduct biggest combat exercise from April 8**

The Indian Air Force will carry out one of its biggest combat exercises from Sunday the 8th April to check its operational preparedness with a focus on dealing with any possible security challenges from China and Pakistan.

- **Julius Maada Bio takes oath as new Sierra Leone president**
- **Mr Bio is a former soldier who briefly ruled Sierra Leone in 1996.**
- *President Ernest Bai Koroma has stepped down after serving two five-year terms.*
- Indo-Korean joint *anti-piracy, search and rescue exercise 'SAHYOG-HYEOBLYEOG 2018'* was conducted off the Chennai coast .
- The Korean Coast Guard ship '**BADARO**' took part in the exercise.
Director General of Indian Coast Guard - Rajendra Singh

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- **MakeMyTrip ties with flipkart for travel booking** to allow customers to book domestic flight tickets and other travel services directly through the e-commerce firm's portal.

The deal will help Flipkart Online Services Pvt Ltd widen the gamut of services it offers, and further its goal of being "a one-stop destination for all digital transactions online."

Flipkart CEO - Kalyan Krishnamurthy

MakeMyTrip CEO - Deep Kalra

- **Saudi Arabia will get its first new Cinema** in over 35 years in Riyadh.

Movie theaters will **not be segmented by gender** and *Black Panther will likely be the first movie to be screened.*

- **Facebook fined \$33 million for failing to aid Brazil graft probe** for failing to cooperate with a corruption investigation in the state of Amazonas.
 - Headquarters: California, United States
 - CEO: Mark Zuckerberg (Jul 2004–)
- **Pathankot gets Operationalized as the 21st airport under UDAN** (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) – RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme).

This will be the **19th route operated by Alliance Air under UDAN.**

Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the implementing agency of UDAN.

RCS (Regional Connectivity Scheme). was launched on 27th April 2017 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister when the first UDAN flight, operated by Alliance Air, was flagged off .

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36-Hour Smart India Hackathon 2018 Grand Finale held in Chennai.

- **It is a digital product development competition involving all Technology institutes** in India with a reach to approximately 30 lakh students.
- The few software problems are found hackathonable like
 1. Urban Mobility (Smart City)
 2. Common Mobility App (Urban Transport)
 3. Common Platform for Vehicle Registration (Urban Transport)
 4. E-Measurement Book (Delhi Division/DDA)
- **E-portal Study Khazana awarded “For best emerging online Education Portal in North India” at the ‘World Education Summit and Award 2018’ at New Delhi.**
It helps education-deprived aspirants get access to quality education irrespective geographical boundaries and it encourages open knowledge movement .

Sana Baqai is the Founder of Study Khazana.

TRAI mooted model of a public Wi-Fi access grid aiming to slash Internet access cost by 90 per cent, and push broadband proliferation in India.

- The regulator's concept involves **Public Data Office Providers (PDOs)**
- The PDOs will **be companies, or even small merchants, interested in providing Wi-Fi hotspots** to public using either free or paid model.
- **TRAI Chairman RS Sharma**

Tobacco products, cigarette packs to show national toll-free helpline number from Sept to assist users to quit addiction

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has notified this by making **an amendment in the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Rules, 2008.**
- The toll-free number will help in creating awareness among tobacco users and give them access to counselling services to effect behaviour change.
- **Ex-England midfielder Ray Wilkins** passed away after suffering from a cardiac arrest.
- He played for teams like Manchester United, Chelsea and AC Milan.

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President of India addressed 34th Annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation

At the Annual session 10 Indian Women Achievers were presented the **FLO ICON AWARDS**. The award winners are:

- Banking & Finance – Ms Chanda Kochhar, MD & CEO, ICICI Bank
- Health & Wellness – Dr Aarti Vij, Chief of AIIMS' Organ Retrieval and Banking Organization (ORBO)
- Media Entrepreneurship – Ms Ekta Kapoor, Joint Managing Director and Creative Director of Balaji Telefilms
- Conscientious Cinema – Ms Twinkle Khanna, Entrepreneur, Author, Film Producer
- Digital Entrepreneurship – Ms Falguni Nayar, Founder & CEO, NYKAA
- Science & Technology – Dr Tessy Thomas, Director, Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
- Promoting Literature – Ms Namita Gokhale, Author and Director of Jaipur Literature Festival
- Environmental Protection – Ms Bharati Chaturvedi, Founder of CHINTAN, Environmentalist and writer
- Commando Training – Dr Seema Rao, Commando Trainer, certified Doctor and MBA in crisis management
- Grassroots Mobilization – Ms Kamal Kumbhar, Social entrepreneur & Founder of Ekta Producer Company
- **Pinky Reddy took charge as New President of FLO at the annual session.**

Ola has acquired Ridlr, a public transport ticketing and commuting app.

