

NATIONAL

- ❖ **Centre and Jammu and Kashmir** Government have resolved to use education as a tool **to bring normalcy to the state**. The Central and State Governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the **65th Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)** meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ The union sports ministry's ambitious programme, '**Khelo India**', an initiative to scout for talent at the grassroots and provide it substantial long-term scholarship will be launched on **January 31**.
- ❖ The **Punjab government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Oil Corporation** to set up **bio-gas and bio-CNG plants** in the state.
- ❖ **West Bengal** has the **highest number of MSMEs** in the country with 52,69,814 units. **Uttar Pradesh ranked second** after **West Bengal, followed by Maharashtra**. Gujarat stood eighth with 4.89 percent of the MSME share.
- ❖ The Centre has sanctioned projects over **10,000 crore rupees** in the **North East** for better network connectivity.
- ❖ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been launched '**Saksham 2018**'. It is a vigorous and high intensity one-month mega campaign of **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**.
- ❖ Odisha govt. has launched **Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana (MMKSY)** for artists. Under this yojana artists will receive a financial assistance of **Rs. 1200 per month**.
- ❖ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated the **third edition of the geo-political conference, 'Raisina Dialogue'**, in New Delhi.
- ❖ India test fired **Intercontinental 5000-km range surface to surface nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-V**.
- ❖ **The Punjab government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Oil Corporation** to **set up bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in the state**.
- ❖ The second day of the **65th Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)** was held in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Bangladesh, India and Nepal** have given nod to operating procedures for movement of passenger vehicles in the sub-region under **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) motor vehicles agreement**.
- ❖ **The 15th edition of BioAsia**, the annual flagship event of the **Government of Telangana**, will start in **Hyderabad**.

- ❖ **Maharashtra** has come out with a **public cloud policy** virtually mandating its departments to shift their **data storage onto the cloud**.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in the presence of **Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu**.
- ❖ **Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** announced the name of **nine** more smart cities. **Silvassa** in Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli has topped the list of winning cities.
- ❖ **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** has crossed **one crore mark** in antenatal check-ups. More than one crore antenatal check-ups have been conducted under the ambitious Pradhan.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government has approved a **Rs 4,000-crore project** aimed at promoting **climate-resilient agriculture**.
- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), announced the **Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative**. It was launched in association with **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** and industry partners.
- ❖ Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched **Bharat Ke Veer anthem** and also a short film on **India's bravehearts**.
- ❖ The fourth edition of the **India International Science Festival** will be held in **Lucknow**.
- ❖ **The Maharashtra government** has launched '**Balasaheb Thackeray Shaheed Sanmaan**' scheme.
- ❖ **Uttarakhand** planned to use ultrasound that will to detect pregnancy before administering reproduction control method on them.
- ❖ Ramayana Festival, marking **25 years** of the **Indo-ASEAN** ties began in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ The **Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK)** at **Karaikal** in the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry was inaugurated by **Smt. Sushma Swaraj**, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs at a function presided over by **Shri V. Narayanaswamy**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry.
- ❖ The government of **Telangana** and **Clean Authority of Tokyo** have signed a MoU in the field of municipal **solid waste incineration facilities**.
- ❖ The state government launched **Odisha e-Hospital Management Information System (OeHMIS)** to **provide a computerized platform** for online recording of clinical parameters of patients and reporting of performance criteria of hospitals.

- ❖ In Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** inaugurated the World **War II Memorial Museum** at Changlang District in **Jairampur**.
- ❖ The **Raipur Municipal Corporation** in Chhattisgarh organised the three-day **Kachra Mahotsav 2018**, India's first Garbage Festival.

INTERNATIONAL

- ❖ **India, Israel ink nine pacts on cyber security, other sectors, namely Cyber Security Cooperation, Oil and Gas, Air Transport Agreement, Agreement on Film-co-production, Homeopathic Medicine etc.**
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Israeli counterpart **Benjamin Netanyahu** launched the maiden call for joint R&D projects under the '**India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)**' during the India-Israel Business Summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ **India** has contributed **\$50,000** to **UN Secretary** General Antonio Guterres's Office of Envoy on Youth to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals. **Paulomi Tripathi**, a First Secretary in India's UN Mission, handed over the contribution to the Youth Envoy, **Jayathma Wickramanayake**.
- ❖ **India** and **Sri Lanka** signed **four agreements** for collaboration in **ICT sector**, setting up of **e-office system** and connecting of **National Knowledge network (NKN)** for collaboration among universities and academics.
- ❖ The bridge in **Akoka village** in the northern part of the land-locked country in East-Central Africa had been inoperable since last June when heavy rains washed away a 300-metre-long road segment.
- ❖ The Adani Group would invest **Rs. 750 crore** to double the capacity of the company's **edible oil refinery at Haldia in West Bengal**.
- ❖ **Reliance Industries Ltd.** chairman and managing director **Mukesh Ambani** announced a investment of **₹5,000 crore**, in addition to the group's investments about **₹15,000 crore** made in the State.
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- ❖ '**Vajra Prahar**' will be held at **Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Seattle**.
- ❖ India for the first time took part in a meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in China**.

