

NATIONAL

- ❖ The **Haryana government** has launched '**Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana**', assuring farmers of fair prices for their produce and emphasising on diversification of crops.
- ❖ **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** announced that **Rs. 1,250 crore** has been sanctioned for overall **development of inland water transport of Assam**.
- ❖ The **Cochin International Airport Ltd**, which runs the airport of Kochi, Kerala, commissioned its **12 MW solar power plant**, it earned the distinction of becoming the world's first airport to meet all of its electricity requirements from solar.
- ❖ **Arunachal Pradesh** emerged as the second State in the Northeast, after Sikkim, to be declared **Open Defecation Free**. Arunachal has 21 districts and the national deadline for OPF is October 2, 2019.
- ❖ **Maharashtra government** allocated **Rs.14,240 crore** for the **farm loan waiver scheme** and for repayment to farmers whose produce was purchased by the State.
- ❖ Women and Child Development Minister **Maneka Gandhi** inaugurates an online portal **NARI** for the empowerment of women in New Delhi.
- ❖ **Karnataka** has received the approval for **purchase of electric vehicles** from the Department of Heavy Industries of the Union Government under **FAME India Scheme**.
- ❖ The **171st Araadhanai Music Festival** of one of the Trinities of Carnatic music Saint Thyagaraja begins in Thiruvaiyaru, **Tamil Nadu**.
- ❖ State-owned gas utility **GAIL India Ltd** has commissioned the **country's second largest rooftop solar power plant** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- ❖ The first part draft of the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** for Assam recognises **19 million people** out of a total 32.9 million applicants recognised as Indian citizens. NRC was released by **Registrar General of India Sailesh**.
- ❖ **Ms. Preeti Sudan**, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare launched the **Allied and Healthcare Professionals'** database portal.
- ❖ The **Animal Husbandry department** of the state government has banned all voluntary animal care and non-government organisations working under the '**Karuna Abhiyan**' to operate in residential areas during the **Uttarayan festival**.
- ❖ The **Telangana government** launched **24x7 power supply** to the state's 2.3 million farmers free of cost.
- ❖ Government introduces a scheme worth **Rs. 100 crore** to ensure better facilities for the tourists visiting the state announced by **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Minister Surendra Patwa**.

- ❖ The Centre released the contours of the '**Electoral Bonds**' scheme, which seeks to ensure the flow of clean **money to political parties**. Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.
- ❖ The **Karnataka government** announced that '**Karnataka International Travel Expo**' (**KITE**) will be held from February 28. It aims to improve the State's visibility in the tourism market.
- ❖ The **Haryana state government** set to implement the integrated solar based **micro irrigation scheme (ISBMI)** in all districts of the State.
- ❖ **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has approved five projects worth Rs. **295.01 crore**.
- ❖ Smt **Preeti Sudan**, Secretary of Health and Family Welfare has launched the country's **first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series**. It is designed by the Tata Memorial Center in collaboration with the Health Ministry.
- ❖ The government has announced the launch of **largest cleanliness survey** for this year as part of Swachh Bharat Mission. It would be the largest survey impacting more than 40 crore urban population. In Swachh Survekshan 2017, Indore emerged as the cleanest city in the country.
- ❖ The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned Rs **372.51 crore** loan assistance. It was sanctioned under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to Odisha towards irrigation and rural bridge projects.
- ❖ Defence Ministry has cleared contracts worth 2,420 crore rupees for Navy and Army which includes the procurement of P-8I Training Solution and Low Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS).
- ❖ **Meghalaya** signed the **Host City Contract** with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.
- ❖ The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)** and **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** signed an agreement for the training the employees of the IPPB in the area of payment banking.
- ❖ Goa will be hosting the third edition of the **Science Film Festival of India**.
- ❖ According to the Maharashtra Government Resolution (GR) issued by the urban development, the state govt has announced a sport fine of **Rs. 500 for open defecation**.

- ❖ The fourth edition of the Tamil Nadu **International Balloon Festival** will be held in **Pollachi near Coimbatore**.
- ❖ **The West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** inaugurated its own State symbol. The logo highlights the Ashoka emblem on the top with the theme of “Biswa Bangla” at the centre.
- ❖ The **26th edition of New Delhi World Book Fair** is all set to begin in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ Boeing will set up a training facility for its **P-8I warfare aircraft** at the naval air station **INS Rajali, near Arakkonam** in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 begins at **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The President of Nepal **Bidya Devi Bhandari** inaugurated the exhibition.
- ❖ A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on **Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR)** was signed by the **ministries of railways, human resource development (HRD), and science and technology**.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore** launched the simple yet vibrant Khelo India logo at the **Nehru Stadium in New Delhi**.
- ❖ **The Union Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced the release of **Rs. 20 crore** to the **Coimbatore District Small Industries’ Association (Codissia)**.
- ❖ Indian navy inked a pact with **Cochin port trust** for utilising the Port berthing facility at **Mattancherry wharf for Naval ships**.
- ❖ Haryana becomes the first state in the country to launch **High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal**.

INTERNATIONAL

- ❖ **Nepal** has **banned solo climbers** from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, in a **bid to reduce accidents**.
- ❖ **Israel** has filed notice to withdraw from the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** alongside the United States.
- ❖ **Pakistan’s central bank** has allowed the **Chinese yuan or Renminbi** to be used for bilateral trade and investment activities.