- Ridlr was established in 2012. It is **based in Mumbai**. It enables users to search and book public transport options through its mobile app.

Himanta Biswa Sarma elected as President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) following the death of former BAI president Akhilesh Das Gupta.

- **Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss was elected as the treasurer uncontested.**

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- **Ajay Singhania** of Haryana Badminton Association was elected as **General Secretary of BAI**.
- Maharashtra Badminton Association President, **Arun Lakhani**, was elected as the **Senior Vice-President**
- **Omar Rashid**, Secretary of Assam Badminton Association was elected unopposed as the **Secretary (events)**.

Myntra hires Mithun Sundar as chief revenue officer

- *Mithun Sundar was PepsiCo India's Head of Strategy. He succeeds Naresh Krishnaswamy.*
- **Subrata Bhattacharjee has been appointed Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia**
- **Five Indians in Bloomberg Billionaires top 100 Index** with Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates holding on to the top two spots.

These five are: Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani, **Lakshmi Mittal, Pallonji Mistry, Azim Premji, Shiv Nadar**

India Ranks 37th In Global Startup Ecosystem In 2017 out of 125 countries.: StartupBlink Report

- In global ranking of cities, **Bengaluru, New Delhi, and Mumbai are the top three Indian cities** that have featured in the list.
- **United States (US) has topped the global ranking index of countries**, followed by United Kingdom (UK) and Canada.
- Among Asian Countries, Singapore (at 10th spot) has attained the highest ranking.
- Four African nations that have featured in the list are South Africa (38th), followed by Kenya (53rd), Egypt (54th) and Nigeria (57th).

Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking 2017 – Top 5: United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Israel, Germany

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- **Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi wins re-election with more than 97% of the vote in last week's election**
 - **Andhra Pradesh appoints shuttler Srikanth as Deputy Collector**
 - Srikanth recently received Padma Shri award, the fourth highest civilian award in the Republic of India.
 - **Debjani Ghosh assumes charge as Nasscom President**
 - She *succeeds R Chandrashekhara*.
- NASSCOM:**
- Chairperson: Raman Roy
 - Vice Chairman: Rishad Premji
 - Headquarters: New Delhi, Chanakyaपुर

Union HRD Minister Releases 'NIRF India Rankings 2018' for Higher Education Institutions in various categories on the basis of performance of Higher Educational Institutions in a programme.

- The Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru has been adjudged the overall best institution in the country. The IISc is followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University and Banaras Hindu University.
- **IIT-Madras** has been adjudged the **best engineering college** while, **IIM-Ahmedabad**, the **best management institution**. **AIIMS New Delhi**, **PGIMER Chandigarh** and **CMC Vellore** were ranked as the top three medical colleges.

STATES

Jammu gets its first tulip garden at Sanasar

- This is the first tulip garden in Jammu region **near the Sanasar lake**. Red, yellow and white tulips have been grown in the garden this year.

Uttar Pradesh: Ganga Hariteema Yojana launched in 27 districts at Allahabad in a function organised on the bank of **Sangam the confluence of rivers of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati**.

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- Objectives of the schemes include **enhancing green cover in the catchment areas of the river Ganga** and to **control the land erosion**.
- General people will also will be encouraged for plantation on their private lands under **One Person One Tree slogan**.
- A **high power committee** under chairmanship of Chief Minister has been set up **to monitor the implementation of the scheme**.
- The scheme will be carried out **by September 16 Ozone Day of this year**. **Department of Forest** has been nominated as **nodal department for the scheme**.

