

# May 2018 Current Affairs

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## Important Days:-

- International Labour Day - 01st May. Theme is "Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement".
- World Press Freedom Day - 03rd May. Theme is "Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law".
- World Red Cross Day - 08th May.
- The National Technology Day - 11th May. Theme is "Science and Technology for a sustainable future".
- International Nurses Day - 12th May. Theme is "Nurses: A voice to lead - Health is a Human Right"
- International Day of Families - 15th of May.
- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - 17th May. This year theme is "Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for all".
- National Anti-Terrorism Day - 21st May.
- International Day for Biological Diversity - 22nd May. This year theme is 'Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity'.
- Commonwealth Day - 24th May. This year theme is 'Towards a Common Future'.
- International Day of UN Peacekeepers - 29th May. This year theme was 'UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice'.
- World No Tobacco Day - 31st May. This year theme is 'Tobacco and heart disease'.

## Banking & Financial Awareness

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced it would buy Rs.10,000 crore (\$1.50 billion) of government bonds via open market operation (OMO).
- India's projected GDP growth of over 7% for the current fiscal, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- YES Bank is to launch a capacity building project with farmers in Haryana and Rajasthan under its 'Livelihood and Water Security' CSR initiative.
- A parliamentary panel headed by veteran BJP leader Murali Manohar Joshi decided to study the recovery of black money and performance of public sector banks among a host of subjects.
- The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), a top State-run Chinese bank, has launched country's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated prompt corrective action against public sector lender Dena Bank in view of high non-performing loans.
- YES Bank has launched 'Agenda 25x25', which pledges to create a synergetic start up environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India, ensuring that by 2025 at least 25% of all Entrepreneurs in India are Women.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has placed additional restrictions on Kolkata-based Allahabad Bank, which is under prompt corrective action (PCA).
- Paytm introduced automatic recurring payments, a new feature that lets users configure the payments app to pay for periodic recurring expenses automatically.
- Modifying norms for setting up IFSC banking units, the Reserve Bank of India said that the parent bank will be required to provide and maintain at all times a minimum capital of \$20 million to its IBU.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs.5 crore on South Indian Bank (SIB) for non-compliance with its directions on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and treasury function.
- NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar has exuded confidence that Indian economy will achieve 9 percent growth rate on sustained basis by 2022 on the back of reforms like GST, demonetisation and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- Bank of Baroda has successfully located most of its operational activities at a shared service center (SSC) at the GIFT City near Ahmedabad.
- The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has increased its fixed deposit interest rates on select tenures. The range of hike in the rates starts from 0.05 per cent (5 bps or basis points) to 0.25 per cent (25 bps).
- Private lender ICICI Bank has introduced an innovation lab, This innovation lab will be headed by Rohan Angrish, former Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at online small business lender Fintech Capital.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$375 million loan for a project that will contribute to doubling farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.
- Fino Payments Bank launched a suite of digital products that can be accessed online and through mobile phones.
- As per Credit rating agency Fitch, India's economic growth will accelerate to 7.3 percent in the current financial year and 7.5 percent in the next fiscal year.

## Agreements & MoUs

- The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for the year 2018-19.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Gujarat government and the Poland government, to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other parts of the world.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Rs.945 crore deal with the Harris Corporation of the US for development of its futuristic telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) programme.
- The department of youth and cultural affairs of the Gujarat government will be co-organisers for the centenary celebrations to mark independence of Poland in Delhi and other parts of the world. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard between the Gujarat government and the Poland government.

