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WEEKLY CAPSULE

2nd WEEK of April

(8th - 14th)

Part II

ECONOMY AND BANKING

Centre, Maharashtra Govt & World Bank signed 420 million dollar Climate project

- The project is to help small and marginal farmers in rural areas largely dependent upon rain-fed agriculture of the Marathwada and Vidarbha region of the state.
- The project will help in increasing climate resilient practices in agriculture .

Note: World Bank Group -President – Jim Yong Kim, Headquarters – Washington, DC

Indian Overseas Bank launched IoT-based customer service app

As part of its '*Customer First*' initiative, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched **three 'Internet of Things' (IoT)-based** customer service initiatives on a pilot basis at one of its branch in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

1. **First initiative** is a **sound pressure level to send an alert** to the branch manager as well as the designated official at the regional office, on a real-time basis.

2. **Second initiative** - a tablet containing *a web responsive application to customers visiting the branch, for feedback* ,which also has 'Happy' and 'Unhappy' emotions.

3. **Third initiative** is a '*Missed Call Feedback*' **system** on the dedicated mobile numbers in case of grievances.

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India's forex reserves at record high of \$424.864 billion: RBI

- As per RBI data, on a week-on-week basis, forex reserves increased by \$503.6 million in the week to April 6, 2018.
- China has the largest forex reserve of about \$ 3 trillion.

Note: India's forex reserves consists of Foreign Currency Assets, Gold , Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), Reserve Tranche Position

RBI increased bond investment limit for foreign portfolio investors by a percentage point in two phases —

- This will allow foreigners about Rs 1.4 trillion of extra play in Indian bonds by the end of FY20.
- The limit for FPI investment in central government securities (G-secs) would be increased by 0.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent of outstanding stock of securities in 2018-19 and 6 per cent of outstanding stock of securities in 2019-20
- **Net increase in government bonds will be Rs 592 billion in two years.**
- there would be a “single limit for FPI investment in all types of corporate bonds”.
- The limit for FPI investment in state development loans (SDLs) remained unchanged at 2 per cent of outstanding stock of securities.

Note: G SECS- A government security (G-Sec) is a debt obligation of the Indian government to fund their fiscal deficit.

ICICI Bank has become the first Indian client of Global financial messaging cooperative, SWIFT to go live with an improved cross-border payments service.

- The improved cross-border payments service - the **gpi (Global Payment Innovation) Tracker, enables real-time payments tracking across correspondent banks** and has a facility to track the payments instructions across the correspondent banks globally.
- ***SWIFT - Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System platform.***

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Indian Bank launched PFMS & 'Bharat QR'- mobile payment collection

- PFMS will help government agencies for processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting, reconciliation.
- The facility was being used for **MNREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) transactions in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, at present.**

'Bharat QR' is a mobile payment collection scheme to accept digital payments enabling customers to make payments through the QR facility.

Alibaba-funded SenseTime becomes world's most valuable AI startup

- SenseTime Group Ltd. has raised \$600 million from Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and other investors at a valuation of more **than \$3 billion, becoming the world's most valuable artificial intelligence (AI) start up.**
- Company **specializes in systems that analyse faces and images on an enormous scale.**
- Backed by Qualcomm Inc., it **underscores its status as one of a crop of homegrown firms spearheading Beijing's ambition to become the leader in AI by 2030.**
- *And it's a contributor to the world's biggest system of surveillance.*

It is developing a service code-named "Viper" to parse data from thousands of live camera feeds -- a platform it hopes will prove invaluable in mass surveillance.

First Supplier Investment Summit Held in Delhi

- It was inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog, the **three-day summit** was attended by over 50 global smartphone component suppliers, with the aim of helping them set up local manufacturing units in the country.
- Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi **announced to open three more smartphones in India.** in partnership with Foxconn .

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- Company's **first Surface Mount Technology (SMT) plant in Chennai** will manufacture printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) units in the country.
- The three new smartphone plants located across campuses in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh and a new campus in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

PCBA is the process of soldering or assembly of electronic components to a PCB or printed circuit board. PCBA is one of the most important components of the smartphone, and contributes to nearly 50% of the value of the phone.

Roll-out of e-Way Bill system for Intra-State movement of goods in four States - Andhra Pradesh ,Gujarat , Kerala, Telangana , Uttar Pradesh from 15th April, 2018

EWay Bill is an electronic way bill for movement of goods which can be generated on the eWay Bill Portal.

Transport of goods of more than Rs. 50,000 (Single Invoice/bill/delivery challan) in value in a vehicle cannot be made by a registered person without an e-way bill.

SBI News - This week

1. SBI invested Rs 80 bn in the 900 megawatt (MW) Arun III hydropower project of Nepal.

- The contract for constructing this project has been awarded to **Sutlej Jal Vikas Nigam (SJVN)**, targeted to be completed by September 2022.

2. SBI partnered with Dimension Data to set up digital branches in the country labelled **SBI-INTOUCH**,

- **The aim** - to use data analytics to enable instant loan approvals and give investment advice to customers, besides powering digital banking transactions. *SBI has set up 60 such branches in the country.*

Sbi spends about 7-8% of its operating expenses (opex) on technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence and data analytics.

3. SBI launched UK subsidiary with £225 million capital commitment with an initial capital commitment of £225 million from its parent entity.

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SBI became the first foreign bank in the UK to ringfence its retail division from its wholesale business.

4. SBI adopted a village in Purba Medinipur district of Orissa to familiarise the residents with cashless transactions.

The SBI distributed android phones with a USB based fingerprint capture device to the shopkeepers to usher in digital transactions.

SBI:Headquarters: Mumbai,Founded: 1 July 1955

11 public sector banks placed under RBI's PCA Framework due to non-performing assets.