- ❖ The world's largest air purifier is built in **Xian in Shaanxi province of northern China**.
- ❖ The 10th Global Forum for **Food & Agriculture** begins in **Berlin, Germany**.
- ❖ **The International Solar Alliance Forum** was held at World Future Energy Summit, **Abu Dhabi**.
- ❖ **In Turkey, state of emergency** has been extended for another six months.
- ❖ India has joined the **Australia Group export control regime** and has become the **43rd Member** of that Group.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will leave for **Davos, Switzerland** to attend the **48th annual meeting** of the **World Economic Forum**.
- ❖ **Valletta, the capital of Malta**, was officially named **European Capital of Culture 2018**. Valletta will share the title with **Leeuwarden**, a city in the Netherlands.
- ❖ The **government's decision** to ban the import of vehicles which are **not equipped with air bags** and seat belts and below the emission levels or its equivalent as prescribed by Euro IV, has been postponed to July 1.
- ❖ The **Trump administration** plans to **open the US embassy in Jerusalem** by the **end of 2019**.

BANKING & BUSINESS

- ❖ The Country's exports grew by **12.36 per cent** in December, 2017 to **27.03 billion US dollars** on account of strong performance by sectors like engineering goods and petroleum products.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services has signed a **\$690-million (Rs 4,400-crore), 10-year** deal with **M&G Prudential**, the UK and European savings and investments business unit of Prudential.
- ❖ **Invoice Mart** has tied up with state-run lender **Bank of Baroda** to discount invoices for MSMEs.
- ❖ **The Gurgaon-based Amplus Energy Solutions** has signed an MoU with **India's leading bank Yes Bank** for a strategic tie-up to co-finance projects in the solar energy sector in India.
- ❖ **Shares of Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd (HDFC)** crossed Rs 5 trillion market capitalisation.
- ❖ Banking finance company **AU Small Finance Bank** has signed an MoU with **LIC** to offer **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**.

- ❖ **Mauritius** was the **largest source of FDI** in India, followed by the US and the UK in 2016-17.
- ❖ The messaging platform **WhatsApp** has unveiled a new '**WhatsApp Business**' app, aimed at **small and medium enterprises**.
- ❖ India will overtake **China to be the fastest growing large economy in 2018** and the country's equity market will become the fifth largest in the world.
- ❖ The annual list of the **World's Most Admired Companies for 2018** is released by **Fortune**.
- ❖ The top banks of the country including **State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and YES Bank** have suspended some accounts of major Bitcoin exchanges in India on suspicious transactions.
- ❖ Digital payments platform **Paytm** has unveiled an application called '**Paytm for Business**' to **enable small and medium businesses** to accept digital payments.
- ❖ **India** was ranked at the **62nd place** among emerging economies on an Inclusive Development Index, much below China's 26th position and Pakistan's 47th.
- ❖ **India** is projected to grow at **7.4%** of its **gross domestic product (GDP)** in 2018 as against China's 6.8%, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, making it the fastest growing economy among emerging economies following last year's slowdown due to demonetisation and the implementation of goods and services tax (GST).
- ❖ The revenue department said the last date for **GSTR-3B return filing** for December has been extended by **two days to January 22**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

Name of the Person	Appointed for the post of	Preceded by	Resigned
Romania's Prime Minister Mihai Tudose	-----	-----	Resigned
Vijay Kumar	as Managing Director and CEO NCDEX .	Samir Shah	-----
S Selvakumar	Appointed CMD Of SPMCIL	Anurag Agarwal	-----
Anandiben	new Governor of	O P Kohli	-----

Patel	Madhya Pradesh		
Om Prakash Rawat	has been appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner	Achal Kumar Joti	-----
IPS officer Sudeep Lakhtakia	new director general of National Security Guard (NSG)	SP Singh	-----
Dilip Chenoy	as Director General of FICCI	-----	-----
Shri Srikumar Menon	appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Angola	-----	-----

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name of the person	Name of the award	Held at
Actor Sudhir Dalvi	honoured with the Janakavi P Sawlaram award	Thane
Former president Pranab Mukherjee	honored with the Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) degree by The Chittagong University in Bangladesh	-----
Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari	won the Best Director award for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'	The 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018, was held at the NSCI Dome in Worli, Mumbai.