- India has signed an agreement with the World Bank for a \$200 million loan for implementing the National Nutrition Mission across 315 districts of the country.
- India and Panama have signed two agreements on exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports and in the field of Agriculture.
- NITI Aayog and IBM signed a pact to develop a crop yield prediction model using artificial intelligence (AI) to provide real time advisory to farmers in Aspirational Districts.
- India and Peru signed an agreement in the field of Renewable Energy at Lima. The pact was signed in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and the Prime Minister Cesar Villanueva Arevalo.
- The Maharashtra government signed an MoU with the Centres Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council to train state PWD officials to rate government buildings. Maharashtra was the first state to sign such an MoU.
- The union cabinet has given approval for India to accede to the protocol under World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.
- State-run Tripura Horticulture Corporation Limited (THCL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Spicejet Merchandise Pvt Ltd, the memorandum is targeted towards providing pineapples to major cities of the country.
- Annual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Railway & Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) regarding financial & non financial targets for the company.
- The Ministry of Women and Child and Development, Government of India has signed an MoU with Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in New Delhi, for management of Home of Widows at Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan.
- CSC SPV and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed an MoU for providing financial support to CSCs across the country in the auspicious presence of Minister of Electronics & IT and Law & Justice, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The Kerala State Electricity Board has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for increasing solar power generation in the state.
- The Punjab government has signed a pact with the UK for setting up of bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in the state.
- National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has signed MoU with the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India, setting highest ever target of Rs.93.50 billion revenue from operations for FY 2018-19 which is 15% higher than last year.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and UN Environment have signed an agreement to promote 'green' cricket in India.
- India signed a Loan Agreement with the World Bank for USD 21.7 Million for strengthening the Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project.
- Commonwealth gold medal-winning table tennis player Manika Batra and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu have signed multi-year agreements with sports management firm IOS Sports & Entertainment.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment signed an MoU with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) for the Financial Year 2018-19.

- The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$500 million loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project.
- State-run Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) has inked a pact with the Ministry of Power to incur capital expenditure of Rs.25,000 crore for the current fiscal.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified the protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait.
- India and Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries.

## Appointments

- Assam Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi was sworn-in as acting Governor of Manipur.
- Hockey India has appointed Harendra Singh as coach of India's men's team, while Sjoerd Marijne will take over as chief coach of women's side.
- Vladimir V. Putin took the oath of office for a fourth term as Russia's president.
- Subhash Chandra Khuntia has been appointed as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- Former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri has been appointed as full-time member of the 15th Finance Commission.
- Indian-American Deepa Ambekar has been appointed as interim judge to the civil court of New York City.
- Cricket Australia appointed former Test opener Justin Langer as the new coach of the national cricket team. He replaced Darren Lehmann.
- ICICI Bank has appointed Radhakrishnan Nair as an additional (independent) director of the bank for five years.
- The Centre appointed Justice A.K. Mittal as Acting Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court.
- The Armenian parliament has elected Nikol Pashinyan as the country's new Prime Minister.
- Google has appointed Nitin Bawankule as the country head for its cloud business in India.
- Munu Mahawar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.
- BJP leader Shanti Jiban Chakma sworn-in as chief executive member (CEM) of the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) in Mizoram.
- Indian Information Services (IIS) officer Sitanshu Ranjan Kar took over as the director general of the press information bureau (PIB).
- Journalist Carlos Alvarado was sworn as Costa Rica's president.
- Artist and sculptor Uttam Pacharne was appointed the chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appointed Dilip Tirkey as the chairman of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC).
- The Haryana Government appointed IAS officer Deepti Umashankar as Chairperson of the Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC).
- Gobind Singh Deo, an Indian-origin Sikh politician in Malaysia, has become a cabinet minister, the first member of the minority community in the country's history to be appointed as a minister.

- Pravin L. Agrawal has been appointed as part-time official director of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL).
- S. D. Moorthy has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan.
- Ganeshi Lal and Kummanam Rajasekharan were appointed as Governors of Odisha and Mizoram respectively.
- Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed the first ever Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Justice R K Agrawal was appointed the president of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
- Kummanam Rajasekharan was sworn-in as the 18th governor of Mizoram.
- Airtel Payments Bank appointed Anubrata Biswas as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO).
- Anil Kumar Jha has been appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of Coal India Limited.
- Senior IAS officers Amit Khare, Anup Wadhawan and MM Kutty have been appointed as secretaries in the Ministries of Information & Broadcasting, Commerce and Petroleum respectively.
- The US Senate has confirmed Gina Haspel as the first female CIA director.
- Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar was sworn-in as the chief justice of the high court of Manipur.
- Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma was elected as the Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC).
- Renowned Indian academic and foreign policy analyst C Raja Mohan has been appointed as director of the Institute of South Asian Studies.
- The U.S India Business Council named Ambika Sharma as its head for India. Ms. Sharma was Director General for International at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- Mahathir Mohamad was sworn in as Malaysia prime minister.

