

## 1-2 April 2018 Newsletter

Bharat Stage - VI  
New Delhi

Space  
'Tiangong - 1'

Place – Kaziranga National Park  
Assam's Rhino

Person  
Veenat Joshi

### Place

On 1 April 2018 which city became the first city in India to retail Bharat Stage-VI grade petrol and diesel? - Delhi

Explanation: On 1 April 2018 Delhi became the first city in India to retail Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) grade petrol and diesel. BS-VI grade fuel is the highest grade petrol and diesel available in India and has been made available in Delhi before the original nationwide roll-out planned for 1 April 2020. Now 13 other cities are likely to get BS-VI grade fuel by 2019.

BS-VI grade fuels have been introduced as a measure to curb the chronic air pollution problem in the national capital. As per the Indian government's original roadmap, BS-IV (the equivalent of Euro-IV) was to be implemented across the country by 1 April 2017, BS-V in 2019 and BS-VI in 2023.

However, vehicle makers and fuel suppliers were caught off-guard by the government's shock announcement in early 2016 of skipping BS-V altogether and bringing forward the introduction of BS-VI norms to 2020.

### Space

What is the name of the Chinese space station that burned over the South Pacific Ocean as it re-entered the earth's atmosphere on 2 April 2018? - 'Tiangong-1'

Explanation: "Tiangong-1" (meaning Heavenly Palace 1) is the name of the Chinese space station that was launched in 2011 to carry out docking and orbit experiments as part of China's ambitious space programme.

It re-entered the earth's atmosphere and burnt up over the middle of the South Pacific on 2 April 2018 (around 8:15 a.m. Beijing time) as per reports released by the Chinese space authority. Name of this spacecraft came to limelight after several news reports suggested that its re-entry could be out of control. But Chinese authorities

had maintained that it was unlikely any large pieces of Tiangong-1 would reach the ground.

### Telecom

India surpassed which country to emerge as the second largest mobile phone producer in the world after China, as was disclosed on 1 April 2018? - Vietnam

Explanation: As per information shared by Indian Cellular Association (ICA) with telecom minister Manoj Sinha and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on 1 April 2018, India is now the second largest mobile phone producer in the world after China.

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.

India accounted for 11% of global mobile production in 2017 compared to 3% in 2014. China remains the largest mobile producer globally.

### Wild life

What is the population of the famous one-horned rhino in Assam's Kaziranga National Park as disclosed in the 2018 census that was released on 30 March 2018? - 2,413

Explanation: The population of the one-horned rhino in Assam's Kaziranga National Park has risen to 2,413, the 2018 Rhino Census has found. This amounts to an increase of 12 rhinos over the 2015 census count of 2,401.

A correctional census to get a better estimate will be conducted in Kaziranga next year.

### Education

On 30 March 2018 who was appointed the first Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), the upcoming body dedicated to conducting entrance tests for higher education in India? - Vineet Joshi

Explanation: The former chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Vineet Joshi, was on 30 March 2018 appointed the first Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA). NTA is the upcoming independent body dedicated to conducting entrance tests for higher education in the country. Joshi, a 1992-batch IAS officer of the Manipur cadre, will hold the post for 5 years.

NTA, which was approved by the Union cabinet in October 2017, will conduct entrance tests entrusted to it by any department or ministry. In 2019, it will take over all entrance examinations currently being organised by the CBSE, including UGC's National Eligibility Test (NET), Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

3-6 April 2018  
Newsletter

Education  
Indian Institute of Science

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu  
Gold Medalist at CWG

New Launch  
Jio Payments Bank Ltd.

Jio-launched-Jio Payments Bank Ltd.

## Banking

Which new payments bank started its operations from April 2018? - Jio Payments Bank Ltd.

**Explanation:** Jio Payments Bank Ltd., a 70-30 joint venture between Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. and India's largest lender State Bank of India, commenced operations from 3 April 2018.

Reliance had first received in-principle approval from RBI to open a payments bank in August 2015, along with ten other applicants. It received the licence to operate in March last year.

Jio's telecom rival Bharti Airtel was the first to launch a payments bank in November 2016. Since then, Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led Paytm, Aditya Birla Group, and ICICI Bank-backed FINO have all started payment banking operations.

RBI had introduced payments banks to provide low-cost banking services to improve financial inclusion. They can accept deposits up to Rs. 1 lakh, issue debit cards but are not allowed to offer loans.

## Education

Which institution was named overall India's top higher educational institute in the NIRF India Rankings 2018 that were released on 4 April 2018? - Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

**Explanation:** Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is India's top-ranked higher educational institute. This was disclosed in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)'s India Rankings 2018 that was released on 4 April 2018 in New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan. NIRF is the nationwide ranking study undertaken by the Union Human Resources Ministry (HRD Ministry) that analysed 3,954 institutes across nine parameters this year.

This year the ranking has been given in 9 categories which include the Top Universities, Top Colleges, Top Engineering College, Top Medical College, Top Management College, Top Law Colleges, Top Pharmacy Colleges and Top Architecture Colleges of India. There is also an Overall Category.

IISc topped in the category of Top Universities as well as Overall Category. It was followed by Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University and Banaras Hindu University in top Universities category.

Results of NIRF India Rankings 2018

Overall Top Institute - IISc Bangalore

Top University of India: IISc Bangalore

Top College of India: Miranda House, Delhi

Top Engineering College: IIT Madras

Top Management College: IIM Ahmedabad

Top Medical College of India: All India Institutes of Medical Sciences, Delhi

Top Architecture College of India: IIT Kharagpur

Top Pharmacy College of India: National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali (Punjab)

Top Law College of India: National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

## Railways

The trial-run of the first container train from India to Bangladesh was flagged-off on 2 April 2018 from the Concor terminus in West Bengal. What was the end destination of this ambitious train? - Bangabandhu West station (Bangladesh)

**Explanation:** The first container train, carrying 60 containers (TEUs) with a maximum net weight of 27 tonnes in each TEU, from India to Bangladesh was flagged off on a trial run from Concor terminus near Majherhat station in West Bengal on 2 April 2018.

The train carrying close to 1,200 tonnes of de-oiled cake which serves as a raw material for animal feed, travelled through Naihati, Ranaghat and Gede in India and Darsana and Ishurdi in Bangladesh before reaching Bangabandhu West station, 117 km from Dhaka.

