

AWARDS & HONOURS

As per latest survey conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) across 53 airports, the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) was declared as the **cleanest and best-maintained airport** in the country under the 1.5 million to 5 million passenger handling airport category.

Bollywood actor-turned-politician Vinod Khanna, who died last year, was conferred the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** -- the highest cinema honour in India – posthumously. The actor was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of the Lok Sabha from Punjab's Gurdaspur constituency.

Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma will be honoured with the 2018 **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award** for her successful movies as a producer. Beside her, Ranveer Singh will also get the 2018 Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award as Best Actor for his movie 'Padmaavat'.

'State of the Year' Award was given to Chhattisgarh under the 'business leader' category as part of the India Business Leadership for the remarkable increase in business and services activities in various sectors. Union Information Technology and Electronics Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad gave the award at **India Business Leader Awards (IBLA)**.

One of the most popular Malayalam film personalities, Sreekumaran Thampi was awarded the prestigious **JC Daniel Award** in recognition of his sterling contributions to the Malayalam film industry. The J.C. Daniel Award is conferred by the Government of Kerala annually in recognition to an individual's contributions to Malayalam cinema.

Indian Institute of Science (IISC) in Bengaluru was adjudged the overall best Indian university in **National Institutional Ranking Framework** (NIRF-2018) released by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development. Apart from this, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) was adjudged the best engineering college and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM – A) the best management institution. Delhi University's Miranda House was the best college and National Law School of India University, Bengaluru (NLSIU – B) the best law school in the country. In the medical college category, AIIMS New Delhi stood first, followed by PGIMER Chandigarh and CMC Vellore.

The 65th **National Film Awards** for 2017 were announced. Following are the winners:

- **Best Film** : Assamese Film 'Village Rockstar'
- **Best Hindi Film** : Newton
- **Best Actor (Female)** : Sri Devi (posthumously)
- **Best Actor (Male)** : Riddhi Sen
- **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration** : Dhappa
- **Best Regional Film** : Ladhakh
- **Best Film on Social Issues** : Aalorukkam (Malayalam)
- **Best Direction in the Feature Film category** : Jayaraj (for 'Bhayanakam')
- **Best Direction in the Non Feature Film Category** : Nagraj Manjule

BUSINESS & CORPORATE

India is now the second largest mobile phone producer in the world after China, as per information shared by Indian Cellular Association with Telecom Minister. According to the data shared by ICA, annual production of mobile phones in India increased from 3 million units in 2014 to 11 million units in 2017. India replaced Vietnam to become second largest producer of mobile phones in 2017. With the rise in mobile phone production, imports of the devices in the country also reduced to less than half in 2017-18. The fast track task Force, a body under Ministry of Electronics and IT, has set target to achieve around 500 million mobile phone production in India by 2019, with value estimated to be around USD 46 billion.

BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

- In order to fast-track the rollout of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology, the Union government decided to constitute a task force that will chart a road map with implementable recommendations for Central as well as state governments, and industry and research institutions. The task force, under the chairmanship of Civil Aviation Minister Jayant Sinha, will consist of representatives from the Central government, PSUs, industry and sectoral experts.
- India inked a pact with Morocco under which focus would be laid on evaluation of potential mineral resources and promoting exploration and mining through participation of both public and private sector.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India FSSAI launched a unique initiative 'Project Dhoop' to encourage schools to shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, mainly between 11 am to 1 pm, to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.
- The Maharashtra government and Tata Trusts have come together to finance the state's first poultry company to be run and owned by tribal women. The state government has contributed Rs 12 crore while Tata Trusts has given Rs 3 crore to finance the project.
- The Centre, Maharashtra Government and the World Bank signed a \$420 million project to help small and marginal farmers in the Marathwada and Vidarbha region of the state.
- The State Government of Uttar Pradesh came up with a new scheme named 'Ganga Hariteema Yojana'. This scheme is also known as Ganga Greenery scheme. This scheme has been launched in 27 districts of the state that are located on the bank of river Ganga. The main motive of the state government behind launching this scheme is to enhance the green cover in the catchment areas of the river Ganga and to control land erosion.
- The Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry constituted a 10 member committee to frame rules to regulate news portals and media websites. The committee will be headed by Narendra Kumar Sinha, the I&B Secretary.
- Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister for Railways and Coal, launched UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring. UTTAM stands for – Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal.
- The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry set up a high-powered committee, headed by former HRD Secretary VS Oberoi, to examine the process by which the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducts examinations.
- The West Bengal government panned out a new scheme 'Rupashree' from April 1, 2018 to provide marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families with a budgetary allocation of Rs 1500 crore.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