- **The 11 public sector banks under RBI's PCA Framework are:**
- Allahabad Bank,United Bank of India,Corporation Bank,IDBI Bank,UCO Bank,Bank of India,Central Bank of India,Indian Overseas Bank,Oriental Bank of Commerce,Dena Bank ,Bank of Maharashtra

Note - Five more banks are expected to be brought under RBI's PCA framework. They are:Andhra Bank, Punjab National Bank,Canara Bank,Union Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank.

PCA norms allow the regulator to place certain restrictions such as halting branch expansion and stopping dividend payment, cap a bank's lending limit to one entity or sector and increasing the size of their loan book.

India to grow 7.3% this financial year, 7.6% in Next says ADB

- In its **Asian Development Outlook (ADO), 2018**, -The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected India's economic **growth to 7.3 per cent this fiscal and further to 7.6 percent in the next financial year**, on back of GST and banking reforms.
- Indian economy grew 6.6 percent in the last fiscal as it battled the lingering effects of demonetisation in 2016, businesses adjusting to GST in 2017, and a subdued agriculture.

Asian Development Bank (ADB): Founded: 19 December 1966

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Members- 67, Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines

J&K Bank launched special financing scheme for industrial units

J&K Bank has launched ‘Add on Working Capital GST’, a special financing scheme to help the state industry cope with the delay in reimbursement of Goods and Services Tax (GST) under special tax relief.

By ensuring healthy cash flow, *this scheme will provide relief to industrial units in J&K that are facing stressed liquidity position due to Goods and Services Tax regime.*

J&K Bank: Founded in – 1938, Headquarters – Srinagar, J&K, Tagline – Serving To Empower

Reserve Bank tightens reporting norms for Liberalised Remittance Scheme

- Reserve Bank tightened reporting norms for the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme** under which **an individual can transfer upto 2,50,000 US Dollars in a year.**
- Reserve Bank has made it **mandatory for banks to file a daily report** of all such transactions. These transactions are currently permitted by banks based on the declaration made by the remitter as there is no way to verify the claim independently.

Liberalized Remittance Scheme

- *Under the LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.*

RBI slapped Rs.3 Crore monetary penalty on IDBI bank

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs. 3 crore on IDBI Bank for non-compliance with the outlined norms related to reporting of bad loans (**the penalty was imposed on account of non-compliance with the directions issued on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms**)

IDBI Bank: Headquarters – Mumbai

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AIIB invested \$140M to improve Rural Connectivity in India

- The Board of Directors of the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** have approved **USD \$ 140-Million** loan to **improve the rural road connectivity and management for residents in Madhya Pradesh, India**, at a Meeting held recently in Beijing, China.
- **This project is co-financed by the World Bank.**
- It aims to improve the rural road connectivity and management for residents of nearly 5,640 villages.

Nearly, 1.5 Million rural people of Madhya Pradesh will be benefited from improved livelihoods, education and mobility offered through this project.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Headquarters – Beijing, China

India jumped 13 places to 130th spot in latest annual Index of Economic Freedom

- As per the latest Index of Economic Freedom, China has jumped one spot and Pakistan is now at 131 position. China with 57.4 points was ranked 111 in the 2017.
- In 2017, **India with a score of 52.6 points** was ranked at 143 among 180 countries, two spots below neighbour Pakistan)
- The report also mentioned that Corruption, underdeveloped infrastructure, a restrictive and burdensome regulatory environment, and poor financial and budget management continue to undermine overall development.

Index of Economic Freedom released by: Heritage Foundation.

PNB launched new products such as pre-approved credit card and UPI solution to mark its 124th foundation day

- **PNB also announced its UPI partnership with WALNUT**, an expense management app that has features like bill reminders, bill-split and instant paperless loans.

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- PNB conducted blood donation camps in 200 blood donation centres in 76 circle offices covering more than 6,500 branches in all states and union territories - The camp was inaugurated at PNB head office in New Delhi by Sunil Mehta, MD and CEO of PNB

Punjab National Bank (PNB): Headquarters – New Delhi

124th foundation day PNB - 13th April 2018

L&T, BEL inked MoU for defence products to cater to the needs of evolving domestic and export markets for defence products and systems.

The MoU envisages

- *collaboration between L&T and BEL to fulfil growing requirements of the Indian Armed Force.*
- *Besides, the MoU will also leverage expertise, experience and well-developed supply chain of BEL and L&T to enhance exports in the defence sector.*

Bharat Electronics Limited -BEL, Founded in – 1954, Headquarters – Bengaluru, Karnataka

Dedicated defence and aerospace SME fund

- Indian Government will be setting up a **dedicated defence and aerospace small and medium enterprises (SME) fund**, registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- **Objective for setting up this fund** - to channelize investments into the two defence corridors announced by Government of India in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI): Founded: 12 April 1992, Headquarters: Mumbai

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Government raised NABARD's authorised capital by 6 times to Rs 300 billion to aid rural economy *as a part of the initiative to double farmers' income by 2022.*

- It will help NABARD to expand its business and activities, resulting in promotion of integrated rural development, prosperity of rural areas and generation of more employment.

Reliance Jio raised Rs 3250 crore from Japanese banks to fund capex

- It had signed approximately JPY 53.5 billion samurai term loan with 7 year bullet maturity. **the loan value amounts to nearly Rs 3,248 crore.**
- *This deal is said to be the largest samurai loan (low interest loans from Japanese investors) for an Asian corporate company.*

*Capital expenditure, or **CapEx** are funds used by a company to acquire, upgrade, and maintain physical assets such as property, industrial buildings, or equipment. CapEx is often used to undertake new projects or investments by the firm.*

World Bank's outlook on Indian Economy:

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

World Bank: Formed in – 1945, Headquarters – Washington D.C., US, President – Jim Yong Kim

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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) with following salient features :
- **'Yes GST' enables MSME to avail OD up to Rs 1 crore**, based on their annual turnover, backed by Goods and Services Tax (GST) returns, can be availed by an MSME against mortgage of residential or commercial property.

