

NATIONAL

- The **25th National Children Science Congress** was held in **Ahmedabad**. The Chief Minister of Gujarat **Vijay Rupani** inaugurated the Congress. It mainly focuses on persons with disabilities.
Theme: '**Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development**'.
- India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed **Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile**. It is capable of destroying any incoming ballistic missile at low altitude. It is launched from **Odisha**.
- President **Ramnath Kovind** inaugurated the Four-day 100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association at **Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur of Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **Association of Indian Football Coaches (AIFC)** to provide a platform for the coaches in **Mumbai**.
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched a start-up incubation centre called the Centre for Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Learning (CEOL) in **Mangaluru, Karnataka**.
- Lok Sabha passed the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill**, which seeks to ban instant triple talaq.
- Telecom Minister **Manoj Sinha** has announced that under BharatNet project, the government has approved **₹4,066 crore** for providing internet connectivity to people in all gram panchayats. The government plans to connect all GPs with high-speed broadband by **March 2019**.
- The **78th session** of the Indian History Congress begins at the **Jadavpur University campus** in **Kolkata**. A lifetime achievement award was conferred to **Sabyasachi Bhattacharya** and it is handed over by Habib.
- State-run gas utility **GAIL** has placed orders for **400-km of pipeline** of the ambitious **Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga natural gas pipeline** project that will take the fuel to eastern India.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced to launch 31 satellites in a single mission. The mission's main payload would be India's **Cartosat-2 series earth observation satellite**.
- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** has laid foundation stones for more than 100 projects worth Rs **700 crore** in Nalanda district. It has been launched as part of his state-wide "**Vikas Samiksha Yatra**".
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced that the Republic Day will be celebrated with leaders of all **ten ASEAN countries** coming to India as Chief Guests.

- **India** has outpaced the global milk production with an **annual growth rate of 5.53%** compared with the 2.09% achieved globally, announced by Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said during the past 3 years.
- In a major boost to the inland waterway transport system in the northeast, Union Shipping Minister **Nitin Gadkari** flagged off cargo movement on the **Pandu-Dhubri route** of the **Brahmaputra river**.

INTERNATIONAL

- **India** provided medical assistance worth about **\$1 million** to **Yemen**. It was signed in response to a request from the Yemeni government. Minister of State for External Affairs **M.J. Akbar** presented a box of anti-cholera medicines to **Yemeni Ambassador Abdulmalik Abdullah Al-Eryani**.
- **India** signed a loan agreement worth **\$40 million** with the World Bank for **UP Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project**. It is aimed at increasing tourism-related benefits for local communities in Uttar Pradesh.
- The former football star **George Weah** has won **Liberia's presidential election**, defeating the vice-president, **Joseph Boakai**.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh launched **Livestock Disease Forewarning –Mobile Application (LDF-Mobile App)**. It is developed by ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), Bengaluru.
- The **first photovoltaic (solar) highway** based on home-grown technology was successfully tested in **Shandong province** of **China**.
- **China** has launched the **world's largest human genome research** project to document the genetic makeup of **one lakh people** to help generate the precision medicines for the future.

BANKING & BUSINESS

- The country's largest lender **SBI** gets board approval for raising Rs **8,000 crore** through various sources, including **masala bonds**, to meet **Basel III capital norms**.
- The **Cryptocurrency** dealer **Pluto Exchange** announced the launch of India's first mobile application for transacting in **virtual currencies**.

- The Bank of Baroda has signed an MoU with POORTI Agri Services Pvt. Ltd to provide end-end solution to farmers. It enables the farmers to purchase agricultural inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, seeds etc.
- The government slashed interest rates on small savings schemes, including **NSC** and **PPF**, by **0.2 percentage points** for the January-March period.
- **India** has the highest level of **non-performing assets (NPA)** among BRICS countries and is ranked fifth on the list of countries, which is provided by CARE Ratings.
- US buyout giant **KKR & Co** has become the **first foreign investor** to fully own an **asset reconstruction company (ARC)** in India as it received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India**.
- **Allahabad Bank** ties up with state-run **National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)** for utilizing the latter's Information Utility Services envisaged under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**.
- The **Bank of India** bank has received **capital infusion** of Rs. **2,257 crore** from the government.

SPORTS

Name of the event	Name of the winner	Held at
World Rapid Chess Championship	Indian chess ace Viswanathan Anand	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Globe Soccer's Best Player for the second year	Cristiano Ronaldo	
Men's 50-metre pistol national title at the 61st National Shooting Championships	Jitu Rai	Thiruvananthapuram
Commonwealth Games	Sakshi Malik named in Indian women's wrestling team for next year's	Gold Coast, Australia
World Blitz Chess Championship	World Champion Viswanathan Anand bagged a bronze	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

OBITUARIES

- **Bob Givens**, the original creator of one animation's most iconic cartoon characters, Bugs Bunny, has **passed away**.
- **Sue Taylor Grafton**, an American author of detective novels passed away. She penned best-selling novels with alphabet-based titles, starting with "A Is for Alibi" and ending with "Y Is for Yesterday."