## Sports News

- Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi grabbed the number one spot in ISSF world rankings, riding on his silver medal-winning performance in the just-concluded World Cup in Changwon, Korea.
- CA Bhavani Devi became the first Indian to win a gold medal in an international fencing event at the Turnoi Satellite Fencing Championship at Reykjavik in Iceland.
- Indian Under-16 National Team was crowned champions of the Four-Nation Tournament held in Serbia.
- Bala Prasath has won the Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- The very first National Para Games, created on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July in Bengaluru.
- Top discus thrower Vikas Gowda, the 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medallist, has retired from the sport.
- Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has won the European Golden Shoe for a fifth time.

- South Korea defeated India to win the fifth Women's Asian Champions Trophy in South Korea.
- Romanian tennis star Simona Halep has retained top spot in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Rankings.
- India's Tejaswini Sawant has won gold medal in the 50m rifle prone event in the Grand Prix in Munich.
- Roger Federer has reclaimed the No. 1 ranking in the latest ATP rankings, after Rafael Nadal's premature exit from the Madrid Open.
- Czech 10th seed Petra Kvitova won the Madrid Open title for the third time.
- Lewis Hamilton has won the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix.
- Lewis Hamilton has won the Spanish Grand Prix Formula one.
- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes driver) has won the Spanish Grand Prix Formula one.
- Mohamed Salah was named as the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year for 2017/18.
- India finished on top in the seven-nation competition with 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals at the 3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo.

## Awards & Prizes

- An 18-year-old Chennai-born girl, Vijayakumar Ragavi has won this year's A\*Star Talent Search award in Singapore for her study of genetic heart disease "hypertrophic cardiomyopathy".
- Indian pugilist Neeraj Goyat has been conferred with the WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award.
- Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was honoured with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for her contribution in the field of Indian music.
- Nisha Bhalla, a 46-year-old holistic coach and consultant from Mumbai was felicitated at the recently concluded Annual WEF 2018 Awards. Nisha was presented the 'Excellent Woman of Excellence' award for her spiritual service at the event.
- Nobel Peace Laureate and Founder of Grameen Bank Prof. Muhammad Yunus was honoured with the 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018.
- Veteran Bollywood actor Sridevi was honoured with the TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival.
- Jagriti Yatra, an Indian charity that organises 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won an award in London.
- Iron ore mining major NMDC Ltd has bagged the S&P Global Platts Global Metals Award 2018 in the corporate social responsibility category at an event held at London.
- Prajnesh Gunneswaran won the prestigious T.K. Ramanathan award for the year 2017-18.
- Veteran singer Asha Bhosle was conferred the highest civilian award of West Bengal, the Banga Bibhushan, by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
- Late veteran actress Sridevi was posthumously conferred with the BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema.
- Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be honored by the Kennedy Center with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

- Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa was received the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany from the Linnean Society of London. Dr. Bawa is the first Indian to win the award.
- Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony has won an international award, in the best caricature category at the 13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards in Lisbon, Portugal.
- Yuvraj Singh has been awarded the 'most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare' award by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare.
- India skipper Virat Kohli won the International Cricketer of the Year Award at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards. India batsman Rohit Sharma collected the award on behalf of Kohli.
- NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul has received a lifetime achievement award for his contributions towards promoting brand India in the UK.
- Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Nara Lokesh has received the "Digital Leader of the Year" award during Businessworld Digital India Summit and Awards 2018 at New Delhi.
- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category. This award yet again recognizes CSIR as the top innovator.
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and ISRO Chairman S Kiran Kumar.
- Kendrick Lamar became the first hip-hop act to win a Pulitzer Prize in music for his acclaimed 2017 album DAMN.
- Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for her novel 'Flights'.
- Jnanpith laureate M T Vasudevan Nair has won this year's annual ONV Literary Prize for his overall contributions to Malayalam literature.
- Neymar was named as France's player of the year at an awards ceremony in Paris.
- US-based Kathak dancer Anindita Anaam was honoured with the prestigious 'Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018' for outstanding contribution to the field of art.
- Senior journalist Mark Tully will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Red Ink Awards in Mumbai.