Assam Assembly passes bill to regulate fees of private schools

- Assam Assembly today unanimously passed a bill ***The Assam Non-Government Educational Institutions (Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2018***.
- It aims **to regulate fees of private schools, having a provision to slap a penalty to the tune of Rs 10 lakh as well withdrawal of registration for violators**.
- As per the bill, the government shall set up one or more Fee Regulatory Committees to determine the fee structure for any standard or course of study in any non-government schools imparting education in primary, middle, secondary and higher secondary level.
- The Committee shall recommend maximum limits of fees to be charged by different categories of non-government educational institutions every year before starting of the academic session.

Asia's largest Startup Conclave, Huddle Kerala, will be held at Kovalam.

- The initiative is envisaged to provide a platform for start-ups to pitch their products and interact with a wide array of technology and industry leaders from around the world.

Mizoram government sign peace pact with Hmar People's Convention (Democratic)

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- **HPC (D) is the only active rebel outfit in the state** and the peace accord could bring lasting peace in the region
- **Hmar People's Convention (Democratic)** have been **demanding a *separate autonomous district council – under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution – by carving out areas adjoining southern Manipur, northern Mizoram and southern Assam.***

Mangaluru airport adjudged India's cleanest airport

- AAI conducted a survey in 53 Indian airports.

MAA - Mother's Absolute Affection programme launched by Himachal Pradesh with an aim to promote breastfeeding.

- *Breastfeeding helps in **reducing the incidence of infant mortality and early childhood mortality** and provides complete nutrition to a child.*

Uttarakhand CM launches drive to transform public schools

- The **main purpose** of this campaign is to **start smart classes in government schools** and provide them **with all basic facilities** required by students like safe buildings, clean drinking water, furniture, fans, heaters, sports material and computers.

Karnataka polls: Election Commission to set up 450 Pink polling booths

- Pink Booths aimed at ***empowering women and increasing their participation in the poll process.***
- The Election Commission has decided to set up **450 Sakhi Pink** booths , **managed completely by female staff** including presiding officer, polling officer, micro observers and security personnel.
- Last year, **Gujarat was the first state to get polling booths manned by women.**



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Sikkim CM announces monthly pension of 1000 rupees for farmers engaged in organic farming

- Sikkim has banned sale and consumption of non-organic agricultural and horticultural products comprising cereals, vegetables, spices and fruits.

Note: *Sikkim is the first fully organic state in the country.*

Maharashtra govt provided 1% reservation for orphans in education and jobs

- According to the resolution, reservation is applicable to all state-level recruitments, across all levels from Class I to IV.
- The persons who cannot trace their parents or any relative and do not know their caste will be eligible for the reservation. They should have the orphan certificate issued by the state government.

Golden Temple in Amritsar Bans plastic

- Special bags made from starch granules derived from maize and potato that have been used for carrying Karah Parshad.
- *The Golden Temple is one of the most revered spiritual sites of Sikhism.*
- *Punjab is The only state in India with a majority Sikh population.*

World-Class Interpretation Centre and Tourist Amenities inaugurated at Konark Sun Temple

- A state-of-the-art Interpretation Centre that showcases the unique architectural features of Konark Sun Temple.
- **Odisha Day is celebrated on 1 April in Odisha in the memory of the formation of the state as a separate province on 1 April 1936.**

Madhya Pradesh's Kadaknath chicken gets Geographical Indication tag

- The protein-rich meat of Kadaknath, chicks and eggs are sold at a much higher rate than other varieties of chicken.
- The breed is native to Jhabua, Alirajpur and parts of Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.

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*A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products **that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.** For eg. - Banglar Rasogolla, Mamallapuram stone sculptures*

The 5th Indo-Kyrgyzstan joint Exercise KHANJAR -V- in Mizoram

• The two-week joint training included **understanding tactics of platoon level, developing inter operability and sharing of best practices** controlled by a Joint Command Post.

Foundation stone of 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) laid in Uttarkashi

- NMHEP ,allocated to **SJVN Ltd - a Mini Ratna** ,is located on the **river Tons – a tributary of the Yamuna**, in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.

*It will **add 265.5 Million Units of renewable energy to the grid and would result in CO2 emissions reductions to the tune of 0.21 Million tons annually.***

Sports

International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings.