Once the trial run is successful and Bangladesh gives its clearance, then the container train services will be rolled out on a commercial basis according to Eastern Railway GM Harindra Rao.

It is worth mentioning that while passenger and goods trains run between the two countries, it was for the first time that a container train went to Bangladesh from India.

## Sports

Who won India's first gold medal at the 21st Commonwealth Games on the first day of competitive events on 5 April 2018? – SaikhomMirabaiChanu

Explanation: India's first gold medal of the opening day of the 2018 Commonwealth Games came in a stunning fashion from world champion and CWG record holder SaikhomMirabaiChanu.

She broke six records in six lifts to finish first in the women's 48 kg with a combined effort of 196kg to smash her previous career best of 194kg. This was Saikhom's second CWG medal following the silver she won in Glasgow four years ago.

However, India's first medal of the games came through weightlifter P. Gururaja. He claimed a silver medal in the men's 56kg category in Gold Coast on 5 April 2018, before Chanu's golden lift. He equalled his personal best of 249kg (111+138) to finish second after Malaysia's three-time Commonwealth Championships medallist Muhammad Izhar Ahmed (117+144).

## Corporate

Homegrown ride-hailing major Ola on 3 April 2018 acquired which end-to-end public transport ticketing app with the primary objective of integrating its own services with mass transit infrastructure that exists in cities? – Ridlr

Explanation: Ridlr is the name of an end-to-end public transport ticketing app that was established in 2012. It has been able to work with BEST, and Mumbai and Delhi Metro services to allow ticketing and other conveniences such as real-time tracking.

On 3 April 2018 Ridlr was acquired by homegrown ride-hailing entity Ola in an all-stock deal at an undisclosed valuation. Through the acquisition, Ola is looking at building a seamless experience for commuters who use its service in conjunction with transit services such as buses, trains, and metro.

## 7 April 2018 Newsletter

Vehicles more than Human  
Pune

CWG - 2018

Deepak Lather – Bronze Medal

## Place

### Pune

Which city has become the first-ever Indian urban area of the country where the total number of vehicles surpassed the human population? – Pune

Explanation: Pune notched up the distinction of become first Indian urban area where the total number of vehicles is now more than the human population.

While the population of Pune stands at approximately 3.5 million (35 lakh), the number of registered vehicles for the area at the end of March 2018 reached 3.62 million (36.2 lakh), according to the Regional Traffic Office – RTO (MH-12) that oversees the city.

## Person - Sports

### Deepak Lather

On 6 April 2018 who became the youngest athlete to win a CWG medal for India after winning a bronze medal in the men's 69kg weightlifting?

Explanation: 18-year old Deepak Lather created history for India as he won a bronze medal in the men's 69kg weightlifting category at the ongoing 21 Commonwealth Games on 6 April 2018. With this medal win he became the youngest athlete to win a CWG medal for India.

Lather lifted a total of 295 kg (136kg (snatch) + 159 kg (clean and jerk)) to finish in the third position. He had held a national record at the age of 15.

## Political

5 Lok Sabha MPs of which political party on 6 April 2018 submitted their resignations to the Lok Sabha Speaker in protest against Andhra Pradesh not being accorded special category status? – YSR Congress Party (YSRCP)

Explanation: Five YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MPs on 6 April 2018 submitted their resignations to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in protest against Andhra Pradesh not being accorded special category status (SCS). YSRCP chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had earlier on 31 March 2018

announced that its MPs will resign from the Lok Sabha and his party's next step will be to conduct protests in the coming days in New Delhi till its demand is met.

The five lawmakers who resigned are V. Vara Prada Rao, Y. V. Subba Reddy, P. V. Midhun Reddy, Y. S. Avinash Reddy and Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy.

## International

What is the name of South Korea's disgraced former president who was jailed for 24 years on 6 April 2018 for corruption? – Park Geun-hye

Explanation: On 6 April 2018 Park Geun-hye became the third former South Korean leader to be convicted on criminal charges as she was jailed for 24 years for corruption. A trial which lasted more than 10 months ended with Park being found guilty on multiple criminal charges, including bribery and abuse of power.

66-year old former President was convicted of receiving or demanding more than \$20 million from conglomerates, sharing secret state documents with her long-time friend and secret confidante Choi Soon-sil.

Park, who was the first woman President of South Korea, thus joined Chun Doo-wan and Roh Tae-woo, who were both found guilty of treason and corruption in the 1990s.

8-9 April 2018  
Newsletter

Banking - GVA  
Gross Value Added  
Methodology

Globemaster  
Tuting – Arunachal Pradesh's Advance  
Landing Ground

MWDT  
Mahanandi Water Disputes Tribunal

## Banking

### Gross Value Added

The RBI has switched back to the gross domestic product (GDP)-based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology. From when was the GVA methodology employed? – January 2015

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has switched back to the gross domestic product (GDP)-based measure to offer its growth estimates from the gross value added (GVA) methodology, citing global best practices.

Government had started analysing growth estimates using GVA methodology from January 2015 and had also changed the base year to 2018 from January.

While GVA gives a picture of the state of economic activity from the producers' side or supply side, the GDP model gives the picture from the consumers' side or demand perspective. The switch to GDP is mainly to conform to international standards.

### Lok Ranjan

Who is Union Government's new nominee on ICICI Bank's Board, as was announced on 6 April 2018?

Explanation: Lok Ranjan, a joint secretary at Department of Financial Services in the Finance Ministry, is Union Government's new nominee on ICICI Bank's Board with effect from 5 April 2018.

He replaced Government nominee Amit Agrawal.

## Sports

Leander Paes became the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup with a record 43<sup>rd</sup> win over China on 7 April 2018. He was tied on 42 wins with which great Italian player for long? – Nicola Pietrangeli

Explanation: Paes, India's Davis Cup hero for years, had been tied on 42 wins with Italian great Nicola Pietrangeli for long but finally surpassed him on 7 April 2018 to become the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup. He had made his Davis Cup debut way back in 1990.

The 44-year-old Paes and Rohan Bopanna downed a fighting Chinese pair of Mao Xin Gong and Ze Zhang 5-7, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3) to keep India afloat in the second round Asia/Oceania Group I tie played at Tianjin (China). India was down 0-2 before this doubles tie.

This win not only blessed Paes with a new Davis Cup record but also boosted India's confidence as young guns Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran pulled off the must-win rubbers as to take India to the World Group Play-offs with a sensational 3-2 win over hosts China.