- The Reserve Bank tightened reporting norms for the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) under which an individual can transfer up to USD 2,50,000 abroad in a year. In order to improve monitoring and also to ensure compliance with the LRS limits, it was decided to put in place a daily reporting system by AD (Authorized Dealer) banks of transactions undertaken by individuals under LRS, which will be accessible to all the other ADs.
- India with an economic freedom score of 54.5 points was ranked 130th in the latest annual Index of Economic Freedom released by a top American think-tank the Heritage Foundation. The index is topped by Hong Kong, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland and Australia.
- In its latest Asian Development Outlook 2018, the Manila-based Asian Development Bank stated that India's economic growth is set to rise to 7.3% in 2018-19 and grow at 7.6% further in 2019-20.
- India emerged as the 3rd most vulnerable country in terms of risk of cyber threats, such as malware, spam and ransomware, in 2017, as per latest report by security solutions provider 'Symantec'. The list is topped by U.S., followed by China.
- India was ranked 37th out of 125 countries in global startup ecosystem in 2017, according to latest report released by global startup ecosystem map Startupblink. The list was topped by the United States, followed by the United Kingdom.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

Balram Bhargava was appointed the new Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of the Department of Health Research.

Former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** was elected chairman of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA). BFA is a non-profit organization committed to promote regional economic integration and bringing Asian countries closer to their development goals.

Noted Tamil film director **C.V. Rajendran** passed away at the age of 81.

E.N. Rammohan, a celebrated IPS officer and former director general of the Border Security Force, passed away at the age of 77.

Hemchand Yadav, a former Chhattisgarh minister and senior BJP leader, passed away.

Julius Maada Bio took oath as the new President of Sierra Leone - a country in West Africa, on the Atlantic Ocean.

M L Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies) at the culture ministry was appointed as the protem chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi.

The book "India's Heritage of Gharana Music: Pandits of Gwalior" authored by classical vocalist **Meeta Pandit** was recently launched.

Munin Barua, the National award winning Assamese film-maker, passed away at the age of 72.

Senior artist **Ram Kumar** passed away at the age of 94. A modernist, he was associated with the Progressive Artists' Group comprising M.F.Husain, F.N.Souza, H.A.Gade, S.H.Raza and others. He was known for his abstract landscapes.

Rishad Premji, the chief strategy officer and board member of Wipro Ltd, was appointed as the new Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2018-19.

Rosemary DiCarlo, a US diplomat, was appointed as the head of UN political affairs, one of the most high-profile positions at the United Nations (UN), thus becoming the first woman to head this position.

S. Madhavan, a veteran Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader, passed away at the age of 85 in Tamil Nadu.

Santosh Kumar Mohanty was appointed a whole-time member of market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a period of three years.

Subrata Bhattacharjee, an IFS officer of 1989 batch, was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia.

Veena Sahajwalla, a professor at the University of New South Wales and an Indian-origin scientist in Australia, launched the world's first microfactory that can transform the components from electronic waste items such as smartphones and laptops into valuable materials for re-use.

Vishnu Sadashiv Kokje, the former Himachal Pradesh governor and Madhya Pradesh High Court judge, was elected as the new international president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP).