- **Indian Table Tennis player Sathiyam Gnansekaran** has reached his career-best ranking of **46** in the latest **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings**.
- Veteran Table Tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal has registered a phenomenal jump of 22 places to be at 48 in the latest ITTF Ranking.
- Soumyajit Ghosh (70), Harmeet Desai(74), Anthony Amalraj (83) and Sanil Shetty (84) are the other Indian Table Tennis players in top 100.
- **Among Indian Woman Table Tennis Players, Manika Batra continues to rank highest at 58**, followed by Mouma Das at 88.

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2018 Commonwealth Games

- World champion weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu **gave India its first Gold Medal at the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast .**
- In the 56 kilogram category, **P Gururaja lifted a total weight of 249 kg** to finish second in the event.
- **Sangita Chanu bags gold in 53kg Women's Weightlifting category**
- **Weightlifter Sathish Sivalingam bags third gold for India** in the ongoing 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast .
- Deepak Lather lifted a total weight of 295 kg, 136 kg in Snatch and 159 kg in Clean and Jerk, to earn a bronze medal at Commonwealth Games 2018.

FIRST GENDER EQUAL GAMES - the first multidiscipline sports event to **offer an equal number of medals to men and women**

The **2022 CWG** venue **-Birmingham, England.**

21st Commonwealth Games : in Gold Coast, Australia

Star India bags Indian cricket home series 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 for a period of next five years, till 2023.

- Star now has a **virtual monopoly** in the cricket broadcasting world having bagged **the IPL rights for a record Rs 16,347 crore bid.**

Roger Federer loses No.1 ranking to Rafael Nadal in ATP rankings

NATIONAL NEWS

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the modernisation of the Government Press

- The Government Press serves both the Houses of Parliament during session for printing services. It also prints important gazette notifications, ordinances and budget related materials.
- It will be made ready by 2020.

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- *Amount sanctioned for the total project is Rs 338.56 crore. Out of this Rs 100 crore has been allotted for plant and machineries*

Indian Railways inducts New Machine 09-3x Dynamic Tamping Express

- Indian Railway has inducted three numbers of 09-3X Dynamic Tamping Express machines, under MAKE IN INDIA initiative, **the state of the art integrated track maintenance.**
- Costing about ₹ 27Cr each is a **latest high output integrated tamping machine having multiple functions.**
- These machines have been manufactured in India This will **further improve the safety, reliability and economy in maintenance of tracks over Indian Railways.**
- A new **3D state-of-the-art tamping simulator has been installed and commissioned at Indian Railway Track Machine Training Centre Allahabad (IRTMTC) recently.**

Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches first ever multipurpose “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” on pilot basis for establishment in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh

- *This first model Van Dhan Vikas Kendra is being implemented for training of 300 beneficiaries with **a total outlay of Rs 43.38 lakhs for training,** providing equipments & tools for primary level processing and infrastructure & building for housing the Kendra.*
- **Purpose-** skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility for tribals involved in collection of MFPs

Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas. Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from MFP on which they spend major portion of their time.

India becomes second largest manufacturer of crude steel in February 2018.

- It has surpassed Japan according to Steel Users Federation of India.
- **China is the current largest producer of crude steel in the world. It**

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contributes to more than 50% of steel production in the world.

- India's crude steel production was up 4.4% with 93.11 million tonnes (MT) from April 2017 to February 2018

Khadi Store Locator App launched by Minister of State for MSME Giriraj Singh .

- The app was **launched during 9th meeting of National Board of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in New Delhi.**
- The app will help in locating 4000 Khadi stores across India.
- Nearly 7 lakh privately owned household units are engaged in manufacturing Khadi and Village Industries products in India.

Note- **(KVIC)** Chairman – V. K. Saxena

Union Government launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring

- UTTAM stands for 'Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal'.
- It has been **developed by Union Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL)** for all citizens and coal consumers to **monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries.**

Global Logistics Summit was held On 5th and 6th April 2018, in New Delhi.

- It was **organised by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, along with FICCI and the World Bank Group.**
- The Summit acts as a platform to hold discussions for global experts, academics, government officials and private sector and industry representatives.