India will now compete in the World Group Play-offs for the fifth time in a row, having failed in four attempts in as many years.

### Table Tennis

Indian women's table tennis team created history at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast on 8 April 2018 by winning the team gold medal for the first time ever. India defeated which powerful team in the finals? – Singapore

Explanation: India won the first-ever gold medal in the history of women's team table tennis event of Commonwealth Games as it defeated the much-fancied

and strong Singapore 3-1 in the gold medal match on 8 April 2018.

Delhi girl Manika Batra won two matches against tough opponents and played a pivotal role in India's triumph. She put India 1-0 ahead after beating Olympic medalist Tainwei Feng 11-8, 8-11, 7-11, 11-9 and 11-7 in the first match of the rubber. She later defeated beat Yihan Zhou in three straight games 11-7 11-4 11-7 to do the unthinkable.

Mouma Das and Madhurika Patkar won the doubles match in between.

### Shooting

What is the name of the 16-year old shooter who became the youngest Indian to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal by winning the women's 10m Air Pistol title on 8 April 2018? – Manu Bhaker

Explanation: India's teenaged shooting sensation Manu Bhaker blew the opposition away with impeccable shooting in the qualifying and followed that up with similar calm in the final of women's 10m Air Pistol event at the 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast on 8 April 2018.

She scored a total of 240.9 points in the stipulated 24 shots, a CWG record to win the event while the seasoned campaigner Heena Sidhu took the silver medal with 234 points.

16-year old Manu thus became the youngest Indian ever to win any Commonwealth Games medal. It is worth mentioning that just 2 days back 18-year old weightlifter Deepak Lather had achieved this distinction.

## Education

What are the names of two languages unknown to linguists till now, which were discovered by a professor of linguists of University of Hyderabad? – Walmiki and Malhar

Explanation: The University of Hyderabad on 6 April 2018 announced that two languages - Walmiki and Malhar, "which were lying hidden from linguists" have been discovered by a professor of linguistics in the institution.

These two languages were discovered by Prof. Panchanan Mohanty of the University.

First of these languages is called "Walmiki" and is spoken in the district of Koraput of Odisha and on the bordering districts of Andhra Pradesh. The second language "Malhar" is spoken in a remote and isolated hamlet about 165 km away from Bhubaneswar.

## Mission

### Ganga Hariteema Yojana

Which state on 7 April 2018 launched the "Ganga Hariteema Yojana" with the primary objective of enhancing the green cover in the catchment areas of the river Ganga and to control the land erosion? – Uttar Pradesh

Explanation: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the ambitious "Ganga Hariteema Yojana" at Allahabad in a function organised on the bank of Sangam the confluence of rivers of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati on 7 April 2018.

The scheme seeks to enhance the green cover in the catchment areas of the river Ganga and to control the land erosion. The state government will carry out the plantation in one-kilometer areas from the banks of river.

Besides this the UP Government will also encourage the common people for plantation on their private lands under 'One Person One Tree' slogan.

10-11 April 2018  
Newsletter

— Railways

India's first

Electric locomotive developed

Rural – Banking

Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)

Framework

Indian Science Congress (ISC) – 2018

## Mission

Satyagrah se Swachhagrah

## World Happiest Countries

## Railways

India's first 12,000 horsepower electric locomotive was flagged-off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 10 April 2018. This first-of-its-kind engine has been developed at which locomotive plant of Bihar? - Madhepura Locomotive Factory.

**Explanation:** India's first 12,000 horsepower electric locomotive has been developed at Madhepura's Electric Locomotive Factory (Bihar). It is the first big Make-in-India project completed by Alstom of France. It is a double section locomotive each having a hauling capacity of 6,000 tonnes.

With a speed of 120 km/hr., the high-speed all-electric locomotive will reduce the congestion faced by Indian railways. The heavy haulage locomotives will be used to transport coal and iron ore.

With 100% electrification, the new locomotive will not only bring down operating costs for the Railways but will significantly cut down greenhouse gas emissions as well. With launch of this state-of-the-art locomotive India will now competing with Russia, China, Germany and Sweden that have successfully run 12,000 horsepower and above capacity electric locomotives.

Under the Make-in-India project, about 35 locos will be manufactured at the Madhepura facility in the next fiscal (2019-20) and 60 in 2020-21.

## Airport

Which Indian airport made its debut in Airports Council International (ACI's) World's 20 Busiest Airports List that was released on 9 April 2018? – Indira Gandhi International Airport (New Delhi)

**Explanation:** New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) was placed at 16<sup>th</sup> place in the List of World's 20 Busiest Airports for 2018 prepared by Airports Council International. The list released on 9 April 2018 disclosed that Indira Gandhi International Airport handled traffic worth 63.4 million during 2017 making it the fastest growing airport in the list with growth of 14.1%. It is the first time that an Indian airport made its entry to this prestigious list.

While Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International airport topped the list, it was the only airport that registered a decline in number of passengers. Beijing and Dubai were ranked at second and third places.

The list also disclosed that New York's John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport is no longer amongst world's 20 busiest airports, thanks to the rush in Asia.

## Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 10 April 2018 attended the concluding ceremony of the Champaran Satyagrah's centenary celebrations in Motihari (Bihar) where he led the nation in offering the gratitude to this iconic movement led by Mahatma Gandhi.

What was the theme of this centenary celebration? - "Satyagrah se Swachhagrah"

**Explanation:** "Satyagrah se Swachhagrah" was the theme selected for the concluding ceremony of the

Champaran Satyagrah's centenary celebrations that was held on 10 April 2018 in Motihari in Bihar. Cleanliness was chosen as the pivot for this historic occasion and the Prime Minister addressed around 20,000 'Swachhagrahis' (cleanliness ambassadors).

Swachhagrahis are the 'foot soldiers' and motivators to implement the community approaches to sanitation at the village level.

Mahatma Gandhi had launched the Champaran Satyagrah on 10 April 1917 against the British to fight for rights of farmers who were forced to undertake indigo cultivation. The success of this movement inspired the Mahatma to take on his fight against British to greater levels.