## Obituaries:-

- Guruji Ravinder Sharma - The founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram
- Ashok Mitra - Eminent economist, avowed Marxist and the first Finance Minister in the Left Front government in West Bengal
- Arun Date - Noted Marathi bhavgeet singer
- Yamunabai Waikar - Acclaimed Lavani singer and Padma Shri recipient
- Nandram Das Bairagi - Noted Hindi film lyricist, popularly known as Balkavi Bairagi
- Anne V. Coates - Oscar-winning film editor
- Rajinder Pal - Former Delhi cricketer
- P P Lakshmanan - Former President of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and ex-member of the Appeals committee of FIFA
- Alan Bean - Former US astronaut, who was the fourth man to walk on the Moon has passed away.

- 'Red star' Madala Ranga Rao - Veteran Telugu actor
- Vinod Bhatt - Eminent Gujarati writer and humourist
- Balakumaran - Veteran Tamil novelist

## Other Important News

- 1.The government has launched a pilot scheme to procure 2,500 MW electricity for 3 years under medium term arrangement from commissioned power plants without power purchase agreements.
- 2.Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Uma Bharti launched the GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) - DHAN scheme from Haryana's Karnal district with an aim to positively contribute to cleanliness and generate energy from solid waste.
- 3.The 9th India Japan Energy Dialogue was held in New Delhi. Minister of State(IC) for Power and New &Renewable Energy, R.K Singh, and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Hiroshige Sekosigned a Joint Statement at the conclusion of the meeting.
- 4.The next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in the holy city of Varanasi in January.
- 5.The Telecom Commission (TC) approved various issues including in-flight connectivity and internet telephony and telephone ombudsman for addressing customer complaints.
- 6.Maharashtra become the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts.
- 7.President Ram Nath Kovind will preside over the first meeting of the National Committee for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi next year, the committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 8.The Union Cabinet approved doubling of investment limit for senior citizens from Rs.7.5 lakh to Rs.15 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY).
- 9.India has joined the U.S. and China as one of the world's five biggest military spenders, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute report.
- 10.Google.org, the philanthropic arm of the American Internet giant has announced an grant of \$3 million for India to two not-for-profits working in the area of education - The Central Square Foundation and the Teacher App.
- 11.India has slipped by three positions to 11th position in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 of global consultancy firm A T Kearney.
- 12.India is organising a five-day cultural festival in Egypt to commemorate the 157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. An exhibition on the paintings of Tagore titled 'Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours'.
- 13.External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj chaired an interactive session with chief ministers of northeastern states on India's Act East Policy in New Delhi.

14. The 'Vibrant North East 2018', an event in which people would be made aware of central government's schemes and programmes, was held in Guwahati, Assam.
15. The Maharashtra government has decided to recommend the promulgation of an ordinance to rename the Jalgaon-based North Maharashtra University after poetess Bahinabai Chaudhari.
16. The 4th Regional Conference on 'Futuristic, Resilient and Digital Infrastructure' organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) concluded in Bengaluru.
17. India has emerged as one of the five biggest military spenders in 2017, a report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) found.
18. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) under Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organised a 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' at Huda Convention Centre in Faridabad, Haryana.
19. The two-day 19th edition of TOONZ Animation Masters Summit was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The summit was inaugurated by Ashish Kulkarni, Chairman of FICCI for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics Forum.
20. The third edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) was inaugurated in New Delhi, to build and enhance the capacity of the African Troop Contributing Countries to the UN.
21. NITI Aayog and Google have come together to work on a range of initiatives to help build the AI ecosystem across the country.
22. India has ranked fourth out of 25 nations in the Asia-Pacific region on an index, topped by US.
23. India will host the 15th Asia Media Summit from May 10-12, with the theme, 'Telling Our Stories Asia and More'.
24. The bi-annual Naval Commanders Conference has begun in New Delhi.
25. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the official 'NCBN' (Nara Chandrababu Naidu) App. The mobile application will notify people in real-time with news updates and will also act as a direct platform for the common people to interact with the government.
26. The second phase of the Indian and Malaysian armies' joint military exercise 'Harimau Shakti' was conducted in Hulu Langat forest of Malaysia.
27. The largest retailer in the US, Walmart has acquired India's biggest e-retailer Flipkart for a behemoth \$16 billion. Walmart has acquired 77% stake in Bengaluru-based online shopping portal at a valuation of around \$21 billion.
28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked among the top 10 (9th) most powerful people in the world by Forbes in a list that has been topped for the first time ever by Chinese president Xi Jinping.