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The Ministry of Human Resource Development constituted **High Powered Committee to examine the system of conducting CBSE Board exams with a view to prevent leakages.**

- **Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi**, will be the Chairperson of the 7 member High Power Committee.

IMPORTANT MOU'S APPROVED

Cabinet approves rightsizing the Competition Commission of India to **One Chairperson and Three Members (totalling four)** .

Note: Competition Commission of India

- Headquarters- New Delhi
- Chairman - Smita Jhingran

Union Cabinet approves Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 *for better protection and promotion of human rights in the country.*

Salient Features:

1. It proposes to include **“National Commission for Protection of Child Rights”** as deemed Member of the Commission;
2. It proposes to **add a woman Member** in the composition of the Commission;
3. It proposes to **enlarge the scope of eligibility and scope of selection** of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission; and
4. It proposes to **incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories.**

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation ,UNICEF ,launched Satyagraha Se Swachhagraha campaign in New Delhi.

- It is a **nationwide campaign** that will culminate on **10th of this month** marking the **100th year of Champaran Satyagraha** to spread the message of Swachhata across the country.

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- Over 20 thousand Swachhagrahis from different parts of the country would be working to trigger behavioural change in 38 districts of Bihar.
- Top ten Swachhagrahis will be awarded for their contribution towards the cause.

Champan Satyagraha of 1917, during the period of the British Raj, was the first Satyagraha movement inspired by Mohandas Gandhi and a major revolt in the Indian Independence Movement.

MoU between Indian Army and HDFC Bank was signed on the Defence Salary Package to suit the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.

Apart from other benefit, the Army personnel will get-

1. Free personal accident death cover and free permanent disability cover of Rs 30 lakhs,
2. Free educational cover of upto Rs 1 Lakh per year for four years for education of dependent child in case of accidental death of defence personnel and
3. 100% processing fees waived for Car Loans and Personal Loans.

Note: HDFC Bank Is Now A Domestically- Systemically Important Bank.

Steel Ministry and its PSUs Observe Swachhata Pakhwada from March 16-31, 2018.

- Ministry of Steel ranks among **the top 10 Ministries/Departments** of Government of India, **in the implementation of Swachhata related activities.**
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, is **the nodal Ministry for overseeing Swachhata related activities** in the Central Government.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA's Hubble Telescope captures the most distant star ever seen named 'Icarus'

- It is a huge blue stellar body. Its light has taken nine billion years to reach Earth

DoT issues 13 digit numbers for M2M network trials.

- The Department of Telecom has issued 13-digit numbers to telecom operators for the trial of **machine-to-machine (M2M) communications like smart electric metres and car tracking devices.**
- The 13-digit numbers have been **allocated to state-run firm BSNL and private telecom operators Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Idea Cellular and Vodafone for testing purposes only.**
- The authority has approved allocation of "1 million codes for testing purpose for each LSA (licence service area)" to service providers.

What is M2M technology?

M2M communication, a new-age technology, is at the heart of concepts such as **smart homes and smart cars.**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has recommended that **all telecom licence holders should be allowed to provide M2M service using any spectrum.**

Ola unveils in-trip insurance: Cost starts at Re 1, covers up to Rs 500,000

- This in-trip insurance(**optional**) will **cover for loss of belongings, missed flights, and medical expenses up to Rs 500,000 in case of an accident.**
- Initially this service will be available in metro cities. Later it will be launched in the 110 cities where Ola operates
- **Ola has partnered with Acko General Insurance and ICICI Lombard General Insurance for this in-trip insurance programme.**
- **Customers can make insurance claims through the Ola app itself.**

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Facebook has deployed technology tools and thousands of people to work on security to protect the integrity of upcoming elections in several countries, including India.

- The social media giant has been slammed over a major data breach scandal by Cambridge Analytica, a British firm linked to Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

SpaceX successfully launched its Falcon 9 rocket - SpaceX's 14th commercial resupply services mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

- This mission will focus on scientific investigations such as a study on severe thunderstorms on Earth, effects of microgravity on production of high-performance products from metal powders, and food growth in space.