SPORTS

Indian shooter **Anish Bhanwala** from Haryana, aged 15, created history by becoming the country's youngest ever gold medal winner in the Commonwealth Games.

In Wrestling, **Bajrang Punia** clinched Gold in men's freestyle 65 kg wrestling category at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018.

Deepak Lather from Haryana became the youngest Indian weightlifter to claim a Commonwealth Games medal by clinching a bronze in the men's 69kg weightlifting category at the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia.

Heena Sidhu from India clinched gold in women's 25-metre pistol event at the 21st Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia.

Himanta Biswa Sarma, a cabinet ranked minister, was elected as the new president of Badminton Association of India.

India's mixed badminton team has created history by clinching its first-ever gold after defeating defending champions Malaysia in the final event at 21st Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, Australia. Kidambi Srikanth, Saina Nehwal and the mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa all won a match each to guide India power past Lee Chong Wei-spearheaded Malaysia which was winning gold since the 2006 CWG.

John Isner, an American professional tennis player, won the 2018 men's singles Miami Open tennis tournament.

The **Kerala** football team won the 72nd edition of Santosh Trophy Football tournament 2018 by defeating West Bengal in the finals.

Veteran Boxer **M C Mary Kom**, who claimed a Gold on debut at the Commonwealth Games, was India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of 21st Gold Coast CWG on April 15, 2018.

Manika Batra became the first ever Indian woman player to win the table tennis women's singles Gold at the Commonwealth Games.

Mary Kom (48kg) became the first Indian woman boxer to claim a Commonwealth Games gold, when she defeated Northern Ireland's Kristina O'Hara at Gold Coast.

Mithali Raj, Indian women's cricket team captain, was adjudged 'Sports person of the Year' at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017.

Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian javelin thrower to claim a gold medal at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018.

P Gururaja, from Karnataka, bagged India's first medal at the 21st Commonwealth Games 2018 at Gold Coast, when he won silver medal in the men's 56 kg final.

Weightlifter **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** from Manipur clinched the first gold for India at the 21st Commonwealth Games in the women's 48 kg weightlifting category in Gold Coast, Australia.



Weightlifter **Sanjita Chanu** from Manipur clinched gold at the 21st Commonwealth Games (CWG-2018) in the women's 53 kg weightlifting category in Gold Coast, Australia.

Indian shooter **Shreyasi Singh** won a Gold medal at the 21st Commonwealth Games at Gold Cost, Australia.

Sloane Stephens, a US professional tennis player, has won the 2018 women's singles Miami Open tennis tournament.

Weightlifter **Venkat Rahul Ragala** clinched Gold medal in 85-kg category at the 21st Commonwealth Games.

MISCELLANEOUS

World

- Bangladesh announced to end reservation in Government jobs.
- The International Conference on Human Rights in South Asia was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The World Homoeopathy Day was observed on April 10, like every year, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Homoeopathy founder Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician.
- The first international conference on 'Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership' was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The joint military exercise "Desert Tiger 5" was held between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia in Dubai, UAE.
- The World Health Day was observed on 7th April, like every year, with the theme "Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere".
- The World Autism Awareness Day was observed on April 2, like every year, with the theme "Empowering women and girls with autism".
- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Mid-Term Ministerial Conference 2018 was held in Baku, Azerbaijan under the theme "Promoting International Peace and Security for Sustainable Development".
- The 7th Moscow Conference on International Security was held in Moscow. The 2-day conference focused on the defeat of terrorists in Syria. The Indian delegation was led by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

India

- India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) bagged Rs 550-crore contract for developing a Mega Tourism Destination project at Bhairav Lanka in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. This is the first of its kind project for the state- owned ITDC.
- Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched the navigation satellite IRNSS-1I into the orbit with the help of PSLV-C41 launch vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani approved setting up a 5000 MW capacity solar park at the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion. The proposed solar power generation project would be set up in 11,000 hectares of land with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore, said an official release.
- The 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting was held in New Delhi. The aim of the three day meeting was to focus on how global shifts, transition policies and new technologies influence market stability and future investment in the energy sector.