Yes Bank: Founded in – 2004, Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra, Tagline – 'Experience our Expertise'

Bandhan Bank ranked among top 50 most valuable entities in terms of market capitalization (m-cap) in India

- It surpassed Dabur India, Britannia Industries, New India Assurance Company, Tech Mahindra and Bharti Infrastructure in the last 10 trading sessions, in overall market capitalization ranking with **a market capitalization of Rs 640 billion on 12th April 2018**, as per **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) data**.
- *Bandhan Bank had raised Rs4,500 crore through a successful initial public offering (IPO) in March after setting the pricing at Rs375 per share.*

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd is the most valuable company in India, followed by Reliance Industries Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.

Bandhan Bank Headquarters – Kolkata, West Bengal

UIDAI introduced digitally-signed QR code with photo for e-Aadhaar

- **The QR code** will contain photograph of the Aadhaar holder along with demographic details to enable better offline verification of an individual.
- **QR code** is a form of barcode label containing machine-readable information.
- **e-Aadhaar** is the electronic version of Aadhaar that enables user agencies like banks to verify authenticity of Aadhaar card offline.

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To make this information more secure and tamper-proof it will be signed with UIDAI digital signature.

UIDAI CEO – Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Headquarters – New Delhi

- **India has jumped 13 places to 130th spot in latest annual Index of Economic Freedom**
- As per the latest Index of Economic Freedom, China has jumped one spot and Pakistan is now at 131 position. China with 57.4 points was ranked 111 in the 2017.
- In 2017, India with a score of 52.6 points was ranked at 143 among 180 countries, two spots below neighbour Pakistan.
- Noting that India is developing into an open-market economy, the Index said traces of its past autarkic policies still remain.

Index of Economic Freedom Released by : Heritage Foundation.

INTERNATIONAL

- **India, Morocco signed MoU to promote mineral exploration.**
- MoU is on the development of the geological infrastructure for Geoscience Maps and geochemical maps, strengthening geological research and evaluation of the potential of mineral resources.
- *Geological Survey of India is a pioneer exploratory agency in exploration and is willing to assist Morocco in geological mapping and mineral exploration.*
- **India-Timor Leste signed MOU in field of public health to extend affordable healthcare** to the people of the Southeast Asian nation would open avenues of cooperation between the two countries.
- **Note: Timor leste :Capital: Dili ,Currencies: United States Dollar, Indonesian rupiah, East Timor centavo coins**
- Japan activated its **Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB)**, its first marine unit since World War Two.
- *The unit is the latest component of Japan's growing marine force that includes helicopter carriers, amphibious ships, Osprey tilt-rotor troop*

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carriers and amphibious assault vehicles.

[Japan](#): Capital – Tokyo Currency – Japanese yen

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia concluded “***Desert Tiger 5***” joint military exercise aimed at sharing expertise and enhancing joint military actions.
- **It is aimed at improving combat readiness, raising combat efficiency and enhance interoperability of the ground forces of both the countries.**

[Malaysia](#) Capital: *Kuala Lumpur*, Currency: *Malaysian ringgit*

- **President Ram Nath Kovind, during his Africa visit from 7th -12th april, held delegation level talks with Swaziland King Mswati the III in Mbabane.**
- They reviewed the spectrum of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. India and Swaziland have also signed two agreements *on health and visa waiver*
- **President Kovind was conferred with Order of the Lion, the highest award of Swaziland.**

[Swaziland King: Mswati III](#), Capitals: *Mbabane, Lobamba*, Currencies: *Swazi lilangeni, South African rand*

- **Also, Ram Nath Kovind is the first President of India to visit Equatorial Guinea, there he was conferred *with the ‘Condecoracion’, the highest honour accorded to a non-citizen by the government of Equatorial Guinea.***
- ***India and Equatorial Guinea signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the fields of***

1. **AYUSH and traditional medicine;**
2. **medicinal plants; and**
3. **An action plan for Information and Communication Technology.**

[Equatorial Guinea](#): Capital – *Malabo* ,Currency – *Central African franc*

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- India and Zambia signed four agreements to strengthen the ties between the two countries, agreements including:
 1. **Double taxation**
 2. **Judicial co-operation**
 3. **Establishment of Entrepreneurship Development Institute in Zambia**
 4. **visa exemption on diplomatic passports** and official holding relevant passports.

*President also laid the **foundation stone of Lusaka city roads decongestion project** which will be implemented with the support from India.*

ZAMBIA Capital – Lusaka, Zambian Currency - kwacha

- ***During Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale three day visit (8th -10th april) to Bangladesh, India and Bangladesh inked six MoUs including***
- ***one for the construction of a 5-km long oil pipeline between Siliguri and Parbatipur aimed at pumping diesel from India to Bangladesh with a capacity of 1 million tonne per annum, and discussed the Teesta water sharing issue as well as the Rohingya refugee crisis.***
- ***The other MoUs are on cooperation between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Betar,***
- ***Installation of an Indian Council for Cultural Relations(ICCR) Urdu Chair in Dhaka University.***

India also extended full support to Bangladesh's efforts for resolving the Rohingya refugee crisis, including the early repatriation of the displaced people to Myanmar.

BANGLADESH Capital: Dhaka, Currencies: Taka

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 16th International Energy Forum, hosted by India and co-hosted by China and Korea, it would focus on global energy security and transition.