Centre, Maharashtra Govt & World Bank signed 420 million dollar

- The Centre, Maharashtra Government and the **World Bank** have **signed a 420 million dollar project to help small and marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha region of the state.**
- The project will help in **increasing climate resilient practices in agriculture .**
- **Maharashtra Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture** will **be implemented in rural areas largely dependent upon rain-fed agriculture.**

Note: **World Bank Group:**

- President – Jim Yong Kim
- Headquarters – Washington, DC

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International

MoU between India and Canada on cross-border Industry-Academic Cooperation

- The MoU aims at **fostering cross-border partnerships focused on research excellence and industry-academic collaboration** .
- Mou will **lead to new knowledge creation, joint scientific publications, Industrial exposure, IP generation.**

MoU between India and Iran in area of trade remedies

The MoU will promote cooperation between the two **countries in areas** such as exchange of information, capacity building activities, cooperation in investigations related to anti-dumping and countervailing duty.

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Anti-Dumping And Countervailing Duty-

- *It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.*

The AIIB's two-day Regional Conference on '**Enhancing Port and Coastal Infrastructure**' begins in **Visakhapatnam**, organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with **AIIB, CII and Research and Infrastructure System (RIS)** for Developing Countries.

The panel discusses various issues relating to

- Trade promotion through sea route ,building-up robust port & coastal infrastructure ,implementation of Sagarmala project in a successful and time bound manner , revising & relaxing maritime regulatory issues to promote blue economy in India
- **Note: AIIB H.Q.-** Beijing, China

In a major setback to Hafiz Saeed's political ambitions, the United States designated **Milli Muslim League (MML)**, a **political front of Hafiz Saeed-led Jamaat-ud Dawa**, as a **foreign terrorist organisation**.

- TAJK is said to be a front of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). It also designated seven members of the MML as foreign terrorists for acting on behalf of LeT.
- **LeT's property and interests in property subject to US jurisdiction are blocked, and US persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with the group.**

Nepal has launched its first “accessible” trekking trail in Pokhara city for the differently-abled and the elderly, inaugurated as a part of three-day **20th international conference on Accessible Tourism**’ held for the first time in the Himalayan nation from March 29 to March 31 in Pokhara

- ***Accessible tourism**’ is an emerging concept to ensure that tourist destinations, products and services are accessible to all people, irrespective of their physical limitations, disabilities or age*

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- The ICAA 2018 theme – “**Inspiration and Perspiration**” – relates to the awareness, planning, commitment and collaboration necessary to make Nepal “The Accessible Adventure Capital of Asia.”

9th Trilateral Meet- India, Japan and the US have agreed to remain engaged and strengthen cooperation in support for a free, peaceful and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and also agreed to continue **collaboration to promote increased connectivity in the region.**

The Forum held consultations on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj embarked on a three- day visit to Azerbaijan to participate in the Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Note- Non-Aligned Movement - NAM

- The Non-Aligned Movement is a group of states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc formed after 2nd world war.
- ***India is a Founder member of NAM.***
- **Founded: 1961, Belgrade, Serbia**
- **Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia**

India and Azerbaijan have inked two documents for the visa waiver for diplomatic, official and service passports holders and cooperation between diplomatic training institutes, agreements were signed during the ongoing visit of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to that country.

Note: AZERBAIJAN

- Capital - Baku
- Currency - Azerbaijani manat



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Nirmala Sitharaman's visited for the first time to Russia in her capacity as India's Defence Minister.

- Main purpose of this visit – “to attend the seventh Moscow Conference on International Security”.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe comfortably won the no-confidence motion against him in voting held in Parliament. In the 225-member Parliament, 122 members voted against the motion, while 76 voted in favour.

- The motion was **brought by the Opposition group accusing the Prime Minister's party of involvement in the bond scam.**

Note: SRILANKA

- **Capital:** Colombo
- **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee

The Philippine island of Boracay will be closed to tourists for six months following concerns of damage to its once pristine shores, closure begin on 26 april.

- *The island, known for its white-sand beaches, attracted nearly 2 million tourist last year.*

India has been ranked **the third most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats in 2017, as per the 'Internet Security Threat Report' presented by Symantec,** a security solutions provider.

