

## NATIONAL

- The Reserve Bank of India kept the the **repo rates** unchanged at **6 percent**. The **reverse repo rate** under the LAF remains at **5.75 percent**, and the **marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 percent**.
- **Google and NCERT** signed a pact to integrate a course on '**Digital Citizenship and Safety**' in information and communication technology curriculum.
- **India** has successfully test-fired its indigenously developed **nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile** as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Odisha.
- A committee is constituted by the **Kannada and Culture department of the Karnataka government** to examine the feasibility of having a separate flag for the state. It was led by chairman of Kannada Development Authority **G S Siddaramaya**.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved implementation of '**Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF)**' scheme. It has been laid at a **total cost of Rs 1650 crore** for a period of **seven years beginning 2018-19**.
- The Haryana government has launched the '**Gobardhan Yojana**'. It is to provide for the sale of organic manure and cow urine with an aim to benefit farmers.
- **The South Central Railway (SCR)** has become the first railway zone in the country to complete **100 percent LED lighting** at all the stations under its jurisdiction.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved to enhance of the target of **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** from **five crore to eight crore**.
- **The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** will start a pilot project "**pay as you use**" tolling in India.
- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** has constituted a **13-member advisory committee**. The committee will be **headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi**, former secretary in the government.
- NITI Aayog released the list of Healthy State progressive report. **Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu** have ranked top among the larger states in terms of overall performance.
- The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has developed the **first flight of Hawk-i** with indigenous **Real Time Operating System (RTOS)**.

- **Power Minister R K Singh** launched a **web-based monitoring system and a fly-ash mobile application** which would act as an interface between producers and consumers.
- **The Minister of State for Textiles Ajay Tamta** inaugurated **India Pavilion at Ambiente 2018 in Frankfurt, Germany.**
- Another world record was created on the second day of **Rajim Kumbh Mela** after over **2,100 saints** and locals played conch shells '**shankh**' together in **Chhattisgarh's Gariaband.**
- In a bid to fill up the **security gaps** and **protect military base camps of Jammu and Kashmir, North East** and several other places from terrorist attack, the **Defence Ministry** sanctioned **Rs 1,487 crore** to the Army.
- **Maharashtra** has started an initiative **to connect with youth on social media-initiative** called as "**MahaMitra**". Maharashtra government has started this initiative with an aim to **encourage youngsters** for coming forward and sharing their success stories and felicitating those working for a good cause as 'social media leaders'.
- **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** launched the **Centre for learning Sanskrit language** in Gujarat University in **Ahmedabad.**
- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development** is considering to establish **National Women Entrepreneurship Council (NWECE).**
- **Mumbai, India's financial capital** is the **12th richest city in the world** with a total wealth of **\$950 billion.**The report was released by New World Wealth.
- **Chandrababu Naidu, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh,** is the richest CM in the country with assets worth **Rs 177 crore.**
- A new '**Port Performance Index**' has been released by **Dun & Bradstreet** and it was handed over to **Commerce and Industry minister Suresh Prabhu.**
- '**The Road, transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari** released a **manual laying down guidelines** on when and how to expand or manage different types of roads.
- **Union Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy RK Singh** said that the government was committed to provide electricity to un-electrified households **by 2019.**
- The **12th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility** was held in **Bengaluru.**

- A two-day International Conference on **Unani Medicine** organized by the Central Council for Research in **Unani Medicine (CCRUM)** as a part of Unani Day celebration was held **in New Delhi**.
- The Indian Navy will now be able to use the facilities at **Duqm port in Oman** following the signing of a pact between the two countries.
- The **4th meeting of the Economic Advisory Council** to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) was held **in New Delhi**.
- The government has made amendments in **Small Saving Act**, proposing the merger of Government **Savings Certificates Act, 1959, Public Provident Fund Act, 1968 with the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873**.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** chaired by **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** approved capital acquisition proposals of the defence services, valued at **Rs 15,935 crore**.

## INTERNATIONAL

- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for a **Secondment Programme between India and Australia**.
- MOU between India and Palestine for setting up of India-Palestine **Super-specialty hospital** at Beit Sahour in Bethelhem Governorate at a cost of **US\$ 30 million**
- MOU between India and Palestine for construction of India Palestine Centre for Empowering women, "**Turathi**" at a cost of **US\$ 5 million**
- MOU between India and Palestine for setting up of new **National Printing Press** at Ramallah at a cost of **US\$ 5 million**
- MOU between India and Palestine Construction of **school in Muthalth Al Shuhada Village** at a cost of **US\$ 1 million**
- MOU between India and Palestine **Construction of school** in Tamoon village in Tubas Governorate in Palestine at a cost of **US\$ 1.1 million**
- MOU between India and Palestine Assistance of US\$ 0.25 million for construction of **additional floor to Jawahar Lal Nehru** for Boys at Abu Dees
- **Saudi Arabia** has **temporarily banned imports of live birds**, hatching eggs and chicks from **India** after a form of bird flu that is highly lethal for poultry was found in the south Asian country.