- ***IEF16 aimed to focus on how global shifts, transition policies and new technologies influence market stability and future investment in the energy sector.***

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- The IEF16 is the largest gathering of energy ministers from across the globe, industry leaders and heads of key international organisations who will debate the **future of global energy**.

IEF Secretariat Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, members -72

MoU was signed between India and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the return of illegal migrants

- **MoU will** facilitate the Visa Free Agreement for holders of Diplomatic passports as well as liberalization of UK Visa Regime for those who are travelling to the UK legally.
- US announced **eligibility review of India for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** - preferential treatment that US government gives to its exporters from developing and developed countries.
- ***The GSP is the largest and oldest US trade preference programme designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.***
- US has also announced eligibility review of **other two countries - Indonesia and Kazakhstan.**

Benefits under Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

- **duty free entry of certain goods like chemicals, gems, textiles among others to the US market.**

In 2017 India was the biggest beneficiary of the GSP with a subsidies worth \$5.6 billion.

- **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC)**, in Gujarat launched **6th edition of Heat Action Plan (HAP) aimed at protecting city dwellers from scorching temperatures during summer - plan** .
- The plan implemented **in partnership with Gandhi nagar-based Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) and US based Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC)** along with other groups and NGOs.

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Salient Features of AMC's 6th edition of Heat Action Plan:

- Key elements of this year's HAP are expanding use of cool roofs, increasing access to drinking water, reflective paint on buildings to lower inside temperatures and training medical professionals to help protect patients during extreme heat.
- incorporates an early warning system to be used during heat waves.
- *AMC has been implementing HAP since 2013.*

Ahmedabad is the first city to prepare and implement heat action plan.

New South Wales (NSW), a southeastern Australian state, announced *a two-year USD 1.58 million partnership with India to enhance Indian startup ecosystem*, technology, and advanced manufacturing sectors, announcement made by New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian, who was on an official visit to India from 16th – 19th April, 2018.

- Funds allotted under this partnership funds will be used to **send NSW young entrepreneurs and startups to India to support commercial connections between startups in NSW and India** and for fostering collaboration on advanced technology projects.

NSW is Australia's startup and technology capital.

- India has been ranked **10th in the Commonwealth innovation index** launched as part of a **new Commonwealth Innovation Hub** on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London.
- It has been created in partnership with the **United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its annual Global Innovation Index (GII).**

Index is topped by the UK, Singapore and Canada.

STATES

- **TN Government rolled out Amma Free Wi-Fi zones initiative in 5 districts.**

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- Users will be offered 20 minutes of free internet service per day. After that the users will be charged Rs 10 per hour.
- This scheme will be implemented in 50 spots by Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV). Cost of this project is Rs 8.50 crore.
- Also, TN govt launched Uzhavan mobile app for farmers.
- The app also provides information on the available stocks of seeds and fertilisers in local government and private stores.

Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai, Governor – Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister – K Palaniswami

- **Free chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients announced in Maharashtra** with the first phase of the plan starting in June.
- It also added that a physician and nurse from each of these district hospitals would be imparted training for three weeks from May by the Medical Oncology department of Tata Memorial.
- The initiative would help patients save in lodging and travelling expenses.
- **Madhubani railway station in Bihar got makeover with Mithila paintings**
- More than 225 artists, comprising 80 per cent women, volunteered to paint the station free of cost.
- This feat is equivalent to a world record as the total wall area of more than 14000 sq ft has been fully painted with various themes under traditional Mithila painting style
- **Mithila art, also referred to as Madhubani art is practiced in the Mithila region (in Bihar).**

These paintings constitute geometrical patterns drawn with twigs, fingers, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, using natural dyes and pigments.

Recently, Bihar government has reduced the fee for various competitive examinations for women candidates of all categories.

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- **Maharashtra govt, Tata Trusts to finance the state's first poultry company to be run and owned by tribal women.**
- State government has contributed **12 crore rupees** while **Tata Trusts has given 3 crore** to finance the project
- An agreement had been signed with an NGO, Pradhan, to operate the project.
- As part of the project, 300 women have been given poultry sheds and each of them would be given 400 chicks every day.
- After rearing them for 40 days, the poultry will be sold and the project envisages an income between Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000 for each woman over a 40-day period.

Recently, Organ donation has been made part of school syllabus in Maharashtra with an aim to create awareness about organ and cadaver donation

- Chhattisgarh has been awarded 'State of the Year' 'State of the Year' Award under the 'business leader' category at the India Business Leader Awards (IBLA) in New Delhi, for *remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors.*
- The India Business Leader Awards (IBLA) was organised by CNBC-TV18 channel.

Chhattisgarh occupies 4th rank in World Bank's list of 'Ease of doing Business'.

Chhattisgarh-Capital – Raipur, Chief Minister – Dr. Raman Singh, Governor – Balram Das Tandon

- **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched PMUY scheme in Delhi**
- During the launch event, Mr. Pradhan distributed about 400 LPG connections to families belonging to below poverty line category.
- **PMUY** , administered by **Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, was launched in May 2016.

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- **The objective of this scheme is to provide deposit-free LPG connections with monetary assistance to women from below poverty line (BPL) households.**

Target under this scheme has been increased from the existing 5 crore connections to 8 crore connections by 2020.

Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb launched state component of PMKVY Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, in Agartala.