- **U.S. has been ranked as the top most vulnerable country to such attacks with 26.61% attacks,** followed by **China in the second position with 10.95% attacks.** In 2017, 5.09% of global threats detected were in India.
- *This global threat ranking is based on eight factors: malware, spam, phishing, bots, network attacks, web attacks, ransomware and cryptominers.*

India continues to be second most affected country by spam and bots, third most

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affected country by network attacks, and fourth most affected country by ransomware, according to the report.

On 4th April 2018, the presidents of Iran, Turkey and Russia met for their tripartite summit hosted by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan .

- Summit aimed at speeding up the peace process for Syria and establishing their influence in Syria.
- *This is the second such tripartite summit.*
- *The first tripartite summit was hosted by Vladimir Putin in November 2017 in Sochi, Russia.*

Venezuela is **halting commercial relations with Panamanian officials and companies, including regional airline Copa**, for alleged involvement in money laundering, prompting both countries to recall their ambassadors.

- *Venezuela has been hit with sanctions by Canada, the United States and a number of other countries over issues ranging from human rights violations to corruption and drug trafficking.*
- **Recently, Venezuela launched a virtual currency – “PETRO”**

Note: VENEZUELA

- Capital: Caracas (largest city)
- Currencies: **Venezuelan bolívar**

Qatar is introducing National Service for Women for the first time.

- Women aged over 18 will be able to volunteer for national service which comes into immediate affect, while men will now serve a year instead of three months in the military service.

Note: QATAR

- Capital: Doha
- Currency: Qatari riyal

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The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has rejected Russia's call for a joint investigation with Britain in the case of nerve-agent poisonings of an ex-spy and his daughter in England.

Note : OPCW- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

- It is an intergovernmental organisation and **the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention**, which entered into force on 29 April 1997.
 - *Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands*
 - *Founded: 29 April 1997*

*President Ram Nath Kovind visited to the African countries of **Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia***

- *President Kovind's visit to Zambia is taking place after 29 years.*

Note: Equatorial Guinea-

- Capital: Malabo
- Currency: Central African CFA franc

Sugar tax came into force in the UK as part of the government's plan to combat obesity and sugar related disease.

- The Soft Drinks levy is one part of plan to tackle childhood obesity. Soft Drinks which contain too much added sugar will need to pay a fee.
- The levy is expected to raise 240 million pounds every year for the Treasury.
- *According to UK government figures, 60 per cent of the UK population is overweight, with approximately one in-four people obese, and sugary soft drinks account for around 20 per cent of the sugar consumed by children.*

The introduction of the levy means the UK joins a few countries, including Mexico, France and Norway, have introduced similar taxes.

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US President Donald Trump has signed a presidential memorandum to end "catch and release" practice whereby **illegal immigrants are released into the United States shortly after their apprehension.**

In his presidential memorandum, Trump said human smuggling operations, smuggling of drugs and other contraband, and entry of gang members and other criminals at the border of the US threatened its national security and public safety.

Nepalese Prime Minister inaugurated the Integrated Check Post at Birgunj in Nepal.

- **Nepalese Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli**, Prime Minister of Nepal, on a State visit to India from April 6-8, 2018.
- It will enhance cross-border trade and transit of goods and movement of people bringing greater opportunities for shared growth and development.
- The two Prime Ministers witnessed the ground breaking ceremony of the **Motihari-Amlekhgunj cross-border petroleum products pipeline at Motihari, India.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action – 4 April

- This day is observed to create awareness about the threat of mines, unexploded grenades and other explosive hazards that prevents the return of normalcy in areas affected by armed conflicts.

Note :Theme: Advancing Protection, Peace and Development

National maritime Day -5 April 2018

- On 5th April 1919, SS Loyalty, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd started from Mumbai to the United Kingdom.
- The theme for National maritime Day 2018 is: 'Indian Shipping – An Ocean of opportunity'.

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- 'Varuna' award is conferred to outstanding contributors of Indian maritime sector on this day

World Health Day 7 April

- It is celebrated on **every year** to **mark the anniversary of the founding of World Health Organization.**
- This year's theme of the Day is "**Universal health coverage- everyone, everywhere**".

Note: WHO- World Health Organization

- Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 7 April 1948

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