- The National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD) was celebrated on April 11 with the theme "Respectful Maternity Care".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off Indian Railways' first high-speed electric locomotive developed at the Electric Locomotive Factory, a collaboration between India and France, in Madhepura. The 12,000 horsepower high-speed train is the first Make-in-India project of this magnitude completed along with French rolling stock giant Alstom.
- Kerala became the first Indian state to adopt a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for brain death certification in government and private hospitals.
- In a bid to use technology for farmers' benefit, the Tamil Nadu Government came out with a mobile application - 'Uzhavan' - that will allow ryots to have access to nine types of services, including details about their crop insurance.
- Indian Air Force carried out its largest ever all-encompassing combat-ready exercise Gaganshakti 2018. It flew over 11,000 sorties during the exercise to test the war-fighting capabilities of the air force in both western and eastern sectors. It also carried out simulations where the scenario was under CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) attack.
- Indo-Korean joint anti-piracy, search and rescue exercise 'Sahyog-Hyeoblyeog 2018' was conducted off the Chennai coast, in Tamil Nadu.
- The joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise 'Chakravath 2018' was organized by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Kerala government at Kochi Airport.
- The National Maritime Day was celebrated on 5th April, like every year since 1964, with the theme 'Indian Shipping – An Ocean of opportunity'.
- India's longest elevated road was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The 10.3 km long Hindon Elevated Road's primary objectivity is to ease traffic movement from Ghaziabad to New Delhi and vice versa.
- The 9th India-Japan-US trilateral meeting was held in New Delhi with the aim of exploring practical ways to enhance cooperation in the areas of infrastructure development, counter-proliferation, counter-terrorism, maritime security, maritime domain awareness and Humanitarian Assistance And Disaster Relief (HADR).
- Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregation, Huddle Kerala, was held at Kovalam to provide a platform for start-ups to pitch their products and interact with a wide array of technology and industry leaders from around the world.
- With an aim to combat the rising levels of air pollution in Delhi-NCR region, petrol pumps in the capital started supplying ultra-clean Bharat Stage VI grade fuel (both petrol and diesel). This move makes New Delhi the first city in the country to switch from BS-IV grade fuels to BS-VI (equivalent to fuel meeting Euro-VI emission norms).

AWARDS & HONOURS

Indu Jain, Chairperson of Bennett, Coleman & Co, was conferred with the **All India Management Association's (AIMA's) annual award** for lifetime contribution to media.

Aditi Rao Hydari was conferred with the **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award** 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award) for her memorable performance in 'Bhoomi'.

Singing legend Asha Bhosle was honoured with the **Lifetime 26th P C Chandra Puraskar 2018**.

Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar became the newest celebrity to be selected for a wax statue by **Madame Tussauds**. This makes Karan Johar as the first-ever Bollywood filmmaker to enter the list.

Nadiya Shafi, a video reporter from Srinagar, won this year's **'Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment'**, carrying a cash prize of Rs 1.50 lakh. The award is in recognition of Nadiya's commitment towards gender equality and leading gender discussions clubs in her hometown.

Madhya Pradesh was conferred the award for the **Most Film Friendly State** for its efforts towards easing filming in the State by creating a well-structured web site, film friendly infrastructure, offering incentives, maintaining databases, undertaking marketing and promotional initiatives, from among the 16 States that participated.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was awarded the 2018 **National Intellectual Property (IP) Award** 2018 in the category 'Top R&D Institution/Organisation for Patents and Commercialisation'.

The New York Times and The New Yorker jointly won the **Pulitzer Prize for Public Service** for explosive reporting. Kendrick Lamar, an American rapper and songwriter, created history by becoming the first non-classical or jazz artist to win Pulitzer Prize for his album 'D.A.M.N.' in the music category. The Pulitzer Prizes recognize the best journalism of 2017 in newspapers, magazines and websites. There are 14 categories for reporting, photography, criticism and commentary. In the arts, prizes are awarded in seven categories, including fiction, drama and music.

Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra will be conferred with the prestigious **Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement** and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani with Raj Kapoor Special Contribution awards of the Maharashtra Government.

Gujarati poet, playwright and academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra was selected for the 2017 **Saraswati Samman** for his collection of verses titled Vakhar.

Jailed Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, known as Shawkan, was selected by an independent international jury of media professionals as the laureate of the 2018 **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize**. The Prize recognizes a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger. It is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper in Bogotá, Colombia.

BUSINESS & CORPORATE

The Ministry of Tourism signed an MoU with **Dalmia Bharat** and the Archaeological Survey of India to adopt the iconic Red Fort monument in New Delhi and Gandikota Fort in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh under the 'Adopt a Heritage' project. The 'Adopt a Heritage' scheme, launched by President Ram Nath Kovind on World Tourism Day in September last year, invites government and private parties to operate and maintain heritage sites. With a budget of more than Rs 5 crore per year, the cement manufacturing company joins "monument mitras" including other private sector companies, which will look after the operations and maintenance of the site for five years.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in collaboration with **Google India** launched a 360° Virtual Reality (VR) experience video on Incredible India <https://t.co/H1VdcNXBUR>.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country's largest IT outsourcing company created history by becoming the first Indian company to reach the \$100 billion market capitalisation (m-cap) mark. By definition, market capitalisation is the value of a company that is traded on the stock market, calculated by multiplying the total number of shares by the present share price.

Vistara became the third Indian carrier to be a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the trade association of more than 280 airlines, which will help it provide a seamless travel experience through an extended global network to travellers to and from India. Vistara, the full-service carrier promoted by Tata Sons Limited and Singapore Airlines Limited (SIA), recently became eligible to start international operations. Air India and Jet Airways are the two other airlines in India that are IATA members.

BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

- As part of the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat Diwas was celebrated across the country on 30th April. During the event, information regarding Ayushman Bharat Scheme was provided to people during health camps organized in rural areas. The Ayushman Bharat programme seeks to provide easily available and affordable medical facilities in the remote parts of the country. The Scheme has the benefits cover of 5 lakh rupees per family per year.
- The Maharashtra government signed a MoU with the British Council to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation.
- The Atal Innovation Mission of the NITI Aayog launched the Atal New India Challenge. It is an initiative aimed at supporting innovators creating products based on advanced technologies in areas of national importance and social relevance through a grant based mechanism. Under the challenge, grants of up to Rs 1 crore and mentorship will be given to the winning ideas.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development launched the 2nd edition of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan under which students from 750 higher educational institutions from across the country will adopt villages and visit them to get acquainted with lifestyle of people there and the problems faced by them.
- India is tying up with the United States and Finland to develop a pollution-forecast system that will help anticipate particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance and at a greater resolution than what is possible now. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be coordinating this exercise.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at Ramnagar in the tribal-dominated Madla district of Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24). The purpose of the scheme is to strengthen the country's Panchayati Raj system and address critical gaps that hinder its success.
- The Union Government constituted a Defence Planning Committee to facilitate comprehensive planning for the defence forces besides focusing on military doctrines to deal with emerging security challenges. It will be chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
- The first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held in the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C. Ministry of Finance, Government of India was represented in the meeting by Subhash Chandra Garg , Secretary , Department of Economic Affairs (EA).
- One hundred and fifty participants from 31 countries and 400 entrepreneurs from India participated in the four day International SME convention held in New Delhi from 22nd to 24th April.
- The first meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under POSHAN Abhiyaan was held in New Delhi. The Council which has been set up under POSHAN Abhiyaan is the apex body to formulate overall policies, guide and monitor all nutrition based schemes.
- The Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the FIEO GlobalLinker- a digital platform for MSME exporters to digitise their businesses and join a global community of growing businesses. FIEO stands for Federation of Indian Export Organisations.
- The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the web-based application 'e-FRRO' (e-Foreigners Regional Registration Office). The e-FRRO scheme is aimed at building a centralized, transparent online platform for the foreigners to avail visa related services and to provide Faceless, Cashless and Paperless services to the foreigners with user friendly experience.
- The Haryana government announced to introduce Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) and revise the syllabus and workload in 11 subjects at the under-graduation level in state universities keeping with global scenario.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