- **Under this**, target of imparting training to 116000 youths by 2020 will be achieved and will eventually solve the problem of unemployment.
- Tripura has thereby become the **first North East Indian state to implement state component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** through Directorate of Skill Development (DSD).
- DSD has already launched 13 accredited training centres across five districts of Tripura.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is a skill development initiative of Government of India

- **Uttarakhand gets second Mega Food Park in Udham Singh Nagar district.** Union Food Processing Industries Minister, Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Mega Food Park.
- It is being set up over an area of 50.14 acres at a cost of Rs 99.96 crore.
- This Mega Food Park will benefit around 25000 farmers .Besides, it will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5000 persons.
- *Uttarakhand's first Mega Food Park is located at Haridwar and has already become operational.*
- **Kerala Govt will launch 'community radio' In May-June 2018 to update farmers.**

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- This will be the **first such community radio in India, under Government initiative** to get connected with the farming community.
- It will serve as a platform to provide range of information to farmers including climate change and environment issues, tips and information on various aspects of agriculture and agrarian crisis and alerts.
- It will be launched under the Farm Information Bureau (FIB) of the Kerala State's Agriculture Department.

Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregation, Huddle Kerala, will be held at Kovalam.

- **Assam Spring Festival was held at Manas National Park On 7th and 8th April 2018**
- It was **organized by Indian Weavers' Association and the Swankar Mithinga Onsai Afat.- an association of reformed poachers** who are now involved in wildlife conservation in Manas.
- **The aim of the festival is to promote the local food and culture.**

The Manas National park is also a tiger and rhino reserve. It covers five districts of Assam: Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang, Udalguri and Barpeta.

Assam: Capital: Dispur, Governor- Jagdish Mukhi, Chief Minister- Sarbananda Sonowal

- **Kerala issued protocol to confirm brain death cases with an aim to make organ transplants more transparent** in the state.
- **A medical board comprising four doctors**, including one in government service, will be the competent authority to declare a patient brain-dead.
- The guidelines have been divided in to **three stages viz.** –
 1. Precautions to be taken before tests to determine brain death,
 2. Analysis of reflective actions of brain and apnea test (known as sleep test).
 3. Distinction between a state of coma and brain has also been clearly outlined by precise definitions.

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A state of unconsciousness caused by damage to particular nerves of brain has been defined as 'Coma' while state of permanent destruction of brain cells caused by excessive bleeding in brain has been defined as 'Brain Death'.

Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram, Chief Minister – Pinari Vijayan , Governor – P. Sathasivam

- **Odisha Public e-library opened in Berhampur**
- **It is** set up by Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) and Odisha Society of America (OSA)
- **It is** expected to support the library movement of Odisha and help computer literate students.
- The BeMC will connect with the **National Informatics Center (NIC)** so that its **e-Granthalaya** can also be accessed.

National Informatics Center (NIC) - Parent organisation Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

OSA (Odisha Society of America)-an association of Odia people living in the US. OSA had offered Rs 20 lakh for the e-library through chief minister's relief fund.

- **Haryana's first startup incubation centre** was launched in Panchkula
- The incubation centre, will initially cater to the students of four government colleges of the district located in Panchkula, Barwala and Kalka.

Startup Accelerator Chamber of Commerce (SACC) is a group of like minded, selfless entrepreneurs, professionals committed to bring a change in developing the Startup eco-system in Punjab and Chandigarh region.

- **Haryana Government launched Water ATM policy for urban areas** to provide clean drinking water to people at public places.
- **Distance between two water ATMs within a city would be 400 metres**, which could be adjusted according to convenience of people
- This **responsibility may also be handed over to a company willing to look after it as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.**

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- **Haryana govt announced special benefits to TB patients** to provide special benefits to tuberculosis patients in an effort to eliminate the infectious disease by 2025.
- State government **will provide nutritional support of 500 rupees per month to notified TB patients** during their treatment with effect from April 1 this year through **Direct Benefit Transfer system**.
- Free services, including sputum examination and X-Ray, will also be provided to TB patients in government hospitals of Haryana.

HARYANA: Governor- Kaptan Singh Solanki, Chief Minister- Manohar Lal Khattar, Capital - Chandigarh

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Romani Day – 8 April

- **The International Romani Day also known as International Roma Day celebrates Romani culture** and creates awareness on issues faced by Romani people.
- This day remembers the first major international meeting of Romani representatives held between 7th and 12th April 1971 in Chelsfield, England.
- **International Day of Human Space Flight & World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day – April 12**
- On 12th April 1961 Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union, performed the first manned flight to the space on a “Vostok-1” spaceship.
- **Russia and some other former USSR countries celebrate 12th April as Cosmonautics Day since 1962.**
- ***This day is celebrated to remember the important contribution of space science and technology in achieving sustainable development goals.***



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SPORTS

- **Maharashtra govt announced cash prizes for those who bagged medals in CWG 2018**
- Madhurika Patkar and Pooja Sahasrabuddhe, both from Thane, and Sanil Shetty have bagged gold in table tennis.
- Also, Chirag C Shetty of Vile Parle has bagged a gold medal in badminton. Besides, Heena Sidhu, who lives in the Mumbai suburb of Goregaon, has won a gold and silver medal in two categories of pistol shooting.

Note: Rewards

- **Medal ---- Player award -----Coach award**
 - I. **Gold medal - 50 lakh rupees, 12.5 lakh rupees**
 - II. **Silver medallists -30 lakh rupees , 7.5 lakh rupees**
 - III. **Bronze winners - 20 lakh rupees , 5 lakh rupees**
- **The 14th edition of the Asia Cup tournament will be held from September 13 to 28 in Dubai and Abu Dhabi . BCCI could not procure permission from the central government to host Pakistan**

Note: The Asia Cup is a biennial event which is now held in both ODI and T20 formats. Current champion- India (6th title), Next tournament- 2018 (ODIs), 2020 (T20Is)

Two Indian athletes ,Race walker KT Irfan and Triple Jumper V Rakesh Babu were barred for breaching "no needles" policy in CWG.