## Banking

What is the name of the framework devised by the NABARD for regional rural banks (RRBs) that aims at enabling RRBs that fail to meet prudential requirements relating to numerous performance parameters? - 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework'

**Explanation:** 'Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework' is the framework devised by the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for regional rural banks (RRBs). It primarily aims at enabling RRBs that fail to meet prudential requirements relating to capital adequacy, net non-performing assets (NNPAs) and return on assets (ROA) to take self-corrective action to arrest further deterioration in their financial position.

The PCA will be invoked if RRBs breach trigger points on three parameters: capital to risk-weighted assets (CRAR) ratio, assets (NPAs), and profitability (ROA). It will be implemented based on the findings of NABARD's inspection with reference to RRBs' financial performance in FY2019.

PCA Framework is quite similar to the revised one the RBI unveiled for scheduled commercial banks nearly a year ago.

12-17 April 2018  
Newsletter

Space – IRNSS-1I

India's indigenous navigation satellite system

Banks Board Bureau – BBB

Bhanu Pratap Sharma

Cauvery water dispute

IPL – Sports

Cauvery Water Dispute

## Ayushman Bharat Yojana Place

### Ayushman Bharat Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 14 April 2018 rolled-out the ambitious Ayushman Bharat Yojana that aims at covering 10 crore poor and vulnerable families and provide a medical cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year. The first healthcare and wellness centre under this scheme was inaugurated at which place? – Bijapur (Chhattisgarh)

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 14 April 2018 inaugurated the first healthcare and wellness centre under Ayushman Bharat Yojna, in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur.

“Ayushman Bharat”, also known as the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), has twin missions - first, creating a network of health and wellness centres to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare close to the community, and second, providing insurance cover to 40% of India's population, that is most deprived, for secondary and tertiary care, including for instance, hospitalisation costs.

It aims at covering 10 crore poor and vulnerable families and provide a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

## Space

What is the name of the eighth and the last satellite of the IRNSS series that was launched on April 2018 with which India's long cherished dream of owning an indigenous navigation satellite system has been accomplished? - IRNSS-1I

Explanation: India's long cherished dream of owning an indigenous navigation satellite system, officially known as NavIC (navigation with Indian constellation), has been accomplished as Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C41) successfully launched IRNSS-1I, eighth and the last satellite of the IRNSS constellation into the targeted Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit on 12 April 2018.

The PSLV-C41 rocket measuring 44.4 m in height and weighing 321 tonnes lifted off from the first launch pad at 4.04 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. IRNSS-1I was placed in the desired orbit by the rocket.

It is a culmination of 17 years of rigorous work by Indian space scientists. India took a firm decision on IRNSS in 1999 after the US government refused to share GPS data that would provide vital information on Pakistani troops position during Kargil war.

## Banking

Who was appointed the new Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) by the Union Government on 12 April 2018? - Bhanu Pratap Sharma

Explanation: On 12 April 2018 the Union Finance Ministry reconstituted the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) and appointed Bhanu Pratap Sharma as its Chairman, replacing former Comptroller and Auditor General Vinod Rai.

Some of the other new members are: Vedika Bhandarkar, former vice-chairman and managing director (investment banking and global markets) of Credit Suisse, India; P. Pradeep Kumar, former managing director of State Bank of India; and Pradeep Shah, former managing director, Crisil.

The BBB, which has the responsibility of selecting members, including MDs & CEOs of public sector banks, started functioning in April 2016 with Vinod Rai at the helm.

## Science

India's first laboratory dedicated to standardisation, research and manufacturing of 5G equipment has been opened in which IIT? – IIT Delhi

Explanation: IIT-Delhi (IIT-D) has set up a radio lab with an array of antennas for "standardisation, research and manufacturing" of 5G equipment. This state-of-the-art lab was formally inaugurated on 13 April 2018.

A Massive Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (MIMO) technology lab has also been established under this initiative. It will help curb the emittance of radiation harmful to our health and also will allow less radio interference for better communication.

## International

257 people were killed after an Algerian military plane crashed near capital Algiers on 11 April 2018. This was the worst-ever air disaster in Algerian history. This plane took-off from which military airport? – Boufarik

Explanation: Three days of national mourning was announced in African country Algeria after nation's worst-ever air disaster killed 257 people on 11 April 2018. The Russian-made Ilyushin-76 (IL-76) aircraft was involved in this accident.

This military aircraft took-off from Boufarik military airport, west of Algiers and crashed just a few minutes later. The plane was travelling to Bechar and Tindouf in the south-west of the country.

Witnesses say they saw a wing catch fire as the plane took off. Most of the dead were army personnel and their families.

## International

Who is heading the newly constituted task force for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology, which was announced by the Union Government on 12 April 2018? – Jayant Sinha

Explanation: Jayant Sinha, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, is heading the newly constituted 13-member task force for fast-tracking the roll-out of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.

The task force has been entrusted the responsibility of developing a road map with implementable recommendations from the Central as well as state governments, industry and research institutions.

## States

The remaining six matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Chennai were moved out of the city on 11 April 2018. What is the reason for this? – Protests over Cauvery water dispute

Explanation: Owing to security concerns due to ongoing protests over Cauvery water dispute, the IPL Governing Council on 11 April 2018 announced that all IPL matches slated in Chennai were moved out of the city. Pune will be home team Chennai Super King's new home venue.

There were protests and disruption of traffic by fringe political outfits, over the Cauvery issue, before and during CSK's first home game in over two years, against Kolkata Knight Riders played at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on 10 April 2018.

## 18 April 2018 Newsletter

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National  
FIEO – Global Linker  
Digital platform

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Award - Pulitzer  
The New Yorker

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## Awards The New Yorker

Which publications jointly won the Pulitzer Prize for public service for explosive reporting, as was announced by the Pulitzer Prize committee on 16 April 2018? – “The New York Times” and “The New Yorker”

Explanation: “The New York Times” and “The New Yorker” won the Pulitzer Prize for public service on April 16 2018 for explosive reporting that brought down former American movie Mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The prestigious prize was awarded to “The New York Times” team led by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey and “The New Yorker” contributor Ronan Farrow, for reports that ruined the career of Weinstein and sparked an avalanche of accusations against other powerful men.

Since these articles in October 2017, more than 100 women have publicly accused the producer of misconduct ranging from sexual harassment to rape, sparking the #MeToo movement that has gone global.

## Corporate

Which corporate entity on 17 April 2018 became the latest entrant to the Rs.1 trillion market capitalization club of the Indian capital markets? - Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd (M&M)

Explanation: Tractor and utility vehicle maker Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd (M&M) on 17 April 2018 joined the elite club of companies that have seen their market capitalization soar past Rs.1 trillion.