- The Govt of India (GoI) entered into a legal agreement with the World Bank for a flexible financing arrangement to accelerate research towards early development for biopharmaceuticals. The mission has been approved at a cost of 250 million dollars for five years with 50 per cent funding through the World Bank.
- India was ranked 138th out of 180 countries in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders. Norway topped the list of having the world's freest press for the second year in a row, followed by Sweden and The Netherlands.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2018-19 season. The MSP for Fair Average Quality of Raw Jute has been increased to Rs 3700 per quintal for 2018-19 season from Rs 3500 per quintal in 2017-18 season.
- India retained the top position as recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending about USD 69 billion back home last year, as per the World Bank. It was followed by China (USD 64 billion), the Philippines (USD 33 billion), Mexico (USD 31 billion), Nigeria (USD 22 billion), and Egypt (USD 20 billion). Global remittances, which include flows to high-income countries, grew 7 per cent to USD 613 billion last year, from USD 573 billion in 2016, the bank said.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed in principle to give an aid of Rs 1,700 crore to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
- The Ministry of Finance signed a loan agreement for IBRD credit of \$125 million (equivalent) with the World Bank for the 'Innovate in India for Inclusiveness' Project in New Delhi.
- India signed a \$210-million loan agreement with the World Bank to improve rural connectivity in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Indian Overseas Bank has signed Information Utility pact with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to share financial and security information under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India regulation 2017.
- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the worth of the economy, clocked in at \$2.6 trillion for 2017, according to the database of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook (WEO) for April 2018. India is now the world's sixth largest economy, displacing France. The five economies ahead are the United States, China, Japan, Germany and United Kingdom.
- India was ranked 10th on a new Commonwealth Innovation Index, topped by the UK, Singapore and Canada. The index was launched as part of a new Commonwealth Innovation Hub on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). It has been created in partnership with the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its annual Global Innovation Index (GII). It is aimed at providing a tool that allows member states, organisations and citizens to benchmark themselves against 53 countries of the Commonwealth, with the new innovation hub offering a dedicated online space for Commonwealth countries to showcase what they have to offer and share with other members.

- In a bid to ease the cash crunch, State Bank of India (SBI) decided to allow depositors to withdraw cash from its point of sale (PoS) devices available with merchants. This facility will be available for customers of all banks, and can be used in about 80% of SBI's PoS devices across the country.
- The International Monetary Fund in the latest World Economic Outlook projected India to grow at 7.4% in 2018 and 7.8% in 2019, up from 6.7% in 2017.
- The Government of India signed a \$48 million loan agreement with the World Bank to support selected communities in Meghalaya to manage their natural resources using a community-led landscape approach.
- The World Bank projected India's growth rate at 7.3% for 2019 and 7.5% for 2020.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

Balantrapu Rajanikantha Rao, the noted Telugu poet-composer, musicologist and artist, passed away at age 98.

Veteran filmmaker and animation pioneer **Bhimsain**, best known for his film "Gharaonda" and animation short films like "Ek Anek Ekta", died at the age of 81. A versatile artiste who enriched the medium of both television and films with his contribution, Bhimsain was primarily known for his work in the world of animation during the golden period of Doordarshan.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh released a book by former Planning Commission and Finance Commission member **C H Hanumantha Rao** 'My Journey from Marxism-Leninism to Nehruvian Socialism'.