'Hindi Medium' Film	bagged the Best Film Award	The 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018, was held at the NSCI Dome in Worli, Mumbai.
Irrfan Khan	Best Actor (Male) award for 'Hindi Medium' Film.	The 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018, was held at the NSCI Dome in Worli, Mumbai.
Vidya Balan	bagged Best Actor Award(Female) for 'Tumhari Sulu'.	The 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018, was held at the NSCI Dome in Worli, Mumbai.
Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh	gets Dr. Kalam Innovation in Governance Award	-----
Shah Rukh Khan	receives Crystal Award	in Davos

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind will confer the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2016** to an eminent group of musicians, dancers, and theatre artists.
- ❖ Lt Governor **Anil Baijal** felicitated children who have been conferred the **National Bravery Award 2017** at a function held at the Raj Niwas.

Coveted Bharat Award

Nazia of Uttar Pradesh

Prestigious Geeta Chopra Award

Late Netravati M Chavan of Karnataka

Sanjay Chopra Award

Master Karanbeer Singh of Punjab

Bapu Gaidhani Award

Master Betshwajohn Peinlang of Meghalaya

Bapu Gaidhani Award

Mamata Dalai of Odisha

Bapu Gaidhani Award

Master Sebastian Vincent of Kerala

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ Sanjay Manjrekar launched his autobiography '**Imperfect**', in the event held in Mumbai. The book was published by **Harper Collins**, a global publishing company.
- ❖ **President Ram Nath Kovind** unveiled a book on heartfulness techniques and principles titled '**The Heartfulness Way**'.

SPORTS

- ❖ **Indian boxers** have claimed **11 gold medals** and both the team championship trophies in the **Nation's Cup tournament for junior and youth women in Sombor, Serbia**.
- ❖ **Hyderabad Hunters** overcame a fighting **Bengaluru Blasters** in a thrilling summit clash to claim their maiden title at the **third Premier Badminton League (PBL)** at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad.
- ❖ Hosts **Assam Hockey** rallied back in the first half to beat **Hockey Rajasthan** in the final of the **8th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2018** (B Division), at the Hojai Hockey stadium, Assam.
- ❖ **Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho** has formally confirmed his retirement from football.
- ❖ The Indian captain was **named the Cricketer of the Year** and also **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy** for his performances during the ICC cutoff year of September 2016 to October 2017.
- ❖ India jumped three places to get **102nd rank in the first FIFA rankings** of the year.
- ❖ **Indian players, Manav Thakkar** climbed to **World Number 2** in the boys' under-18 category while **Diya Chitalerose** to **Number 5** in the girls' under-15 category in the International Table Tennis Federation rankings.
- ❖ **India** have clinched the **5th World Cup for the Blind 2018** and **Sunil Ramesh** was declared as the man of the match.
- ❖ Young Indian **shuttler Siddharth Pratap Singh** secured his maiden international title, bagging the **Swedish Open Junior International Series** with a straight-game victory over Denmark's Mads Christophersen in the finals in **Uppsala in Sweden**.

OBITUARIES

- ❖ Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader **Raghunath Jha** passed away. He belongs to **bettiah, Bihar**.

- ❖ **American Basketball** player Jo Jo white has passed away.
- ❖ Veteran Kannada actor Kashinath passed away. Kashinath hails from Kundapura in Udupi district.
- ❖ The Famous **Cartoonist Chandi Lahiri** has passed away.He belongs to **West Bengal**.
- ❖ Major **FKK Sircar** (Retd.), the **longest living army veteran**, at 101 years of age proceeded to his heavenly abode and breathed his last.

HISTORIC EVENT OF THE DAY

January	Important Day	Theme
19	National Disaster Response Force, NDRF is celebrating its 13th Raising Day	-----
23	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose(121st birth Anniversary)	-----