M&M's market capitalization stood at Rs. 1.01 trillion after company's shares gained as much as 2.23% to hit an intraday high of Rs. 819.10 a share on BSE.

It also became the second most valued automaker in India. Its market cap is now higher than Tata Motors Ltd,

Eicher Motors Ltd and Bajaj Auto Ltd. India's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India Ltd remained nation's most valuable automaker with market cap of Rs. 2.77 trillion.

## Law

What is the name of the judge hearing the Mecca Masjid blast case of 2007 who resigned from his post after acquitting all accused from the case on 16 April 2018?  
– K. Ravinder Reddy

Explanation: Judge K. Ravinder Reddy was the special court judge for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and was hearing the Mecca Masjid blast case of 2007. On 16 April 2018 he acquitted all five accused in the case including Swami Aseemanand for lack of any conclusive evidence against them.

But his resignation from the post of the IV Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge within hours of delivering the verdict startled the whole legal and political fraternity.

The timing of his resignation led to speculation over whether his decision had anything to do with the verdict, and conspiracy theories flew thick and fast.

## Industry

The Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu on 17 April 2018 launched a digital platform named "FIEO GlobalLinker" for digitalizing export businesses. This platform is for which category of exporters? – MSME exporters

Explanation: The Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the "FIEO GlobalLinker" - a digital platform for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) exporters to digitize their businesses and join a global community of growing businesses today in New Delhi on 17 April 2018. It has been developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

FIEO GlobalLinker is setup with a view to making the business growth of SMEs simpler, more profitable and enjoyable. It is a growing global network currently comprising over 140,000 SME firms, who are seeking business collaboration and growth opportunities through the use of their electronic business card and digital profiles created on the platform.

## Personality

SurendraNihal Singh, who passed away on 16 April 2018, was an eminent personality associated with which field?  
– Journalism

Explanation: 89-year old SurendraNihal Singh was a senior journalist and was associated with some of the most reputed newspapers/publications like "The Statesman", "The Indian Express" and "The Indian Post" (of which he was the founding editor).

He was editor of Calcutta-based "The Statesman" when the Emergency was imposed by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975. He was awarded the prestigious "International Editor of the Year Award" in New York for his role in opposing the Emergency. His last assignment was as Editor of the "Khaleej Times" of Dubai in 1994. After that, he turned independent columnist.

## 19 April 2018 Newsletter

### Space

One crater on Pluto's largest moon named 'Revati'

### Banco Award

Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank

### Person

Death – Bhimsain Khurana

Bhimsain – *Ekchidiya, anekchidiyaan*

## Person – Death

Veteran filmmaker and Bhimsain, best known for his film "Gharaonda", passed away late in Mumbai on 17 April 2018. He was a pioneer of which field through which he made enormous contribution to the Indian television industry? – Animation

Explanation: Bhimsain was a multi-faceted personality. He enriched the medium of both television and films with his contribution. Apart from directing legendary movie like "Gharaonda", he made a mark for his work in the world of animation during the golden period of Doordarshan.

He made the iconic short animation film "EkAnekEkta" (with Vijaya Mulay) in 1974 that went on to become one of the most popular animation films of India with the cult song "Ekchidiya, anekchidiyaan" featuring in it.

He also directed and produced several animation and ad films such as Na, Ek-Do, Fire, Munni, Freedom is a Thin Lie, Mehman, Kahani Har Zamane Ki and Business is People.

Bhimsain is credited with making the country's first computer aided animation serial LokGatha in 1991, whose success led him to make India's largest animation project Vartaman.

His 1976 directed film "Gharaonda", starring Zarina Wahab and Amol Palekar, is one of the best known films from the middle-of-the-road cinema of the '70s. The screenplay was by Gulzar.

## Finance

Which entity became the first of the 12 large loan defaulters identified by the RBI to win court approval to exit bankruptcy, after an NCLT bench cleared its resolution plan on 17 April 2018? - Electrosteel Steels Ltd.

Explanation: Electrosteel Steels Ltd. on 17 April 2018 became the first of the 12 large loan defaulters identified by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to win court approval to exit bankruptcy.

The Kolkata bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cleared Vedanta Ltd's Rs. 5,320 crore resolution plan for Electrosteel. It rejected objections of an unsuccessful bidder, which had challenged the decision of the lenders on the ground that Vedanta was ineligible to bid for stressed assets under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

RBI had ordered lenders to refer Electrosteel to a bankruptcy court in June 2017, along with 11 other companies. Electrosteel, which is setting up a 2.5 million tonne steel plant near Bokaro, owes lenders Rs. 13,395 crore.

## Space

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) on 16 April 2018 named one crater on Pluto's largest moon – Charon after which mythological character from Mahabharata? – 'Revati'

Explanation: The International Astronomical Union (IAU), which is the international body in charge of giving official nomenclature and definitions for all celestial bodies, has named one crater on Pluto's largest moon, Charon, as 'Revati'.

This was disclosed by the IAU on 16 April 2018. The rest of the craters and features on Charon are named mostly after Western fictional characters from Star Wars, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc.

'Revati' is a noteworthy character in the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata. There are references in Mahabharata regarding Revati being from a different 'yuga' in multiple scenes of the epic. This has made the character colourful and fascinating to scientists and researchers from a science fiction point of view.

## Award

Which bank bagged the prestigious "Banco Award" for best performing cooperative bank in a function held on 15 April 2018? - Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank

Explanation: Kutch-based Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank bagged the prestigious Banco Award for best performing cooperative bank. The bank was adjudged best among the 1500 cooperative banks from across the country.

The bank received the Banco Award from Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao in a function held in Hyderabad on 15 April 2018 in presence of leaders from over 500 cooperative banks.

Banco Award given annually to the top performing cooperative banks recognise and encourage best practices in the cooperative banking sector.

## 20 April 2018 Newsletter

### Space – GSAT-6A

ISRO lost communication with India's newest communication satellite.

### International

Saudi Arabia opened its airspace for the first time Air India

### Place

Nuh – Haryana

## Economy

According to the database of the IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) for April 2018, India has displaced which country to emerge as the world's sixth largest economy? – France

Explanation: With Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$2.6 trillion, 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.

This was disclosed in the database of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) World Economic Outlook (WEO) for April 2018, which was released on 19 April 2018.