- ❖ **India and Pakistan** exchanged the **list of nuclear installations and facilities** through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad under a three-decade old bilateral pact.
- ❖ **India** cancelled a **\$500-million** deal to develop **Spike anti-tank guided missiles with Israel**. Rafael has received an official notification from India's Ministry of Defence concerning the cancellation of the Spike deal.
- ❖ The government approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and UK to improve public transport in the country. The MoU was signed by **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways(India)** and '**Transport for London**', a statutory body established under the Greater London Authority Act, 1999 (UK).
- ❖ **Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands** formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the **United Nations Security Council**.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Israel on cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector**.
- ❖ The Cabinet has approved the Agreement between **India and Myanmar on Land Border Crossing**. The Agreement would give a boost to the economy of the north east region.
- ❖ India has excluded Pakistan from the list of Saarc member countries with which it will be connecting its state-of-the art **National Knowledge Network (NKN)** for sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.
- ❖ Iceland has stepped up for equality and has become the first country in the world to **legalise equal pay**.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia approved India's plan to allow **Haj pilgrims** to travel via sea route to **Jeddah**.

BANKING & BUSINESS

- ❖ **Public sector IDBI Bank** has received the **capital infusion of Rs 2,729 crore** from the government of India. The government had unveiled a **Rs 2.11 lakh crore** two-year roadmap for strengthening NPA-hit public sector banks earlier in Oct2017.

- ❖ Around 10 crore soil health cards have been issued, and farmers who use these have managed to save use of urea by 8-10 per cent announced by Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh.
- ❖ **Saudi Arabia** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** introduced the **Value Added Tax (VAT)** for the first time. It is a five percent tax on most goods and services to boost revenue.
- ❖ The **Rajya Sabha** passed the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill** which aims to reduce the crisis of looming bad loans in the banking sector.
- ❖ **State Bank of India** and **Nabard** have signed an agreement with five NGOs in Bengal for the promotion of **2,500 joint liability groups (JLGs)**.
- ❖ The Customers will not have to pay any transaction charges for payments through debit card, **BHIM app** and other payment made for **up to Rs 2,000**.
- ❖ India's growth rate is expected to accelerate in 2018 and it will improve further to **7.6 per cent by 2019-20** as key sectors would regain from disruptions related to the implementation of **GST and demonetisation**.
- ❖ The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has provided financial assistance of **Rs 10,000 crore** to Odisha till Q3.
- ❖ **HDFC Bank** has announced a partnership with Rajasthan Government to **promote startups** in the state.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated **prompt corrective action (PCA)** against **public sector lender Allahabad Bank**. The bank has high net non-performing assets (NPAs) and negative return on assets (RoA) for two consecutive years.
- ❖ The **Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)** has operationalised its **first desktop ATM in Telangana**. The mini-ATM within the branch premises will facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts.
- ❖ The Government of India has announced the **launch of 7.75 per cent Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018**, commencing from January 10, 2018.
- ❖ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** presented the new Rs 10 banknote under the Mahatma Gandhi (New) series.
- ❖ The Indian economy is expected to decelerate to **6.5% in 2017-18 from 7.1% in the previous year**, because of demonetisation and goods and services tax (GST).
- ❖ **The Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Limited (TIHCL)** has secured the RBI approval for becoming a non-banking finance company (NBFC).

- ❖ **Paytm Payments Bank** has partnered with **IndusInd Bank** to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit when the customer balance exceeds **Rs 1 lakh at the end of day**.
- ❖ India's largest lender State Bank of India plans to raise **upto USD 2 billion (over Rs 12,600 crore)** by issuing bonds in US dollar or other convertible currency.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

Name of the person	Appointed for	Succeeds the person	Resigned
Senior IAS officer N C Goel	new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan	_____	_____
Vijay Keshav Gokhale	foreign secretary	S Jaishankar	_____
Pankaj Jain	As the Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)	_____	_____
Salil Parekh	take charge as Infosys CEO	UB Pravin Rao	_____
Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga	as new Prime Minister of Mali	Abdoulaye Idrissa Maiga	_____
Rajinder Khanna	Deputy National Security Adviser	Arvind Gupta	_____
Film actor Akshay Kumar	to promote cleanliness in Mumbai as part of the Swachh Survekshan 2018.	_____	_____

AWARDS & HONOURS

Name of the award	Award goes to
Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust	won the "Samudra Manthan – Caring Organisation of the Year" award
Ravi Menon	Named Best Governor Of Asia Pacific
motion picture, drama is Frances McDormand	Best performance by an actress
motion picture, drama is Gary Oldman	Best performance by an actor

SPORTS

Name of the person/Team	Name of the event	Held at
Indian golfer Shiv Kapur	won the Royal Cup	Pattaya
Vidarbha	Ranji Trophy title	Holkar Stadium in Indore
G Sathyan	has become India's highest- ranked player	
Liverpool and Egypt striker Mohamed Salah	Arab Player of the Year for 2017	
India-South Africa Test series	named as "Freedom Series"	
Ukraine's Elina Svitolina	first WTA title in women's singles	Brisbane International 2018
Australian Nick Kyrgios	Men's single	Brisbane International 2018
Henri Kontinen and John Peers	Men's Doubles winner	Brisbane International 2018
Kiki Bertens and Demi Schuurs	Women's Doubles winner	Brisbane International 2018

Gilles Simon of France	Wins Inaugural Tata Open Title	held at Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune
Switzerland-Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic	won their third Hopman Cup	

OBITUARIES

- ❖ Noted Urdu poet **Anwar Jalalpur** passed away in **Lucknow**.
- ❖ **Carnatic singer, Radha Viswanathan** passed away in Bengaluru. Radha Viswanathan is the daughter of famous classical singer M S Subbulakshmi.
- ❖ Former **World Trade Organization** Director General **Peter Sutherland** passed away.
- ❖ Powerlifting world champion **Saksham Yadav** passes away in an accident in New Delhi.
- ❖ Legendary American astronaut **John Young**, passed away.