- **South Africa pacer Morne Morkel retired from International cricket**
- In his career, Morkel has played 86 Tests, 117 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 44 T20Is, picking up 309, 188 and 47 wickets respectively. He also played for Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Daredevils and Kolkata

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- **Tennis icon Leander Paes created doubles World record in Davis Cup with 43rd win of his career in the competition, in Tianjin, China.**
- India's Leander Paes and Rohan Bopanna pair defeated China's Gong Mao Xin and Zhang .
- *He has broken the 46-year-old record of Italian player Nicola Pietrangeli and become the Davis Cup's most successful doubles player.*

NATIONAL

- **Jayant Sinha will head task force for fast-tracking roll-out of UAV technology**
- The task force will develop a roadmap with implementable recommendations for Centre as well as State Governments, Industry and Research Institutions.
- The Task Force will focus on research and development, acquisition and commercialisation, application and adoption in specific sectors, regulatory framework and preference for Make in India.
- ***The task force will submit its report within 6 months of its constitution.***
- **Govt to target of constructing 1 crore houses under PMAY-Gramin by 31st March 2019**
- So far over 44 lakh houses have been constructed since the launch of the scheme in 2016.
- Till March this year, over 1.52 lakh habitations have been connected with roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, which constitutes 85 per cent of the total habitations.

Also, 21 thousand villages have been identified which will be covered under seven schemes like Ujjwala, Ujala and Soubhagya under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

- **NCERT has published information about Childline helplines and POCSO e-box for children in all course books from Class 6 to 12**

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- The information is expected to reach approximately 26 crore students in 15 lakh schools through these course books.
- ***This will equip the children with the information regarding the possible modes of protection and complaints.***

The easy accessibility of this information in the hand of children themselves may also deter the prospective abusers, at least to a reasonable extent.

- **8th ‘Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific’ Region on waste management** was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh from 10th – 12th April, 2018.
- **3R stands for – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.**
- It was hosted by Union Ministry of **Housing and Urban Affairs**, and co-organised by **Environment Ministry of Japan**, and the **United Nations Centre for Regional Development of the Division for Sustainable Development/United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**.
- The event concluded with the signing and adoption of **‘Indore 3R Declaration on Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air’ in cities**

Theme of this event was ‘Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency – A 21st-Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities’.

Regional 3R Forum in Asia and Pacific was Established in – 2009 in Tokyo, Japan

- **World’s largest 5,000MW solar park to come up** in Dholera Special Investment Region ,Gujarat
- It will be established **on 11,000 hectares of land along the Gulf of Khambhat in the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR).**
- The construction will attract an investment of Rs 25,000 crore and provide employment for more than 20,000 people.

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Gujarat state government has also planned to set up a 200MW wind park in DSIR. It would attract additional investment of Rs 1,400 crore.

Prime Minister's Visit to Bihar Itinerary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visited Bihar to participate in the concluding ceremony of **Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha at Motihari in East Champaran district.**
- He addressed 20,000 ambassadors of Cleanliness known as **Swachhagrahis** and administer them oath of cleanliness at the historic Gandhi Maidan of Motihari.
- The programme was **organised as a precursor of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by which the target of Open Defecation Free India is to be achieved next year 2019**
- The current data shows state's coverage of toilets in household has **increased to 52 percent** which is big jump in sanitation.
- Prime Minister also dedicated and laid the foundation of **several development projects on this occasion** Such as:
 1. The foundation of **four sewerage projects**, worth of over one thousand crore rupees for Patna, under **the Namami Gange Mission**
 2. 70 kilometer stretch of the **National Highway -2 project on Bihar Jharkhand** border worth nearly 900 crore rupees.
 3. The Prime Minister will also **kickstarted construction of doubling of Muzaffarpur-Suagauli-Valmikinagar rail section** for better connectivity with neighbouring countries .
 4. India's first 12,000 horsepower electric locomotive from Bihar's Madhepura locomotive factory.
- **NITI forum meet was held at Agartala , Tripura**
- The meeting was chaired by Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Dr Jitendra Singh and the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr Rajeev Kumar.
- **The 'NITI Forum for North East'** was constituted in February this year with an aim **to ensure the sustainable economic growth of the North Eastern Region of the country** and periodically review the development status in the region.

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- In this meeting, broad agendas included strategies for improving Road, Rail and Air Connectivity in the Region, measures to utilize existing potential for hydro-power, Agriculture and allied sectors, Water **Management, Promotion of Tourism will be discussed.**

NITI Aayog: Formed on – January 1, 2015, Ex-Officio Chairperson – Prime Minister of India

- **Central Government launched Gobardhan Yojana nationally from Karnal, Haryana on April 30, 2018.**
- **‘GOBAR-Dhan -Galvanising Organic Bio Agro Resources.**
- **Under this scheme, bio-gas plants will be set up at individual or community level and also at the level of Self Help Groups and NGOs like Gaushalas.**
- **Generating energy by converting cattle dung and solid agricultural waste into compost and biogas will also ensure cleanliness in villages.**

Government has set a target to cover nearly 700 districts under the scheme during 2018-19.

- **NITI Aayog has planned to build National Data & Analytics Platform**
- **Platform (NDAP) will help citizens to understand spend patterns of the government, consumption trends and the success of various government policies.**
- **Objective behind developing this platform is to increase transparency in government functioning by giving citizens access to this data.**
- **Cost of developing NDAP could be between Rs 50 crore to Rs 100 crore and would entirely be funded by NITI Aayog.**
- **Both, Public as well as private entities will have access to this platform.**

NDAP will use artificial intelligence (AI) for in-depth analysis.