29. Facebook has announced that the company's Vice President of Product Chris Daniels will be taking over Whatsapp after Co-founder Jan Koum announced his departure last week.

30. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced, climate summit set to take place in September 2019 in New York to review the Paris Agreement commitments.

31. Nepal has granted an Indian government-owned subsidiary the power generation licence from a 900-megawatt hydropower project, Investment Board Nepal (IBN) recently granted the licence to Satluj Jala Vodyut Nigam Power Development Company, a subsidiary of Indian government-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.

32. The 2018 World Robot Conference will be held in Beijing from August 15 to 19.

33. The Fifteenth Finance Commission constituted an advisory council to advise and assist them on any issue or subject related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission. The Council will be led by Arvind Virmani, President of the Forum for Strategic Initiatives.

34. President Ramnath Kovind become the second President of India to visit Siachen after late President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in April 2004.

35. The Madhya Pradesh government has launched the country's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for all seven smart cities of the state in Bhopal.

36. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), India will become the fastest growing economy in 2018. The growth rate is expected to rise from 7.4 per cent to 7.8 per cent in 2019.

37. Civil Aviation minister Suresh Prabhu has inaugurated 6th US-India Aviation Summit in Mumbai.

38. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the state's biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park in Itanagar.

39. Tourism Minister KJ Alphons attended Tourism Ministers' conference by Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Wuhan, China.

40. China has successfully launched a hyperspectral imaging satellite 'Gaofen-5' for comprehensive observation of the atmosphere, including air pollution.

41. US President Donald Trump announced withdrawal of US from the Iran nuclear deal.

42. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed an atomic clock that will be used in navigation satellites to measure precise location data.

43. Patanjali Ayurved Limited has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand in the TRA's Brand Trust Report 2018.

44. The 12th meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Manila, Philippines.

45. California's economy has surpassed that of the United Kingdom to become the world's fifth largest, according to federal data.

46. The Indian and French navies have conducted the final phase of the Varuna naval exercise near Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean region.
47. BJP MP Anurag Thakur and cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched 'Star Khel Mahakumbh' in Dharamsala.
48. The Telangana government introduced Rythu Bandhu, a scheme to provide Rs.4,000 per acre each to land-owning farmers for rabi and kharif seasons, and issued special passbooks for them.
49. Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba had purchased leading Pakistani online retailer Daraz, continuing its overseas expansion by gaining a foothold in the growing South Asian consumer market.
50. Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh informed that the United States Stanford University will come in a partnership with the state to combat disease like Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
51. Indian Customs and Department of India Posts held a First ever Joint Conference at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post.
52. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will soon set up a skill development centre at 'Bharosa,' an integrated support centre for distressed women and children in Hyderabad.
53. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and UAE Minister of State & Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Group CEO Dr. Sultan Al Jaber flagged off first consignment of 2 million barrels of ADNOC crude for Mangalore Cavern.
54. India and Nepal have agreed to expand their partnership for socio-economic development on the basis of principles of equality, trust, respect and mutual benefit.
55. Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar was honoured with the Swara Mauli title by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami in Mumbai.
56. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Global Exhibition on Services-2018 in Mumbai.
57. IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) has launched a Bharat Inclusion Initiative to build knowledge and foster innovation and entrepreneurial activity across areas such as financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health.
58. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial trans fats from the global food supply by 2023. WHO calls on governments to use the 'REPLACE' action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the food supply.
59. The Union government announced a sudden cabinet reshuffle, Piyush Goyal will hold charge of the finance and corporate affairs ministries till Arun Jaitley returns, Smriti Irani has been moved out of Ministry of Information and Broadcast and will now be responsible only for the textile ministry and Rajvardhan Rathore has been given the charge of Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