Dharam Pal Choudhary, the sitting BJP MLA from Mundawar Vidhan Sabha constituency of Rajasthan, passed away at the age of 64. He was a three-time MLA from Alwar district—in 2003, 2008 and 2013.

Indo-Pak 1971 war veteran Brigadier **Francis Regis Campos**, VSM, AVSM, passed away. During the 1971 Indo-Pak War, his meticulous planning and foresight as Adjutant Quarter Master General (AQMG) of 54 Infantry Division, led to effective logistic support during a critical phase of the Battle of Basantar in the Shakargarh Sector. For his distinguished service in an operational area, he was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).

Indu Malhotra, a renowned arbitration expert, became the first woman lawyer to be directly promoted as a judge of the Supreme Court (SC).

The candidate of the ruling National Republican Association-Colorado Party, **Mario Abdo Benítez**, won the presidential elections in Paraguay.

Nabi Tajima, the world's oldest person, died in southern Japan at the age of 117.

Lieutenant General **PP Malhotra** took charge as the new Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organization in the world.

Sikkim Chief Minister and Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) founder **Pawan Kumar Chamling** surpassed the record of former West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu by becoming the longest serving Chief Minister of any Indian state.

Rajinder Sachar, the former chief justice of the Delhi High Court and a noted rights activist, passed away at the age of 94. Sachar was also the chairperson of a committee, set up during the previous UPA government under former prime minister Manmohan Singh, to look into the social, economic and educational condition of Muslims in India.

Noted journalist and former Chief Editor of The Statesman and The Indian Express, **Surendra Nihal Singh** passed away at the age of 88. He was the founding editor of 'The Indian Post' in 1987. He was awarded the prestigious International Editor of the Year Award in New York for opposing the Emergency imposed by former prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Senior journalist **T K Rajalakshmi** was elected the new president of the Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC)- a reputed association of women journalists, launched in 1994.

TVR Shenoy, a veteran journalist and columnist, passed away in Karnataka. Shenoy was awarded the prestigious Padma Bhushan award in 2003.

Swedish DJ **Tim Bergling**, popularly known as Avicii, one of the world's biggest dance music stars, died in Oman at the age of 28.

Tony Daniel, the technical committee chairman of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and the executive vice-president of Kerala State Athletics Association (KSAA), passed away in Kochi at age 66.

SPORTS

Bengaluru FC won the first edition of Indian Super Cup Football tournament. The competition is sponsored by Hero MotoCorp and is officially known as the Hero Super Cup.

India's **C A Bhavani Devi** won a silver medal in the sabre event of the Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Daniel Ricciardo, an Australian racing driver, won the 2018 Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix tournament at the Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai, China.

The Chinese dragon 'Son of Dreams' was declared the official mascot of the **FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019** in China.

The Haryana government made international shooter **Gauri Sheoran** as brand ambassador for its Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign. According to the state government, around 80 lakh children -- in the age group of nine months to 15 years -- would be covered under this campaign.

Liverpool forward **Mohamed Salah** was named Player of the Year by England's Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), becoming the first Egyptian to receive the award.

Prajesh Gunneswaran clinched his first ever singles title on the ATP Challenger circuit when he downed Egypt's Mohammed Safwat in the final of the Kunming Open in Anning.

Rafael Nadal, a Spanish professional tennis player, lifted his 11th Barcelona Open tennis title.

Rafael Nadal, a Spanish professional tennis player, won the 2018 Monte-Carlo Masters tennis tournament by defeating Kei Nishikori in the final match.

World record holder **Shahzar Rizvi** claimed India's first medal at the 2018 World Cup organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) at Changwon, South Korea.

Two 12-year-old football enthusiasts - **Surya Varikuti** and Rudresh Gaudnour - were selected as India's representatives at the global Football For Friendship (F4F) social programme in Russia.

Yuki Bhambri from India won the 2018 Santaizi ATP Challenger tennis tournament in Taipei, Taiwan.