PERSON/EVENTS/AWARDS

Mahindra group signed Mou with Japanese firm for amphibious aircraft ShinMaywa US-2

- As per the MoU, both the companies will develop a strategic partnership.

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- **ShinMayway US-2 is a unique aircraft.**
- It is the *only 'in-service' open sea-capable amphibian aircraft with advanced equipment suitable for rough sea operations* being deployed by Japanese Maritime Self-defence forces.
- **India became the top recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) from within the Commonwealth.**
- It has become the second-most lucrative source of investment within Commonwealth after the UK.
- Report 'Commonwealth Trade Review 2018: Strengthening the Commonwealth Advantage' was released by the Commonwealth Secretariat,.
- India has entered into **the top five providers of intra-Commonwealth services trade**, surpassing Canada, Australia, Singapore and the UK.

Intra-Commonwealth trade is expected to reach USD 700 billion by 2020, contributed majorly by India's economic growth.

Commonwealth Secretary-General – Patricia Scotland, Member nations – 53

- **FSSAI launched Project Dhoop to address vitamin D deficiency amongst youngsters** at National Bal Bhavan in New Delhi.
- **The initiative aims to shift the school assembly time to noon to make sure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.**
- all schools in India have been asked to conduct daily assembly between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

- *CEO – Pawan Agarwal*
- *Headquarters – New Delhi*

- **Delhi's IGI Airport was ranked 16th among World's Top 20 Busiest Airports** as per Airport Council International's preliminary report on airport traffic for 2017.

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- With traffic increasing at the rate of 14.1%, IGI Airport climbed six spots to 16th from 22nd for previous year. This increase has also made IGI Airport, **the fastest-growing airport among the Top 20 busiest airports.**
- Four other airports in India too registered a double digit growth in 2017 and ranked among fastest growing airports in the world – **Kolkata (26.9%), Hyderabad (19.6%), Bengaluru (12.9%) and Chennai (10.5%).**
- India will become the third-largest aviation market in terms of passenger throughput, after the US and China.

Top 5 World's Busiest Airports, 2017:

1. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport, US
 2. Beijing Capital International Airport, China
 3. Dubai International Airport, UAE
 4. Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport), Japan
 5. Los Angeles International Airport, US
- **First International conference** on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' was **held in Kathmandu** in Kathmandu, Nepal
 - **Objective of this three day conference** is to bring together professionals, researchers, academicians, entrepreneurs, government and non government institutions to discuss and deliberate on challenges, opportunities and strategies related to water and environmental issues.
 - **New Website & Mobile APP of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was Launched** by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot .
 - It will help the Commission in addressing the grievances/complaints of petitioners in an efficient manner.

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National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was Constituted in – 1994 with Objective – To promote and safeguard the interests and rights of Safai Karamcharis;

- **51-day long 8th Theatre Olympics concluded in Mumbai on April 8, 2018.**
- **Theatre Olympics is the largest international theatre festival and was held in India for the first time.**
- **8th Theatre Olympics witnessed 450 shows from more than 30 countries performed across 17 Indian cities.**
- **Theatre Olympics is an international theatre festival, established - 1993 in Delphi, Greece, on the initiative of the famous Greek theatre director, Theodoros Terzopoulos.**
- **National School of Drama hosting 8th Theatre Olympics 2018 in India under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.**

Theme of 8th Theatre Olympics 2018 - Flag of Friendship.

- **Anushka Sharma awarded Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award for 2018**
- Anushka Sharma is an actor and producer in the Bollywood film industry.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema, to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema.

- **Pratap Bose's Social Street bags Creative Agency of the Year in Goa fest 2018 with three gold, seven silver and seven bronze metals and a score of 94.**
- It was started by Pratap Bose three years ago. Early Man Film won the Grand Prix in Creative Abby Awards
- It is **organised** by the **Advertising Club** along with the **Advertising Agencies Association of India.**

Goafest 2018- 13th edition of the fest was held at Grand Hyatt Hotel, in Bambolim, Goa On 5th to 7th April 2018.

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- ***IHHC (India Home Health Care) has become the first home health care company to create a dedicated ICU simulation lab to train nursing staff, at its Bengaluru facility.***
- It will offer hands-on training modules and aide nursing staff to improve the quality of medical and healthcare services offered to homes.
- The ICU simulation lab recreates real-life scenarios through patient simulators, digitalised video, computer charting, electronic supply, static mannequins, etc.

IHHC (India Home Health Care): Founder and CEO – V Thiagarajan
Headquarters – Bangalore

- **Rakesh Kumar Vats has been given the additional charge of chairman of NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority) with immediate effect.**
- **He serves as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- He replaced Bhupendra Singh, who has been appointed as chairperson of National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention under the Cabinet Secretariat.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA): under – Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Headquarters – New Delhi

- **Patna topped in 4G connectivity among 20 largest cities, As per a report by OpenSignal,**
- Open Signal is Lonon-based company that specializes in wireless coverage mapping.
- **It monitored 4G user experience (availability) in India's 20 largest cities for 90 days from December 1, 2017.**
- The report also outlined that difference between Indian cities in terms of 4G connectivity is also narrowing down.