60. The first edition of the International Children's Film Festival of Kerala began in Thiruvananthapuram.
61. Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli announced to host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit.
62. The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), a professional body under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) organized a conference on successful completion of two years of the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy adopted by the Government of India in New Delhi.
63. A meeting of stakeholders on Samarth – Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector under the Skill India Mission was held in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Union Minister of Textiles, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani.
64. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) unveiled a National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy, to promote new projects as well as hybridisation of the existing ones.
65. India has released grant of NRs. (Nepalese Rupees) 18.07 crore for river training and construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Nepal.
66. A two-day regional conference on 'Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development' was held in Guwahati.
67. In a first, a Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) run by an all-woman team has started operations in Phagwara, Punjab.
68. According to the Mercom Communications India, India emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017 behind China and the US.
69. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh laid the foundation stone for frozen semen station in Maranga, Purnea in Bihar.
70. The Sikkim government has nominated Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan as the Green Ambassador of the state.
71. Indore has been rated the cleanest city in India and Bhopal the second cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Sarvekshan 2017.
72. Guwahati now has India's first railway station run by solar power. The project of installing solar panels was commissioned last year in April 2017.
73. For the first time, an international rail coach expo, displaying rail coaches and train-sets, will be held in Chennai from May 17 to May 19.
74. Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's sister, Susheela Jayapal has been elected as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County in Oregon, the first South Asian to be elected in the western US State.

75. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation for Zojila tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Jammu & Kashmir.
76. The Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani' at the conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.
77. The 15th meeting of culture ministers from member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Sanya, China.
78. The Himachal Pradesh government will spend Rs.25 crore on renovating and developing the historic British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate' in Shimla.
79. The Union Environment Ministry has launched a training programme "Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP)" to train 5.5 lakh green skilled workers by 2021.
80. Guatemala became the second country to open its embassy in Jerusalem.
81. According to a UN report, India's economy is projected to grow 7.6 per cent in fiscal year 2018-19.
82. India's Shivangi Pathak has become youngest woman of the country to scale Mt Everest from Nepal side.
83. Green Good Deeds, the societal movement launched by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Harsh Vardhan, to protect environment and promote good living in the country, has found acceptance by the global community.
84. The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has decided to adopt the word 'AYUSH' in Hindi and English languages for scientific and technical purposes.
85. A workshop on challenges and opportunities of arbitration in SAARC region was held in New Delhi.
86. Russia has unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk.
87. India has successfully test-fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a test range along the Odisha coast.
88. India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of \$8,230 billion, while the US is the richest nation globally, According to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review.
89. Reliance Industries (RIL) has received environment clearance for the expansion and optimisation of its petrochemical complex at Nagothane in Raigad district of Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs.2,338 crore.
90. The 26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers was held in Durban, South Africa.
91. IIT-Kanpur has set up first of its kind Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) in the country to strengthen policy and regulatory limitations in energy and power sector with the Assistance of UK.

92.The 71st Session of the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Health Assembly (WHA) was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

93.Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'My MP Rojgar Portal'. This portal is equipped with providing jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills and interest and ensuring availability of able candidates to employers as per need of their business.

94.The finance ministry has tied up with 40 entities including Flipkart, Swiggy, Patanjali and Amul, which are big job creators, for extending loans to small entrepreneurs under the Mudra scheme.

95.Home Minister Rajnath Singh has announced that the family of a paramilitary jawan who dies in action will be given a minimum compensation of one crore rupees.

96.India and Nepal's joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran-XIII' will be held at Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.

97.A three-day Smart Cities India 2018 Expo, began in New Delhi. The mega event consisting five expos, the five expos are, Building India Expo, Solar India Expo, Transport India Expo, Smart Cities India Expo and Water India Expo.

98.Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi presented the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 to the members of the INSV Tarini team in New Delhi.

99.India has moved one notch higher, to the 44th place in terms of competitiveness, in the annual rankings compiled by International Institute for Management Development which placed the U.S. in the top slot.

100.Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stones for projects worth over Rs.27,000 crore in Jharkhand, including the Sindri urea plant.

101.Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Bangladesh Bhavan in Shanti Niketan, West Bengal.

102.I&B Minister Rajyavardhana Rathore launched six-day ASEAN India Film Festival in New Delhi.