- **China** has confirmed “**resumption**” of **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** through the **Nathu La route**, Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh has said.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will deliver the keynote **address** at the inaugural day of the **World Government Summit in Dubai**.
- The **US** has emerged the **most congested country** in the developed world, accounting for 10 of the top 25 cities worldwide with the worst traffic congestion, according to **transportation analytics company INRIX**.
- **Dubai** witnessed **15 percent growth** in **tourist arrivals from India** in **2017**, hosting 2.1 million visitors, retaining **top spot** as the **source market**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** held wide-ranging talks with the **Sultan of Oman Sultan Qaboos** and signed eight agreements.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** officially launched the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the **first Hindu temple in in Al Wathba, Abu Dhabi, the capital city of United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- **US President Donald Trump** unveiled a massive **USD 1.5 trillion plan** to modernise America’s infrastructure including **USD 200 billion** in federal funding.
- **The UAE’s Road and Transport Authority (RTA)** showcased the **world’s first driverless pods at the World Government Summit**.
- The world’s tallest hotel has been opened in **Dubai, UAE**.
- **India and Russia** discussed trade relations in the **agricultural sector in a business summit in New Delhi**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** held wide-ranging talks with **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**.

## BANKING & BUSINESS

- Dubai International Airport has held on to its **No 1 ranking as the world’s busiest airport** for international travel, after seeing some 88.2 million passengers in 2017.
- The Reserve Bank will link the **base rate for loans given by banks to the MCLR starting April 1, 2018** i.e. from the new financial year.
- **Forbes** has released the **first ever Cryptocurrency rich list 2018**. It is a compilation of the 20 wealthiest people in crypto. There are now nearly **1,500 crypto-assets** in existence, valued at an aggregate of **\$550 billion**.

- The **Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC)** of the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** stated that India ranked 44th of 50 economies. **The top 3 countries are:** The USA, United Kingdom, Sweden
- IndusInd Bank launched its **new Sonic Identity**, which is essentially a musical logo, as part of its branding initiatives.
- A chat based job search **mobile app 'Empzilla'**, first ever of its kind in the country. It has been launched under **"Digital India"** initiative.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** imposed a fine of **Rs 136 crore** on search engine major Google.
- The Cabinet approved amendments to a law to change the criteria for classifying MSMEs **from investment in plant and machinery to annual turnover.**
- The country's largest lender SBI write off bad loans worth **Rs 20,339 crore in 2016-17.**
- **ONGC Videsh Ltd and its partners** have acquired a **10 percent** in a large offshore oilfield in Abu Dhabi, **Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.'s (ADNOC)** for USD 600 million.
- The State-owned **Bank of Baroda** announced that it has decided to exit by March-end its South Africa operations.
- **Foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs)** witnessed a growth of **8.4%** in January **2018** over January 2017, while the number of travellers on e-Tourist Visa saw **58.5%** growth in the same period, according to Ministry of Tourism.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has made banks' priority sector norms lenient by saying that **all loans to micro small and medium enterprises (MSME)** will henceforth qualify as **priority sector lending**. This was a long time demand from banks. The sub-target for bank lending to the micro enterprises has been **7.50 percent.**

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNS

Name of the person	Appointed for	Replaces
Hardayal Prasad	as SBI Card MD & CEO	Vijay Jasuja
<b>Indra Nooyi</b>	Becomes ICC's 1st Independent Female Director	-----
<b>Biswamohan Mahapatra</b>	as non-executive chairman of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	Dilip Asbe

<b>Pradeep Kumar Rawat</b>	next Ambassador of India to Timor-Leste	-----
<b>Eminent Kannada writer and Jnanpith winner Chandrashekhara Kambara</b>	as the president of Kendra Sahitya Akademi	

## AWARDS & HONORS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is being conferred with the **Grand Collar** of the **State of Palestine**, which is the **highest Palestinian honour** for a **foreign dignitary**.

## BOOKS AND AUTHOR

- **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** launched the book "**Mere Sapno Ka Bharat**".
- The former Team India captain **Sourav Ganguly** will unveil a book named "**A Century is not enough**".

## SPORTS

- India's veteran pacer **Jhulan Goswami** became the **first female cricketer** to take **200 ODI wickets**.
- **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Winter Games** officially kicked off with a colourful ceremony at **Pyeongchang stadium in South Korea**.
- **Haryana** topped the overall medal tally after claiming **38 gold medals** in the inaugural edition of the Khelo India School Games that concluded in **New Delhi**.
- **India** won **two silver and one bronze medal** at the **ITTF Oman World Junior & Cadet Open Table Tennis Tournament at Muscat**. **Swastika Ghosh** teamed up with compatriot **Varuni Jaiswal** clinched the silver in sub junior girls team after beating Syria.
- **Sweden's Charlotte Kalla** claimed the **first gold** on the opening day of the **Pyeongchang Winter Olympics**.

- **Pune-based swimmer, Rohan More** became the first Asian as well as the first Indian to swim across the **Ocean Seven**.
- **Karnataka's Kishan Gangolli** won the National 'A' Chess Championship for Blind for the fifth consecutive time.

## OBITUARY

- Actor John Mahoney passed away in Chicago, the USA.
- **The doyen of Odia literature Chandrasekhar Rath** passed away in Bhubaneswar.
- Pakistan's well known human rights lawyer and social activist **Asma Jahangir**.
- Johann Johannsson, an **award-winning composer and producer** passed away.

## HISTORIC EVENT OF THE DAY

February	Important days	Theme
11	<b>Unani Day</b>	-----
12	<b>National Productivity Council</b>	Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India
14	<b>World Radio Day</b>	Diversity in Sports Coverage, Gender Equality in Sports Coverage and Peace and Development through Sports Coverage.