## Sports

On 19 April 2018 who was named the new President of Cuba replacing Raul Castro and thus became the first-ever non-Castro to become country's President in more than 4 decades? - Miguel Díaz-Canel

**Explanation: Vice President Miguel Díaz-Canel officially became Cuban president on 19 April 2018 after Raúl Castro stepped down and Díaz-Canel was confirmed by the National Assembly. It is for the first time in over 40 years, that a Cuban President's lastname is not Castro.**

Before becoming first vice president, Díaz-Canel was the minister of higher education. He had long been seen as

the overwhelming favorite to replace Castro, after climbing the ranks of the Communist Party.

Raul Castro served two five-year terms as president succeeding his brother, Fidel, in 2006 after Fidel fell ill and transferred power to Raul. Fidel was country's President from December 1976 to February 2008.

## National

Which state government on 18 April 2018 claimed to have achieved the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status? – Maharashtra

Explanation: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on 18 April 2018 announced that the rural Maharashtra is open defecation free (ODF). Since the government has already declared the urban area as ODF, the announcement essentially brings the entire state under the category.

According to the disclosure made by the Chief Minister, 60.41 lakh households have got toilets in three-and-a-half years.

According to the guidelines issued by the Centre, an area is declared ODF if 95% of the population has a toilet or access to it within 100 meters from the household.

## Medicine

Which global FMCG and pharma conglomerate is buying the consumer health business of German drugmaker Merck for \$4.2 billion, as was announced on 19 April 2018? – Procter & Gamble (P&G)

Explanation: Procter & Gamble Co. (P&G) has agreed to acquire the consumer health business of German pharmaceuticals company Merck KGaA for about \$4.21 billion (3.4 billion euros). This was announced by Merck on 19 April 2018. Merck has annual sales of \$1 billion

Merck's consumer health unit includes brands such as Femibion, Neurobion, Nasivin and Seven Seas. P&G is expecting that the acquisition will enable it to expand its portfolio of consumer healthcare capabilities and brands.

For Merck's Indian business, P&G will buy a majority stake in Merck Ltd and subsequently make a mandatory tender offer to minority shareholders.

## Sports

What is the name given to the special chartered train that started from Chennai Central on 19 April 2018 to take the fans of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to travel to Pune to watch the match against Rajasthan Royals? – 'Whistlepudu Express'

Explanation: 'Whistlepudu Express' is the name given to a special chartered train organized by IPL franchisee Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to take the fans of the team to Pune to

watch team's upcoming match at the Gahunje Stadium in Pune on 20 April.

This special train was engaged by CSK management due to a shift in venue from Chennai to Pune due to increasing dispute over the long-going Cauvery issue.

## 21 April 2018 Newsletter

— International

Swaziland in now eSwatini

— Person

Justice Rajinder Sachar

— Banking

Yes Bank and  
City Cooperative Bank Ltd.

What is Kingdom of eSwatini? – Swaziland

## International

1) Which African country on 18 April 2018 announced that it would officially change the name of his country to the "Kingdom of eSwatini"? – Swaziland

Explanation: Swaziland's King Mswati III, who is Africa's last absolute monarch, on 18 April 2018 announced that he would officially change the name of his country to the "Kingdom of eSwatini".

It is worth mentioning that the king on several previous occasions, including during a 2017 address to the U.N. General Assembly, has referred to Swaziland using his preferred term eSwatini. eSwatini means "land of the Swazis" in the Swatilanguage.

The King made this announcement during a joint celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Swazi independence as well as his own 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. He described the change as reverting back to the country's original name before colonization by the British. The small country situated in southern Africa, gained independence in 1968.

## Person - Law

Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar, who passed away on 20 April 2018, had chaired an important committee that looked into the status of which community? – Muslims

Explanation: Former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajinder Sachar passed away on 20 April 2018. He was 94. He was Chief Justice of Delhi High Court from 6 August 1985, to 22 December 1985. Since his retirement he had

been associated with the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), a rights group.

He was the chairperson of a committee set up by the previous UPA government in 2005 to look at the social, economic and educational status of Muslims in India.

This Committee highlighted issues facing the Muslim community and their representation in Indian public life, but it faced criticism for some of its recommendations and methodology.

## Banking

During April 2018 the RBI imposed withdrawal and business restrictions on which Mumbai-based bank? - The City Co-operative Bank Ltd

Explanation: On 19 April 2018 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) disclosed that it has placed Mumbai-based The City Co-operative Bank Ltd under 'directions', whereby restrictions have been imposed on it vis-a-vis undertaking banking business till its financial position improves.

According to RBI disclosure, bank's depositors will be allowed to withdraw a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 of the total balance held in every savings bank or current account or any other deposit account by whatever name called, subject to conditions stipulated in the RBI directions, which have been issued from the close of business on 17 April 2018.

The RBI said the issue of the directions should not, per se, be construed as cancellation of banking licence. The bank has eight branches in Mumbai and two in Thane. The RBI may consider modifications of these directions depending upon circumstances.

Private sector lender YES Bank has got approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open two international representative offices. The new offices will come up in which cities? - London and Singapore

Explanation: As part of YES Bank's international expansion to provide services to the NRI (non-resident Indian) population, the bank during April 2018 received RBI's approval open international representative offices in London and Singapore.

YES Bank had opened its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi in 2015 followed by the debut of IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in the same year.

## 22-23 April 2018 Newsletter

Political  
Bahujan Azad Party

Defence  
Indian Air Force  
Gagan Shakti Exercise

Place  
London  
Commonwealth Heads of  
Government Meeting (CHOGM)

Commonwealth Foreign Ministers in a group photo

## International

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) for 2018 was held on 19 and 20 April 2018 at which place? - London

Explanation: The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 (also known as CHOGM 2018, was the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the heads of government of the Commonwealth nations. It was held in London (UK) on 19 and 20 April 2018. The meeting had been planned to have been held by Vanuatu at the end of 2017, but was moved to the United Kingdom after the impact of Cyclone Pam on the infrastructure of Vanuatu.

The theme of the summit was "Towards a Common Future". This was the first CHOGM held following the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from the European Union, a decision which has resulted in calls for Britain to strengthen its economic ties with and play a greater role in the Commonwealth.