MISCELLANEOUS

World

- The International Dance Day was observed on April 29, like every year, to recognise the value of the art form across the world. It marks the birth anniversary of French dancer Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet.
- The World Intellectual Property Day was observed on April 26, like every year, with the theme "Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity".
- The World Malaria Day was observed on April 25, like every year, with the theme "Ready to beat malaria".
- The World Book and Copyright Day was observed on April 23, like every year.
- The United Nations (UN) officially declared April 21 as the World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) to encourage people to use creativity in problem-solving.
- The king of Swaziland, one of the world's few absolute monarchs, announced that his country had changed its name to eSwatini to mark 50 years since independence from British rule. Meaning "place of the Swazi", eSwatini is the Swazi language name for the tiny nation landlocked between South Africa and Mozambique.
- The World Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, like every year, with the theme 'End Plastic Pollution'. Worldwide, various events were held to demonstrate support for environmental protection.
- The 2018 Global Malaria Summit was held alongside the 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London, United Kingdom. India was absent in this summit.
- The World Liver Day was observed on April 19, like every year, to build awareness and understanding how important the liver is for our body and how liver ailments can be treated. The theme was 'Riding New Waves in Liver Diagnosis, Staging & Treatment'.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched its newest planet-hunting spacecraft "TESS" (Transit Exoplanet Survey Satellite) to search for alien worlds.
- The World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, was celebrated on April 18, like every year. The 2018 theme was "Heritage for Generations".
- The United Kingdom joined the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA), which aims to raise \$1 trillion of private and public finance to provide affordable and sustainable energy for all by 2030. The UK's partnership will involve providing expertise and advice to the alliance, but no monetary contributions.
- The World Haemophilia Day was observed on April 17, like every year, to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The 2018 theme was "Sharing Knowledge Makes Us Stronger".
- India won an election to a crucial non-governmental organisation committee in the UN after garnering the highest number of votes besides getting elected by acclamation to other subsidiary bodies in five separate polls. The UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held elections to a number of its subsidiary bodies. The ECOSOC focuses on advancing the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental. India topped the election to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

India

- The 2018 International Buddhist Conference was held in Lumbini, the birth place of Gautama Buddha.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the inclusion of tribal-dominated Scheduled Areas of Rajasthan under Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- Diu Smart City has become the first city in India, that runs on 100% renewable energy during daytime setting a new benchmark for other cities to become clean and green. Diu had been importing 73% of its power from Gujarat until last year.
- A two-day coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' was conducted to strengthen and assess the loopholes in the coastal security mechanism along Kerala shores.
- Out of 2.5 lakhs gram panchayats, the Central Government declared Digambarpur gram panchayat of West Bengal in South 24 Parganas district as the best panchayat in the country.
- In commemoration of the historic battle in 1891 at Khongjom, the Manipur government observed April 23 as 'Khongjom Day', like every year.
- The Government of India celebrated April 21 as 'Civil Services day', like every year.
- The Facebook page of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was ranked as the top ranked Facebook pages of Government bodies, ministries and political parties in India.
- In a good news for Delhi residents, Lt Governor Anil Baijal approved the Arvind Kejriwal government's proposal mandating an hourly compensation of Rs 100 to consumers in case of unscheduled power cuts. With this, Delhi will become the first city in the country to have a policy to compensate consumers for unscheduled outages.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development approved 'Study in India' program to attract foreign students to study in India. Currently, India is home to about 45,000 international students, which accounts for just 1% of the global student mobility. With 'Study in India', the government hopes the country will start attracting 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh international students by the year 2022.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a bridge constructed over river Ib, a tributary of Mahanadi, that will connect the coal region of Jharsaguda district with Sambalpur.
- The 5 day Islands Tourism Festival was inaugurated at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched the digital platform 'Pocket Cop Project' in order to ensure that the police force of the state is equipped with modern day technology.