4G Availability – Top 5: Patna, Kanpur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Bhopal

- **Ashok Gehlot was appointed member of Congress central election committee.**

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- The Congress central election committee selects candidates during elections.
- *Ashok Gehlot is a former chief minister of Rajasthan.*
- *He was appointed the AICC (All India Congress Committee) general secretary in charge of organisation and training of party cadres, recently.*
- **AIIMS professor Balram Bhargava was appointed DG of ICMR and Secretary of the Department of Health Research for a 3 year term.**
- Also, scientist **Renu Swaroop has been appointed the Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology** for a two year term.
- *(ICMR):Headquarters – Delhi*
- **Logo, Website of 11th World Hindi Conference was released by Education Minister of Mauritius, Leela Devi Dookhun Luchoomun, in New Delhi.**
- **11th World Hindi Conference:**
11th World Hindi Conference is scheduled to be held in Mauritius from 18th to 20th August 2018.
- It brings together Hindi scholars, writers and laureates from different parts of the world.
- ***1st World Hindi Conference was held in January 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.***
- **Indian shooter Manu Bhaker made brand ambassador of Haryana's Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign**
- **The campaign** was launched by **Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar** on 25th April 2018.
- Vaccination for around 85 lakh children aged between nine months and 15 years will be done in this campaign.
- ***India, along with ten other WHO South East Asia Region member countries, have resolved to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2020.***

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- Former UN Secretary **Ban Ki-moon** elected as **Chairman of Boao Forum** for Asia. He replaced Japan's Yasuo Fukuda.
- The annual session of **Boao Forum** - named the "Asian Davos", took place between 8th and 11th April 2018.
- Also, **former governor of the People's Bank of China Zhou Xiaochuan** was appointed *vice-chairman of Boao Forum for Asia*.
- Over 2,000 political and economic leaders, including heads of large multinational firms, take part in this annual session.
- ***Boao Forum for Asia: is modelled on the World Economic Forum***
- ***Formed – 2001, Secretariat – Beijing, China***

2018 Partners' Forum, a global event, will be held in New Delhi on 12 and 13 December 2018.

- The forum will provide a unique platform for learning and exchange for the alliance of 1,000 organizations on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCH+A).
- Programmes and initiatives including Intensified Mission Indradhanush. Will be launched at the Forum.
- The Prime Minister graciously agreed to be Patron of the PMNCH Forum and accepted the Logo of the forum.

PMNCH is a global partnership of 92 countries and over 1000 organisations.

PMNCH - The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health is an alliance of organisations in 77 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities, as well as health influencing sectors.

- **The 63rd Railway Week Function of Railway Board was organized on 11th April** in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.
- Ashwani Lohani, Chairman, Railway Board, presided over the function.

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- He presented the **Running Efficiency Shield to ERB-III and TC-I Sections** (jointly) of Railway Board selected as “Best Kept Section’.
- **Sripriya Ranganathan was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea.**
- She is an Indian Foreign Service Officer (IFS) of 1994 batch. She is at present Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- *South Korea: President – Moon Jae-in , Prime Minister – Lee Nak-yeon*
- **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh re-appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank for a three year term from 10th July 2018.**
- Bandhan Bank had recently announced the resignation of its part-time, non-executive chairman Ashoke Kumar Lahiri.
- Former RBI deputy governor Harun Rasid Khan joined the Board .He has replaced PK Saha in Bandhan Bank board.

Bandhan Bank: Tag line – Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai, Headquarters – Kolkata

- Wipro Chief Strategy Officer **Rishad Premji is the new Nasscom chairman for 2018-19**
- He replaced Raman Roy, Chairman and Managing Director of Quattro Global Services.
- Besides, Nasscom has appointed **WNS Group CEO Keshav Murugesh as the vice chairman for the year 2018-19**

NASSCOM: Founded: 1 March 1988, Headquarters: New Delhi, Chanakyapuri

- Former DoPT Secretary Bhanu Pratap Sharma appointed chairman of Bank Board Bureau (BBB), for a two year term

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- Other members of the BBB are: Vedika Bhandarkar (former MD Credit Suisse India), P Pradeep Kumar (former MD SBI), Pradip P Shah (founder MD Crisil)
- [Banks Board Bureau \(BBB\): Set up – 2016](#)

OBITUARIES

- **Former BSF DG Rammohan passed away the age of 77.**
- He was the director general (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF) in the 1997 to 2000 period

[Border Security Force \(BSF\)- Director General – K.K Sharma, Headquarters- New Delhi](#)

- **Niranjan Thomas Alva, 78, the husband of former Rajasthan governor Margaret Alva, passed away following a chest infection at Ramaiah Hospital in Bengaluru.**
- He was a Supreme Court lawyer and *son of the first parliamentarian couple, Joachim Alva and Violet Alva.*
- **Assamese film-maker Munin Barua passed away at the age of 72 years . He was popularly known as Bhaimon da.**
- He had received National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Assamese in 2005 and other awards like Lifetime Achievement Award 2017 from Prag Cine Awards
- He had also scripted several plays for mobile theatre and a few TV serials.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Four kingfisher bird species were documented in Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary**
- The species have been identified as:
 1. **White-throated kingfisher (Halcyon smyrnensis),**
 2. **Pied kingfisher (Ceryle rudis),**
 3. **Black-capped kingfisher (Halcyon pileate) and**

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4. The Common kingfisher.

Few Wildlife sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh-

Coringa WLS, Kolleru WLS, Krishna WLS, Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem WLS, Pulicat Lake WLS, Sri Penusila Narasimha WLS

- **RH300 sounding rocket** was launched from **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS)**, in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**
- This is the **21st launch of RH300 sounding rocket**, under the **Sounding Rocket Experiment (SOUREX) programme**.
- It has been developed as part of a study to enhance available atmospheric data and refine the models used for tropical weather prediction.

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC): Director – S. Somanath
Headquarters – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala States

- **PSLV-C41** successfully launched **IRNSS-1I** navigation satellite in its **43rd flight**.
- **IRNSS-1I** is the latest member of the **‘Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)’** system.
- Till now, PSLV has successfully launched 52 Indian satellites and 237 customer satellites from abroad.

NavIC -Also known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1,500 km around the Indian mainland.

The system at-present consist of a constellation of 7 satellites, with two additional satellites on ground as stand-by.

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