CHOGM 2018 was headed by Theresa May, Prime Minister of the UK. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India in the meeting marking the first time since CHOGM 2011 that a Prime Minister of India has attended the summit.

## Defence

What is the name given to Indian Air Force's biggest exercise in over three decades to showcase its air dominance over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) that concluded on 22 April 2018? - "Gagan Shakti"

Explanation: "Gagan Shakti" is the name of the biggest air exercise in over three decades undertaken by India to

showcase its air dominance over the entire extended area of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). It was undertaken by the Indian Air Force (IAF) from 8 to 22 April 2018 in three stages.

To conduct this exercise, the IAF mobilized almost the entire assets of the IAF, including its fighter squadrons, and was used to assess war waging might of the force. More than 1,100 combat, transport and rotary wing (helicopter) aircrafts, apart from 300 officers and 1500 airmen were involved in it.

“Gagan Shakti” was conducted in all terrain operations - desert, high altitude, maritime scenarios and special operations- in real time with specific focus on key areas like aerial combat, air to surface combat, paratrooper assault and medical evacuation.

The first stage was conducted in the western border with Pakistan, the second in the eastern corridor near China and the third in the southern peninsula and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

## Legal

What is the name of the ordinance promulgated by President Ram Nath Kovind on 22 April 2018 that paves way for providing stringent punishment, including death penalty, for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years? - Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2018

Explanation: The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 that was promulgated by President Ram Nath Kovind on 22 April 2018 stipulates stringent punishment for perpetrators of rape, particularly of girls below 16 and 12 years. Death sentence has been provided for rapists of girls under 12 years

New fast-track courts will be set up to deal with such cases and special forensic kits for rape cases will be given to all police stations and hospitals in the long term. There will also be no provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gang rape of a girl under 16 years.

## Political

A group of 50 alumni from the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country quit their jobs to form a political party to fight for the rights of SCs, STs and OBCs. What the name of this political party is, as was announced on 22 April 2018? - “Bahujan Azad Party”

Explanation: “Bahujan Azad Party” is the name of the party formed by a bunch of 50 people, all from different IITs, who quit their full-time jobs to work for the party. This party will fight for the rights of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The group is waiting for an approval from the Election Commission. The party members, however, do not wish

to jump the gun and aim for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

## Entertainment

Cinema returned to which Muslim country after nearly 35 years with the screening of the first film on 20 April 2018 in a newly opened cinema hall? – Saudi Arabia

Explanation: Saudi Arabia hosted its first public film screening in over 35 years on 20 April 2018, as US movie giant AMC unveiled the kingdom’s debut theatre in Riyadh. The first film screened in this hall was Hollywood blockbuster action film “Black Panther”.

The conservative desert kingdom lifted a decades-long ban on cinemas last year as part of a far-reaching modernisation drive. Religious hardliners, who have long vilified movie theatres as vulgar and sinful, were instrumental in shutting down cinemas in the 1980s.

24-25 April 2018  
Newsletter

National

Diu Smart City

Place

Ramnagar Mandla – restructured  
Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)  
launched from MP

AFSPA

Withdrawn from Meghalaya

## Defence

The Union Government withdrew the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) totally from which North eastern state, as was disclosed on 23 April 2018? – Meghalaya

Explanation: With insurgency-related incidents in the northeast region down by 85% from the levels recorded at the peak of militancy two decades ago, the Centre has withdrawn the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) totally from Meghalaya as well as from eight out of 16 police stations in Arunachal Pradesh, with effect from 31 March 2018.

This information was disclosed by the Union Home Ministry on 23 April 2018. AFSPA, which gives special powers and immunity to the armed forces deployed in areas declared ---“disturbed” under the Act, had been in force in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh for almost 27 years.

The two states bordering Assam were declared “disturbed” in 1991 to avoid a spillover effect of insurgency by Assam- based outfits like the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA).

## Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the restructured Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2018. This scheme was launched at which place? – Ramnagar, Mandla (Madhya Pradesh)

Explanation: On the occasion of the National Panchayati Raj day on 24 April 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) that seeks to strengthen the country's panchayati raj system and address critical gaps that hinder its success.

The new scheme will focus on training, building infrastructure, stepping up initiatives for e-governance under the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP). It will extend to all states and Union Territories and will also include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where panchayats do not exist.

It was launched in Ramnagar in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh. Ramnagar, which is located on the banks of the river Narmada and falls in a tribal dominated area, was decorated in a grand manner for the occasion.

## Law

The Committee constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development on legal issues related to inter country removal & retention of children submitted its report on 23 April 2018. Who is heading this committee? - Justice Rajesh Bindal

Explanation: Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judge of the High Court of Punjab & Haryana is heading the committee on legal issues related to inter country removal & retention of children. It was constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWDC).

The Committee submitted its report to Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister for Women and Child Development on 23 April 2018. Stressing upon the need for mediation as the first step, the Committee has recommended that the Government may establish an ‘Inter Country Parental Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority’. The

authority has been envisaged to provide a one window solution in cases of inter country removal and retention of Children.

## Place

During April 2018 which city became the first city in India to run 100% on renewable energy during the daytime? – Diu Smart City

Explanation: According to an announcement made by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on 23 April 2018 the “Diu Smart City” has become the first city in India that runs on 100% renewable energy during the daytime, and thus setting a bench-mark for other cities to follow.

Diu had been importing 73% of its power from Gujarat till last year. The city has now developed a 9-MW solar park spread over 50 hectares rocky barren land, besides installing solar panels on the rooftops on 79 government buildings, generating 1.3 MW annually. Diu also offers its residents a subsidy of Rs. 10,000-50,000 for installing 1-5-KW rooftop solar panels.

## Personality

Which entity on 23 April 2018 the first Indian technology company to achieve the \$100 billion market capitalization mark? - Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

Explanation: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first Indian technology company to achieve the \$100 billion market capitalization mark on 23 April 2018. On this day TCS' share price grew by 4 per cent to Rs. 3,541, pushing the market capitalisation of India's biggest outsourcer to Rs. 6,78,002 crore.

Earlier the company had posted its biggest- ever net profit of Rs. 6,904 crore in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter on 19 April 2018.

It is worth mentioning that Mukesh Ambani- led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became India's first \$100 billion m-cap company way back in 2008. Its preset m-cap is below \$90 billion mark. Thus TCS is the second Indian corporate company to achieve \$100 billion m- cap.