103.Union Minister of State for Statistics and Program implementation Shri Vijay Goel inaugurated a Photo exhibition on Dynamic Schemes and Projects titled, "Pragati Ke Path par" at Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

104.The Indian Navy has commissioned its fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK-IV, IN LCU L-54, in a ceremony at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar.

105.The Telangana government decided to provide insurance cover of Rs.5 lakh to farmers in the state.

106.Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) was elected 11th Board of Directors was reconstituted and the Office Bearers were elected unanimously. Shri Ramesh Chand Meena was elected as the Chairperson and Smt. Pratibha Brahma was elected as the Vice Chairperson of TRIFED.

107. Sangeeta Bahl, a 53-year-old former model and entrepreneur from Jammu and Kashmir, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.
108. Akshay Kumar launched an advertisement campaign for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) in Delhi.
109. The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany from September 25-28, 2018.
110. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the week-long 'Polythene Hatao Paryavaran Bachao' campaign.
111. The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, K. J. Alphons along with a delegation of senior officials attended the 108th session of UNWTO Executive Council, held in San Sebastian, Spain.
112. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is teaming up with state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to send extreme weather warnings to people.
113. The National Informatics Center (NIC) launched its fourth data center in Bhubaneswar, to address the increased load from various new digital projects.
114. The main event of 4th International Yoga Day celebrations will be held at Dehradun in Uttarakhand on 21st June.
115. United Nations has recognised Cochin International Airport (Kerala) as the first fully solar-powered airport in the world.
116. The 2nd meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group Meeting was held in Beijing.
117. The Gujarat government unveiled its 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy', which aims to reduce the state's dependence on fresh water sources like the Narmada river.
118. The Ministry of Power has launched a web portal and an app called PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators).
119. Microsoft has surpassed Alphabet, the parent company of Google, to become the third most valuable firm after Apple and Amazon globally.
120. Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Shri Jual Oram launched an exhibition cum sale event, 'The PANKHA' (Hand-fans), created by TRIFED in New Delhi.
121. Facebook has entered into a partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch a digital literacy programme aimed at training 60,000 women in universities across India on safe use of the Internet.
122. HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri is the only Indian in the Barron's list of Top 30 Global CEOs for 2018.

123.The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in Manipur.

124.Nepal has become the first country in south-east Asia to eliminate trachoma, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said.

125.Pakistan hosted its first ever Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) three day meeting in Islamabad.

126.India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare, topped by Iceland.

127.Vice President Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the Southern Campus of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) at Kondapavuluru Village, Gannavaram Mandal, Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

128.India's Multi Commodity Exchange has launched the country's first copper options contracts.

129.Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has become the first Indian exchange to be recognised as a designated offshore securities market (DOSM) by the U.S.

130.The 13th edition of bilateral biannual military exercise, between India and Nepal Armies commenced at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

131.India has released 33.10 Crore rupees to Nepal towards cost of two road packages of Birgunj-Thori Road being implemented under Postal Highway Projects in Nepal with Government of India's grant assistance.

132.Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali has launched a messaging application, "Kimbho".

133.The Third Home Affairs' Dialogue between India and U.K. was held in New Delhi.

134.Ministry of Railways conducted a one day workshop "Mission Raftaar" aimed at raising the average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi.

135.The First biannual IAF Commanders' Conference of 2018 was inaugurated by Defence Minister at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan) in New Delhi.

136.Indian Oil Corporation has emerged as India's most profitable state-owned company for the second consecutive year.

137.The Netherlands has become the 64th signatory member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

138.Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched Samagra Shiksha scheme for school education.

139.The third Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held at Malmo, Sweden.

140.The 5th India-CLMV Business Conclave was held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

141.The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council (ISC) headed by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh held a meeting in New Delhi.

142.Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Incubation Centre and Food Testing Laboratory at National Institute of Food Entrepreneurship and Management(NIFTEM) in Sonapat, Haryana.

143.The Ministry of Culture organised the 9th edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' in Tehri, Uttarakhand.

144.Senior bureaucrat Sushil Chandra was given one-year extension as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

145.The Pacific Fleet announces that 26 nations, 47 surface ships, five submarines, 18 national land forces and more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise scheduled June 27 to Aug. 2, 2018, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The theme of RIMPAC 2018 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners".

**ALL THE BEST !!**