## 26-27 April 2018 Newsletter

### Telecom

Cellular tower business  
- Indus Towers

Corporate – Appointment  
S. Jaishankar

Person – appointment  
InduMalhotra

InduMalhotra was sworn in as the judge of the Supreme Court of India

### Law

What history was created by senior advocate InduMalhotra on 27 April 2018?

She became the first-ever woman lawyer to be directly appointed to the Supreme Court.

Explanation: Senior advocate InduMalhotra was sworn in as the judge of the Supreme Court of India in the presence of the Chief Justice of India Justice DipakMisra on 27 April 2018. She thus became the first-ever woman lawyer to be directly appointed to the apex court.

She is the 7<sup>th</sup> woman to become Supreme Court judge. All the women SC judges, six in all, had so far been elevated from High Courts. In 2007, Indu was only the second woman lawyer to be appointed as senior advocate by the Supreme Court, three decades after the first, Justice Leila Seth, was designated.

Earlier her name was cleared by the Union Government while the name of Uttarakhand high court Chief Justice Kuttiyil Mathew Joseph, the chief bone of contention between the SC collegium and the government, remained on hold.

### Person

Former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar was appointed for the post of Group President (Global Corporate Affairs) by which noted corporate group, as was announced on 23 April 2018? – Tata Sons

Explanation: On 23 April 2018, leading corporate group Tata Sons announced the appointment of former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar as Tata Group's President, Global

Corporate Affairs. He will report to Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran.

Jaishankar was Indian Foreign Secretary from January 2015 to January 2018. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in (IFS) 1977 and held key roles during his career, including stints as High Commissioner to Singapore, Ambassador to China and the US. He also played a key role in negotiating the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement.

## Ranking - WPI

What is India's rank in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index (WPI) that was released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on 25 April 2018? – 138 out of 180 countries

Explanation: India is ranked 138 out of 180 countries in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index, down two places from 2017, in the latest annual report released by Reporters Without Borders. The report was released on 25 April 2018.

The physical violence against journalists is largely responsible for India's low ranking. The organisation cited the case of the killing of journalist and activist GauriLankesh who was shot down outside her house in Bengaluru in September last year.

Norway topped the list for the second year in a row, the while North Korea remained the most repressive country followed by Eritrea, Turkmenistan, Syria and then China. Reporters Without Borders, or Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes and defends freedom of information and freedom of the press. It is headquartered in Paris (France).

## Telecom

What is the name of the cellular tower business of Vodafone, Idea and Providence Equity Partner that will be merged into BhartiInfratel's to form the largest tower company in the world outside China? - Indus Towers

Explanation: Bharti Airtel, Idea Cellular and Vodafone group on 25 April 2018 announced that they have agreed to merge Vodafone, Idea Group and Providence Equity Partners' respective shareholdings in Indus Towers Limited into BhartiInfratel Limited. This merger will create a combined company that will own 100% of Indus Towers. This will be the largest tower company in the world outside China.

Indus Towers will now be jointly owned by BhartiInfratel (42%), Vodafone (42%), Idea Group (11.15%) and Providence (4.85%).

Indus Towers currently operates in 15 telecom service areas and BhartiInfratel's operations are focused on the remaining 7 Circles.

## 28-30 April 2018 Newsletter

### Historical

#### Dalmia Bharat Group

##### International

#### India- China: Informal Summit meet at Wuhan

### Place

#### Leisang– Manipur

## Place

Which village of Manipur state on 28 April 2018 became the last village in India to be added to the national power grid with which the Union Government met the ambitious target of connecting all villages of the country to the national electricity grid? – Leisang

Explanation: The NarendraModi-led Union Government on 29 April 2018 announced that it had achieved the target of connecting all 18,452 un-electrified villages of the country to the national electricity grid. It claimed that Leisang in Manipur became the last village to be added to the national power grid on 28 April 2018.

The rural electrification scheme to supply power to 18,452 census villages that have never seen power since Independence has been one of the pet schemes of PM Narendra Modi.

The government started electrifying over 18,000 villages, which did not have access to power, in 2015 and has already connected them to the central grid ahead of the 2019 deadline.

Of the 170 million rural households in the country, the government website claims to have connected 82% of them. Metered households are 50% of the total.

## International

The historic informal summit meeting between Prime Minister NarendraModi and President Xi Jinping was held in which Chinese city on 27 and 28 April 2018? – Wuhan

Explanation: Wuhan, the sprawling capital of Central China's Hubei province, was the host city for the historic informal summit meeting between Indian Prime Minister NarendraModi and his Chinese counterpart President Xi Jinping. The summit was held on 27 and 28 April 2018. The two countries agreed to enhance policy coordination in the neighbourhood and to discuss cooperation in the future. They also agreed to develop a project jointly in war-torn Afghanistan.

The success of the summit raised hopes of improving relations in light of last year's tensions on a number of issues including the Doklam military standoff.

## Historical

Which group became the first corporate house in India's history to adopt a historical monument, as was disclosed on 29 April 2018? – Dalmia Bharat Group

Explanation: Dalmia Bharat Group became the first corporate house in India's history to adopt a historical monument after it was awarded a contract worth Rs. 250 million (or Rs. 25 crore) spanning five years for maintaining the 17<sup>th</sup> century Red Fort.

The Dalmia Bharat group won the contract by beating IndiGo Airlines and the GMR group in the race to bag one of the most prestigious contracts under the Indian government's 'Adopt A Heritage' scheme.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Dalmia Bharat Limited, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on 9 April, even though the Ministry of Tourism went public with the deal on 25 April 2018.

This was part of the Modi administration's plan to allow corporate control of some monuments and heritage sites, so that their maintenance and operations could be handled more professionally.

## Person

What is the name of the Pakistani-origin politician who was appointed United Kingdom's new Interior Minister on 30 April 2018, a day after Amber Rudd resigned from the post? – SajidJavid

Explanation: Pakistani-origin MP SajidJavid was on 30 April 2018 appointed U.K.'s new Home Secretary. He replaced Amber Rudd who resigned a day earlier after admitting that she had "inadvertently misled" Parliament over the existence of deportation targets for immigrants.

Javid, the son of a Pakistani bus driver whose family migrated to Britain in the 1960s, was promoted from his Cabinet post of Communities, Local Government and Housing minister. The 48-year-old former investment banker is the Conservative party MP for and has previously held business and culture portfolios in the U.K. government.